

## IN BRIEF

### Cabinet decides to provide large subsidy for electric vehicles

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) :The Maharashtra Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, on Tuesday took a decision to provide a large subsidy for electric vehicles.

The government had approved the new electric vehicle policy in the Cabinet meeting held here and decided to waive toll on some roads for some electric vehicles under the Electric Vehicle Policy.

It had also decided to provide a large subsidy for electric vehicles.

Along with this, the government had also announced a big help to the families of six deceased tourists from Maharashtra, who were killed in terror attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. Fadnavis announced financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh each to the families of the victims.

### After clean chit from court to Kalmadi, Congress celebrates

Pune, April 29 (UNI) :Congress workers on Tuesday gathered in front of former Union minister Suresh Kalmadi in Erandwane area here and celebrated the Delhi court's clean chit to the senior party leader.

The slogan 'Sabse bada khiladi, Suresh Kalmadi' was heard once again soon after the Delhi court accepted the Enforcement Directorate's closure report in a money laundering case against Kalmadi, the former head of the 2010 Commonwealth Games organizing committee. The other accused who got the court clean chit included the then general secretary Lalit Bhanot. Kalmadi's supporters celebrated the occasion with bursting of firecrackers. In 2010, allegations of corruption surfaced in the organization of the Commonwealth Games. Kalmadi and others were accused of irregularities in the allocation and implementation of two important contracts.

Special judge Sanjeev Agarwal noted that the CBI has already closed the corruption case. The ED after an investigation into the money laundering case too has accepted the report, the judge noted.

## PM Modi holds high-level meeting with Rajnath, NSA, Chiefs of three services



New Delhi, April 29 (UNI) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held detailed discussions in a high level meeting with the Defence Minister, National Security

Advisor (NSA), Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the Chiefs of the three services.

According to sources, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security

Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh

Tripathi attended the meeting held at the Prime Minister's residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg this evening.

This is the third meeting of the Prime

Minister with the Defence Minister, since the dastardly terror attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22, that claimed 26 lives.

In the meeting, the Prime Minister was given detailed information about the current security situation and the preparations of the forces.

This high-level meeting, held ahead of the Union Cabinet's security meeting on Wednesday, is being considered as highly significant.

Earlier, Union Home Secretary also held discussions in a high-level meeting with the Border Security Force, Assam Rifles and other security agencies.

### CM Fadnavis announces 50 lakh financial assistance each to Maha victims' families

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) :Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today announced financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh for the families of each victim from Maharashtra who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terror attack. The decision was taken during a state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Fadnavis.

The Chief Minister said that the government will also be taking care of the education and employment needs of these families.

In the cabinet meeting, it was decided to provide a government job to the daughter of deceased Santosh Jagdale.

Six of the tourists who died in the Pahalgam terrorist attack were from Maharashtra. Fadnavis recently met all the families of the deceased and extended support to them. The six dead tourists from Maharashtra are- Hemant Satish Joshi, Thane, Atul Shrikant Mone- Mumbai, Sanjay Laxman Lele - Thane, Dilip Desale, Panvel, Santosh Jagdale and Kaustubh Ganbote from Pune.

### Rahul inaugurates solar power plant, attends 'Disha' meeting

Rae Bareilly (UP), April 29 (UNI) : Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and MP from Rae Bareilly Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday inaugurated a two mw solar roof power plant at Visakha Factory in Kundanganj.

He also unveiled the statue of leader Subhash Chandra Bose at Civil Lines.

The administration had made tight security arrangements for Rahul. The police administration was keeping a proper watch on his convoy. He talked about 'inclusive development' and appealed to take everyone along.

After that he left for the Disha meeting at Bachat Bhawan at Collectorate. Amethi MP Kishori Lal Sharma was also present with him as well as Minister of State in Uttar Pradesh government Dinesh Pratap Singh were also present.

During the meeting, various schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural), National Rural Livelihood Mission, PM Awas Yojana, Gram Sadak Yojana, National

Social Assistance Programme, Swachh Bharat Mission, National Rural Drinking Water Program, Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Programme were discussed and reviewed. Sources said during the meeting Rahul called on women helpline number 181, which was received immediately and the MP expressed satisfaction when he spoke to the working personnel.

At the end of the meeting, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Uttar Pradesh Dinesh Pratap Singh proposed to observe two minutes of silence to express condolences to the victims of the tragic incident that took place in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

Coming out of the meeting of Disha, Dinesh Pratap Singh attacked Rahul Gandhi and said that he comes to Rae Bareilly for a picnic. He said that the meeting of 'Disha' is a continuous process which is organised for the supervision and monitoring of the schemes funded by the central government.

### Govt takes 11 major decisions in cabinet meet

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) :The Maharashtra government has taken 11 major decisions during the cabinet meeting held here on Tuesday.

These include administrative approval for the revised expenditure of Rs 488.53 crore for the pending works for dam leakage prevention under the Temghar project in Mulshi of Pune district .

It has cleared an amendment in the provision of Rule 27(b) (3) of Maharashtra Begging Prohibition Rules, 1964 under Mumbai Begging Prohibition Act, 1951. Now Rs 40 per day will be given instead of Rs 5 for persons in alms houses. It is the first change after 1964.

Under the umbrella scheme PM-YASASVI, OBC, EBC and DNT, the cabinet decided to implement the revised guidelines issued by the Central Government for the years 2021-22 to 2025-26 under the government of India pre-matric and post-matric scholarship scheme for students in the category.

The cabinet approved the construction of six-lane elevated road and six-lane construction of the existing road on Hadapsar to Yavat State Road.

The cabinet also decided to give its go-ahead for the establishment of Maha InvIT (Infrastructure Investment Trust) under the Public Works Department. It approved the policy for development of shipbuilding, repair facilities and ship recycling facilities in Maharashtra.

The cabinet also decided to clear the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy, 2025. It will also have an aggregator policy for the app-based vehicles.

It decided to implement a special programme for the development of the Gowari community in the Special Backward Category on the lines of the schemes being implemented for the Scheduled Tribes by the Tribal Development Department. The government also decided to increase the limit of the personal loan interest repayment scheme of the M.R. Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the Vasantrao Naik Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes Development Corporation from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh.

### Kharge, Rahul urge PM to call special session of Parliament

New Delhi, April 29 (UNI) : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene a special session of Parliament "at the earliest" to deal with the situation arising out of the brutal terror attack in J&K's Pahalgam. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, Kharge said, "At this moment, when unity and solidarity is essential, Opposition believes that it is important to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest". He said, "This will be a powerful demonstration of our collective resolve and will to deal with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on innocent citizens 22 April 2025. It is our fond hope that the session will be accordingly convened". Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi in his letter to Modi said that at this critical time, India must show that "we always stand together against terrorism".

### Diplomats from 70 countries pay tributes to victims of Pahalgam

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) :Consuls General and honorary Consuls from more than 70 countries joined Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan in paying homage to the victims of the terrorist attack at Pahalgam in Jammu & Kashmir by observing a one-minute silence in function arranged for the diplomatic fraternity of Mumbai at Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday.

Ahead of the Maharashtra State Foundation Day, Governor

Radhakrishnan presided over a reception for the diplomatic fraternity of Mumbai.

Governor Radhakrishnan and Cultural Minister Jaykumar Rawal then personally met and greeted all the Consuls and Honorary Consuls.

Chairman of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Prof Ram Shinde, Ministers Shambhuraj Desai, Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Manikrao Kokate, Nitesh Rane, Sanjay Sawkare, Director General of

Police Rashmi Shukla, Additional Chief Secretary- Protocol Manisha Mhaikar, Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, BMC Administrator Bhushan Gagrani, along with senior officials from various departments were present.

After rendition of the national anthem and state song by the police band, Secretary to the Governor Dr

Prashant Narnavare, formally welcomed the Consular corps.



### Deputy CM reviews preparations for Waves

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday reviewed preparations for the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (Waves), which will be held at the Jio World Centre, Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai from May 1 to 4. He described this conference like 'Davos' for investment in entertainment sector at the global level. He said that this conference is being realised due to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(See on page 3)

### Trump govt has shown contempt for universal .....



The first hundred days of incumbent US President Donald Trump has been "catastrophic" to racial and gender justice, global health, as also for climate action and multilateralism, Amnesty International warned in its annual report launched on Tuesday. The report highlighted the rise in authoritarian practices and suppression of dissent around the world.

( See on page 5)

### Rising star of India Pratika Rawal breaks longstanding ...



India top-order batter Pratika Rawal added another accolade to her growing list of achievements, when she became the fastest player to reach 500 runs in Women's One Day Internationals. In doing so, she has broken the record set by England legend Charlotte Edwards almost three decades back in 1997.

(See on page 7)

### Uttarakhand CM meets Union Civil Aviation Minister to ....



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu here on Tuesday and discussed ways to develop the aviation sector in the state.

(See on page 8)







# HC gants time to advocate facing contempt proceeding over his remarks on judiciary

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) : The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted two weeks' time to Advocate Nilesh Ojha facing contempt proceedings for his “scandalous and defamatory” remarks against a sitting HC judge during a press conference related to the Disha Salian death case.

A special five-judge bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justices AS Chandurkar, M S Sonak, Ravindra Ghuge and Ajey Gadkari, granted two weeks' time to Ojha and kept the matter for hearing on June 17 after Ojha's Advocate Ghanshyam Upadhyay, sought time to file an application seeking discharge of contempt proceedings.

