

IN BRIEF

4 people, including 3 children, drowned in irrigation tank

Kadapa, April 26 (UNI) : In a tragic incident, four people, including three children, were drowned in an irrigation tank at Patha Mulakala Cheruvu village of Mulakala Cheruvu mandal of Annamayya district in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday.

Police said that a woman, Eeshwaramma, went to the irrigation tank to wash clothes. Her daughter Lavanya and son Nanda Kishore went to the tank with her. Sometime later, their neighbor Nandita also went to the tank.

Three children Lavanya (12), Nandita (11) and Nanda Kishore entered the tank for a bath. They slipped and started drowning. The husband of Easwaramma, Mallesh (36) went to their rescue but he was also drowned. The four bodies were fished out from the tank.

Eeshwaramma, who lost her husband, son and daughter, was seen grieving inconsolably. A pall of gloom descended on Patha Mulakala Cheruvu village with the death of four people. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem.

ACB raids Kaleshwaram former ENC's residence

Hyderabad, April 26 (UNI) : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials conducted searches at the residence of the former Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) Hariram, who was associated with the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) project, in Shaikpet here on Saturday.

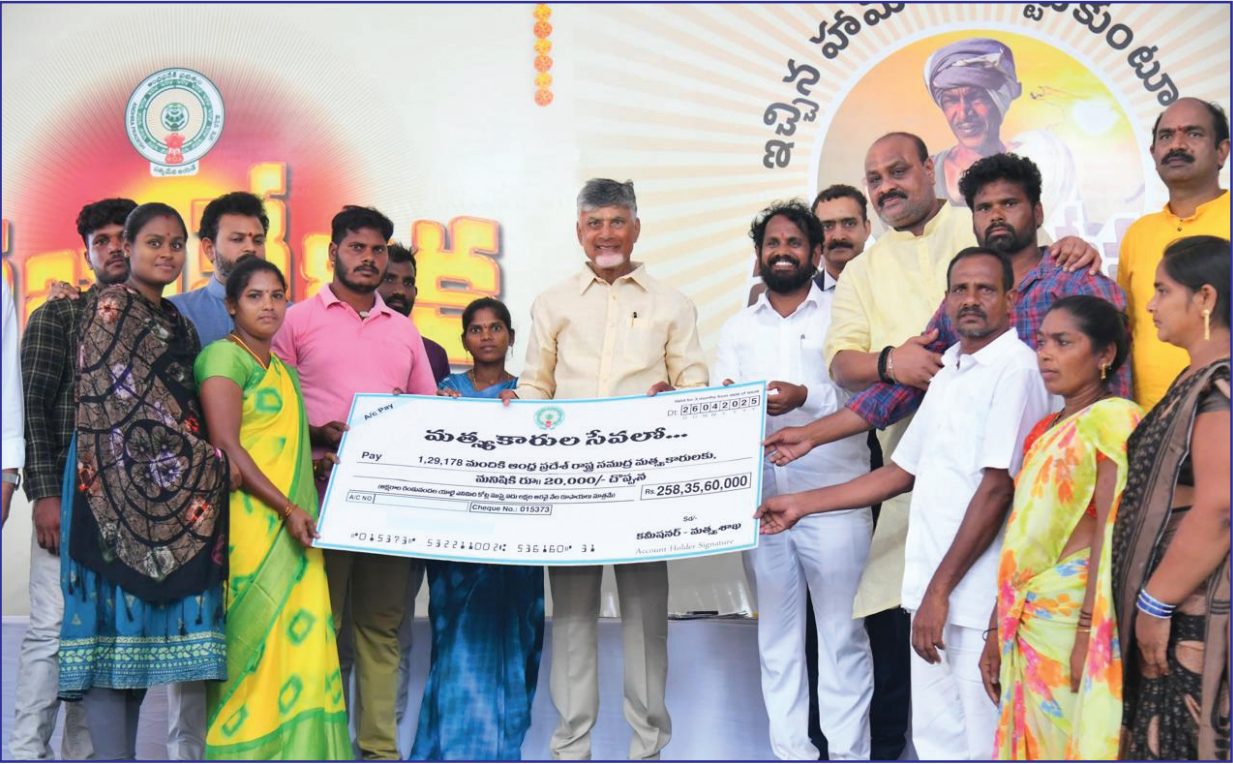
Along with Hariram's residence, simultaneous raids are also being carried out at other places in the state, according to ACB sources here.

The raids are reportedly based on the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) report concerning the multi-crore Kaleshwaram project.

Hariram is known to have played a key role in the construction of the project.

The ACB teams are thoroughly examining documents and computers as part of the investigation.

CM appeals to those who benefited with government schemes to help poor



(Standard Post Bureau)
Srikakulam, April 26 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday gave a call to those who have financially become prosperous with the help of government schemes to assist the poor in society and support them to grow strong.

The Chief Minister launched the 'Matchakarula sevalo' (in service of the fishermen) scheme at Budagatlapalem village in Etcherla Assembly segment of Srikakulam district.

Later, addressing the Praja Vedika programme on

Zero Poverty-P4, Naidu felt that poverty should be eliminated completely. He said that "We have launched the programme for the uplift of the poor in every way by not only providing government schemes but also by extending assistance through Margadarsi (mentors)."

Making it clear those regular reviews will be conducted on how the mentors are extending help to the families which they have adopted; the Chief Minister said that his sole aim is to see to it that the State gets rid of poverty completely by 2029.

He felt that there will be no economic imbalances if those who have come up financially come to the rescue of the poor. Later, Naidu felicitated the Margadarsi (mentors).

Quantum technology plays major role in future development : APSCHE Chairman

(Standard Post Bureau)
Kakinada, April 26 : Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) Chairman Prof K. Madhu Murthy on Saturday said that quantum technology plays a major role in the future development and it will revolutionize communication, computing, sensing and many other fields. He was speaking as the chief guest at the two-day awareness session on 'quantum science and technology' for faculty members of JNTUK and its affiliate colleges, engineering and degree colleges of various states in collaboration with Quantum ecosystem technology council of India (QETCI) and National Quantum Mission in alumni auditorium here.

Prof Madhu Murthy said under the new educational policy, conventional degree courses would be designed as professional courses to give priority to quantum technology and a new curriculum will be designed

175 detained in major crackdown across Anantnag after Pahalgam attack

Srinagar, April 26 (UNI) : Following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, security forces have launched a massive crackdown across Anantnag district, detaining around 175 suspects for questioning, police said.

Over the last four days, joint teams of the Anantnag Police, Army, CRPF, and other agencies have been conducting extensive cordon and search operations across the district, targeting suspected hideouts and support networks.

"As part of these operations, numerous raids were conducted at various locations throughout the district. Day and night search operations are underway with heightened vigilance. So far, around 175 suspected have been detained for questioning to dismantle the support networks aiding terrorist activities," a police statement said.

Earlier this week a deadly terror attack took place on tourists in the picturesque Baisaran meadow near the famous resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which claimed 26 lives. After the attack, security agencies launched a massive operation in several districts and detained suspects for questioning. In Anantnag to further enhance security, additional Mobile Vehicle Check Points (MVCPs) have been established across the district to monitor suspicious movements and ensure public safety.

"Moreover, Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs), ambushes, and intensified patrolling have been launched, particularly in high-density forest areas, to flush out any possible terrorist presence and secure the district," police said. Security forces have also stepped up vigilance in

Ganderbal district of central Kashmir as mountain ranges in the district are connected with Anantnag.

Police said in view of prevailing scenario so as to liquidate the threat perceptions, Ganderbal Police along with Army, elite Para, CRPF and SSB have adapted an aggressive approach and started combing operations especially in those areas where anti-national elements can possibly take refuge or had connection with the Over ground Workers (OGWs) and other supporters.

"This time the security forces have established a sound security matrix and are strategically targeting the areas close to the forest line and close to the snow line. During this course, house to house searches are being conducted and the suspected persons are being interrogated," Police said.

India, Pakistan exchange gunfire

Srinagar, April 26 (UNI) : Amid the escalating tensions, Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire overnight across the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, Army sources said on Saturday. They said the small arms firing was "initiated by Pakistan" and it was "effectively responded to".

Army said during the intervening night of April 25-26, unprovoked small firing was carried out by various Pakistan Army posts all across LoC in Kashmir.

"Indian troops responded appropriately with small arms," they said, adding that no casualties were reported during the exchange of fire. This is the second consecutive night when the Pakistan Army opened small arms fire at several locations along the LoC. Defence officials said Pakistani troops over the last two nights have been resorting to small arms fire along the LoC out of fear that the Indian Army might launch a cross-border operation.

Uppada fishing harbour to be completed within five months: Minister

(Standard Post Bureau)
Kakinada, April 26 : Minister for Roads and Buildings, Investments and infrastructure development B.C. Janardhana Reddy on Saturday said that the fishing harbour under construction at Aminabada near Uppada would be completed within five months and will be dedicated to the fishermen.

During his intensive tour of Kakinada district on Saturday, the Minister inspected the fishing harbour works along with the officials of Maritime Board, peoples representatives and instructed the officials to expedite the construction.

Ex TDP MLA SVSN Varna along with his supporters accorded a rousing reception to the Minister.

After interacting with the local fishermen on their problems, Reddy said that during 2018, the Telugu Desam Government had sanctioned Rs 361 crore for Uppada fishing harbour.

Due to obvious reasons, the construction of the fishing harbour was delayed.

Under the instructions from Chief Minister N

Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, efforts are being made to complete the harbour and dedicate it to the fishermen' the Minister added.

Earlier, accompanied by Kakinada city MLA Kondababu, Kavali MLA Daggumati Venkata Krishna Reddy, Maritime Board CEO Praveen Aditya, he visited Perumallapuram in Thondangi mandal and inspected the laying of tetrapods and boulders for the breakwater of the Kakinada Gateway port which is under construction.



ONOE will strengthen democratic system further: Keshav Maurya

Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya on Saturday said that one nation-one election (ONOE) will further strengthen the democratic system of the country as it will promote economic savings, administrative efficiency and national unity. While addressing the seminar on One Nation-One Election organised by the University Nutan Puratan Educational Family in the Malviya Auditorium of Lucknow University, the Deputy CM said, "Due to frequent elections, administrative work gets disrupted and policy decisions get delayed."

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Badal appeals to electorate of Ludhiana West to support ...



Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today appealed to the electorate of Ludhiana West to support the SAD in the forthcoming by-election to "pave the way for the end of gangster culture, drug menace and terrorism".

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Iran, US still have differences over nuclear program : Minister



Tehran and Washington still have differences over Iran's nuclear program, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday. "We have disagreements on both general issues and details. Before the next meeting, we will conduct additional analysis in our capitals on how to reduce the disagreements,"

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Karna Kadur maintains pace to extend lead in APRC



Bengaluru ace Karna Kadur came up with a mature drive to open a sizable lead in the FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship promoted by Vamcy Merla which is part of the Indu Chandhok Memorial 48th South India Rally, here on Saturday.

