

## IN BRIEF

### Stalin speaks to wife of TN tourist injured in JK terror attack

Chennai, April 24 (UNI) : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday spoke to the wife of TN tourist Dr Parameswaran, who was injured in the Pahalgam terror attack in J and K, and undergoing treatment at AIIMS Delhi and promised all assistance.

Mr Stalin spoke to Parameswaran's wife Dr Nayanthara over phone, enquired about his health condition, the nature of treatment being given to him and promised all help from the TN government.

After initial treatment at a local hospital, Dr Parameswaran was shifted to AIIMS by an air ambulance for advanced treatment, an official release said. Dr Nayanthara thanked Mr Stalin for taking expeditious steps in shifting her husband to AIIMS Delhi from Pahalgam.

It said 40 tourists from TN who had gone to J and K, were brought to Delhi and were sent to Chennai by train.

It said efforts were on to bring all the tourists from the State from J an K as per the orders of the Chief Minister.

### Minor fire breaks out in Thanjavur Govt hospital, none hurt, patients evacuated

Chennai, April 24 (UNI) : A minor fire broke out in the labour block of the Thanjavur Government Hospital here on Thursday.

Thanjavur District Collector Ms Priyanka, who immediately visited the spot, said none was injured in the fire. All the patients were safe and there was no need for panic, she told reporters. She said fire fighting units reached the spot within ten minutes with fire extinguishers and exhausters and put out the fire., which broke out following a short circuit in the AC unit in the labour ward situated in the first floor.

There were 24 patients in the ward and all of them were evacuated safely and shifted to other block. Additionally 26 patients, who were in the ground floor, where the smoke spread, were also safely shifted.



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath pays tribute to Shubham Dwivedi, who was killed in the Pahalgam terrorist attack, at his residence in Kanpur on Thursday.

## Leaders back govt's action on Pak after Pahalgam terror attack

New Delhi, April 24 (UNI) : Leaders of all the political parties on Thursday came together in a show of solidarity and unanimously supported the action taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) with regard to Pakistan, following the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam which claimed the lives of 26 tourists.

The Government had convened an all-party meeting, which was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

All the leaders present in the meeting also unanimously expressed support for any future action the government would take to fight against terrorism.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar, Kiren Rijiju, JP Nadda, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav, Sudip Bandopadhyay of TMC, BJD's Sasmit Patra, Supriya Sule of NCP-SP, AAP's Sanjay Singh among others.

Talking to media after the conclusion of the meeting, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "All leaders have in unanimous voice supported the action taken by the CCS with regards to Pakistan and also unanimously expressed

support for any future action the government would take to fight against terrorism."

He said that the government has already explained to floor leaders that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government will adopt zero tolerance towards the terror activities in the country". "All the political leaders have expressed their solidarity with the government for all the action that the government is taking and the government would take in the future," Rijiju said.

The Minister said some leaders sought clarifications which were addressed by

seniors officials with their presentations. He said a two-minute silence was also observed to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the heinous terror attack.

Meanwhile, Mallikarjun Kharge after the meeting said, "We all strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack. It is very important to establish peace in Jammu and Kashmir, for which the government will have to make serious efforts."

Rahul Gandhi said that all the parties condemned the terrorist attack. "The Opposition has given full support to the government for any action", he said.

### TN Govt to set up Univ named after former CM Karuna : Stalin

Chennai, April 24 (UNI) : A new University named after former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK Patriarch M Karunanidhi will be set up at Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district, Chief Minister M K Stalin informed the State Assembly on Thursday.

Replying to PMK Leader G K Mani, Mr Stalin recalled the steps taken by Mr Karunanidhi for the development and growth of the education sector and said in deference to the wishes expressed by the member a new University will be set up at Kumbakonam and it will be named after "Kalaingar" Karunanidhi .

Earlier, speaking in the House, Mr Mani said while there were Universities in the State named after late CMs A N Annadorai (Anna), M G Ramachandran (MGR) and J Jayalailthaa, there was no varsity in the name of Mr Karunanidhi.

He also said that though the PMK and the ruling DMK could have divergent views politically, PMK Founder Dr.S.Ramadoss always have high regards and respect for Mr Karunanidhi and stressed the need for setting up a University named after him.

Responding to his request, Mr Stalin said a University named after Mr Karunanidhi will soon be set up at Kumbakonam in Thanjavur district, amid loud thumping of desks by the members of the Treasury Benches.



### India briefs envoys of G20 nations on Pahalgam terror attack and Pakistan's link to it

India today briefed the envoys of G20 nations and those from many other close partner nations on the Pahalgam terror attack and Pakistan's links to it. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the envoys and top diplomats of Estonia, Slovak Republic, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, Iceland, Malaysia, Switzerland, Germany, France, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Norway on the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were brutally gunned down.

(See on page 2)

### Plan to set up centre for sterilisation of monkeys in ...



A proposal to set up a centre for the sterilisation of monkeys is under consideration to curb the large-scale nuisance caused by monkeys and apes to orchards and agricultural crops in Konkan, said Forest Minister Ganesh Naik on Thursday.

( See on page 3)

### Restoration of public trust important than partisan ...



Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo on Thursday said that Pahalgam terror attack is related to the country's security and the restoration of public trust through the steps taken by the central government is far more important than partisan politics and accusations-counter accusations.

(See on page 8)

### Double Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad enthralled ...



Double Olympic champion and former 400m hurdles world record holder Dalilah Muhammad arrived in Bengaluru on Thursday to serve as the International Event Ambassador for the 17th edition of the TCS World 10K, scheduled to be held on April 27.

(See on page 7)

## TN govt to felicitate UPSC winners, to set up coaching centre for civil svcs aspirants

Chennai, April 24 (UNI) : The Tamil Nadu government will organise a felicitation function to honour 57 students who had cleared UPSC exams from the State and also announced its decision to set up a residential coaching centre in the city for civil services aspirants.

Making a statement in the State Assembly, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday the coaching centre will have all modern

amenities and would accommodate 500 aspirants preparing for civil services exams.

The coaching centre would be set up at Shenoy Nagar in Chennai, at a cost of Rs 40 crore, he said.

Speaking about the success of his government's flagship scheme 'Naan Mudhalvan' aimed at enhancing the skills of the students, Mr Stalin said under this scheme there was a significant improvement in

the success of students from the state and cited the results of the civil services examination, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission.

Pointing out that a large number of students cleared the exams till 2016, he said it had declined to 27 students in 2021 following which the government introduced several measures in the scheme.

They included selecting 1,000 civil services exam

aspirants, preparing them, providing a monthly stipend of Rs 7,500 for 10 months, he said, adding, those who cleared the preliminaries and were preparing for the mains were given a one-time incentive of Rs 25,000.

Through the All India Civil Services Coaching Centre at Anna Institute of Management, training programmes and necessary resources were provided to the students, the Chief

Minister said, adding, thanks to these measures, a total of 57 students from the State have been selected for

All India Services, of which, 50 candidates have benefited from the 'Naan Mudhalvan' scheme.

The Chief Minister also announced that the State government will organise a felicitation event for this year's successful candidates on April 26 and that he would also participate in it.

## ICG conducts SAR exercise off Karaikal coast

Chennai, April 24 (UNI) : The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Regional Headquarters (East) conducted a regional-level Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-25) off the Karaikal coast on Thursday. Conducted by ICGS Karraikal, the exercise simulated a major maritime distress scenario involving the ferry vessel HSC Shivgangai, which was transiting from Nagapattinam to Sri Lanka.

The primary objective was to validate the efficiency of the regional Search and Rescue (SAR)

mechanism and enhance inter-agency coordination among maritime stakeholders, showcasing a united and efficient response to maritime emergencies, defence sources said.

The simulated scenario involved a fire breaking out onboard Shivgangai, resulting in multiple casualties and necessitating immediate mass rescue operations.

The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) was promptly activated, and ICG assets were rapidly deployed. These included ICGS Shaurya, ICGS Ameya,

ICGS Annie Besant, ICGS Rani Avantibai, interceptor boats, a Dornier aircraft, and a Chetak helicopter, along with support from local authorities.

Key agencies including the Indian Navy, District Administrations of Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam and Karaikal, Fire and Rescue Services, Customs, Port Authorities, and medical teams from local hospitals actively participated in the exercise.

The joint efforts demonstrated a seamless and

professional multi-agency response. Live demonstrations of firefighting, medical evacuation, and triage simulations were executed with high precision during the exercise.

Deputy Inspector General S.S. Dasila, Commander of Coast Guard District Headquarters No.13, emphasized the critical importance of inter-agency coordination and the ICG's pivotal role in saving lives at sea.

He said such exercises are essential for maintaining readiness and

enhancing capabilities to safeguard life and property in maritime zones. The exercise concluded with a comprehensive debrief, highlighting lessons learned and best practices, thereby reaffirming ICG's unwavering commitment to maritime safety and swift response to distress situations at sea.

The event was graced by Soma Shekhar Appa Rao, District Collector of Karaikal, and T Aakash, District Collector of Nagapattinam, along with other dignitaries from the civil administration and stakeholder agencies.



## BNCMC organized a program on "World Tuberculosis Day"



(Standard Post Bureau)

Bhiwandi, April 24 : The Tuberculosis Department under Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation organized a program on the occasion of "World Tuberculosis Day" today on 24.04.2025. Bhiwandi Municipal Administrator and Commissioner Mr. Anmol Sagar, Bhiwandi Municipal Additional Commissioner-1 Mr. Devidas Pawar, Bhiwandi Municipal Additional Commissioner-2 Mr. Vitthal Dake led the rally today at 8.30 am. The rally was attended by NCC students of B.N.N. College as well as all the voluntary organizations working on health and tuberculosis under Bhiwandi Municipal

Corporation, tuberculosis department and police officers and employees. Also, the 'World Tuberculosis Day' program was celebrated at Late Rajayya Gajangi Cultural and Mangal Bhavan, Kombad Pada, Bhiwandi. In this program, three TV champions expressed their views on tuberculosis. Also, ASHA workers, NTEP staff presented music, dance and emotional speeches and a Rangoli competition was held on tuberculosis. Public awareness. Also, Nikshay friends were honored at this program. Bhiwandi Municipal Medical Health Officer Dr. Sandeep Gadekar was present as the chief guest,

City Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Bushra Syed was present, Bhiwandi Municipal Area Chest Specialist Dr. Vikram Jain and Dr. Ujer Mukri and Dr. Ujwala Badrapurkar provided valuable guidance on tuberculosis. Also, private medical professionals and the president of the Chemist Association, private laboratory experts, all the voluntary organizations working on health and tuberculosis under Bhiwandi Municipal Corporation and all the medical officers of the urban health centers, all the officers and employees of the Health Department and Tuberculosis Department were present.

