

## Shah chairs important meeting on Indus Waters Treaty issue

## Mettur Dam to be opened for irrigation on traditional date of June 12 : Minister

New Delhi, April 25 (UNI) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah is holding an important meeting with the Union Jal Shakti Ministry on Friday on further action to be taken after India decided to hold in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

According to sources, the meeting is being attended by Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil and senior officials of related ministries. The meeting is expected to focus on the subsequent actions and the general framework for executing the decision.

India has suspended the 65-year-old Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan following the heinous terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on April 22. Notably, India on Thursday

night formally informed Pakistan about the decision to hold in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty with immediate effect, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam massacre of 26 tourists by Pakistan-linked terrorists. The letter sent by Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary of the Jal Shakti Ministry to Syed Ali Murtaza, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Pakistan, said, "The obligation to honour a treaty in good faith is fundamental to a treaty.

However, what we have seen instead is sustained cross-border terrorism by Pakistan targeting the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir". "The resulting security uncertainties have directly impeded India's full utilization of its rights under the Treaty.

Chennai, April 25 (UNI) : In an announcement that would bring smiles in the faces of the farmers, Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan on Friday announced in the State Assembly that the sluice gates of the Mettur Dam will be opened for irrigation on the traditional date of June 12. The announcement marks a crucial step in ensuring timely water supply for the kuruvai paddy cultivation in the Cauvery delta districts.

Water from the Mettur dam is the lifeline for farmers in the delta region to cultivate their crops. As part of the preparations, the Minister said desilting works across 12 districts, spanning 5,021 km of irrigation canals, have been planned and are already in progress. "Under the special dredging project, a sum of Rs 98 crore has been allocated. The desilting operations are on and are expected to be completed by the end of May," Mr

Duraimurugan said. The timely opening of the dam is vital for thousands of farmers who depend on the Cauvery water for their crops, especially in the delta region. The government's early preparation and allocation of funds aim to ensure smooth water flow through canals once the dam is opened. The Mettur Dam, built across the Cauvery River, is a lifeline for agricultural activities in central and southern Tamil Nadu. The June 12 opening



## J&K deutes Cabinet ministers across country to ensure safety of J&K residents

In the light of recent incidents and to reinforce a sense of security among students and business persons from Jammu & Kashmir residing in various parts of the country, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday directed the deployment of Cabinet Ministers to key cities across India. After the terror attack on tourists in the picturesque Baisaran meadow near the famous resort of Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, there have been several reports of harassment and attacks, including on students in different parts of India.

(See on page 2)

## US plans to discuss tariffs with 15 countries including ...



: The United States plans to hold talks on import tariffs with 15 "privileged" countries, including Switzerland, Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter said on Friday. Keller-Sutter and Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs Guy Parmelin have taken part in the spring session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington.

( See on page 5)

## Katie Boulter out of Madrid Open with loss to Jasmine ....



British number one Katie Boulter has been knocked out of the Madrid Open in the second round by Jasmine Paolini. The Italian, ranked six in the world, dropped just three games as she beat Boulter 6-1 6-2 within 61 minutes in the Spanish capital.

(See on page 7)

## SC grants interim relief to S. Ve Shekher, Slams 'Nasty ...



The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim protection to actor-turned-politician S. Ve Shekher, exempting him from surrendering until the next date of hearing in a case related to derogatory remarks against women journalists.

(See on page 8)



सत्यमेव जयते  
भारत सरकार

## The new wave of youth empowerment, Shaping the identity of VIKSIT BHARAT



Distribution of Appointment Letters to over 51,000 selected candidates for Government jobs across 47 locations nationwide under

## Rozgar Mela

By

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi

26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 11:00 AM  
(Through Video Conferencing)

- Central Government, along with partner state governments, creating lakhs of new job opportunities
- A strict law against paper leaks implemented to secure the future of youth
- Continuous monitoring of vacant positions and recruitment process through an online system
- Provision for recruitment exams in 13 regional languages to ensure equal opportunities
- Special benefits to women, Persons with Disabilities, and candidates from Aspirational districts
- Appointments through reputed agencies such as UPSC, SSC, Railway Recruitment Board, and IBPS
- More than 2200 courses available on i-GOT Karmayogi Portal along with "Karmayogi Prarambh" module for training of selected candidates
- Lakhs of recruitments in Government jobs leading to significant improvement in citizen services

CBC 15502/13/0001/2526



India sends USD2 mn worth medicines, vaccines to Nepal on request

New Delhi, April 25 (UNI) : India today sent a consignment of medicines and vaccines for patients with Thalassemia and Sickle-Cell Disease, worth \$2 million, on a request from Nepal. The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X, that the first tranche of 17,030 vials of Vaccines for Immunization of patients with Thalassemia was handed over to Nepal.

“Reaffirming India’s commitment to #NeighbourhoodFirst Policy. “India sends assistance consisting of medicines and vaccines for patients with Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease worth \$2 million, responding to a request from Nepal.

“The 1st tranche of 17,030 vials of Vaccines for Immunization of patients with Thalassemia was handed over to Nepal.”

Rs 15,995 cr subsidy to power consumers for 2025-26

Patna, April 25 (UNI) : In order to give relief to the power consumers, the Bihar government has sanctioned Rs 15,995 crore as subsidy to the consumers during 2025-26.

The cabinet sanctioned the amount in a cabinet meeting held here on Friday in the leadership of the chief minister Nitish Kumar.

Additional chief secretary S Siddharth told media after the meeting that the fund has been sanctioned under “Mukhya Mantri Vidyut Upbhokta Sahayta Yojana” to give per unit subsidy to the power consumers of the state.

The amount would be given directly to NTPC through Reserve Bank of India, he added.

The subsidy amount is reflected in every month’s energy bill, he said adding that the subsidy has been sanctioned for a period of April 2025 to March 2026.

The state government gives subsidy every year to power consumers to offset the higher tariff rate, he added.

Siddharth further said that the cabinet also gave its nod to education department’s proposal to create 526 posts that included 422 teaching and 104 non teaching staff for the proposed degree colleges.

The decision has been taken in view of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s announcements made during his Pragati Yatra .

It also sanctioned the creation of 663 non-technical posts of different categories for 71 offices of integrated urban engineering organisation constituted under Urban Development and Housing department, he said.The cabinet has approved the creation of 244 posts of different categories for smooth functioning of Bihar Sports University, Rajgir, he said.



Debris of the house of Adil Thokar, linked to the Pahalgam terror attack, that was demolished in Bijbhara, in Anantnag district on Friday.

All India Kisan Sabha, Himachal Kisan Sabha condemn Pahalgam terror attack

Shimla, April 25 (UNI) : The All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and Himachal Kisan Sabha (HKS) strongly condemned the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, terming it an attack on humanity, and said that all serious security lapses highlighted by experts should be addressed transparently.

They extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wished speedy recovery to all those injured in the attack. AIKS & HKS demand

that the Union Government immediately ensure adequate compensation for the families of the deceased and proper medical support for the injured.

The government, which controls the security apparatus in the region, must carry out a swift and thorough investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice.

All possible leads and angles must be pursued, and serious security lapses highlighted by experts should be addressed

transparently.

"We commend the courage of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a Kashmiri tourism worker who valiantly resisted the terrorists in defence of the tourists and laid down his life. His heroism stands as a testament to the spirit of the Kashmiri people, who have widely condemned the attack and stood in solidarity with the victims," they said.

"AIKS & HKS caution against attempts by certain divisive forces to

communalise this tragedy. Such efforts only serve the agenda of the terrorists, who seek to spread hatred and division," they said in a message.

"We call upon all communities and citizens across India to stand united against extremism and reaffirm our commitment to peace, secularism, and national unity. Let us honour the memory of the 26 innocent lives lost by rejecting hate and working together for a just and inclusive society."

PM Modi has vowed to wreak vengeance on the perpetrators of the attack, and hunt them down to the corners of the earth. Notably, India has severely downgraded its ties with Pakistan in the wake of the attack, which has been linked to handlers across the border.

UP tops with 1.20 cr enrolments in APY

Lucknow, April 25 (UNI) : With 1.20 crore people having enrolled in the scheme so far, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top state in the country for the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), official sources said here on Friday.

Sources said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state has not only made significant progress in development but has also set new records in social security and inclusive growth. "The success of APY in UP reflects the Yogi government's strong commitment to bringing central welfare schemes to the grassroots level, ensuring financial security for the underprivileged sections of society," they said.

Sources said that following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, CM Yogi launched an extensive awareness campaign to make Atal Pension Yojana (APY) accessible in every corner of the state. "The scheme has been promoted not only in rural and urban areas but also through active involvement of banks and other stakeholders. As a result, UP has recognised top-performing banks and stakeholders for their exceptional contributions to the scheme," they said.

Sources said that in a special campaign organised by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), UP secured the top spot with 21.49 lakh enrolments, surpassing the target of 15.83 lakh for the last financial year. "For this outstanding performance, the UP State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) was felicitated

with the 'Award of Ultimate Leadership'," they said.

Sources said that the Atal Pension Yojana is managed through 60 stakeholders, including 8 leading banks in India. "State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Indian Bank have registered the highest enrolments for the scheme. Prayagraj, Lucknow, Bareilly, Fatehpur and Kanpur Nagar have emerged as the top districts for APY enrolments," they said.

Sources said that under CM Yogi's leadership, the Atal Pension Yojana and similar initiatives have gained significant momentum, offering a crucial step toward ensuring financial security for the state's people in the future. "This initiative is particularly beneficial for workers in the unorganized sector, who lack guaranteed income after retirement," they said.

Launched by the central government of India in 2015, the APY aims to provide a monthly pension ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 to citizens in the unorganised sector, aged 18 to 40, after retirement. Contributions can be made on a monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly basis, with automatic deductions from the bank account.

The contribution amount is lower when the scheme is started at a younger age. In case of the account holder's death, the pension is provided to their spouse, and after both pass away, the accumulated amount is returned to the nominee. Applications for this scheme can be made at banks, post offices or online.

TMC tears into Narendra Modi for avoiding all-party meeting on Thursday

Kolkata, April 25 (UNI) : The West Bengal Trinamool Congress lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday for prioritising election campaigning in Bihar over attending an all-party meeting and key national security discussions following the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives.

The party was referring to the all-party meeting held on Thursday at the Parliament House complex in New Delhi, convened in response to the Pahalgam terror attack where all political parties expressed support for the actions taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security against Pakistan.

The meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and attended by Home Minister

Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and BJP President J.P. Nadda and major leaders of all the political parties. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was notably absent due to his ongoing election campaign in Bihar.

Tearing into Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "silence" on the brutal killings in Pahalgam, Trinamool Congress MP from Krishnanagar in Nadia district in West Bengal Mahua Moitra wrote on her X handle, “How does PM Narendra Modi have gall to skip All Party meeting on Pahalgam & instead go electioneering in Bihar? To tell us how only voting BJP4India can protect our borders?

Shameless.”

TMC, Rajya Sabha MP, Saket Gokhale wrote, “Just days ago, 26 innocent Indians were murdered by terrorists. And all political parties came together last evening to support the Union Govt in responding to the attack. The LoPs from BOTH Houses of Parliament were present. But Modi didn't feel that 26 Indian lives are important. Because, for the shameless man Modi, every death (in uniform or of a civilian) is merely an opportunity to ask for votes & to campaign for elections.”