The court was hearing a suo motu (on its own) contempt proceedings

against Advocate Ojha. On April eight, the HC had noted that the lawyer's statements in the conference held on April one were “ex-facie contemptuous.” The bench directed YouTube (Google LLC) and a Marathi news channel to “forthwith” remove the video of the press conference and all related material.

Disha Salian's father, Satish Salian, had approached the high court last month through Ojha, seeking a fresh probe into the mysterious circumstances under which his daughter was found dead.Disha, manager of the late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, died on June eight, 2020, after falling off the 14th floor of a residential building in suburban Malad.

# Minority Commission Chairman calls for modernisation of madrasas

Kolhapur, April 29 (UNI) :Maharashtra State Minority Commission Chairman Pyare Jiha Khan has said that since modern education can develop the country and society, the scheme of modernisation of madrasas should be implemented effectively. Along with Urdu, the Hindi, English and Marathi languages ??should be taught in madrasas, he said.

The Minority Commission Chairman said it is necessary to provide quality education for the progress of the country and for the upliftment of the minority communities including Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis and others.He said emphasis will be placed on implementing a comprehensive education system for the boys and girls of these communities.

He reviewed the new 15-point programme of the

Prime Minister for the welfare of minorities, at the district collector office this evening in the presence District Collector Amol Yedge and other officers.Jiha Khan said that with the ideas of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, support for all, development for all and trust for all, development of every section of the country is being achieved. Many schemes and activities are being implemented by the government for the overall development of this society. These schemes should be widely publicised. Funds for minorities should be made available to the grassroots people.He also said that loans should be provided to eligible beneficiaries for the progress of the minority community. The Maulana Azad Minority Economic Development Corporation should provide educational loans to maximum students, he added.



NDRF personnel during a rescue operation after a fire broke out at the Link Square Mall, in the suburban Bandra area of Mumbai on Tuesday.

# Fire dept fails to control Mumbai Croma showroom blaze on time: Zeeshan Siddique

Mumbai, NCP leader Zeeshan Siddique on Tuesday alleged that the fire department has failed to control the blaze on time that broke out at the Mumbai Croma showroom located in the Link Square Mall in Bandra.A fire broke out early Tuesday morning at the Croma showroom, basement of Link Square Mall, was declared a Level-III fire, indicating a serious situation.Speaking to the

mediapersons, NCP leader Zeeshan Siddique said, "We have been here since 4 AM. The fire department has failed to control the fire... It could have easily been controlled initially, but the fire officers were ill-equipped. There was just a small spark in the basement of the Croma store, and it could have been easily controlled if action had been taken in time. However, the fire officers

were not properly equipped, and even when they had the necessary equipment, they didn't use it correctly." He also pointed out that there was no presence of fire brigade or police officials when he arrived. We kept requesting them to supply more water, but nothing was done. Even when some parts of the store were still burning, they were unable to handle the situation, he added.

# Pune's Manipal Hospital launches modern multispecialty surgical robotic system

Pune, April 29 (UNI) :The multi-speciality Manipal Hospital at Baner here has unveiled a state-of-the-art surgical robotic system, marking a significant step towards enhanced patient care and precision surgery in the region.The hospital's SSI Mantra Surgical Robotic System is intended for facilitating multispecialty surgery via application of new technologies.

This new system will broaden the hospital's capabilities in providing minimally invasive treatments across various

specialties including cardiac, thoracic, oncology, urology, gynaecology and general surgery.

This innovation reflects the hospital's commitment to introducing cutting-edge technology while delivering efficient, patient-centric care, the hospital announced on Tuesday.

# State presents draft guidelines to HC to enhance child safety in schools

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) :The Maharashtra government has presented draft guidelines intended to enhance child safety in schools throughout the state to the Bombay High Court, a lawyer said here on Tuesday.The government response came during a hearing of a petition related to the sexual assault of two underage girls at a Badlapur school last year.

Arguing before a division bench comprising justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Dr Neela Gokhale on Monday, public

prosecutor Prajakta Shinde presented the draft resolution. Shinde informed the court that although the guidelines include general safety protocols for schools throughout Maharashtra, distinct policies for Anganwadis and Ashram schools are still in development and will necessitate separate approval.

The committee's extensive suggestions, including thorough staff background investigation, improved transport safety protocols, extensive

campus monitoring, and teacher development initiatives, serve as the foundation of the proposed policy.Earlier the Bombay HC had ordered the state government to form an 18-member expert committee to recommend specific safety measures.

Meanwhile, the court also designated advocate Rebecca Gonsalves as amicus curiae (a neutral advisor to a court) to examine the draft and verify that the committee's recommendations have been entirely included.

# Two killed in Jalgaon accident

Jalgaon, April 29 (UNI) :A father and son died on the spot and a woman and kid were injured when a bike and an SUV collided at Bor Ghat in Raver taluka of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra on Monday night.According to police, the deceased were identified as Pintu Bodole (30) and his three-year-old son Ritik Bodole. Pintu Bodole, along with his wife Malubai (28) and two sons

Ritik (3) and Tenguram (8 months) were travelling on bike. They had left Bhusawal to meet their relatives. Meanwhile, an SUV coming from Khergaon to Bhusawal hit their motorcycle, police said.It is reported that the accident took place on Monday night at Bor Ghat in Raver taluka.

The Bodole family worked as masons in

Bhusawal. The former taluka president of the BJP Ravindra Patil and Bala Amodkar rushed to Raver rural hospital and shifted the injured Malubai Bodole and Tenguram Bodole to Faizpur for further treatment.

A complaint has been filed with the police against the driver concerned. The police are currently investigating the matter.

# IAC chief meets Sanjay Joshi in Pune

Pune, April 29 (UNI) :India Against Corruption (IAC) national president and OBC leader, Hemant Patil, on Tuesday met senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh office-bearer and former BJP national general secretary Sanjay Joshi and discussed current situation in the country which includes social and political developments and national security.

Patil mentioned about various initiatives he has taken in sports as well as anti-corruption movement.

## ADDENDUM

This is in context of the earlier public notice dated ... published in .02/04/2025.. and it is hereby declared and clarified that it be read as Tal & Dist Palghar instead of Tal Vasai Dist Palghar as notified earlier

# Fake orthopaedic doctor arrested in Mumbai

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) :The city police has arrested a self-proclaimed orthopaedic doctor Atul Wankhede after a 24-year-old online food delivery boy filed a complaint alleging that incorrect treatment was given to him by the accused doctor which worsened his spinal condition, police said here on Tuesday.

Based on the complaint by the delivery boy, Avinash Samindar, and supporting evidence, the Worli police station has police registered an FIR (first information report) against Wankhede under Sections 351(2), 340(2), 339, 338, 337, 336(4), 336(3), 336(2), 336(1), 318, 316(4), 316(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Accused was arrested the same day and produced before a court, which sent him to judicial custody, according to deputy police commissioner Dattatray Kamble.According to the complaint, Samindar was

suffering from back pain since 2016 and approached Dr Wankhede in November 2024 after finding his details online. Instead of prescribing proper medication or diagnostic tests, Wankhede advised exercise and gave him a painkiller despite Samindar's worsening condition. Following this, Samindar's spinal pain intensified.

Samindar then lodged a complaint against Wankhede, accusing him of impersonating an orthopaedic specialist and conducting unauthorised medical treatments.

The complaint led to the registration of an FIR and subsequent arrest of the accused.According to documents obtained from the Maharashtra Medical Education Council and communication with relevant officials, Dr Wankhede is not a legitimate holder of a Master of Orthopaedics degree from KEM Hospital, Pune, as claimed.

# Deputy CM reviews preparations for Waves

Mumbai, April 29 (UNI) :Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday reviewed preparations for the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (Waves), which will be held at the Jio World Centre, Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai from May 1 to 4.

He described this conference like ‘Davos’ for investment in entertainment sector at the global level.He said that this conference is being realised due to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"It is a matter of pride that the Maharashtra government has got opportunity to host this programme and it is being organised under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis," said Shinde.

**WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION**  
**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**  
**e-TENDER NOTICE NO. DRM-BRC 036 TO 038 OF 2025-26**  
Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (W A/c.) Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works.

| Sr. No. | Tender No. & Name of Work  | Approximate Cost of the work (in ₹) | Bid Security to be deposited (in ₹) |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01      | <b>DRM BRC 036 of 2025-26.</b><br>Provision of Subway Nr. RUB 62 for Pedestrian crossing on CTD-ARPR Section (Re-invited) (R-1).   | 2,05,81,291.07                      | 2,52,900.00                         |
| 02      | <b>DRM BRC 037 of 2025-26.</b><br>Gumandev :- Improvement of goods platform surface.   | 8,00,71,181.63                      | 5,50,400.00                         |
| 03      | <b>DRM BRC 038 of 2025-26.</b><br>Supply and execution of in Situ 60Kg UTS & R-260 Rail joints with Contractor's own Welder, welding materials, labour etc. for various track renewal works under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN South BRC. | 3,72,33,911.72                      | 3,36,200.00                         |

**Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender:**  
Tender is to be submitted on **19-05-2025** before 15:00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15:30 Hrs. **Web site particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased:** Web site @ [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Divisional Railway Manager (W A/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-4.  