## Govt failed to ensure security of tourists: Akhilesh

Lucknow, April 24 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday while condemning the terrorist incident in J&K's Pahalgam, said the Central government, which has failed to protect tourists, should take strict action against the terrorists.

In a press conference held at the party's state office, Akhilesh said that

terrorists have no religion. "The government has called an all-party meeting on Pahalgam. The party's national chief general secretary Prof Ram Gopal Yadav will represent the SP," he said. He said that no party should take political advantage from such a gruesome incident because it is a matter of national interest. "It is also the

responsibility of the government to immediately stop any kind of fake news that hurts our internal and external security and keep a close watch on social media," he said. The SP chief said the government took decisions in the Kashmir valley as per its discretion and now it was the responsibility of the government to take care of the safety of the tourists

going to Kashmir. "The place in Pahalgam where terrorists fired on innocent tourists was not a deserted place, but no arrangements were made there for the safety of the tourists. The government will have to take this responsibility," he said. He said that his party welcomes the decisions taken by the government after the

terrorist incident. Akhilesh reiterated that the youth of the country was not in favour of the Agniveer scheme for the armed forces. "They want permanent jobs and permanent uniforms. No matter how much budget is spent for the security of the country, we should spend it. The government should have taken even harsher

decisions against terrorism and they should be implemented strictly," he said. Speaking in favour of Kashmiris doing business in other parts of the country, he said, "Business unites us, it has no caste or religion. This thinking flourishing on social media that Kashmiris should not be allowed to do business in other states will have to be removed."

## Pakistani Rangers arrest BSF trooper after he strays into Pak territory

Jalandhar, April 24 (UNI) : Pakistani Rangers on Thursday took a BSF trooper in their custody after the trooper inadvertently strayed into Pakistani territory. The Pakistani Rangers refused to hold a flag meeting with the BSF to resolve the issue, with the incident coming amid the diplomatic stand-off between the two nations over the Pahalgam terror attack. According to sources, the trooper was whisked away by the Pakistani Rangers when the trooper was taking a round near the International Border in Mamdot area along the India-Pakistan border.

The Rangers seized his weapon, believed to be an AK 47 rifle. The trooper, PK Singh, a constable of 182 battalion of the BSF was on patrolling along with his party along the Indo-Pak border when he inadvertently entered into the Pakistan territory, as he was not aware of the Line of Control since he was transferred from Srinagar along with another of his colleagues recently. The tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated following the barbaric gunning down of 26 tourists by Pakistan-supported militant organizations in the meadow resort near Pahalgam.

Srinagar, April 24 (UNI) : An all-party meeting held on Thursday to discuss the recent terror attack in Pahalgam pledged full support for efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice and extended their support to the steps announced by the Union Government in the aftermath of the attack. "We stand unwavering in our commitment to supporting all efforts in bringing these perpetrators to justice. In doing so, we affirm that no act of terror can ever weaken our resolve or extinguish our indomitable spirit," the resolution adopted after the meeting read. The meeting called by J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was attended by top leaders including National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, Democratic Progressive Azad Party

(DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad, J&K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra, Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone and People's Democratic Party's Mehboob Beg. The resolution called for collective restraint and urged all sections of society — including community leaders, religious institutions, youth groups, civil society, and the media—to resist provocations aimed at disrupting peace and harmony. "We also support the steps taken by the Union Government announced yesterday," the resolution read. The participants expressed unequivocally condemn in the strongest possible terms the heinous, inhumane attack in Pahalgam that targeted and killed innocent civilians. "Such cowardly acts of brutality against peaceful citizens have no place in society and are a direct

assault on the values of Kashmiriyat, and the idea of India which have long been a symbol of unity, peace, and harmony in the region," the resolution read. "We extend our deepest condolences to the families who have suffered loss. We share in your sorrow and stand united with you in this time of profound grief," the resolution read. The meeting also saluted Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who ferried tourists on his horse in Pahalgam, and was killed during his attempt to fight one of the terrorists to save the tourists. "His valour and selflessness shall forever remain an inspiration to all. He is a true face of Kashmiriyat and Kashmir hospitality," it added. The resolution also commend the people for the extraordinary display of

their moral and material support to all the tourists across the Kashmir Valley and for their resolute unity in condemning the recent attack. "We appreciate the spontaneous, peaceful demonstrations across towns and villages across the length and breadth of J&K, which exemplify our unwavering commitment to peace, communal harmony, and the rule of law, and reaffirm our collective resolve to foster mutual respect, uphold constitutional values, and work collaboratively for the prosperity and stability of Jammu & Kashmir," the resolution read. The resolution also appealed to the governments of all States and Union Territories, in these trying times, to come forward with unwavering commitment to protect the Kashmiri students and citizens who find themselves far from home.

## India briefs envoys of G20 nations on Pahalgam terror attack and Pakistan's link to it

New Delhi, April 24 (UNI) : India today briefed the envoys of G20 nations and those from many other close partner nations on the Pahalgam terror attack and Pakistan's links to it. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed the envoys and top diplomats of Estonia, Slovakia Republic, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Ireland, Greece, Iceland, Malaysia, Switzerland, Germany, France, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Norway on the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were brutally gunned down. Separately, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Home Minister met President Droupadi Murmu and briefed her about the

steps taken. The envoys of the G20 nations and other nations were briefed at South Block. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri also told them about India's policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism. The briefing came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day warned of stern action against the terrorists responsible for the killing of tourists at Pahalgam, and said they would be identified, pursued and punished. Speaking at a function in Bihar's Madhubani district, Prime Minister Modi said, "India will identify, track and punish every terrorist, their handlers and their backers. We (India) will pursue them

to the ends of the earth. They will be punished beyond their imagination." "It's high time to take action against terrorism," PM Modi said, and described the Pahalgam attack as an attack on the whole nation, and said the nation will give the perpetrators a befitting reply. The meeting with the envoys comes as India announced the downgrading of ties with Pakistan, including suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, shutting down of the Attari land-transit post, expulsion of Pakistani military attaches and its decision not to issue any more visas to Pakistanis and those who are in India were told to leave by April 27.

## SC cracks down on solid waste mismanagement in NCR

New Delhi, April 24 (UNI) : In a significant move aimed at bolstering environmental compliance in the National Capital Region (NCR), the Supreme Court on Thursday issued a series of stringent directives to ensure the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. A bench, comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan, ordered the States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to immediately designate senior-ranking nodal officers tasked with overseeing the segregation and collection of solid

waste. These officers will supervise the end-to-end compliance process and will be responsible for submitting regular reports to the Court, starting from September one. "The nodal officers shall ensure compliance with segregation norms and file regular compliance reports. As and when such reports are submitted, the Registrar (Judicial) shall ensure they are placed before this Court," the bench directed. Emphasizing the need for strict enforcement of the Rules, the top court observed that penalties must be imposed in cases of non-compliance. The

justices highlighted that without rigorous adherence to the norms, the core objectives of the 2016 Rules cannot be fulfilled. The Court also mandated the NCR states and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to submit data on the penalties imposed for violations of the Solid Waste Management Rules. The Court directed that public awareness campaigns be launched to educate citizens about available grievance redressal mechanisms related to solid waste management.

## Smart Money: Why Fintech Stocks Deserve a Spot in Your Portfolio"

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, April 24 : Mr. Pratik Jadhav is a seasoned stock market expert with over 8+ years of experience in financial markets, investment strategy, and portfolio management. Known for his sharp market insights and data-driven approach. "Smart Money: Why Fintech Stocks Deserve a Spot in Your Portfolio"



The Fintech sector in India is one of the most rapidly evolving and dynamic industries in 2025, with innovation, inclusivity, and government support driving its growth. Key Drivers of Fintech Growth are-

- UPI Dominance
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed over 172 billion transactions in 2024. India's real-time payment infrastructure is now one of the most advanced globally. Even international collaborations (like UPI with Singapore's PayNow) are expanding its global footprint.
- Digital-First Banking
- Neo-banks and digital-only banks are seeing massive adoption among Gen Z and millennials. Examples: Jupiter, Fi, Niyo – offering personalized, app-based banking experiences with no
- Financial Inclusion
- Fintechs are bridging the gap in rural and underbanked regions through: Microloans Digital wallets Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) models
- Aadhaar-enabled systems and Jan Dhan Yojana have helped onboard millions into the digital ecosystem.
- Regulatory Push & Sandbox Initiatives
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has created a supportive environment with its regulatory sandbox and guidelines for digital lending and payments. The government's Digital India initiative continues to accelerate fintech adoption.
- One of India's original fintech pioneers, Paytm has been a household name since the early days of mobile wallets and QR-code-based payments.

## Student knife attack at French school leaves 1 dead, 3 injured

Paris, April 24 (UNI) A high school student entered a school in West France's Nantes with a knife and stabbed at least four students Thursday afternoon, local media reported, citing the police. One of the victims died from injuries, according to BFMTV citing multiple sources. Police arrived and detained the student at the scene. Authorities have not released the identity of the attacker. The motive is under investigation.