State education minister Bratya Basu sharing visuals of the family members of the victims demanding justice wrote on his social media handle, “Don't ask us for votes if you can't protect us” – That's what grieving

families are telling BJP leaders. No propaganda can silence the fury of those who lost loved ones due to the Modi Govt.'s indifference and apathy.”

Former journalist and TMC's Rajya Sabha MP who has been critical of BJP for the terror attack in Pahalgam wrote on her X handle, “When the country is numbed & grieving over a major terror attack in Pahalgam, when opposition parties have given their full support to the Government of India for the actions it wishes to take, for Narendra Modi to stay away from the All Party Meeting and instead attend a campaign rally in Bihar within 48 hours of Pahalgam is strange. In an hour of grave crisis, surely the Prime Minister must be the one taking the opposition into confidence.”

DNI Tulsi Gabbard denounces 'horrific Islamist terrorist attack'

Washington/New Delhi, April 25 (UNI) : The US' Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, said today the US stands in solidarity with India in the wake of the “horrific Islamist terrorist attack” in Pahalgam that targeted 26 Hindus, and said the US stands in support of India “as you hunt down those responsible for this heinous attack”.

In a post on X, Gabbard, a practising Hindu who visited India last month, posted:“We stand in solidarity with India in the wake of the horrific Islamist terrorist attack, targeting and killing 26 Hindus in Pahalgam.“My prayers and deepest sympathies are with those who lost a loved one, PM @narendramodi, and with all the people of India.“We are with you and support you as you hunt down those responsible for this heinous attack.”US President Donald Trump had been the first world leader to dial PM Modi in the wake of the terror attack to express his nation's support for India and offer assistance.

PM Modi has vowed to wreak vengeance on the perpetrators of the attack, and hunt them down to the corners of the earth. Notably, India has severely downgraded its ties with Pakistan in the wake of the attack, which has been linked to handlers across the border.

J&K deputes Cabinet ministers across country to ensure safety of J&K residents

Srinagar, April 25 (UNI) : In the light of recent incidents and to reinforce a sense of security among students and businesspersons from Jammu & Kashmir residing in various parts of the country, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday directed the deployment of Cabinet Ministers to key cities across India.

After the terror attack on tourists in the picturesque Baisaran meadow near the famous resort of Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, there have been several reports of harassment and attacks, including on students in different parts of India.

An official spokesman said these senior representatives of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir have been tasked with coordinating closely with their counterparts in the respective State Governments. Their mandate is to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of J&K residents who may be facing distress, anxiety, or insecurity in the wake of recent developments.

“With a view to instilling a sense of security

among our students and businessmen currently in other states, I have deputed my Cabinet Ministers to various cities across the country. The purpose of these visits is to coordinate efforts with the respective State Governments and ensure the safety and well-being of J&K residents,” Office of Chief Minister, J&K posted on X.“The J&K Government will stand with its people—anywhere, everywhere,” stated the Chief Minister, reaffirming the administration’s unwavering commitment to the welfare of its citizens beyond the territorial boundaries of Jammu & Kashmir.On Thursday, the all-party meeting, convened by J&K chief minister Omar Abdullah, passed a resolution urging various state governments and Union territories across the country to ensure the safety of Kashmiris.Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) has urged students from the region residing in different parts of the country to stay indoors, avoid public confrontations, and refrain from engaging in inflammatory or political content online.

HC dismisses plea to quash FIR against BJP MLA, ex-Uttarakhand CS

Shimla, April 25 (UNI) : The Himachal Pradesh High Court has dismissed a petition filed by retired IAS officer and former chief secretary of Uttarakhand Rakesh Sharma and his son, BJP MLA from Hamirpur Ashish Sharma, seeking quashing of an FIR lodged against them in connection with alleged horse-trading during the 2024 Rajya Sabha elections.


The petitioners had also requested a CBI investigation, but the court found no grounds to interfere with the ongoing inquiry.Justice Rakesh Kanthala, while delivering the verdict, stated that the

FIR could not be quashed at this stage as the investigation revealed a cognizable offence.

Citing Supreme Court precedents, the court emphasised that it would be premature to intervene before the completion of the investigation. The judge further clarified that the court's observations are limited to the petition and would not influence the merits of the case.

The FIR was lodged at Boileauganj police station in Shimla by Congress MLAs Sanjay Awasthi and Bhuvneshwar Gaur. They alleged that Ashish Sharma and father of Chetanya

Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, a former Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, played a central role in a conspiracy to destabilise the Congress-led state government.The duo is accused of bribing MLAs and facilitating their stay in five- to seven- star hotels, as well as arranging helicopter transport for rebel legislators.The controversy stems from the Rajya Sabha elections held on February 27, 2024. Despite holding a majority with 40 MLAs in the 68-member Assembly, Congress suffered a shocking setback when six of its members and three independents cross-voted.



भंडारगण विकास और विनियामक प्राधिकरण

भारत सरकार


एन सीयू आई भवन, चौथी मंजिल - 3, सीटी इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, अंगुस्त क्रान्ति मार्ग, हाउस खस, नई दिल्ली - 110016, दूरभाष - 49536496, 49092978

हौज खास नई दिल्ली - 110016, दूरभाष - 49536496, 49092978

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority

Government of India

NCUI Building, 4th Floor, 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016, Tel. No. 49536496, 49092978



Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority


F. No. WDRA-HR0Dep(DDAF)/1/2024-HR/371

Dated: 22.04.2025

Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) invites applications from eligible personnel working in the Central/ State Governments/ Central and State PSUs/ Autonomous/ Statutory bodies for the following post to be filled on deputation/absorption basis:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of vacancies	Number and date of the Advt.
1.	<b>Director (Information Technology)</b> [Level-13 Rs. 1,23,100 - 2,15,900 (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HR0Dep(DIIT)/1/2025-HR/331 Dated 22.04.2025
2.	<b>Deputy Director (Legal)</b> [Level-11 (Rs. 67,700-208700) (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HR0Dep(DDAF)/1/2024-HR/3142 Dated 11.03.2025
3.	<b>Deputy Director (Stakeholders Awareness and Outreach)</b> [Level- 11 Rs. 67,700 – 2,08,700 (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HR0Dep(DDSO)/1/2023-HR/247 Dated 15.04.2025
4.	<b>Assistant (Information Technology)</b> [Level-7 Rs. 44,900 – 1,42,400 (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HR0Dep(Asst)/1/2022-HR/4010 Dated 06.03.2025
5.	<b>Assistant (Enforcement and Legal)</b> [Level-7 Rs. 44,900 – 1,42,400 (7th CPC)]	01	No. WDRA-HR0Dep(Asst)/1/2022-HR/4010 Dated 06.03.2025

Detailed information may be seen at the Authority's website [www.wdra.gov.in](http://www.wdra.gov.in). Applications in the prescribed format available on the website may be submitted to the Assistant Director (Human Resource), Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority, New Delhi within 45 days from the date of publication of vacancy circular in the Employment News. Corrigendum etc., if any, shall be put up on the WDRA website.



CBC 08109/12/0003/2526

-sd-  
(Venita Solomon)  
Assistant Director (HR)





Pakistani nationals show their passports as they wait for clearance to cross the border at the Integrated Check Post at Attari-Wagah border, near Amritsar on Friday.

## Citing SC order, TN Min says DMK govt not responsible for VCs skipping Guv meet

Chennai, April 25 (UNI) : Taking a dig at Governor R N Ravi blaming the ruling DMK for threatening and stalling Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of state Universities from attending the meeting convened by him, Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister Govai Chezhiyan said the government could not be held responsible as they skipped it in view of the Supreme Court order severely indicting the Governor.

Talking to reporters here on Friday, he accused the Governor of convening the VCs meet to have a confrontation with the state government in the wake of the Apex Court verdict.

Stating that the VCs too were aware of the court order, he said only because of this the VCs of state

Universities have boycotted the meeting convened by the Governor in Udhagamandalam in which Vice-President Jagdish Dhankar was the chief guest. "How can the state government be held responsible for it", the Minister sought to know. Charging the Governor of doing politics despite being well aware of the Court order indicting him over the delay in granting assent to the Bills and ruling that they were deemed to have got his assent, Mr Chezhiyan said the meeting convened by Mr Ravi was illegal.

"The VCs after realising that attending the meeting will be against the law have skipped it", he said.

"Without respecting the Law the Governor had

convened the meeting. Does that mean that VCs too should follow suit", the Minister said.

Referring to the election of new BJP President for the State unit, he said if the Governor was really interested in doing politics, he could have sat n the seat. Why did he go to Udhagamandalam (to convene the VCs meet)".

Alleging that the Centre was using the Central agencies like ED, CBI, Income-Tax and NIA to threaten and intimidate the Opposition parties, he said the Tamil Nadu government wall face it legally, like how it had won the case in getting assent to the Bills adopted in the State Assembly.

Noting that there was no provisions in the

Constitution empowering the Governor to act as Chancellor of State-run varsities, he said unable to digest the Apex Court order fixing time from for him and the President to decide on giving assent to the Bills adopted in the State Assembly, Mr Ravi had invited the Vice-President to Udhagamandalam for the conference.

Accusing the BJP of using the Governors to disrupt the functioning of the governments in non-BJP ruled State, Mr Chezhiyan said intimidatory politics is rooted in the DNA of the BJP. "Threatening and intimidating tactics can be in your (BJP) DNA. But boldly facing it and fighting against it is in our (DMK) DNA", the Minister said.

## Three Physiotherapy students drowns in Aliyar River

Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), April 25 (UNI) : In a tragic incident, three Physiotherapy students met a watery grave while taking bath in the Aliyar River near Pollachi in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu on Friday.

Police said the deceased were identified as M.Revanth (21), G.Joseph Anton Jeniff (21) and P.Tharun Viswatharangan (21), all studying final year in Saveetha College of Physiotherapy at Chennai.

A group of 28 students, including 14 girls of the college, had gone to Coimbatore to attend a cultural event in a private college on Thursday.

After attending the cultural event, the students went to Aliyar for a picnic, where some of them took bath in the Aliyar River. The three students, while taking bath, swam into the deeper portion of the river and subsequently drowned one by one.

Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services personnel with the assistance of locals retrieved the bodies and sent them to Pollachi government hospital for post-mortem.

The Aliyar police have registered a case and are investigating.

## IIT Madras files 417 patents in 2024-25, surpasses 'One Patent A Day' vision

Chennai, April 25 (UNI) : The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) students, researchers and faculty filed a total of 417 Patents during the 2024-25 financial year, surpassing the 'One Patent A Day' vision of Director Prof. V. Kamakoti.

This included 298 Indian Patents and 119 International Patents.

Additionally, the institute filed 39 designs, 6 copyrights, and 1 trademark, bringing the total IP filings to 463 for the 2024-25. IIT-Madras said in a release here on Friday, on the eve of the World Intellectual Property Day celebrations. Further, in the last five years, IIT Madras has developed various technologies and transferred to industry partners like Start-ups, MSMEs and MNCs through licensing deals worth Rs. 28 crore.

