

Iran has every right to counter US's state-sponsored piracy, terrorism: UN envoy

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations underlines that the Islamic Republic reserves all rights to duly confront the United States' seizure of Iranian vessels as part of Washington's continued illegal blockade against the country. In a letter dated Wednesday, Amir Saied Iravani said he was writing "to bring to the urgent attention" of the UN Security Council the "continuing internationally wrongful acts of the United States through yet another piracy-style seizure and deliberate targeting of commercial vessels, namely the M/T Majestic and M/T Tifani." Iravani pointed to a public statement released earlier by a US attorney, describing it as "an explicit and deliberate admission of internationally wrongful conduct." He noted how the attorney had "boasted of the pirate-style seizure" of the two vessels and the subsequent stealing of 3.8 million barrels of Iranian oil.

Ex-CIA officer: Reza Pahlavi 'a playboy not qualified to lead anything'

A former CIA officer has publicly dismissed Reza Pahlavi, the son of Iran's deposed shah, as "a playboy" who is "not qualified to lead anything". Speaking on the Tucker Carlson Show, John Kiriakou stated openly, "Reza Pahlavi is not qualified to lead anything." "He is a playboy. He had an affair with his brother's wife," he said, as Kiriakou interjected, "Actually?" "Actually. His brother turned to drugs and committed suicide," Kiriakou said, referring to Alireza Pahlavi, the younger brother of Reza, who killed himself in the US in January 2011 at the age of 44 after a long battle with depression, his family said at the time. Leila Pahlavi, Reza's sister, reportedly died from an overdose in 2001 in a London hotel room at the age of 31. Kiriakou noted that Reza Pahlavi's own wife "is having a very public affair right now with her personal trainer."

Voice Of Oppressed

Sada-E-Hussaini

TELANGANA PLANS 150-METRE TUMMIDIHATTI BARRAGE AMID MAHARASHTRA OBJECTIONS



The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 29

In a bid to construct Tummidihatti barrage, the State government has proposed to reduce its height to 150 metres and improve water utilisation, while reducing submergence in

neighbouring Maharashtra. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to prepare necessary proposals in this regard. Tourist Destinations The proposals were prepared after taking into consideration Maharashtra's objections to the project's height at 152 metres, due to extreme submergence in their State. Though Maharashtra did not object to the project height at 148 metres, experts opined that it was not feasible considering the costs involved. At a high-level review meeting chaired by Revanth

Reddy and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, officials and experts said going beyond 152 metres could increase submergence in Maharashtra, while 150 metres would minimise impact and still allow Telangana to utilise around 100 TMCft water from the Godavari River by using existing infrastructure under the Pranahita-Chevella project. Telangana tourism guide The Chief Minister directed immediate talks with the Maharashtra government and asked officials to convince them by offering necessary compensation.

MASS RALLY HELD IN TEHRAN TO MARK BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF IMAM REZA

The Democratic News Tehran, Apr, 29

A large public rally was held in Tehran on Wednesday to mark the birth anniversary of Imam Reza (AS), with participants voicing support for the country against foreign aggression and renewing allegiance to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Mojtaba Khamenei. The massive gathering of people took place in the Iranian capital on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shiite Imam, with strong public



participation. The ceremony has been held along a route stretching from Imam Hossein (AS) Square to Azadi Square and is scheduled to continue until 9 pm. Similar events have also been held simultaneously across cities nationwide. Participants, carrying Iranian flags and images of martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, renewed their pledge to the ideals of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, and the martyred Leader.

INDIA ASKS HAJ 2026 PILGRIMS TO PAY Rs 10,000 EXTRA AIRFARE

Mumbai: The Haj Committee of India (HCoI) has directed pilgrims selected for Haj 2026 to deposit an additional Rs 10,000 towards revised airfare, citing the ongoing crisis in the Middle East and a sharp rise in aviation fuel prices. In a circular issued on Tuesday, April 28, the committee said the Ministry of Minority Affairs had approved a one-time airfare revision for Haj 2026 air charter operations. The revised fare includes an extra charge of USD 100 per pilgrim, regardless of embarkation point.



IRGC Navy to confront any fresh American aggression with 'surprise tactics': Official

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy's deputy for political affairs says the naval force's "surprise tactics" await the United States in the event of any fresh miscalculation. Mohammad Akbarzadeh made the remarks on Tuesday in the southern Iranian city of Minab, where more than 170 schoolchildren and staff were martyred on the first day of the latest bout of the US's and the Israeli regime's unprovoked aggression targeting the Islamic Republic on February 28.

Foreign Flights Resume from Tehran Airport to Multiple Destinations

Iran has resumed international passenger flights from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport to several foreign destinations following a ceasefire in the US-Israeli war of aggression against the country, an official said. The CEO of Imam Khomeini International Airport said on Wednesday that since the resumption of passenger flights, planning and the necessary permits have been secured to operate routes to a number of international destinations.