## Give befitting reply to Pahalgam terrorists: Darul Uloom

Saharanpur (UP), April 24 (UNI) : Islamic seminary Darul Uloom Deoband and both factions of social and religious organisation, Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind, on Thursday condemned the terrorist incident in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir and demanded strict action against the terrorists. Darul Uloom's Chancellor Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani Banarasi said that the government should take all necessary steps to completely curb terrorism in Kashmir and give the harshest punishment to those who kill innocent people without reason and their masters. Mufti Nomani said that Darul Uloom's full sympathy is with the victims' families. He called it cowardice and against the teachings of Islam. Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind's national president, Maulana Arshad Madani said that the entire Islamic community is in deep shock. "This is a brutal crime, the culprits should be given the harshest punishment. This incident has happened due to the complete failure of the Kashmir administration. It is

surprising that there is no deployment of police and security forces at such an important tourist place (Vayasaran Valley). This is the reason why the terrorists succeeded in their evil intentions," he said. Madani said that the aspect which is the biggest cause of concern is that this crime has been committed on the basis of religion, this is a big threat to the peace and unity of India. He expressed hope that all the responsible people understand their duty and perform their duty with dedication. Former MP and head of the second faction of Jamiat, Maulana Mahmood Madani said that in Islam, killing an innocent is considered as the murder of the entire humanity. "This heinous act of the terrorists is against both Islam and humanity. The government should be vigilant on every front and take every possible action. This act will also promote communalism, but the countrymen will not let their intentions succeed," he said.





Security personnel guard as ED conducts raids at a FIITJEE centre in Noida on Thursday.

## Pahalgam attack: Sharmila slams PM Modi over failure to protect innocent people

Visakhapatnam, April 24 (IANS) : Congress' Andhra Pradesh chief Y.S. Sharmila on Thursday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his failure in protecting the lives of innocent Indian citizens.

Stating that Prime Minister Modi, who calls himself chowkidar, has failed, she said she was sending a 'lathi' to him with an appeal to use all his power to safeguard the national borders.

Sharmila was talking to the media after paying homage to J.S. Chandramouli, a retired bank employee who was killed in the April 22 terror attack at Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

She alleged that the Prime Minister was using all his energies and efforts in targeting opposition parties, Muslims and

Christian minorities, and Dalits and every voice that rises against the BJP.

Stating that Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have failed as chowkidars, she demanded their resignations.

Sharmila alleged that they were not using their powers, agencies and network to curtail external forces.

"I have a message for the Prime Minister. You said you are a chowkidar, but today we are telling that enough of using the power against opposition parties, Muslims, Christians, Dalits and every voice that questions you. It's time you start using your power for the good of the nation and to protect our national borders," she said. Sharmila met the family members of Chandramouli,

one of the 26 tourists killed in the terror attack. She consoled them and expressed her condolences.

She remarked that "Chowkidar" is busy using the might of the policing network and investigation agencies to threaten the innocent people, while terrorists were freely crossing into our country and killing innocent people and members of security forces alike. "Uri, Pulwama, and now in Pahalgam, this government has failed its people time and again," she said.

The state Congress chief said that the entire nation is convinced that the Pahalgam terror attack is a result of total intelligence failure. "And that's because this Chowkidar government is using the network and might of our central

agencies to politically target the opposition parties and voices of dissent within India, rather than attacking the external threat," she said.

"Modi ji, this is the stick of a Chowkidaar. Your party had used it enough to threaten the voices of your own citizens; now, with folded hands, we, citizens of the country, urge you to please use this against the enemy," she said.

Sharmila said that even retired Army officials have accused the Modi government of neglecting national security, which resulted in this dastardly act. "I demand that this government ensure the safety of Indian borders and protect the lives of innocent citizens, and not waste its energy in going after the common people of this country," she added.

## Son of Anganwadi worker among IAS crackers from HP

Shimla, April 24 (UNI) : Pratham Yambur (23) of Kamru village in Sangla Valley of Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh has succeeded in the UPSC examination. He secured 841st rank in his second attempt. Pratham's father Vyas Sundar is a gardener and mother Rajdevi is an Anganwadi worker.

Pratham was earlier selected for the post of Assistant commandant in CISF through UPSC. But his goal was to become an IAS officer. Apart from being a meritorious student, Pratham has been actively participating in sports and co-curricular activities. He

has attributed his success to his parents and teachers.

Pratham received his early education from Shivalik Public School, Sangla. He did his 10+2 non-medical studies from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Recangpio. After this, he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts in first class from Delhi University.

According to CPI(M) leader Dr Kuldeep Singh Tanwar, state's daughters are not far behind. "Ayushi, a resident of Bhadech panchayat of Junga tehsil of Kasumpati assembly constituency, has been selected in the Indian Revenue Service [IRS].

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Ayushi, her mother Sulakshana Thakur and father Madan Mohan Thakur."

Kamlesh was Ayushi's teacher in primary education. The motivation of her parents and family members took Ayushi from a region where the level of higher education was only 4 per cent about a decade and a half ago, to the prestigious achievement of All India Service.

This is not only a matter of pride for the entire region, but also an inspiration for hundreds of young people who aspire to achieve a big goal in their lives.

## Girls to receive Rs 60K under CM Samuhik Vivah Yojana: Yogi

Lucknow, April 24 (UNI) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday announced that the income limit for beneficiaries under Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana will be raised from Rs two lakh to Rs three lakh per annum.

During a review meeting of the Social Welfare Department while addressing the need for broader inclusivity, the CM said that this scheme has become a great support for the underprivileged. "To allow more people to benefit from it, the annual income limit for eligibility needs to be increased," he said.

He said that starting from the new financial year, the financial assistance provided to eligible newlyweds under the scheme will be increased from Rs 51,000 to Rs one lakh. "Of this amount, Rs 60,000 will be directly deposited into the bride's bank account, while Rs 25,000 will be given as gifts to the newlyweds. The remaining Rs 15,000 will be allocated for wedding ceremony expenses," he said.

He directed immediate implementation of these changes.

While reviewing the status of the senior citizen

pension scheme, Yogi said that no eligible elderly person should be deprived of their pension. He directed to link the scheme with the Family ID system for better implementation.

He said that once the scheme is linked to the Family ID, any eligible elderly person who turns 60 will immediately start receiving the pension. He directed the departmental officials to make the necessary technical arrangements to increase the coverage of the senior citizen pension scheme through the Family ID system.

## CM Naidu recounts journey from 2 Mbps connection to data-driven governance

Amaravati, April 24 (IANS) : Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu recounted his journey from struggling for a 2 Mbps Internet connection to launching data-driven governance. Addressing a workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the state Secretariat on Thursday, he declared that the state is entering a new era of governance powered by AI -- one that prioritises smart systems, human-centric solutions, and real-time delivery of services.

CM Naidu, who turned 75 early this week, recalled how he was struggling for a 2 Mbps Internet connection.

He was apparently referring to the mid-1990s when he became the chief minister of combined Andhra Pradesh for the first time. "Back then, BSNL gave me 2 Mbps -- and I used it for audio and video. Today we're talking about Gigabits," he said, crediting the deregulation of the telecom sector and early e-governance initiatives as game-changers.

CM Naidu underscored that systems must empower governance, not restrict it. "We have the best brains in the country, especially in

the IAS. But our systems make them inefficient. We must now rewrite old, archaic laws and embrace smart, digital systems," he said. Calling for a mindset shift, the Chief Minister declared: "Hard work is no longer enough. We must focus on smart, flexible work." He highlighted how digitised file systems, real-time decision-making, and bandwidth-led connectivity are enabling new ways of governance.

The Chief Minister advocated for every department to develop an AI Champion who would identify and lead the adoption of use cases.

From the deployment of drones to control illegal cultivation to Aadhaar-linked home deliveries during disasters, the Chief Minister shared successful examples of how technology, when used wisely, can transform public service. "Every family must have someone who prepares or applies use cases. This is how we ensure that technology serves the people," he added. The Chief Minister also spoke passionately about the integration of massive datasets through a state-run Data Lake,

enabling predictive governance. "We will integrate all data, and the Planning Department must use it to prepare for the future," he stated. He announced that Andhra Pradesh would fully saturate critical infrastructure like housing and sanitation by 2028 or 2029 and leverage Public-Private-Partnerships (P4) to uplift underprivileged families.

The Chief Minister expressed strong confidence in achieving 15 per cent economic growth, stating that such ambitious targets are not beyond reach.

Drawing a comparison with Telangana, he highlighted how the region transformed from being largely agrarian two and a half decades ago to now having the highest per capita income in the country, driven by balanced growth across agriculture, industry, and services.

Reflecting on Andhra Pradesh's journey, he noted that when he first initiated development efforts, the industrial landscape was sparse. However, since 1995, a wave of new industries has emerged, supported by second-generation reforms.

These reforms have not only modernised the economy but also nurtured a vibrant ecosystem of second-generation entrepreneurs who are now steering Andhra Pradesh's economic transformation.

R. Chandrasekhar, former Secretary, MEITY and DOT, spoke on the Role of AI and technology in good governance and said that resolving problems faced by people requires vision and bureaucratic will. "Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who was the CM of the combined AP, then realised that IT could be used in governance.

The whole nation realised that AP was doing something and they wanted to learn from us," he said, adding that Andhra Pradesh hosted two e-Governance conferences that kept the IT ball running in the country.

### Ex-AIADMK Minister Gokula Indira's husband passes away

Chennai, April 24 (UNI) : Former AIADMK Minister S. Gokula Indira's husband A R Chandrasekhar passed away at a private hospital here on Thursday evening. He was undergoing treatment at the hospital but died this evening. AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami condoled his death.

## MSME DC holds reverse buyer seller meet in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 24 (UNI) : The Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation (APMSME DC), in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) inaugurated the two-day Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) here on Thursday.

This event was aimed to strengthen trade linkages and provide a robust platform for MSMEs from Andhra Pradesh to showcase their products and capabilities to international buyers.

The RBSM is part of a broader initiative to boost exports and open up new markets for the vibrant MSME sector and vision of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to create entrepreneurs in each home in Andhra Pradesh. The event was inaugurated by AP MSME DC Chairman Thammireddy Sivasankara Rao in the presence of senior officials from APMSME DC, FIEO, industry leaders, and a distinguished delegation of overseas buyers from various countries.


Speaking on the occasion, Sivasankara emphasised the crucial role of MSMEs in India's export growth and applauded the efforts of APMSME DC in facilitating direct business interactions between local enterprises and global buyers.