The biggest of these was the 5G RAN sub-system technology transferred to Tejas Network (TATA Group). This assumes significance in view of the upcoming 'World Intellectual Property Day' celebrated annually on April 26. According to World IP Organization, IP rights enable researchers, inventors, businesses, designers, artists and others to legally protect their innovative and creative outputs and secure an economic return from them. IIT Madras has been actively filing patents in various emerging and high-impact fields. These include energy and battery innovations, microfluidic technologies, healthcare and assistive applications besides robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

## Ex-ISRO chief dies, leaving lasting legacy

Bengaluru, April 25 (UNI) : India bids farewell to a giant, a true pioneer who not only shaped the destiny of India's space programme but also left an indelible mark on the country's educational and environmental landscapes. Dr K Kasturirangan, the distinguished former Chairman of ISRO, died on Friday at the age of 84, at his residence in Bengaluru, leaving behind a legacy that transcends time.

He died at 10:43 am on Friday is a moment of profound sorrow for the nation, yet the warmth of his monumental contributions to India's scientific, technological, and academic advancement will continue to inspire generations.

Dr Kasturirangan's body will be kept at the Raman Research Institute (RRI) for public viewing on Sunday, April 27, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, offering an opportunity for all to pay their last respects to a man whose life was dedicated to the service of the nation.

Dr Kasturirangan was the architect of India's space achievements during his tenure as ISRO Chairman from 1994 to 2003. Under his leadership, ISRO soared to unprecedented heights. The successful launches of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the first operational flight of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) stand as monumental milestones in the annals of space exploration. But these were merely the beginning of his far-reaching vision.

Dr Kasturirangan's unwavering commitment to progress saw the launch of satellites like IRS-1A and 1B, which brought India's space capabilities to the world stage. His work extended far beyond mere technology; he steered the nation's ambitions toward scientific greatness and global recognition. His tireless efforts shaped the space sector into one of India's proudest achievements, placing the nation among the most respected space-faring countries. His legacy, however, is not confined to the stars. Dr Kasturirangan was equally dedicated to the nation's educational transformation. As the chairman of the committee that crafted the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, he ignited a vision for India's future by advocating for a holistic, forward-thinking approach to education. His role in reshaping the National Curriculum Framework was another feather in his cap, bringing India closer to a system that prioritises quality, inclusivity, and critical thinking.

An equally significant chapter of his life was his environmental advocacy. Dr Kasturirangan authored the landmark Western Ghats Report, which highlighted the need to protect and conserve one of the world's most ecologically sensitive regions. His commitment to the environment mirrored his dedication to ensuring that development never came at the cost of nature.

Honoured with the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan, Dr Kasturirangan's life was a testament to excellence and integrity. He served not just as a scientist, but as a beacon of hope and inspiration for countless individuals who dream of a better future for India.

As the nation mourns the loss of this brilliant mind, it remembers Dr Kasturirangan not just as a scientist, but as a visionary who sought to elevate India to the world's forefront in space, education, and environmental conservation. His contributions will live on in every satellite launched, every student inspired, and every corner of India he helped nurture through his work. His passing marks the end of an era in Indian space science. But his influence, like the satellites he launched into the sky, will continue to orbit and inspire long into the future.

## Customs seizes 9.9 kg Hydroponic Weed from passenger at Trichy airport

Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu), April 25 (UNI) : In a major drug bust, officers of the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Customs seized 9.9 kg of Hydroponic Weed, a narcotic substance from a passenger who had arrived at Tiruchirapalli International Airport from Bangkok via Colombo, it was announced on Friday.

Based on inputs from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), the officers of AIU, Tiruchirapalli recovered the Hydroponic Weed, valued at almost Rs 10 crore from the passenger's checked-in-baggage. The passenger had arrived from Bangkok via Colombo via Flight UL-133 on Thursday, said Tiruchirapalli Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate in a post on 'X' on Friday.

The narcotic substance was seized and the passenger has been arrested.

Further investigation is in progress under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1986 read with the Customs Act, 1962 it added. Hydroponic Weed is a high-potency variant of cannabis cultivated using advanced techniques by the drug cartels. It may be recalled that the Customs Intelligence Unit (CIU) officials seized 5.155 kg of hydroponic weed, valued at Rs 5.1 crore from a passenger at Tiruchirapalli airport, who arrived from Kuala Lumpur by Air Asia flight on March 23, last.

## TN CM Stalin condoles death of ex-ISRO Chief Kasturirangan

Chennai, April 25 (UNI) : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday condoled the death of ex-ISRO Chief and Padma Vibushan K Kasturirangan and recalled his exemplary contributions as a great scientist to space science and advancing space exploration.

In his message, Mr Stalin said he was saddened to hear about his death and offered his deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

He also recalled his significant contributions to space science as a great scientist and termed his as a visionary who played a key role in India's space exploration.

## Tamil Nadu Governor slams CM M.K. Stalin

Chennai, April 25 (UNI) : Launching a blistering and stinging attack on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, further amid the simmering differences between the Government and the Raj Bhavan on a host of issues, Governor R N Ravi on Friday evening said his act of preventing Vice-Chancellors of State Universities from participating in the conference convened by him at Udhagamandalam, reminisces the days of Emergency.

In a social media post after a sharp attack on the government earlier in his address and the two-day conference, Mr Ravi wrote on X "The way Hon'ble CM Thiru. Stalin used police to deter the Vice-Chancellors of state universities from participating in the prescheduled conference today is reminiscent of the Emergency days."

"When telephonic threats from the Minister for Higher Education to the

VCs not to participate in the conference did not work, CM Stalin used police, the Governor said and held that this has 'evoked memories of the days of Emergency'. "On the day of the conference one VC has been taken to police station. Others who had reached Ooty had midnight knocks on their hotel rooms by the state police.

They were threatened by police with dire consequences to their life and that they would not be allowed to go home if they attended the conference", Mr Ravi posted.

Terming the act as a blatant misuse of police, the Governor also asked whether Mr Stalin is afraid of the consequences of improving the quality of state universities, which greatly benefit Dalit and poor students that might threaten his political future as any quality improvement would make students more enthusiastic and motivated.

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STANDARD POST

15th Rozgar Mela: PM Modi to distribute over 51,000 job letters

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly-appointed youth in various government departments and organisations through video conferencing on Saturday.

In line with the Prime Minister's commitment to accord highest priority to employment generation, the 15th Rozgar Mela will be held at 47 locations across the country, according to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The event will provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and effectively contributing to national development.

The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join the Central government in various ministries/departments including the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances and Pensions, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Labour and Employment, among others.

More than 10 lakh permanent government jobs have been offered since 2022, setting a remarkable record, PM Modi had said during the 14th edition of Rozgar Mela in December last year.

While distributing 71,000 job offers, PM Modi highlighted that such job fairs were part of the government's endeavour to provide employment with complete transparency.

PM Modi launched Rozgar Mela – the recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel -- on October 22, 2022. The first edition saw the handing over of appointment letters to 75,000 new appointees.

Rozgar Mela represents a significant initiative by the government to enhance employment opportunities for the youth across India.

By facilitating direct connections between job seekers and employers, it not only addresses the pressing issue of unemployment but also empowers individuals to contribute to national development. At the 14th Rozgar Mela, PM Modi also mentioned that India had signed agreements related to migration and employment with 21 countries in recent years, including countries like Japan, Australia, France, Germany, Mauritius, Israel, the UK and Italy, apart from the Gulf countries.

Surgery Remains the Frontline Defense Against Cancer

(Standard Post Bureau)

Cancer is one of India's fastest-growing health crises. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), over 14.6 lakh new cancer cases were reported in 2022, and this number is expected to rise to 15.7 lakh by 2025. Among the growing arsenal of treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation, and immunotherapy, surgery continues to be the single most effective and decisive intervention for many types of cancer.

Surgery is a fundamental part of cancer treatment that involves the removal of tumors. For cancers that are localized and have not spread extensively, surgery can offer the possibility of a complete cure. For example, when tumors are detected early, they can be surgically removed before they spread to other areas of the body, increasing the chances of long-term survival.

For many patients, surgery is not only about curing the disease but also improving their quality of life. Tumors that obstruct vital organs, cause bleeding, or result in debilitating pain can be surgically removed to relieve these symptoms, offering significant comfort and enhanced quality of life for patients, even in advanced stages of cancer.

Surgical Advances in Oncology

Recent advancements in surgical oncology have made treatments less



Dr Parveen Mendiratta, Head of Department, Surgical Oncology, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida

invasive and more precise, leading to faster recovery and fewer complications. Techniques such as minimally invasive surgery, laparoscopic surgery, and robotic-assisted surgery have revolutionized how cancer surgery is performed. These methods allow for smaller incisions, reducing the risk of infection and enabling quicker recovery times.

Even in more advanced stages of cancer, surgery remains important. While it may not cure the cancer, surgical procedures can help manage the disease by removing tumors that cause blockages or pain, greatly improving the patient's comfort and functionality.

Surgery can also be combined with other

treatments like chemotherapy or radiation. For example, surgery may be used to remove the main tumor, followed by chemotherapy to target remaining cancer cells in the body. This combination improves overall treatment outcomes and reduces the risk of recurrence.

Is Surgery Always Necessary?

While surgery is an essential tool in many cancer treatments, it is not always necessary. The decision to proceed with surgery depends on several factors, including the type of cancer, its location, the stage of the disease, and the patient's overall health. Some cancers may not be suitable for surgery, especially if they have spread widely or if the procedure could pose too

much risk to the patient.

However, for many patients where surgery is an option, it remains the most direct and effective approach to fighting cancer. Though it is not a cure-all, surgery continues to be one of the most reliable tools for oncologists when managing the disease.

The Future of Cancer Surgery

The future of surgical oncology is bright, with ongoing innovations in medical technology continuing to improve the precision and outcomes of cancer surgeries. Intraoperative imaging, genetic tumor testing, and the development of targeted therapies are all advancing the field of surgery, helping doctors to make more informed decisions about treatment.

Surgery remains a critical part of cancer treatment, especially when combined with chemotherapy and radiation. It offers the best chance of survival for many patients, particularly in the early stages of the disease. As advancements in surgical technologies continue to evolve, surgery will only become more effective, ensuring it remains a crucial component of cancer care. For anyone facing a cancer diagnosis, consulting a surgical oncologist is essential to understanding the treatment options available and how surgery can improve survival chances and quality of life.

AINU Doctors Transplant Man's Own Kidney and Use His Appendix to Restore Urinary Function



(Standard Post Bureau)

In a remarkable demonstration of surgical excellence and innovation, doctors at the Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU) in Hyderabad successfully saved both kidneys of a 65-year-old man suffering from a rare and life-threatening condition — by transplanting one of his own kidneys to a new position in his body and using his appendix to replace a damaged ureter on the other side. The patient, hailing from West Bengal, developed severe complications following a routine kidney stone removal procedure (RIRS) performed elsewhere in 2023. Post-surgery, both his ureters — the tubes that carry urine from kidneys to the bladder — became completely blocked, causing a life-threatening rise in creatinine levels, intense pain, and recurrent fever. With his kidneys in

critical condition and temporary tubes (nephrostomies) draining them externally, the patient reached Hyderabad after being turned away by multiple centers in other states. Upon detailed evaluation, doctors found that both ureters had long-segment, high-grade obstructions, an extremely rare and challenging scenario. For the right kidney, the surgical team used a highly unconventional method: they repurposed the patient's own appendix to replace the blocked ureter. The appendix, being similar in size to the ureter, was meticulously repositioned using robotic-assisted surgery — a rarely performed but scientifically documented technique known as appendix interposition.

"This is one of the most creative and minimally invasive ways to reconstruct a long ureteric

defect. It's not commonly done, but it was the perfect solution in this patient's case," said Dr. Syed Md Ghouse, Senior Consultant Robotic Surgeon and Urologist, AINU.