BRC-018

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This public notice is to inform all the public that the said agricultural land, located in Village Mouje Barhanpur, Taluka District Palghar, 27/1, 41, 219, and 379, is owned and occupied by Mrs. Shirinbai Fardun Maktedar Parshi. Her Kulmukhtiyar (Power of Attorney) is Shri Rajesh Purushottam Mistry. The said property is for sale to my client. However, if anyone has any mortgage, donation, inheritance, share agreement, possession, possession or any other right or interest in the said property, they should contact me personally at the address below within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice along with written and proper documents. Otherwise, no one has any right whatsoever over this property. And if so, the said sale and transaction will be completed as if it has been abandoned. Please note this.

**Sd/-**  
**Dhananjay Associates**  
**Dhananjay Pandey, (M.Com., L.L.B.)**  
**Advocate High Court, Mumbai, AC, B. Wing,**  
**Vertex Vikas Building, Near Prasadam Hotel,**  
**Near Andheri Metro Station,**  
**Andheri (East), Mumbai, 400069,**

**Mobile: 9517191315,**  
**Email: lawyeratmumbai@gmail.com**

**BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**No.Dy. Ch.E. (O&M) /675/SWD, dt.29-04-2025**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Department                 | Chief Engineer (SWD)   |
| Sub Department             | Deputy Chief Engineer (O&M) SWD.   |
| Subject                    | Work of cleaning and maintaining flow in 10 nos of SWD outfalls during monsoon in G/South & G/North Wards under the section of Dy. Ch.E. (O&M) SWD. Bid No.eT-12 Tender ID : 2025_MCGM-1174989 |
| e-Tender Sale              | Date : 30-04-2025 Time 11.00 Hours   |
| Due Date                   | Date : 08-05-2025 Time 16.00 Hours   |
| Web site                   | <a href="https://mahatenders.gov.in">https://mahatenders.gov.in</a>  |
| Concerned Officer          |  |
| Name                       | Shri. V.M.Kokate   |
| Telephone Number (Office)  | 022 - 24309817<br>022 - 24309472 / 9930269520  |
| Mobile No.                 | 9833539029   |
| D) Email Address           | eeomcity,swd@mcgm.gov.in   |
| <b>PRO/279/ADV/2025-26</b> | <b>Sd/-</b><br><b>Ex. Eng. (O&amp;M) Mech. SWD</b>   |



STANDARD POST

What PM Modi's free hand to armed forces against terror means for cross-border action?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s unambiguous message during a high-level security meeting - ‘India is determined to deliver a crushing blow to terrorism’ - marks more than just a strong statement of resolve.

The Prime Minister’s message portrays a strategic phase where decisive military options are firmly on the table. The option that also includes cross-border strikes, in response to the Pahalgam terror massacre that killed 26 people, most of them tourists.

PM Modi’s assurance of “full operational freedom” to the Indian Armed Forces to choose the “mode, targets, and timing” of India’s response is of deep strategic significance. It indicates a positive phase where political will and military capability are perfectly aligned. This strategy gives India’s defence establishment the freedom to act not only defensively but pre-emptively and offensively, based on ground intelligence and evolving operational realities.

In the strategic calculus, such a directive also removes bureaucratic delays that traditionally constrain swift military retaliation, says the security experts. It empowers commanders on the ground to act when the opportunity arises - be it via precision strikes, covert operations, or cyber disruption of terrorist networks, they add.

This isn’t the first time India has contemplated trans-border action. Following the Uri attack in 2016, India conducted surgical strikes across the Line of Control, targeting terrorist launch pads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

In 2019, after the Pulwama attack, Indian Air Force jets penetrated deep into Balakot, conducting airstrikes on terror infrastructure, marking the first aerial strike inside Pakistani territory since 1971.

In view of this precedent, the current developments suggest a possible revival or expansion of the surgical strike doctrine, this time potentially in a more sustained and escalated form.

Government sources confirm that troop readiness has increased significantly along the LoC and the international border. Surveillance drones, satellite tracking, and electronic intelligence gathering have intensified, monitoring terror camps and movement across PoK.

The intelligence apparatus appears to be working in tight coordination with the military, pointing to the possibility that actionable intelligence may already be in hand.

Pakistan-based terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed are under heightened scrutiny. The Pahalgam attack, due to its targeting of civilians and tourists, is being interpreted as an attempt to disrupt peace in Kashmir and damage India’s global image.

In response, India appears to be preparing for targeted retaliation not only against the foot soldiers but also their financial and logistical enablers.

India has already taken strong diplomatic steps, such as suspending the Indus Waters Treaty and ordering the expulsion of Pakistani nationals with short-term visas. These moves indicate a multi-pronged strategy - military, diplomatic, and economic - to pressure Pakistan and isolate it globally.

Should India proceed with a visible military response, it will likely be accompanied by an international diplomatic outreach, emphasising India’s right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

While the national mood demands action, the Modi government’s strategy appears measured but resolute. By giving the military full operational autonomy, the Prime Minister has decentralised tactical decision-making.

With the Pahalgam massacre acting as a turning point, India seems poised to redefine the rules of engagement in its fight against cross-border terrorism. The Prime Minister’s message, described as one of the clearest and most assertive in recent years, sets the stage for what could be a landmark counter-terror operation.

Whether it takes the form of another surgical strike, a covert hit, or a multi-dimensional offensive, one thing is certain - India is done absorbing the blows. It’s ready to strike back.

Terror attack in Pahalgam calls for a new strategic response

(By IANS)

The massacre of 26 Hindu tourists and injuring of many others at Pahalgam on April 22, by a group of 4 Pak-directed terrorists - three from Pakistan and a local- who appeared from the adjoining jungle wearing army fatigues and carrying automatic rifles, compel a review of the counter-terror strategy of India to make it a multi-prong response that would create an effective long-term deterrent for Pakistan.

An ex-soldier of Pakistan is said to be the head of the group that carried out the Pahalgam carnage. The publicised environment of improved security in Kashmir in which tourists were encouraged to visit Kashmir on one hand and the palpable rise of tension in Indo-Pak relations on the other- with India reiterating that the only agenda on J&K was to complete the unfinished part of liberating the Pak-occupied Kashmir and integrating it with the Indian state and the Chief of Pak Army Gen. Asim Munir announcing once again that Kashmir was the ‘jugular vein’ for Pakistan that his country would fight for till the end, provide the backdrop to the Pahalgam killings.

In an extremely communal outburst recently, the Pak General raked up the ‘two nation’ theory by declaring that ‘we are not Hindus’ and thus not only voiced his hatred against India but in an unspoken way showed his determination to get the Pak ISI to carry out a covert offensive to demolish the Indian claims of improvement in Kashmir. The crowd of tourists at Pahalgam was an easy target for the terrorists who owned responsibility for the act identifying themselves as members of The Resistance Front (TRF ) -an offspring of Pak-based Lashkare Toiba(LeT) that had appeared in the Valley in the period following the abrogation of Art 370 by India.

The planned terror attack directed from Pakistan saw the attackers identifying the Hindu targets by name before shooting them in the head and at least in one case telling the wife that she was being spared to tell the government about why her husband was killed.

The Pahalgam killings are a reminder of how in 1990, the Pak ISI-directed militants forced the ouster of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley as Pakistan wanted to strengthen its claim on the territory on communal grounds.

The army once again controls Pakistan and it has tried to position itself differently in a geopolitical sense to deal with the repercussions of its inimical actions against India.

Pakistan is now strategically aligned with China- the Pak Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir made a significant visit to Beijing in 2023 to strengthen cooperation in Defence- while Indo-US relations have stalemated with President Trump categorically denouncing ‘Islamic terrorism’ and ordering visa curbs on countries and regions known to be fostering it.

Pakistan would have noted that many top appointees in the Trump administration took pride in their Hindu ancestry including Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence, Kash Patel, Chief of CBI and the Second Lady, Usha Vance herself.

On the other hand, Pakistan having played a role in reinstalling the Taliban Emirate at Kabul in 2021, managed to bring about a ‘give and take’ arrangement between Taliban and China whereby China would extend its Belt & Road Initiative(BRI)

to Afghanistan for the economic betterment of the latter and Taliban would maintain silence on the issue of treatment of Muslim minorities in China particularly in Xinjiang next door.

Since radical Islam does have a place in the spectrum of faith, Pakistan has been able to harness Islamic radical forces for its covert operations against India.

Way back in 1993, following the success of Afghan Jihad- for which the US-led West gave a lot of credit to Pakistan- the Pak Army-ISI combine made a bid to replicate it in Kashmir and sent in Harkatul Ansar(HUA) which had Taliban as its primary component, to step up a revivalist campaign in the valley.

Islamic radicals carry the historical memory of the 19th century ‘Wahhabi revolt’ against the British who exemplified the Western encroachment on ‘Muslim lands’ and this is the reason why HUA targeted Western tourists visiting Kashmir, took them hostage and killed many of them before a rescue operation could be launched.

The mainstream of militants used for cross-border terrorism against India however, comprised the ISI-harboured groups like Jamaate Islami’s Hizbul Mujahideen (HuM) and Saudi-financed Lashkar-e-Taiba, which had the legacy of being on the right side of the US. This is what produced the strange phenomenon of American policymakers drawing a line between ‘good terrorists’ and ‘bad terrorists’ for some time before wise counsels prevailed.

