

IN BRIEF

Man Sentenced to life imprisonment for murder

Kakinada, April 28 (UNI) : A lower court here sentenced a 26-year-old youth to life imprisonment on Monday for murdering his friend in a hotel room with a sharp-edged broken beer bottle in 2022. The fourth additional district and sessions judge M Harinarayana convicted the accused Malladi Ravikasu of Pallam village and sentenced him to life imprisonment, besides imposing a penalty of Rs 10,000. The prosecution's case was that the accused attacked his friend Palepu Kasubabu (23) in a hotel room in Kakinada in June 2022 and stabbed him to death with a sharp edged broken beer bottle. Based on the complaint lodged by the deceased's brother, the Town Police Station registered the case, arrested the accused and filed the charge sheet.

The case trial was started in the sessions court on September 3, 2024 and a total of 24 witnesses were heard.

72 red sander logs worth Rs 2.50 crore seized, Seven smugglers arrested

Tirupati, April 28 (UNI) : The Red Sanders Anti Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) team seized 72 red sander logs worth Rs 2.50 crore and arrested seven smugglers at the forest area in Srikalahasti forest division in Andhra Pradesh. Deputy Superintendent of Police G Balireddy told the media here on Monday that under the directions of Task Force Chief L Subba Rayudu, a task force team led by SRI Saigiridhar and RSI C Vinodh, conducted combing in the forest area of Srikalahasti forest division. As part of combing, they conducted checking of vehicles on the Panguru main road at Komarapalayam. The task force police noticed a lorry and a car moving suspiciously. They rounded up the vehicles and inspected the lorry. The task force team found 72 red sander logs in the lorry and the smugglers were following the lorry in a car. The police seized the 72 red sander logs, the lorry and the car and arrested seven red sander smugglers. Three of the arrested smugglers belong to Tamil Nadu state and four belong to Tirupati district.

Democracy murdered under TDP in Municipal By-Elections: YSRCP

(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, April 28 : YSR Congress Party MLC Lella Appi Reddy strongly condemned the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) for undermining democracy during the recent municipal by-elections. Addressing the media at Tadepalli, he criticised the TDP-led coalition of using coercion, threats, and inducements to force YSRCP's elected representatives in local bodies to switch loyalties.

Highlighting blatant irregularities, Appi Reddy pointed to Kuppam Municipality, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's own constituency, despite YSRCP having 18 out of 25 councillors, TDP usurped the municipal chairman's post by intimidating and luring nine YSRCP councillors. He noted that similar undemocratic practices were evident in Macherla, Palakonda, Tuni, and other municipalities, where despite YSRCP majorities, the coalition

captured power through unethical means.

Calling it an unprecedented misuse of power, he criticized the coalition for celebrating these ill-gotten victories with the support of partisan media. He warned that the public was closely observing these actions and would soon hold the coalition accountable.

MLC Appi Reddy contrasted the current situation with YSRCP's commitment to democratic values, recalling how, under Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership, the party respected the people's mandate during past elections, even when in power. He emphasized that the coalition's desperate actions, even with a year left in office, were forcing unnecessary by-elections.

He stated that YSRCP had issued whips to its elected representatives and initiated disciplinary action against defectors, while also pursuing legal remedies.

India inks deal with France for 26 Rafale-Marine aircraft

New Delhi, April 28 (UNI) : The prowess of the Indian Navy is set to get a boost as it will be receiving 26 state-of-the-art Rafale fighter planes from France under an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), amidst escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack. The IGA has been signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of Armed Forces of France Sebastien Lecornu and copies of the agreement along with the pacts on aircraft package, supply protocol and weapons package supply protocol were exchanged by Indian and French officials in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, here on Monday.

The cost of the 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft (22 Single-Seater and four Twin-Seater) is estimated to be Rs 63,000 crore, although the price was not mentioned in the official statement issued by the Defence Ministry.

The statement said that the IGA includes training, simulator, associated

equipment, weapons and performance-based logistics. It also includes additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF). In line with the government's thrust on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the agreement includes transfer of technology for integration of indigenous weapons in India. It also includes setting up of production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities for aircraft engine, sensors and weapons in India.

The deal is expected to generate thousands of jobs and revenue for a large number of MSMEs in setting up, production and running of these facilities. Manufactured by France's Dassault Aviation, the Rafale-Marine is a carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft with proven operational capabilities in maritime environment. The delivery of these aircraft would be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France and India.

5 killed as car rams container truck

(Standard Post Bureau)

Tirupati, April 28 : In a ghastly road accident, five people including two women and a boy, were killed and two were critically injured when the car in which they were travelling rammed a container truck at Thotapalli village of Pakala mandal on the Puthalapattu-Naidupet national highway on Monday.

Police said that eight seven people belonging to one family went to the hill shrine Tirumala from Tamil Nadu.

When they were going back to their native town, their car rammed a container truck at the rear end killing five people including two women, a nine-year-old boy and two men instantaneously. The roof of the car was blown off under the impact of the ramming the truck and the bodies were scattered on the road creating a horrendous scene on the highway. Half portion of the car penetrated into the container truck at the rear end, the police said.

The deceased and the injured belonged to Krishnagiri area in Tamil Nadu. The police are yet to identify the deceased and the injured. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and grief over the ghastly road accident in which five people were killed. He directed the Tirupati district officials to provide the best medical treatments to the injured. Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan also expressed shock and grief over the death of five pilgrims who were going back after visiting the hill shrine Tirumala.

Minister for Transport M Ramprasad Reddy spoke to the district officials and knew about the reason for the ghastly accident. He assured of providing required help to the bereaved families.

Govt bans 16 Pakistani YouTube channels

New Delhi, April 28 (UNI) : The government has banned 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for disseminating provocative, false and misleading content against India, government sources said on Monday.

The decision to ban the Pakistani channels was taken after the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The Pakistani channels were disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its Army and security agencies in the backdrop of the tragic Pahalgam terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir, sources said.



Yogi extends wishes on Akshaya Tritiya, Parashuram Jayanti

Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on Akshaya Tritiya and Lord Parshuram Jayanti. In his congratulatory message, the CM said that Akshaya Tritiya is considered to be a very auspicious date. "Akshaya Tritiya is a Yugadi date, that is, this date is being celebrated since many ages. Lord Vishnu is the protector of the whole universe. Therefore, the date of Akshaya Tritiya has the blessings of Lord Vishnu. On this date, devotees specially worship the Lakshminarayana form of Lord Vishnu," he said.

(See on page 2)

Russia allocates \$2m to UN Refugee Agency : Diplomat



Russia contributed \$2 million to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) last week, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Maria Zabolotskaya said on Monday. "Last week, Russia managed to allocate \$2 million to support the activities of UNHCR," Zabolotskaya said during a UN Security Council meeting on refugees.

(See on page 3)

Djokovic faces new reality



Novak Djokovic says he is facing up to a "new reality" after losing his opening match for the second successive tournament. The Serb, seeking a fourth Madrid Open title, was beaten 6-3 6-4 by Italian Matteo Arnaldi. Djokovic made his Madrid debut in 2006 and won the tournament in 2011, 2016 and 2019.

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Not going to be intimidated by govt's "threats"



Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday strongly condemned the attack on party MP Ramji Lal Suman and said that the attack on his cavalcade challenging the law and order was done to scare, but SP is not going to get intimidated.

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CM appeals to NDA leaders in AP to make PM Modi's visit on May 2 a resounding success



(Standard Post Bureau) Vijayawada, April 28 : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, here on Monday gave a call to the leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state to not only give a rousing welcome to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is visiting the state on May 2 for the relaunch of Amaravati Capital city works but also make it a resounding success. During a teleconference with the NDA leaders, the Chief Minister asserted that Amaravati is a symbol of self-respect of all the Telugus.

Naidu also asked all the NDA leaders to see to it that no inconvenience is caused to those who are attending the public meeting to be addressed by the Prime Minister.

"As decentralisation of development is the policy of the NDA, all the Central educational institutions have been located in North Andhra, Coastal and

Rayalaseema districts since 2014. We will develop all the regions in an equal manner," he said. Expressing confidence that the youth will get employment opportunities on a large scale if industries are set up in the State, the Chief Minister felt that if roads are constructed not only the transport facility will increase but also the economic system will get strengthened. But, some rival forces with a huge conspiracy are deliberately misleading the people and will try to sling mud on development, he remarked.

Naidu told the NDA leaders to alert the public and also explain to the people the developmental aspects being undertaken. The Ministers and the MLAs should take this responsibility to take the developmental aspects to the people, he added.

"We are not leaving welfare and development and overcome all the problems," the CM said.

The State Government is moving ahead by fulfilling the promises made to the people in just 10 months of coming to power, Chandrababu said and informed the NDA leaders that the Centre has sanctioned funds for Polavaram project, railway zone for Visakhapatnam and Rs 11,400 crore for the steel plant. "We have initiated the process of setting up industries with the sole aim of creating employment opportunities for the youth and also implementing welfare programmes," he stated.

Naidu also announced that the setting up of industrial parks in 42 constituencies across the state which will be initiated next month.

Steps will be initiated soon towards realising the 'One Family-One Entrepreneur' by setting up such industrial parks in all the 175 Assembly segments, he added. Stating that the construction of

Rayalaseema steel plant too will be taken up soon, the Chief Minister said that Visakhapatnam will be developed as economic capital while Tirupati as a spiritual city. Erain-Co In Ramayapatnam and ArcelorMittal Steel giants in Anakapalle are investing lakhs of crores, he said and stated that if Mittal plant is completed Visakhapatnam district will create a record by getting transformed into the largest steel producing city in the country with two steel plants.

"Rayalaseema will be developed in defense, electronics, automobiles, drones, satellite launching and green-energy sectors," Naidu announced, stating that the highways linking to Hyderabad and Bengaluru and also airports are closer to Rayalaseema following which the region will be developed into a logistic hub. Senior leaders from the TDP, the Jana Sena and the BJP participated in the teleconference.

J&K Assembly unanimously passes resolution condemning Pahalgam attack

Jammu, April 28 (UNI) : Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a resolution condemning the recent heinous terrorist attack at Baisaran in Pahalgam.

The resolution, moved by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, was put to voice vote by Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather and subsequently passed unanimously.