Following the procedure, the right kidney resumed normal function, and the external drainage tube was successfully removed.

Auto-Transplant: Transplanting the Kidney Back Into Himself

Two months later, the left kidney still remained compromised. Since the appendix exists only on the right side and other alternatives like intestinal interposition posed complications, the surgical team opted for a bold, rarely attempted solution: renal autotransplantation.

In this complex procedure, the patient's left kidney was surgically removed along with its blood vessels, then reimplanted lower down in the abdomen, bypassing the diseased ureter and allowing natural urine flow into the healthy segment.

Renal autotransplantation is performed only in the most advanced centers and is considered a last-resort, high-precision procedure. We essentially gave his kidney a new home within his own body, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sarma Madduri, Consultant Urologist explained.

Sparsh CCTV leads the way as India mandates STQC certification

(Standard Post Bureau)

Sparsh, a pioneering Indian manufacturer of CCTV cameras and electronic security solutions, today announced its continued leadership in the Indian market by being the first Indian firm to achieve STQC (Standardization Testing and Quality Certification) for the most extensive range of its CCTV products, following the enforcement of government regulations on April 9, 2025, which now mandate STQC certification for all IP CCTV cameras sold in India.

This significant achievement underscores Sparsh's early commitment to quality, security, and the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative. While the new regulations now require all CCTV cameras to be STQC certified for legal sale, Sparsh's proactive approach has positioned it as the first to offer the broadest portfolio of certified solutions, ensuring its partners and customers face no disruption.

"Sparsh is proud to have been the first CCTV manufacturer in the world to achieve the prestigious STQC certification for such a comprehensive spectrum of our product portfolio," said Mr. Sanjeev Sehgal, Managing Director, Sparsh CCTV. "This early certification reflects our dedication to indigenous design, rigorous manufacturing, and providing secure, high-quality surveillance

'Pahalgam attack is security lapse, intelligence failure'

Mainpuri (UP), April 25 (UNI) : While praising the Indian army, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that the terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir is a security lapse and intelligence failure.

Talking to reporters after unveiling the statue of Shripal Yadav in Khiriya of Mainpuri, Akhilesh said, "Our army is very brave and no country in the world has such a brave army. The soldiers of our army are protecting the border in difficult conditions. On one hand, they protect the border in 50 degree temperature on the border, while on the other they protect the border in minus fifty degree temperature," he said. He said, "But today it is being discussed that there is a shortage of more than one lakh soldiers in the army. Soldiers are not being recruited in the army. The government wants to save the budget. Similarly, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has brought the Agniveer system in the army. The government has brought Agniveer Yojana in the army to save the budget. The youth of the country wants a permanent uniform and a permanent job." The SP chief said that when Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) was the Defence Minister of the country, he decided that if a soldier is martyred, his body will be taken to his home with respect, even then the matter of budget came up, but he had said that no matter how much budget is spent, but if the son of a poor, farmer family is martyred on the border, then his body will be taken to his family with full respect.

He said that the terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir is a security lapse and intelligence failure. "Information is being received from people and various sources that intelligence has failed in this incident. Along with this, the injured did not get the medical facilities and help that should have been provided in time after the attack. The action that should have been taken could not be taken," he said.

Akhilesh said that when the people of BJP were motivating the people to visit Kashmir, how did such a big lapse happen in security? "The biggest question is how did the incident happen? Why did the government not get information about it? The people of the victim's family are crying and telling that they did not get security and help in time," he claimed.

He said that the incident that happened in Pahalgam is very sad. "It cannot be condemned enough. The government should take concrete steps so that such an incident never happens again. SP has put forth its point of view in the all-party meeting and has given suggestions to the government. We want that strict and concrete action should be taken against the enemies of the country, the forces opposing the country's development, progress and humanity, brotherhood, unity should be wiped out forever," he said.



solutions that meet the highest national standards. As the industry adapts to these crucial new regulations, Sparsh offers the widest array of certified products readily available to the Indian market."

Sparsh's achievement of securing STQC certification for the broadest range of its CCTV products ensures that businesses, government entities and individuals can confidently choose Sparsh for their security needs, knowing they are deploying compliant and reliable systems from a pioneering Indian manufacturer. This extensive certification includes a wide selection of IP cameras for different applications and segments. This is particularly crucial in today's new regulatory landscape, where cameras with old certification are no longer eligible for sale — whether to corporate clients, government or retail customers.

Key Highlights: Mandatory Regulation in Effect: As of April 9, 2025, all CCTV cameras sold in India must be STQC

certified. Sparsh CCTV First to Achieve Broadest Certification: Sparsh was the first CCTV manufacturer in the world to secure STQC certification for the most extensive range of its product portfolio. Ensuring Continued Availability: Sparsh's early certification ensures the uninterrupted availability of a wide range of compliant CCTV solutions. Commitment to National Standards: This achievement highlights Sparsh's dedication to meeting and exceeding the stringent security and quality standards set by the Indian government. "Made in India" Leadership: Sparsh's indigenous manufacturing capabilities have been instrumental in its ability to achieve this significant milestone. This regulatory change emphasizes the Indian government's commitment to strengthening national security and data protection within the surveillance sector.



Body of Nepalese man killed in Pahalgam terror attack taken back to Nepal by family

Kathmandu/New Delhi, April 25 (UNI) : The body of a Nepalese man killed in the Pahalgam terror attack has been taken back to Nepal by his family, the Nepalese Ambassador in India Shankar P Sharma has said.In a post on X, the Ambassador also appreciated India for providing high-priority swift response to Nepal in helping with repatriation of the body.

“The body of Sudip Neupane, who lost his life in the heinous terror attack in J&K, reached Butwal this morning, along with 3 family members.

“They flew to Lucknow in a special flight from Delhi before traveling to Nepal by road. Appreciate India’s high-priority swift response towards us.”

Earlier, the ambassador strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 tourists were killed, including a Nepali national.

PM Modi had offered condolences over the Nepali national’s death during his phone conversation with Nepalese PM KP Sharma Oli.

“Nepal strongly condemns the cowardly terror attack in Pahalgam, J&K. We stand with India against such violence.”Deeply saddened by the loss of Nepali citizen Sudip Neupane. Heartfelt condolences to his family & all affected. GON will provide all necessary assistance to his family,” Sharma had posted on X.

Iran condemns Israeli "aggression" in Gaza, Lebanon

Tehran, April 25 (UNI) : Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei on Friday condemned Israel's "acts of aggression" in Gaza and Lebanon, accusing Israel of "war crimes" and criticizing international inaction.

Baghaei reacted in a ministry statement to deadly Israeli airstrikes across Gaza on Thursday and pointed to the "continuation of Israeli aggressions against Lebanon's sovereignty," the statement said.

Baghaei described Israel's siege of Gaza, prevention of aid entry, and attacks on camps housing displaced Palestinians as "clear instances of war crimes."

The spokesman stated that the United States and some European nations providing arms to Israel "are accomplices in the Israeli crimes."

Baghaei also denounced ongoing Israeli "aggressions" against Lebanon's sovereignty, citing violations of ceasefire agreements, airstrikes, and drone attacks.

He highlighted the responsibility of the United Nations and ceasefire agreement guarantors to stop these Israeli actions, according to the statement.

Almost 2,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 5,200 others injured since Israel renewed its air and ground assaults on March 18 across Gaza, while the total Palestinian death toll since October 2023 has topped 51,000, according to recent data by Gaza-based health authorities. Israel has also blocked the entry of all humanitarian aid into Gaza since March 2.

Trump says China’s President Xi called him to discuss trade deal

Washington, April 25 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump said in an interview with Time that Chinese President Xi Jinping had reached out to him to discuss trade, although he did not specify the timing of the call."He's called. And I don't think that's a sign of weakness on his behalf," Trump said in the interview marking his first 100 days in office.

Trump noted that, based on his conversation with Xi, he believes there is a tariff level that Beijing is willing to accept. However, he emphasized that he would not permit China to make a trillion dollars in trade with the United States, not even \$750 billion.

On April 2, Trump signed an executive order introducing "reciprocal" tariffs on imports from other countries. Their basic rate was set at 10%, while higher rates were introduced against 57 countries and calculated based on the US trade deficit with a specific country: so that there would be a balance instead of a deficit.However, on April 9, the US leader announced that more than 75 countries had not taken retaliatory measures and requested negotiations, so for 90 days, basic import duties of 10% would apply to everyone except China.After a series of steps in the trade war, the additional "reciprocal" US tariff on Chinese goods reached 125%, and China's retaliatory tariff on American goods is also 125%. In addition, the United States has another 20% tariff on China, introduced in connection with accusations of insufficient combat against synthetic drugs.

4 security personnel killed in explosion in SW Pak

Islamabad, April 25 (UNI) : At least four paramilitary troops were killed and three others injured in an attack in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province on Friday, official sources said.

The incident happened on the outskirts of Quetta, the provincial capital city, where a vehicle carrying the bomb disposal squad was targeted by an improvised explosive device, the sources from the city's police told Xinhua."The team, belonging to the Frontier Corps, was conducting routine operations in the area when their vehicle was struck by the explosion," the sources added.The injured troops were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to trace the perpetrators.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.Balochistan has witnessed sporadic violence in recent years, with security personnel often targeted in attacks claimed by various militant groups.

Medical services hit in Nepal following nationwide boycott by doctors

Kathmandu, April 25 (UNI) : Thousands of ailing patients in Nepal were denied treatment on Friday as the country's doctors' body called a nationwide boycott of all services except emergency and intensive care in solidarity with resident medics protesting over the stipend gap between private and government medical colleges.

According to The Kathmandu Post, resident NMA doctors pursuing MD/MS degrees in private colleges have been demanding stipends on par with those of government-owned colleges, who are currently receiving less than half the amount of their government counterparts.

Currently, postgraduate students (MD/MS) at government-owned institutions receive NPR 48,737 per month, which is equivalent to the salary of a gazetted officer. Private medical colleges, however, have been providing a stipend of only NPR 20,000 to postgraduate students.

In solidarity with their resident doctors and medical students, agitated doctors and postgraduate students from the Nepal Medical Association also staged a protest at Maitighar Mandal in Kathmandu yesterday, and cordoned off the district administration offices.

The NMA representatives and the protesting doctors also held a meeting with Health Minister Pradip Paudel, who expressed support for the demands of the agitating doctors.

“Minister Paudel reiterated that the government is committed to implementing the decision of the 16th meeting of the Medical Education Commission,” said Dr Anil Bikram Karki, president of the association. “But resident doctors need a stipend on par with those of government-owned colleges, not only the minister’s commitment.”

Condolence meeting for Pahalgam terror attack victims at London's India House

London, April 25 (UNI) : Rich tributes were paid to the Indian tourists who died in the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam at the India House in London on Friday.

Union Minister of State Dr. L. Murugan and the High Commissioner of India to the UK were present on the occasion.Maharashtra Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat, now in London for the world conference 'Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Global Vision Reimagining: Justice, Equality and Democracy', paid emotional tribute to the deceased Indian tourists The condolence meeting was organised on behalf of the Indian High Commission.



Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Jitin Prasada addresses a high-level event on "Empowering the Digital Citizen of the Future: Towards an Integrated Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)" at the United Nations, New York.