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Larsen & Toubro (L&T) staff and engineers celebrate the break-through of India’s longest rail tunnel in Janasu, Uttarakhand. The 14.57 km long tunnel between Devprayag and Janasu achieved a breakthrough on April 16, 2025 in the presence of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Govt should take strict steps against terror: Akhilesh Yadav

Kushinagar (UP), April 26 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said the central government should take strict steps against terrorism, terrorists and the whole country is with the government.

While talking to the reporters, after paying tribute to former MLA Purnamasi Dehati and former district president Shukrulla Ansar, Akhilesh said, "We hope that the government will take concrete steps. The incident of terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir is very sad and condemnable. We all are with the martyr families from Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat, Haryana and other states of the country," he said.

He said that in the all-party meeting, all the parties are standing with the government against this attack. "The decisions taken by the government to answer Pakistan and against the terrorists, all are

with the government. The country wants that an incident like Pahalgam should not happen in future," he said.

He said, "The government has support in every way. It is hoped that the intelligence will not fail in future. There will be no lapse in security. Regarding this incident, everyone is saying that there was an intelligence failure of the government. There was no arrangement for the safety of the tourists."

The SP chief said that every citizen of the country, elders, children and everyone is worried about this incident. "The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has taken all the decisions regarding Jammu and Kashmir in an arbitrary manner."

He said, "The government had assured the people that there would be no terrorist incidents, but it is sad that the incident happened even after that. The BJP

government cannot escape its responsibility. We hope that the government will implement the assurances given regarding the security of the country, protection of borders and economy."

Akhilesh said that our army is very brave but the BJP government has demoralised the youth by bringing the Agniveer scheme in the army. "The youth wants to serve the country by staying in the army. He wants a permanent uniform and a permanent job. Many youth from villages of all the districts of the state including Kushinagar and Ghazipur used to prepare on a large scale to join the army, but there is disappointment among the youth due to the introduction of the Agniveer scheme," he said.

In response to a question, he said that one should not be selective in the matter of visiting someone's house. "I go to many places but BJP people

do not go. SP leaders and workers have already gone to Shubham Dwivedi's house in Kanpur. We did not go but our people went. Our visit is not a matter of politics. BJP and its leaders are doing politics," he said.

Demanding Rs 5 crore rupees and a government job for the families of those martyred in the terrorist incident, he said that the day the government gives Rs 5 crore rupees and a government job, I will also go to the house of martyr Shubham Dwivedi of Kanpur.

The SP chief said that the intentions of the people of BJP are bad. "The government should ban those who give a different direction to the incident. The whole country and all the people are standing in grief of the martyred comrades. BJP should not do politics on this serious issue. The kind of picture posted from the verified social media account of BJP also saddened the supporters of BJP," he claimed.

Joint action by Excise dept, other agencies deal to liquor mafia in UP

Lucknow, April 26 (UNI) : A major crackdown on the illegal liquor trade is underway across Uttar Pradesh with joint operations by the Excise Department, Police and administrative teams leading to extensive raids, vehicle checks and secret investigations, resulting in the seizure of 5,838.57 litres of illicit liquor and the arrest of several offenders across multiple districts, sources said here on Saturday.

Sources said that the joint teams of the Excise Department and Police carried out extensive raids in rural areas across several districts including Moradabad, Sitapur, Unnao, Gorakhpur, Sultanpur, Pilibhit, Gonda, Balrampur, Bahraich, Hardoi, Kushinagar, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Jhansi, Rampur, Prayagraj, Ambedkar Nagar, Barabanki, Siddharth Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar, Muzaffarnagar, Lalitpur, Muzaffarnagar, Basti, Meerut, Mirzapur, Shravasti, Jaunpur, Sonbhadra, Fatehpur, Hamirpur and Bareilly. Sources said that

among the districts, Lakhimpur Kheri reported the highest seizures. "In Jhansi, authorities recovered 590 litres of illicit raw liquor during operations," they said.

Sources said that in Unnao, raids in villages like Champa Purwa, Mohan, Nyotani, Shakurabad, Rampur, Mawaiya, Kedar Kheda and Rasoolpur Majhwa led to the seizure of 280 litres of illegal liquor and the destruction of 700 kilograms of molasses.

Sources said that similarly, in Lakhimpur Kheri, operations in villages such as Gulouli Basbirwa, Basantapur, Kusmi Colony, Bhatpurwa, Baikuan Rahjaniya, Nayagaon and Jamuniya Kadhile resulted in the confiscation of 300 litres of illicit liquor and the destruction of 1,270 kilograms of molasses.

Sources said that the excise teams also uncovered illicit liquor production at brick kilns in Gorakhpur, Sultanpur, Pilibhit and Deoria. "In Gorakhpur and Deoria, authorities seized 20 litres

of raw liquor and destroyed 100 kilograms of lahan. In Sultanpur, 35 litres of illegal liquor were seized and 150 kilograms of lahan were destroyed," they said.

Sources said that the crackdown resulted in the large-scale destruction of lahan, which is used in the production of illicit liquor. "A total of 16,280 kilograms (162.8 quintals) of lahan were destroyed across various districts, with major operations in Lakhimpur Kheri (1,950 kg and 1,750 kg) and Jhansi (1,000 kg)," they said.

Sources said that a total of 28 individuals were arrested during the operation. "Arrests included three women and four others in Unnao, two women in Jhansi, one person in Pilibhit and three people in Gautam Buddh Nagar, Lalitpur, Hamirpur, and Fatehpur. Besides, three smugglers were arrested in Unnao for smuggling foreign liquor," they said.

Sources said that District Excise Officers in Rampur and Muzaffarnagar also conducted surprise inspections at liquor shops.

4 killed as loaded truck overturns on ambulance

Nirzapur (UP), April 26 (UNI) : Four persons, including a pregnant woman and her mother, were killed when a truck loaded with gravel overturned on the ambulance near Chhato in Ahraura area of Mirzapur district here in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, a police officer said here.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Manjari Rao said that on Saturday afternoon, Surajbali Kharwar (26), Hiravati Devi (25), residents of Kanhara village under Obra police station area, Malti Devi (45), a resident of Jugail Kothi, her husband Kaushal and relative Suraj were going to a hospital in Varanasi for the delivery of pregnant Hiravati.

He said that near Chhato Trimohani village on the Varanasi-Sonbhadra highway the truck loaded with gravel lost balance and overturned on the ambulance. "The police, who arrived after getting information from the local people, somehow managed to take everyone out with the help of a crane and cutter and took them to the primary health centre where doctors declared Suraj, Hiravati Devi, Malti and ambulance driver Ramu dead," he said. The DSP said that Hiravati's husband Kaushal and ambulance assistant Bhandari Sharma were injured. "Both have been sent to Varanasi Trauma Centre where the condition of both is said to be serious," he said.

Pick-up vehicle runs over sweepers: Six killed, five injured

Chandigarh, April 26 (UNI) : At least six sweepers were killed and five others were injured when a pickup vehicle ran over them on the Delhi-Mumbai Motorway near Ebrahim Baas Village in Firozpur-Jhinka of Nuh district in Haryana, police sources said on Saturday.

Police said that the sweepers were engaged in road cleaning work at around 1000 hrs when the incident occurred.

Injured persons have been rushed to a nearby hospital. Details are awaited.

Six JBT teachers suspended for misconduct, unauthorized absence

Shimla, April 26 (UNI) : The Himachal Pradesh government has suspended six Junior Basic Training (JBT) teachers across the state for alleged gross misconduct, including absence from duty and participation in protests against government policies. In Shimla district, Ranveer Chauhan (JBT) and Dalveer Singh (JBT) from Government Primary School, Shilal, Education Block Kupvi, were placed under suspension after a surprise inspection on April 25.

The Block Elementary Education officer (BEEO) Kupvi found the school premises completely deserted, with both staff and students absent without any prior intimation. All rooms were locked during working hours, leading to serious concerns regarding negligence towards official duties. Among those suspended is Jagdish Sharma (JBT) posted at Government Composite Primary School, Kiartu, Education Block Theog, District Shimla.; Sanjay (Head Teacher) from GPS Hangloh, Education Block Palampur, District Kangra; Pratap Thakur (JBT) of GPS Dhang Ruhana, Education Block Sataun, District Sirmour, and Ram Singh Rao (Head Teacher) of GPS Purana Bazar, Education Block Sundernagar, District Mandi, have been placed under suspension.

UNSC strongly condemns Pahalgam terror attack, asks for perpetrators to be brought to justice

United Nations/New Delhi, April 26 (UNI) : The UN Security Council has condemned in the strongest terms the Pahalgam terror attack and underlined the need to hold its perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors accountable and bring them to justice.

In a statement, the UN Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation.

The statement read:

"The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on 22 April, during which at least 26 people were killed and many more injured.

"The members of the

Security Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of India and Government of Nepal and wished a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured. "The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

"The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.

"They stressed that those responsible for these killings should be held accountable, and urged all

States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard.

"The members of the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"They reaffirmed the need for all States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts."

Legal action to be taken for flying drones, UAV over Jewar airport: police

Lucknow, April 26 (UNI) : As per the directives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and security agencies, Noida International Airport (Jewar) has been declared a Red Zone (No-Drone Fly Zone) from October 8, 2024, a police spokesman said here on Saturday. The spokesman said that flying drones or any type of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) over and around Noida International Airport is completely prohibited. "This ban has been implemented keeping in mind the security of the airport and monitoring of the airspace," he said.

He said that flying a drone without permission in this area is a punishable offence under the Airports Authority of India Act-1934 and the rules related to UAV operations. "Legal action will be taken against any person, institution or group found violating this instruction. All citizens are requested to follow this rule and cooperate with the security system of the airport," he said.

Collector orders correction in Shajra Nasab record of Kanaura tribe

Kinnaur, April 26 (UNI) : District collector Dr Amit Kumar Sharma on Saturday ordered correction of clerical errors in "Shajra Nasab" Records under Section 38-A of the Himachal Pradesh (HP) Land Revenue Act, 1954.

In a notification, the decision was taken on several representations, applications and complaints received in this office from individuals and authorities regarding discrepancies in the entries of caste / tribe names in the Shajra Nasab (pedigree table) and other revenue records in District Kinnaur. H.P.; A single-page order

stated that complainants or grievances have pointed out that the name of the Scheduled Tribe community "Kanaura" / "Kinnara" as recognized under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976, is not being reflected accurately in the revenue records. After examination of settlement and field records, it has been observed that the primary tribe name has consistently been recorded as "Kinnaura" in various entries of Shajra Nasab, irrespective of the associated caste or sub-caste description.