"This RBSM is a strategic move towards empowering MSMEs by providing them access to international markets, insights into global standards, and the opportunity to forge long-term trade partnerships," he added. More than 320 MSMEs from diverse sectors such as Textiles and Garments, Automobile Parts, food processing, handicrafts, are participating in the

meet. Over 25 international buyers from 17 countries including US, Japan, UK, GCC, Africa, South East Asia, are participating and had one-to-one meeting with exporters, startups, artisans, weavers, apart from MSME exporters with

the aim to foster direct business discussions and generate export opportunities to them.

The Reverse Buyer Seller Meet will continue over two days featuring B2B meetings, mentoring, and networking sessions.

|  |   |  |                                 |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <div>भारत सरकार<br/>कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय<br/>न्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),<br/>आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंज़िल,<br/>प्लॉट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,<br/>हरियाणा - 122050.<br/>Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in</div>   | <div><br/>सत्यमेव जयते</div> | <div>Government of India<br/>Ministry of Corporate Affairs<br/>Centre for Processing Accelerated<br/>Corporate Exit (C-PACE)<br/>IICA Building, 7th Floor,<br/>Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,<br/>Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.<br/>Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in</div> |                                 |
| <div>FORM No. STK - 6<br/>PUBLIC NOTICE</div>  |   |  |                                 |
| <div>[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]</div>  |   |  |                                 |
| <div>Public Notice:C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/B1/2025-26/140Date: 16/04/2025</div>  |   |  |                                 |
| <div>Reference:</div>  |   |  |                                 |
| <div>In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (2) companies in the state of Puducherry under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:</div>   |   |  |                                 |
| S No.  | Work Item   | CIN  | Company Name                    |
| 1  | AB2968423   | U15490PY2022PTC008843  | Bro's Burger Private Limited    |
| 2  | AB3081860   | U50100PY2011PTC002615  | The Star Cars Private Limited   |
| 3  | AB3118064   | U72900PY2020PTC008511  | Nzone Solutions Private Limited |
| <div>2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.</div> |   |  |                                 |
| <div>3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.</div>  |   |  |                                 |
| <div>4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.</div>   |   |  |                                 |
| <div>Irkan Tirkey<br/>Assistant Registrar<br/>Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit</div>   |   |  |                                 |
| <div>CBC 07123/11/0103/2526</div>  |   |  |                                 |



STANDARD POST

India proves to be high-growth market for consumer products MNCs

India is quickly shedding its reputation as a daunting emerging market and is delivering superior returns to winning global consumer products companies, a new report said on Thursday.

For some leading multinational companies (MNCs), India affiliates deliver total shareholder return of between two and six times that of their global parents.

When looking at those with Indian revenue contribution of at least \$100 million, the report by Bain & Company found that 60 per cent of the Indian affiliates’ revenues are growing at least double of their parent companies’ growth rate.

“Companies already investing in India are benefiting from accelerated growth, higher shareholder returns, and opportunities to shape globally relevant products,” said Ravi Swarup, head of Bain’s Consumer Products practice in India.

MNCs that have not entered the market must act now — or risk missing out on a vital growth engine and long-term strategic advantage, he added.

India is the third-largest contributor to consumer products growth among emerging markets over the past decade.

In the next 5-6 years, it will see the highest increase in working-age population globally and the fastest growth for income per capita among the top five consumer products emerging markets, which also include China, Brazil, Mexico, and Russia.

While India has traditionally been considered a difficult market for MNCs, it has made tremendous improvements to barriers.

Rapid digital adoption and widespread smartphone and internet penetration have enabled companies to effectively reach India’s diverse population.

According to the report, e-commerce and quick commerce have grown 2–3 times faster in value than traditional and modern trade channels, diminishing the need for an extensive traditional trade network to enter the market. Digital payments are also gaining popularity, with 45 per cent of Internet users adopting them for transactions.

Nikhil Ojha, head of Bain’s Strategy practice in the Asia-Pacific region, said that “What we are seeing is a market where both legacy players and new entrants can win, but only if they rewire their approach to be truly India-centric.”

PM Modi launches development works worth over Rs 13,480 crore in Madhubani, Bihar marking National Panchayati Raj Day

(Standard Post Bureau)

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated, laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 13,480 crore in Madhubani, Bihar today on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day. The Prime Minister appealed to everyone at the event to observe silence and pray for the departed souls in the Pahalgam attacks on 22 April 2025. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he said that on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day, the entire nation is connected with Mithila and Bihar. He remarked that projects worth thousands of crores of rupees, aimed at Bihar's development, have been inaugurated and foundations laid for, emphasising that these initiatives in electricity, railways, and infrastructure will create new employment opportunities in Bihar. He paid tributes to the great poet and national icon, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar Ji, on his death anniversary.

Remarking that Bihar is the land where Mahatma Gandhi expanded the mantra of Satyagraha, Shri Modi highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's firm belief that India's rapid development is only possible when its villages are strong. He emphasized that the concept of Panchayati Raj was rooted in this sentiment. “Over the past decade, continuous steps have been taken to empower Panchayats. Technology has played a significant role in strengthening Panchayats, with over 2 lakh Gram Panchayats connected to the internet in the last decade”, he added. Shri Modi pointed out that more than 5.5 lakh Common Service Centers have been established in villages, underlining that the digitalization of Panchayats has brought additional benefits, such as easy access to documents like birth and death certificates, and landholding certificates. He remarked that while the nation received a new Parliament building after decades of independence, 30,000 new Panchayat Bhawans have also been constructed across the country. He also highlighted that ensuring adequate funds for Panchayats has been a priority for the government. “Over the past decade, Panchayats have received more than ₹2 lakh crore, all of which has been utilized for the development of villages”, he said.

Highlighting that one of the major issues faced by Gram Panchayats has been related to land disputes, the Prime Minister mentioned the frequent disagreements over which land is residential, agricultural, Panchayat-owned, or government-owned. He emphasized that to address this issue, the digitization of land records is being undertaken, which has helped resolve unnecessary disputes effectively.

Shri Modi underscored that Panchayats have strengthened social



participation, remarking that Bihar was the first state in the country to provide 50% reservation for women in Panchayats. He emphasized that today, a significant number of women from economically weaker sections, Dalits, Mahadalits, backward, and extremely backward communities are serving as public representatives in Bihar, describing it as true social justice and genuine social participation. He underlined that democracy thrives and becomes stronger with greater participation. Reflecting this vision, Shri Modi noted that a law providing 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies has also been enacted. He remarked that this will benefit women across all states, giving our sisters and daughters greater representation.

Emphasising that the government is working in mission mode to increase women's income and create new opportunities for employment and self-employment, Shri Modi highlighted the transformative impact of the ‘Jeevika Didi’ program in Bihar, which has changed the lives of many women. He remarked that today, self-help groups of women in Bihar have been provided financial assistance of approximately ₹1,000 crore, noting that this will further strengthen the economic empowerment of women and contribute to the goal of creating 3 crore Lakshpati Didis across the country. He highlighted that the rural economy has gained new momentum over the past decade. He pointed out that villages have seen the construction of houses for the poor, roads, gas connections, water connections, and toilets, bringing lakhs of crores of rupees to rural areas.

The Prime Minister remarked that new employment opportunities have been created, benefiting laborers, farmers, vehicle operators, and shopkeepers, providing them with new avenues for income. He emphasized that this has particularly benefited communities that have been deprived for generations. He cited the example of the PM Awas Yojana, which aims to ensure that no family in the country remains homeless and that everyone has a permanent roof over their heads. He noted that over the past decade, more than 4 crore permanent houses

have been constructed under this scheme. He highlighted that in Bihar alone, 57 lakh poor families have received permanent houses. He remarked that these houses have been provided to families from economically weaker sections, Dalits, and backward and extremely backward communities like Pasmanda families. Shri Modi announced that in the coming years, 3 crore more permanent houses will be provided to the poor. He noted that today, approximately 1.5 lakh families in Bihar are moving into their new permanent homes. He said that across the country, 15 lakh poor families have been issued approval letters for the construction of new houses, including 3.5 lakh beneficiaries from Bihar. He highlighted that today, financial assistance has been sent to approximately 10 lakh poor families for their permanent houses, including 80,000 rural families and 1 lakh urban families from Bihar.

“The past decade has been a decade of infrastructure development for India”, said the Prime Minister, highlighting that this modern infrastructure is strengthening the foundation of a developed India. He noted that for the first time, over 12 crore rural families have received tap water connections in their homes, underlining that more than 2.5 crore households have been electrified, and those who never imagined cooking on gas stoves have now received gas cylinders. “Even in challenging regions like Ladakh and Siachen, where providing basic facilities is difficult, 4G and 5G mobile connections have now been established, reflecting the nation's current priorities”, he pointed out. The Prime Minister highlighted advancements in healthcare, noting that institutions like AIIMS were once limited to major cities like Delhi. He announced that AIIMS is now being established in Darbhanga, and the number of medical colleges in the country has nearly doubled in the past decade and mentioned the construction of a new medical college in Jhunjharpur. He emphasized that to ensure quality healthcare in villages, over 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been established across the country, including more

than 10,000 in Bihar. He remarked that Jan Aushadhi Kendras have become a significant relief for the poor and middle class, offering medicines at an 80% discount. He noted that Bihar now has over 800 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, saving its people ₹2,000 crore in medical expenses. The Prime Minister highlighted that under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, lakhs of families in Bihar have received free treatment, resulting in savings of thousands of crores of rupees for these families.

“India is rapidly advancing its connectivity through infrastructure like railways, roads, and airports”, highlighted Shri Modi, noting that metro projects are underway in Patna, and over two dozen cities across the country are now connected with metro facilities. He announced the launch of the ‘Namo Bharat Rapid Rail’ service between Patna and Jaynagar, which will significantly reduce travel time between the two locations, and emphasized that this development will benefit lakhs of people from Samastipur, Darbhanga, Madhubani, and Begusarai.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the inauguration and launch of multiple new railway lines in Bihar, highlighting the commencement of the modern Amrit Bharat train service between Saharsa and Mumbai, which will greatly benefit the labor families. He remarked that the government is modernizing several railway stations in Bihar, including Madhubani and Jhunjharpur. He emphasized that air connectivity in Mithila and Bihar has improved significantly with Darbhanga Airport, and the expansion of Patna Airport is underway. “These development projects are creating new employment opportunities in Bihar”, he added.