The US went after the radical forces of Taliban and Al Qaeda during the ‘war on terror’ in Afghanistan and Iraq. This ‘war’ produced a new competitor of Al Qaeda in Iraq- Syria belt called the ISIS that remains a formidable force

even today, long after Osama bin Laden Leader of Al Qaeda, was eliminated in a midnight American SEAL team operation near Abbottabad where he was being sheltered by Pakistan in 2011.

Both Islamic radicals as well as the Jamaatis -the latter considered by the US as a representative of ‘moderate’ Islam -want an Islamic state for Muslims but the radicals want to strictly revive the puritanic Islam of the period of the four Pious Caliphs whereas the JeI line is that an Islamic State could live ‘in competition not conflict’ with the West. It may be recalled that JeI had become the main instrument for late Gen.

Ziaul Haq established, what he called, Nizami Mustafa in Pakistan and it went on to lead the anti-Soviet armed campaign in Afghanistan much to the liking of the US. For India, all streams of Islamic extremism are equally harmful for they create the danger of communal militancy giving way to Islamic terrorism.

Developments in the Middle East must be particularly noted for the indicators they provide of how geopolitical alignments are affecting the Muslim world. Pakistan’s position has become increasingly ambiguous.

The Islamic radical forces of Iran and Hamas, inimical towards the US have joined hands and shifted to the China-Russia camp. All of them consider Israel-an ally of the US- as their first enemy. Leading Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE and Lebanon are with the US and even inclined to favour Abraham Accord with Israel.Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Afghanistan are the territories where Islamic radical forces have their strongholds even today. India has done well to maintain an even bilateral

relationship with the three major players in the Middle East-Saudi Arabia, Israel and Iran- and welcomed peaceful coexistence in the region. It has unequivocally condemned terrorism of all kinds and spoken against it at all international forums.

Biden Administration seemed to ignore the Pak-Afghan region, perhaps out of some comfort distance but fortunately, President Trump makes no bones about his utter disdain for Islamic terror. Both the US and Russian President have condemned the Pahalgam killings and this strengthens India’s hands in taking appropriate action to eliminate terror bases beyond its borders, in one go.

On the domestic front, India needs to put down with heavy hands all forums and leaders that subverted the Indian Constitution by demanding special ‘political’ rights for any religious minority beyond the implementation of ‘one man one vote’ and grant of full freedom to practice faith.

The pro-Pak elements claiming leadership of Muslims need to be curbed in Kashmir and elsewhere as they facilitated the adversary’s work of creating ‘ sleeper cells’ on our territory. While JeI members should be specially screened in this context, Darul Uloom Deoband- established by the protagonists of the failed Wahhabi Jihad, in 1876- deserves a close scrutiny. The institution claimed a nationalist profile on the ground that it had participated in the anti-British campaign but at the root of that fight was the belief that the Muslim rulers of India lost to the British because they had adopted un-Islamic practices and deviated from the path of pristine Islam that had to be restored.

Deobandis are taught a communal doctrine of supremacy of Islam in all spheres- personal, socio-

political and even economic- and this has to be effectively countered. There are groups in the minority community that are not taken in by the ‘religious exclusivism’ promoted by certain leaders and who believe in communal harmony- they should be patronised by the democratic state.

National security has to be protected in these critical times not merely by show of force by uniformed men in the troubled border states-which has its own importance-but by strengthening the security and intelligence set up in a manner that makes it possible to watch the agents of the adversary in lanes, localities and forest inhabitations, even in peace times.

Local Intelligence Units(LIUs) have acquired unprecedented importance. This perhaps is the most important learning from Pahalgam. The country should also move towards granting the Intelligence agencies a certain action-taking capability so that the gap between ‘information’ and ‘action’ was minimised.

It is reported that there was an intelligence warning about suspicious activity in Pahalgam suggesting a possible targeting of tourists flocking there-it would be important to know what action was initiated on it by the Lt Governor who heads the Union Territory with special powers as also by the elected Chief Minister at Srinagar.

Security often fails not due to the absence of information but due to a lack of adequate action on available intelligence. It is a universal principle of Intelligence that whatever little becomes known should be regarded as the proverbial ‘tip of the iceberg’ and acted upon in that light.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau)

CPI-ML chief asks Narendra Modi govt to "reveal from where Pahalgam terrorists were being funded'

Patna, April 29 (UNI) : Communist Party of India (ML) General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, referring to the Pahalgam terror attack, on Tuesday asked the Narendra Modi government "to reveal from where the terrorists were being funded".Speaking about Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's health, the CPI-ML chief accused the BJP of "hatching a conspiracy", and said that the BJP made Naveen Patnaik's health an issue in Odisha and now was "sidelining Nitish Kumar in Bihar".He also said that the leader of the largest party would be the Chief Minister if the Grand Alliance (GA) gets majority in the assembly elections in Bihar, due in October-November this year.



Dr. Geeta Shroff, Founder Director - Nubella Centre for Women’s Health

(Standard Post Bureau)

In the ever-evolving field of reproductive medicine, a new advancement in intrauterine insemination (IUI) has emerged, offering a remarkable success rate of up to 80%, compared to the conventional IUI success rate of approximately 20%. This breakthrough has given renewed hope to countless couples

struggling with infertility.

Infertility affects an estimated 15% of couples worldwide, many of whom face significant challenges when trying to conceive. This innovative IUI technique is particularly beneficial for:Couples Experiencing Unexplained Infertility: Often, the cause of infertility is undetermined even after extensive medical evaluations. This advanced IUI method provides an effective option for such cases by optimizing the chances of conception.Women with Tubal Factor Infertility: For women with partial blockages or damage to their fallopian tubes, this technique offers an alternative to more invasive procedures by improving the conditions for sperm and egg interaction.

Men with Low Sperm Count or Poor Sperm Motility: The method incorporates advanced

sperm selection techniques to increase the likelihood of successful fertilization, providing new hope for male-factor infertility cases.

Couples Seeking Non-Invasive Options Before IVF: Many couples prefer to explore less invasive treatments before considering in vitro fertilization (IVF). This IUI approach serves as an effective intermediary step with significantly improved success rates.

The latest and advanced innovative procedure, incorporated at Nubella centre for women health, optimizes several critical factors, including precise ovulation monitoring, advanced sperm preparation, and enhanced uterine receptivity. As a result, patients experience:

Higher Success Rates: With up to 80% success on the first attempt, this technique significantly reduces the need for

repeated cycles, saving time and emotional energy.Minimized Emotional and Financial Strain: By increasing efficiency, this method reduces the overall cost and emotional toll associated with fertility treatments.Improved Patient Experience: The approach minimizes discomfort and maximizes results, making the process less daunting for patients.The transformative impact of this technique can be seen in the stories of many who have benefited from it. For instance, couples who had previously faced repeated disappointments with conventional IUI methods have found success after a single cycle of this advanced treatment. These journeys showcase the potential for joy and hope that this method brings to individuals and families.

Beyond the medical advancements, this approach to IUI also emphasizes the emotional

and psychological well-being of patients. Comprehensive counseling and support ensure that couples feel confident and informed throughout their journey.

This high-efficiency IUI method is set to transform access to infertility treatments, aiming to make effective solutions more affordable and accessible to people from all socio-economic backgrounds. By addressing common barriers, it opens up new possibilities for couples longing to experience the joys of parenthood.

This revolutionary IUI technique marks a significant milestone in reproductive health, offering a beacon of hope for individuals and couples struggling with infertility. With its unprecedented success rates, it provides an invaluable opportunity for many to achieve their dream of becoming parents.



## Venezuela denounces U.S. "kidnapping" its toddler

Caracus, April 29 (UNI) : The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on Monday denounced the U.S. authorities for "kidnapping" a two-year-old Venezuelan girl, who was separated from her mother when "boarding a repatriation flight to Venezuela."

According to a government statement, the kidnapping of the girl named Maikelys Antonella Espinoza Bernal, committed by the United States, violated "the rights of our migrants and in contravention of international norms, and most especially the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Charter of the United Nations."

The statement said that the United States has "once again committed the extremely serious offense of separating families and removing a minor from her emotional environment and, in particular, from her biological mother."

The father of the girl was also kidnapped and sent to a concentration camp in El Salvador without any form of trial or court action, it added."Venezuela will resort to all legal, political and diplomatic mechanisms, as well as all multilateral actions, aimed at ensuring that the sacred integrity of our families is respected and that international laws are upheld, so that the infant Maikellys Antonella Espinoza Bernal is returned safe and sound to her country," the statement said.

## Amazon sends first batch of satellites into space

Los Angeles, April 29 (UNI) : Amazon launched the first batch of satellites for its "Project Kuiper" on Monday, marking a key step in the company's efforts to expand global broadband access.

The satellites were launched aboard a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in the U.S. state of Florida at 7:01 p.m. Eastern Time.

The mission, codenamed "KA-01," plans to deploy 27 satellites at an altitude of 450 kilometers above Earth, according to Amazon.The mission represents the beginning of Amazon's "Project Kuiper" to deploy a constellation of over 3,000 satellites in low Earth orbit, aimed at delivering high-speed, low-latency internet access to customers and communities worldwide.