ONOE will strengthen democratic system further: Keshav Maurya

Lucknow, April 26 (UNI) : Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya on Saturday said that one nation-one election (ONOE) will further strengthen the democratic system of the country as it will promote economic savings, administrative efficiency and national unity.

While addressing the seminar on One Nation-One Election organised by the University Nutan Puratan Educational Family in the Malviya Auditorium of Lucknow University, the Deputy CM said, "Due to frequent elections, administrative work gets disrupted and policy decisions get delayed. This problem will be solved by conducting simultaneous elections. There will be a reduction in the expenditure incurred in elections, due to which the savings will be made, which can be used in other development works," he said. He emphasised the need to discuss the benefits of one nation-one election among everyone in the villages.

Uttam warns of global threat to liberal democracy

Hyderabad, April 26 (UNI) : Irrigation Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy warned on Saturday that liberal values were facing an unprecedented assault across the world.

Delivering the vote of thanks at the closing session of the two-day Bharat Summit 2025 at HICC here, Uttam said that freedoms of thought, speech, arts, academia, assembly, and protest were under relentless attack by extreme right-wing and authoritarian regimes globally.

He said it was a matter of pride that the Bharat Summit was being hosted in Hyderabad, Telangana, under a Congress-led government that is firmly committed to upholding liberal, democratic values.

He described the gathering as one of the world's largest of progressives, liberals, democrats, activists, thinkers, doers, change-makers, and innovators in the humanities, assembled



at a time when the defence of fundamental freedoms had become a global imperative.

Reflecting on the breadth of discussions held over two days, Uttam said the Summit's sessions addressed critical themes such as global justice, environmental concerns, the spread of misinformation through technology, and the persistent challenges of gender and age discrimination.

He highlighted that a

total of 450 delegates participated, with 100 delegates representing over 100 countries, collectively contributing ideas aimed at strengthening progressive ideals and resisting ideologies of hatred, division, and oppression.

Uttam noted that some of the world's most distinguished thought leaders, political figures, activists, and policymakers had enriched the deliberations with their insights on the way

forward. He said the Bharat Summit 2025 had raised a clear and urgent voice on behalf of the liberal democratic world, offering not just intellectual arguments but emotional strength to face contemporary challenges.

Acknowledging the gloom that often permeates discussions on current global affairs, Uttam said that many people feel disheartened and even hopeless when confronted with rising intolerance and authoritarianism.

However, he said, the Bharat Summit had rekindled hope by uniting not just minds but also hearts. "We have felt here that after darkness comes light, after tyranny comes democracy, and after struggle, there is victory," he said, echoing the emotional tenor of the Summit.

He reiterated that the Telangana Government, under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's leadership, believed firmly in the principle of social justice alongside economic growth.

He thanked all the delegates and participants on behalf of the Telangana Government for attending and enriching the Summit with their presence and ideas.

He stressed that the Summit was not merely a conference but had brought together a family connected by a larger vision for humanity - one based on dignity, freedom, and justice.

Ex-Japanese Minister Masharu Nakagawa bats for Intl Solidary Tax to combat climate change

Hyderabad, April 26 (UNI) : Former Japanese Minister Masaharu Nakagawa on Saturday advocated for innovative funding mechanisms such as an international solidarity tax under the UN to combat climate change.

Speaking on the second day of the Bharat Summit here, he emphasised the importance of involving young people in the development of future climate policies.

The session titled 'Accelerating Climate Justice' was attended by former Nigerian diplomat and UN official Oseloka Obaze; New Zealand MP Megan Woods; Guatemalan politician Roman Castellanos; youth leader Jessali Zarazua; and Masaharu Nakagawa.

In his address, Oseloka Obaze highlighted that Africa is fully aware of the

climate crisis but lacks the resources to adapt while also confronting hunger and poverty. He underscored the need for global solidarity and equitable resource deployment, warning that the consequences of inaction will affect all nations equally.

"We're all in the same boat — if it goes down, we all go down," he said, urging the world to recognise the moral imperative of climate justice.

Megan Woods stressed the importance of ensuring that climate policies are not reserved for the privileged. She also criticised the inefficiencies of multilateral climate funds, advocating instead for bilateral financing solutions that better serve smaller and developing nations.

Roman Castellanos emphasised that climate

justice is inseparable from social justice, calling for policies that address inequality through education, access to green technology, and community-based solutions. He warned against slow, symbolic transitions and pushed for actionable, long-term strategies that transcend political ideologies.

Jessali Zarazua brought an ecofeminist perspective, urging a rethinking of development itself. "Richness does not mean progress," she said, highlighting the need for vulnerable communities to lead climate decision-making.

Zarazua also noted that climate change is increasingly becoming a national security threat, with rising sea levels and urban stress demanding immediate attention.

Govt modernising irrigation ecosystem ...

(Contd from page 1)

and irrigation practices. "Our strategy involves not just infrastructural improvements but also institutional strengthening. By rejuvenating WALAMTARI, we aim to foster an environment of continuous learning, research, and policy advocacy that meets contemporary challenges in water management," Uttam said.

He further elaborated on the role of drone technology in agriculture, describing it as transformative. "Drones have become indispensable for precision agriculture.

They help monitor crop health, provide detailed soil analysis, manage irrigation schedules efficiently, and significantly reduce resource wastage," Reddy explained.

The Minister emphasised that drones are not merely technological tools but critical assets enabling farmers to enhance their productivity and sustainability.

However, he pointed out that the successful implementation of these technologies requires more than just their availability. "Technology alone cannot bring about the desired outcomes. It requires vision, effective collaboration among stakeholders, and capacity building.

Events like this Drone Expo play a pivotal role in bringing startups, academia, policymakers, and industry leaders together to collaborate, innovate, and develop impactful solutions," he added. Encouraging the youth and innovators in attendance, Uttam stressed the importance of adopting a solution-oriented mindset.

"I encourage our young minds and entrepreneurs not just to seek job opportunities but to envision and create innovative solutions with real-world impacts," he urged.

The Irrigation Minister invited industry stakeholders, startups, and academia to partner with the government in piloting new technologies.

He expressed the state's commitment to embedding successful innovations within governance frameworks, particularly in agriculture and irrigation management.

CM invites delegates to join hands to

(Contd from page 1)

opportunities, he said.

The state official delegation attended the investment conferences held in Davos, America, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore and more than Rs. 2.5 lakh crores of investment have been received to provide jobs to the youth in the private sector, Reddy said.

Women, farmers, and youth are the main partners in our government. Telangana is blessed with wonderful women entrepreneurs, he said.

Plans have been envisaged to free Hyderabad from pollution by reviving the Musi river, studied the development of rivers and riverbanks in many cities including the Hudson River in New York, Thames River in London, and Sumida in Tokyo, Reddy informed.

Musi will become a major tourist spot and the

Musi rejuvenation project will also provide employment to thousands of people, the CM said.

The government launched many infra development projects to make Hyderabad a global city. It is developing a world-class city- the Future City on 30,000 acres, constructing a 370-km-long Regional Ring Road and expanding the Metro Rail, he said.

We are proud that Telangana became the first state to conduct a caste survey and also SC categorisation in India, Reddy said.

Telangana state is also the first government to recruit a third gender community in the traffic police department, the CM said.

The People's government started a lot of welfare and development programs and there is still a lot to be done, he added.

NALSAR University signs MoU with T-Hub Foundation

Hyderabad, April 26 (UNI) : On the World-IP day, the NALSAR University of Law signed an MoU with T-hub Foundation here on Saturday, to support T-Hub on several IP related activities.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao; Vice-Chancellor- NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad and Santoshi Reddy Velagala; VP- Finance, Legal, and Compliance, T-Hub Foundation, the University said in a release here.

NALSAR and T-hub, through this collaboration, aims to further provide startups with comprehensive IP-related support, including advisory services, capacity-building initiatives, policy development, and training programs.

The collaboration also seeks to leverage NALSAR's academic expertise and T-Hub's startup ecosystem to foster innovation, protect intellectual property, and contribute to the growth and sustainability of startups.

DPIIT IPR Chair of NALSAR University of Law wishes to partner with T-Hub for various programs which shall enable T-Hub to leverage its expertise in this field to create a quality program and be part of NALSAR projects.

Prof. Anindya Sircar – Chair Professor – IPR, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and senior leadership from T-Hub were also present on the occasion.

BRS make arrangements for historic silver jubilee public meeting at Hanumakonda District Sunday

Hyderabad, April 26 (UNI) : The Elkathurthy village (Hanumakonda district) near Warangal, is fully geared up to host the historic public meeting of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), marking the latter's 25 years of formation on Sunday.

Expecting the gathering of over 10 lakh people, it would be the party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao's (KCR) first grand public meeting after a gap of almost one and a half years, when its party faced a major setback in 2023 assembly elections.

The Elkaturthi meeting marks the party's 25-year

journey since its formation in 2001 during the movement for a separate Telangana state.

KCR's address is expected to be pivotal, both to rejuvenate the cadre and to lay down the party's roadmap for the future.

BRS working president, K T Rama Rao had earlier said all arrangements have been made for the party's silver jubilee public meeting at Elkathurthy on Sunday, which is expected to be one of the largest gatherings in the party's 25-year history.

Party chief K Chandrashekhar Rao will address his first public

meeting in several months. "People are eager to see and listen to him again," he claimed.

The event will be held on a sprawling 1,300-acre site, with over 1,000 acres earmarked for parking. Five parking zones have been set up for vehicles from different districts.

The meeting will start at 5 pm with flag hoisting, followed by tributes to Telangana Thalli and martyrs, and Chandrashekhar Rao's speech.

BRS leaders will hoist party flags in respective villages across Telangana on April 27 morning, before

Victim's relative among six arrested in Suncity dacoity case

Hyderabad, April 26 (UNI) : The Rajendranagar police have successfully detected a daylight dacoity case within four days of the offence by arresting six accused persons including a relative of the victim, who were allegedly involved in a dacoity case reported at Suncity, outskirts of the city.

Besides gold and silver ornaments, Seized two knives used in the commission of the offence, two mobile phones and a car from the accused, police said in a release here on

Saturday.

On April 21, 2025, the complainant Mohammed Shakir Ali reported that while he and his family were at home, four unknown individuals, who forcefully entered the house by knocking the door, threatened him and his wife at knifepoint.

The accused broke open the almirah and looted gold and silver ornaments, net cash and two mobile phones before fleeing the scene. During the investigation, it was revealed that Jibran Bin

Jaber, a driver (A1), who is a relative of the complainant, had prior knowledge about the valuables in the house.

The relative hatched a plan and conspired with the other accused. Jaber arranged weapons and a getaway vehicle to execute the crime. All six accused including Mohammed Aqeel, Mohammed Fasiuddin, Sohail Shah Khan, Mohammed Abdul Jaweed and Mohammed Shabbir, were apprehended within four days of the offence, police added.