“Farmers are the backbone of the rural economy, the stronger this backbone, the stronger the villages, and consequently, the nation”, said Shri Modi. He highlighted the persistent challenges of floods in the Mithila and Kosi regions, noting that the government is set to invest ₹11,000 crore to mitigate the impact of floods in Bihar. He said that this investment will facilitate the construction of dams on rivers such as Bagmati, Dhar, Budhi

Gandak, and Kosi, adding that canals will be developed, ensuring irrigation arrangements through river water. “This initiative will not only reduce flood-related issues but will also ensure adequate water supply reaches every farmer’s field”, he added.

“Makhana, a cultural staple of Mithila, has now gained global recognition as a superfood”, highlighted Shri Modi, mentioning that makhana has been granted a GI tag, officially certifying it as a product of this region. He added that the Makhana Research Centre has been accorded national status. He also highlighted the Budget announcement of the Makhana Board, which is expected to transform the fortunes of makhana farmers, emphasising that Bihar's makhana will now reach international markets as a superfood. He noted that the National Institute of Food Technology and Management is being established in Bihar, which will support the youth in setting up small enterprises related to food processing. He further emphasized that Bihar is making consistent progress in fisheries along with agriculture, highlighting that fishermen now have access to the benefits of the Kisan Credit Card, providing advantages to numerous families involved in fisheries. He remarked that under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, projects worth hundreds of crores have been executed in Bihar.

Expressing deep sorrow over the brutal killing of innocent civilians by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, Shri Modi remarked that the entire nation is distressed and stands in solidarity with the grieving families. He assured that every effort is being made by the government to ensure the speedy recovery of those undergoing treatment. He highlighted the profound loss suffered by families, where some lost their sons, brothers, or life partners, noting that the victims came from diverse linguistic and regional backgrounds—some spoke Bengali, Kannada, Marathi, Odia, Gujarati, and some were from Bihar. Underlining that from Kargil to Kanyakumari, the grief and outrage over this attack are shared equally across the nation, Shri Modi remarked that this

attack was not just on unarmed tourists but was a brazen assault on the soul of India. “The terrorists responsible for this attack, along with those who conspired it, will face punishment beyond their imagination”, he declared in unequivocal terms, asserting that the time has come to eliminate the remaining strongholds of terrorism. “The willpower of 140 crore Indians will now break the backbone of the perpetrators of terror”, he stressed.

The Prime Minister declared from the soil of Bihar that India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist, their handlers, and their backers, emphasising that India will pursue them to the ends of the earth. “India’s spirit will never be broken by terrorism and terrorism will not go unpunished. Every effort will be made to ensure justice is served and the entire nation is firm in this resolve against terrorism”, he stressed. He further stated that everyone who believes in humanity stands with India during these times. He expressed his gratitude to the people and leaders of various countries who have supported India in these moments.

“Peace and security are the most critical prerequisites for rapid development”, said Shri Modi, remarking that a developed Bihar is essential for a developed India. He concluded by highlighting that efforts are being made to ensure development in Bihar and to extend the benefits of progress to every section and every region of the state. He expressed gratitude to everyone for joining the program on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day.

The Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar, Union Ministers Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Shri Giriraj Singh, Shri Chirag Paswan, Shri Nityanand Rai, Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary were present among other dignitaries at the event.

Background Prime Minister participated in the National Panchayati Raj Day programme in Madhubani, Bihar. He also presented National Panchayat Awards, recognizing and incentivizing best-performing Panchayats on the occasion.

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of an LPG bottling plant with rail unloading facility at Hathua in Gopalganj District of Bihar worth around Rs 340 crore. This will help in streamlining the supply chain and improving efficiency of bulk LPG transportation.

Boosting power infrastructure in the region, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 1,170 crore and also inaugurated multiple projects worth over Rs 5,030 crore in the power sector in Bihar under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.



# Career

## Top 10 fundamentals for first-time Job seekers

Some of the most successful people started off peeling stacks (and stacks) of potatoes, skinning chickens, washing dishes and clearing tables. They didn't get disheartened by the work required, as they knew that it was just a stepping-stone onto bigger and better things. As a start, here are the top ten fundamentals that all recruiters want fresh grads to know:

- It's never too early to start researching the company companies you want to work with and for the position you want. Do your background research regarding the company and the requirements for the position you want when you graduate (size, global presence, \$ value, any recent news, follow them on social media, etc.). If possible, try and talk to someone who already works there; they will be able to give you a much more accurate picture on the company's culture, work environment, etc. so that you have all the information required to make an informed decision.

- Have a professional resume and cover letter. Just ensure that both your resume and cover letter portray an accurate image of you and tell the story that you want them to tell (in the best possible way). Ensure the resume is crisp and highlights the points you want the recruiter to notice. Get second opinions when possible.

- Manage your social media effectively. Think of yourself as a brand and all your social media as advertising your "personal brand". Just as you are going to be researching the companies/employees where you are applying, they will be doing the same to you. Ensure there isn't anything online that you aren't comfortable sharing with a room full of strangers (aka employers). Where possible have restricted profile access or screen the information you share online. Ensure you have a LinkedIn profile. Even if you don't have any prior work experience, try and highlight internships, leadership positions, how you ranked in your school and your technical skills.

- When you do manage to get an interview with the company/companies that you want, apart from ensuring that your background research on the company itself is updated and accurate, try and gather as much information about the recruiters and the selection criteria process as possible. This will be invaluable in ensuring that you appear well informed and are adequately prepared at the time of the interview.

- Practice, practice, practice. Practice mock interviews with a friend/mentor where they ask you potential interview questions, ranging from predictable ones like, "Tell us about yourself" or "Why do you think you are the right person for this job" to slightly unique ones like "What classes were your favorite



**Graduating from a professional college can be an exciting yet daunting experience. You've been inside a protected environment the past few years and are ready to forge out to change the world. Just a gentle reminder though, that the best in the business didn't start at the top and unfortunately neither will you.**

and why" or "What's your favorite website" or "Who's your real life hero?" Try and make these mock interview sessions as realistic as possible with quiet locations, appropriate attire and timing the entire process.

- Prior to the interview day, get enough rest (it's not time to celebrate yet). Ensure that you are relaxed and plan to get to the venue a minimum of 30-45 minutes prior to the scheduled time (always allowing for last minute emergencies). Lay out your attire and check that you have all required paperwork, directions to the location and extra copies of your resume handy.

- First impressions matter. When introducing yourself ensure you have the right attitude, smile and a firm handshake. Expect to be evaluated (on body language, grooming, confidence and effective communication skills). Don't hand out your resume or give out all the personal details (place of birth, family background, etc., unless specifically asked).

- During the interview, be prepared with a few relevant questions when given the opportunity to ask them. Expect most interviews to last between 30 to 45 minutes and when possible try and touch upon your internship project or the various organizations that you might have worked for. Also, add the responsibilities you handled and some achievements you had over those roles. Remember to keep the answers brief, to the point and avoid winding answers. Be prepared for them to ask you to stay back longer to meet others in the company.

- Maintain eye contact always (depending upon the number of people in the panels). Prior to leaving, thank them for their time; ask them for their business card as well as the next steps in the interview process. Ensure that you are prompt and respectful in your follow up.

- As a summary, while the hiring criteria may vary depending on company, industry, etc., recruiters are typically looking for graduates who exhibit confidence (not over confidence). They are looking for consistency in your "personal brand". Do your communication skills, overall appearance, attitude and personality match your resume? They're also asking themselves if you really want to work in their company or is it just one of the many open positions that you are applying for? Does your intellect and previous success record match what they envision for this role?

## Dos and don'ts for your Job application

**HR professionals point out common mistakes made by those applying for their job, providing a list of dos and don'ts.**



Many argue that academics fails to prepare fresh graduates in communication etiquette, necessary in the corporate world. It is thus a task for some of them to even get employed as job interviews require one to present his or her skills, while conducting oneself in a certain manner. To address these concerns, we list mistakes made by first-time job aspirants and how they can be corrected.

**- Email etiquette**

So, if you've heard about a suitable job, managed to procure the employer's email id and decided to shoot off your resume for consideration. But when you're a fresher, your resume may not be your biggest strength. So what do you do?

"A mistake freshers make in their resume is, since there's little to speak of in terms of

professional achievement, they litter it with details about their family and their hobbies," says Srinivas Rao Katkoo, Director Human Resources - South Asia, SAS Institute (India) Pvt Ltd. Rao adds that freshers need to highlight their educational qualifications, technical skills and their college projects in their resume. "If you've done an internship, you need to mention your exact role and learning from it in your resume," adds Rao, who feels that grammar and punctuation cannot be compromised in one's CV. "A cover letter is also a must and it should briefly summarize the candidate's skills and the kind of role they're looking for, along with a reason for applying for the role and choice of company," says Rao. How one addresses the person receiving the resume is vital too. A "Hi" followed by the

person's name is seen in poor light. "It would be advisable that the candidate figures out who he is applying to and address the mail to the concerned person, making the application personalized. And one should never make the mistake of applying to multiple companies by adding several email ids in the BCC as it's seen as unprofessional," says Rao. A suitable salutation in such emails could be 'Dear Sir', 'Dear HR Manager' or 'Dear Hiring Manager'.

On a different note, the email id created to send your resume could also affect your chances of getting short-listed. "If an employer receives a resume from an id like seriakkisser01@gmail.com, the reaction it would receive is obvious," laughs Ashish Arora, Managing Director, HR Anexi Pvt Ltd, who recommends short and straightforward email ids with a subject line clearly drawing attention to the role being applied for.

**- Telephonic skills**

You may have been talking on the phone for decades, but that doesn't necessarily mean that you're prepared for a telephonic interview. Usually the first filter in most interviews, this is the stage when employers connect employees to validate the claims made on their resume. "First-time job applicants aren't aware of etiquette to be followed in telephonic interviews. You rarely come across candidates who begin a call with a greeting like 'good morning' or 'good afternoon' based on the time of the day," says Rao, who feels that one should be frank, using this as a chance to talk about specialized skills. Doubts about the exact role can be clarified along the way.