US plans to discuss tariffs with 15 countries including Switzerland : Swiss President

Washington, April 25 (UNI) : The United States plans to hold talks on import tariffs with 15 "privileged" countries, including Switzerland, Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter said on Friday.

Keller-Sutter and Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs Guy Parmelin have taken part in the spring session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington.

"We are satisfied with the negotiations we have conducted. The US is planning talks and wants to find a solution [to the tariff issue] with a group of 15 countries, which I would call the privileged ones. Switzerland is part of this group," Keller-Sutter told the SRF broadcaster.

11 killed in drone strike on displacement camp in Sudan

Khartoum, April 25 (UNI) : At least 11 people were killed and over 22 others injured on Friday in a drone strike that hit a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Al-Damer, the capital of River Nile State in northern Sudan, the state governor said.Governor Mohammed Al-Badawi Abdel-Majid condemned the attack in a statement, describing it as a "crime" committed by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) at dawn on Friday against the IDP camp in the Al-Mogran area. He stated that 11 civilians, mostly women, children, and the elderly, were killed.

He urged the international community and human rights organizations to document the violations and ensure accountability for those responsible. The governor also ordered the relocation of the camp to a safer area to protect the displaced residents.

Separately, the non-governmental Sudanese Doctors Network reported that the "strike was carried out by a swarm of drones that launched four missiles, causing massive explosions and thick smoke over the shelter center and the electrical substation in Atbara city."

The RSF has not commented on the attack. Meanwhile, the Media Coordination Council of the Sudanese Electricity Company said the Atbara substation was targeted by drones on Friday for the fourth time in a short period, leading to a power outage in the River Nile and Red Sea states.

The council confirmed that civil defense teams were working to extinguish

Death toll from renewed Israeli attacks on Gaza exceeds 2k : Health Ministry

Cairo, April 25 (UNI) : The number of people killed in the Gaza Strip since Israel resumed strikes on the Palestinian enclave on March 18 has reached 2,062, the Gazan health ministry said on Friday.

"The number of people killed since March 18, 2025, has reached 2,062, with 5,375 others wounded," the ministry said in a statement.

Over the past 24 hours 168 wounded people and 84 dead have been taken to

the hospitals in Gaza, the statement read.

"Since October 7, 2023, the number of victims of the Israeli aggression has reached 51,439 people, 117,416 people have been wounded," the ministry said.

On March 18, Israel resumed strikes on the Gaza Strip, citing Palestinian movement Hamas' refusal to accept the US plan to extend the ceasefire, which expired on March 1.

most important to the sides. In addition, the US has appointed a contact person for this process.

"The US has clearly expressed its intention to find a joint solution with Switzerland on the issue of tariffs ... It would be better if the tariffs were 0%, because Switzerland has no tariffs on the import of industrial goods. We will see what we can agree on. It is possible that the US will not give up the tariffs completely. We may have to get used to them," she said.

Keller-Sutter specified that no plan with an exact

date has been secured. At the same time, both sides understand that they need to move as quickly as possible toward some kind of solution, because uncertainty is very damaging to the economy. On April 2, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order that implemented reciprocal tariffs on imports from various countries. The base tariff rate was established at 10%, with higher rates applied to 57 countries based on the US trade deficit with each specific nation. On April 9, Trump declared that a baseline

IMF, Sri Lanka make progress in 4th review of reform program

Colombo, April 25 (UNI) : International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff and the Sri Lankan authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on economic policies to conclude the Fourth Review of Sri Lanka's reform program supported by the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF), the IMF said in a statement on Friday.

Once the review is approved by the IMF Executive Board, Sri Lanka will have access to about 344 million U.S. dollars in financing, bringing the total IMF financial support disbursed under the arrangement to about 1.72 billion dollars, the IMF said.

Sri Lanka's ambitious reform agenda continues to deliver commendable outcomes, and the 5-percent economic growth in 2024 is remarkable, the IMF said. Revenue mobilization reforms had

improved the revenue-to-GDP ratio to 13.5 percent in 2024, from 8.2 percent in 2022.The IMF added that the country's gross official reserves reached 6.5 billion dollars at end-March 2025, given sizable foreign exchange purchases by the central bank. While substantial fiscal reforms have strengthened public finances, Sri Lanka's debt restructuring is nearly complete, said the statement."The new government's sustained commitment to program objectives has enhanced confidence and ensures policy continuity. Going forward, sustaining reform momentum, including by reducing corruption vulnerabilities, is critical to safeguard the hard-won gains, durably restore macroeconomic and debt sustainability, and unlock robust and inclusive growth," it added.

On April 9, Keller-Sutter held a phone call with Trump and shared some ideas on the response to Washington's tariff policy, expressing hope that solutions would be worked out "in the very near future." She also said that Swiss businesses and companies were eager to invest in the US economy.

Trump says Netanyahu ‘felt well’ about his call for more food, medicine into Gaza

Washington, April 25 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump said on Friday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu felt well about his urge to get more food and medicine into the Gaza Strip."Well, [he] felt well about it," Trump said, when asked how Netanyahu responded to his request to get more food and medicine into Gaza.Trump said on Tuesday that he spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss Iran and trade, emphasizing that both countries agree on all the matters discussed."Gaza came up and I said, you got to be good to Gaza. Those people are suffering. We got to be good to Gaza ... There's a very big need for medicine, food and medicine, and we're taking care of it," he added.

The UN World Food Programme said earlier in the day that it had fully depleted its food stocks in the Gaza Strip.

No humanitarian or commercial supplies have been able to enter Gaza for over seven weeks, as all major border crossings remain closed, the WFP said, adding that more than 116,000 tonnes of food have been stuck on the border as drivers are waiting for permission to enter the enclave.

The agency called for the resumption of food and humanitarian supplies into Gaza to provide urgent assistance to the civilian population of the enclave.On March 18, Israel resumed strikes on the Gaza Strip, citing Palestinian movement Hamas' refusal to accept the US plan to extend the ceasefire, which expired on March 1. Israel cut off electricity supply to a desalination plant in the Gaza Strip and closed off entry to trucks carrying humanitarian aid.

27 injured in bus crash in SL

Colombo, April 25 (UNI) : Twenty-seven people, including 10 school children, were injured on Friday when a bus veered off the road in Mahiyanganaya in Sri Lanka's Uva Province, police said.According to the police, the accident was due to a failure in the bus braking system.Police spokesperson Buddhika Manatunga confirmed that 10 of the injured were school children, and all those injured were taken to a regional hospital for treatment.Last year, Acting Inspector General of Police Priyantha Weerasooriya noted that a significant number of bus accidents in Sri Lanka are caused by mechanical and structural defects.



Health

Are you chained to your office desk for long hours at a stretch with little to no daily exercise? Does your life circle around your laptop?

Is typing while hunched over a tiny desk how you spend each day? If the answer is yes, then you need to get proactive about your mental and physical state of being. To help you achieve just that, here are eight yoga asanas for the office that will help you combat mental and physical stress by increasing your concentration levels and relaxing any muscle tensions. Read and practise right away!

**1: Wrist Stretches-** Perform these simple stretches as a warm up exercise before starting your work and you'll never complain of wrist pain. (1) Extend and stretch both wrist and fingers acutely as if they are in a hand stand position and hold them up for a count of 5. (2) Make a tight fist with both hands and then bend wrist down while keeping the fist and hold it for a count of 5.

**2: Neck Asana-** Breathe in as you bend your head in the right direction. Try and aim at a point where your shoulder touches the ear.



8 yoga asanas for the Office

Exhale as you bring your back to the normal position. Make sure you keep your neck and spine long. Now do the asana on the left side. Perform five breathing cycles on each side.

3: Reversed Shoulder Rotation and Thoracic Wave-

Inhale as you move your shoulders in an upward and backward direction. Exhale as you move them in a downward and frontward direction. Pay key attention to the breathing cycle and keep your neck and spine comfortably straight. Perform eight to ten rotations on each side.

4: Cow Face Pose for your upper back-

Take both your hands and clasp your hands behind your back. If you are unable to clasp, don't try too hard, comfortably stretch your fingers towards one another. Release with an exhalation. Now shake your arms for about 30 seconds and repeat.

5: Cat Asana for the lower back-

While exhaling, bend your back in a backward direction creating a sharp curve in your spine.

Now bend in a forward direction with the point between the shoulder blades and inhale. Do it for 5 breathing cycles to relieve your body of long hours at the desk.

6: Konasana for toned arms-

Stand straight with legs wide apart. Now bend forward from your waist. Try and touch the ground with the tips of your fingers, if possible place both your hands on the ground while standing. Your upper body should be in a straight line. Look ahead by about 3 inches. Perform konasana for 10 to 30 seconds and breathe normally throughout the asana.

7: Bhastrika for your abdomen-

Sit in a comfortable position with your back straight. Close your eyes and start exhaling and inhaling via nose by focusing on the abdominal muscles. As soon as you release your abdominal muscles you'll realize that your diaphragm contracts before you start to inhale. Hear the sound of your breath and perform this asana 5 times at a stretch. Give it a pause. Breathe normally. And start again. Complete one to two rounds on a daily basis and increase the number of your breaths by 5, each week.

8: Leg Extension Asana-

Sit in a comfortable position with one leg bent and placed on a chair or desk in front of you. Place both your hands on your feet. Keeping your spine straight, inhale and extend your leg



outward while holding it with your hands. Stay in this position for 3 to 5 breaths. Exhale as you come back to the normal position, while moving your hands and placing them on your waist. Stay in this position for 3 to 5 breaths. Relax. Perform 5 to 10 rounds like this. Read more Personal

Bring back your childhood Exercises

The fun, excitement, fights and the boisterous yelling of childhood is etched in all our hearts.

We all share a similar memory, returning from school, indulging in snacks and hustling down to play with your friends. Most of us knew ourselves to be strong, agile and energetic back then. Then why is that the very activities that worked for us and made us fit as kids are relegated to 'childhood' memories alone? We take a look at childhood activities and exercises that can help us shape up through adulthood. Begin today!

**Skiping rope:** How do you reduce body fat and build stamina in a short period of time? Skiping rope is your answer; you can skip at home, it doesn't cost much, is convenient and a great exercise if you are on the run. Take notes: It will help you increase your cardio vascular capacity and lung capacity, also builds your agility, speed, balance, and coordination. You can burn roughly 1,000 calories per hour. But remember - skiping rope for an hour is stuff athlete workouts are made of.

**Monkey bars:** You want to build your strength, get primitive, well not literally. Most playgrounds and schools have monkey bars and kids love it. It helps in back development and is a great addition to any upper body workout. It gives a whole new meaning to hanging around with friends. Cycling: All of us have fallen off a bicycle, but



that didn't deter us from cycling around and popping a wheely. But now a car or a bike is the most preferred mode of transport. Well yes, it is convenient but doesn't make us sweat. Cycling is a full body workout, builds your cardio respiratory health, also muscle and strength. Whatever the problem-stress, weight loss, heart disease or shaping your body cycling is perfect for you.

**Running:** From the time we are toddlers to adulthood we are always running. It comes naturally to kids but it's a stretch for adults. Run if you want to be fit, lose weight, increase stamina, tone your body and the list goes on. But a word of caution, running can cause certain injuries.

**Hula hoop:** A baby of the 60s, hula hoops are evergreen with young girls. Once you get the rhythm of the twirl, you can sweat out 100 calories in ten minutes. Hula hoop wards off cardiovascular illness; it improves your co-ordination and helps in

muscle tone. But if you're going to hula hoop for fitness, check out workout hula hoops meant for exercise. They are different from the ones available in stores.