Telangana govt takes over Hyderabad Metro for Rs 1,461 crore

The debt of LTMRL, amounting to Rs 13,538.53 crore, which was guaranteed by L&T, shall now be refinanced with a guarantee issued by the Telangana government.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, Apr, 29

The Telangana government on Wednesday, April 29, formally acquired Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase I from Larsen & Toubro Limited for Rs 1,461 crore. The state government signed a share purchase agreement with Larsen & Toubro Limited and L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (LTMRL) for the acquisition of 100 per cent equity shares of LTMRL at an equity value of Rs 1,461.47 crore. The state government had last year decided to take



over Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase I through the Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL). The agreement was signed in the presence of the Chief Secretary and HMRL Chairman, K Ramakrishna Rao, Special Chief Secretary, Municipal Affairs and Urban Development, Jayesh Rangan, HMRL Managing Director, Sarfaraz Ahmad, and senior management of L&T and LTMRL. The share purchase agreement was signed by Ahmad on behalf of the HMRL, DK

Sen on behalf of the L&T Ltd, and KVB Reddy on behalf of the LTMRL. According to a statement by the HMRL, the debt of LTMRL, amounting to Rs 13,538.53 crore, as on April 30, which was guaranteed by L&T, shall now be refinanced with a guarantee issued by the Telangana government. The transaction advisor is IDBI Capital, and the legal advisory services were provided by Saraf & Partners. In this context, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman and Managing Director, SN Subrahmanyam, called upon Chief Minister Revanth Reddy earlier in the day.

US-Israeli strikes on 130,000 civilian sites amount to war crime, Iran tells ICRC

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi has condemned the US-Israeli strikes against 130,000 civilian facilities, houses, hospitals and non-military infrastructure during the recent war of aggression against the country as a war crime and crime against humanity. Gharibabadi made the remarks in a meeting with President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric in Tehran on Wednesday. "In case such a behavior is a testament to the civilization which the United States and the West have been propagating and seeking to impose on others according to their self-defined democracy, human rights and lifestyle, then world nations hate it," the senior Iranian diplomat said.



A HISTORIC 91 PC VOTER TURNOUT TILL 7 PM, POLLING CONCLUDES IN WEST BENGAL

The most contentious issue of this phase of elections remains the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The Democratic News Kolkata, Apr, 29

Voting began on Wednesday, April 29, in 142 constituencies in the second and final phase of the West Bengal assembly elections, amid unprecedented security arrangements and a high-stakes contest that could decide whether the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) retains its dominance over southern districts or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) can force open the gates of power in the state.



Polling started at 7 am with voters lining up outside booths across Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly and Purba Bardhaman — districts that together form the political and electoral core of the state. Unlike the first phase, where the BJP sought to defend its north Bengal gains, the final round shifts the battle squarely to the TMC's strongest belt. In 2021, the ruling party had won 123 of these 142

seats, leaving just 18 for the BJP and one for the Indian Secular Front (ISF). That arithmetic explains why the BJP has treated this phase as its real test. Without breaching south Bengal, there is little route to power in the state. At the centre of the contest is Bhabanipur, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's political bastion, where she faces Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari in a prestige battle seen as a symbolic rematch of Nandigram, where he had defeated her in 2021.

Israeli strikes kill 10 in southern Lebanon, including 3 rescue workers

April 16 after weeks of fighting between the Tel Aviv regime and Hezbollah.



The Democratic News Lebanon, Apr, 29

At least ten people, including three rescue workers, have been killed in Israeli airstrikes against residential neighborhoods in southern Lebanon, marking the latest violations of a ceasefire that began on

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) reported that an Israeli aerial raid destroyed a four-storey building in the village of Jabchit in the Nabatieh district on Tuesday night, killing Mohammad Jawad Bahja, his wife Lotfiya, as well as Amani Jaber and her daughters. Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health announced in a statement that at least 13 people also sustained injuries in the attack. Separately, two successive Israeli strikes on a building in the town of Majdal Zoun on Tuesday killed five people,

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US-ISRAELI STRIKES ON 130,000 CIVILIAN SITES AMOUNT TO WAR CRIME, IRAN TELLS ICRC

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi has condemned the US-Israeli strikes against 130,000 civilian facilities, houses, hospitals and non-military infrastructure during the recent war of aggression against the country as a war crime and crime against humanity. Gharibabadi made the remarks in a meeting with President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric in Tehran on Wednesday. "In case such a behavior is a testament to the civilization which the United States and the West have been propagating and seeking to impose on others according to their self-defined democracy, human rights and lifestyle, then world nations hate it," the senior Iranian diplomat said. Nothing has remained out of international law and international humanitarian law other than hollow terms, he said,



arguing that Washington and the Tel Aviv regime have no respect whatsoever for these principles. Gharibabadi also criticized international bodies for their refusal

to denounce US-Israeli onslaught against Iran, as well as their abject failure to take concrete measures to stop the criminal acts of the aggressors. He said certain Arab

governments in the Persian Gulf region supported the anti-Iran military aggression by providing their territory, facilities and military installations to the US-Israeli

enemy. "Based on such documented support, certain neighboring countries cannot be considered impartial, and they are legally viewed as parties involved in the aggression. Iran had no option but to deliver a befitting deterrent response to the attacks to attacks originated from these states." The Iranian deputy foreign minister said the aggressors, which are particularly proud of their massacres, are highly required to observe the principles of the international humanitarian law. "Whatever measure Iran took was in self-defense, and meant to safeguard its nation and territory." Spoljaric underlined the need for belligerent parties to respect the international humanitarian law during armed conflicts, hoping for cessation of hostilities through diplomacy and promotion of peace, stability and calm throughout West Asia.