Bharat Summit adopts Hyderabad resolution delivering 'Global Justice'

Hyderabad, April 26 (UNI) : In a significant milestone, Congress leaders and global delegates at the two-day Bharat Summit, which concluded here on Saturday evening, collectively adopted the Hyderabad Resolution, a 44-point agenda under the theme 'Delivering Global Justice'. The resolution reaffirms a shared commitment to the values of freedom, equality, justice, and solidarity, uniting

social-democratic, socialist, and labour movements from around the world. Key agenda items include reshaping the economic paradigm, advancing environmental justice, striving for gender equality and social inclusion, defending democracy and social justice, working for peace and human security, and reforming global institutions.

Over 450 international delegates attended the two-day summit, which

provided the right platform to exchange ideas on global justice and peace, in alignment with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's vision of NYAY, a release said.

The event witnessed participation from global leaders, including senior representatives from Germany's Social Democratic Party and Australia's Labor Party, who expressed solidarity with the Congress Party's vision for global justice.

starting off for Warangal.

All the roads leading to Elkathurthy, are already awash in pink, with giant cutouts, welcome arches, and flags.

Around 3,000 buses of TSRTC and another 20,000 private vehicles have been arranged to ferry lakhs of supporters.

With 10 lakh people anticipated, massive arrangements have been made including around 2,000 volunteers for crowd and traffic management, 200 mobile patrol vehicles, 25 towing vehicles, 250 CCTVs linked to a dedicated Command and Control Centre, and 250

Bharat Summit adopts Hyderabad resolution under the theme 'Delivering Global Justice'

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY Publication of Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2024-25-OT-14A dated 22.04.2025 The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work. <table><tr><th>Name of work</th><th>Approx. Value</th></tr><tr><td>Conversion of existing 66 kV DC Hoody LILo Line infringing the proposed Quadrupling of Track near Hoody Halt Station in between Ch. No 337/600-337/900 to proposed 132kV Class 1000 Sqmm U.G. Cable</td><td>₹ 14,62,02,012.28</td></tr></table> Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 11.00 hrs on 14.05.2025 For details log on to : www.ireps.gov.in Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru PUB/64/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY	Name of work	Approx. Value	Conversion of existing 66 kV DC Hoody LILo Line infringing the proposed Quadrupling of Track near Hoody Halt Station in between Ch. No 337/600-337/900 to proposed 132kV Class 1000 Sqmm U.G. Cable	₹ 14,62,02,012.28	SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @GSCRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in Open e-Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/GS/SC/2025/OT. Dt: 25-04-2025 For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works: 1.e-Tender No.: 01_GS_SC_25_OT Name of the work : Secunderabad Division - GSU - Kazipet - Balharshah section - Proposed Construction of two lane Road over Bridge in lieu of LC Nos 9,11,15,16 & 17 with Bow string steel Girder on Railway Span with RCC deck slab and Approaches with Precast PSC girders/Slabs/RE wall with Precast Pier caps over Cast-in-situ Piers/Abutments along with LHS between Hasanparti Road - Uppal - Jammikunta stations. Approx. Tender Value in : (₹) 1423527645.78 EMD : (₹) 7267600.00 Completion period in Months: 18 Bid closing date : 22-05-2025 2. e-Tender No.: 02_GS_SC_25_OT Name of the work :SW-1: Earth work in formation, Extension of existing minor bridges, Laying and Linking of BG track, assembling and insertion of points and crossings, supplying, leading and dumping of stone ballast and miscellaneous works for proposed shunting neck towards Wadi end at Chittapur on SC-Wadi section. PH-4200-SW-2: Earth work in formation, Extension of minor Bridges, Laying and Linking of BG track, assembling and insertion of points and crossings, supplying, leading and dumping of stone ballast, Construction of service building & sheds for sick line and parking, construction of path ways, construction of approach road and miscellaneous works for proposed Freight train examination facilities at Chittapur on SC - Wadi section. Approx. Tender Value in : (₹) 138363533.97 EMD: (₹) 841800.00 Completion period in Months: 12 Bid closing date : 22-05-2025 1. Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered. 2. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments only. 3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto. 4. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer. Dy.CE/Gati Shakti/Secunderabad Open Tender Notice No. B-E29-TRD-TNDR-04-2025-26 dt:24.04.2025 Tenders are invited in IREPS by the undersigned for the following works. Tender No. : B-E29-TRD-TNDR-04-2025-26 Name of Work : BZA Division - Replacement of rusted Anti creep Wire in BZA division Approx. Value: (₹) 28,10,350.80 Completion period : 12 Months Bid Security (EMD) : (₹) 56,200/- Date of closing: 16.05.2025 at 15:00 Hrs S.No. 1 - Cost of Tender from : (₹)Nil Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, A0567 TRD, Vijayawada For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Name of work	Approx. Value				
Conversion of existing 66 kV DC Hoody LILo Line infringing the proposed Quadrupling of Track near Hoody Halt Station in between Ch. No 337/600-337/900 to proposed 132kV Class 1000 Sqmm U.G. Cable	₹ 14,62,02,012.28				

STANDARD POST

'Atmosphere has changed': BSF's vigil sharpens after Pahalgam tragedy

In the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fiery declaration to "identify, track and punish" every terrorist and their backers involved in the heinous Pahalgam massacre, the atmosphere along the India-Pakistan border has turned electric.

The Border Security Force (BSF) is now in full combat readiness, signalling that India is not just angry -- it's ready to act.

From the dusty stretches of Rajasthan's Jaisalmer to the volatile frontier posts, BSF units are no longer in routine mode.

There's a tense calm — the kind that comes before a storm.

"We are fully prepared to carry out the Prime Minister's announcement against the militants to its final conclusion," declares BSF Company Commandant Akhilesh, his voice steely with resolve.

The situation on the ground has changed dramatically.

A BSF jawan, eyes scanning the horizon, shares the sentiment of many in uniform.

"The atmosphere has changed... it's tense now. What happened in Pahalgam was very painful. We are keeping a special watch on Pakistan," he says grimly, his finger resting lightly on the trigger.

BSF Assistant Company Commandant Parimal Das reveals a subtle but telling shift across the border.

"There has been a reduction in movement near the border, but they've increased their deployment. They know the Prime Minister has spoken -- and this time, action will follow..."

Even as the political message from Delhi echoes with intensity, it's on these frontlines that the response will be shaped.

The BSF is not just watching — it's waiting for the order.

In what seems like a synchronised tightening of the belt, the entire security apparatus -- especially along the western front -- has gone into alert mode.

Reports suggest additional deployments, advanced surveillance, and silent communication drills are already underway. The message from the border is clear -- the countdown has begun.

Earlier on Saturday, BSF Company Commandant Akhilesh further added: "The BSF is fully prepared and has increased its vigil across the border with Pakistan. Our preparations are complete, we are capable of responding, we have increased all our logistics, we have also increased manpower on the border, the atmosphere on the border is tense right now but we need an order from the higher headquarters."

The BSF soldiers are keeping an eye on every movement by the enemy nation Pakistan and its backed terror groups, he said. The International Border between India and Pakistan in Rajasthan is more than 1,000 km long.

"In the 1971 war, Pakistan was defeated from the border with India in Rajasthan," he added.

"After Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan is scared and knows that India will give a reply with full preparation, that is why there is a lot of commotion on the other side of the border. As a result of this Pakistan has increased the strength of its army."

"BSF, Intelligence and other central agencies along with BSF jawans are keeping a close watch on every move of the enemy nation."

BSF soldiers are keeping a vigil on the India-Pakistan International Border, he noted.

"While keeping vigil, the BSF soldiers said that we are ready to deal with any situation, including the terrorists who carried out the horrific incident in Pahalgam. Since then, there is anger not only among the people of the country but also within us (the security personnel). We will give a befitting reply to any action of the enemy."

World Art Day 2025 Kicks Off with a Global Celebration of Creativity and Community



(By Prabuddha Ghosh)

The global art community ushered in World Art Day 2025 with the launch of the first phase of celebrations under this year's compelling theme: "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art." This international observance, officially proclaimed by UNESCO in 2019, continues to honor the indispensable role of art in shaping societies, bridging divides, and nurturing creativity beyond borders.

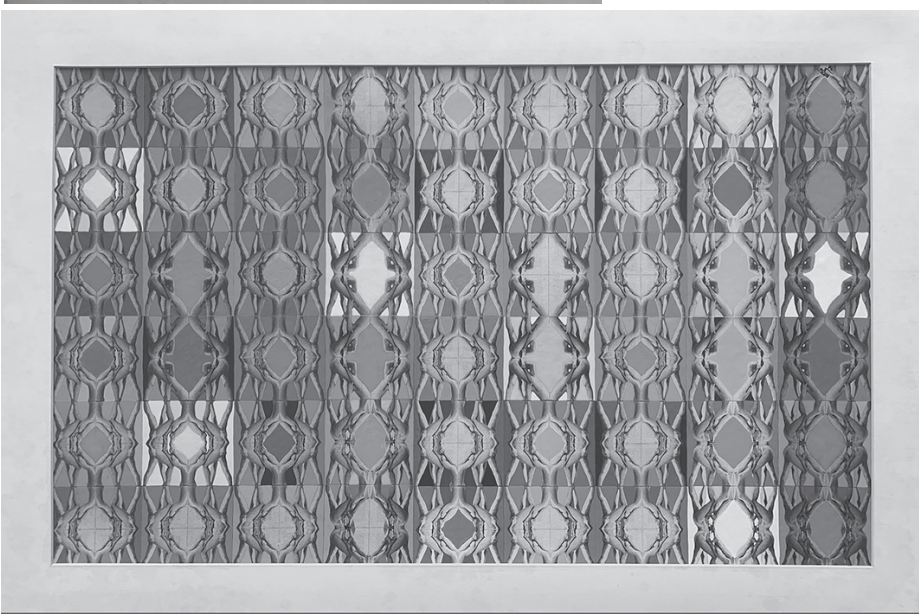
At the forefront of this year's celebration is an innovative international online exhibition, curated by acclaimed Indian artist and curator Prabuddha Ghosh, with the support of the Indian non-profit Art Insight Medium (AIM). A special message of goodwill was also shared by Ajay Jadhav, Founder President and Trustee of AIM, emphasizing the organization's enduring commitment to empowering artists globally.

Commemorated on the birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci, the Renaissance icon whose legacy symbolizes peace, freedom, and multicultural harmony, World Art Day is more than a tribute — it's a clarion call. In times of

growing conflict and ideological polarization, this year's theme invites the global creative community to cultivate spaces of empathy, diversity, and healing.

The online exhibition brings together 27 artists from 11 countries, creating a vibrant tapestry of cross-cultural perspectives. Each artist was thoughtfully introduced to the audience, with curator Prabuddha Ghosh offering insightful commentary and live demonstrations to deepen viewer engagement and understanding. The exhibition serves not just as a showcase of talent, but as a meaningful dialogue across generations and geographies.