## 2 killed, 1 wounded in blast at plant in central Iran

Tehran, April 29 (UNI) : Two people were killed and another injured on Tuesday in an explosion at an industrial facility belonging to a chemical company in the central Iranian province of Isfahan, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The blast occurred at 10:30 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) in a plant in Shahinshahr County, IRNA reported, citing Mansour Shishehforoush, director general of the provincial crisis management department.He said the injured person had severe burns and was transferred by helicopter to a hospital, noting that the cause of the incident would be announced after the investigations are complete.According to IRNA, the company was involved in the production of fireworks.

## Iran condemns US strikes on Yemen, including Migrant Detention Cente: FM

Tehran, April 29 (UNI) : Iran categorically condemns US strikes on Yemen, in particular the strike on the African migrant detention centre in the city of Sadah, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

On Monday, the civil defence service in northern Yemen said that 68 people were killed and 47 were injured as a result of US airstrikes on a migrant detention centre in northwestern Yemen. The Yemeni Interior Ministry accused the United States of committing a war crime due to the bombing of the migrant centre, where 115 people were being held.

"[Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman] Ismail Baghaei categorically condemned the US strikes carried out last night on various regions of Yemen, in particular the strike on the detention centre for African migrants in the city of Sadah, which resulted in the death and injury of more than a hundred innocent people," the ministry said on Telegram on Monday.

At the same time, the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) has called on all parties to the conflict in Yemen to fully comply with international law."It is imperative that all efforts are made to avoid harm to civilians and to protect those most vulnerable in these challenging circumstances," the organization said.On March 15, US President Donald Trump ordered the military action against the Houthis after they renewed attacks on Israel-linked ships in the Red Sea in response to the blockade of the Gaza Strip. The Houthis' leader, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, said earlier in April that the US had conducted over 900 airstrikes in Yemen in a month.

## Over 20 people killed in NE Nigeria from IED: Reports

Abuja, April 29 (UNI) : More than 20 people were killed in Borno State in northeastern Nigeria as a result of a terrorist attack using an improvised explosive device (IED), the Vanguard news portal reported, citing a source.

"The victims include women and children. But some said over 20 people were killed, with several others injured," the source was quoted as saying by the newspaper on Monday.

The bomb was presumably planted by the Boko Haram terrorist group, the report added.

# Iran condemns U.S. lethal airstrikes on Yemen



Tehran, April 29 (UNI) : Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday strongly condemned the U.S. deadly airstrikes on Yemen's capital of Sanaa and Saada province, including a center where African migrants were kept.

In a statement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei denounced Sunday's bombings, which killed at least 78 people, including

68 African migrants held at a detention center in Saada, and wounded dozens of others.

Baghaei described the U.S. military attacks against civilian targets, vital infrastructure and people's houses in different parts of Yemen as "war crimes," "which have killed hundreds of innocent people."

He criticised the United Nations and international

human rights organisations for their "silence and indifference towards this flagrant law-breaking and the frequent violations of Yemen's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Baghaei called on Islamic states to take effective actions to stop the killing of Yemen's Muslim people and stop the continuation of Israel's "genocide" in Gaza and the West Bank.

# Measles health alert issued for Australian state of Victoria

Sydney, April 29 (UNI) : Authorities in the southeastern Australian state of Victoria have issued a health alert for measles amid a spike in cases.

The Victorian Department of Health on Monday said that a new measles case has been reported in a returned traveller who visited Pakistan and was infectious on a flight from Dubai to Melbourne on April 24.The department said on Friday that there had been 22 confirmed cases of measles in Victoria in 2025 - more than in 2023 and 2024 combined. It said the majority of cases have been acquired locally in Melbourne and surrounding areas.

Victoria is Australia's second-most populous state with a population of

over seven million.Tarun Weeramanthri, Victoria's Chief Health Officer, said on Monday that there is an "increased risk" of measles in greater Melbourne and the neighboring Mitchell Shire."A growing number of measles cases have acquired their infection locally in Victoria," he said in a statement. "The majority of recent cases have arisen in people who have not had two documented doses of the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine."

He said that there is also an "ongoing risk" of measles being imported into Victoria by overseas travellers due to rising cases globally.Anyone who spent time in greater Melbourne or the Mitchell Shire from early April has been urged to monitor for

symptoms of measles, including fever, cough and feeling generally unwell followed by a rash that usually starts on the face.Measles can spread through airborne droplets or contact with nose or throat secretions. According to the World Health Organisation, over 107,000 people died from measles globally in 2023 - most of whom were unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children younger than five.

The Victorian Department of Health said that measles vaccination coverage across Australia has fallen below the 95 percent national target since the COVID-19 pandemic. The MMR vaccine is free in Australia for anyone who has not previously received two doses.

## Russian Air Defence destroys 91 Ukrainian drones since evening of Apr 28: Ministry

Moscow, April 29 (UNI) : The Russian air defence systems destroyed 40 Ukrainian drones over the past night, while 91 drones were shot down since Monday evening, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Tuesday."During the past night, air defence systems destroyed 40 Ukrainian fixed-wing drones: 11 drones over the Ryazan Region, eight drones over the Nizhny Novgorod Region, seven drones over the Oryol Region, four drones over the Republic of Crimea, four drones over the Black Sea, two drones over the Moscow Region, two drones over the Belgorod Region, one drone over the Kaluga Region and one drone over the Bryansk Region," the ministry said.

The ministry added that in total, from 20:00 Moscow time on April 28 to 06:00 Moscow time on April 29 (from 17:00 GMT to 03:00 GMT), the air defence systems destroyed 91 Ukrainian drones.

Islamabad, April 29 (UNI) : At least one person was killed and over 40 others were injured when an oil tanker exploded in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province on Monday, police and government officials said.

The incident happened in Noshki district of the province when a fuel tanker parked at a truck

depot caught fire, resulting in an explosion and injuring multiple people standing nearby, Noshki Senior Superintendent of Police Hashim Momand told Xinhua.

He said that among the injured were police personnel and fire fighters, who have arrived at the scene to manage the situation and put out

## '21 terrorists killed in western Mali'

Bamako, April 29 (UNI) : The Malian army announced on Monday that it has killed 21 terrorists during an operation in west Mali's Sebabougou area.

Sebabougou is now under control thanks to "airstrikes targeting a terrorist hideout, destroying several of their bases," the army said in a statement.During their retreat, the terrorists left behind 21 bodies, dozens of weapons with ammunition and accessories, vehicles, and communication equipment, the army said."Search operations are continuing to track down the many wounded and fleeing criminals," the army said, adding that five soldiers were injured during the clashes.

## 3 Kurdish security personnel injured in unknown drone attack in N. Iraq

Baghdad, April 29 (UNI) : An unknown drone attack on Monday wounded three members of the Peshmerga, the military of the Kurdistan Regional Government, in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region, a Kurdish security source said.The incident occurred in the afternoon when an unidentified booby-trapped drone struck a Peshmerga position in a village near the town of Amedi in Duhok province, a Peshmerga officer told Xinhua.

The officer said that Peshmerga personnel at the site fired at the drone, but it detonated within their position, wounding three security personnel.No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, and the Kurdish security authorities have initiated an investigation into the incident, the officer added.

# Trump govt has shown contempt for universal human rights: Amnesty International

London, April 29 (UNI) : The first hundred days of incumbent US President Donald Trump has been "catastrophic" to racial and gender justice, global health, as also for climate action and multilateralism, Amnesty International warned in its annual report launched on Tuesday.

The report highlighted the rise in authoritarian practices and suppression of dissent around the world. "The Trump effect has compounded the damage done by other world leaders throughout 2024, eating away at decades of painstaking work to build up and advance universal human rights for all and accelerating humanity's plunge into a brutal new era characterized by intermingling authoritarian practices and corporate

greed," the human rights watchdog said in its analysis of the situation in 150 countries.

Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, expressed concern over disregard of multilateral institutions and international law.

She also highlighted the need for government and civil society to work together with urgency to "lead humanity back to safer ground.""One hundred days into his second term, President Trump has shown only utter contempt for universal human rights. His government has swiftly and deliberately targeted vital US and international institutions and initiatives that were designed to make ours a safer and fairer world," she added.

# Death toll from Sunday's overnight U.S. airstrikes on Yemen's capital rises to 12

Sanaa, April 29 (UNI) : The death toll from Sunday's overnight U.S. airstrikes on three houses in Yemen's capital Sanaa rose to 12, with 4 others injured, Houthi-controlled health authorities said in a statement late Monday night.

The toll included women and children, the statement said.The Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported 15 airstrikes throughout Monday, targeting several locations across northern Yemeni provinces, including the capital Sanaa.

Meanwhile, casualties from U.S. dawn strikes on a migrant center in the northern province of Saada have risen to 68, all of them undocumented African migrants, according to the Houthi television.The U.S. military was reportedly investigating the incident.The Houthi group has been controlling much of northern Yemen since a civil war in Yemen broke out in late 2014. Tensions between the Houthis and U.S. forces have escalated sharply since March 15, when Washington resumed airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen, a campaign criticised by many regional governments as a threat to wider stability.

## Pro-Khalistani Jagmeet Singh and his NDP suffer humiliating defeat in Canadian elections

Toronto, April 29 (UNI) : Pro-Khalistani leader Jagmeet Singh, leader of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP), was defeated in the just-concluded Canadian federal elections and has resigned.

The elections saw Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party emerging victorious.

Jagmeet Singh was defeated from the Burnaby Central seat in British Columbia, and his party could get only seven seats in the 343-member new parliament, thus losing its national political party status.

The NDP could get only two percent of the votes.