UAE QUILTS OPEC: WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THE GULF, ENERGY MARKETS AND BEYOND

After decades of membership, the United Arab Emirates has decided to quit the oil producers' group, OPEC, in order to focus on "national interests" and forge its own path, it has said. The move is seen as a major blow to the Vienna-based oil cartel – but will not spell the end of it altogether, observers say. The UAE's decision to quit comes after years of open dissatisfaction with the oil cartel's policy of capping members' production as a way to control prices and stabilise the market. The country has invested billions of dollars in increasing its oil production capacity from 3 to 5 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2027. As it has grown its ability to produce more oil, it has demanded a larger quota

than has been assigned to it. The moves also come at a particularly tricky moment as the region, and the rest of the world, grapples with an energy crisis triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran, which began on February 28. Tehran responded by hitting back at Israel, US military assets and other infrastructure in Gulf countries. It also closed off most access to the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of the world's supplies of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) are shipped from Gulf producers. Before the start of the war, the UAE's production capacity had grown to 4.8 million bpd, but under its OPEC agreement, it was only allowed to produce 3.2 million bpd.

Most Israeli settlers believe regime's military 'failed on all fronts': Poll

A majority of Israeli settlers believe the occupying entity's military has failed to achieve any victory since at least October 2023, amid ongoing wars, internal divisions, and mounting legal pressure on Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



Results of a poll published by Israel's public broadcaster KAN on Tuesday revealed that 57 percent of Israeli settlers believe the regime has failed to secure any victory

in any war since October 7, 2023, when Tel Aviv launched a genocidal war against the besieged Gaza Strip. According to the poll, only 28 percent see success

in at least one arena and 15 percent remain uncertain. These findings follow over two years of devastating Israeli assaults across Gaza that claimed the lives of

well more than 70,000 Palestinians and wounded many more, as well as heavy attacks against Lebanon and Iran, alongside strikes in Yemen and Syria and continued destruction in the occupied West Bank. The poll further showed that confidence in military outcomes remains low, with just 17 percent viewing operations in Syria as successful and only 16 percent expressing the same for Gaza and Iran. Public pessimism extends to other fronts, with perceived success dropping to 14 percent in Lebanon, 12 percent in Yemen, and just 11 percent in the occupied West Bank. On the ground, Israeli forces have reportedly begun withdrawing from southern Lebanon.

Who will win Bengal, Assam, TN, Kerala, Puducherry? Here's what exit polls say

With elections coming to a close in West Bengal on Wednesday, April 29, as well as in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry, all eyes are now on exit poll predictions, with several predicting a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win in two crucial states and a Congress sweep in one. Most exit polls have predicted West Bengal to turn saffron, while Assam will continue to remain so. In Kerala, exit polls indicate a strong Congress comeback, while Tamil Nadu is set to witness a power battle between Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), with actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay's Tamila Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) and the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) expected to play

spoilsport. Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry had a single-phase polling on April 9, while West Bengal voted in two phases – on April 23 and April 29. This time, a good voter turnout was registered in all polling states. Assam recorded 85.91 per cent turnout, while Puducherry registered 91.23 per cent, the highest since Independence. Tamil Nadu and Kerala logged 85.1 per cent and 78.27 per cent turnout. The first phase of the West Bengal elections on April 23 recorded 92.88 per cent voting across 152 constituencies in 16 districts, and the second phase stands at 91.41 per cent in 142 constituencies. It should be noted that exit polls are not always accurate, and the actual results will vary. Election results will be declared on May 4

ISRAELI STRIKES ON GAZA KILL FIVE CIVILIANS, INCLUDING 9-YEAR-OLD BOY



A series of new Israeli strikes have killed at least five Palestinian civilians, including a 9-year-old boy, in the besieged Gaza Strip as Israel continues its relentless violations of a ceasefire. Medics said an Israeli drone killed the child, Adel Al Najjar, in eastern Khan Yunis in the south of the blockaded strip on Tuesday. Meanwhile, another Israeli airstrike targeted a vehicle in Gaza City, killing four people. At the morgue of Nasser Hospital, relatives gathered to bid farewell to Najjar's small, white-shrouded body. Women wept beside the child, who lay on a medical stretcher on the floor, while men recited a special prayer before carrying him to the cemetery for burial.

IRAN HAS EVERY RIGHT TO COUNTER US'S STATE-SPONSORED PIRACY, TERRORISM: UN ENVOY



Iran's ambassador to the United Nations underlines that the Islamic Republic reserves all rights to duly confront the United States' seizure of Iranian vessels as part of Washington's continued illegal blockade against the country. In a letter dated Wednesday, Amir Saeed Iravani said he was writing "to bring to the urgent attention" of the UN Security Council the "continuing internationally wrongful acts of the United States through yet another piracy-style seizure and deliberate targeting of commercial vessels, namely

the M/T Majestic and M/T Tifani." Iravani pointed to a public statement released earlier by a US attorney, describing it as "an explicit and deliberate admission of internationally wrongful conduct." He noted how the attorney had "boasted of the pirate-style seizure" of the two vessels and the subsequent stealing of 3.8 million barrels of Iranian oil. "The US attorney's statement clearly confirms that the United States armed forces have interdicted, boarded, and forcibly seized Iran's commercial vessels

on the high seas on the basis of their bullying attitude," the letter read. He added, "Such conduct is nothing but another clear example of US addiction to lawlessness and constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2(4). According to the letter, the actions "fall squarely within the definition of an act of aggression" under UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 of 1974, which defines aggression as the use of armed force by one state against another. Such actions against vessels engaged in legitimate commercial activity also pose a direct threat to maritime safety and security, and escalate the volatile situation in the region, the ambassador underscored. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has every right, in accordance with international law, to counter these insolent actions."

PENTAGON CHIEF GRILLED IN CONGRESS OVER HUGE COST OF WAR AGAINST IRAN

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was grilled by members of Congress over the enormous cost of the joint American-Israeli military aggression against Iran.