**- Face to face interview**

The way to approach the final interview where one meets one's prospective employer to pitch one's skills has been much debated. What to wear, how to conduct oneself or even what to prepare for, are all grey for most freshers who make the common mistake of going ill-prepared and end up being rejected. A firm shake hand and constant eye contact during the interview are known to convey confidence and honesty but there's plenty else to learn.

"Shabby attire, reaching late for an interview, laid-back posture communicate that the candidate is unenthusiastic," says Arora. He advises that candidates speak slowly and clearly, responding to questions honestly, after having heard the entire question. "Another common mistake is asking how much one will be finally paid, early on in the interview. This is a stage when the candidate's employment has not been confirmed and it is looked at in poor taste," adds Arora.

## Lenovo India relaxes dress code for employees

Following in the footsteps of Infosys and Hindustan Unilever, Lenovo India is the latest to relax its employee dress code. Business attire favoured at the firm so far will give way to a more casual style of dressing. Lenovo will announce the change in a mail to be sent to all employees on Friday, titled, 'Now everyday is Friday.'

Employees at Lenovo offices across the country will now be allowed to wear business casuals including but not limited to shirts, T-shirts with collars, jeans for men and dresses, skirts and casual trousers for women.

The mail defines business casuals as "a midpoint between



advocated, but we won't encourage shorts and flip-flops either."

The updated clothing policy is one of the many changes that Sandal who joined the firm in April hopes to bring into effect.

The new dress code will be applicable for

all 635 employees of Lenovo India, and comes into effect today. Incidentally, Lenovo employees interviewing prospective job applicants will

also be allowed to wear business casuals, thereby promoting it as a perk of working with the firm. Corporate image and luxury brand consultant

Manjusha Maheshwari advocates formal dressing at the workplace, but admits that things are changing to address the needs of millennial workers. "It's a good idea to put employees through group sessions before instituting such changes, to help them understand the nuances of business casuals and to help define what works and what doesn't. Sloppiness in attire, if allowed to creep in, can affect the mood at the workplace."



# 14 Maoists surrender in Warangal



Hyderabad, April 24 (IANS) : Fourteen Maoists surrendered to the police in Telangana's Warangal district on Thursday.

Members of the banned CPI-Maoist, including two area committee members, surrendered before Inspector General Chandrasekhar Reddy.

The development came amid an ongoing intensive anti-Maoist operation by the security forces on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border.

There are reports of six Maoists being killed in the exchange of fire with central paramilitary forces in the Karreguttala region of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, bordering the Mulugu district of

Telangana.The IG said that surrender is part of a continued initiative aimed at encouraging Maoists to renounce violence and reintegrate into mainstream society.He announced that each of them had been given Rs 25,000 as immediate financial assistance. With these 14, the number of Maoists who surrendered in the state this year has now reached 250.

The IG said that their goal is to help them leave violence behind and begin a new life. "We're ready to assist anyone from any state who wants to surrender. Employment opportunities and rehabilitation support will be provided," Chandrashekhar Reddy

said.Thursday's surrender came two weeks after 22 Maoists laid down their arms before police in the Mulugu district.

The extremists laid down their arms before Mulugu district Superintendent of Police Dr. P. Shabarish on April 11.

Those who surrendered include four Area Committee Members (ACMs) and a party member. The remaining were militia members.

The SP had announced that the ACMs would be provided Rs 4 lakh each for their rehabilitation. The party member will get Rs 1 lakh, while others will be given Rs 25,000 each.

He had appealed to key Maoist leaders to surrender

and join the national mainstream. Stating that the ideology of left-wing extremism has lost its relevance, he said they cannot achieve anything constructive by roaming in the jungles.

Early this month, 86 Maoists surrendered before the police in Bhadradri Kothagudem district. Among the surrendered, 82 were from the Bhadradri-Kothagudem district, and four belonged to the Mulugu district.

According to police, they were all operating in the Bijapur forests of the neighbouring Chhattisgarh.In March, 64 Maoists had surrendered before the Bhadradri-Kothagudem police.

## Heat wave conditions to prevail in UP

Lucknow, April 24 (UNI) : Heat wave-like conditions are likely to continue for the next three days in most of parts of Uttar Pradesh, which are in the grip of severe heat, while there is a possibility of strong storm and showers in eastern parts of the state from April 27 and in the entire state from April 29.According to the Meteorological Department, the weather is expected to remain generally dry in most parts of the state in the next 48 hours. Heat wave will trouble people during this period. However, there is a possibility of a slight drop in temperature due to drizzle in eastern UP from April 27. The period of immediate change in the weather is expected to continue till April 30 and western UP is also expected to get relief from drizzle from April 29. Meanwhile, in view of the severe heat, the Lucknow district administration has directed all the schools to conduct classes up to eighth standard from 7 am to 12:30 pm. District Magistrate Vishakh G said that outdoor activities for students in schools should also be banned till further orders.

## Border tourism to be promoted in Kinnaur with ITBP support: CM

Shimla, April 24 (UNI) : To allay fears among tourists in the wake of Pahalgam massacre, the ITBP may play a role of tourist-friendly force in forward posts along India-Tibet border, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said here on Thursday.

"We are planning to promote forward tourist destinations in Kinnaur district with the active support of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)," Sukhu told media after a meeting with ITBP's Frontier Commander Sanjay Gunjyal at the state secretariat.The meeting focused on transforming forward regions such as Chitkul, Sangla Valley, Kaurik, and Nako into adventure and cultural tourism hotspots, while also ensuring visitor safety through ITBP infrastructure and personnel.

Speaking to media after the meeting, the Chief Minister said, "We are working to open up forward

areas to tourism by leveraging ITBP's presence and infrastructure. This includes utilizing ITBP helipads, medical facilities, and routes for tourism and emergency services."

He emphasized that coordination with ITBP's regional response centers will enhance disaster preparedness and security in high-altitude regions. "Tourists will soon be able to explore destinations previously out of reach, under a safe and structured model supported by our brave border forces," he added. The discussions also touched upon strengthening the rural economy in border villages by enabling ITBP to procure local produce such as fruits, vegetables, and dairy directly from farmers and orchardists. This initiative is expected to create local employment and support agri-based tourism ventures.

Commander Gunjyal informed the Chief Minister about progress on three new roads under the

Virbent Village Development Programme, including proposed connectivity to forward posts in Sangla and Kaurik. He also shared details about 15 additional road projects intended to improve access to remote and strategically important areas.Chief Minister Sukhu instructed state officials to expedite the installation of communication towers and complete all formalities for upcoming construction work, giving priority to local contractors and workers.

Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri (virtually), Himfed Chairman Buddhi Singh Thakur, ITBP DIG Pawan Kumar Negi, and other senior officers were present at the meeting.In view of increasing tourist inflow and recent security concerns, the Chief Minister also discussed the possibility of deploying Central paramilitary forces at key tourist sites like Shimla, Manali, Dalhousie, and McLeodganj.

## Laurus labs Q4FY25 net profit rises 208 pc to Rs 234 cr

Hyderabad, Aprl 24 (UNI) : Laurus Labs Ltd., a leading research and development driven pharmaceutical and biotech company in India, on Thursday said that its net profit increased 208 per cent to Rs 234 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31,2025 as against Rs 76 crore for the corresponding quarter of FY24.

The Hyderabad-based Pharma Company's revenues during the quarter rose 19 per cent to Rs 1,720 crore as compared with Rs 1,440 crore in 4QFY24, a release said here.

For the full year, the company's profit rose 122

per cent to Rs 358 crore as against Rs 161 crore in FY24, while revenues increased to Rs 5,554 crores in FY25 from Rs 5,041 crore in FY24.Dr. Satyanarayana Chava, Founder & Chief Executive Officer commented; "We delivered very good Q4 results and continued our transformative progress, reflecting robust demand for our CDMO offerings and meeting complex customer needs, supported by growth in FDF division. These results demonstrate the strength of our business model and give us confidence in our outlook. We are deepening our

cooperation with major clients, and augmenting it with promising BD and capacity creation. Our business remains well positioned to evolve into a well-diversified CMO/CDMO company with promising pipeline, enabling several technology platforms and commercial excellence, thanks to team commitment to the unified vision of delivering high quality integrated solution and securing our long-term growth potential."

VV Ravi Kumar, Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer commented; "Despite the

ongoing macroeconomic challenges, we have witnessed a high level of demand for our offerings. For Q4, we delivered Rs 1,720 crore in revenues, growth of 19 per cent and Rs 477 crore EBITDA grew by 84 percent, resulting in 27.7 percent margin. Gross margins remained healthy at 55 percent due to favorable CDMO mix and process optimization measures. The fundamentals of our business remain healthy".

Overall FY25 results, we have delivered revenues of Rs 5,554 crore , representing 10 percent growth and EBITDA stood

## ED attaches Sahara property at 16 locations in alleged Ponzi scam

Kolkata, April 24 (UNI) : The enforcement Directorate (ED) probing Sahara India's alleged Ponzi scam, has attached landed property of Sahara Prime City Ltd measuring 1023 acres from 16 locations across the country worth Rs. 538 crore, the federal agency said.

"These lands were purchased in Benami names with the funds diverted from Sahara entities as the attached lands are spread across 16 cities in India," the ED said.

The attached lands are located in Gujarat, Odisha, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, J&K, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, UP West Bengal on the basis of 3 FIRs registered u/s 420 and 120B of IPC, 1860 against M/s Humara India Credit Co-operative Society Ltd. (HICCSL) and others by Odisha, Bihar and Rajasthan Police.

Besides, over 500 FIRs had been registered against the Sahara Group entities and related persons. More than 300 FIRs registered for offences that are scheduled under the PMLA, 2002 on the allegations that depositors were cheated into depositing funds, forced to redeposit funds without their consent and were denied their maturity payments despite demanding maturity payouts several time," the ED said in a statement.

"In order to camouflage non-repayment, the group manipulated the books of accounts to show repayment in a scheme, treating reinvestment as fresh investment in another scheme," the ED said.