**Climbing:** As kids we have scaled walls and climbed trees; now that you're an adult you can't do the exact same thing, but you can still engage in rock climbing. Along with the above activities, climbing also improves cardiovascular health, weight loss and improves muscle tone. This common trend running through childhood games makes you want to go back to the past.

**Swimming:** This is one activity we wish was included in our school curriculum. Swimming is the best activity during summers. Besides, swimming can do wonders to your body mentally and physically. It builds muscles, improves strength, and you are guaranteed a healthy heart and powerful lungs. A full body workout, swimming improves co-ordination, posture, and is a great way to bust stress.

**Outdoor sports:** As Indians, sport is the last thing we want to engage in unless it plays on the tube. But if we did engage in sports we wouldn't be obese, sluggish, or have a string of ailments. They say laughter is the best medicine, but outdoor sports can beat it any day. It's beneficial for heart problems and other diseases, co-ordination, conditioning, and builds you mentally, keeps you alert and is a lot of fun.

In today's fast paced world, stress and running around are an inevitable part of most peoples lives. And while lethargy and tiredness are commonplace, if you find yourself constantly thinking of doing nothing but just lying down, you may have a problem on your hands.

While there may be several underlying issues when it comes to feeling drained out, some of the most common ones include...  
- An iron deficiency or anaemia is one of the first things that your doctor will check for when you complain of frequent tiredness. A lack of iron in your diet will result in lethargy after some time. While anaemia is more prevalent among women, men also get affected. And doctors say that an increasing number of young women today are suffering from this ailment (menstruating women are most prone to anaemia). One of the best ways to keep this ailment at bay is to eat a diet rich in



iron — think green, leafy vegetables.  
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is another common ailment that makes one feel constantly exhausted, which eventually affects the quality of one's life. Patients often complain that in spite of sleeping for the stipulated hours daily, they still end up feeling tired the next day. While doctors say that it is difficult to pinpoint what exactly causes CFS, some reasons include a hormonal imbalance, a viral infection, low immunity or even stress. Treatment differs from patient to patient and include a range of therapies.

- Another reason could be fluctuating blood sugar levels. Diabetes may have different symptoms and one common one happens to be often feeling exhausted. Other symptoms include frequent trips to the washroom and feeling thirsty. A simple blood test will help you figure out if your blood levels are in control.  
- Feeling depressed or anxious about something? This could cause to to feel tired often, worsening other symptoms. Don't hesitate to visit a mental health care expert for treatment.

Should you eat curd at night?

The hot season is here and so is the urge to consume foods that cool down your system. Curd, evidently, stands on top of the list. And why not. Curd is an excellent source of good bacteria and aids digestion. It is good for your teeth and bones. But as with most of the foods, there are some rules that you need to follow for consuming curd. One of the most commonly heard rules is to avoid eating it at night. But is it valid for everyone. Here are some of the rules:  
- Do not eat curd at night, especially if you are prone to cough and cold. Ayurveda explains that curd consumption at night is not good as it leads to mucus development. But if you can't do without it, opt for buttermilk instead.  
- If you are eating curd during the day, have it without sugar but if you are eating curd at night, add sugar or

some black pepper. It will assist in digestion and calm your digestive system.  
- Never have hot curd. While the basic rules apply, if you are a curd lover, we bring you some easy options to include it in your diet, anytime of the day:



Curd rice: This is very good for the stomach and a light option for the summers too. Curd with sugar: Add a spoonful of sugar to your curd and you are good to go. Buttermilk/ Lassi: Ditch aerated drinks for these two options. Raita: A common Indian side dish, you can add onion, cucumber, tomato to your curd with some herbs and a healthy option is all set. Kadhi: Mixing gram flour (besan) with buttermilk makes for an appetizing curry called Kadhi. It is mostly eaten with rice (you might want to opt for brown rice).





# England all-rounder Jamie Overton sets sight on Test comeback for Ashes



London, April 25 (UNI) : Jamie Overton made his Test debut for England back in 2022, but hasn't been able to find his place back in the red-ball setup since. For the 31-year-old, the past year has been one where he has had to climb his way back up in the English cricket pyramid. Missing out on last year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup owing to an injury has lent Overton a fresh perspective, and the all-rounder is now keen on making the most of his career, eyeing a spot in the

## Katie Boulter out of Madrid Open with loss to Jasmine Paolini

Madrid, April 25 (UNI) : British number one Katie Boulter has been knocked out of the Madrid Open in the second round by Jasmine Paolini. The Italian, ranked six in the world, dropped just three games as she beat Boulter 6-1 6-2 within 61 minutes in the Spanish capital. The 2024 French Open runner-up converted six of her seven break points, setting up a last-32 tie against Greece's Maria Sakkari. Boulter, who earned the first WTA clay-court win of her career against Katerina Siniakova in the first round, won just 11 points out of 46 on serve and made 21 unforced errors overall, the BBC reported.

# Kalinga Super Cup: Kerala Blasters face young Mohun Bagan, Goa wary of Punjab threat

Bhubaneswar, April 25 (UNI) : Down to the last eight teams, the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 is now at its business end. The Round of 16 matches at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar threw up some rather surprising results, with both the defending champions East Bengal FC, and last year's runners-up Odisha FC being knocked out of the competition, while I-League club Inter Kashi, against all odds, defeated ISL 2024-25 cup runners-ups Bengaluru FC on penalties. Meanwhile, the likes of Mumbai City FC and NorthEast United FC made a statement of intent with their respective victories against Chennaiyin FC (4-0) and Mohammedan Sporting (6-0). Day 1 of the quarter-finals will feature two of the most popular clubs in the country, as Kerala Blasters FC take on the reigning ISL Shield and Cup champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant, while FC Goa face Punjab

Test squad for the Ashes later this year. "I am in a better place now for being injured. It actually gave me time to reassess what I need to do with my health," Overton told ESPN. Making a case for himself for the five-Test series in Australia, Overton added, "Ashes cricket is probably the pinnacle for English players, and I feel like I've got a decent record on Australian pitches. "It probably suits my game more than wickets back in England - but I'm not

## After Harsh Patel's four wicket haul, SRH batsmen aced the chase, overhauls CSK target

Chennai, April 25 (UNI) : After medium pacer Harsh Patel's four wicket haul that dented home favourites and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) setting a good target, Sun Risers Hyderabad (SRH) aced the chase with rather consummate ease for their first win taming the Lions in its own den at the historic and iconic M A Chidambaram Stadium here on Friday night. After left hander Ishan Kishan's heroics, SRH stuttered in the chase, before Kamindu Mendis and Nitish Kumar Reddy took the team past the finishing line after CSK spinner Noor Ahmed picked up two wickets in succession to put the visitors in a spot of bother. While the win took SRH to the 8th place in points table, CSK's hopes of a play off berth has almost nose dived, suffering its seventh defeat in nine matches and still remained at the bottom of the table and would be keen to restore its credibility in its remaining matches to avoid finishing as wooden spoonists. SRH after bowling out CSK for 154 in 19.5 overs, thanks mainly to Harshal Patel's

FC. Both matches will be broadcast live on Star Sports 3, and streamed live on JioHotstar. A resurgent Kerala Blasters FC take on Mohun Bagan SG in the first quarter-final on Saturday, at 4.30 pm IST. The Kalinga Super Cup quarter-finals is new territory for Kerala Blasters, who have made it to the last eight for the first time, under head coach David Català, who was appointed only a few weeks prior to the tournament. Having defeated the defending champions, the Blasters will ride high on confidence, especially while facing a Mohun Bagan side who have brought a number of players from their developmental team. However, Català is wary of the Green and Maroons' qualities. "We're going to face all the games with the same attitude, to try to win the game. We just need to be focused on the game," said Català. "It's not an

expecting anything." Overton, however, admitted that vying for a spot in the Ben Stokes-led Test side will take some doing. "I need to play red-ball cricket to give myself a chance of being there, so we'll just see where we get to when I'm back home," said the all-rounder, who is currently part of the Chennai Super Kings squad in IPL 2025. "I bowled ten overs in the Afghanistan game [at the Champions Trophy], but I've not bowled more

4 for 28, started off their chase losing a couple of wickets, before Ishan Kishan restored pride, only to lose wickets in the middle reviving CSK's fortunes. But Kamindu Mendis (32, 22 balls 3x4) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (19, 13 balls 2x4) came up with a flurry of boundaries to seal the chase as the visitors finished at 155 for five with eight balls to spare and in the process secured its first win against CSK at its den. At five for 106 in 13.5 overs, SRH was wavering after Ishan Kishan struck five fours and a six in his 34-ball 44, despite losing openers Abhishek Sharma (0), Travis Head (19), Heinrich Klaas (7), Aniket Verma (19), who fell to poor shot selection. But Mendis and Reddy ensured that there were no further hiccups crossing the finishing line with ease, despite the exit of Ishan Kishan. Earlier, Brevis blistering 42 in 25 balls (four sixers, one four) was the only saving grace as CSK, as has been the norm this season, lost wickets in the power play—three this time—one more at the halfway stage before Brevis tried to inject some life.

advantage (to face a young MBSG team). I think they are strong enough to compete against all the teams. They have quality players and are the champions of the league and the ISL Cup. So facing them is going to be difficult." Mohun Bagan SG are the only team who have not yet played a match in the competition, after being awarded a bye in the Round of 16 post Churchill Brothers' withdrawal from the competition. With a spot in the AFC Champions League Two already in their bag, Mohun Bagan SG have opted to try out some of their younger players from the developmental squad in the Kalinga Super Cup, announcing midfielder Deepak Tangri as the captain of the side. Coach Bastab Roy, who is filling in for Jose Molina, though, wants to make full use of the tournament at his disposal. He said, "Our main motivation is to play, enjoy

than that in a day since last April. "It's going to take a lot to get the body back to those bowling workloads, and we'll just see where we go and play it by ear. "It's a short career, so you've got to maximise it while keeping your body in a good place." Overton was part of the England squad during this year's ICC Champions Trophy, where the Jos Buttler-led side were knocked out of the group stage without a win from their three games. With five ODI and 12 T20I outings under his belt for the national team, Overton will be among those contesting for a spot in the upcoming home summer that features the likes of West Indies, South Africa and Ireland touring for white-ball series. For the all-rounder, an opportunity in the red-ball squad might also present itself with a one-off match against Zimbabwe in May, followed by a marquee five-Test match series against India starting in June.

## McIlroy & Lowry six off Zurich Classic pace

Zurich, April 25 (UNI) : Rory McIlroy and partner Shane Lowry are six off the pace after an opening eight-under-par 64 as they began the defence of their Zurich Classic title. In his first competitive round since winning the Masters and completing the career Grand Slam, McIlroy struggled on the opening nine as Lowry kept them in contention in the team event. The pair started at the 10th and McIlroy said he "didn't do anything" before improving after the turn when he birdied the first and eagled the second. "Shane joked I could have got a couple extra hours in bed if I wanted to," said McIlroy. "I played a bit better coming in. It was OK." The Irish pair trail Isaiah Salinda and Kevin Velo who fired a 58 in the opening fourball round, which put them a stroke ahead of Danish brothers Rasmus and Nicolai Hojgaard, the BBC reported. "We felt like we left a few shots out there but we were just saying the two foursomes days on Friday and Sunday here are the important days in this tournament," added McIlroy, 35. "It's important for us to obviously post a good score tomorrow." Collin Morikawa and fellow US player Kurt Kitayama are in the group sharing third place after a 61, with England's Matt Wallace and Danish partner Thorbjorn Olesen a further stroke back. England's Aaron Rai and American Sahith Theegala shot a 63 with the pairings of Scotland's Robert MacIntyre and Belgium's Thomas Detry and European Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald and Colombia's Camilo Villegas sharing 28th spot with McIlroy and Lowry. The fourball element sees both players hitting their own ball with the best score counting, while players take alternate shots with one ball in the foursomes. The reigning champions have never successfully defended the Zurich Classic title.