The hearing on Wednesday came after the Pentagon revealed that the aggression against Iran has cost the United States some \$25 billion so far. Jules Hurst, a senior Pentagon official, disclosed the sum to members of the Armed Services Committee of the US House of Representatives as he insisted that most of the money had been spent on munitions. However, while facing questions from US lawmakers, Hegseth said the cost of the war, which is equal to the entire budget of the US space agency NASA for this year, was justified, while repeating the administration's false accusations about Iran's nuclear program. "What would you pay to ensure Iran does not get a nuclear bomb? What would you pay?" Hegseth asked

members of Congress. The controversial US war minister, who is quite known for his odd behavior, burst into anger when faced with questions about the failure of the US aggression on Iran and the fact that Washington has not been able to conclude the war. Hegseth called lawmakers who criticize the war and call it a quagmire a group of "reckless, feckless, and defeatist" Congressional Democrats. He also refused to answer a question whether he had recommended President

Trump to start a war with Iran, while also avoiding clearly stating what Washington's plans were to prevent a closure by Iran of the Strait of Hormuz, which has caused global commodity and energy prices to skyrocket. Asked about a February 28 attack on a school in southern Iran, which killed nearly 170 children and teachers and caused global uproar, the defense minister repeated previous statements that the attack is under investigation. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was grilled by mem-



bers of Congress over the enormous cost of the joint American-Israeli military aggression against Iran. The hearing on Wednesday

revealed that the aggression against Iran has cost the United States some \$25 billion so far.

Children among biggest victims as unexploded ordnance scars Sudan's Khartoum

Nearly 60 people were killed or injured in Khartoum state last year, over half children, while 21 of 23 victims this year were children.



Khartoum: Khaled Abdulgader noticed children using an unusual object as a football and tried to stop them. He grabbed it, and it exploded in his hand. He lost two fingers, and shrapnel sliced into his chest. In a hospital

for a checkup after last year's blast, he tried to stay positive. "I feel like, Thank God it was just my hands," Abdulgader said. He is among hundreds of people who have been injured or killed by unexploded ordnance in Sudan's three years

of war. That includes mines as well as weapons such as bombs, shells, grenades or rockets that failed to detonate, tens of thousands of items in all. The government and aid groups say it's a problem particularly in and around Khartoum, where residents, many unfamiliar with the threat, have started to return after the Sudanese military recaptured the capital last year. Many of the dead or injured are children. Nearly 60 people were injured or killed in Khartoum state last year, over half of them children, and 23 were injured or killed in the first three months of

this year, 21 of them children, according to the United Nations. Decades of conflict in Sudan have left unexploded ordnance scattered across the country, with a combined area of about 7,700 football fields contaminated. More than half of that is the result of the war that erupted in 2023 between Sudan's army and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group, with new areas such as Khartoum state affected. Both the Sudanese army and the RSF have been accused of laying mines, according to aid groups, during the war as they fought for control of the capital.

Qalibaf: Iranian nation will defeat US plots to sow internal division

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf says the Iranian nation will once again defeat US plots aimed at sowing division in the country through unity and faith.

In an audio message addressed to the nation on Wednesday, Qalibaf said the only definitive solution to counter the enemy's plots is to "preserve national unity." He noted that solidarity among the people has historically been the cornerstone of the Iranian nation's ability to overcome challenges and still remains the most essential factor in doing so as "the enemy has now entered a new phase of aggression." Without "the cohesive and proactive presence of the people," Qalibaf said, no achievements would have been possible in the face of the joint US-Israeli aggression. Through the so-called naval blockade of Iranian ports and psychological media warfare, he said Washington "attempts to weaponize economic pressure and sow internal division, hoping to weaken the nation from within or even trigger its collapse."

Travis Head And Heinrich Klaasen Help SRH Become 2nd Team In The World To...

Sunrisers Hyderabad chased down the target of 244 runs in 18.4 overs at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday (April 29) to secure a win by 6 wickets over Mumbai Indians. The successful run chase of 244 runs by the Orange Army on Wednesday helped them become the second team in the world to chase down a target of 200+ runs in an IPL match against the Mumbai Indians. In their first 17 seasons of the IPL, MI never lost an IPL match in which they managed to score at least 200 runs.

MI's first defeat in an IPL match where they scored 200 or more runs came against Punjab Kings in Ahmedabad on June 1, 2025. In the second qualifier match of IPL 2025 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Shreyas Iyer scored an unbeaten fifty to help PBKS chase down 204-run target in 19 overs for the loss of only five wickets. And now on April 29, 2026, they have lost another fixture where their batters scored more than 200 runs. For SRH, Travis Head scored 76 runs from 30 balls, and Hein-



rich Klaasen played an unbeaten knock of 65 runs from 30 balls. Head hammered 4 fours and 8 sixes during his stay at the crease, and Klaasen smacked 7 fours and 4 sixes. With a total of 414 runs in nine matches, the former South African wicketkeeper-batter is now only behind Abhishek Sharma in the IPL 2026 Orange Cap race. The run chase of 244 by SRH in 18.4 overs is the fourth highest successful run chase in an IPL match. Their highest successful run chase in an IPL match is 246

against Punjab Kings in the IPL 2025 match at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on April 12, 2025. The record of the highest successful run chase in IPL history is held by Punjab Kings. The Punjab-based franchise chased down 265 runs in 18.5 overs against Delhi Capitals in Delhi on April 25, 2026. Head and Klaasen scored half-centuries on Wednesday to help SRH become the second team in the world to chase down a 200-plus run target against the Mumbai Indians.

MANUEL NEUER SCRIPTS UNWANTED UCL HISTORY, BECOMES FIRST GK EVER TO...