The New Democratic Party had 24 seats in the previous parliament.

After the results, Jagmeet Singh said, "I am disappointed that we could not win more seats, but I am not disappointed in our movement. I am hopeful for our party."

the fire, adding that the injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals.

According to hospital sources, at least 16 people are in critical condition, with some suffering 70 to 80 percent burns. The severely injured people are being shifted to the provincial capital city of Quetta for better treatment.

The fire was so intense

it engulfed the fire brigade vehicle present at the scene and critically injured fire brigade personnel, Spokesperson for Balochistan Shahid Rind told local media.

"A state of emergency has been declared in all the hospitals in the district ... the incident is unfortunate and investigations are being conducted," Rind added.

# Australian researchers advance genetic tools to better predict inherited cancer risk

Sydney, April 29 (UNI) : Medical researchers have developed advanced computational tools that significantly improve the accuracy of genetic testing for inherited cancer risk, an Australian government research institute has revealed.

The accuracy of genetic testing has been significantly improved particularly in people with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome, a rare, inherited cancer predisposition syndrome caused by faults in the TP53 gene, which significantly increases the risk of developing multiple types of cancer, according to a news release of the

QIMR Berghofer (formerly the Queensland Institute of Medical Research) on Monday.The study by researchers at QIMR Berghofer, collaborating with Spain's Hospital Clinico San Carlos and US--based Ambray Genetics, shows how integrating new computer-based predictions with existing genetic models enhances the classification of genetic variants, helping distinguish between harmless mutations and those likely to cause cancer.These improved methods can guide more accurate diagnoses and enable targeted clinical

management, such as early screening and preventative treatment, said the study published in the American Journal of Human Genetics.

"Li-Fraumeni Syndrome is rare, but for the people affected it's extremely important to give them certainty," said lead author Nitsan Rotenberg from QIMR Berghofer.Accurately identifying harmful variants allows individuals to receive intensive monitoring and early interventions, Rotenberg said.Their approach includes using tools that predict structural changes in

proteins caused by gene variants and assess how these changes affect protein stability. This combined method reduces uncertainty around TP53 variants, crucial for high-risk families where the chance of developing cancer by age 60 can be as high as 95 percent, said the research team led by QIMR Berghofer Prof Amanda Spurdle.

Using protein structure predictions enhances the ability to interpret the growing number of unclassified variants, ultimately improving care and informing global clinical guidelines, Spurdle said.





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PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT: PATH TO PROGRESS AND WELFARE FOR ALL



# Japan triumph in EAP Qualifier to book U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 ticket



Sano, April 29 (UNI) : Japan became the 14th nation to seal their place at the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026, with a dominant 115-run victory over Fiji, capping a scintillating, unbeaten week at the East Asia-Pacific Qualifier here.

The home side began the week with impressive wins over PNG (by 106 runs and by 71 runs) and Fiji (6 wickets) and arrived at Monday's fixture knowing a second victory over the latter would see them advance to their second U19 Men's CWC.

Winning the toss and electing to bat first without their usual captain Nikhil Pol, the opening pair of Hugo Tani-Kelly (38 runs) and Nihar Parmar (36) made a solid start, putting on 78 runs before

Parmar fell, bowled by

Liga Manara. The dismissal of Tani-Kelly with the scores at 91 for two prompted a mini-collapse for Japan but critical contributions from Charlie Hara-Hinze (21) and Kazuma Kato-Stafford (25) helped steer them to a competitive 167 all out in 43 overs. Joeli Moala and Manara were the pick of the bowlers for Fiji, recording three for 33 and two for 29 respectively.

With the biggest chase of the competition on the cards, Fiji began with Maika Kamikamica and Peni Mawa aiming to see off the opening bowlers, but it only took until the end of the sixth over for their resistance to be broken, with both openers losing their wickets in successive balls to Kato-Stafford and Tani-Kelly. The wicket of Vakatawa Jone brought

Manav Narayan to the crease, and despite a rearguard innings of 20 from 35 balls, Fiji were undone by the talented Japanese bowling lineup, losing wickets at regular intervals with Hara-Hinze (four for 13) and Parmar (three for no runs and a run out) tearing through their middle and lower order.

Parmar picked up the final wicket with Fiji well short on the scorecards for Japan to seal a 115-run win and a World Cup place in front of jubilant home support, an ICC media release said.

Reacting to their qualification, Japan captain Pol, said: "We are so excited about qualifying for the World Cup. It's the biggest event on the U19 calendar and to follow in the footsteps of the team in 2020 makes us extremely

proud. "I can't wait to represent our country in Africa next year."

The final day of the event on Tuesday saw PNG get their first win, beating Fiji by seven wickets in a rain-affected match, and following the conclusion of the action, the Japanese duo of Hara-Hinze and Parmar were recognised as the standout performers across the week – Parmar taking home the Batter and Bowler of the Tournament awards (121 runs and 13 wickets from his four matches), while Hara-Hinze picked up the Player of the Tournament prize (92 runs and 12 wickets).

Japan had more reason to celebrate soon after, with no fewer than five players included in the Team of the Tournament. Captain Pol was named alongside Parmar, Hara-Hinze, Tani-

Kelly and Skyler Nakayama-Cook, with the remaining spots filled by Narayan, Moala and Manara of Fiji, plus Gaba Frank, Vagi Vani and Anthony David of PNG.

Sixteen teams will be competing at the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 in Zimbabwe and Namibia. Ten teams automatically qualified for the event as the best-placed Full Member nations from the 2024 edition: Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and West Indies. Full Member hosts of the World Cup in 2026, Zimbabwe have also secured automatic qualification.

The remaining five spots are determined through regional qualification pathways, with only the winning team from each regional Qualifier advancing to the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026. Tanzania became the first team to qualify through this route last month with victory at the Africa Qualifier, while Afghanistan also booked their World Cup ticket after clinching the recent Asia Qualifier in Nepal. Victory in Sano means Japan are the 14th team to qualify, with Qualifiers in Europe and Americas still to follow in July and August where the final teams will be confirmed.

## Rising star of India Pratika Rawal breaks longstanding batting record

Colombo, April 29 (UNI) : India top-order batter Pratika Rawal added another accolade to her growing list of achievements, when she became the fastest player to reach 500 runs in Women's One Day Internationals.

In doing so, she has broken the record set by England legend Charlotte Edwards almost three decades back in 1997.

Rawal achieved the feat in just eight innings, and achieved the feat during her brilliant knock of 78 against South Africa in the ongoing tri-series in Sri Lanka. She overtook Charlotte's record by a single innings.

India posted 276/6

following a strong batting display in the first innings

This also makes Rawal the second-fastest player, across men's and women's cricket, to achieve the 500-run mark in ODI cricket.

South Africa's Janneman Malan has achieved this feat in seven innings in Men's cricket, an ICC report said.

In her nascent ODI career, Pratika Rawal has amassed five half-centuries and a century, taking her total to an impressive 572 runs. She has achieved this at a blistering strike rate of 92.71 and an outstanding average of 81.71.

Rawal has three Player of the Match awards and a

Player of the Series award to her name, not including the ongoing contest against South Africa, and looks well in contention to break the record for fastest to 1000 runs in Women's ODIs.

The current record is held by Australia's Lindsay Reeler, who achieved the feat in 23 innings. Reeler is followed by compatriots Meg Lanning and Nicole Bolton, who are jointly placed at the second place and achieved the landmark in 25 innings. Another Australia legend, Belinda Clark is tied with South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt in fourth place, having reached 1000 ODI runs in 27 innings.

## Kalinga Super Cup semi-finals : Last four begin summit climb

Bhubaneswar, April 29 (UNI) : After more than a week of gruelling action, the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 has only four remaining contenders.

The semi-finals will take place on Wednesday, with Mohun Bagan SG taking on FC Goa (16:30) and Mumbai City FC locking horns with Jamshedpur FC (20:00) at the Kalinga Stadium.

After a record-breaking league campaign, winning the ISL Shield and Cup, and already booking a place in next season's AFC Champions League Two, Mohun Bagan SG travelled to Bhubaneswar with a young squad for what coach Bastab Roy labelled as an "exposure trip".

The Mariners left Kerala Blasters FC stunned, beating them 2-1 in the quarter-finals, and are just two wins away from a domestic treble.

FC Goa, who finished second in the ISL, however, will be a tougher ask than the Blasters, according to Roy. The Gaurs were one of the only two sides to beat them during the regular season.

"FC Goa are, without a doubt, a better and a stronger team than Kerala Blasters. So my job is not easy. But my players are focussed and ready.

"It's an exposure trip for the young boys and some seniors as well. It's a semi-final and I've told my boys to enjoy the game," said Roy in the pre-match press conference. Mohun Bagan certainly did enjoy their outing against the Blasters on Saturday, with Salahudheen Adnan K, being the highlight performer. The 21-year-old bagged an assist and picked up the

Kalinga Player of the Match award. But Roy tried to tone down the buzz, stressing that it's important for the youngsters to keep their

focus on the next game and put on consistent performances.

He also stated that game-by-game is the way to go in knockout tournaments.

"We can't judge players with one match. Let's not hype the boys too much because they are very young. Let them play.

"We're not thinking about being champions right now. Winning the first match was good for us because we now get one more chance. Obviously, it's a semi-final and if we win, we will get a chance to play the final, and then we'll think of being the champions," Roy added.