The resolution read, “This House unequivocally condemns the heinous, cowardly act that resulted in the loss of innocent lives. Such acts of terror are a direct assault on the ethos of Kashmiriyat, the values enshrined in our Constitution and the spirit of unity, peace and harmony that have long characterized Jammu and Kashmir and our Nation.

"This House stands in full solidarity with the victims and their families. We extend our deepest condolences to those who have suffered irreparable loss and affirm our collective resolve to share in their grief and support them in their hour of need.

"This House salutes the supreme sacrifice of

Shaheed Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who, while bravely attempting to save the tourists, laid down his life. His courage and selflessness embody the true spirit of Kashmir and shall serve as an enduring inspiration for future generations.

"This House commends the people of Jammu & Kashmir for their extraordinary display of unity, compassion and resilience in the aftermath of the attack. The peaceful demonstrations across the towns and villages and the spontaneous outpouring of moral and material support towards the tourists, reaffirm the people’s steadfast commitment to peace, communal harmony and the rule of law.

"This House endorses the diplomatic measures announced by the Union Government on April 23, 2025, after the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security." "This House is mindful of the sinister designs behind the selective targeting of the victims of this attack. It appeals to all the sections of the society and in particular the media to not fall victim to this sinister plot by irresponsibly

inflaming passions. The need to remain united in the face of this attempted division cannot be overemphasized.

"This House earnestly appeals to the Governments of all the States and Union Territories of India to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of Kashmiri students and citizens residing or traveling outside Jammu & Kashmir, taking necessary measures to prevent any incident of harassment, discrimination or intimidation." "This House calls upon all the political parties, religious and community leaders, youth organizations, civil society groups and media houses across the nation to maintain calm, reject violence and divisive rhetoric and work collectively to uphold peace, unity and constitutional values."

The resolution further read, “The Legislative Assembly of Jammu & Kashmir reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster an environment of peace, development and inclusive prosperity for all its citizens and resolutely defeat the nefarious designs of those who seek to disturb the communal

harmony and progress of the nation and of Jammu and Kashmir.”

Speaking on the resolution, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, while paying homage to the victims of Pahalgam attack, said that J&K is a paradise on earth, where people come to spend joyful moments of their life.

He said that entire humanity has been shattered by this inhuman act and the whole country is in grief and shock.

Sharma said that a united voice in this difficult time is necessary to make these nefarious designs of terrorists unsuccessful.

He further said that no words can compensate for the loss of victim families of this horrible tragedy, but the House wants to convey to the nation that people of Jammu and Kashmir are badly hurt by this inhuman incident and share their sympathies with all the victim families from across the country.

He also said that J&K people have given befitting reply to the terrorists by exhibiting brotherhood and unity while condemning this heinous act.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that J&K

people are short of words to denounce this cowardly act.

He added that Kashmiris are known for hospitality and communal harmony across the country and globe.

Ghulam Ahmad Mir, while condemning the attack, said that people from every walk of life and every corner of J&K showed that these kinds of acts are despicable.

He added that "we need to remain united in this difficult time and send a strong message across the world that we will not let these nefarious designs of terrorists succeed."

Sajad Gani Lone said that people from every area and section condemned this cowardly and brutal act. He added that acceptance of this kind of violence has been completely negated by the people of Kashmir valley. Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said such a heinous act cannot be explained in words noting that terrorists have no religion.

Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo) strongly condemned the attack saying that Pahalgam is known as one of the peaceful areas of Kashmir.

Delhi court extends Tahawwur Rana's NIA custody by 12 days

New Delhi, April 28 (UNI) : A Delhi court on Monday extended 26/11 Mumbai attacks accused, Tahawwur Rana's National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody by 12 days.

Rana was recently extradited from the United States. NIA Special Judge, Chanderjit Singh, after hearing the plea on behalf of NIA through in-camera proceedings, passed an order, giving the central probe agency Rana's custody for 12 more days.

Rana, a Pakistani-born Canadian National, was brought before the Special Court after completion of his 18-day NIA custody.

The court had earlier dismissed Rana's application seeking permission to talk to his family members. Rana is one of the accused in the November 26, 2008, Mumbai terror attacks chargesheeted by the NIA in 2011 and by the Mumbai Police in 2023. NIA chargesheeted Rana for a larger conspiracy beyond 26/11 Mumbai attacks, whereas Mumbai Police chargesheeted him for his role in the 26/11 terror strike

Akhilesh lacked will to work, power to decide: Aseem Arun

Lucknow, April 28 (UNI) : Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Social Welfare (Independent Charge) Aseem Arun on Monday said that the Yogi government's development model embodies 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

In a statement issued here, Arun described Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's bulldozer as a symbol of both strength and strict governance, enabling rapid infrastructure growth while cracking down on illegal encroachments.

He said that the CM takes decisive, well-thought-out actions, unlike Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, whom he accused of lacking both the will and strength to govern effectively. He said that the government is working for all religions and castes without favouring any particular community.

Launching a scathing attack on Akhilesh, the Minister highlighted the atrocities faced by deprived sections during his tenure and praised the Yogi government's focus on development and youth welfare. He said Akhilesh's narrow mindset and discriminatory policies led to his ouster by the public.

Recalling the SP chief's tenure between 2012 to 2017, he said atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes under the SP government are still fresh in public memory. He accused Akhilesh of insulting Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar by changing the name of a medical college in Kannauj and rejecting a statue of

Lord Buddha.

Arun also alleged that Akhilesh disrespected Mahamaya by defacing a district named after her. He demanded that Akhilesh explain his intentions to the public and apologise.

He said Akhilesh is now trying to mislead the SC and the poor, but the public will not be deceived. He also pointed out that Akhilesh had halted scholarships for SC children, which the Yogi government later restored.

The Minister pointed out that the unemployment rate, which stood at 13–14 percent during the SP regime, has dropped to 3 percent under the Yogi government. He said the government not only provided government jobs but also promoted youth entrepreneurship through interest-free loans under programs like 'CM Yuva'.

H i g h l i g h t i n g transparency in police recruitment, he said that during Akhilesh's tenure, corruption marred recruitment, citing the example where 56 out of 86 UPPCS candidates came from a single caste. In contrast, he said, recruitment under the Yogi government are fair and transparent, with the recent PCS J exam completed in a record eight months. Arun said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and CM Yogi, UP is on the path of rapid development, working for all sections of society without vote-bank considerations. He asserted that UP will play a key role in making India the world's third-largest economy.

More than 50 taken ill after consuming stale food in Mahoba

Mahoba (UP), April 28 (UNI) : More than 50 people were taken ill after consuming stale food at a wedding ceremony in the Mahobakanth area of Mahoba district here in Uttar Pradesh on Monday, a police officer said here. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Harshita Gangwar said that there was a marriage function in the Satura village in Sandeep's family.

"Apart from his relatives, people from the village were also invited. It is being said that after the ceremony, the invitees suddenly started complaining of vomiting and diarrhoea," she said.

She said that the villagers were informed about the matter through the police dialling 112. "A team of the Health Department, along with doctors led by administrative officials, reached the spot and started treating the victims," she said. The DSP said that more than 50 people, including small children and women, have fallen ill in the incident. "They are being treated properly by a team of doctors. A team of doctors has also been called from Mahoba headquarters," she said. Kulpahad's Sub Divisional Magistrate Anurag Prasad is present at the spot and is constantly monitoring the situation. The doctors have said that the condition of all the victims is out of danger.

Woman killed for dowry in Pilibhit

Pilibhit (UP), April 28 (UNI) : A woman was murdered allegedly for failing the dowry demand of her in-laws in Barkheda area of Pilibhit district here in Uttar Pradesh on Monday, police sources said here.

Police sources said that Deepmala, a resident of Bahadurpur village under Barkheda police station area, was married to Munendra, a resident of Chathiya village, in November 2023. "Deepmala's family has alleged that dowry was given as per the capacity in the marriage. Despite this, the in-laws used to harass Deepmala continuously when the additional demand of gold chain and car was not met," they said.

Police sources said that the family alleged that the in-laws first poisoned Deepmala and hanged her. "When her condition deteriorated, she was admitted to a private hospital in the city where she died during treatment," they said.

SC slams Centre over delay in cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims

New Delhi, April 28 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on the Centre for the delay in implementing a cashless treatment scheme for motor accident victims, questioning the government's seriousness towards the welfare of the common man.

"You are constructing huge highways, but people are dying there because of lack of facilities," the Court observed.

A bench, comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan, expressed displeasure that despite its January eight order, the Centre had neither complied with the directive nor sought an extension of time.

The Court noted that although Section 164A of the Motor Vehicles Act, which mandates interim relief to accident victims, came into force on April one, 2022, the government had not yet framed the necessary scheme.

"You are in contempt. You have not bothered to seek extension of time. What is this going on? You tell us when will you frame the scheme? You don't care for your own statutes. This is one of the welfare provisions. Three years have passed since this provision came into place. Are you really working for the welfare of the common man?" the bench asked sharply.

Questioning the Ministry of Road Transport further, the Court remarked, "Can you be so casual? Are you not serious about this provision? People are dying in road accidents. You are constructing huge highways, but there is no

facility for timely treatment. There is no scheme for golden hour treatment. What is the use of constructing so many highways?"

The golden hour, as defined under Section 2(12-A) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, refers to the critical one-hour period following a traumatic injury when timely medical intervention can save lives.

Summoning the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport, the Court sought an explanation for the delay. The Secretary informed the bench that although a draft scheme was prepared, progress was stalled due to objections raised by the General Insurance Council (GIC), which insisted on verifying insurance policy details before proceeding with treatment.

Recording the Centre's submission, the Court noted that the scheme would be notified within a week and directed that it be placed on record by May nine. The matter has been posted for further hearing on May 13.

Earlier, on January eight, the Apex Court had directed the Centre to formulate a scheme to provide cashless medical treatment to motor accident victims during the golden hour period.

Referring to Section 162(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, the Court had emphasized that delays caused by financial or procedural hurdles often cost precious lives and that the Centre had a statutory obligation to frame the scheme to protect the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution.



NIA legal team lead by Dayan Krishnan arrives at the Patiala House Court for a hearing on Mumbai terror attacks key accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana, in New Delhi on Monday.

Two killed, 2 injured as balcony of house collapses in Hardoi

Sultanpur, April 28 (UNI) : Two persons, including a to-be bride, were killed and two others injured when the balcony of door of a house collapsed in Atrauli area of Hardoi district in Uttar Pradesh on Monday.