After PSG's 5-4 rout of Bayern, Neuer is now the first goalkeeper ever in UCL history to concede 5 goals in a knockout match and not make a single save.



It was chaos, quality, and relentless attacking from both sides. But once the dust settled on Bayern Munich's

5-4 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain, one uncomfortable stat stood out — Manuel Neuer didn't make a single save. Zero saves, five goals conceded. A jarring anomaly. A Night To Forget This was a historic outing for the Bavarian, for all the wrong reasons. Neuer conceded five goals without registering a save, becoming the first goalkeeper in the last 16 UEFA Champions League seasons to do so in a knockout match. Where It All Went Wrong Okay, to be fair to the Bavarian, it wasn't like he was just letting PSG walk the goals in. Bayern's defence spent much of the night under sustained pressure, with PSG's attack repeatedly finding space and shooting positions. This meant that Neuer was often left reacting to high-quality chances rather than routine efforts. And by God, PSG's finishing was clinical, with efforts placed beyond reach

more often than not. While there were moments where Neuer might have anticipated better, the reality is that he was dealing with attackers who rarely miss from those positions. As the goals piled up, his role shifted from shot-stopper to spectator and, eventually, to just being a decorated ballboy retrieving the ball from the net. Neuer Responds After the match, Neuer addressed the performance with a measured response. "Yeah, it's tough," he said. "You saw the goals. It was hard to get a hand in. Two of them were close. Sometimes we weren't granted the right amount of luck. In any event, [the goalscorers] are world-class footballers." "Maybe it will be different at home next week," he added. Bigger Questions Loom Albeit his legacy remains untainted, the dismal night has raised a variety of questions regarding Neuer's future.

Thomas Cup Finals 2026: Indian Men's Team Trails China 0-1 After Lakshya Sen's Loss

India fell 0-1 behind against China in their final Group A tie of the Thomas Cup Finals in Horsens on Wednesday, after Lakshya Sen lost a hard-fought opener. Facing world No. 7 Li Shi Feng, Lakshya went down 19-21, 21-8, 12-21 in a match that swung sharply across three games. The defeat meant India had to play catch-up early in a crucial tie. Lakshya vs Li Lakshya started on the back foot, trailing 3-6, but mixed his attack well to claw his way back. However, Li capitalised on a few loose lifts to take a narrow lead into the mid-game interval and eventually edged the opener 21-19 after a tense 19-19 deadlock. The second game saw a complete turnaround. Lakshya dominated from the outset, racing to a 5-0 lead and then 11-2, helped by a string of un-



forced errors from Li. Maintaining control throughout, the Indian forced a decider with a convincing 21-8 win. The final game, though, slipped away. Lakshya recovered from 1-4 down to level at 7-7, but Li regained control heading into the break. A brief fight-back brought Lakshya to 10-12, but repeated errors allowed the Chinese shuttler to pull clear.

Mouth-Covering, Walk-Offs Now Mean Automatic Red Cards At 2026 FIFA World Cup

D Gukesh's Giddy Reaction To Vaishali's Candidates Triumph: 'I Screamed When Akka Won'

When two of India's brightest chess stars share a moment, it's bound to feel special. Reigning World Champion Gukesh D stated that he couldn't hide his excitement after R Vaishali clinched the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament, booking her place at the Women's World Championship later this year. "I Just Screamed" Vaishali's win in Cyprus was a breakthrough moment, and Gukesh was glued to it. "I was following Vaishali Akka's game and I just screamed when she won," he said during a felicitation event in Chennai. He didn't stop there. "Huge congrats to Vaishali Akka. Since the 2024 Candidates, I've always been amazed by the character she shows in any tournament. And I'm really glad that we both can fight for the World Championship." Vaishali, calm as ever, had a light response ready. "I hope we both will win (the World Championship) and we'll have yet another celebration," she said, drawing laughter and applause from the crowd. A Title Sealed Under Pressure By Vaishali Facing a must-win situation in the final round of the 2026 Women's Candidates, Vaishali delivered with the white pieces, defeating Kateryna Lagno in the final round. She finished on 8.5 points, edging Bibisara Assaubayeva by half a point in a tight finish. And by doing so, she booked herself a clash with reigning champion

FERREIRA, DUBEY HAND PUNJAB KINGS FIRST DEFEAT OF THE SEASON



Mullanpur: Donovan Ferreira's audacious stroke-play handed Punjab Kings the bitter pill of defeat

for the first time in this edition of IPL as Rajasthan Royals canted home by six wickets in a high-

tane chase here on Tuesday, April 28. Chasing a target of 223, Rajasthan Royals needed 71 off the last

six overs when Ferreira smashed his way to an unbeaten 52 off 26 balls in company of an unheralded Shubham Dubey (31 not out off 12 balls) to clinch the victory with four balls to spare. Ferreira was brilliant while picking his areas as PBKS troika of Arshdeep Singh (1/68 in 4 overs), Lockie Ferguson (0/57 in 4 overs) and Marco Jansen (0/41 in 3.2 overs) would like to forget this day in a hurry. Between Ferreira and Dubey, they hit nine fours and five sixes as they undid all the good work done by Yuzvendra Chahal (3/36 in 4 overs). The manner in which Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (43 off 16 balls) started with a deluge of sixes — five — including a couple of flicked maximums off Arshdeep Singh and Lockie Ferguson, it

seemed RR would make a meal of the chase. Arshdeep was lucky that Sooryavanshi missed out on a sixth six when he mistimed a full-toss only for Shreyas Iyer to grab it with ease. Arshdeep was lucky that Sooryavanshi missed out on a sixth six when he mistimed a full-toss only for Shreyas Iyer to grab it with ease. However, Jurel committed a hara-kiri, offering an easy skier off a full-toss but it was the manner in which Jaiswal and skipper Riyan Parag (29 off 16 balls) were taken out deserved more than honourable mention. For both, the pace on the ball was considerably taken off and flighted outside the off-stump line without giving enough room to chance their arms. Both were holed out at long-off.