Among the featured artists, Prof. Renata Bonter-Jędrzejewska of Poland impressed audiences with her deeply emotive ceramic works, while Dr. Fassih Keiso, based in Australia and originally from Syria, presented poignant mixed-media pieces reflecting themes of displacement and cultural memory. Marko Brajković of Croatia captured attention with line-driven narratives unfolding on canvas, and from India, Zen Vartan mesmerized viewers with his meditative "No Mind"



brushwork rooted in spiritual practice.

A notable strength of the exhibition is its intergenerational reach. From emerging voices like Fish Jaafar (Singapore) and Vatsya Padia (India) to seasoned practitioners such as Atul Padia, Jayanta Khan, Rajiv Kapoor, and Sunita Lamba, the show

reflects a diverse spectrum of thought and expression. Veteran banker Anil Oberoi drew particular admiration for his tree-root sculptures — natural elements transformed into soulful artworks. Printmaker Yatheesha showcased his technical mastery in etching, and Prabuddha Ghosh himself contributed

ethereal miniature paintings and deeply symbolic photography rooted in spiritual inquiry.

International contributions further

enriched the exhibition. Emilie Moreau of France explored her emotional kinship with wild animals through organic imagery, while Modesto Furchi (Italy) combined sketching and sculpture in a striking portrayal of form and feeling.

AIM, through this initiative, has reaffirmed its

mission to create a strong platform for artists, giving them global exposure and fostering connections among creatives. By spotlighting artists from across the globe — from students to masters — the exhibition truly embodies the essence of this year's theme: cultivating community through creative expression.

"As artists, we are gardeners of culture," said curator Prabuddha Ghosh. "Our role today is not only to reflect the times but to imagine new ways of being — more inclusive, more compassionate, more connected."

World Art Day 2025's opening phase serves as a powerful reminder:

Art is not merely what we create — it is what we awaken. In every stroke, sculpture, and song, there lies a call — to listen, to feel, and to build a more harmonious world.

As the celebrations continue, this global garden of expression is just beginning to bloom — and everyone is invited to witness its unfolding beauty.

Condemnation by AILU and Demand for Strict Action Regarding the Assault on Woman Advocate Gyaneshwari Anjan in Sanagav

On 14th April 2025, in Sanagav village of Ambajogai Taluka, Beed District, woman advocate Gyaneshwari Anjan, who practices at the Sessions Court, was brutally assaulted by the village Sarpanch Anant Anjan and his nine associates. The incident occurred over a dispute related to noise pollution. Advocate Anjan suffered from migraines triggered by the loud sound of religious loudspeakers and the constant noise from nearby flour mills. She had initially approached the Sarpanch with a complaint, requesting that the noise levels be reduced. Though the Sarpanch promised action, no steps were taken. Subsequently, she lodged a formal complaint at the Yusuf-Wadgaon Police Station, after which the noise had temporarily subsided.

However, on 14th April, the Sarpanch and his associates came to Advocate Anjan's house and threatened her. They asked, "Will you permit the



religious rituals of the village to continue?" Following this, they forcibly took her to a field and brutally assaulted her using sticks and iron pipes. She sustained severe injuries and was immediately admitted to a hospital. Although she has since returned home, as of 18th April 2025, none of the accused have been arrested. The accused remain absconding and have resumed operation of the flour mills, in addition to issuing further threats to

Advocate Anjan's family.

The All India Lawyers' Union, Maharashtra State, strongly condemns this incident. Lawyers are an integral part of the judicial system, and such an attack on an advocate is a direct challenge to law and order. Advocate Gyaneshwari Anjan was merely exercising her fundamental rights, yet she was violently assaulted in a mob-like manner, which is utterly deplorable. The police's failure to take concrete action thus far



raises serious concerns about the safety of advocates.

The All India Lawyers' Union, Maharashtra State, demands the immediate arrest of the Sarpanch and his associates, and strict legal action against them. It is also demanding for enactment of a special law and establishment of a

protection mechanism for the safety of advocates. AILU further demands for an impartial and swift investigation by the police to ensure that the culprits are brought to justice and for strict enforcement of noise pollution regulations, with stringent action against violators.

Badal appeals to electorate of Ludhiana West to support SAD in by-election

Ludhiana, April 26 (UNI) : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today appealed to the electorate of Ludhiana West to support the SAD in the forthcoming by-election to "pave the way for the end of gangster culture, drug menace and terrorism". Addressing the media at the residence of SAD candidate Parupkar Singh Ghuman, he said: "The people of the State have experimented with both the Congress and AAP. Punjab has witnessed a steep decline in all parameters and now the situation has become such that even the common man is not safe. The State needs a decisive government like the SAD which will eradicate gangsters and drug traffickers besides bringing back peace and ensuring communal harmony."

Badal also attacked the AAP Delhi leadership for taking over the Punjab government.

Hamas releases video showing rescue of Israeli hostage after tunnel bombing in Gaza

Gaza, April 26 (UNI) : Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, on Saturday released a video purportedly showing the rescue of an Israeli hostage following the bombing of a tunnel by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip a few days ago.

Posted on Hamas' official Telegram channel, the video appears to document part of a rescue operation by Al-Qassam fighters. In the footage, fighters are seen digging through the rubble of a collapsed tunnel using their hands and basic tools under difficult field conditions.A barefoot individual, identified as an Israeli hostage, is shown being pulled from the debris, appearing exhausted and immobile. The video also shows the person receiving a respirator to assist with breathing.No additional information regarding the individual's condition or identity was provided by Al-Qassam. The authenticity of the footage has not been independently verified, and the Israeli army has not commented on the video.

A few days ago, the Israeli military announced that it had targeted and bombed a network of tunnels across different areas of the Gaza Strip, describing them as being used for "military purposes."The release of the video comes as fierce clashes continue between Israel and Palestinian factions in Gaza, amid ongoing regional and international efforts to broker a ceasefire.

Israel receives 3 new F-35i stealth fighter jets

Jerusalem, April 26 (UNI) : The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Friday that its Air Force had received three new F-35i stealth fighter jets.

According to an IDF statement, the three jets landed Thursday evening at Nevatim Airbase in the Negev Desert, southern Israel.

Also named "Adir", meaning "mighty" in Hebrew, the F-35i is a modified variant of the F-35 Lightning II, manufactured by the U.S.-headquartered Lockheed Martin Corporation. The new jets have joined the Air Force's 140 Squadron, known as Golden Eagle, which is Israel's first F-35i unit, established in 2016 with the arrival of the first two jets.

Israel was the first country to purchase the F-35 as part of a foreign military sale with the United States in October 2010.According to the IDF statement, since the start of its multi-front conflicts in the region, the Adir formation has been operating at "an unprecedented operational load", participating in both defensive and offensive missions.Israel's state-owned Kan TV News reported that the Israeli Air Force now fields 45 F-35i jets out of the 75 included in procurement agreements with the U.S. government.

Iran, US still have differences over nuclear program : Minister

Tehran, April 26 (UNI) : Tehran and Washington still have differences over Iran's nuclear program, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday."We have disagreements on both general issues and details. Before the next meeting, we will conduct additional analysis in our capitals on how to reduce the disagreements," Araghchi said on air of Iranian television.Iran and the United States exchanged written views and outlined their positions during indirect talks in Oman, the foreign minister said.

Trump, EC head agree to meet soon - Diplomatic Source

Moscow, April 26 (UNI) : European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and US President Donald Trump have agreed to hold a meeting in the near future, a European diplomatic source told RIA Novosti."The head of the European Commission and the US president, while in Rome, agreed to hold a meeting in the near future, but no specific date has been set yet," the source said. The source added that von der Leyen would meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Rome on Saturday afternoon. "Yes, such a meeting is scheduled," the source said.Earlier this week, European Commission spokeswoman Paula Pinho told a briefing in Brussels that von der Leyen did not have any confirmed plans to meet with Trump, but would take the opportunity to make contact with him in Rome.

Nepali people stage protest outside Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu against Pahalgam attack

Kathmandu, April 26 (UNI) : Nepali people held a large demonstration outside the Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu against the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, in which a Nepali tourist was among the 26 people killed.The country's Rashtriya Prajatantra Party condemned the terror attack and staged a protest against Pakistan's state-sponsored-terrorism. The protesters held the Nepali national flag and a photo of the deceased Sudeep Neupane (27), demanding justice for him.The protesters were heard chanting cries such as "Down with Islamic Terrorism", "Pakistan Terrorist Army", and "Stop Killing Hindus". A video on X (formerly Twitter) showed the protest, which was marked by high emotion. The protesters also sent a note to the Pakistani Embassy and asked it to stop supporting terrorism. A separate protest was also carried out by Nagarik Yuva Shakti Nepal who condemned the terror attack, and raised calls for bringing the perpetrators to justice, and asked for a stop to the targeted killing of Hindus.

5 killed, over 700 wounded in blast at southern Iranian port



Tehran, April 26 (UNI) : At least five people were killed and more than 700 others injured in a huge explosion that occurred on Saturday at a port in Iran's southern province of Hormozgan, media reported.

The casualties were announced by Mehrdad Hassanzadeh, director general of the provincial crisis management organization, in an interview with Fars.

He added that those wounded in the incident

were hospitalized in different medical centers across the southern port city of Bandar Abbas in the province.

According to China's Consulate General in Bandar Abbas, three Chinese citizens sustained minor injuries in the explosion. They are now in good condition after receiving medical treatment.

In an earlier report, the official news agency IRNA said the blast occurred at a gas tank at the Port of

Shahid Rajaei, causing extensive damage to nearby buildings and cars.

In remarks to Fars later, Hossein Zafari, spokesman for the National Disaster Management Organization, said the blast was caused by chemical materials in a container at the port.

Meanwhile, the Iranian government's spokeswoman, Fatemeh Mohajerani, warned against any "hasty speculations" about the cause of the incident before relevant authorities

Anti-canal protests continue in Sindh, as sit-ins disrupt transportation

Karachi, April 26 (UNI) : Protests over the controversial canal project in Sindh is seeing no end, as protesters have staged multiple sit-ins across the province, bringing all transportation to a halt. This comes despite the Pakistan government halting the project until a consensus is reached.

The sit-ins carried out en-masse by protesters have disrupted traffic across several districts in the province, once again stalling transportation significantly, stranding thousands of trucks and effectively disrupting the province's whole supply chain.

According to Dawn, Tariq Gujjar, president of the Transport Goods Association (TGA), said more than 10,000 to 15,000 trawlers, containers, trucks and oil tankers remain stuck in the Sukkur-Larkana division and around Bahawalpur due to ongoing road blockades.

