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# The World

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Burnt vehicles at Bandar Abbas. AP

### IRAN

Days after blast, fire extinguished, toll crosses 70

*Dubai:* Iran finally extinguished a fire Monday at a southern port rocked by an explosion as the death toll in the blast rose to at least 70 people killed, authorities said. Satellite images analysed by *The Associated Press* also showed the devastation of the explosion that injured more than 1,000 people. The photos from Planet Labs PBC came as local news reports from the site raised more questions about the cause of the blast Saturday at Shahid Rajaei port near Bandar Abbas. Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni announced the fire had been put out, while health official Mehrdad Hasanzadeh gave the death toll. **AP**

### IRAN

UN nuclear watchdog team arrives for talks

*Dubai:* technical team from the International Atomic Energy Agency has arrived in Iran for talks with nuclear experts, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday, as a follow up to the U.N. nuclear watchdog chief's visit to Tehran earlier this month. "The delegation arrived in Iran and will hold technical talks with Iranian experts today, including on safeguards," Esmail Baghaei said during a weekly press conference. Last week, Iran and the United States held a third round of nuclear talks in Oman, where technical-level negotiations were also held. **REUTERS**

### GERMANY

Merz's alliance takes shape as he names Cabinet

*Berlin:* A new coalition government is taking shape in Berlin, with chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz picking close allies and executives for his cabinet to tackle Germany's economic malaise. The deal accorded Merz's Christian Democrats the economy and foreign ministries, their Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union the interior ministry and the SPD the defence and finance ministries. The conservative party Monday named utility executive Katherina Reiche as the country's next economy minister and foreign policy expert Johann Wadepuhl as foreign minister. **REUTERS**



Voters line up at a polling station in Toronto, Ontario, on Monday. Reuters

## Canadians vote in poll dominated by Trump's trade war and bluster

Trump repeats call for Canada to be 51st state, further boosting Carney's support

PROMIT MUKHERJEE & ROD NICKEL

OTTAWA, APRIL 28

CANADIANS ARE going to the polls on Monday after an election campaign in which US President Donald Trump's tariffs and musings about annexing Canada became the central issue.

Trump's threats ignited a wave of patriotism that swelled support for Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney, who previously led two G7 central banks. Carney and Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre mentioned the Vancouver tragedy in their final campaign events.

Carney's Liberals held a 2.7-point lead over Poilievre's Conservatives in national support, according to a CTV News-Globe and Mail-Nanos poll released on Sunday. An EKOS poll on Sunday suggested the Liberals hold a six-

point lead, and projected the Liberals to win a majority of seats in the 343-seat House of Commons and not need to rely on a smaller party to govern.

Trump re-emerged as a campaign factor last week, declaring that he might raise a 25% tariff on Canadian-made cars because the U.S. does not want them. He said earlier he might use "economic force" to make Canada the 51st US state.

Carney has emphasized his experience handling economic issues makes him the best leader to deal with Trump, while Poilievre has tapped into concerns about the cost of living, crime and a housing crisis.

Trump, in a social media post on Monday, reiterated his call for Canada to become the 51st state. "Good luck to the Great people of Canada," he said. "Elect the man who has the strength and wisdom to cut your taxes in half, increase

your military power, for free, to the highest level in the World, have your Car, Steel, Aluminum, Lumber, Energy, and all other businesses, QUADRUPLER in size, WITH ZERO TARIFFS OR TAXES, if Canada becomes the cherished 51st State of the United States of America. No more artificially drawn line from many years ago."

Standing on Sunday in front of the Ambassador Bridge connecting Windsor's Canadian auto hub with Detroit across the border, Carney pointed to the bridge as a symbol of peace and cooperation between the two countries for almost a century.

Poilievre has attracted more young voters, focusing his campaign more on living costs and crime. "Time is running out, only one more day to bring home change so that Canadians can afford food and homes and live on safe streets," Poilievre said at a rally in Ontario, Sunday. **REUTERS**

## Suspect in Vancouver car attack charged with murder

*Vancouver:* Canadian prosecutors have charged a 30-year-old Vancouver resident with murder for killing at least 11 people aged between 5 and 65 and injuring dozens after he rammed an SUV through a crowd at a Filipino community festival in the western Canadian city, police said Sunday.

The man, Kai-Ji Adam Lo, was charged with eight counts of second-degree murder by prosecutors in British Columbia and "further charges are anticipated," according to Vancouver Police.

Lo appeared in court on Sunday, hours after police arrested him at the scene of the incident. Court documents seen by Reuters did not show a plea. **REUTERS**

## 68 killed in US airstrike on Yemen: Houthis

NAYERA ABDALLAH

DUBAI, APRIL 28

SIXTY-EIGHT bodies were recovered in Yemen and 47 others were wounded after a U.S strike on Saada hit a detention centre hosting African migrants, Yemen's Houthi-run Al Masirah TV reported on Monday.

Saada is a Houthi stronghold that has also been previously targeted in U.S. strikes. According to Yemen's ministry of the interior, the detention center was hous-

FIRE AFFECTS 50 HECTARES IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS

S KOREAN CITY EVACUATES 1,200 DUE TO WILDFIRE

The South Korean city of Daegu ordered on Monday more than 1,200 residents to evacuate after strong winds whipped up a wildfire and prompted the closure of a highway in the area due to concerns about the blaze. The wildfire began at around 2 pm and had affected an estimated 50 hectares in less than two hours due to dry conditions and constant winds, the Forest Service said. **REUTERS**

WHY WAIT UNTIL MAY, ASKS UKRAINE

## Putin declares 3-day May ceasefire to mark 80 yrs since WWII win

Signal for direct talks should come from Kyiv: Moscow

REUTERS

MOSCOW, APRIL 28

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin on Monday declared a three-day ceasefire in May in the war with Ukraine to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union and its allies in World War Two.

The Kremlin said the 72-hour ceasefire would run on May 8, May 9 - when Putin will host international leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping for lavish celebrations to commemorate victory over Nazi Germany - and May 10.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, in response, said: "If Russia truly wants peace, it must cease fire immediately. Why wait until May 8th?" A ceasefire should be "real, not just for a parade," he posted on X.

The White House said President Donald Trump wanted a permanent ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

Against a background of increasing U.S. impatience, Putin's move appeared aimed at signalling that Russia is still interested in peace - something that Ukraine and its European allies dispute. "All military actions are suspended for this period. Russia believes that the Ukrainian side should follow this example," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Russia meanwhile said Monday it was waiting for a signal from Ukraine to say it was willing to hold direct negotiations to end their war, but had not seen any signs of movement.

Moscow and Kyiv have not held direct negotiations since March 2022, soon after the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine.



The site of a Russian air raid in Donetsk on Monday. AP

### EXPLAINED

Move likely directed at White House

COMMENTATORS SAID

Putin's move was clearly directed at the White House. It follows US President Donald Trump's one-on-one meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday in Rome at the pope's funeral - hailed by both sides as "constructive". The move also comes as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said this week will be "very critical" for peace talks, reiterating his threat to walk away if a deal is not reached faster.

Meanwhile, North Korea confirmed for the first time on Monday that it had sent troops to fight for Russia in the war in

Ukraine under orders from leader Kim Jong Un and that it had helped regain control of Russian territory occupied by Ukraine.

North Korea's unprecedented deployment of thousands of troops gave Russia a crucial battlefield advantage in Kursk and has brought the two economically and politically isolated countries closer. The victorious end of the battle to liberate Kursk showed the "highest strategic level of the firm militant friendship" between North Korea and Russia, state news agency KCNA cited the North's ruling party as saying.

"We will always honour the Korean heroes who gave their lives for Russia, for our common freedom, on an equal basis with their Russian brothers in arms," Putin said in a statement released by the Kremlin. The Central Military Commission of North Korea's Workers' Party said Kim made the decision to deploy troops under the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty he signed with Putin last year.