NBA Finds A Fix For Tanking? '3-2-1 Lottery' Plan Proposed To Curb Mess - Report

For years, NBA fans have complained about 'tanking'. And now, the league seems set to draw a line in the sand and stand on business. According to ESPN's Shams Charania, the NBA has presented a new draft reform proposal, dubbed the "3-2-1 lottery," to all 30 teams in an effort to curb the growing issue. Why the League Is Stepping In Tanking (losing intentionally to secure better draft odds) has become increasingly visible, especially after the All-Star break. And this season, it reached a tipping point. Five teams — Washington Wizards, Indiana Pacers, Utah Jazz, Memphis Grizzlies and Brooklyn Nets — all posted winning percentages below .180 after the break, something never seen before. The league even fined the Jazz \$500,000 for "conduct detrimental to the league" after questionable player usage late in games. How the "3-2-1 Lottery" Works The proposed system reshapes draft odds to discourage finishing at the bottom. The lottery pool expands from 14 to 16 teams, including play-in losers. All 16 teams enter the draw, rather than weighting only the worst records

No Boost Mode Under Certain Conditions? FIA's Rule Tweak Leaves F1 Fans Puzzled

Just when the 2026 season needed less confusion, not more, FIA has stepped in with another late tweak. Ahead of the Miami Grand Prix, the governing body has updated regulations in a bid to improve safety and address early issues in F1's new era. But buried in the fine print is a change that's raising eyebrows and a few uncomfortable questions. Boost Mode Gets A Wet-Weather Ban One of the key updates involves "Boost mode," the extra burst of power drivers can deploy under the hybrid-heavy 2026 regulations. Unlike traditional overtaking aids, Boost could previously be used anywhere on track, giving drivers flexibility to attack or defend at will. Now, that changes in wet conditions. As per the updated



rulebook: "In Low Grip conditions the use of Boost mode... will be inhibited and is not allowed." In simple terms: no extra power when the track is slippery. Safety First, But Was This Ob-

vicious? On the surface, the logic checks out. Wet conditions already push drivers to the edge, and adding sudden bursts of power only increases the risk of losing control. Removing

Boost in those scenarios is a clear attempt to reduce accidents and keep things manageable. There's also a competitive angle. Without artificial power surges, drivers may have to rely more on racecraft — throttle control, positioning, and decision-making — rather than tech-assisted bursts. That's something many fans have been asking for. The Bigger Issue Here's the catch: why now? The risks of combining low grip with sudden power delivery aren't exactly new. It's hard to ignore that this feels reactive rather than proactive, a change pushed through after complaints from drivers and growing scrutiny from fans. It is also possible that the timing may be influenced by expected wet

conditions in Miami, which only adds to the sense that this is a last-minute correction rather than a well-planned rule. Some will see it as necessary. Others will argue it removes a layer of risk-taking and creativity. The kind of bold, high-stakes driving that separates the best from the rest. Safety matters. But, so does consistency. And right now, FIA is trying to balance both. But it's fair to say they could be doing it a lot more convincingly. Just when the 2026 season needed less confusion, not more, FIA has stepped in with another late tweak. Ahead of the Miami Grand Prix, the governing body has updated regulations in a bid to improve safety and address early issues in F1's new era.

Telangana releases Rs 1,000 crore towards govt employees' dues

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Apr, 29

Taking another significant step towards resolving long-pending issues of the government employees in Telangana, the state government has released Rs 1,000 crore towards pending dues.

Acting on the directions of the Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the funds were released on Wednesday, April 29.

Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, Sandeep Kumar Sultanania, issued the orders for the release. With this, the Deputy CM has fulfilled the assurance given in the Assembly, said an official release.



Last year, during discussions with employee unions, the government had promised to release Rs 700 crore per month. Accordingly, the government honored its commitment and made monthly payments up to March 2026.

However, after personally observing the financial needs and difficulties faced by employees, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka decided to increase the monthly allocation to Rs 1,000 crore from the current financial year.

As part of this, Rs 1,000 crore for the month of April has been released on a war footing. The government has responded very positively towards retired employees. All pending GPF (General Provident Fund) dues up to October 2025 have been completely cleared with these funds, the release stated.

Regarding employees' health needs, the government has directed officials to ensure that medical bills are cleared without even a single day's delay and on a priority basis.

His predecessor, B Shivadhar Reddy, is set to retire on April 30.

Anand has earlier served as Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and twice held the post of Hyderabad city Police Commissioner. He had also served as Police Commissioner of Cyberabad.

Newly appointed Telangana DGP CV Anand calls on Revanth Reddy

His predecessor, B Shivadhar Reddy, is set to retire on April 30.

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Apr, 29

Newly appointed Director General of Police (DGP) CV Anand paid a courtesy visit to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) on Wednesday, April 29.

In orders issued on Tuesday, Anand, a 1991-batch IPS officer currently serving as the Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Home Department, was appointed as the new Telangana DGP.

His predecessor, B Shivadhar Reddy, is set to retire on April 30.

Anand has earlier served as Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)



and twice held the post of Hyderabad city Police Commissioner. He had also served as Police Commissioner of Cyberabad.