Police sources here said that Parshuram, a resident of Singhpur village under Atrauli police station area, was to get his daughter Anjani (30) married on April 30.

"On Monday morning when Anjani, Geeta Devi, her son Subhash, along with their relative Sapna were discussing preparation near the door of their house at 9 am," they said. The sources said that during this, the balcony of the door collapsed suddenly and all four were buried under the debris. "Hearing the noise, the people of the area rushed to the spot and removed the debris and taken everyone out.

Yogi extends wishes on Akshay Tritiya, Parashuram Jayanti

Lucknow, April 28 (UNI) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on Akshaya Tritiya and Lord Parshuram Jayanti.

In his congratulatory message, the CM said that Akshaya Tritiya is considered to be a very auspicious date. "Akshaya

Tritiya is a Yugadi date, that is, this date is being celebrated since many ages. Lord Vishnu is the protector of the whole universe. Therefore, the date of Akshaya Tritiya has the blessings of Lord Vishnu. On this date, devotees specially worship the Lakshminarayana form of Lord Vishnu," he said.

He said, "The date of

UP showcases state attractions on global stage in Dubai: Jaiveer Singh

Lucknow, Apr 28 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh is making a strong impression at the Arabian Travel Market being held in Dubai from April 28 to May 1 as iconic sites such as Rumi Darwaza, Bara Imambara and the Clock Tower in Lucknow, along with other major attractions, are being showcased to an international audience.

Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh on Monday said that the rich

heritage, architecture and cultural diversity of Lucknow and other parts of UP are being presented to attract foreign tourists. "Alongside Lucknow's attractions, sites like Buland Darwaza in Fatehpur Sikri in Agra, the National Chambal Sanctuary and the Buddhist Circuit are also being promoted.

He said, "Our goal is to establish Lucknow as a leading destination on the

global tourism map. Landmarks like Rumi Darwaza and Bara Imambara are not only the pride of Lucknow but also invaluable symbols of Indian culture and history."

He said that the state government is also working to position other key religious, cultural and natural destinations such as Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura-Vrindavan and Vindhyachal on the global stage.



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with his Deputy DK Shivakumar and Congress leader Randeep Surjewala during a party conference to condemn the Central Government over alleged rising prices of essential items, in Belagavi.

June month Srivari Seva online quota to release on April 30

(Standard Post Bureau)
Tirumala, April 28 : The Srivari Seva online quota for the month of June for different formats of Sevas is set to release on April 30. The quota release includes, General Srivari Seva for both Tirumala and Tirupati at 11 am, Navaneetha Seva exclusively for Women at 12 noon, Parakamani Seva exclusively for Men at 1 pm and the new one Group Leader Seva will be at 2 pm. Following the instructions of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to enhance the quality of service in Srivari Seva with an aim to provide better services to the multitude of pilgrims visiting Tirumala and Tirupati, a team of officials have visited Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation (SSSO)-Puttaparthi, Isha Foundation-Coimbatore and Art of Living-Bengaluru. After the study tour, the TTD mandarins have brought several reforms in Srivari Seva and in the first phase a few will be included while the new application by JIO will be launched on April 30. Several other reforms will be included in a phased manner. From the past two years, Sevaks who retired from various government institutions have been rendering services as Senior Sevaks. Those who are aged between 45 years to 70 years, shall apply under this category and these Senior Sevaks henceforth will be referred to as Group Leaders and they shall offer their services for a period of 15-days or one month or upto three months by selecting the option online of their choice. These Group Leaders will play a vital role in streamlining the Srivari Sevaks by discharging the services of Supervision, taking attendance of Srivari Sevaks of the respective points allotted to them and finally evaluating the services of Sevaks as Excellent, Good and Average. Similarly, a separate quota is opening up for the General category of Male Sevaks, with a minimum qualification of Tenth Standard, to book online for Parakamani Seva also.

SEIL Energy's Fire Brigade responds to 157 community emergencies

(Standard Post Bureau)
Nellore, April 28 : SEIL Energy India Limited, one of the largest Independent Power Producers (IPP) in India, concluded the National Fire Service Fortnight with a valedictory ceremony here on Monday. The company observed the National Fire Service Fortnight from April 14 to 28 and conducted various fire safety awareness programmes and competitions for employees and associates. During the ceremony, SEIL Fire Brigade demonstrated its preparedness with various fire-fighting mock-drills and exhibited its commitment to ensure safety for its employees and the community. Raghav Trivedi, CEO – SEIL Energy India Limited, expressed heartfelt appreciation to the SEIL Fire Brigade for their unwavering dedication to ensuring the safety of the company and the community. “Their commitment to providing emergency services to the community is truly commendable,” he said. Sunil Gupta, Head – O&M (Operations and Maintenance), commended the team for their world-class safety practices and efforts in supporting the community during emergencies. He highlighted the Fire Brigade’s role in saving precious lives and valuable properties of the community in 157 medical and fire emergencies (7 fire incident calls, 13 labour pain calls, 17 road accident calls and 120 other serious emergency calls) in the last one year. He presented the awards and prizes to the winners of various contests. The HODs of various departments and employees participated in the event.

Advanced Critical Care Support made available at Manipal hospital in Vijayawada

(Standard Post Bureau)
Vijayawada, April 28 : Despite advanced and timely care, critical health conditions can worsen quickly, and that’s precisely why we hear about cases where someone was on a ventilator but things didn’t improve. These are mostly the conditions when the lungs need rest or the heart needs time to recover. In such extreme situations, ECMO, an advanced life-support system, steps in as a powerful ally. This advanced critical care support is now available at Manipal Hospital, Vijayawada, giving patients a greater chance at survival, and families a renewed reason to hope. By introducing ECMO services, the hospital has taken a significant leap in strengthening regional access to world-class critical care. In simple terms, ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) is an artificial heart-lung machine that temporarily takes over the work of the patient’s organs. It is a form of advanced life support used for patients with severe lung and/or heart failure when standard treatments like ventilators or medications are no longer enough. ECMO removes blood from the body, oxygenates (purifies) it externally, and then returns it, while the heart and lungs rest and recover. Highlighting the clinical indications for ECMO, Dr. Srinivas Rao T, Consultant – ICU and Critical Care at Manipal Hospital Vijayawada, explains, “ECMO has proven to be a life-saving intervention for patients suffering from acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), severe pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, and in critical cases following cardiac surgery. Looking ahead, ECMO is expected to play a crucial role in normothermic regional perfusion, a technique used to preserve organs prior to harvesting for organ transplantation. In this evolving field, Hybrid ECMO is emerging as a promising innovation, combining the benefits of various ECMO modalities to optimize organ preservation and support advanced critical care.”

Dalits stage dharna demanding SC atrocity case on social boycott

Kakinada, April 28 (UNI) : Dalits under the banner of VIDASAM (vishrutha Dalit sanghams) have staged a dharna in front of the collectorate here on Monday demanding registering a case under SC atrocities act into the incident of social boycotting of Mallam village Dalits. Vidasam state convenor Dr Busi Venkata Rao who led the dharna said that registering of SC atrocity case was the real solution for putting an end to the social evil like social boycotting. He blamed the officials for the inaction even though the dalits in Mallam village of Pithapuram mandal were subjected to social boycott in a barbaric manner for three days from April 20. Rao demanded the government to pay compensation to Pallapu Suresh, a dalit electrician who died while attending to electric work in the house of an upper caste and also a job to his wife. Dr Venkata Rao further demanded registering of SC and ST atrocity case against the officials for supporting those responsible for imposing social boycotting of dalit families. He regretted that the administration had tried to suppress the seriousness of the problem by forming a peace committee in the village. Later they called on the Collector in a delegation comprising of joint convenor Revu Tirupati Rao, Jaji Onkar, Bula Bhaskara Rao, Gubbala Srinivas, Amaladas Rambabu and S. Nookaraju and presented a memorandum on their demands.



Inviting Online Applications for National Entrance Test for Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Classes in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA (NETS))-2025

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has entrusted the responsibility of conducting National Entrance Test for Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Higher Classes in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA (NETS))- 2025. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in Higher Classes in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) provides for high quality education for meritorious Scheduled Castes (SCs) students only, in CBSE-affiliated reputed residential schools. Approximately 3,000 seats would be provided in class 9th and 11th fully funded by the Central Government.

The National Entrance Test for SHRESTHA (NETS) will be conducted in offline mode by National Testing agency (NTA) towards the admission for class 9th and 11th for Schedule caste Students.

The schedule of Examination activities is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submission of Application online | 15 April 2025 to 05 May 2025 (Upto 05:00 PM) |
| Correction in Particulars | 06 May 2025 to 07 May 2025 |
| Pattern of Test | Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) |
| Duration of Test | 03 Hours (180 minutes) |
| Mode of Test | Pen & Paper on the OMR |
| Question Paper Medium | Bilingual (Hindi and English) |
| Date of Examination | 01 st June 2025 (Sunday) |
| Exam Fee | NIL |
| Timing of Examination | 02.00 PM to 05.00 PM (3 Hours) |
| Downloading of Admit Cards from NTA website | 25th May 2025 |
| Website (s) | https://exams.nta.ac.in/SHRESHTA/ |
| Declaration of Result | With in 04 to 06 weeks after exam |

The candidates are requested to fill the application form carefully. Information about the eligibility, scheme of examination, examination centers, examination timings, procedure for applying etc. are contained in the Information Bulletin hosted on the website of NTA: <https://exams.nta.ac.in/SHRESHTA/>.

Candidates who are desirous of applying for the exam may go through the Information Bulletin and apply online at <https://exams.nta.ac.in/SHRESHTA/>, only during the period between **15.04.2025 to 05.05.2025**.

The candidates and their parents are advised to keep visiting the NTA website for latest updates.

For any queries or /clarifications, candidates can call NTA Help Desk at 011 40759000 (Call) or write to NTA at shreshta@nta.ac.in (Email).