FC Goa head coach Manolo Márquez spoke on similar lines. The Gaurs have reached the semi-finals after two victories, a breezy 3-0 defeat of Gokulam Kerala FC, followed by a nerve-racking 2-1 comeback win over Punjab FC on Saturday. Márquez now stands two wins away from his first silverware with FC Goa. "Everyone knows that you have to win four games to be the champion. Every game is very difficult. Winning a trophy is very important," the Spaniard said. FC Goa are billed as favourites for this clash, owing to their full strength, but Márquez emphasised that the number of foreign players is not an indication of a team's strength, citing examples from the Kalinga Super Cup so far.

"Mohun Bagan are here with half the squad of the main team, and the other half were champions of the Reliance Foundation Development League two weeks ago. I think that the game will be very difficult because they have nothing to lose. This is the reality. They have already won two trophies. They already have the slot for the Asian competition.

## Sciver-Brunt replaces Knight as England captain

London, April 29 (UNI) : England have appointed all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt as their new captain.

Sciver-Brunt, 32, replaces Heather Knight after nine years in the role and is just the fourth permanent women's captain since 2000.

Knight was sacked in March as a result of a review into the humiliating 16-0 Ashes defeat earlier in the year.

Head coach Jon Lewis was also removed from his position and has been replaced by legendary former captain Charlotte Edwards.

"I'm really proud to take on the role of captain and it's an honour to have been asked by Charlotte, someone I've always looked up to," said Sciver-Brunt. "Ever since I made my England debut back in 2013, all I have wanted to do is help the team in every way that I can. I will try my best to lead this team to success, while empowering them to be the best version of themselves.

"We have a really talented group, and we have a group that's united. It's a team I believe in and a team that can have a lot of success together."

Sciver-Brunt was the most likely candidate to take over, having been Knight's vice-captain, and is one of England's most experienced all-format cricketers, the BBC reported.

During the Ashes, she had stated her desire to fulfil the role when Knight's future remained uncertain,

and has previously led England in 11 T20s and once in one-day internationals, with nine of those being wins.

But Sciver-Brunt's appointment also felt inevitable considering England's lack of other leadership options, having failed to implement a proper succession plan despite the considerable length of Knight's tenure.

Spinners Charlie Dean, 24, and Sophie Ecclestone, 25, were other potential candidates but are lacking in captaincy experience.

England's home summer consists of white-ball series against West Indies and India, starting in May, while Sciver-Brunt's first major assignment will be the 50-over World Cup, which takes place in India in September. While Sciver-Brunt's record when stepping in as captain is positive, two of the three defeats have come in highly pressurised situations, again highlighting England's lack of structure without Knight. England failed to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2022 when Knight missed the tournament with a hip injury, and the team's fielding imploded against West Indies during the T20 World Cup in 2024, where they went out at the group stage. But Sciver-Brunt could benefit from the opportunity to lead in her own style rather than simply stepping into Knight's shoes for a brief time, while the partnership with Edwards is likely to be a significant boost.

## Barcelona, Inter to fight through fatigue in Champions League semifinal

Madrid, April 29 (UNI) : FC Barcelona plays Inter Milan on Wednesday night in a Champions League semifinal first leg tie that promises to be a duel between two tired sides.

Barca goes into the game after a dramatic 3-2 win over bitter rival Real Madrid in Saturday's Copa del Rey final, with Jules Kounde scoring an extra-time winner.

The title, and how it was won, will be a huge boost to Barca's morale, but the fact that the players had to endure extra time in a match that didn't finish until 1 a.m. also presents challenges to coach Hansi Flick.

Key players such as Kounde, Lamine Yamal,

Raphinha, Frenkie de Jong and Inigo Martinez all played over 100 minutes on Saturday, with most playing all 120 minutes.

Meanwhile, injuries to Alejandro Balde and Robert Lewandowski rob Barca of two key players and the ability to rotate its starting 11.

Balde should be available for the return leg, but Lewandowski's hamstring injury is likely to keep the top scorer out of both matches.

That means Flick may have to continue with Ferran Torres in attack, or he could consider playing either Gavi or Ferran Lopez as a false nine alongside Raphinha and Yamal.

Gerard Martin will

continue at left-back, although Martinez could move across if Flick wants to freshen up his defense with Ronald Araujo alongside Pau Cubarsi in the back four.

De Jong and Pedri will start in midfield despite Saturday's exertions, with Eric Garcia available to provide cover when tiredness sets in.

Inter's players are also looking tired as they travel to Montjuic, as a late-season drop in form threatens to derail the Nerazzurri's campaign.

Since reaching the Champions League semis in Europe, Simone Inzaghi's side has lost three consecutive games and failed to score a goal.

## Food by candlelight and no showers at Madrid Open

Madrid, April 29 (UNI) : Mirra Andreeva had just stepped up to the baseline to serve for a place in the Madrid Open quarter-finals when the power went out.

A sweeping outage left millions in Spain, Portugal and parts of France without power, causing chaos across many regions on Monday. At the Spanish tennis tournament, the electronic line-calling system went down, with players and the chair umpire left to call the lines, while the scoreboards also went dark. On the main court, where Britain's Jacob Fearnley was about to serve to stay in the match against Bulgarian Grigor

Dimitrov, the 'spider cam' that hovers above court stopped right in the players' eyeline, preventing them from serving, the BBC reported. Russia's Andreeva served out victory but admitted afterwards it wasn't easy, saying: "It was 15-40 on my serve and I was like, Oh, Mirra, just please, please do everything in your power to just take this game and finish this match." Across Spain, traffic lights went out and trains stopped running, with Brazilian doubles player Fernando Romboli posting on Instagram that he was stuck in a lift, external at the tournament for 30 minutes. Fearnley

and Dimitrov had to leave court with the match poised at 6-4 5-4 in Dimitrov's favour, while Andreeva, Coco Gauff and Italian Matteo Arnaldi managed to complete their respective victories. "So far, the toughest thing has been not been able to shower after my match," American Gauff said on Monday.

"There's no running water so I just had to take baby wipes and wipe myself, spray some perfume and call it a day." It's just crazy how much we depend on electricity. It's really insane." Photographs on social media showed the players' restaurant lit by candles, with some heading

out to practice before the lack of natural light made it impossible to continue.

"Everyone is using the phones with flashlights," Andreeva said, "but it's also kind of fun because everyone is talking together." The atmosphere is a little bit more friendly."

Gauff agreed, saying: "Most of the time we're trying to prepare for our matches, everyone's zoned in and we all understand that." I was talking to Frances [Tiafoe], talking to Mirra, too, Diana [Shnaider], Maddy [Keys]. "This is the type of situation, it's light-hearted, nobody knows when they're going to go on."

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# CR to extend periodicity of Special trains

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, April 29 : Central Railway will extend the run of special trains to clear the extra rush of the passengers as per details given below:  
1. Train No. 01435 from Solapur to Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Weekly Special, earlier notified up to April 29, 2025, and has been extended from 06.05.2025 to 24.06.2025. (8 Trips)  
Train no 01436 Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to Solapur Weekly Special, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 07.05.2025 to 25.06.2025. (8 Trips)  
2. Train no 01461 Solapur to Daund Junction Unreserved Daily special, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025

to 30.06.2025. (61Trips)  
Train no 01462 Daund Junction to Solapur Unreserved Daily special, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61 Trips).  
3. Train no 01465 Solapur to Kalaburagi Junction Unreserved Daily special, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61 Trips).  
Train no 01466 Kalaburagi Junction to Solapur Unreserved Daily special, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61 Trips).  
4. Train no 01024 Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Terminus (Kolhapur) to Pune, earlier notified to run upto April

30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61 Trips).  
Train no 01023 Pune to Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Terminus (Kolhapur), earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61 Trips).  
5. Train no 01211 Badnera Jn to Nashik Road Unreserved Daily special, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61Trips).  
Train no 01212 Nashik Road to Badnera Jn Unreserved Daily special, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61Trips).  
6. Train no 01487 Pune to Harangul, earlier notified to run upto April

30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61 Trips).  
Train no 01488 Harangul to Pune, earlier notified to run upto April 30, 2025 and has been extended from 01.05.2025 to 30.06.2025. (61Trips).  
7. Train no 01091 Khandwa Junction to Sanawad Unreserved special, earlier notified to run upto April 29, 2025 and has been extended from 02.05.2025 to 30.06.2025 (Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday). (44 Trips).  
Train no 01092 Sanawad to Khandwa Junction Unreserved special, earlier notified to run upto April 29, 2025 and has been extended from 02.05.2025 to 24.06.2025 (Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday). (44 Trips).  
**Revised Composition**

**for Train no. 01023 (Kolhapur – PUNE)w.e.f. 04.06.2025 and 01024 (Pune – Kolhapur) w.e.f.05.06.2025**  
One AC-3Tier, 07 Sleeper Class, 4 General Second Class, 1 General Second Class cum Guard’s Brake Van and 1 Generator Van.  
There will be no change in timings and halts for above mentioned trains.  
Reservation: Bookings for extended trips of Special Trains no 01435, 01436, 01024, 01023, 01487 and 01488 on special charges is open on 30th April 2025 at all computerised reservation centres and on website www.ircct.co.in  
For detailed timings at halts of this special train please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App.