He began his police career as Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in the Warangal Rural sub-division.

The first nine years of his service were spent in Maoist-affected districts, where he led operations and was involved in several encounters.

He was awarded the President's Gallantry Medal for his high-risk operations and role in countering Maoism.

Anand was among the three officers shortlisted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in March

Hyderabad: Environmental activists and subject matter experts held a Satyagraha-style protest at Dharma Chowk near Indira Park on Wednesday, April 29, demanding that people living on the banks of the Musi river be made the first beneficiaries of the Musi Riverfront Development Project if displaced by it.

Hyderabad activists hold Satyagraha-style protest opposing 'untruthful' Musi rejuvenation

The protesters, part of the People's Committee for Musi River Rejuvenation (PCM-RR), said they were not opposed to displacement per se, but insisted that the state government adopt a more scientific, hydrological and people-centric approach to the project.

Sagar Dharma, a former United Nations Environment Programme consultant and twice co-author of the Supreme Court committee's reports on Hussain Sagar, said the lake had shrunk from 20 square kilometre originally to just 4.75 sq km today.

He warned that heavy metals, and insecticides such as Lindane and DDT, carried by contaminants from Patancheru, had entered the lake's sediments and were flowing downstream into the Musi, making remediation increasingly difficult.

Dharma accused the Telangana Pollution Control Board (PCB) of enabling pollution rather than checking it, pointing out the contradiction in an agency that grants consent for industrial establishment also being tasked with controlling the resulting pollution.

He suggested that citizens pursue legal recognition of the Musi as a living entity with enforceable rights, and that gram sabhas be empowered to conduct independent environmental audits.

Heineken launches global capability centre in Hyderabad

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Apr, 29

Telangana Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu on Wednesday, April 29, inaugurated Heineken Business Services India, the new Global Capability Centre (GCC) established by Heineken, the world's second-largest brewer, in Hyderabad's financial district. The facility spans 76,000 sq ft. The centre will serve as a strategic global hub for the company,



delivering services across finance, digital, technology and analytics, an official release said.

The inauguration of the facility strengthens Hyderabad's position as a leading GCC destination. The facility

is expected to create over 300 high-value jobs in the initial phase, with employment projected to scale up to 1,600 in the coming years.

Its products are available in 190+ countries, while the company operates over 165 breweries across more than 70 countries, reflecting its extensive global footprint. With a legacy spanning more than 150 years, Heineken stands among the world's most iconic brewing enterprises, the release added.

No need to worry about petrol and diesel: Telangana Civil Supplies Minister

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Apr, 29

Amid long queues witnessed at petrol bunks since the last few days, Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy and Telangana Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday, April 29, assured that there is no shortage of fuel in the state.

Uttam Kumar assured that there is no need to worry over the supply of petrol and diesel as an adequate quantity of fuel to meet consumer requirements is available in the state.

He said people should not believe rumours with regard to the supply of diesel and petrol.

Reddy said in a statement



that a special control room has been set up to monitor fuel supply.

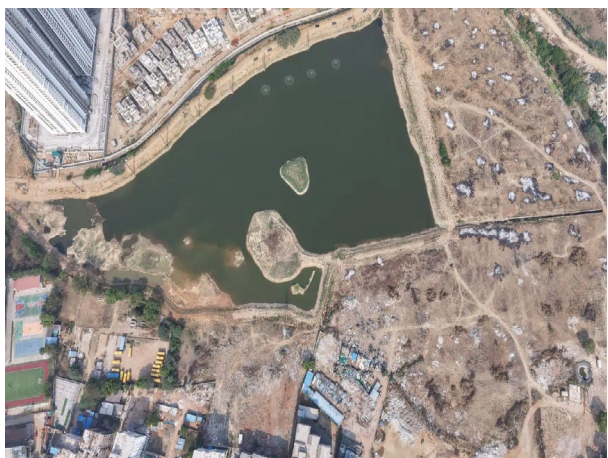
He also said special attention is being paid to diesel supply for agricultural requirements and a toll-free number 1967 has been set up to receive complaints.

The Civil Supplies department said in a post on 'X' that

fuel is being supplied above the average levels to ensure zero disruptions.

"Petrol supply: Up by 132 per cent, Diesel supply: Up by 210 per cent. With 36,404 KL supplied and 3,817 tankers dispatched yesterday alone, there is absolutely NO fuel shortage. Don't panic, don't overstock!," it said.

HYDRAA ASKS RESIDENTS TO VACATE MUSKIN CHERUVU FTL WITHIN 10 DAYS



The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Apr, 28

Hyderabad Disaster Management and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Wednesday, April 29, asked people living in temporary sheds within the Full Tank Level (FTL) of Muskin Cheruvu in Narsingi to vacate the place within 10 days.

According to HYDRAA, encroachers are using people as "human shields" to dump construction waste, pour soil and alter the form of the lake to undertake major constructions.

"The temporary residences and shops are used as a barrier to prevent the development of the lake. Despite being warned six months prior, the encroachers have still not budged from the spot," the agency stated in a release.

Muskin Cheruvu spans 52 acres, while including the buffer zone, it extends to 62 acres. Within this, a private company is claiming up to 18 acre of land, farmers possess 12 acre while 4.20 acre is owned by various individuals, said HYDRAA.

The agency undertook an inspection and immediately

stopped the bund construction.

Roti Bank to Be Launched After Cloth Bank

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, April 29

After the successful initiative of the Cloth Bank, a Roti Bank will now be launched. Through the Cloth Bank, around 7 lakh garments have been distributed among 1.5 lakh needy people, including wedding dresses for deserving families. Services will also be expanded to various districts.