CBC 38101/11/0003/2526

दिनांक 29-04-2025 का विज्ञापन सं. इसरो.: आई.सी.आर.बी.:01 (ई.एम.सी.):2025
Advt No. ISRO :ICRB:01 (EMC):2025 dated 29-04-2025



अंतरिक्ष विभाग , भारत सरकार
Department of Space, Government of India
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन[इसरो]
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION [ISRO]
इसरो केन्द्रीकृत भर्ती बोर्ड [आई. सी. आर. बी]
ISRO CENTRALISED RECRUITMENT BOARD [ICRB]

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी, यांत्रिकी एवं कंप्यूटर विज्ञान में बी.ई./बी.टेक या समकक्ष डिग्री वाले वैज्ञानिक/अभियंता 'एस.सी.' की भर्ती
RECRUITMENT OF SCIENTIST/ENGINEER 'SC' WITH BE/B.TECH OR EQUIVALENT DEGREE IN ELECTRONICS. MECHANICAL AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

इसरो के संघटक केंद्रों में वेतन मैट्रिक्स के स्तर 10 में वैज्ञानिक/अभियंता/ 'एस.सी.' समूह) 'क' राजपत्रित पद(की निम्नलिखित रिक्तियों हेतु प्रतिभावान स्नातकों से गेट स्कोर के आधार पर निम्नानुसार ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं:-

Online applications are invited from meritorious graduates for the following vacancies of Scientist/Engineer 'SC' (Group 'A'- Gazetted posts) in Level 10 of Pay Matrix to be filled based on GATE score at constituent ISRO Centres, as detailed below:

| पद कोड सं. Post Code No. | पद का नाम Name of the Post | रिक्तियों की कुल संख्या Total number of vacancies |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| पद सं/Post No. BE001 | वैज्ञानिक/अभियंता 'एस.सी.' (इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी) Scientist/Engineer 'SC' (Electronics) | 22 |
| पद सं/Post No. BE002 | वैज्ञानिक/अभियंता 'एस.सी.' (यांत्रिकी) Scientist/Engineer 'SC' (Mechanical) | 33 |
| पद सं/Post No. BE003 | वैज्ञानिक/अभियंता 'एस.सी.' (कंप्यूटर विज्ञान) Scientist/Engineer 'SC' (Computer Science) | 8 |

2. विस्तृत चयन प्रक्रिया एवं आवेदन करने हेतु, कृपया इसरो की वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in देखें। ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि 19-05-2025 है।

For detailed Selection Procedure and for applying, please visit ISRO website at www.isro.gov.in. Last date for receipt of on-line application is **19-05-2025**.

CBC 49101/11/0004/2526

STANDARD POST

India reduced poverty levels with targeted welfare schemes, economic reforms

India has made substantial strides in reducing poverty levels with targeted welfare schemes, and economic reforms, according to the latest report by the World Bank.

In its Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief, the World Bank acknowledged India's decisive fight against poverty. According to the report, India has lifted 171 million people out of extreme poverty.

“This achievement is a testament to the Government of India’s commitment to inclusive development, focusing on both rural and urban areas. Through targeted welfare schemes, economic reforms, and increased access to essential services, India has made substantial strides in reducing poverty levels,” the report said.

It noted a sharp reduction in extreme poverty in both rural and urban areas in the country.

While extreme poverty fell from 18.4 per cent in 2011-12 to 2.8 per cent in 2022-23 in rural areas, urban centres saw a reduction of extreme poverty from 10.7 per cent to 1.1 per cent over the same period.

The gap between rural and urban poverty shrunk from 7.7 percentage points to 1.7 percentage points, with an annual decline rate of 16 per cent between 2011-12 and 2022-23.

Notably, India also made strong gains in reducing poverty at the lower-middle-income level.

Rural poverty declined from 69 per cent to 32.5 per cent, while urban poverty dropped from 43.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent.

The rural-urban poverty gap narrowed from 25 to 15 percentage points, with a 7 per cent annual decline between 2011-12 and 2022-23.

The report also noted the role of the five most populous states -- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh -- in reducing extreme poverty.

In 2011-12, these states represented 65 per cent of India’s extreme poor. By 2022-23, these contributed to two-thirds of the overall decline in extreme poverty.

In addition, the report stated a rise in employment, especially among women, and a reduction in multidimensional poverty, pointing to broader improvements in living standards.

The Poverty and Equity Briefs from the World Bank highlight trends in poverty, shared prosperity, and inequality for over 100 developing countries.

Published twice a year for the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, these briefs offer a snapshot of a country’s poverty and inequality context, ensuring poverty reduction remains a global priority.

Advancements in Endoscopic Microsurgery and CyberKnife Radiosurgery for Brain Tumors

(Standard Post Bureau)

The field of neurosurgery has undergone a revolutionary transformation over the past decade, particularly with the emergence of advanced endoscopic microsurgical techniques and the evolution of radiosurgical technologies such as CyberKnife. These innovations have significantly enhanced the precision, safety, and efficacy of brain tumor treatment, offering patients new hope with fewer complications and faster recovery.

Traditionally, brain tumor surgery involved large craniotomies—removal of a significant portion of the skull—to access and remove the tumor. While effective, such procedures were associated with considerable risks including infections, blood loss, and prolonged recovery times. With the introduction of endoscopic microsurgery, the approach has become minimally invasive, involving the use of high-definition endoscopes inserted through small openings, either via natural orifices like the nose or through tiny incisions in the skull.

This technique has proven especially effective in the treatment of pituitary adenomas, craniopharyngiomas, colloid cysts, intraventricular tumors, and other deep-seated brain lesions. Using angled lenses and precise



Dr. Aditya Gupta,
Director – Neurosurgery and Cyberknife,
Artemis Hospital, Gurugram

instrumentation, we can now reach regions of the brain that were once considered high-risk or inoperable, all while preserving surrounding healthy tissues.

Endoscopic endonasal surgery for tumors located at the base of the skull are performed through the nasal cavity, eliminating external scars and significantly reducing hospital stay. Patients typically experience faster recovery, reduced postoperative pain, and a quicker return to normal activities.

Another significant advancement has been the integration of neuronavigation systems—akin to a GPS for the brain—which guide the surgeon with real-time, 3D imaging. Combined with high-powered microscopes and fluorescence-guided techniques, we can achieve maximal tumor resection while minimizing the risk of neurological

deficits.

While surgical resection remains the gold standard for many brain tumors, not all tumors are amenable to surgery. For lesions located in eloquent areas of the brain or for patients who are unfit for surgery due to age or comorbidities, CyberKnife radiosurgery offers a non-invasive, outpatient alternative.

CyberKnife is a revolutionary robotic radiosurgery system that delivers highly focused beams of radiation to the tumor with sub-millimeter accuracy. Unlike conventional radiation therapy, which is delivered over multiple sessions, CyberKnife can often treat brain tumors in one to five sessions with minimal impact on surrounding tissues.

This technique is particularly effective for treating vestibular schwannomas (acoustic neuromas), meningiomas, brain metastases,

arteriovenous malformations, and even recurrent or residual tumors following surgery. One of the standout features of CyberKnife is its ability to track the tumor in real time, adjusting the radiation beams as the patient moves slightly—this ensures continuous accuracy without the need for a rigid frame, offering unmatched patient comfort.

At Artemis Hospital, we have successfully treated hundreds of patients using CyberKnife, either as a standalone therapy or in conjunction with surgery. The synergy between microsurgical tumor debulking and radiosurgical precision allows us to optimize outcomes even in complex cases.

The integration of minimally invasive surgery with robotic radiosurgery represents the future of neuro-oncology. With continuous advancements in imaging, instrumentation, and intraoperative monitoring, we are now better equipped than ever to tackle tumors once deemed untreatable.

For patients and their families, these technologies translate into better quality of life, reduced hospitalization, and long-term disease control. The focus is no longer just on survival—but on healing with dignity, functionality, and minimal disruption to life.

Over 1.8 crore job applications, 3.1 lakh jobs posted, 92% surge in job applications by women for enterprise job roles

(Standard Post Bureau)

India’s job market is surging ahead with renewed momentum in 2025, as revealed by Apna’s latest “India at Work – Q1 2025” report. The platform witnessed a record-breaking 1.81 crore job applications, a 30% increase from the previous year, reflecting India’s growing economic optimism and digital hiring boom across sectors.

Women’s participation in the workforce soared, with over 62 lakh applications—a 23% year-on-year jump. Notably, applications from women for enterprise roles doubled, marking a 92% surge. This growth was most pronounced in Tier 2 and 3 cities such as Chandigarh, Indore, and Jamshedpur, driven by flexible work options, gender-inclusive hiring, and expanded opportunities in sectors like BPO, finance, and HR.

Freshers also powered India’s employment engine, contributing over 66 lakh applications—a 46% YoY increase. With companies increasingly recruiting from beyond metro cities, emerging talent hubs like

Rajkot, Warangal, and Meerut are now part of the mainstream hiring narrative.

On the supply side, Apna saw 3.1 lakh job postings, up 26% from Q1 2024. SMBs led the charge, posting over 2.1 lakh jobs, including 28,547 roles exclusively for women. Enterprise hiring rose sharply with companies like LIC, Paytm, Delhivery, and Flipkart creating over 1 lakh openings, expanding recruitment beyond metros and tapping into the national talent pool.

Reflecting on India’s evolving workforce, Nirmal Parikh, Founder & CEO of Apna, shared: “When we launched Apna, we weren’t just building a jobs platform—we were building a movement to unlock access for every Indian, regardless of their pin code or past experience. In Q1 2025 too, we witnessed this vision materialize in ways we had always hoped for. From Delhi to Dehradun, Surat to Samastipur, we saw hiring become truly decentralized. Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities contributed over 40% of new users, with many of them showing double-digit growth in job applications. Applications from women

for enterprise roles didn’t just rise, they saw a 92% leap. Fresher applications crossed 66 lakh. Enterprises scaled hiring into non-metro regions, and SMBs emerged as the largest job creators—not just in metros, but across 900+ cities. The hiring process itself is evolving too—with AI now matching candidates faster, improving conversion rates, and empowering job seekers to prepare smarter. We’re seeing people find not just any job, but the right job—faster than ever before. In just one quarter, over 1.81 crore job applications were submitted on Apna. That’s not just a statistic—it’s 1.81 crore stories of determination. From Tier 1 metros to the most remote Tier 3 towns, India is not just working—India is winning. And Apna is proud to be enabling that revolution.” India’s digital transformation continues to gain momentum, particularly in Tier 2 cities, where the demand for advanced tech talent is soaring. In Q1 2025, Apna recorded a remarkable 65.4% increase in job postings for Software/Web

Developer roles, alongside a 42.2% rise in fresher applications for these positions compared to the previous year. This surge highlights the growing need for specialized professionals in fields such as AI/ML, cybersecurity, business intelligence, and data-driven operations, as enterprises in these regions expand their digital capabilities.