In order to perpetuate the ponzi scheme, they continued to accept fresh deposits despite not being able to repay the existing maturity amount. " the ED said.The ED probe revealed that part of the collected money was siphoned and diverted for creating benami assets, for their personal expenses and lavish lifestyle. Investigation also revealed that they have also disposed of the assets of Sahara group and received part of payment in undisclosed cash in lieu of sale of land thereby denying the depositors of their rightful claim.

During investigations, statements of various persons, including depositors, agents, employees of Sahara Group and other related persons have been recorded under Section 50 of PMLA.

## Rahul and Priyanka to address two-day Bharat Summit 2025

Hyderabad, Aprl 24 (UNI) : Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will address the Bharat Summit 2025 global conference, being hosted by the party-led Telangana government at the HICC Novotel here from April 25–26.

Marking the 140th anniversary of the Indian National Congress and the 70th year since the historic Bandung Conference, which laid the groundwork for the Non-Aligned Movement, the two-day Bharat Summit will see the participation of over 450 delegates from more than 100 countries, including representatives from nearly 100 progressive political parties, 40 to 50 ministers, and around 50 senators and members of parliament, a release said.The theme of the Summit, 'Delivering Global Justice'.The event will also feature prominent global heads of political organizations and renowned sectoral experts.

The first day of Plenary Session on Friday will include the launch of the 'Hyderabad Declaration'.

Telangana Chief

Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Minister of IT D. Sridhar Babu, will deliver the inaugural welcome remarks on behalf of the Government of Telangana followed by keynote addresses from Lead of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.

Addressing the media here on Thursday evening regarding the upcoming Summit, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said: "The Government of Telangana is proud to host the prestigious Bharat Summit 2025, bringing together global thought leaders, policymakers, and progressive voices to our state. At a time when the world is grappling with deep challenges of justice, equity, and democratic values, this summit serves as a timely and vital platform for dialogue and collaboration. Telangana is honored to contribute to shaping a global discourse that upholds the ideals of inclusion, peace, and

progress."

The Summit will host an esteemed roster of international dignitaries, including Jorge Taiana, Former Foreign Minister of Argentina; Clara López Obregón, Senator and Former Minister of Labor from Colombia; Emilio Lozada, Head of the Department of International Relations for the Communist Party of Cuba; M. Kula Segaran, Minister of Law from Malaysia; Ann Linde, Former Foreign Minister of Sweden, he said.Prominent Indian leaders participating across the two days include Digvijaya Singh, Pawan Khera, Supriya Shrinete, T.S. Singh Deo, Salman Khurshid, and Jothimani, among others.

The Bharat Summit 2025 is poised to be a significant platform for shaping a collective vision for a fairer and more inclusive global future, the Dy CM added. On Day 2 (Saturday), the Summit will conclude with a Valedictory Session, which will include addresses by Priyanka Gandhi and Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal.


## Cyient Q4FY25 net profit down 5 pc to Rs 186.4 cr

Hyderabad, April 24 (UNI) : Global Intelligent Engineering and Technology Solutions provider, Cyient's consolidated net profit declined more than five percent to Rs 186.4 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, as against Rs 196.9 crore a year earlier.

In a release here on Thursday, the Hyderabad based Cyient said during the quarter its Digital, Engineering, and Technology (DET) segment net profit was down by six percent at Rs 163 crore while revenue at Rs 1,472 crore was a year-on-year de-growth of 1.2 percent.

The company has declared a final dividend of Rs 14 per share (par value of ₹5 each) for 2024-25.

For the full year FY25, Cyient DET net profit declined 12.2 percent to Rs 605 crore and also came on a 1.6 percent decline in revenue to Rs 5,816 crore.

|  |   |                       |                                 |
|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <div>भारत सरकार</div> <div>कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय</div> <div>त्वरीत कोर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेसा),<br/>आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंज़िल,<br/>प्लॉट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,<br/>हरियाणा - 122050.<br/>Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in</div>   | <div></div> <div>Government of India<br/>Ministry of Corporate Affairs<br/>Centre for Processing Accelerated<br/>Corporate Exit (C-PACE)<br/>IICA Building, 7th Floor,<br/>Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,<br/>Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.<br/>Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in</div> |                       |                                 |
| <div>FORM No. STK - 6</div> <div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div>   |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]</div>  |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>Public Notice:C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/B1/2025-26/140</div> <div>Date: 16/04/2025</div>  |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>Reference:</div>  |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (2) companies in the state of Puducherry under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:</div>   |   |                       |                                 |
| S No.  | Work Item   | CIN                   | Company Name                    |
| 1  | AB2968423   | U15490PY2022PTC008843 | Bro's Burger Private Limited    |
| 2  | AB3081860   | U50100PY2011PTC002615 | The Star Cars Private Limited   |
| 3  | AB3118064   | U72900PY2020PTC008511 | Nzone Solutions Private Limited |
| <div>2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.</div> |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.</div>  |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.</div>   |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>Irkan Tirkey<br/>Assistant Registrar<br/>Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit</div>   |   |                       |                                 |
| <div>CBC 07123/11/0103/2526</div>  |   |                       |                                 |



# Double Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad enthrals Bengaluru

Bengaluru, April 24 (UNI) : Double Olympic champion and former 400m hurdles world record holder Dalilah Muhammad arrived in Bengaluru on Thursday to serve as the International Event Ambassador for the 17th edition of the TCS World 10K, scheduled to be held on April 27.

The prestigious World Athletics Gold Label race carries a total prize purse of USD 210,000.Expressing her delight at being part of the marquee event, the 35-year-old American said, “This is my first time in India, and I’m so excited to be here for an event that celebrates running and brings so many people together. Running has given me so much, and it’s amazing to see that same spirit here in Bengaluru.”

Dalilah, widely regarded as the ‘Queen of the Quarter Mile’, recently clocked her season’s best at the Botswana Grand Prix on April 12, underlining her continued presence as a top contender on the global stage. "I want to walk away knowing I could still do it. That is important to me," she stated.

She revealed that while retirement had been on the

cards post Paris Olympics in 2024, a period of rest and reflection led her to extend her farewell season into 2025. "My body just truly needed a break," she said. "I’ve always pushed myself to the limit, and I wanted to end my career feeling strong, not depleted."

With her eyes set on a final flourish at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo later this year, Dalilah shared her optimism: "My training is going well, and I’m looking forward to being in Tokyo. It’s going to be special for me, and every step I take now is part of that preparation."

Speaking candidly about her journey through injuries and setbacks, she said, “In 2024, I really just had to take the time to slow down. Finally, now I’m in a position where I can just amp it up again. So yeah, I’m running as well as I’ve run in the past.”

In addition to her personal goals, Muhammad lent her support to the concept of introducing ‘Grand Slams’ in athletics. “I absolutely love it. It’s about professionalising the sport, ensuring athletes are compensated, and giving

them more chances to showcase what they can do,” she said.

Known for her prowess over hurdles, she quipped, “I even love the idea of athletes running more than one event, although anyone who knows me knows I hate the 400 metres flats.”Highlighting the community ethos of mass participation events like the TCS World 10K, she said, “It’s so much fun when you’re running together. My favourite experience in running is just when I’m running for fun and with people who want to unite and have that common goal of loving to run.”Recalling her early beginnings with a local track club at the age of seven, Muhammad reminisced, “Those were my best days—walking to practice, even by myself, just because I wanted to be there with my friends. It just has such great memories when you can unite people from different backgrounds.”The 17th edition of the TCS World 10K is expected to draw thousands of elite and amateur runners from across the globe, cementing Bengaluru’s place on the international road running calendar.

## Sunny voices nation's pain over Pahalgam attack

Bengaluru, April 24 (UNI) : In a deeply emotional and hard-hitting message, cricketing icon Sunil Gavaskar on Thursday called for an end to the cycle of violence, declaring that "for the last 78 years, not one millimetre of land has changed hands. So for the next 78,000 years, nothing is going to change."His remarks came in the wake of the horrific terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 26 innocent lives at Baisaran meadow on Tuesday.

Appealing to the conscience of the nation and the world, Gavaskar said, "Why don't we live in peace instead, and make our country strong? That is my appeal."

Gavaskar was speaking as a sports broadcaster ahead of the IPL 2025 fixture between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Rajasthan Royals at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

Yesterday, the IPL match between Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad paid silent tribute to the victims, with players donning black armbands and the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium observing a minute’s silence. No cheerleaders, fireworks, or music accompanied the game, and the sightscreen bore the solemn message: "Let’s all stand for peace and humanity."

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also denounced the attack, calling it "ghastly and cowardly."

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia expressed solidarity with the bereaved families, stating, "The cricketing community is deeply shocked and anguished... We stand hand in hand at this hour of tragedy."

# North East United FC demolish Mohammedan Sporting in Kalinga Super Cup

Bhubaneswar, April 24 (UNI) : NorthEast United FC thoroughly dominated and dismantled Mohammedan Sporting 6-0 in the Kalinga Super Cup here on Thursday. The victory booked their place in the quarter finals of the tournament. With four different goal scorers — including a hat trick by striker Alaeddine Ajaraie — on the scoresheet NorthEast also issued a statement of intent for the other teams remaining in the draw.

Jithin MS (3') began the scoring early on, before Ajaraie (18', 57', 90+2') got into the act, eventually going on to score a hat-trick. Nestor Albiach Roger (42') and Guillermo Fernandez Hierro (66') scored the other two goals.

NorthEast United have had a penchant for scoring early in games this season and continued that trend, with a goal in the third minute. Jithin MS capitalised on some lacklustre Mohammedan defending to smartly volley Nestor Albiach's cross from inside the six yard box and give his side the lead.

Mohammedan slowly grew into the game and in the 12th minute Lalremsanga had the best chance for his side, after being played through on the right side of the box by a wavy Robi Hansda run.



The angle was acute and yet the winger took a shot which was parried to safety by Gurmeet in NorthEast's goal.

NorthEast United smartly got a second in the 18th minute via the boots of the ISL's top scorer, Alaeddine Ajaraie. Guillermo Hierro played a square pass to the Moroccan outside the box, and with just a body turn, Ajaraie left his marker for dead, before driving into the box and calmly finishing in the far corner. Ajaraie looked to have repaid the favour with a perfectly weighted cross delivered to Guillermo in the box. The Spaniard's header drifted just wide.