Site of a strike in Saada on Monday. Reuters

## Israel flattens Rafah ruins, Palestinians fear plan to confine them in giant camp in barren ground



Reuters file

Israeli soldiers in Rafah's Tel Al-Sultan area earlier in April

two months, since Israel imposed what has since become its longest ever total blockade of the territory, following the collapse of a six-week ceasefire.

Israel relaunched its ground campaign in mid-March and has since seized swathes of land and ordered residents out of what it says are "buffer zones" around Gaza's edges, including all of Rafah which comprises around 20 percent of the Strip.

Israeli public broadcaster Kan reported on Saturday that the

military was setting up a new "humanitarian zone" in Rafah, to which civilians would be moved after security checks to keep out Hamas fighters. Aid would be distributed by private companies.

The Israeli military has yet to comment on the report and did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Residents said massive explosions could now be heard unceasingly from the dead zone where Rafah had once stood as a city of 300,000 people. **REUTERS**

NEW LEADER OF 1.4-BN-MEMBER CATHOLIC CHURCH LIKELY HAS A TOUGH TIME AHEAD DEALING WITH A RANGE OF PROBLEMS

## Budget crisis, declining church attendance, doctrinal reform — what awaits new Pope

JOSHUA MCELWEE

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 28

HEAVY IS the white mitre worn by the pope. Whoever emerges from the coming conclave as the new leader of the 1.4-billion-member Catholic Church will face a myriad of problems. Among the pressing issues are a widening gap in Vatican finances, sliding church attendance in the West, and debates over doctrinal issues.

'Fundraiser, not pastor'

The Vatican's financial crisis was one of Pope Francis' last

headaches. Three days before his last hospitalisation in February, he ordered the creation of a new high-level commission to encourage donations to the Vatican.

Although the Vatican hasn't published a full budget report since 2022, the last set of accounts, approved in mid-2024, included an 83-million-euro (\$94-million) shortfall, two sources told Reuters.

The shortfall in the pension fund was estimated to total some 631 million euros by the Vatican's finance czar in 2022. Rev Thomas Reese, a Jesuit priest and commentator who has written about the Vatican's finances, said:

"They're going to have to elect somebody who's a fundraiser, not a pastor," said Reese.

If the cardinals are looking for someone who is familiar with where to make funding cuts, they may turn to Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin. But Parolin also led the Vatican's Secretariat when it was embroiled in a scandal over the messy investment of more than \$200 million in the purchase of a building in London.

Decline in Europe

Across the world, the Catholic Church has grown slightly in membership in recent years.



Cardinals at a meeting in the Vatican on Monday. Reuters

CONCLAVE TO START ON MAY 7: VATICAN

*Vatican City:* Catholic cardinals on Monday set May 7 as the start date for the conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor, delaying the secret voting for two days so they can get to find consensus on a candidate before they are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel. The cardinals set the date after arriving for the first day of informal meetings following Pope Francis' funeral Saturday. **AP**

According to the latest official statistics, the highest proportion of Catholics are in the Americas, with 64.2% of the population being baptized Catholic.

Europe follows at 39.6%, Oceania with 25.9%. Meanwhile, many European countries are experiencing declines. The German bishops' conference reported earlier this year that only 29 new priests had been ordained in the country in 2024. They also said 321,000 German Catholics had left the Church that year.

Doctrinal questions

In terms of doctrinal disputes,

Francis largely sought to open up the Church to new conversations. Topics such as women's ordination were allowed to be debated. The pope created two commissions to consider ordaining women as deacons, who are ministers like priests but cannot celebrate the Mass. One of the commissions has not yet completed its work. Francis also allowed for priests to bless same-sex couples, on a case-by-case basis.

Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, a conservative, said the next pope should not be a successor of Francis, but a successor of St Peter, the first pope. **REUTERS**







## ● Leaders stray from Congress line

against the perpetrators and their handlers while subtly flagging intelligence and security lapses.

Two days after the attack, the Congress convened a Working Committee meeting to further thresh out a coherent and comprehensive political line so that leaders known to speak out of turn could take cues. No demand for resignations was raised this time; rather the exhortations of support to the government were repeated.

In the wake of the Pathankot and Uri attacks in 2016, as also the Pulwama attack in 2019, in comparison, the Congress had aggressively targeted the government, talking about failures, and argued that ministers concerned could not shrug off responsibility and accountability.

But then came the remark by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, saying a war should be avoided, even as his Telangana counterpart Revanth Reddy urged the government to push ahead and take over Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. On Monday, noting that the Indus waters were a lifeline for Pakistan, long-time Congress leader from Kashmir Saifuddin Soz said that India should take Pakistan's word that it was not involved in the attack.

As the BJP pounced on the statements, the Congress was back facing its eternal dilemma. It cannot appear not to back a strong counter-response to Pakistan by the government, but not come across as war mongering. It has to be seen backing the government at a time of crisis but must also pinpoint security and intelligence failures to make a political point.

In a damage control exercise, Congress communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh posted Monday that the party had made its stand clear at the CWC meeting as well as at the all-party meeting called by the government. Still, he added, "some Congress leaders have been speaking to the media". "They speak for themselves and do not reflect the INC's views. There should be absolutely no doubt whatsoever at this most sensitive of times that the CWC resolution, the views expressed by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi (at the all-party meeting) and the views of authorised AICC office-bearers ALONE represent the position of the INC," Ramesh said.

With public opinion hardening against the neighbouring country after the Pahalgalam attack, the wariness of the Congress – often accused of being "soft" on terror and Pakistan by the BJP – is understandable. Earlier, after the

Congress had questioned the government over the Uri attack, party leaders such as Digvijaya Singh had gone on to raise doubts regarding the surgical strikes carried out by the Modi government in response.

The BJP had accused the Congress of not stopping at "insulting" the armed forces, blinded by its "hate" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

With another string of Assembly elections beginning at the end of this year, the party this time was cautious. The CWC resolution made the point about lapses but after noting the difficulties of the task at hand and without pointing fingers at anyone. "Pahalgalam is known to be a heavily guarded area, secured by a three-tier security arrangement. It is imperative that a comprehensive analysis is conducted into the intelligence failures and security lapses that enabled such an attack in a Union Territory – an area directly under the purview of the Union Home Ministry. These questions must be raised in the larger public interest. This is the only way justice can truly be seen to be served....," the resolution said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to skip the all-party meeting on the Pahalgalam attack, as he travelled to Assembly election-bound Bihar to inaugurate government programmes, was remarked upon by the Congress too. But it was not made an issue by the party, with both Kharge and Gandhi attending the meeting.

However, this carefully crafted narrative is now slipping. In his statements on the attack, Siddaramaiah first said: "It is not necessary to wage a war on Pakistan... We are not in favour of war. To ensure peace in Kashmir, security should be strengthened." His Cabinet colleague R B Timmapur added to this saying he did not think terrorists had asked for the religion of victims before shooting them.

On Monday, the Karnataka CM claimed he had been misquoted and what he wanted to say was that "no one is in favour of war". A senior Congress leader said that while what Siddaramaiah said may have been right, "This is not the time to say all that". Soz said Pakistan's "word" should be accepted that "it was not involved in Pahalgalam". "It can be a situation that gunmen, terrorists... they sometimes go berserk... So if Pakistan takes a position that it is not involved in the Pahalgalam tragedy, my feeling is that let us accept Pakistan's word," he told PTI.

large transactions on the pretext of completion of various visa, travel and recruitment formalities, police said Monday.

ENS

# FROM PAGE ONE J&K House slams selective targeting of victims

endorsed the diplomatic measures taken by the Narendra Modi government in the aftermath of the attack.

The resolution cautioned society and the media against falling victim to attempts at "inflaming passions", while appealing to state governments to ensure the "safety, dignity and well-being" of Kashmiris, including students.

Several MLAs said that demolition of houses of relatives of militants by security forces in the wake of the attack could be counterproductive.