While traditional tech hubs like Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, and Mumbai maintain their dominance, cities such as Indore, Jaipur, Lucknow, Rajkot, and Warangal are rapidly emerging as key players in the tech hiring landscape. These cities have experienced a 30-50% year-on-year growth in tech job applications, driven by increased access to engineering talent, certifications, and stronger digital infrastructure.

The rise of remote-first work models has further enabled these cities to tap into a broader pool of tech professionals. With India’s digital economy on track to reach \$1 trillion by 2030, the shift toward decentralized tech talent hubs is gaining momentum.

SC backs Allahabad HC's order in Shahi Idgah-Krishna Janmabhoomi case

New Delhi, April 28 (UNI) : The Supreme Court on Monday observed that the Allahabad High Court’s order allowing the Hindu side to amend their plaint and add the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as a party in the Shahi Idgah-Krishna Janmabhoomi dispute is prima facie correct. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar made the remarks while hearing the appeal filed by the Muslim side challenging the High Court’s decision.

“One thing is clear. The amendment to the original plaint by the Hindu plaintiffs has to be allowed,” the Bench remarked during the proceedings.

The Hindu parties had approached the High Court seeking to amend their original suit by claiming that the disputed structure was a protected monument under the ASI and, therefore, the protection under the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 would not apply.

Consequently, they argued, the structure cannot continue as a mosque. They also sought to make ASI a party to the suit, which the High Court permitted in March 2024. The Muslim side then approached the Supreme Court against this order. Earlier, on April 4, the apex court had issued notice to the Hindu side on this appeal.

When the matter was taken up for hearing today, the Court observed that the Muslim side’s plea appeared “misconceived,” with the Bench remarking, “This plea is absolutely wrong. The High Court should have allowed the amendment to add the parties to the suit.”

The Court, however, granted time to the Muslim side to file their written statement and deferred further hearing.

In their plea before the High Court, the Hindu side asserted that a 1920 notification issued by the Lieutenant Governor of the United Province had declared the structure a protected monument under Section 3 of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act.

They argued that because of this historical status, the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which protects the status of religious places as they existed on August 15, 1947, would not apply. The Muslim side opposed the amendments, arguing that the Hindu plaintiffs were attempting to “wriggle out” of the bar imposed by the Places of Worship Act by introducing new claims. “The proposed amendments show that the Plaintiffs are attempting to negate the defence taken by the defendant that the suit is barred by the Places of Worship Act, 1991,” they argued.

The Allahabad High Court on March 5 allowed the amendment and the addition of ASI as a party, prompting the appeal before the Supreme Court. The original dispute traces back to a civil suit filed by the Hindu side claiming that the Shahi Idgah mosque was constructed on the Krishna Janmabhoomi land. The suit was filed on behalf of the deity Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman and some Hindu devotees seeking removal of the mosque.

Housewife’s Death Gives new Life to Three Individuals

(Standard Post Bureau)

In an inspiring act of humanity, the family of a housewife, who passed away unexpectedly, donated her organs, giving new life to three individuals. Their courageous decision, made in the face of immense personal grief, has become a beacon of hope for many.

Kattike Narsibai (55), a resident of Bonkuru village in Gadwal district, Telangana, suffered a sudden and severe headache on April 25 and collapsed at home. She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she fell into a coma. For advanced treatment, she was later shifted to KIMS Hospital in Kurnool.

After conducting thorough examinations, doctors at KIMS diagnosed a critical hemorrhage on the right side of her brain. Despite their relentless efforts to save her, she was declared brain dead on Saturday.

Following this, Dr. Rambabu and his team from AP Jeevandan, along with organ donation coordinators at KIMS Hospital, sensitized Narsibai’s family members about the significance of organ donation. With the wholehearted consent of her husband, son, and



other family members, her liver and both kidneys were donated, offering a second chance at life to three critically ill patients. Speaking on the occasion, her husband and son expressed pride in their decision. “Even though we have lost the pillar of our family, it brings us comfort and pride that she continues to live on through others,” they said emotionally.

The donated organs were swiftly transported to the recipients through a specially arranged Green Channel, with the cooperation of AP Jeevandan, Dr. Rambabu’s team, and the Kurnool district police department. AP Jeevandan committee members appreciated the family’s noble gesture, emphasizing that such acts of compassion have the power to transform lives and inspire communities.

Russia allocates \$2mIn to UN Refugee Agency : Diplomat

United Nations, April 28 (UNI) : Russia contributed \$2 million to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) last week, Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Maria Zabolotskaya said on Monday.

"Last week, Russia managed to allocate \$2 million to support the activities of UNHCR," Zabolotskaya said during a UN Security Council meeting on refugees.

Zabolotskaya also recalled that approximately 5 million Ukrainians have left for Russia after Ukraine started shelling Donbas residential areas. The diplomat also called for accountability for migrants deaths in the Mediterranean Sea, which she said has turned into a "mass grave."

The UNHCR was established in 1950 by the UN General Assembly to help people worldwide who lost their homes after World War II. It provides assistance to rebuild refugees' lives and is a strong advocate for rights protections.

31 civilians killed by paramilitary forces in Sudan's Omdurman: Volunteer groups

Khartoum, April 28 (UNI) : At least 31 civilians were killed by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Omdurman, north of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, volunteer groups reported on Sunday.

"An RSF force carried out a horrific massacre, executing 31 people from the Al-Salha area, including underage children, in the deadliest documented mass killing the area has ever witnessed," the Sudanese Doctors Network, a volunteer group, said in a statement.

"We consider this mass execution a war crime and a crime against humanity. We call on the international community to act urgently to save the remaining civilians and to open safe corridors to allow them to leave Al-Salha, which is home to thousands of unarmed civilians," it added.

Meanwhile, the Central Resistance Committees of Al-Salha, another volunteer group, also reported the killing, saying that the militia abducted unarmed civilians from the area and executed them.

"Available data suggests that the number of civilians killed exceeds 30," the group noted.

The Emergency Lawyers Initiative, a third volunteer group, also condemned the killing, calling it "a brutal crime and a grave violation of all international conventions, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Videos shared by soldiers wearing RSF uniforms showed detainees sitting on the ground before being shot. In the footage, one soldier was heard saying, "We will leave no prisoners anymore."

The RSF currently controls the Al-Salha area, situated in southern Omdurman, which has seen frequent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF. The RSF has not yet responded to the allegations.

Sudan has been mired in conflict between the SAF and RSF since mid-April 2023, a war that has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths, with the exact toll unknown.

The International Organisation for Migration estimates that the conflict has displaced over 15 million people, both within Sudan and abroad.

2 terrorists killed in SW Pakistan security operation

Islamabad, April 28 (UNI) : Two terrorists were killed during a security operation in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) said on Monday.

The operation was conducted in Derakshan area of the provincial capital Quetta, a CTD official told Xinhua. An exchange of gunfire took place during the operation, in which one terrorist was shot dead by security forces, while the other detonated an explosive device, killing himself, the official said.

Following the encounter, CTD personnel recovered a suicide vest and a large cache of weapons from the scene.

The official said the terrorists were planning major attacks in the province, but swift and timely action by CTD forces foiled their plot.

Bessent says US may clinch first trade deal with India

Washington, April 28 (UNI) : One of the first US trade agreements may be with India, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday.

"I would guess that India would be one of the first trade deals we would sign," Bessent told CNBC.

He recalled that US Vice President JD Vance visited India last week and talked about substantial progress in the talks.

Bessent also pointed out that the US has very good negotiations with other partners in Asia.

"I have mentioned that the negotiations with the Republic of Korea have gone very well, and I think we've had some very substantial negotiations with our Japanese allies," he added.

Vance said on Tuesday that the US and India had finalized the terms of reference for the trade negotiations, adding that very good progress had been made during his talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vance also said that in February, US President Donald Trump and Modi announced plans to more than double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by the end of the decade.

Philippines raises alert on volcano southeast of Manila

Manila, April 28 (UNI) : Philippine authorities on Monday raised the alert level for Mount Bulusan after the volcano in Sorsogon province, southeast of Manila, spewed a dark plume 4.5 km into the sky.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert level from zero to one on a scale of five, or from normal to low-level unrest, after a phreatic eruption occurred at 4:36 a.m. local time, which lasted 24 minutes.

"The event produced a bent plume that rose 4.5 km above the crater before drifting west to southwest," the institute said in an advisory, adding that ashes blanketed villages around the volcano.

The institute said the volcano produced "rumbling sounds" approximately 15 minutes before the eruption.

The institute warned of "chances of phreatic eruptions," urging villagers to be vigilant and prohibiting them from entering the 4 km danger zone of the volcano.

The institute also advised pilots and civil aviation authorities to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit.

There are 24 active volcanoes in the Philippines. Aside from Mount Bulusan, Mount Mayon in Albay province and Taal volcano near Manila are on alert level 1, while Mount Kanlaon is on alert level 3, or magmatic unrest, meaning there's an increased chance of a hazardous eruption, including explosive activity, lava flows, and pyroclastic density currents. Located in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" region, the Philippines is prone to volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and powerful typhoons.

Boat crash in U.S. Florida leaves 1 dead, 12 injured

New York, April 28 (UNI) : A private boat crashed into a ferry in the U.S. state of Florida on Sunday night, leaving one dead and 12 others injured.

The Clearwater Police Department confirmed the death of one person from the ferry, which had more than 40 people on board at the time of the collision.

"All of the injuries are from the ferry. The boat that struck the ferry fled the scene," said local police in a social media post.

The ferry came to rest on a sandbar just south of the Memorial Causeway bridge, and all patients and passengers have been evacuated, according to the post. The local fire department declared it a mass casualty incident due to the number of injuries, prompting multiple trauma alerts and the airlifting of two seriously injured individuals by helicopter.

The U.S. Coast Guard and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will handle the crash investigation, said the Clearwater Police Department.

43 Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza: Civil Defence

Gaza, April 28 (UNI) : At least 43 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks across the Gaza Strip, the enclave's Civil Defence said on Sunday.

Civil Defence spokesperson Mahmoud Basal told Xinhua that eight people, including three children and a woman, were killed when Israeli aircraft struck a tent housing displaced persons near Hamad City, northwest of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

In another attack, an Israeli airstrike killed five Palestinians and wounded several others, some seriously, in Deir-al-Balah in central Gaza, Basal added.