"Drivers have reported that goods movement, especially from the Sukkur-Larkana region to the Bahawalpur area, is still

paralysed," he said.

He added that lawyers are still not ready to call off their protests, and are reportedly waiting for the notification on May 2 making the rollback of canal projects official.

The trucks have been carrying food items, sacrificial animals, fertilisers, machinery, medicines, and other critical assets for import and export.

While there has been headway between the PPP (Pakistan Peoples Party) and the ruling PML-N (Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz) over halting the project until a mutual consensus was reached via mechanisms of the Council of Common Interests, the protesters have not been satisfied in the least.

In Khairpur, the sit-in by lawyers entered its ninth day at the Babarlou Bypass on the National Highway. In Ghotki, two sit-ins continue — one by nationalist groups at the Mangrio Pump site near Daharki, and another by lawyers at the Sindh-Punjab border near Kamo Shaheed, The News International reported.

Both groups have

vowed to maintain their protests until a notification confirming the project's cancellation is issued — despite Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's assurance that no canal would be built sans consensus.The ongoing demonstrations, joined by members of the civil society, have led to the complete suspension of goods transport between Sindh and Punjab.

The Sindh Bar Council also declared a province-wide strike, causing widespread disruption in legal proceedings. Courts in Hyderabad, Larkana, Nawabshah, Jacobabad, and other cities were boycotted, with City Court remaining locked even on Friday. Hundreds of cases were adjourned without hearing, leaving litigants distressed.

The transport blockade has had serious repercussions beyond Sindh. In Faisalabad, over 1,000 containers belonging to the textile sector — loaded with export and import goods — remain stranded due to road closures in Sindh. This has caused a critical shortage of

complete the investigations, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

She added that what had been confirmed so far was that there were containers, probably with chemical materials, at a corner of the port.

Rapid reaction and rescue teams have been dispatched to the scene, and all port activities have been suspended, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, adding that the number of injured is likely to increase.

In a post on social media platform X, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian extended sympathy to the victims of the explosion, announcing that he had issued a directive for the investigation of the blast as well as the cause of the incident.He added that Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni had been dispatched to the province to ensure the necessary coordination and address the condition of the injured.

raw materials, disrupting factory production.

According to Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce officials, two export vessels have already been missed, impacting exports that were scheduled two weeks ago.

Attempting to call off the protests, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah urged demonstrators to open blocked highways and allow goods movement to resume.

"Peaceful protests are acceptable, but public disruptions are not," he said, as per Dawn.

The blockade has alarmed industry leaders who say the economy is already bearing the brunt of the prolonged unrest.

Jawed Bilwani, president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, estimated cumulative losses of over PKR 500 billion (\$1.8 billion) in export orders and local production over the past 10 to 12 days. This includes four days of transport delays due to a separate strike by truckers protesting new fitness certificate regulations.

At least 21 Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza: Civil Defence

Gaza, April 26 (UNI) : At least 21 Palestinians were killed on Friday in Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip, according to Gaza's civil defence authorities.

Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for the civil defence, reported that nine people were killed and several others injured when Israeli aircraft struck a house east of al-Fakhari town, southeast of Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

Additional airstrikes were reported in Gaza City and other areas around Khan Younis, Basal added.

The Israeli army has not issued a comment regarding these incidents.

In Gaza City, heavy clashes erupted between Palestinian armed factions and Israeli forces in the Shuja'iyya and Tuffah neighbourhoods. The confrontations were accompanied by intense Israeli air and artillery bombardments, as well as smoke shells. Multiple explosions were heard, with thick plumes of smoke rising over the area, according to Palestinian sources.

In a statement on Friday, Israeli army spokesperson Avichay Adraee said that troops from the 401st Brigade of the 252nd Division had been

operating in the area for several weeks, targeting "terrorist organisations". He noted that an Israeli drone had killed the members of a Palestinian cell responsible for firing an anti-tank missile from a building. No Israeli casualties were reported in that incident.

Meanwhile, in southern Gaza, six Israeli soldiers were wounded during what was described as a "security incident", with one in serious condition, according to Israel's state-owned Kan TV. Adraee confirmed that a reservist from the 5250th Battalion was seriously wounded during clashes in the southern Gaza Strip.

Abu Obeida, spokesperson for the al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, said in a separate statement that their fighters carried out ambushes and targeted Israeli troops.

Since Israel resumed its intensified military campaign on March 18, at least 2,062 Palestinians have been killed and 5,375 injured, bringing the overall death toll in Gaza since the war began in October 2023 to 51,439, with a total of 117,416 people injured, according to health authorities in Gaza.

Trump, Zelensky meet on sidelines of Pope's funeral

Rome, April 26 (UNI) : U.S. President Donald Trump met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday on the sidelines of Pope Francis' funeral in Vatican City, media reports said.

A spokesperson from Kiev was quoted by Italian broadcaster Rai News as saying that Zelensky and Trump held a meeting ahead of the funeral, without providing further details.The White House also confirmed the meeting, describing their conversation as "productive.", Xinhua news reported.Several media outlets also reported that Trump and Zelensky agreed to meet again on Saturday following the funeral.

The two leaders' meeting came just one day after Trump said Russia and Ukraine were "very close to a deal," following talks between his envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Friday.

Hamas says open to releasing all hostages for 5-year truce: Source

Cairo, April 26 (UNI) : A Hamas delegation led by senior leader Khalil al-Hayya agreed on Saturday in Cairo to release all Israeli hostages in exchange for a five-year truce, according to an Egyptian security source.

The source described talks on Saturday as "very important" for advancing efforts to end the war in Gaza, noting that the Hamas delegation accepted the five-year truce proposal after reviewing various offers.

So far, Israel has not formally responded to any of the proposals, but has given the green light for negotiations to continue regarding the release of hostages, the source added.Egypt's Al-Qahara News TV channel reported the Hamas

delegation would also discuss a comprehensive deal that ensures the full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza, and securing the delivery of humanitarian aid to the enclave. Talks are expected to include the formation of a committee to manage Gaza's administration.Israel halted the entry of aid supplies into Gaza on March 2, following the expiration of the first six-week phase of a ceasefire agreement with Hamas that started on Jan. 19. Israel claimed the move was due to Hamas' rejection of its offer to extend the first phase. Israeli forces then resumed strikes across Gaza on March 18, effectively ending the phased truce.

Home & Garden



Useful flooring tips

Dark floors can be intimidating for some but it is one of the easiest ways to give a large room a chic makeover.



When dark works best
If you have a high ceiling and walls that are tall, dark floors are ideal. Very large rooms can benefit from the grounding effect that a dark floor has.

Helps disguise dirt
Spills, stains, hair, pet fur and dirt are friendlier with dark flooring. It works for bathrooms and kitchens too. It can be a blessing for the working busybee and also for the lazy ones, who can't find time to clean up too often.

Adds character
Dark hardwood floors add immense character to a large room. It is popular with celebrities and business tycoons. They have the incredible ability to embrace all kinds of decor schemes.

Floor and furniture
You could choose to have light-coloured furniture for a dramatic effect. If needed, use a rug that helps to provide this contrast.

Complements minimalist decor
Modern furniture that has the minimalist look, is great for dark floors.

Get your creative best for your

Child's room



Induce creativity:
Your bundle of joy needs to be gently nudged into a world of imagination and wonder. Grab his or her interest in all things creative and stimulating by infusing an element of magic, fantasy and popular kids' literature into their rooms. Think of bedsheets and pillows with cartoon characters, wall motifs that make them want to read fairytales and wall decals with famous animated movie figures.

Splash colours:
Most parents understand that a child's room must exude bright happiness in terms of the colour scheme. Yet many desist from undertaking the project of altering the way the room looks. This is because the traditional belief is that to spruce up the room, one has to invest in recolouring the walls. However, this isn't true. In fact, most contemporary designers believe that it's better to have the walls painted in a sober shade and splash vibrancy in other ways through upholstery, accessories, exuberant rugs, beanbags and lots of visually pleasing books.

Go natural:
Children love the outdoors and nature, and if you don't want them to end up as couch potatoes once they grow up a little, it will be best to encourage this feeling of oneness with all things natural. Boost their love for the wild by cleverly infusing quirky elements into their abode. Wallpapers that represent forests or mountains and ceilings with stars that shine in the dark usually work well. Wooden furniture and flooring best complement such a theme.

Create space:
When designing an interior scheme for your baby's room, it's essential to keep in mind that he or she needs a lot of space. If you have one room for two children, a bunk bed is a great idea. Not only do children find it cool and fun, it also makes way for an activity area. Just spread a funky carpet, scatter a few toys here and there and the perfect playroom is ready. Your little princess can also lay her Barbie set here and delve into her beautiful world of fantasy.

From splashing colours to going natural -- you can use your creativity to make your child's room a true fairyland.

Create a container Garden in your home

A container garden is a great way to utilise the space in your house and also add greenery. This is how you can do it...



Map the area where you want to make the garden

Since this type of a garden can make your home look cluttered, always select one specific area in your house where you would like to have it. This can be a space, either in your living area, your balcony or a place in your dining room. Go for plants that can sustain for a long duration. Mostly built indoors, choose plants that can survive with minimum or no sunlight for days at end. However, you must remember to water them from time to time, so that they remain fresh.

Go for bright blooms

Instead of going in only for green plants, you can also opt for flowers in bright colours — marigolds, lilies, etc

are good options. They not only add to the beauty of the room, but also lend a calming effect. Make sure you choose flowering plants that are not seasonal.

Do not opt for too many planters

Build the garden in such a way that it does not overpower your room. Since you also have to maintain uniformity, having about three to four planters placed side by side will make the garden look complete. This will also lend a neat look to your room and the plants will have enough breathing space.

Place them on faux grass

To give the garden a more authentic look, you can have the planters placed on fake grass. If you are planning to do

this in your bedroom, make sure that you choose an area (possibly near the windows, so that your plants can get sunlight). You can alternatively also use pebbles for non-flowering plants that need less water to keep them clean.

Designing homes the Feng Shui Way



When it comes to locating plots, buildings, orienting homes, placing decor and even planning gardens the first thing which would come to our mind is unhindered flow of energy and a feel good factor.