The Highlanders added a third three minutes before the break, when Jithin stole the ball off Mohammedan's

attempts to play from the back and squared a simple pass to Albiach. The

Spaniard slammed his shot low and hard into the bottom corner to ease NorthEast into the comfort zone.

North East's complete dominance extended into the second half, and just before the hour mark Ajaraie made it four. A low fizzing cross from Guillermo was directed towards goal by a sliding

Thoi Singh only for Subhajit Bhattacharjee to make a smart reflex save. Unfortunately for him, the rebound fell straight to Ajaraie who slammed it in from two yards out.

Robi Hansda almost pulled a miraculous goal back for Mohammedan, latching on to a cross 30 yards from goal and

audaciously chipping Gurmeet, who was off his line. The ball bounced off the crossbar.

NorthEast added a fifth in the 66th minute, Guillermo finishing smartly after Ajaraie had played a brilliant pass to put him through on goal. With the game effectively wrapped up, the entire focus was on whether Ajaraie would get a hat-trick, and he duly did, converting an injury-time penalty to complete the rout.Having been directly involved in four of the six goals scored, Alaeddine Ajaraie was presented the Kalinga Player of the Match award by eight-time national champion in women’s cycling, Minati Mohapatra, who is the first sportsperson from Odisha and first woman cyclist to win an Arjuna Award.

# 15th SAFF Championship to be staged in 2026

Dhaka, April 24 (UNI) : The 15th edition of the SAFF Championship has been postponed to 2026, with the venue and the tournament format yet to be finalised, the federation announced on Thursday.Originally slated to be held this year, the biennial tournament has been deferred to next year as both the federation and the event sponsor, SportFive, felt that additional preparation time was necessary to ensure a smoother execution.

"The SAFF had decided to stage the prestigious SAFF Championship in a home or away format this year. Preparations had been made accordingly. However, SAFF, our Member

Associations, and SportFive felt that more arrangement needed to be in place to deliver the competition in a smooth manner," the SAFF press statement said."Therefore, we have come to a decision to postpone the SAFF Championship to 2026 so that all our stakeholders and member associations have adequate time to organize the championship in a grand manner," it said.

"With 2026 being a FIFA World Cup year, enough attention has to be given to find an appropriate timeline and venue for the SAFF Championship. We urge all our stakeholders, fans, media and the member associations to bear with us so that the prestigious event will be organized flawlessly," the statement added.

## Late goal keeps Fluminense top in Copa Sudamericana group stage

Rio De Janeiro, April 24 (UNI) : Nonato scored in the 93rd minute as Brazil's Fluminense salvaged a

1-1 away draw with Chilean side Union Espanola in its Copa Sudamericana group stage match.Pablo Aranguiz appeared to set the hosts on course for victory when he capitalized on a defensive error to coolly slot home after Brayan Vejar's through ball seven minutes from time on Wednesday.

But the goal spurred Fluminense into action and Nonato equalized in the 93rd minute with a 20-yard rocket that flew into the top-right corner.

Fluminense remains top of Group F with seven points from three games, a point ahead of second-placed Once Caldas. Union Espanola is third, four points further back.

Elsewhere in the Copa Sudamericana on Wednesday, Huracan was held to a goalless home draw by America de Cali, Atletico Mineiro drew 1-1 at Caracas FC and Cerro Largo prevailed 1-0 at Vitoria.

# Viraj Madappa bags PGTI Players Championship at Classic

Nuh, Haryana, April 24 (UNI) : Kolkata's Viraj Madappa won his first event after his return from a long injury layoff as he bagged the Rs 60 lakh PGTI Players Championship played at the Classic Golf & Country here on Thursday.Viraj (67-73-65) shot a seven-under 65 in the third and final round, the day's best score, to move up four spots from his overnight tied fifth place and total 11-under 205 at the 54-hole event.

Twenty-seven-year-old Madappa, who didn't play a professional event for

over a year, won by a two-shot margin.Bengaluru's Trishul Chinnappa (72-64-71) carded a 71 in round three to finish as runner-up at nine-under 207.

Chandigarh golfer Ranjit Singh (69) and Kapurthala's Yuvraj Singh (68) took joint third place at eight-under 208.Viraj Madappa, an international winner, lifted his third professional trophy and first since 2021, after he signed for a flawless card that featured an eagle and five birdies.

Madappa began the day with birdies on the first two holes and then added

another birdie on the seventh to make the turn at three-under.On the back-nine, Viraj collected an eagle on the 14th and two more birdies to race ahead of the rest of the field. Madappa picked up a cheque worth INR 9,00,000 for his effort.

Trishul Chinnappa, the overnight leader by two shots, made an eagle, a birdie and two bogeys to submit a card of 71 on Thursday and take second place. Trishul earned a cheque of INR 6,00,000 for his effort that lifted him from 74th to 36th place in the PGTI Order of Merit.

# London Marathon boycotts X after descent into gutter

London, April 24 (UNI) : The London Marathon will no longer post on X after its race director Hugh Brasher said the social media platform had "ceased to be a positive place".The London Marathon's official account, which has 191,000 followers, last posted on X on January 17.

British Commonwealth 10,000m champion Eilish McColgan, who is competing in her first

London Marathon on Sunday, was subjected to what her mum and coach Liz called "demeaning and abusive" body-shaming on social media in March, the BBC reported.Brasher, who described the abuse

as "abhorrent", said it was an example of why the London Marathon will no longer post on X.This year's London Marathon takes place on Sunday.

"There are some social media channels that are particularly vitriolic and are descending into a gutter," said Brasher."It (the decision) is off the back of just looking at that channel (X) and the vitriol.

"It was ceasing to be a rational conversation. It was ceasing to be a positive place to be."X, previously known as Twitter, was bought by South African billionaire Elon Musk for \$44bn in 2022.

## Imanol to step down as Real Sociedad coach

Madrid, April 24 (UNI) : Imanol Alguacil announced on Thursday that he will step down as Real Sociedad coach at the end of the season after six and a half years.The club announced the coach's decision on its official website in the wake of Wednesday night's

1-0 defeat away to Alaves in a Basque derby.

Under Imanol's tutelage, Real Sociedad qualified for Europe five times and won the 2020 Copa del Rey.

"Imanol Alguacil has informed Real Sociedad of his decision not to continue managing the team next season. The Ori-born manager, after six and a half seasons at the helm of Real Sociedad, will step down once the current season ends."

"But before that moment arrives, there's much to strive for. A sixth

European berth and putting an end to this wonderful story deserve a final effort from everyone," reads the statement.

Having played for Real Sociedad as a right-back, Imanol became the club's B-team coach before a brief spell as caretaker head coach towards the end of the 2017-18 season. He then took over on a permanent basis in December 2018 after Asier Garitano was sacked, leading the San Sebastian side through one of the most successful periods in its history.This season has been difficult for the club, and Wednesday's defeat leaves Real Sociedad ninth inLa Liga with 42 points from 33 games, two points behind Celta Vigo, who is currently in a position to qualify for next season's UEFA Conference League.

## Injured Alcaraz out of Madrid Open

Madrid, April 24 (UNI) : Carlos Alcaraz has withdrawn from the Madrid Open because of injury - but is hopeful of being fit for his French Open title defence.

The Spanish world number three on Thursday said he had injured his hamstring and groin during the second set of Sunday's Barcelona Open final, the BBC reported.

"In a week or two I shall return to training, but I will take it step by step," Alcaraz, who has won four Grand Slam titles, said.

"I couldn't practice the entire week. I needed to listen to my body and make the right decision.

"I don't want to get too far ahead but I hope I shall be ready for the French Open."

Alcaraz is a two-time champion in Madrid and won the Monte Carlo Masters in April.

He left court for treatment during the Barcelona final against Holger Rune and was able to resume the match, with the Dane going on to win 7-6 (8-6) 6-2.

Alcaraz said he intends to travel to Rome for the Italian Open, which begins on May 6, before the French Open starts on May 25.

Even if he is not able to play competitively before Roland Garros, Alcaraz remains confident he will still be able to challenge for the clay-court Grand Slam title.

## Aston Villa to expand ground to over 50,000 capacity

Birmingham, April 24 (UNI) : Aston Villa have announced plans to take Villa Park's capacity to over 50,000 by redeveloping the North Stand.The club will completely refurbish the North Stand, increasing the number of available seats from about 5,000 to 12,000.With smaller upgrades to the other three stands, Villa say the stadium's capacity will increase to over 50,000 from 42,918.

The club, who hope to have the redevelopment finished by the second half of 2027, say the ground's current capacity will not decrease at any point during the building works, the BBC reported.

"Aston Villa fans have been electrifying Villa Park for generations, charging the atmosphere with unrivalled intensity at every home match for more than 125 years," Chris Heck, Villa's president of business operations, said.

"Thanks to the hard work and collaboration of an exceptional team, we will now be able to offer this incredible experience to thousands more, all while meeting the key challenge of executing this project without compromising matchday capacity during the process."

Villa had previously proposed to knock down the North Stand but those plans were shelved as it would have meant a temporary reduction in capacity to about 36,000.Villa Park is a host venue for the Euro 2028 tournament, which is being held across the United Kingdom and Ireland.Aston Villa's announcement of expansion plans to extend the capacity of Villa Park to more than 50,000 is another indicator of the ambition fuelling the club's revival under manager Unai Emery.

Under the ownership of executive chairman Nassef Sawiris and Wes Edens, Villa have been restored to the elite levels, reaching the Champions League quarter-finals, where they were narrowly beaten 5-4 on aggregate by Paris St Germain.Manager Emery, working alongside his long-time cohort Monchi, Villa's president of football operations, has seen his worked backed in the transfer market - as proved in January with the loan signings of Marcus Rashford from Manchester United, midfielder Marco Asensio from PSG and Borussia Dortmund's Donyell Malen on a permanent deal - by owners intent on maintaining Villa's momentum.

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

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

Editor: Mohammed Shafi

RNI No.: PONENG/2017/77178

Cell : 9849881368

Email : standardpostpuducherry@gmail.com