He also reported that six people were killed and 20 others injured in an Israeli airstrike on a cafe near the entrance to the Nuseirat and Bureij refugee camps in



the central Gaza Strip.

Basal said that at least four children were killed in an Israeli drone attack on a gathering of children in the town of al-Zawayda in the central Gaza Strip.

Eight people, including three children, were killed when Israeli aircraft targeted a gathering of Palestinians in the Tuffah

neighborhood, northeast of Gaza City.

At least 12 Palestinians were killed in Israeli air and artillery attacks on several homes in the Shuja'iyya, al-Zeitoun, and al-Tuffah neighborhoods, east of Gaza City, according to Basal.

The Israeli army has not commented on these

incidents yet. Since Israel resumed its military campaign in Gaza on March 18, at least 2,151 Palestinians have been killed and 5,598 others injured, bringing the overall death toll in Gaza since the war began in October 2023 to 52,243, with 117,639 people injured, according to health authorities in Gaza on Sunday.

Death toll from Iran's port blast reaches 65

Tehran, April 28 (UNI) :

The death toll from a huge blast and the subsequent fire at Shahid Rajaei Port in the southern Iranian province of Hormozgan on Saturday has reached 65, with over 1,200 others injured, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported Monday, citing the provincial governor.

The fire has been completely contained, while the rescue and relief operations were still ongoing, Mohammad

Ashouri Taziani told Mehr.

Earlier in the day, Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni identified "certain negligence" as one of the reasons behind the deadly explosion in the provincial capital Bandar Abbas, where this port, the country's largest maritime hub, is located.

He made the remarks in an interview with state-run IRIB TV, elaborating on the ongoing investigations to determine the cause of the incident. Momeni said that

during an earlier meeting held in Bandar Abbas to discuss the explosion's cause, several individuals whose negligence had been confirmed were summoned.

He noted that a failure to observe safety regulations and passive defense measures properly contributed to the disaster, urging the relevant authorities and investigative committee to accelerate efforts to determine the full cause

accurately.

Following the deadly blast, Hossein Sajedinia, head of Iran's National Disaster Management Organization, told the IRIB on Sunday that some of the containers at the port contained flammable materials, such as pitch, and some others carried chemicals.

Despite the incident, the port's wharfs have resumed operations and cargo handling, according to the official news agency IRNA.

11 confirmed dead in Vancouver festival

Ottawa, April 28 (UNI) : A total of 11 people have been confirmed dead after a driver drove into a crowd at a street festival in Vancouver, Canada, on Saturday evening, said the police on Sunday. The Vancouver police said in a news conference that the number of dead could rise as dozens more are injured, some seriously. Interim Vancouver Police Chief Steve Rai said the victims include both male and female, with "very young people" among the dead.

The driver does have a significant history of interactions with police and with "health-care professionals related to mental health," Rai said.

"This is the darkest day in Vancouver's history," said Rai. The tragedy happened shortly after 8 p.m. (0300 GMT) near East 43rd Avenue and Fraser Street where the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party was going on.

Local media reported that a black SUV struck individuals who were either walking or waiting near food trucks, leaving multiple victims lying on the ground.

The suspect, a 30-year-old Vancouver man, was arrested at the scene. An investigation is ongoing.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney expressed his shock, saying in his social media account: "I am devastated to hear about the horrific events at the Lapu Lapu festival in Vancouver earlier this evening. We are monitoring the situation closely." Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim said: "I am shocked and deeply saddened by the horrific incident at today's Lapu Lapu Day event. We will work to provide more information as soon as we can." Named after a Filipino indigenous leader who fought against Spanish colonization in the 16th century, Lapu Lapu Day was officially recognized by the province of British Columbia in 2023 and is widely celebrated by the Filipino community in the province, where Vancouver is the largest city.

Israel rejects proposal for 5-yr truce with Hamas: state media

Jerusalem, April 28 (UNI) : Israel has rejected a proposal for a five-year ceasefire with Hamas, under which all Israeli hostages still held in Gaza would have been released, Israel's state-owned broadcaster Kan reported Monday. A senior Israeli official told local media that Israel "has officially rejected the proposal," according to Kan. "Some ideas are being floated by certain Arab states, such as

a five-year halt to the war," the official said. "There is no chance we will agree to a 'hudna' (a temporary truce) with Hamas that would only allow it to rearm, recover, and continue its war against the State of Israel with even greater force." On Saturday, a Hamas delegation led by senior leader Khalil al-Hayya agreed in Cairo to release all Israeli hostages in exchange for a five-year truce, according to an

Egyptian security source.

The last exchange of Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees took place under a ceasefire that came into effect in January. Israel ended the ceasefire in March after about two months and resumed its deadly offensive in the Palestinian enclave. The renewed Israeli attacks have so far killed 2,222 Palestinians and injured 5,751 others, Gaza health authorities said Monday.

Israeli forces carry out airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs

Beirut/Jerusalem, April 28 (UNI) : Israeli forces carried out on Sunday an airstrike on a building in Hadath area in Beirut's southern suburbs.

The "powerful strike" targeted "infrastructure where Hezbollah had stored precision missiles," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a joint statement.

The missiles, according to the Israeli leaders, posed a "significant threat" to Israel's security.

Lebanon's National News Agency reported that Israeli warplanes launched three missiles, destroying a hangar and causing damage to nearby buildings and vehicles. No casualties from the strike have been reported yet.

In their statement, Netanyahu and Katz emphasized that Israel would not tolerate Hezbollah strengthening its capabilities or posing a

Lightning strikes kill 9 in Bangladesh

Dhaka, April 28 (UNI) : A series of lightning strikes in parts of Bangladesh killed nine people on Monday, media reports said.

Four deaths were reported in different areas of Cumilla district, three in Kishorganj district and one each in Sunamganj and Netrokona districts from dawn until noon on Monday amid heavy rain.

The majority of the lightning fatalities occurred in rural areas where people were working on their farmlands, Xinhua news reported.

Death due to lightning strikes is common in the densely populated South Asian country during this time of a year, as the weather changes from the dry season to the rainy summer season. The Bangladeshi government in 2016 declared it as a national disaster.

A total of 297 people including 242 men and 55 women died due to lightning strikes during the February-September period in 2024, Save the Society and Thunderstorm Awareness Forum (SSTF), a local organization, announced the death toll last October.

Experts claim that the surge in lightning strike deaths is attributable to climate change, which made the country more vulnerable to the impacts.

17 terrorists killed in military operation

threat to the country from anywhere in Lebanon. They also held the Lebanese government responsible for preventing such threats, saying it "bears direct responsibility" for Hezbollah's armament.

Ahead of the strike, Israeli Army Spokesperson Avichay Adraee issued an urgent evacuation warning via social media for residents of Beirut's southern suburbs, particularly in the Hadath district. "For your safety and the safety of your families, you are urged to immediately evacuate these buildings and move at least 300 meters away, as indicated on the map," Adraee said.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun condemned the strike, saying that "the United States and France, as guarantors of the cessation of hostilities agreement, must assume their responsibilities and

compel Israel to immediately cease its attacks."

"Israel's continued undermining of stability will exacerbate tensions and expose the region to real dangers that threaten its security and stability," he warned, adding that the frequent Israeli attacks "on Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity are unacceptable under any pretext."

Despite a ceasefire that took effect on Nov. 27, 2024, aimed at ending 14 months of cross-border hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, Israeli strikes have continued in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. According to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency, Israeli bombings and shootings have killed 149 people in Lebanon since the truce, while the United Nations reported on April 15 that 71 of the dead were civilians.

Islamabad, April 28 (UNI) : Seventeen terrorists were killed in an operation in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said in a statement on Monday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, the operation was conducted on Sunday night in the Hassan Khel area of North Waziristan district.

It followed a series of successful counter-insurgency actions by security forces between April 25 and 27, during which 54 terrorists who attempted to infiltrate Pakistan from Afghanistan were killed.

During the operation, 17 more terrorists were killed, the ISPR said, adding that a large quantity of weapons, ammunition, and explosives was recovered from the scene.

The number of terrorists killed in the three-day anti-infiltration operation has risen to 71, it added.



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.

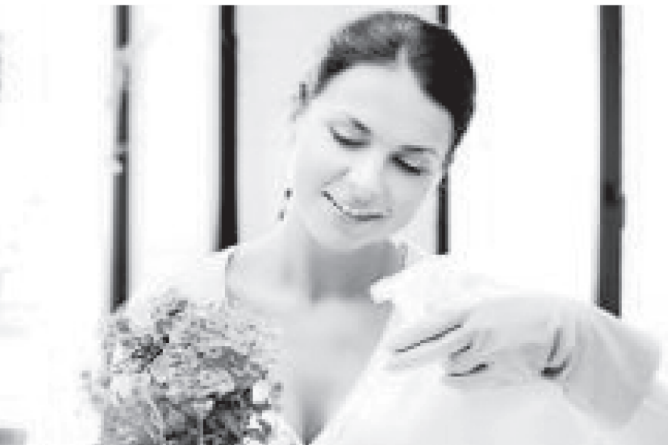
Do not opt for too many planters

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.



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.

Designing homes the Feng Shui Way

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, set backs, proper layout and allocation of rooms. 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.

Jamshedpur FC beat NorthEast United in Kalinga Super Cup quarter-finals after sudden death

Bhubaneswar, April 28 (UNI) : Jamshedpur FC secured a hard-fought semi-final spot in Kalinga Super Cup 2025 after edging NorthEast United FC 5-4 in a dramatic quarter-final penalty-shootout at the Kalinga Stadium here.

The match had ended in a stalemate after regulation time, forcing a nervy penalty shootout that went into sudden death on Sunday Night.

Khalid Jamil's men showed great composure under pressure, even after Jordan Murray and Stephen Eze missed during the initial set of five penalties. NorthEast United had their own share of troubles, with Guillermo Fernandez and Michel Zabaco missing their early attempts.

Despite rallying to tie the shootout at 3-3, NorthEast faltered in sudden death when Asheer Akhtar skied his shot, while Ashutosh Mehta and Lazar Cirkovic converted for



Jamshedpur.

The win sets up a semi-final clash between Jamshedpur FC and Mumbai City FC on April 30, at 8 pm IST.

The match itself was a tactical battle, with both coaches adopting a cautious approach from the outset. With attacking threats such as Alaaeddine Ajaraie, Nestor Albiach, and Guillermo Fernandez for NorthEast, and Javier

Hernandez Gonzalez, Javier Siverio and Jordan Murray for Jamshedpur, defensive discipline was paramount.