Speaking about the condemnation of the attack by all quarters, the resolution said that it was for the first time that people from Kathua in Jammu to Kupwara in Kashmir were united on this. "The spontaneous outpouring of moral and material support towards tourists reaffirms the people's steadfast commitment to peace, communal harmony, and the rule of law," the resolution said.

Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma of the BJP, Congress leader G A Mir, Sajad Lone (People's Conference), Waheed-ur-Rehman Para (PDP) and M Y Tarigami (CPI-M) also spoke during the session.

Earlier, reading out the names of the 26 killed in the terror attack, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that "terrorism will come to an end only when the people are with us". "Given the public outrage... this is the beginning of its end if we take the proper steps."

Pointing to the fact that mosques in Kashmir had ob-

served a two-minute silence before Friday prayers in the memory of those killed in the terror attack – for the first time arguably in the history of Kashmir militancy – Abdullah said his government will strengthen this public sentiment against terror. "We cannot control a terrorist with a gun, but we can end militancy if people are with us. I think that time has come," he said.

Expressing their "full solidarity with the victims and their families", the MLAs also remembered "the supreme sacrifice of (pony wallah) Shaheed Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who, while bravely attempting to save tourists, laid down his life".

Abdullah added that he will not use the tragedy to press for statehood. Under the UT's rules of governance, the control of the police is with the Lieutenant Governor and, in the wake of the Pahalgalam attack, some have urged that this be transferred to the state government.

But, the National Conference vice-president, who had been under pressure from the Opposition on the statehood issue, said: "After Pahalgalam, with what face can I ask for statehood? We have talked about statehood in the past and will do so in the future too, but it will be shameful on my part if I tell the Central government that 26 people have died, now give me statehood... Do you think that my politics is so cheap?"

Abdullah added that he felt personally responsible for what had happened in Baisaran. Saying he was at a loss for words, the CM said: "As Minister for

Tourism, I had invited them. Being a host, it was my duty to send them back safely. I could not do it."

Abdullah said the reason behind convening a special J&K Assembly session was that neither Parliament nor any other House of the country could understand the pain of the 26 families more. "Speaker *sahib*, those people sitting around you have also lost someone or the other to terrorism. Our sister (the BJP's) Shagun Parihar, (NC minister) Sakina Itoo, (People's Conference chairman) Sajad Lone, (NC legislator) Qaysar Jamshaid... Somebody lost their father, uncle... The House also remembers the deadly attack on the J&K Assembly complex on October 1, 2001, that left 40 people dead."

Referring to the outpouring of anger against the Pahalgalam attack, Lone said the blood of so many killed in Kashmir over the past more than three decades has "finally awakened the whole Kashmiri community".

"This has happened for the first time. We also salute relatives of the deceased who, despite their loss, have created such an environment of harmony that even the face of a Kashmiri who sacrificed his life saving the tourists (Adil Hussain) is known across the country," Lone said.

Requesting the Speaker to include the names of all those who "got martyred" at Pahalgalam in obituary references for Assembly records, Lone said: "We have been watching this violence for 37 years and it is a reality that this violence had got acceptance... What we saw

## ● BJP slams Cong: Shameful

Stating that these remarks come at a time when the nation is grappling with grief following the attack that left 26 people dead, Prasad accused the Congress leaders of seeking to "weaken India's unity".

He sought to know whether the Congress "truly" stood united with the Government as it had stated during the all-party meeting following the attack.

"What are the Congress's senior leaders saying (about such statements)? Why are they saying so?... a pattern seems to have emerged... Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah has said war is not an option... Pakistan TV channels and their generals are using this," Prasad told reporters.

Prasad referred to Siddaramaiah's remark that there was no need for a war; Karnataka Excise Minister R B Timmapur asking "why would someone firing a gun ask about a person's caste or religion?"; and a statement by Vijay Wadettiwar, Leader of the Congress Legislative Party in Maharashtra, asking whether "terrorists have time to ask about religion while shooting?"

Prasad also questioned Vadra's remarks about Muslims feeling suppressed and Aiyar's remark that the consequences of the Partition remain unresolved to this day.

Siddaramaiah and Vadra later clarified that their remarks had been misinterpreted. The Congress also sought to distance itself from such statements with the party's communications in-charge, Jairam Ramesh, posting on X: "They speak for themselves and do not reflect the INC's views. There should be absolutely no doubt whatsoever at this most sensitive of times that the CWC resolution, the views expressed by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi (at the all-party meeting) and the views of authorised AICC office-bearers ALONE represent the position of the INC".

Prasad, meanwhile, said that while the global community, in-

cluding the US, Russia, Australia, England, Saudi Arabia, Italy and UAE, "are all standing with India", Congress ministers had claimed "the world is mocking us".

"Where are these thoughts and words coming from? During the candle march in Bihar, slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad' were raised... When asked whether he would visit the house of Shubham Dwivedi (one of the tourists who was killed in the attack), Akhilesh Yadav stated that he has no connection with the family but would encourage his party workers to go there... This is truly unfortunate and deeply regrettable," Prasad said.

"Do Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have no control over their party?... all these statements are being misused by Pakistan, their social media is full of it... did they speak to Siddaramaiah? Will any action be taken? This is not right; we condemn such statements," Prasad said, reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to give a "befitting reply" to those behind the terror strike.

Taking on Kharge, whom he accused of harbouring "resentment" against Modi, Prasad said, "In reality, Mallikarjun Kharge harbors resentment towards Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, which is why he made the '56-inch chest' remark. At a time when the nation expects unity, Kharge should refrain from using such language."

BJP Lok Sabha MP Sambit Patra, meanwhile, asked whether such leaders were "Pakistani agents", and the statements made by Congress leaders "a blatant attempt to lower the morale of the country's army, the country's people and the country's government".

The BJP's renewed attack came a day after the party's national spokesperson, Sudhanshu Trivedi, took on the Karnataka CM for "speaking the same language" as "Pakistan's Defence Minister, Pakistan's Home Minister and Pakistan's Foreign Minister".

## ● India, France deal for procurement of 26 Rafale-M

The deal for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets, estimated at over Rs 63,000 crore, includes four trainer aircraft. The agreement includes Transfer of Technology for integration of indigenous weapons in India.

It also includes setting up of a production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facilities for aircraft engine, sensors and weapons in India.

The delivery of these aircraft would begin between the next three to four years and is likely to be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France and India.

The procurement will boost the Navy's operational capabilities, particularly with the MiG-29Ks slated to be phased out in the next few years. Procuring the aircraft, however, is an interim arrangement for Indian aircraft

carriers – INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant – until the Navy acquires the indigenous Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF) which is currently under development by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the DRDO.

For the Navy's fighter jet deal, the competition was between Boeing's F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet and Dassault Aviation's Rafale-M. While both fighters had met the Navy's requirements, the Rafale-M had common spares and support as the Rafale jets operated by the Indian Air Force, among other advantages noted by the Navy.

In July 2024, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had approved proposals to procure the 26 Rafale-M aircraft.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the procurement will substantially enhance joint operational capability, besides opti-

## ● Owaisi: Hindu brothers killed

come to Kashmir. That's their motive. We appeal to Indians to keep political differences aside and not allow those who want to weaken the country's unity."

Owaisi also demanded that Pakistan be placed in the FATF grey list. "They are funding terrorism from illegal money. So it is important to bring Pakistan in the grey list. We will demand this from the Government. We should also do a cyber attack on them, we have ethical hackers. We can also do a naval and air force blockade," he said.

The Hyderabad MP said that as the Opposition, it is important to take action. "The terrorists are from Pakistan from where they are being trained, financed and sent. They had come from Pakistan in the 26/11 attack, as well. Initially, they (Pakistan) denied, but when Ajmal Kasab was arrested, the truth came to light. The Government has to take the decision. Terrorism must be stopped and strict action is needed," he said. Pointing out that Pakistan must realise India's Ministry of Defence has a bigger budget than that of their entire country, Owaisi said they are "30 years behind India".