Following a suggestion by Mr. Aamer Ali Khan, Editor of Siasat Daily, Cloth Bank Director Mr. Shaukat Ali Mirza announced that, after the Cloth Bank, a Roti Bank and Book Bank would also be established. He made the announcement while addressing the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Cloth Bank held on April 29 at Abid Ali Khan Eye Hospital, Darulshifa.

Prominent attendees included Mr. Ifthikhar Hussain, Agha Mujahid Hussain, Dr. Rizwan Haider, Dr. Makhdoom Mohiuddin, Dr. Samiullah Khan, along with coordinators Sheikh Akram and Elia Fatima.

Emphasizing the need for



collective humanitarian efforts, Aamer Ali Khan, former MLC and Editor of Siasat Daily, said that initiatives like the Cloth Bank play an important role in serving people from all communities and promoting social harmony.

As chief guest, he said such efforts help meet real grassroots needs and counter divisive narratives through inclusive services. He also offered support for setting up a Roti Bank to provide free meals to the needy.

The Cloth Bank is a joint initiative of Siasat Daily, Faiz-e-Aam Trust, and Helping Hands.

Since its establishment in April 2016 at the premises of Abid Ali Khan Eye Hospital, more than 1,40,643 families

have benefited, and approximately 7 lakh garments have been distributed, including clothes, wedding dresses, women's handbags, and other items. Most beneficiaries belong to economically weaker sections holding white ration cards.

Dr. Mirza said that despite initial challenges, the initiative received overwhelming public support. More than 1,700 donors contributed used but quality clothing as well as new garments. On average, 40 to 60 people daily, including auto drivers, daily wage workers, and slum residents, benefit from the center.

He added that the project has now been expanded to Adilabad, Rangareddy, Nizamabad, and Kamareddy districts. Many students have also received clean and proper clothing, helping them attend school with confidence and dignity. All donated items are washed, ironed, and neatly packed before distribution.

On the occasion, Agha Mujahid Hussain said many people hesitate to seek help due to self-respect despite being in

need. He appealed to the public to donate generously and without publicity.

The concept of the Cloth Bank was introduced by the late Zaheeruddin Ali Khan. Speakers paid tribute to him and remembered his vision of creating a dignified support system for the needy. His son Asghar Ali Khan released the ninth annual report of the initiative.

Organizers also thanked donors, including Dr. Askar Yasmin Siddiqui (Canada), whose annual financial support of Rs 2 lakh during Ramadan has strengthened the project.

The Cloth Bank continues to serve vulnerable groups without discrimination, including daily wage laborers, street vendors, migrants, and homeless individuals, setting an example of inclusive social service.

At the end of the program, clothes were distributed among the needy.

Among those present were Mr. Fazil Hussain Parvez, Editor of Gawah Weekly, Mr. Syed Jaffer Hussain, Editor of Sada-e-Hussaini, and several other dignitaries.

Hyderabad: Man, who was involved in 73 crimes, held for Rs 1 lakh ATM fraud

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Apr, 29

A 31-year-old man was arrested by the Sultan Bazar Police on Tuesday, April 28, for allegedly duping people who had come to deposit money at ATMs.

The accused has been identified as Intipalli Rama Rao, a native of Andhra Pradesh who currently resides in a dormitory at Jubilee Bus Station.

According to the police, the accused would approach people who had come to deposit money in the ATMs, win their trust through polite conversation and then take their cash, promising to send an equivalent amount through National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT).



The accused would then send a fake transaction message to the victims and tell them that it would take an hour to receive the money before fleeing from the spot.

The matter came to light after the Sultan Bazar Police received a complaint from a woman on April 22. Sunitha, a resident of Secunderabad, told police that earlier in the day, she had gone to an SBI ATM to deposit Rs 1 lakh, but due to some technical issue amount could not be deposited in her account.

After waiting with her for 20 minutes, the accused sent all his ID proofs to her for assurance and left the shop. When Sunitha still had not received the money by the end of the day, she approached the Sultan Bazar Police.

Hyderabad Water Board seizes 22 illegal motors in a single day

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HM-WSSB) seized 22 illegal motors on Tuesday, April 28, attached to pipelines to draw water during supply hours. Nine motors were seized at the Haider Nagar Ward, and 13 were recovered from Gayatri Nagar Colony, Jyoti Nagar Colony, and Gayatri Nagar Indoor Stadium Colony areas of Gayatri Nagar Ward.

The Water Board warned strict action against anyone caught attaching motors to their drains. Second-time offenders will be fined Rs 5,000 and cases will be registered against them.

5 DESTITUTE MEN FOUND ON HYD FOOTPATH RESCUED BY COPS, MOVED TO SHELTER

The police found the men in a vulnerable condition, without access to food, shelter or basic support.



The patrolling staff of Chaderghat Police Station received information about the individuals and reached the spot promptly, where they found the five men - identified as Venu Gopal, 46, Narsimha, 60, Krishna, 70, Bharath Chetri, 35, and Anil, 35 - in a vulnerable condition, without access to

food, shelter or basic support. The police team provided immediate assistance and arranged for all five to be moved to a recognised shelter home, Inspector of Police KB Murari said.

Hyderabad man booked for using siren, VIP stickers on private SUV

Hyderabad: The Goshamahall Police on Tuesday, April 28, have registered a case against a city resident and his driver after their private SUV was found fitted with a siren and VIP stickers, with the occupant allegedly misbehaving with officers and producing a dubious identity card to justify the violations.