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# Karna Kadur, Musa Sherif lead in APRC, Overall categories

Chennai, April 25 (UNI) : Reigning National champion Karna Kadur from Bengaluru set the early pace to take a slender lead in the FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship promoted by Vamcy Merla after two loops of the short Super Special Stage which kick-started the Indu Chandhok Memorial 48th South India Rally at the Madras International Circuit, here on Friday. Kadur, representing Arka Motorsports with veteran Musa Sherif (Kasargod) in the co-driver's seat, not only topped the chart in the APRC (Asia Cup) segment, but also led the field in the Blueband FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship 2025 Round-1 powered by Vamcy Merla, sparing half-a-second to team-mate, Mangaluru's Jason Saldanha (co-driver PV Srinivasa Murthy from Bengaluru). Former National champion Amitrajit Ghosh (Ashwin Naik) finished the day in third spot behind Kadur and Saldanha in both APRC and the National championship to complete a 1-2-3 for Arka Motorsports at the end of Day-1. Kadur made a couple of errors in the first run of the 1.45 Kms circuit which saw him finish second behind Saldanha. However, he found his rhythm and flow in the second loop as he drove the Volkswagen Polo with far more control to take pole position going into Saturday's Special Stages. Reflecting on his performance, Kadur said: "I made a couple of mistakes in the first loop, fluffing the start and then hitting a small bund which we had not noticed during the recce. It unsettled the car, but I managed to keep it all together. In the second run, I was far more comfortable and had a good drive. Anyway, today's run was just starters, the main course is tomorrow." Further down the grid, Saldanha took the lead in the INRC2 class while Sheshank Janwal (Raghu) topped the time sheets in the INRC3 category and Pragathi Gowda (Chandramouli M) was ahead in the Women INRC. Meanwhile, the turbo-charged Hyundai i20, making its entry in the Indian Rally scene, attracted considerable attention as Hyderabad's Jeet Jhabakh (co-driver V Sekhar from Coimbatore) came in 12th Overall but topped the newly introduced INRC 3T class. "I am still settling down in the new car, getting used to the turbo engine. I was exiting the corners a bit slow due to the turbo lag and that is something I must work on. But otherwise, it was an okay outing, and my learning process will continue," said Jhabakh. In all, 49 competitors took the start in the three-day event which concludes on Sunday afternoon. The results (Leg-1, Section-1, Provisional): FIAAPRC/Overall: 1. Karna Kadur / Musa Sherif (Arka Motorsports) (02mins, 50.9 seconds); 2. Jason Saldanha / PV Srinivasa Murthy (Arka Motorsports) (02:51.4); 3. Amitrajit Ghosh / Ashwin Naik (Arka Motorsports) (02:51.8). INRC1: 1. Kadur / Sherif; Ghosh / Naik; 3. Chetan Shivram / E. Shiv Prakash (Pvt.) (02:53.5). INRC2: 1. Jason Saldanha / PV Srinivasa Murthy (Arka Motorsports) (02:51.4); 2. Philippos Matthai / Harish KN (Arka Motorsports) (02:53.8); 3. 3. Fabid Ahmer / Milen George (Pvt.) (02:54.8). INRC3: 1. Seshank Jamwal / Raghu (Pvt.) (02:56.2); 2. Arnav Pratap Singh / Rohit N (Snap Racing) (02:57.7); 3. Vishak B / Chiranth Jain (Chettinad Sporting) (02:57.9). INRC 3T (Turbo): 1. Jeet Jhabakh / Sekar V (Pvt.) (03:00.0); 2. Naveen Puligilla / Santosh Ritchy Thomas (Pvt.) (03:02.4); 3. Ramcharan C / Vignesh Mahalingam (Falkon Motorsports) (03:15.3). Women INRC: 1. Anushriya Gulati / Karan Aukta (Arka Motorsports) (03:02.6); 2. Athira Murali / Arun Chakkalakal (Pvt.) (03:06.7); 3. Tarushi Vikram / Vybhav Mukund Rao (Chettinad Sporting) (03:10.2).

Reflecting on his performance, Kadur said: "I made a couple of mistakes in the first loop, fluffing the start and then hitting a small bund which we had not noticed during the recce. It unsettled the car, but I managed to keep it all together. In the second run, I was far more comfortable and had a good drive. Anyway, today's run was just starters, the main course is tomorrow." Further down the grid, Saldanha took the lead in the INRC2 class while Sheshank Janwal (Raghu) topped the time sheets in the INRC3 category and Pragathi Gowda (Chandramouli M) was ahead in the Women INRC. Meanwhile, the turbo-charged Hyundai i20, making its entry in the Indian Rally scene, attracted considerable attention as Hyderabad's Jeet Jhabakh (co-driver V Sekhar from Coimbatore) came in 12th Overall but topped the newly introduced INRC 3T class. "I am still settling down in the new car, getting used to the turbo engine. I was exiting the corners a bit slow due to the turbo lag and that is something I must work on. But otherwise, it was an okay outing, and my learning process will continue," said Jhabakh. In all, 49 competitors took the start in the three-day event which concludes on Sunday afternoon. The results (Leg-1, Section-1, Provisional): FIAAPRC/Overall: 1. Karna Kadur / Musa Sherif (Arka Motorsports) (02mins, 50.9 seconds); 2. Jason Saldanha / PV Srinivasa Murthy (Arka Motorsports) (02:51.4); 3. Amitrajit Ghosh / Ashwin Naik (Arka Motorsports) (02:51.8). INRC1: 1. Kadur / Sherif; Ghosh / Naik; 3. Chetan Shivram / E. Shiv Prakash (Pvt.) (02:53.5). INRC2: 1. Jason Saldanha / PV Srinivasa Murthy (Arka Motorsports) (02:51.4); 2. Philippos Matthai / Harish KN (Arka Motorsports) (02:53.8); 3. 3. Fabid Ahmer / Milen George (Pvt.) (02:54.8). INRC3: 1. Seshank Jamwal / Raghu (Pvt.) (02:56.2); 2. Arnav Pratap Singh / Rohit N (Snap Racing) (02:57.7); 3. Vishak B / Chiranth Jain (Chettinad Sporting) (02:57.9). INRC 3T (Turbo): 1. Jeet Jhabakh / Sekar V (Pvt.) (03:00.0); 2. Naveen Puligilla / Santosh Ritchy Thomas (Pvt.) (03:02.4); 3. Ramcharan C / Vignesh Mahalingam (Falkon Motorsports) (03:15.3). Women INRC: 1. Anushriya Gulati / Karan Aukta (Arka Motorsports) (03:02.6); 2. Athira Murali / Arun Chakkalakal (Pvt.) (03:06.7); 3. Tarushi Vikram / Vybhav Mukund Rao (Chettinad Sporting) (03:10.2).

# Everyone wants to play for Manchester United: Amorim

London, April 25 (UNI) : Manchester United head coach Ruben Amorim is adamant the club remain attractive to potential transfer targets despite sitting 14th in the Premier League table. The Portuguese, who took over in November, says he has "an idea" of what he wants his squad to look like next season. Given United are heading for their worst finish since the 1973-74 relegation campaign, it seems certain he is wanting to execute major surgery. United are interested in Wolves' Brazilian forward Matheus Cunha and have also been heavily linked with Ipswich Town striker Liam Delap, who has a £30m release clause that will make him attractive to a number of clubs. United need to win the Europa League to qualify for the Champions League, and are at risk of only a second season without European football since English clubs were allowed

back in 1990 following the Heysel tragedy, the BBC reported. Amorim has no doubts about whether United are an attractive proposition despite that. "It's Manchester United," he said. "Every player wants to play for Manchester United. "If you look at our club in the moment, with all the problems, including changing coach, it looks a little bit of a problem. "But we have a clear idea and that's the easiest part to explain for a player." Amorim refused to

confirm United's interest in Cunha, who has a £62.5m release clause and is understood to be open to an Old Trafford switch. The former Sporting boss cited veteran midfielder Casemiro as an example of a player who has changed his mind about their long-term future at the club. The Brazil midfielder, 33, has a year left on his deal and recently said he would like to stay at Old Trafford. And Amorim said United's plans for next season's squad are starting to take shape.



## SR Sanjeev Kumar elected General Secretary of HDHA

(Standard Post Bureau) Hyderabad, April 25 : Mr S.R Sanjeev Kumar (Advocate), Elected General Secretary of Hyderabad District Handball Association for 2025-2029.

## McCreath called up by Scotland as McBride returns

Edinburgh, April 25 (UNI) : Grange batter Finlay McCreath has been given a maiden full international call-up by Scotland while Carlton all-rounder Chris McBride is recalled for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 series against the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates. Scotland will play five one-day internationals, two against series hosts the Dutch and three with UAE. All fixtures take place in May. McBride, 25, last featured in 2023 and McCreath, 26, gets his chance after his century against Zimbabwe A earlier this week, the BBC reported. Josh Davey, Michael Jones, Andy Umeed and Brad Wheal are among the county players who do not feature. Scotland squad: Richie Berrington (captain), Charlie Cassell, Matthew Cross, Bradley Currie, Jasper Davidson, Chris Greaves, Jack Jarvis, Michael Leask, Chris McBride, Finlay McCreath, Brandon McMullen, George Munsey, Safyaan Sharif, Charlie Tear, Mark Watt.

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# WR to run special train between Bandra Terminus and Bhavnagar Terminus

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, April 25 : For the convenience of passengers and to clear the extra rush of passengers during the festive occasion of Akhatrij, Western Railway will run Special Train on Special Fare between Bandra Terminus and Bhavnagar Terminus stations.

According to a press release issued by Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Mr Vineet Abhishek, the details of this train is as under: Train No. 09013/09014 Bandra Terminus – Bhavnagar Terminus Superfast Special (02 Trips) Train No. 09013 Bandra Terminus – Bhavnagar Terminus will depart from Bandra Terminus on Tuesday, 29th April, 2025 at 19:25 hrs and reach Bhavnagar Terminus at 09:00 hrs, the next day. Similarly, Train No. 09014

Bhavnagar Terminus – Bandra Terminus Superfast Special will depart from Bhavnagar Terminus on Wednesday, 30th April, 2025 at 17:45 hrs and arrive Bandra Terminus at 07:25 hrs, the next day.

Enroute this train will halt Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Surendranagar Gate, Botad Jn., Dhola Jn., Songadh and Sihor (Gujarat) stations in both directions.

This train comprises of AC 3 Tier and AC Chair Car coaches.