Responding to Pakistan leader Bilawal Bhutto's remarks targeting Indians over the Indus Water Treaty, Owaisi said Bhutto's own mother (Benazir) was killed by terrorists. "He has come to politics recently. He should think about who killed his mother. His mother was a victim of terrorism. If he can't understand that, what else will he understand? When your mother gets killed, it is terrorism. What about our mothers and daughters who are killed? Isn't that terrorism too?" he said.

Demanding accountability in connection with the Pahalgalam attack, Owaisi said, "When the surgical strike happened after Balakot, it was believed that there would be no further terror action. But it happened. It also has to be proved why security was not present. The Government will have to fix accountability."

Owaisi also cautioned against targeting Kashmiris. "If this happens, Pakistan and LeT will be very happy. Their only job is to spread hatred among Hindus and Muslims. We have to ensure that they fail by not running this propaganda. Kashmiris, who are an integral part of the country, are the worst sufferers," he said.

Musa is considered to be highly trained and adept at living off the jungle. Sources said he could be from among the same lot of infiltrators who have terrorised Jammu over the past three years, killing more than 50 Army personnel with precision firing and stealthy movements.

Investigators are also looking into whether the same group was involved in the killing of three Army personnel in South Kashmir's Kulgam district in August 2023. The terrorists are also suspected to have been involved in an attack in Jammu's Poonch district in May last year, wherein an Air Force personnel was killed and four others injured, sources said.

## ● LAC disengagement later, geotagging of patrolling points

had arrived at an agreement on patrolling arrangements along the LAC, which led to "disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020".

This announcement was made by India and it was followed by a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS leaders' summit in Kazan, Russia.

By the end of October, officials said that both sides had completed the disengagement process and sweets were exchanged between both sides. They said the disengagement would be first verified on ground before resumption of patrolling and that the patrolling modalities would be decided between ground commanders.

Days later, the Army said it had successfully patrolled one of the five patrolling points in the Depsang area of eastern Ladakh – a first since the standoff began in 2020.

India and China have always had differing perceptions of the LAC. Sources in the government said that while certain mountain features along the border are clearly identifiable, there were varying opinions on others, which were discussed in multiple rounds of military and diplomatic-level talks between India and China.

Sources told The Indian Express that both sides have agreed to limit the frequency of patrolling to twice a month to each Patrolling Point along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

They said that patrolling plans will be exchanged in advance between both sides to

avoid a confrontation. "The troops have been asked to avoid physical contact with Chinese troops and in case of any engagement, stay 200 metres away, take photographs and come back to report," a source said.

"It was decided that the Commanding Officers (COs) of the units posted there would interact once or twice a month, and Brigade Commanders would do so every quarter. Major Generals and above would hold interactions with their Chinese counterparts as and when required," the source said.

Geotagging existing patrolling points, key features and landmarks, will help demarcate the LAC clearly, aiding easier identification of disputed areas along the LAC for future talks aimed at resolution.

Additionally, multiple new drones of various sizes have been procured in recent months by the Army for effective monitoring of the LAC. This would help reduce the frequency of Army foot patrols without compromising on surveillance or sensitive areas along the border.

Arrangement of cameras have also been installed along the LAC and adequate helicopter sorties are being carried out in the region for surveillance and monitoring of the LAC.

Adequate creation and enhancement of infrastructure will continue along the LAC, including along the routes of troop induction.

There is a possibility that exercises held by the Armed Forces in the area might go down as part of the disengagement process. Other confidence building measures will continue, sources said.

## Uttarakhand begins verification of vendors, crackdown on 'infiltrators'

vendors and street hawkers, must be completed promptly and that strict action would be taken against those responsible for issuing ration cards, Aadhaar cards, electricity connections, Ayushman cards, and other documents to ineligible beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, the Dehradun police have started a verification drive of over 800 "outsiders" who are tenants in the district. Action has been taken against 162 building/shop owners for not verifying tenants/domestic workers. Over 130 suspects have been "brought to the police station for questioning", police said.

## ● With tech and local help, security forces close in on terrorists

are suspected to be hiding. A source in Jammu and Kashmir Police said they are using technical evidence and inputs from local tribal communities to aid in their manhunt.

The two Pakistani terrorists have been identified by Anantnag Police as Ali Bhai alias Talha and Hashim Musa alias Suleiman.

Police have already released their sketches along with that of local Lashkar-e-Taiba recruit Adil Hussain Thoker, believed to be the third Pahalgalam attacker. Police have also announced a reward of Rs 20 lakh for any information leading to their arrest.

Musa is suspected to be involved in the Z-morh tunnel attack in Sonmarg on October 20

last year, which left seven people employed with a construction firm dead. Sources said the identity of the three attackers was confirmed by piecing together information provided by eyewitnesses, video footage recorded by tourists and local guides, and information available with security forces about active terrorists in the Valley.

"Several photographs of active terrorists were shown to eyewitnesses. They identified Musa from one of the photographs. From there, the identity of other attackers was confirmed based on all the available information," a security establishment officer said.

Sources said the photograph

from which Musa's identity was confirmed had been recovered from the phone of slain local LeT terrorist Junaid Ahmed Bhat. Captured on CCTV camera while perpetrating the Z-morh attack, Bhat was killed last December in the Dachigam forests. Police recovered a phone from his body, which had his photographs of other terrorists, including Musa. Sources said Ali Bhai was also part of the same group.

Based on eyewitness accounts, police have identified Thoker as the local LeT recruit involved in the attack.

A resident of Bijbehara in Anantnag, Thoker had gone to Pakistan on a student visa after crossing the Wagah border in 2018

but went on to join an LeT terror training camp in Pakistan. He returned with the two Pakistani terrorists a year and a half ago, sources said. Before going to Pakistan, Thoker had taught at a private school in Kashmir.

Sources said the terrorists have since been operating in the Poonch-Rajouri, Baramulla and the South Kashmir region. Sources said investigators are also probing if they were involved in the October 24, 2024, Boot Pathari attack which killed three Army personnel and two porters in an ambush. The attack, though, was claimed by the People's Anti Fascist Front, an offshoot of the Jaish-e-Mohammed. Sources said that



# Two constables held in drugs case linked to son of builder found dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

THE NAVI Mumbai police Monday arrested two of its constables in connection with a narcotics case in which it had earlier recorded the statement of builder Gurunath Chichkar, who allegedly died by suicide on Friday. The two constables were allegedly found conniving with the drug dealers, some of whom are believed to be operating from abroad.

A senior officer of the Navi Mumbai police confirmed that two police personnel were arrested in connection with the case. "Two constables, one from the Anti-Narcotics Cell and the other from the Kharghar police station, were arrested in this case," the officer said.

The officer added that earlier this month, a case was registered at the Nerul police station by officers of the Anti-Narcotics Cell of the Navi Mumbai police after two persons were found with contraband. It was during the questioning of the duo that the police found that they were allegedly part of an international drug racket and linked to Chichkar's son, who is believed to have fled the country. It was this 'link' for which Chichkar had been called to record his state-



Builder Gurunath Chichkar allegedly died by suicide.

**Chichkar, in a purported suicide note, alleged harassment by officers of the NCB and Navi Mumbai police**

ment nearly two weeks back. Chichkar, in a purported suicide note, alleged harassment by officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Navi Mumbai police, and said it forced him to take the extreme step. While the NCB had alleged that Chichkar's son Naveen, suspected to be in Thailand, was the mastermind of an international drug racket and registered a case

against him, the Anti-Narcotics Cell of the Navi Mumbai police booked his younger son Dheeraj in connection with this case.

Around 6.45 am on Friday, Chichkar, who resided on the fourth floor of a building in Kille Gaothan, Belapur, went to his ground-floor office, the police said. A few hours later, his wife allegedly found him lying in a pool of blood. The NRI Coastal police registered an accidental death report.

Chichkar had purportedly typed a suicide note addressed to his mother, saying that he was tired of the summons he had been receiving from the NCB and Navi Mumbai police.