The first half saw few clear-cut chances as both sides focussed on closing down space and maintaining shape. The first notable opportunity came for NorthEast United in the 15th minute, when Ajaraie's thunderous free-kick from 32 yards was palmed away by Albino Gomes, ensuring

the scores stayed level.

Jamshedpur also had their moments, with Hernandez and Siverio linking up well, but they failed to seriously trouble Gurmeet Singh in the NorthEast goal.

The pattern continued in the second half, with both teams struggling to break down stubborn defences. Jithin MS came closest for NorthEast with a well-struck volley from 21

yards that whistled just past the post, while Siverio and Murray were repeatedly denied by Gurmeet's safe handling.

Substitutions were made by both managers to try and inject fresh impetus, but they largely failed to influence proceedings, and the stalemate persisted until the final whistle.

In the resulting shootout, it became a test of nerves. After the early misses from both sides, the tie-breaker was forced into sudden death. Thoi Singh Huidrom briefly kept NorthEast United's hopes alive with a composed finish, but when Asheer Akhtar blazed his effort over the bar, Jamshedpur had the last laugh.

Stephen Eze was presented the Kalinga Player of the Match award by Dr. Saswat Kumar Rout, Officer on Special Duty, Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha.

Liverpool announce Premier League victory parade

London, April 28 (UNI) : Premier League champions Liverpool will parade through the city on an open-top bus, it has been announced.

The Reds won 5-1 against Tottenham at Anfield on Sunday to secure their second Premier League title, a record-equalling 20th top-flight trophy.The bus will set off from Allerton Maze at 14:30 BST on May 26 before travelling along a nine-mile (15km) route including Queens Drive and The Strand before finishing on Blundell Street.Hundreds of thousands of fans are expected to line the route to celebrate with Arne Slot and his title-winning squad.The parade, which is being organised by Liverpool City Council, is expected to last between three and five hours, the BBC reported.Council leader Liam Robinson said: "We're delighted to officially invite Liverpool Football Club to parade around the city on 26 May.

"A Liverpool victory parade is more than football - it's a celebration of our city's pride, passion and community spirit." Robinson said it was going to be a "bumper weekend in Liverpool", adding that a huge amount of work had already been done behind the scenes in preparation.

who overcame Muham Abdal Khan 3-2 in a thrilling final. In the U-15 Girls' final, Prateeti beat compatriot Aarushi 3-1 to clinch the gold. In U-19 doubles, Preysh Raj Suresh and Naman Bhatnagar won the gold, defeating Nepal's Gananjaya Dahal and Prabesh Basnet 3-1. In the U-19 Girls' doubles, Pritha Vartikar and

qualified for the Youth Asian Youth Championships last year, did not have to field its squad in the competition.

In the team events, Pritha Vartikar, Ananya Chande, Hardee Patel, and Diya Bramhachary clinched the U-19 Girls' gold, defeating Nepal 3-1. Prateeti Paul, Aarushi Nandi, Advika Arawal, and Tannmayee Saha triumphed in the U-15 Girls' category, thrashing Sri Lanka 3-0.

In the U-15 Boys' event, Atharva Nawrgre, Vishruth Ramakrishnan, Akash Rajavelu, and Prateek Tulsani dominated the competition, winning all their league-phase matches to top the group and remain undefeated for the gold.

In the U-19 Boys' singles final, Kushal Chopda triumphed over fellow Indian R. Balamurugan 3-1 to claim the gold, as the Indians secured the top two spots. In the U-19 Girls' singles, Ananya Chande defeated Pritha Vartikar 3-1 to take the gold, leaving Pritha with the silver.The U-15 Boys' singles title was claimed by Vishruth Ramakrishnan,

India to play Myanmar, Indonesia, Turkmenistan in AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers

Kuala Lumpur, Apr 28 (UNI) : The India U20 women's team were drawn alongside Myanmar, Indonesia, and Turkmenistan in Group D of the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026 Qualifiers, following the draw conducted at the AFC House here in Malaysia, on Monday. Myanmar will host Group D of the Qualifiers between August 6 to 10 in a centralised single round-robin format.

A total of 33 teams were divided into eight groups (Group A with five teams and rest of the seven with four each).

The group winners and the three best runners-up, alongside hosts Thailand, will complete the cast of 12 teams for the 12th edition of the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, which will take place from April 1 to 18, 2026.

The top four teams in the final tournament will qualify for the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup 2026.

The AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, an eight-team

tournament until 2024, has been expanded to 12 teams from the 2026 edition onwards.

The seedings for the draw were based on a points system derived from the teams' final rankings across the previous three editions of the tournament. India were placed in Pot 2. AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Thailand 2026 Qualifiers draw result:

Group A: DPR Korea, Nepal, Bhutan (H), Mongolia, Saudi Arabia

Group B: Vietnam (H), Kyrgyz Republic, Hong Kong, China, Singapore,

Group C: Australia, Chinese Taipei, Palestine, Tajikistan (H)

Group D: Myanmar (H), India, Indonesia, Turkmenistan

Group E: China PR (H), Lebanon, Cambodia, Syria

Group F: Japan, IR Iran, Malaysia (H), Guam

Group G: Uzbekistan (H), Jordan, Northern Mariana Islands, Bahrain

Group H: Korea Republic, Bangladesh, Laos (H), Timor Leste.

Proteas embark on World Cup preparations with India challenge in tri-series

Colombo, April 28 (UNI) : Proteas captain Laura Wolvaardt is in high spirits ahead of their opening game against India on Tuesday in the ongoing tri-series.

While South Africa will be playing their first fixture in the tournament, India secured a dominant nine-wicket victory over hosts Sri Lanka on Sunday to kickstart their campaign.

"We've had some good prep. We had some camps during the last couple of months where we did scenario-type stuff to replicate the game time that we didn't have. Hopefully, we're able to start tomorrow on the right foot," Wolvaardt told reporters on Monday.

The tri-series marks the first assignment for Mandla Mashimbyi after being appointed as the new head coach of South Africa Women, as the team begin their preparations for the

ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, set to take place in India later this year, an ICC report said.

"It's our first full tour with Coach Mandla. So far, he's been great. He's come with a big presence, already implemented a lot of changes, and does things differently to what we've maybe done in the past. I hope it'll be good for the group going forward," she said. The Sri Lanka tournament feature three sides, which Wolvaardt believes is an exciting opportunity as it replicates the atmosphere and pressure of a World Cup.

"A tri-series like this is great. It sort of gives a World Cup kind of feel where you have to prep for different teams in the same tournament and hopefully qualify for a final," she said.

"I think we have a bit of everything with the ball, which is awesome. It's probably the most spinners

that I've had in a squad since I've been captain, so I'm quite excited about that," Wolvaardt said.

India walk into the contest with recent ODI results against the Proteas Women in their favor, having won 18 out of their last 31 matches. However, South Africa have had a positive buildup, with their preparations in Sri Lankan conditions proving to be hugely beneficial, believes captain Laura Wolvaardt.

"It's been a good few days (in Colombo). We mainly used the time to get used to conditions and the heat, especially," she said.

"It's been very hot and humid here, a lot different to what we're used to at home, where it's a bit cooler at the moment," Wolvaardt said. "The cricket conditions as well, getting used to the ground, and spending some time in the nets has been good, and we are ready to go tomorrow," she added.

Djokovic faces new reality after Madrid exit

Madrid, April 28 (UNI) : Novak Djokovic says he is facing up to a "new reality" after losing his opening match for the second successive tournament.

The Serb, seeking a fourth Madrid Open title, was beaten 6-3 6-4 by Italian Matteo Arnaldi.

Djokovic made his Madrid debut in 2006 and won the tournament in 2011, 2016 and 2019.

However, he said does not yet know if he will play again in Madrid following Saturday's loss to a player ranked 44 in the world, the BBC reported. When asked if it was his final match there, he said: "I'm not sure if I will come back. So, I don't know.

"I mean, I'll come back, maybe not as a player. I hope it's not, but it could be." Djokovic said his "level of tennis is not where I would like it to be", and added: "I lost to a better player.

"I've had a few of these this year where I lose in the first round, unfortunately."

It was a third consecutive defeat for the 24-time Grand Slam winner, who is seeking a 100th career title.

He also lost in his opening match in Monte Carlo this month, after being beaten in the Miami Masters final in March.

"It's a kind of new reality for me, I have to say," he said.

"You know, trying to win a match or two, not really thinking about getting far in the tournament." "It's a completely different feeling from what I had in 20-plus years of professional tennis, so it's kind of a challenge for me mentally to really face these kind of sensations on the court, going out early now regularly in the tournaments.

"But that's, I guess, the circle of life and the career. Eventually it was going to happen."

Chhattisgarh, Gujarat open Group B of Swami Vivekananda U20 Men's NFC with victories

N a r a i n p u r (Chhattisgarh), April 28 (UNI) : Hosts Chhattisgarh defeated Andaman & Nicobar 4-0 on the opening day of Group B of the Swami Vivekananda U20 Men's National Football Championship at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Ground, here on Monday.

In the other match of Group B, Gujarat emerged victorious with a 2-1 scoreline against Tamil Nadu. Chhattisgarh and Gujarat occupy the top two positions in Group B,

respectively, with three points each. The hosts are provisionally ahead by dint of a superior goal difference.

While Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar have started with defeats, Karnataka are yet to play a game. Only the top team from the group will make it to the quarter-finals.

In a dominant victory against Andaman & Nicobar, Chhattisgarh started off with an early lead in the 13th minute. Tushal Yadav scored in an open goal after confusion

in the Andaman & Nicobar ranks. Shashikant Kumeti doubled the lead with a perfectly-weighted right-footed chip in the 25th minute.

Yadav made it three in the 36th minute with a strike from inside the box, while Kumeti finished off the game as he coolly dodged past the goalkeeper in a one-on-one opportunity and scored in an empty net in the 73rd minute.

In the second match of the day, Gujarat defeated Tamil Nadu after edging them in the first half. They

took the lead early on through Jesse Kom's 10th minute strike.

The Gujarat forward,

lurking in the box, stole a loose ball and toe-poked it past the keeper to put his side in the lead.