The booking for Train No. 09013 & 09014 opens from 26th April, 2025 at all PRS Counters and on IRCTC website. For detailed information regarding timings of halts and composition, passengers may please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

# Mega Block on Sunday only on Harbour line

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, April 25 : Central Railway, Mumbai Division will operate Mega Block on its suburban sections carrying out various engineering and maintenance works on 27.04.2025 as under:

**5th and 6th lines between Vidyavihar and Thane from 8.00 hrs to 12.30 hrs.**

DN Mail / Express trains viz. Train no 11055, 11061 and 16345 will be diverted on DN FAST line at Vidyavihar station and will be re-diverted on 5th line at Thane station and will run 10 to 15 minutes behind schedule during the block period.

UP Mail / Express trains viz. 11010, 12124, 13201, 17221, 12126, 12140 and 22226 will be diverted on UP FAST line at Thane station and will be re-diverted on 6th line at Vidyavihar station and will run 10 to 15 minutes behind schedule during the block period.

**UP HARBOUR line from 11.10 hrs to 16.10 hrs & DOWN HARBOUR line from 11.40 hrs to 16.40 hrs between CSMT Mumbai and Chunabhatti / Bandra stations**

DN HARBOUR line services to Vashi /Belapur/ Panvel leaving CSMT Mumbai from 11.16 hrs to 16.47 hrs &

DN HARBOUR line services to Bandra/ Goregaon leaving CSMT Mumbai from 10.48 hrs to 16.43 hrs will remain suspended.

UP HARBOUR line services for CSMT Mumbai leaving Panvel/ Belapur/ Vashi from 9.53 hrs to 15.20 hrs &

UP HARBOUR line services for CSMT Mumbai leaving Goregaon/ Bandra from 10.45 hrs to 17.13 hrs will remain suspended. Special services will run between Kurla- Panvel at 20 min frequency during the block period.

HARBOUR line passengers are permitted to travel via Main Line & Western Railway from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm during block period. These maintenance mega blocks are essential for infrastructure upkeep and safety.

Passengers are requested to bear with the Railway Administration for the inconvenience caused.

# SC grants interim relief to S. Ve Shekher, Slams 'Nasty Campaign' against women journalists

New Delhi, April 25 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim protection to actor-turned-politician S. Ve Shekher, exempting him from surrendering until the next date of hearing in a case related to derogatory remarks against women journalists.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh came down heavily on Shekher for the offensive post and questioned the sincerity of his apology.

“First of all, you are pursuing this... it’s a nasty campaign you carried out against a woman— attacking her dignity

directly and in such a brazen and abrupt manner,” the Court remarked, expressing displeasure that Shekher had not pleaded the complainant in the proceedings.

The Bench further added, “You must be harassing so many women. This time, you were confronted with a Journalist Association attack.”

Shekher contended that he had merely forwarded a message without reading it, deleted it within an hour, and apologized.

However, the Court was unconvinced. “Probably whatever your vocabulary had, you had put the entire vocabulary on Twitter,” the

# Central Railway to Introduce New Weekly Amrit Bharat Express between Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai and Saharsa

(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, April 25 : Central Railway is introducing of a new train service – the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai - Saharsa - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express.

The inaugural run of Saharsa - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express has reached Central Railway at Khandwa on 25.04.2025 at 16.15 hrs and likely to reach Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Mumbai after midnight.

**LTT Mumbai-Saharsa-LTT Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express (Weekly)**

Train no 11015 will depart LTT Mumbai at 12:00 hrs on every Friday from 02.05.2025 and arrive Saharsa at 02:00 hrs on third day.

Train no 11016 will depart Saharsa at 04:20 hrs on every Sunday from 04.05.2025 and arrive LTT Mumbai at 15:45 hrs on next day. Halts: Thane, Kalyan, Nasik Road, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Cheoki, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn, Buxer, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn, Muzzafarpur, Samastipur, Hasanpur Road, Salauna and Khagaria Jn, . Composition: 08 Sleeper Class, 11 General Second Class, One Pantry Car and 02 Luggage cum Guard’s Brake Van “Reservation: Bookings for train No. 11015 will open on 27.04.2025 at all computerized reservation centers and on website [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in).

Tickets for Unreserved Coaches can be booked through UTS with normal charges for unreserved accommodation as applicable for superfast Mail / Exp trains. For detailed timings and halts please visit [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in) or download NTES App.

# Central Railway's Mumbai Division Conducts a Joint Full Scale Mock Drill with NDRF at New Goods Shed Mulund

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 25 : Mumbai Division of Central Railway annually conducts a joint full scale mock drill with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to check alertness and response time during major accidents. In this regard a joint mock drill was conducted at New Goods Shed Mulund on 25th April, 2025. An artificial accident scenario was created wherein, a coach derailed and caught fire. A situation was developed where passengers were trapped inside a burning coach.

The drill started when a wheel of one coach derailed and the coach was set on fire. A message was given by the Dy. Chief Yard Master to the control of Mumbai Division at 10.05 hrs. The control acted immediately and a message was sent to NDRF, State Disaster Management Department, MCGM Control & Disaster Management Cell, Ambulance, Mumbai Fire Brigade, Mumbai Police control, Accident Relief Train (ART) & ARME of Central Railway and to all concerned. The railway ambulance arrived at 10.15 hrs on site. NDRF arrived at 10.19 hrs on site and started the rescue operation immediately with the help of civil defence and fire brigade.

Fire extinguisher was used by railway field staff and fire was extinguished at 10.27 hrs. City Police reached the site at 10.21 hrs. Accident Relief Medical Equipments (ARME) Van from Panvel arrived at the site at 11.13 hrs. Total 21 injured passengers were rescued between 10.33 hrs to 11.25 hrs by Civil defence and NDRF team. Simultaneously, NDRF and ART teams cut the



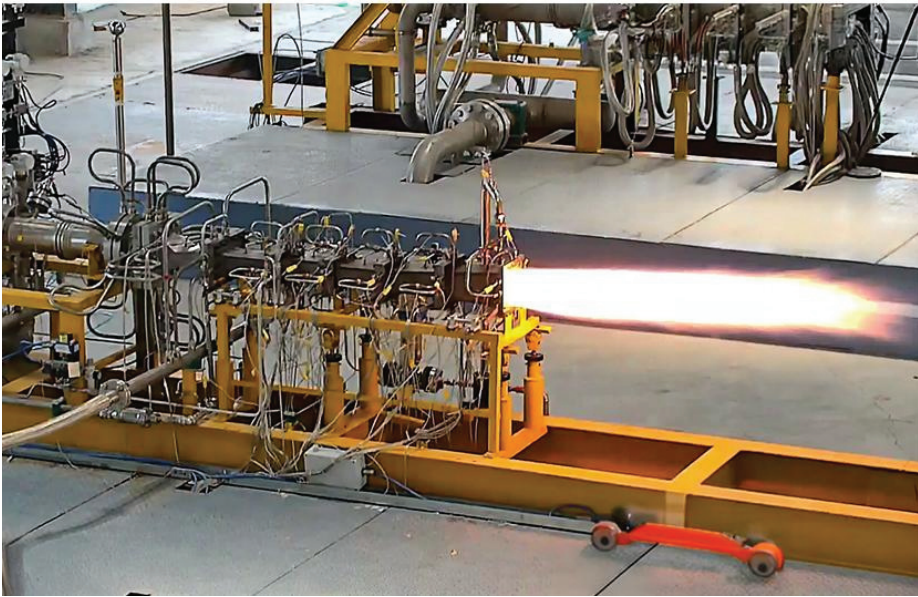
Windows and roof of the coach from south end and rescued four injured passengers. NDRF personnel entered the coach to evacuate passengers. RPF of railways also assisted NDRF in evacuation of

passengers. Fire brigade personnel entered the coach and completely doused the fire. NDRF team with Live Body Detection Dog Squad started dog search at 11.36 hrs and at 11.42 hrs found one unconscious person in

the toilet, who was rescued at 11.51 hrs.

All the passengers were evacuated by 11.55 hrs, initial first aid was provided to the injured and their health parameters were checked by railway doctors and some of them were sent

# DRDO achieves significant milestone in Scramjet Engine Development



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 25 : Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a Hyderabad-based laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has achieved a significant milestone in the field of Hypersonic Weapon Technology. DRDL conducted long-duration Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for more than 1,000 seconds at the newly built state-of-the-art Scramjet Connect Test Facility at Hyderabad on April 25, 2025. The ground-test is in continuation of the earlier test reported for 120 seconds in January 2025. With the successful test,

the system will be soon ready for full scale flight worthy combustor testing. Hypersonic Cruise Missile is a class of weapons that can travel more than five times the speed of sound (> 6100 Kmph) for long duration and is powered by Air breathing engine. Air breathing propulsion systems, having supersonic combustion, plays a critical role for long-duration cruise conditions.

This test validates the design of long duration scramjet combustor as well as test facility. It is an outcome of an integrated effort put by the DRDO labs along with industry & academia and paves a strong base for the nation’s Hypersonic Cruise Missile

Development Programme. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO, Industry partners and academia for the remarkable achievement. He termed the success as a reflection of the Government’s strong commitment in realising critical Hypersonic Weapon Technologies for the nation.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) Shri U Raja Babu, Director DRDL Dr GA Srinivasa Murthy and the complete team for demonstrating the supersonic combustion for more than 1,000 seconds involving cutting edge technologies.

# Diversion of Trains due to Yard Remodeling work at Sambalpur Division : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, April 25 : Due to suspension of bay-line (R1-A, Loco Reversal line & Saloon siding) at Sambalpur station in connection with yard remodelling, the following train services will be diverted from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. Stoppage will be provided at Sambalpur City railway station for the convenience of the passengers.

**DIVERSION OF TRAINS:**

1. The train No. 20807 Visakhapatnam- Amritsar Hirakud Express leaving Visakhapatnam on 02.05.2025, 03.05.2025, 06.05.2025, 09.05.2025, 10.05.2025, 13.05.2025, 16.05.2025, 17.05.2025, 20.05.2025, 23.05.2025, 24.05.2025, 27.05.2025, 30.05.2025, 31.05.2025, 03.06.2025, 06.06.2025, 07.06.2025, 10.06.2025, 13.06.2025, 14.06.2025, 17.06.2025, 20.06.2025, 21.06.2025, 24.06.2025, 27.06.2025 & 28.06.2025 will run in diverted route via Sarla Junction Railway station and Sambalpur City Railway Station.

2. The train No. 20808 Amritsar - Visakhapatnam Hirakud

Express leaving Amritsar on 03.05.2025, 04.05.2025, 07.05.2025, 10.05.2025, 11.05.2025, 14.05.2025, 17.05.2025, 18.05.2025, 21.05.2025, 24.05.2025, 25.05.2025, 28.05.2025, 31.05.2025, 01.06.2025, 04.06.2025, 07.06.2025, 08.06.2025, 11.06.2025, 14.06.2025, 15.06.2025, 18.06.2025, 21.06.2025, 22.06.2025, 25.06.2025, 28.06.2025 & 29.06.2025 will run in diverted route via Sarla Junction Railway station and Sambalpur City Railway Station.

Further, the train Nos. 18126/18125 Puri-Rourkela-Puri Express, the train Nos 12880/12879 Bhubaneswar-LTT- Bhubaneswar Express, the train Nos. 22866/22865 Puri - LTT- Puri Express, the train Nos. 20472/20471 Puri-Lalgarh-puri Express, the train Nos. 20814/20813 Jodhpur-Puri-Jodhpur Express trains will also run in diverted route via Sarla Junction Railway station and Sambalpur City Railway Station on their nominated days during the above period i.e. from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. People are requested to note changes and act accordingly.