He had also reportedly typed a three-page letter addressed to the NCB, mentioning how he had struggled to reach Mumbai and worked hard to become a builder. Chichkar wrote that he came to know about his elder son's involvement in a drug racket only a few years ago, and added that his younger son, who was named in a drugs case, was innocent.

The builder said some men, claiming to be from influential backgrounds, acted as agents and repeatedly approached him demanding Rs 10 crore to settle all the cases against his sons. The letter further mentioned that if he had made such illegal money, he would have settled the cases.

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Audited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended March 31, 2025

(₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter Ended		Year Ended		Quarter ended		Year Ended			
		31.03.2025 Audited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited	31.03.2025 Audited	31.03.2024 Audited	31.03.2025 Audited	31.12.2024 Unaudited	31.03.2024 Audited	31.03.2025 Audited	31.03.2024 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	10,43,256	9,73,864	9,69,874	39,52,044	35,43,351	10,47,605	9,77,425	9,73,430	39,66,795	35,56,198
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	1,15,847	1,40,667	1,35,626	4,93,427	4,05,338	1,23,314	1,41,289	1,36,697	5,09,448	4,18,152
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	1,15,847	1,40,667	1,35,626	4,93,427	4,05,338	1,23,314	1,41,289	1,36,697	5,09,448	4,18,152
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	1,03,355	95,893	80,734	3,78,526	2,54,906	1,10,458	96,338	81,629	3,93,421	2,66,768
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the Period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the Period (after Tax) and other comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	REFER NOTE 3					REFER NOTE 3				
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 10/- per share)	9,05,140	8,68,094	8,68,094	9,05,140	8,68,094	9,05,140	8,68,094	8,68,094	9,05,140	8,68,094
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	-	-	-	23,53,305	19,38,231	-	-	-	23,90,844	19,60,875
8	Securities Premium Account	8,59,617	7,46,663	7,46,663	8,59,617	7,46,663	8,59,617	7,46,663	7,46,663	8,59,617	7,46,663
9	Net Worth	32,57,454	29,98,259	28,05,333	32,57,454	28,05,333	32,94,104	30,27,806	28,27,089	32,94,104	28,27,089
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt (%)	9.26%	7.35%	15.15%	9.26%	15.15%	9.17%	7.29%	14.99%	9.17%	14.99%
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.16	0.19	0.26	0.16	0.26	0.16	0.19	0.27	0.16	0.27
13	Earning Per Share (for ₹ 10/- each ) (Not Annualized) For Continuing and Discontinued operations)	1.19	1.10	0.93	4.36	2.94	1.27	1.11	0.94	4.53	3.07
	1. Basic	1.19	1.10	0.93	4.36	2.94	1.27	1.11	0.94	4.53	3.07
	2. Diluted	1.19	1.10	0.93	4.36	2.94	1.27	1.11	0.94	4.53	3.07
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE				
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE				

Note 1: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange(s) under Regulation 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity. [www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com and www.centralbankofindia.co.in]

Note 2: For the other line items applicable to Bank referred in Regulation 52(4) of the listing regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to Stock exchanges (BSE Ltd and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd) and can be accessed on the URL [www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com].

Note 3: Information relating to Total Comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as IndAS is not yet made applicable to the Bank.

Note 4: Figures of the previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified wherever considered necessary to conform to current period classification.

Place : Mumbai  
Date : April 28, 2025

Vivek Wahi  
Executive Director

M V Murali Krishna  
Executive Director

Mahendra Dohare  
Executive Director

M. V. Rao  
Managing Director & CEO

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## MHADA to put 15 crore documents in public sphere

SIDDHANT KONDUSKAR  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

THE MAHARASHTRA Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) will make nearly 15 crore official documents available to the public soon, calling it ‘voluntary RTI provision’.

This was announced by Sanjeev Jaiswal, vice-president and Chief Executive Officer, MHADA, at the inauguration of the Citizen Facilitation Centre (CFC) and Visitor Management System (VMS) on Monday.

The step seeks to make the administrative procedures simple and decrease the requirement for the citizens to seek Right to Information (RTI) applications. “Through the availability of these documents online, we are facilitating hassle-free information access to the citizens. With the exception of sensitive and classified documents, all files will be listed on MHADA’s website in a week,” Jaiswal said.

MHADA inaugurated its CFC and VMS on Monday in an attempt to ease its affairs for the public. The new CFC includes 18 counters, digital kiosks, AI-based help and 24x7 CCTV surveillance for hassle-free, transparent, and citizen-centric governance. It has automated processes, real-time notifications, and totally digitised, secure services.

## 2 buy mangoes from vendor; booked after cheque bounces

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

TWO PERSONS were booked by the Mumbai Police on Sunday for allegedly duping a fruit vendor from Kandivali. The duo purchased 44 dozen mangoes and handed over a cheque, which bounced.

Police said the accused convinced the vendor to accept the deal, claiming the mangoes were intended for distribution at a temple in Dadar.

In his statement to the police, the vendor said that since the mango season began in March 2025, he has been buying mangoes from a market in Vashi and selling them in Mumbai.

“On April 6, the complainant opened his shop in the morning. Around 5pm, an elderly man and another individual, believed to be between 32 and 35 years old, visited his shop. The younger man was introduced as a manager and claimed he was interested in purchasing 40 dozen mangoes,” an officer said.

“The two individuals were supposed to pay Rs 41,800, but they claimed they had no cash and offered to pay by cheque,” said the officer, adding, “The complainant initially refused, but the duo convinced him by saying the mangoes were to be distributed at a temple in Dadar.”

“Two days after I deposited the cheque, bank officials returned it with a remark stating ‘Drawer’s signature differs.’ That’s when I realised I had been cheated,” the complainant stated.



## ON HIGH ALERT

Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel conduct checks at Bandra terminus on Tuesday as security has been beefed up across all railway stations in the city in view of the Pahalgam attack. *Sankhadeep Banerjee*

### MUMBAI–PUNE EXPRESSWAY

# Missing link project inching closer to completion: Shinde

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

IN A major boost for commuters between Mumbai and Pune, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday said that 95 per cent work on the missing link project on Mumbai–Pune expressway is over. Government sources said it aims to meet the new deadline of August 2025 for this project.

The project, estimated at Rs 6,600 crore, has seen extension of deadline several times—from March 2024 to January 2025, which was further revised to March 2025.

The 13-kilometre ‘missing link’, which will cut across the existing Mumbai-Pune expressway, will trim the distance between the two cities by 5.7 kilometres and reduce the travel time by around 30 minutes.

The “missing link” project has been delayed multiple times due to the complex challenges of the terrain and ambitious engineering feats. Starting at Khopoli, the project includes an 840-metre viaduct, a 1.75-kilometre tunnel, and a 640-metre cable-stayed bridge that soars 100 metres above the Tiger Valley in the Lonavala-Khandala section.

Following this, the route con-



The project’s design focuses on safety with officials stating that one of their primary goals is to turn the Mumbai-Pune Expressway into a “zero-fatality corridor.” *File*

tinues through another 8.9-kilometre tunnel—some parts of which are as deep as 170 feet beneath the ground with the Lonavala lake resting above it. This new alignment will reduce travel time significantly. Currently, the distance between Khopoli and the Sinhgad Institute via the expressway is 19 kilometres, much of it through a ghat section.

The second viaduct, which forms a key section of the project, is a cable-stayed bridge that reaches a staggering height of 100 metres above Khandala Valley.

This towering structure, along with other engineering challenges, has made the project

both time-consuming and intricate. Deputy CM Shinde on Monday stressed on the testing of every portion of the bridge during construction. “This work has to be done with utmost care. There has to be testing at every level and there should be no negligence,” Shinde said.

With fewer hills to navigate, drivers will also be able to travel at speed up to 120 km per hour. The project’s design also focuses on safety with officials stating that one of its primary goals is to turn the Mumbai-Pune Expressway into a “zero-fatality corridor.” This initiative aims to reduce accidents, particularly in the notoriously hazardous ghat section.