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Diversion of Trains due to safety works : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, April 28 : In view of Pre-Non Interlocking and Non-interlocking works at Mahabubabad station in Secunderabad Division of South central Railway in connection with construction of 3rd line patch tripling works in Khazipet-Kondapalli, the following trains will be cancelled, rescheduled, run in diverted route as detailed below:

Cancellation of trains:

1. The train No. 20805 Visakhapatnam- New Delhi AP express leaving Visakhapatnam on 27.05.2025, 28.05.2025, 18.06.2025 and 19.06.2025 will be cancelled
2. The train No. 20806 New Delhi to Visakhapatnam AP Express leaving New Delhi on 27.05.2025, 28.05.2025, 18.06.2025 and 19.06.2025 will be cancelled.
3. The train No. 12803 Visakhapatnam- H Nizamuddin Swarnajayanthi express leaving Visakhapatnam on 23.05.2025, 26.05.2025 and 16.06.2025 will be cancelled
4. The train No. 12804 H Nizamuddin- Visakhapatnam Swarna Jayanti express leaving H Nizamuddin on 25.05.2025, 28.05.2025 and 18.06.2025 will be cancelled

Diversion of trains

1. The train 18519 Visakhapatnam- LTT express leaving Visakhapatnam on 22.05.2025 to 28.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Vijayawada- Guntur- Pagidipalli.
2. The train No. 18520 LTT- Visakhapatnam express leaving LTT on 22.05.2025 to 28.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Pagidipalli- Guntur- Vijayawada

3. The train No. 18045 Shalimar-Hyderabad East Coast Express leaving Shalimar on 27.05.2025 and 28.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Vijayawada- Guntur- Pagidipalli.
4. The train No. 18046 Hyderabad- Shalimar East Coast Express leaving Hyderabad on 28.05.2025 and 29.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Pagidipalli- Guntur- Vijayawada
5. The train No. 11019 CST Mumbai- Bhubaneswar Konark express leaving CST Mumbai on 27.05.2025 and 28.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Pagidipalli- Nalgonda- Guntur- Vijayawada
6. The train No. 11020 Bhubaneswar- CST Mumbai Konark express leaving Bhubaneswar on 27.05.2025 and 28.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Vijayawada- Guntur- Nalgonda- Pagidipalli
7. The train No. 22849 Shalimar- Secunderabad express leaving Shalimar on 28.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Pagidipalli.
8. The train No. 28083 Visakhapatnam- Gandhidham express leaving Visakhapatnam on Thursdays i.e. on 22.05.2025 and on 19.05.2025 will run in diverted route via Lakholi- Raipur- Nagpur- Badnera.
9. Similarly the train No. 28084 Gandhidham- Visakhapatnam express leaving Gandhidham on Sundays i.e. on 25.05.2025 and on 22.06.2025 will run in diverted route via

Badnera - Nagpur- Raipur- Lakholi.

10. The train No. 20819 Puri- Okha express leaving Puri on Sundays i.e. 25.05.2025 and on 15.06.2025 will in diverted route via Lakholi - Raipur- Nagpur- Badnera.
11. The train No. 20820 Okha- Puri express leaving Okha on Wednesdays i.e. 28.05.2025 and 18.06.2025 will run in diverted route via Badnera - Nagpur- Raipur- Lakholi.

Rescheduling of trains:

1. The train No. 20833 Visakhapatnam- Secunderabad Vande Bharat express will be rescheduled to leave by One hour Fifteen Minutes on 29.05.2025.

Elimination of stoppage: Stoppage to the following trains will be eliminated at Mahabubabad during the above works as detailed below.

1. The train No. 12727 Visakhapatnam- Hyderabad Godavari express leaving Visakhapatnam from 24.05.2025 to 28.05.2025 will not have halt at Mahabubabad
2. The train No. 12861 Visakhapatnam- Mahabubnagar express leaving Visakhapatnam from 24.05.2025 to 28.05.2025 will not have halt at Mahabubabad
3. The train No. 11020 Bhubaneswar- CST Mumbai Konark express leaving Bhubaneswar on 24th, 25th and 26th May-2025 will not have halt at Mahabubabad
4. The train No. 18045 Shalimar-Hyderabad East Coast Express leaving Shalimar on 24th, 25th and 26th May-2025 will not have halt at Mahabubabad

People are requested to note the changes and act accordingly.

Temporary augmentation of general coaches to clear extra rush : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, April 28 : In order to clear extra rush of waitlisted passengers, East Coast Railway has decided to augment the following trains with additional coaches from 01.05.2025 to 31.05.2025 as detailed below: -

1. The train No. 18526/18525 Visakhapatnam – Brahmapur – Visakhapatnam Express will be augmented with Two(02) General Class Coaches
2. The train No. 58528/58527 Visakhapatnam – Raipur - Visakhapatnam Passenger Express will be augmented with One(01) General Class Coach
3. The train No. 58538/58537 Visakhapatnam – Koraput – Visakhapatnam Passenger Express will be augmented with One (01) General Seating Coach
4. The train No. 58532/58531 Visakhapatnam – Brahmapur – Visakhapatnam Passenger Express will be augmented with One(01) General Seating Coach
5. The train No. 22820/22819 Visakhapatnam- Bhubaneswar- Visakhapatnam express will be augmented with Two(02) General Class Coaches
6. The train No. 18512/18511 Visakhapatnam- Koraput- Visakhapatnam express will be augmented with Two(02) General Class Coaches

People are requested to make use of these services.

Special Ticket checking drives to ensure safe travel : ECoR

(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, April 28 : In a concerted effort to enhance safety, security and passenger amenities over the Division during this summer, special drives have been launched by Waltair Division. These special drives focused on areas include crowd management, enhanced safety measures, smooth train operations, and improved passenger amenities. Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, Shri Lalit Bohra, emphasized the objectives of these initiatives and advised to ensure comfortable travel of passengers, focus on passenger amenities, enhance safety measures across all stations and in trains. Special efforts are being made to manage overcrowding issues, safety and security of passengers. To ensure effective crowd management and smooth train operation, joint teams comprising Commercial Ticket Checking staff and Railway Protection Force have been formed for conducting Fortress Checks to enable smooth entry, queuing,



crowd management at major stations. These checks focus on preventing unauthorized entry into reserved and designated coaches for Divyangjan passengers and women travellers etc. Passengers are advised to adhere to safe travel practices, carry valid tickets, stay vigilant regarding their belongings, report any unattended luggage to railway authorities, and cooperate with the railway staff for a better travel experience.

Waltair Stadium hosts vibrant summer camp : ECoR



(Standard Post Bureau)
Visakhapatnam, April 28 East Coast Railway Sports Association (ECoRSA) – Waltair has launched its annual Summer Coaching Camp 2025, running from April 22 to May 31, 2025, at the Waltair Railway Stadium in Visakhapatnam. The 40-day camp has drawn enthusiastic participation from over 200 children, aged 5 to 15 years, who attend both morning and evening sessions daily. As a special highlight, a dedicated Yoga camp is being conducted under the guidance of Smt. Jyotsna Bohra, President of the East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ECoRWWO) – Waltair. This initiative aims to instill healthy habits and mental well-being among the young participants. Children are actively and eagerly participating in the yoga sessions, making the most of this opportunity. The free summer coaching camp offers a wide range of sports disciplines including Yoga, Athletics, Boxing, Basketball, Cricket, Ball Badminton, Football, Shuttle Badminton, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, and Volleyball. The camp is open to children of Railway employees as well as residents of Visakhapatnam. Participants benefit from expert coaching and access to world-class sports facilities at the Waltair Railway Stadium. The camp's primary objective is to nurture young talent, foster a spirit of sportsmanship, and offer a platform for local youth to pursue excellence in sports at the national and international levels. Registration is currently open, with specific entry norms applicable for Cricket, Swimming, and Tennis. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the General Secretary at the Waltair Railway Indoor Stadium in Visakhapatnam for more details and admission procedures.



Ale Mohammad Inaugurates development works in DDA flat Mata Sundri Road



(Standard Post Bureau)
New Delhi, April 28 : Even after Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi, Aam Aadmi Party members of the assembly have continued development works in their respective constituencies. Ale Mohammad Iqbal, MLA from Matia Mahal assembly constituency, inaugurated the works of summer sewer.

In his short speech on the occasion, he said that he is taking all possible steps to improve the DD flat Quarters. He said that he has completed about sixty percent of the works that were told to him by the

colony residents so far. He reminded that this work of summer sewer was approved during the term of former MLA Shoaib Iqbal, which is being completed today, he assured that the DDA flat of Mata Sundri Colony will be beautified in the style of DLF. In which safety, security and other

facilities will be fully arranged, and the installation of gates in the quarters will also be completed soon. In addition to this summer sewer, he talked about installing two more borewells in the same quarters. He promised to get the same constructed through contractors wherever the need for tiles and slabs is in the blocks of DDA flat quarters. Earlier, a large number of local people Welcome to him. On this occasion, Siddiq Bhai, Asad Bhai, Saleem Raza, Sushil, Manoj, Rafiq Bhai, Mustafa Bhai, Taqi Bhai, Jag Mohan, Nirmal, Azam, Furqan, Ishaq, Sadiq, Farast, Deepak, Moin, Kamal, Ravi, Rahul and others were present.

Not going to be intimidated by govt's "threats"

Lucknow, April 28 (UNI) : Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday strongly condemned the attack on party MP Ramji Lal Suman and said that the attack on his cavalcade challenging the law and order was done to scare, but SP is not going to get intimidated. Addressing a press conference organised at the party's state office, Akhilesh said that SP MP Ramji Lal Suman was attacked because he was going to Sunhara village in Bulandshahr to raise his voice against those who are crushing Dalits. Where the Dalits were brutally trampled several times by the ruling party's people, in which a Dalit woman died. "Many people were brutally crushed. The attack on Ramji Lal Suman is a challenge to the government and law and order," he said. He alleged that the attack on Ramji Lal Suman was done to intimidate

SP. "The attackers have the support of the government and the DGP, but the Samajwadi people are neither going to be scared of the attack nor are they going to be scared of anyone's threats. Those who are threatening us or Ramji Lal Suman, they are not challenging us but the Chief Minister, DGP and those in uniform," he said. The SP chief said, "They are flouting the law and order of the state. We are people who believe in law, the Constitution and democracy, those who are challenging us should come and talk with an open mind. Discuss openly. We are ready to talk with an open mind." He alleged that some people in the BJP government have a free hand, they are openly flouting the law and order. "They do not fear the law because from top to bottom in power, people of their own caste are in power.