This is quite possible when we plan our home keeping in mind some important tenets of Feng Shui in terms of decor, alignment and design. The adaptation could extend beyond the framework of building design as it can be used to enhance the interiors, furnishing, decor and other aspects of the design elements in a space. A simple approach to Feng Shui would be in terms of providing the right plot levels, set backs, proper layout and allocation of rooms. How do we go about this? The basic understanding to allocate rooms in the right sectors is a step after getting to know the interpretation of the magnetic fields and compass directions. Presuming that one has got to know the axis of the plot and located the cardinal magnetic directions, it becomes a lot easier to design a home as per Feng Shui tenets. **Some of the very generic rules in Feng Shui home design are:-**
Main door: The main door should be the largest door in the home and the door should not open into a kitchen area. Moreover the position of the main door is critical and would vary depending upon the direction and axis of the plot, however doors right on the cardinal directions are considered bad positioning.
Kitchen: What we eat, where we eat and how we eat are all part of the science of health and vitality; hence kitchen location is vital to the overall harmony of the home. Kitchen as many elements which operate in tandem or could be

conflicting like water, fire (stove /electricity), metal (utensils) etc. In addition locating the stove and sink is of great importance so having the water body away from the fire is quite important.
Master bedroom: This is one of the most important rooms in a home. It is said that deep sleep is when we reunite with the source, hence if we sleep deeply we awaken refreshed ready for the new day. Quality of sleep is far more important than the length of time. Certain locations are more conducive to peaceful sleep than others. Using wooden bed/cot is preferred as wood is benign and warm as against metal beds, which are cold and oppressive, and metal is said to be associated with the planet Saturn.
Living room: This room is the sanctuary for relaxation. Feng Shui treatises says that the centre portion or the 'tai chi' of the house is not conducive for major activities as it receives least amount of cosmic energy, hence it is beneficial if a major portion of the living room occupies the central zone of the building. Remember to orient your sofas and heavy furniture's such that they occupy the south and west sectors of the room and avoid furniture or blockages at the northeast sector of the room which is the knowledge sector.
Toilets: In the earlier days the toilets were away from the main house and later they were made 'en-suite' or attached. Toilets should not be too close to kitchen as the food energy and toilet energies are incompatible.
Feng Shui reminds us of the basic relationship between earth, man and cosmos. By adapting these principles our lives, we can create a healthy environment with harmonious living and working environment.



CAB pay tribute to victims of Pahalgam terror attack

Kolkata, April 26 (UNI) : In a gesture of respect and solidarity, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) paid tribute to the victims of the terror attack in Pahalgam before the IPL match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings at the iconic Eden Gardens on Saturday.

To honour those who lost their lives, a minute's silence was observed before the start of play.

The customary Eden bell, which has been rung for several years before the start of a match, was not done so on Saturday to pay tribute to the victims.

Present for the occasion were CAB President Snehasish Ganguly, CAB Secretary Naresh Ojha,

CAB Treasurer Prabir Chakrabarty, CAB Vice President Amalendu Biswas, CAB Joint Secretary Debabrata Das along with other CAB officials and members. Also present was former Australia cricketer Brad Haddin.

Jackson goal sends Chelsea back into Champions League places

London, April 26 (UNI) : Chelsea edged back into the Champions League places with a one-goal victory over Everton at Stamford Bridge.

The win moves the Blues up to fourth in the Premier League, level on points with Nottingham Forest and a point ahead of Newcastle, who play Ipswich later on Saturday.

With Forest and Aston Villa in FA Cup semi-final action this weekend, Chelsea will hold on to a top-five spot at least until Thursday, when Forest host Brentford.

The crucial three points were sealed by striker Nicolas Jackson, who ended a 13-match goalless run stretching back to December, the BBC reported.

He drilled an instinctive 20-yard effort beyond Jordan Pickford and into the bottom corner in the 27th minute.

Despite being the better side, Chelsea were unable to kill the game off and, given the tight nature of the race for Champions League football and the Blues' difficult league fixtures before the end of the season, there were uncomfortable moments when Everton improved in the final quarter.

But the hosts' keeper Robert Sanchez saved well from both Beto and Dwight McNeil low to his right when needed.

Enzo Maresca's Chelsea now play leaders Liverpool at Stamford Bridge next Sunday, then visit fellow Champions League chasers Newcastle, before hosting Manchester United, and travelling to Forest on the final day.

Everton have only won one of their past nine matches and remain 13th.



Participants perform yoga postures during the 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship, in New Delhi on Saturday.

Chongqing hosts 10th international high-heel color run

Chongqing, April 26 (UNI) : The 2025 "Love Fuling" Consumption Season and the 10th International High-Heel Color Run kicked off on Saturday at the Mexin Red Wine Town in Fuling District, southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

The event attracted over 100 participants from more than 10 countries and regions, including Poland, Thailand, Zimbabwe, and Pakistan, all racing in high heels with a minimum height of seven centimeters, blending sports, fashion, and tourism in a vibrant celebration.

First launched in 2014, the International High-Heel Color Run has been held in Fuling for over a decade and is now regarded as one of China's most creative and popular fun runs.

This year's event embraced the theme

"Running for Ten Years, Forward with Passion," highlighting international flair and fashionable energy.

The race is open to participants of all genders and nationalities, inviting anyone brave enough to run in high heels to join. This year's race featured a variety of exciting challenges, including a 100-meter sprint, obstacle courses, and a mystery shoe run. Alongside the competitions, there were creative costume contests, a mass fitness run, a night market, and an outdoor music festival, transforming the event into a dynamic showcase of the integration of sports, culture, and tourism.

Set amidst picturesque natural scenery and styled after European wineries, Meixin Red Wine Town offered an immersive

tourism experience. During the event, organizers introduced various discounts, including promotional park passes and cable car ticket packages. Hotels and guesthouses in the scenic area provided special offers for runners and visitors. Over 100,000 yuan (about \$13,723) in prizes and cultural gift packs featuring local specialties such as Fuling pickles and black pork rice dumplings were also prepared for participants.

"It's my first time running in high heels, and it feels fresh and fun," said Meili, a student from Zimbabwe studying at the International School of Yangtze Normal University.

"This event helped me better understand Chongqing and make more Chinese friends. I hope to join similar events in other

Chinese cities in the future."

"Santa, a runner from Thailand, said sports can bring people together and spread unity and love.

As a student in China, he found more and more Chinese joined running and even marathon, "I will definitely join this event next year if I get the chance." After a hard-fought race, Zheng Wendi won the women's division with a time of 15:41, while Liu Qingsong won the men's division, clocking 13:20. International competitors also received participation honors.

In recent years, Fuling has actively promoted the integration of sports, culture, and tourism by developing unique international IP events aimed at enhancing the city's image and sharing

China's creative cultural stories with the world.

Mohun Bagan SG edge past Kerala Blasters to enter Kalinga Super Cup semi-finals

Bhubaneswar, April 26 (UNI) : The young guns of Mohun Bagan SG defeated Kerala Blasters FC 2-1 in the quarter-finals of the Kalinga Super Cup 2025 here on Saturday.

The ISL Shield and Cup-winning Mariners, fielding an all-Indian squad except for Portuguese defender Nuno Reis, scored once in each half through Sahal Abdul Samad (22') and Suhail Ahmad Bhat (51'). Sreekuttan MS (90+4') pulled one back for the Blasters, but it was too little, as Mohun Bagan SG, helped by a solid performance from goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem, entered the semi-finals. Bastab Roy's side will face the winners of the clash between FC Goa and Punjab FC in the semi-final on April 30.

The game began at a leisurely pace, with both teams not committing many bodies in the opposition half. After 20 minutes of no goalmouth action, Mohun Bagan SG churned out the opener with their first meaningful attack of the match. With some lightning-quick footwork, Salahuddeen Adnan twisted and turned past left-back Naocha Singh and slipped a cross into the

six-yard box. Getting on the end of it was Sahal Abdul Samad, who, with a drop of a shoulder, swiftly evaded Ruivah Hormipam's challenge and dinked the ball over goalkeeper Sachin Suresh to make it 1-0 in the 22nd minute.

From then on, it was all Kerala Blasters, who were left rattled by the Mariners and grew desperate for the equaliser. Noah Sadaoui, scorer of a stunning long ranger against East Bengal, tried the same trick once again, cutting in from the right and shooting from distance. But he didn't get enough elevation, and the ball landed straight into the gloves of Dheeraj Singh.

The Blasters became increasingly dangerous from short corners. In the 30th minute, after playing a one-two with Vibin Mohanan, Sadaoui drilled a low cross that was hacked clear by Dipendu Biswas. Later, from another short corner, Hormipam's cross-turned-shot almost landed into the top corner, with Dheeraj doing well to tip it over. In the first-half added time, Mohammed Aimen was fed on the left wing by Vibin. The midfielder cut in from the left before seeing his right-footer swerve over the bar.

Curran urges Zimbabwe to stay grounded ahead of second Test

Sylhet, April 26 (UNI) : Zimbabwe are riding high after a thrilling three-wicket win here, chasing down 174 runs – their highest successful chase in Test history.

The victory not only marked their first Test win since 2021 but also their fourth overseas triumph.

Opening batter Ben Curran has called on his teammates to guard against complacency as they gear up for the second and final Test against Bangladesh, set to begin in Chattogram on April 28. Speaking to the reporters in Sylhet, Curran emphasized the importance of maintaining focus.

"We are expecting Bangladesh to come really hard at us. We are not expecting this to be an easy game. We have to work hard for every moment. We can hopefully put in a similar performance to last game," Curran said. For

Curran, the Sylhet Test win was personally significant, as it marked his first victory in the longest format since making his debut in early 2024. The left-hand batter made 18 in the first innings, but stepped up with a crucial 44-run knock that came in handy in a 95-run opening wicket stand alongside Brian Bennett, an ICC report said.

Blessing Muzarabani starred with a sizzling nine-wicket haul, including picking six in the second innings that turned out to be the chief architect in Bangladesh's collapse.

"It is a great feeling, having put in a lot of hard work leading into the series. Obviously, the series is not done. There's a big game to come in the next few days," Curran said.

The 28-year-old batter noted that confidence within the Zimbabwe squad is high following the

historic win, but warned that they must quickly adapt to different conditions expected in Chattogram. "Winning Tests always gives guys confidence. Everyone is going to take different learning from the win in Sylhet. As long as we are prepared to move forward as individuals, we are in a good place," he said.

Curran further credited Zimbabwe's senior players, Sean Williams and Craig Ervine, for helping him find his feet in international cricket. "I am relatively new in international cricket so I am like a sponge trying to learn as much as I can from Sean and Craig. It will help my development. I will be silly if I didn't try to tap into their experience," he acknowledged.

The second Test begins on April 28, at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram.

Aizawl International Half Marathon 2025 concludes on a high note

Aizawl, April 26 (UNI) : Mizoram's first-ever international half marathon, the Aizawl International Half Marathon 2025 (AIHM 2025), concluded successfully this morning with a vibrant closing and felicitation ceremony held at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Aizawl.

Organised jointly by the Sports & Youth Services Department of the Government of Mizoram, the Athletic Federation of India, and Innovations India Pvt. Ltd., the event drew over 1,500 enthusiastic participants across multiple categories.

The races, flagged off at 6:30 AM by Sports & Youth Services Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar, featured four segments: the Half Marathon (21.1 km), Open Race (10 km), Fun Race (5 km), and Junior Category (5 km). Competitors followed a scenic route from Rajiv Gandhi Stadium along

World Bank Road before returning to the stadium. A total prize pool of Rs 10 lakh was awarded to winners in the various categories.