# Special Traffic and Power Blocks on UP and DN SE line for Removing and Stringing of 3 Phase double Circuit Phase and Earth conductor for 400 KV crossing between Kalyan and Karjat : Central Railway

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, April 29 : Central Railway will operate Special Traffic and Power Blocks on UP and DN SE line for Removing and Stringing of 3 Phase double Circuit Phase and Earth conductor for 400 KV Nagothanae – Padhaga line crossing over UP and DN SE line at KM no 97/8-9 between Bhivpuri Road – Karjat Section between Kalyan Karjat Section.  
The blocks are to be operated are under:-  
Date of Blocks: - 29/

30.04.2025 (Tuesday – Wednesday Night), 30.04/01.05.2025 (Wednesday- Thrusday Night), 01/02.05.2025 (Thursday-Friday Night),02/03.05.2025 (Friday –Saturday Night) 03/04.05.2025 (Saturday-Sunday Night), 04/05.2025 (Sunday- Monday Night).  
Duration of Blocks:- 02:00 hrs to 03:30 hrs (01:30 hrs)  
Traffic Block Sections: - UP and DN SE line Bhivpuri Road to Karjat.  
Repercussions due to

the Block:  
Diversion of Mail/ Express trains:-  
The Following trains will divert via Karjat- Panvel-Diva and will arrive destination 20-30” min late.  
1) 1 1 0 2 0 (Bhubaneswar – CSMT Express)  
2) 1 8 5 1 9 (Visakhapatnam– LTT Express)  
3) 12702 (Hyderabad – CSMT Express)  
4) 11140 (Hosapete – CSMT Express)  
5) 2 2 7 1 8

(Secunderabad – Rajkot)  
6) 1 6 6 1 4 (Coimbatore – Rajkot)  
7) 20967 (Secunderabad – Porbander)  
8) 12755 (Kakinada Forts – Bhavnagar)  
Note :-  
• Kalyan halting trains will be given halt at Panvel/ Thane for the benefit of Kalyan boarding and deboarding passengers.  
• Apart from above, late running mail / express trains/ Holiday specials if

any also be diverted as per operational requirement.  
Working of Suburban train during the block period:-  
1. Suburban train leaving CSMT at 00.12 hrs for Karjat will be short terminated at Badlapur and this train will cancelled between Badlapur and karjat.  
2. Suburban train leaving Karjat at 2:30 hrs for CSMT will be short originated at Badlapur at 03:03 hrs and this train will cancelled between Karjat and Badlapur.

# Mohammad Shamsuddin, Congratulates Justice Shameem Akther on Appointment as THRC Chairperson



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Hyderabad, April 29 : M o h a m m a d Shamsuddin,Academia Sports Village CEO and Multisports Promoter has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Justice Shameem Akther on his recent appointment as

Chairperson of the Telangana Human Rights Commission (THRC).  
Justice Akther, a retired judge of the Telangana High Court, has been appointed to lead the commission for a three-year term. Widely respected for his judicial acumen and

integrity, Justice Akther recently chaired a one-man judicial commission formed by the Telangana government to examine and recommend sub-categorisation among Scheduled Castes. His thorough and impactful report paved the way for

the historic SC Sub-Categorisation Bill, passed by the state government in March 2025. The bill aims to ensure a fairer distribution of reservations among SC sub-castes in sectors such as education and public employment.  
Mr. Shamsuddin lauded Justice Akther’s lifelong commitment to justice, equality, and human rights, stating, “Justice Shameem Akther’s appointment is a step in the right direction for Telangana. His principled approach and in-depth understanding of social justice will undoubtedly strengthen the THRC’s efforts in protecting the rights of the vulnerable and marginalised.”  
Justice Akther’s leadership is expected to bring renewed vigor to the THRC, particularly in addressing pressing human rights issues across the state.

# Uttarakhand CM meets Union Civil Aviation Minister to enhance air connectivity

New Delhi, April 29 (UNI) : Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu here on Tuesday and discussed ways to develop the aviation sector in the state.  
Dhami informed the Union Minister that a total

of 524.78 acres of land has been transferred by the Uttarakhand Government to the Airports Authority of India for increasing the runway length of Pantnagar Airport from 1,372 meters to 3,000 meters.  
The Master Plan of Pantnagar Airport has been prepared by Airports

Authority of India (AAI). He requested the Union Minister to expedite the work of AAI.  
Dhami also urged Naidu to expand the Jolly Grant Airport and extend its operations till midnight. He said the move would enable more passengers to avail of the air services.  
Dhami requested Naidu

to start regular air services from Naini Saini Airport (Pithoragarh) to Indira Gandhi International Airport (New Delhi) (RCS UDAN) under the Regional Connectivity Scheme to benefit the local people.  
Dhami said Pithoragarh being a remote district, air connectivity will be very useful for the movement of

the locals. Pithoragarh district is also very sensitive from the security point of view due to its border with Tibet (China) and Nepal.He requested the aviation minister to open 'House of Himalayas' stalls at Dehradun, Pithoragarh and Pantnagar airports so that local products can be promoted.

# MANUU fraternity condemns Pahalgam terror attack, pays homage to the victims



**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Hyderabad, April 29 : Staff Associations of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) held a candlelight March procession to pay homage to the tourists and locals killed in Pahalgam. The procession observed two minutes silence to pay homage to the victims and conveyed a clear message of solidarity with the victims and their families.  
The President MANUU Teachers Association and FEDCUTA V.P, Dr. Shabana Kesar while condemning

the act said that today the whole India stands united against the brutal attack on the innocent tourists in Pahalgam and wants the terrorists to be identified and duly punished.  
Secretary MANUU Officers Association Dr. Aslam Parwez vehemently condemned the ruthless act and said that no religion teaches hatred and no terrorist acts can be justified on any ground.  
President MANUU Employees Welfare Association Mr. Shaik Naveed, described it as an

attack not only on tourists but on the whole nation and said the government must take all needed steps to stop such attacks in future.  
Dr. Jameel Ahamed, Mr. Dharamjeet, Mr.Shanawaz Ali Qureshi and others also addressed the gathering.  
The procession started from the Administrative Building and concluded at MANUU main gate.  
A large number of faculties, officers, staff members and students participated in the procession.

# Special Traffic and Power Blocks for Replacement of exiting steel girder by PSC slab of Bridge no 106/4 between Pen and Kasu : CR

**(Standard Post Bureau)**  
Mumbai, April 29 : Central Railway will operate Special Traffic and Power Blocks for Replacement of exiting steel girder by PSC slab of of bridge no 106/4 at KM 106/8-9 between Pen and Kasu.  
The details of blocks to be operated are as under:  
Repercussions due to the Block:  
**Block 1 on 30.04.2025 (Wednesday) from 07:30 hrs to 12:00 hrs (4:30 Hrs)**  
Block Section :- UP Roha – Pen Line :- Kasu To Pen “ RCF line – Pen to JSWD  
**Regulation of trains:**

50104 Ratnagiri-Diva passenger will be regulated 35 min at Nagothane. “DN trains :- 22119 (CSMT – Madgaon Express), 12618 (Hazrat Nizamuddin – Emakulam), 10105 (Divi – Sawantwadi Road), 10103 (CSMT – Madgaon Express), 10115 (Bandra Terminus – Madgaon express) during the block period will pass with caution order of 20 kmph with stop dead and proceed.  
**Block 2 on 01.05.2025 (Thrusday) from 06:30 hrs to 11:30 hrs (5:00 Hrs)**  
Block Section :- RCF line – Pen to JSWD

Repercussions due to the Block:  
1 2 4 8 3 (Thiruvananthapuram North – Amritsar Jn), 61016 (Roha Diva Memu) during the block period will pass with caution order of 20 kmph with stop dead and proceed.  
Passengers are requested to plan their travel accordingly and bear with the Railway Administration for the inconvenience caused. These blocks are essential for safe execution of infrastructure work aimed at improving railway operation and safety.

# J&K closes 48 tourist destinations following Pahalgam attack

Srinagar, April 29 (UNI) : Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have shut down 48 resorts and tourist destinations across the Valley amid security concerns, officials said on Tuesday.  
The decision comes in the wake of a comprehensive security audit conducted across 87 tourist locations in all districts, following last week’s deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local resident. The audit was aimed at identifying security vulnerabilities and bolstering safety measures at major tourist destinations.  
Among the prominent destinations now off-limits to tourists is Gurez, a valley on the Line of Control (LoC) in

Bandipora district that attracted thousands of tourists over the last decade.  
The other top destinations closed include Yousmarg and Doodhpathri in Budgam; Aharbal, Kounsarnag, and Verinag in south Kashmir; Kaman Post on LoC in Baramulla; and the picturesque Bangus Valley in Kupwara.  
In Srinagar city, the government has decided not to allow the tourists from visiting Jamia Masjid, the grand mosque located in the old city.  
The famous resorts like Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg would remain open for tourists.  
Authorities emphasized that the

tourist spots which remain open have been provided with enhanced security arrangements to ensure safety of visitors.  
The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department has also closed all its trekking routes for tourists. Over the past four years, both locals and non-local visitors had increasingly flocked to Kashmir’s meadows and alpine trails, especially during the summer trekking season.  
While the Valley had witnessed a rise in tourist arrivals in recent years, the Pahalgam attack has dealt a severe blow to the tourism industry. Over the last six days, several tourists have left Kashmir while many others have cancelled their coming travel plans to Kashmir.