## Bullet train to be completed by 2028: CM



Devendra Fadnavis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

THE AMBITIOUS bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be completed by 2028, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said Monday.

Expressing disappointment with the MVA government’s decision to stop the project, Fadnavis said, “When you have a mega infrastructure project worth Rs 70,000 to 80,000 crore, the delay leads to cost escalation. The rate of interest also rises. It is the state government which has to bear the financial burden.”

At the same time, work in neighbouring Gujarat continued unhindered. “They are now way ahead of us on the project. But after the Mahayuti government came to power, the project was expedited,” Fadnavis told reporters in Mumbai.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor, approved a decade ago, when completed, will allow trains run at 320 kmph. There will be 12 stations, including Mumbai, Thane, Virar and Boisar in Maharashtra.

# BEST bus fares set to rise for first time since 2018

SIDDHANT KONDUSKAR  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

MUMBAI RESIDENTS will soon have to pay almost double the fare for using Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) buses as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has given the nod to increase bus fares, with the final decision left to the state government. The proposal for hiking bus fares — the first revision in BEST fares since 2018 — was given a green signal by BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani.

Currently, the fare for non-AC buses is between Rs 5 and Rs 20, and for AC buses it is between Rs 6 and Rs 25. After the suggested increase in fare, the minimum fare will be Rs 10 for non-AC buses and Rs 12 for AC buses. Monthly bus tickets will also get more expensive under the new system.

According to BEST officials, the fare hike will mitigate the financial strain on the city bus operating body. With the base fare remaining at a low of Rs 5 for so long, the organisation’s revenue has been affected for many years, they added.

The decision to approve the fare hike was taken after a meet-

REVISED FARES					
NON-AC BUSES			AC BUSES		
Distance	Old	New	Distance	Old	New
Up to 5 km	₹5	₹10	Up to 5 km	₹6	₹12
Up to 10 km	₹10	₹15	Up to 10 km	₹13	₹20
Up to 15 km	₹15	₹20	Up to 15 km	₹19	₹30
Up to 20 km	₹20	₹30	Up to 20 km	₹30	₹35
Monthly passes			Monthly passes		
Distance	Old	New	Distance	Old	New
5 km	₹450	₹800	5 km	₹600	₹1,100
10 km	₹1,000	₹1,250	10 km	₹1,400	₹1,700
15 km	₹1,650	₹1,700	15 km	₹2,100	₹2,300
20 km	₹2,600	—*	20 km	₹2,700	₹3,500
*(unchanged)					

ing that took place on Friday, where senior officials and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis discussed the increasing losses of BEST. BEST officials cited that fare correction was indispensable to provide dependable service and financial stability.

The proposal to hike fares was then approved by the BMC commissioner. Final implementation, however, awaits approval from the Transport and Urban Development departments.

S V R Srinivas, General Manager, BEST, who took over

the additional charge of the transport body this year, suggested the fare increase in February 2025.

The increase is likely to improve BEST’s revenue by approximately Rs 590 crore.

This fare hike reverses a 2019 reduction, when the then municipal commissioner, Praveen Pardeshi, had reduced bus fares to promote ridership.

According to the sources, the revised fares, once formally notified, could come into effect within the next few weeks.

# Warmer days ahead after drizzle, Mumbai set to sizzle at 35°C: IMD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

AFTER BRIEF spells of drizzle, Mumbai has been sweltering amid soaring humidity levels as the temperatures touched 33.5 degrees Celsius Monday. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), heat levels are slated to spike marginally in the coming days, with daytime temperatures forecast to hover above 35 degrees Celsius Wednesday.

Following a short spell of rain and thunderstorm activity, Mumbai woke up to sunny skies and burgeoning humidity levels Sunday. IMD data showed that the maximum temperatures touched 33.5 degrees Celsius at the Santacruz observatory, while the Colaba coastal observatory logged 34.2 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, minimum temperatures hovered around 26 degrees Celsius in the suburbs as well as in the island city’s Colaba station Monday morning.

Despite the city recording

normal daytime temperatures, citizens have been reeling under uncomfortable conditions as humidity levels soared over 80 per cent on Monday morning, with the Colaba station recording relative humidity levels of 82 per cent.

Indicating warmer days on the cards for the region, IMD Mumbai said the temperatures will surpass 35 degrees Celsius between Wednesday and Thursday in the city. However, it said the brief spike will be followed by yet another dip in daytime temperatures over the coming weekend. In Thane, temperatures are forecast to remain above 37-38 degrees over the next six days until May 3 at least, as per the IMD.

According to meteorologists, humidity levels will continue to remain above normal in the coming days even as maximum temperatures will remain in the normal category. It is noteworthy that even as the city is prone to highs of up to 37-38 degrees Celsius during April, extreme temperatures have eluded Mumbai this month thus far,

even as the rest of the state was reeling under heatwave for several days.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Mahesh Palawat from Skymet Weather Services said that the relatively cooler temperatures this April are likely owing to the largely northwesterly winds that have swept the city.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau has issued a yellow warning for thunderstorms, accompanied by lightning and gusty winds, in several districts of Vidarbha over the next five days, until May 1.

“Essentially, people should aim to hydrate with at least two to three liters of water every day to avoid dehydration. Humidity draws moisture from the body, so dehydration can be just as harmful as dry heat. Those who exert themselves physically will likely face more challenges in May, so my advice is to stay indoors during peak temperature hours, especially for children, who are more vulnerable to humidity,” said Dr Jayaram S MD general physician at Bombay hospital.

## New Maharashtra CET dates: Exams for 3-year LLB course to be held on May 2, 3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

WITH JUST a few days remaining for the Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to the LLB (3-year) course in Maharashtra, the state CET Cell announced Monday that the examination dates are being advanced to May 2 and 3, instead of May 3 and 4 as

declared earlier.

The change was due to the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (NEET) which is scheduled to be held on May 4. In a statement, the Cell said some CET centres were booked by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for NEET so they “cannot be utilised for CET examination.” Around 95,000 students have registered for CET.

Addressing the media on Monday, Dilip Sardesai, Commissioner, Maharashtra CET Cell, said, “After the NTA took over a few CET centres, we were falling short of close to 9,000 seats on May 4. We explored the opportunity to postpone, but students are likely to get busy with university exams. Thus, it was decided to shift the sessions scheduled on May 4 to May 2.”

### WELCOMES NODDY, TOM & PINGU

# Three new penguins born at Byculla zoo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

IN THE first such event in more than a year, the zoo authorities at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Vanaspati Udyan and Zoo announced the birth of three new baby penguins — Noddy, Tom and Pingu — taking the total tally of the Humboldt penguins at the Byculla zoo up to 21.

The eldest of the penguin chicks, Noddy, was born on March 4 to Olive and Poppy while Daisy and Donald gave birth to Tom and Pingu. Tom was born on March 7 while the youngest of the lot, Pingu, was born on March 11. The announcement of their birth, which has sparked immense joy among the authorities, came on April 25 — which is



The announcement was made on April 25, which is celebrated as World Penguin Day. *Express*

celebrated as World Penguin Day. While the three new additions have been opened for public viewing, officials said that the baby penguins spend most of their time within the nest inside the facility — leaving them inac-

cessible for visitors’ viewing.

Biologists at the zoo said that the “tiniest waddlers” of the zoo are healthy and sound. “These days, we provide the food to the parents who chew the food, make a flurry and then feed their chicks

themselves,” said an official, adding that the team aiding the parents in rearing the chicks by feeding them every 2-3 hours.

Prior to this, the Byculla zoo had welcomed three penguins in 2023 when three different pairs of parents gave birth to Coco (female), Stella (female) and Jerry (male). Currently, the total tally of penguins at the zoo stands at 21, of which 11 are male and 10 are female.

With a healthy population of the species at the zoo, the Byculla authorities have offered penguins for exchange programmes across the zoo in a bid to procure other animals. However, the penguins have found no takers thus far — owing to their high costs of maintenance and care — sparking concerns of dwindling space for the penguins at the existing facility.