At the felicitation ceremony, Mizoram Governor General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd), who is also the Patron of AIHM 2025, lauded the organisers for successfully hosting the international event. In his address, he emphasised the need for even larger and more inclusive marathons in the future, encouraging greater public participation and sustained efforts towards promoting health and fitness. He congratulated the Sports Minister, the Athletic Federation of India, Innovations India Pvt. Ltd., and all associated stakeholders for their dedication. The Governor also expressed confidence that the Aizawl International Half Marathon would soon emerge as one of the most popular sporting events in

India. Sports & Youth Services Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the enthusiastic response from runners, especially those from outside Mizoram. Announcing that the next edition of the Aizawl International Half Marathon is scheduled for February 14, 2026, he called for even greater participation and extended an open invitation to all.

Among those present at the closing ceremony were PWD Minister Vanlalhlana, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Minister Lalthansanga, Deputy Speaker Lalfamkima, Adviser to Chief Minister Lalmuanpuia Punte, MLA Jeje Lalpekhlua, Capt. Rahul Bali, CEO of Innovations India Pvt. Ltd., and other dignitaries and officials. The winners of the Aizawl International Half Marathon 2025 in various categories were felicitated at the event.

Indian Women's Hockey Team go down 3-5 to Australia A

Perth, April 26 (UNI) : The Indian Women's Hockey Team fought valiantly but fell short in their opening game of the Australia Tour, going down 3-5 against a clinical Australia A side at the Perth Hockey Stadium on Saturday. India found the back of the net through Mahima Tete (27'), Navneet Kaur (45'), and Lalremsiami (50'), while Neasa Flynn (3'), Olivia Downes (9'), Ruby Harris (11'), Tatum Stewart (21'), and Kendra Fitzpatrick (44') scored for Australia A. The match began at a frenetic pace, with Australia A asserting early control and breaking the deadlock through goal by Neasa Flynn (3').

The home team continued to press hard, and in quick succession, Olivia Downes (9') and Ruby Harris (11') capitalised on defensive lapses to score two more field goals, ending the first quarter with a commanding 3-0 lead. Australia A carried their momentum into the second quarter, putting

relentless pressure on the Indian defence. After earning back-to-back penalty corners, Tatum Stewart (21') converted one, stretching their advantage to 4-0.

Despite the early onslaught, India showed resilience, and Mahima Tete (27') pulled a goal back with a sharp field goal, injecting some energy into the Indian side as they headed into half-time trailing 1-4.

Australia A upped their ante and were rewarded for their efforts as Kendra Fitzpatrick (44') netted another goal for her side to

make it 5-1. The Indian team launched a counterattack and their efforts bore fruit when Vice-Captain Navneet Kaur (45') found the back of the net, narrowing the gap to 2-5. In the final quarter, both teams continued to create scoring opportunities. India showcased their fighting spirit once again when Lalremsiami (50') slotted home a fine field goal, keeping India's hopes of a comeback alive. Despite some late pressure, India could not find the net again, and the match concluded with Australia A securing a 5-3 victory.

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ECoR, DRM inspects Jagdalpur - Kottavalasa Line and NMDC



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, April 26 : Mr Lalit Bohra Divisional Railway Manager conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Jagdalpur-Kottavalasa section and NMDC today (26.04.2025). During the inspection, he reviewed various works at railway establishments, stations, sidings, and the NMDC mining site. He also carried out a detailed window trailing inspection of the section, assessing the track condition, curves, bridges, points, and

crossings.

Chief Engineer/ Construction Shri Gourishankar Rao, Branch officers of Waltair accompanied DRM during his inspection. Key focus of the inspection was the ongoing doubling work of the Jagdalpur-Koraput-Kottavalasa line, station development activities, Safety aspects and the development of siding facilities. DRM also reviewed the wagon discharge silo system at NMDC, which aims to significantly reduce wagon

loading time, enhancing operational efficiency.

Divisional Railway Manager held discussions with senior NMDC officials regarding improving freight loading operations. These discussions are expected to enhance rake loading capacity, increase traffic for both Railways and NMDC and generate additional revenue for both parties. During his visit to Jagdalpur, Amagura stations, Mr Lalit Bohra interacted with station staff and reviewed the progress of various developmental activities.

Grand Felicitation Ceremony of Sonu Kumar Jha Will Soon : Dr Adinarayana



(Standard Post Bureau)

News Delhi, April 26 : Adi Leela Foundation National President Dr. Adinarayana, Announced that Grand Felicitation Ceremony of Sonu Kumar Jha Will be held Soon. Prominent BJP leader, social worker, hope of the weaker sections, Sonu Kumar Jha's services are commendable, said Dr. Adinarayana, Said That.

At a time he is emerging as an exemplary leader by organizing many service programs not only in the states of Bihar and Gujarat but also in many states of the country, Adi Leela Foundation and Matru Deo Bhava Satsang organizations have expressed their full support. In a joint statement, Dr. Adinarayana and National President of Matru Deo Bhava Satsang Mr KB Sridhar said that in the current contemporary political context, Sonu Kumar Jha are very necessary for the society and the country, and it is our responsibility to encourage and support such leaders.

They said that a grand felicitation ceremony will be organized for him soon under the auspices of both organizations. Sonu Kumar Jha is currently MLA and serving as a Pradesh adyakhsh and mahamantri in Bihar.

Flag march conducted by RPF and GRP

(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, April 26 : Flag marches were conducted at railway stations over Waltair Division of East Coast Railway by Railway Protection Force and the Government Railway Police to maintain order and deter crime. They are a visible demonstration of authority and can be used in response to situations like violence or unrest. Flag marches serve as a deterrent to potential lawbreakers and ensure that law and order is



maintained

Strengthening security measures at railway stations, the Railway

Protection Force conducted a flag march at the Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam

Road, Rayagada, Jagdalpur, Lakshmipur Road, Koraput and other important railway stations over the Division.

Woman dies, 6 hospitalised after fire breaks in Mumbai residential building

Mumbai, April 26 (UNI)

: A 34-year-old woman died, and six others were hospitalised after a fire broke out early Saturday morning in a Mumbai residential building located at Broke Land Building, near Ashok Academy Lane in Lokhandwala, Andheri (West). The fire erupted around 2:39 am and was reported by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) at approximately 3:13 am.

According to fire officials, the fire was confined to a flat on first floor of the ground-plus-eight-storey building. The fire affected electric wiring, electric installations, split and window AC units, wooden furniture, documents, mattresses, clothes and other household items.

A total of seven people suffered smoke inhalation during the incident. They were promptly rescued by firefighters and transported to nearby hospitals, including Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Cooper Hospital and Trauma Hospital,



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, April 26 : In view of the rising temperatures and the anticipated increase in passenger footfall during the summer season, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has proactively implemented a series of precautionary and passenger-friendly measures to ensure comfort, safety, and smooth operations across all major stations under its jurisdiction. Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra has given directives to take all possible measures to ensure comfortable journey of the passengers during the summer.

The precautionary measures includes Ensuring sufficient availability of packaged drinking water and potable drinking water at all major stations, Waltair Division has made special arrangements.

Water booths have been inspected regularly by the officials for functionality and water supply to serve passengers efficiently.

Free Drinking Water facility, particularly catering to general coach passengers, have been set up at the ends of platforms by NGOs at Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road and will also be provided at Duvvada, Rayagada etc stations. Civil Defence personnel and Scouts & Guides were engaged at the stations for distribution of the safe drinking water at the stations. Directives have been issued for availability of running water in all station toilets and waiting halls, timely announcement of train arrival and departures, proper queue management and holding areas have been designated to streamline boarding and alighting during peak hours.

Congress Workers candle light rally at Necklace Road against Terrorist Attack

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, April 26 Congress workers across Telangana state take out candlelight marches in solidarity with the victims of the horrific Pahalgam terror attack and to reaffirm unity against terrorism. As per the instructions of Col. Rohit Choudhary, National Chairmen Ex-Servicemen Dept AICC New Delhi P. Rajendran, Chairman, Ex. Servicemen Dept/TPCC, P. Gunashekar, General Secretary, Combined Defence Ex. Servicemens Welfare Association of Telangana State, M. Raju, Treasurer CDEWA along with large



number of Servicemens joined Chief Minister of Telangana to express the solidarity, where Ministers, MPs, MLAs, DCCs and

thousands of Congress workers gathered in the candle light rally against the heinous terrorist attack on innocent pilgrims at

Pahalgam, at Indira Gandhi statue, Necklace Road, Where Hundered of Congress Worker gathered and Strongly Condemn this attack.

ECoR GM inspects key Rail Infrastructure Projects in Western Odisha

(Standard Post Bureau)

Bhubaneswar, April 26 : East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal on Saturday conducted a comprehensive inspection of critical rail infrastructure and traffic facility works across the Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Railway Section in Western Odisha. The inspection included visits to Jharsuguda Road, Brundamal, Lapanga and Sarla stations with a detailed review of ongoing projects and railway sidings that support the region's industrial growth. Key projects inspected

included BPSL Siding at Lapanga, Jharsuguda Road Station, Brundamal-Jharsuguda Flyover, MAVB Siding at Brundamal, Brundamal Yard and Sarla Freight Examination Depot Funkwal reviewed traffic facilities, railway infrastructure and operational enhancements with Divisional Railway Manager of Sambalpur Division Subash C Chaudhary and other senior ECoR officials.

A major milestone during the visit was the inspection of the newly commissioned Freight Train Examination and Routine Overhauling

(ROH) Facility at Sarla Station, which is set to Handle 90-100 train examinations and 100 wagon ROHs per month, Improve operational efficiency and reduce turnaround time for BTAP wagons by 30 percent and enhance freight handling capacity and safety.

The facility is expected to significantly boost economic activity by supporting the needs of key regional industries, including steel, aluminum & coal, and fostering job creation and revenue growth.

The ECoR General Manager also emphasized

the importance of stakeholder coordination and industrial collaboration to maximize railway efficiency and national economic development.

During the inspection, the General Manager also stressed the importance of strengthening safety measures across stations and rail yards, and enhancing passenger amenities such as improved waiting areas, upgraded lighting, drinking water facilities, and better signage—ensuring a safe and comfortable experience for travellers while maintaining operational excellence.

MSETCL steps towards digital: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, April 26 : "Under the leadership of the Chief Minister and Energy Minister of the state Shri. Devendra Fadnavis and under the guidance of Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Mrs. Abha Shukla, . Various projects of MSETCL are currently being implemented in digital and online manner. E-governance, e-office will help in bringing speed and transparency in the work. We are trying to keep MSETCL at the forefront by making maximum use of information technology and artificial intelligence. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (IAS), Chairman and Managing Director of MSETCL said .