NAYONIKA BOSE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

WITH THE demise of the city zoo’s last elephant, Anarkali, in November last year leaving behind a vacuum of sorts at Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Vanaspati Udyan and Zoo in Rani Baug, the Mumbai civic body is planning to revamp the area spread over 4,000 sq m to accommodate new animal exhibits. The zoo authorities have written to a Thailand-based firm to create a new layout for the land parcel.

After elephant Laxmi’s death in 2020, the city’s lone remaining elephant Anarkali breathed her last on November 10, 2024, bringing the curtains down on Mumbai’s decades-old relation-

### Senior officials of the BMC said Byculla zoo will no longer house elephants

ship with the gentle giants. Anarkali was 58 years old and had lived in the zoo for nearly five decades.

Senior officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the Byculla zoo will no longer house elephants as Central Zoo Authority (CZA) guidelines now prohibit it.

Last month, the zoo authorities wrote to HKS Consultants seeking new designs for the space, “We already have a list of approved animals from the

CZA. The new proposal will be designed to accommodate species from this list. Since smaller species require much less space, the plan may look at redeveloping the elephant enclosure into a space that can house several species of animals. According to the design proposal, we will take further decisions and submit it to the CZA for approval,” a BMC official told *The Indian Express*.

Currently, the zoo authorities are awaiting a response from the consultants. “They are finalising the terms of the tender for the upcoming exotic zone, spanning over 10 acres. Following this, they are expected to take up work on the redevelopment designs,” an official added.

The tender for the separate exotic zone, which lies adjacent

to the existing 53-acre facility, is expected to be floated in the coming weeks. It will house animals such as cheetahs and white lions.

Redevelopment plans are being drawn up for the 162-year-old Rani Baug facility after foot-fall and revenue at the zoo dipped to a three-year low. The visitor count has seen a drop of nearly 21 per cent in a year. While over 28.97 lakh people flocked to the zoo during the 2023-2024 financial year, it dropped to 23.57 lakh during 2024-25.

This marks a significant decline from 2022-2023 when nearly 30 lakh people had arrived at the zoo, raking in a revenue of Rs 11.59 crore. Senior officials attributed the dip to the lack of new exhibits.



# Mumbai likely to get a new police commissioner soon

Tenure of Vivek Phansalkar ends this month

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

THE MAHARASHTRA government is likely to appoint a new Mumbai Police chief in a couple of days as the nearly three-year-long tenure of incumbent police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, a 1989-batch IPS officer, is coming to an end soon.

As per seniority, the next in line are current NIA chief Sadanand Date from the 1990 batch and his batchmate Sanjay Kumar Verma.

According to officials, though Date is considered in high regard by the CM, the central government may not want to let him go as the NIA is currently involved



Vivek Phansalkar

in sensitive probes like interrogation of Tahawwur Rana and the Pahalgam attack.

The next in line are 1992-batch officers Retesh Kumar, Amitabh Gupta, and the current Anti-Corruption Bureau chief Sanjeev Singhal.

Archana Tyagi, from the 1993 batch, is also considered to be a dark horse for the post considering that so far no woman has headed the Mumbai Police.

Deven Bharti, a 1994-batch officer, who is an Additional Director General-rank officer, could also be made the commis-

sioner if the post, that is currently a Director General-rank post, is downgraded to ADG rank.

Officials said that in case no one is appointed in the next two days, the government is likely to hand over additional charge of the post to Bharti, who is currently the special commissioner.

Phansalkar took charge as the Mumbai Police chief on June 30, 2022 around the same time Uddhav Thackeray resigned as CM and the Mahayuti govern-

ment came to power.

Prior to that, the Mumbai Police faced a turbulent period after Param Bir Singh was shunted out as commissioner in 2021 and Hemant Nagrale was appointed in his place for less than a year and Sanjay Pandey was appointed as commissioner for four months by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government before his retirement on June 30, 2022 following which Phansalkar took charge.

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Website: [www.ircon.org](http://www.ircon.org), CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

**e-Procurement Notice**  
e-Tender No. : IRCON/2053/Shallimar/Tender/2025/122 Dated : 28.04.2025  
e-Tender for and on behalf of South Eastern Railway is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Construction of two nos. loco pit and foundation for loco trip shed, other associated works etc., in connection to Station development project of Shallimar of South Eastern Railway in Howrah District of West Bengal".  
Estimated Cost of the Work (including all taxes & GST) Rs. 2,92,91,407.77  
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 4,00,000.00  
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 13.05.2025 upto 15.00 Hrs.  
For further details, visit website <https://tenders.gov.in/procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Chief General Manager East, 378, Prantik Pally, Kasba, Kolkata-700107

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI**  
An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

**RECRUITMENT FOR FACULTY POSITIONS AT IISER TIRUPATI**  
IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals, including eligible Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for faculty positions on regular basis in various disciplines.  
For detailed advertisement, please visit [www.iisertirupati.ac.in](http://www.iisertirupati.ac.in) >> Careers >> Faculty.  
The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on June 16, 2025**  
Sd/-  
Director

Advt.No. 08/2025/IISER-T/Rect./25.04.2025

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Shri Dipen Chandruva Prop of M/s Amardeep Industries R/o: 5, Gulab Niwas, Solicitor Road, Malad (E), Mumbai-400087 Also At: Flat No. 1804, A-wing, Raj Residency, S.V. Road, Goregaon, Mumbai-400062 Also at: 202, Sheetal Enclave, Nr. Tangent Fur Mall, Chincholi Bunder Road, Malad (W) Mumbai-400064** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC No. 5862/2019 U/s 138 NI Act at PS: Roop Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Shri Dipen Chandruva** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shri Dipen Chandruva** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shri Dipen Chandruva of CC No. 5862/2019 U/s 138 NI Act at PS: Roop Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.05.2025**.  
By order  
**Shreya Singh**  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05  
Central District, Room No. 2,  
Ground Floor, Annexe-01  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi  
DP/5271/N/2025

**CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED**  
CIN : L65921MH1994PLC173469  
GST : 27AAACD8981C1ZL

Registered Address:  
Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL/The Company) 502, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Park, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India Pincode-400013  
Telephone: 9891668999, e-mail : [vinod.kumar42@capriglobal.in](mailto:vinod.kumar42@capriglobal.in)

**GOLD AUCTION PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the customers and the public in general that the loan(s) availed by the customers against the gold ornaments pledged with the below mentioned branches of the company, have remained overdue for redemption. As the Company has not received payment of the overdue loan amounts to far in spite of repeated notices, the Company will conduct online/public auction of the gold ornaments strictly on "As is What is Basis" & "Whatever there is Basis". The online auction will be conducted through goldsamli.com on their online auction platform on Date: **02 May 2025 from 10 AM**. Those who are willing to participate are requested to contact their branch. The address of such Taluka Branch have been duly notified on our website www.capriglobal.in in case of any failure due to any reason, the auction will continue on subsequent days under the same terms and conditions. And also the first level auction becomes unsuccessful on the above said date/subsequent dates, the company Capri Global Capital Limited is having the right to postpone the auction to following 2nd Auction dates or on subsequent dates on the same terms and conditions via public auction/e-auctions through gold samli.com on their online e-auction platform without any further notice. Capri Global Capital Limited has the authority to remove any of the loan account from the auction list without prior information and has a right to cancel without prior intimation. Any change in auction date will be published at the place of auction.  
**DISTRICT WISE SECOND-LEVEL AUCTIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM 10:00 AM AT ALL DESIGNATED LOCATIONS / ONLINE ON THE SPECIFIED DATES.**  
District: PUNE Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOAN SARSWATI NIWAS PUNE NASHIK HIGHWAY BLOSS NUMBER 476 W/A 825/1/546 MANCHAR (NEAR SB BANK) AMBESGAON PUNE MAHARASHTRA - 410903 Auction Dates: 06.05.2025  
MANCHAR PUNE MH- L30100020150986, L30100003023096, L30100003497201, L30100003472505  
District: RATNAGRI Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOAN SHOP NO 1,2 CENTER 1 NEAR BANK OF INDIA KAVATOLI CHITLUNJ MAHARASHTRA - 415405 Auction Dates: 06.05.2025  
CHITLUNJ KAVATOLI MH- L3010000160014, L30100000400451  
Note: Customers can release the gold ornaments before the auction date (01 May 2025)  
Note: Bidders are required to produce ID/PAK card and NOC/1 cert. (from registered dealer). Successful bidders should transfer the full auction amount by RTGS.  
DATE: 29 April 2025  
PLACE: MAHARASHTRA  
For Capri Global Capital Ltd (Gold Loan)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

(Service By way of Publication of Notice to Aamby Valley City)  
1. Whereas, an Execution Application No. 330 of 2024 in Consumer Complaint 125 of 2012 has been filed by the Complainant namely - Mr. Ashit Vipin Sanghavi & Anr. (Row House No. 25, Cloud 9, Nibh Road, Mohammed Wadi, Pune-4110048, Maharashtra) against Aamby Valley City, through - counsel Ms. Fiza Chopra, Advocate, D-31, First Floor, Nizamuddin (East), New Delhi-110013, Mob.8130653733., before the Hon'ble National Commission Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi.  
2. The above mentioned, Aamby Valley City has been arraigned as Judgment Debtor in the Execution Application, and, it has been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Commission by the Decree Holder that the Directors of Aamby Valley City have not complied with the final order dated 15.12.2023(in the matter of Mr. Ashit Vipin Sanghavi V/s M/s.Aamby Valley Ltd). (Formerly Known as Sahara India Commercial Corporation Ltd.) of the Commission and Execution Proceedings are before the Commission.  
3. And whereas, the Hon'ble National Commission vide its order dated 07.04.2025 has, inter alia, posted the case for further hearing on 29.05.2025 and has directed for substituted service of notice on Aamby Valley by way of publication in two local newspaper, one in English other in vernacular language, within the period of six weeks.  
4. Accordingly, take Notice that the Judgment Debtor (Aamby Valley City) is hereby directed to attend the hearing in the above Execution Application in Consumer Complaint listed on 29.05.2025 at 10:30AM, either in-person or through an authorized representative / counsel, failing which, the case will be heard and determined ex-parte by the Hon'ble National Commission.  
New Delhi, Dated on this 23rd Apr, 2025.  
By Order: Rajesh Nath - Assistant Registrar

## STUDENT MOLESTED BY SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

# Parents protest, voice concern about children's safety

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

DAYS AFTER the Navi Mumbai police arrested a school bus driver accused of molesting a minor schoolchild, several parents protested silently outside the school on Monday morning, demanding accountability from the administration and raising concerns about their children's safety.

When the child was taken to

hospital with severe rectal pain, medical staff raised concerns, prompting further investigation. The child's parents then approached the local police station, leading to the bus driver's arrest.

The protesting parents expressed their frustration over how the school management had handled the sensitive complaint, alleging that it had failed to issue any formal communication or take visible steps to reassure parents about student safety.

"A message regarding an internal inquiry was circulated among parents. However, that has proved inadequate to assure us of our children's safety," said a parent, adding that the school management did not meet the protesters on Monday. "They have recalled us on Thursday. We will continue to press for accountability from the school."

The parents further alleged that the school had been insensitive in its approach. "We are ad-

vised against using private van services. But this incident took place despite the child's parents choosing the bus service provided by the school," said a parent, adding that it was scary how the administration failed to ensure the child's safety.

The school administration said, "The complaint is under investigation by the police and the school management is fully co-operating and providing all support and information to police."

**SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
CIN No-L65191TN1979PLC007874  
Reg.Off. Shri Tower, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy,Chennai-600032  
Admn.Off: 6th Floor (Level2), Building No.Q2, AarumQParc, Gen4/1, TTC, Thane  
Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710

## GOLD LOAN AUCTION NOTICE

The below mentioned borrowers have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the Loan against Gold Ornaments ("Facility") availed by them from Shriram Finance Ltd (SFL). Since the borrowers have failed to repay their dues under the facility, we will be conducting an auction of the Pledged Gold Ornaments on **09/05/2025 (date of auction)** In the event any surplus amount is realised from this auction, the same will be refunded to the concerned borrower and if there is a deficit post the auction, the balance amount shall be recovered from the borrower through appropriate Legal Proceedings. SFL has the authority to remove any of the following accounts from the auction without prior intimation. Further SFL reserves the right to change the Auction Date without any prior notice, in the event of force majeure.

PARTY NAME	PARTY NAME	PARTY NAME
AMOL MOHAN WANI	ASHOK RAGHUVIR YADAV	BHARAT BRIJLAL CHOUHAN
CHAYA RAJARAM SAVDERKAR	DAULATSINGH PANNASINGH RAJPUT	DHIRAJ S DWIVEDI
GEETA BIRENDRA SINGH	HRUSHIKESH SANDEEP KHARADE	KISHOR SUNIL KODARE
MANGESH BABU BHAGAT	MANOJ MARUTI PAWAR	OM MAHESH JADHAV
PRAKASH DEHU GHUTE	REKHA KUMAWAT	ROHIT PRAKASH PATIL
SAIMA IRFAN SHAIKH	SANJAY BASANTLAL SONI	SANJAY SURESH BINEDAR
SHRAVANLAL AMRARAM GUJAR	SOHANSINGH CHAMPASINGH DASANA	SUNIL RAJARAM YADAV
SURESH CHANDRA KUMAWAT	UDAYLAL NARAYANLAL JAT	VIJAY VITTHAL MASANE
VISHAL PRAKASH WAGH		

The above Gold Ornaments Auction will be held at the following address: Shriram Finance Ltd. Harmes Atrium

“B” Wing 7th Floor Sector 11 CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai 400614, -Auction Time: 12.00 PM

Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to time limit, then the auction would continue on the subsequent working day on the same Terms and Conditions.

If the Customer is deceased, all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to his / her legal heir(s).

For Further information, Terms and Conditions and for getting registered to participate in the auction, interested buyers may contact Mr.Mahesh Gaikwad (7208415195)/Mr.Roshan Juikar (9967200572).

Sd/-  
Shriram Automall India Limited  
Board Approved Auctioneer  
for Shriram Finance Ltd

Date: 29/04/2025  
Place : Belapur

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Govt. of India Undertaking

**सिंडिकेट Syndicate**

**RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION : Mumbai South Regional Office, Canara Bank, Cuff Parade, Maker Tower, E Wing, 14th Floor, Mumbai -mail :[rorecoverymums@canarabank.com](mailto:rorecoverymums@canarabank.com) website : [www.canarabank.com](http://www.canarabank.com)**  
**SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is Where is", and "As is What is" basis on **30.05.2025**, through online E-auction between **11.00 am to 1.30 PM**, for recovery of dues as described here below, due to our various branches indicated therein.  
The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **29.05.2025, up to 4:00 p.m.** Details of EMD and other documents to be submitted to service provider on or before **29.05.2025 up to 05.00 pm**. The property can be inspected, with prior appointment with Authorised Officer on **28.05.2025 between 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s)	Outstanding	Details of Security/ies Area in Sq. Ft. (Status of Possession)	Reserve Price (R.P.)	Canara Bank Account Details
				Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Name & Contact Detail of Branch
1	<b>Borrower (S) :-</b> <b>M/s. Goldis Enterprises Prop: Mr. Parag Waman Raut</b> <b>Guarantor (S) :-</b> <b>Mrs. Nanda W. Raut</b> <b>Mortgagor (S) :-</b> <b>Mrs. Nanda W. Raut</b>	<b>Rs. 33,30,453.17</b> (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Seventeen Only) as on <b>31.10.2024</b> plus up to date interest and other charge due	Flat No. 20, 2nd Floor B wing, Building name Sadhana Co Operative Housing Society Limited, Plot No. 82 - 83, TPS – VI, CTS No. 1610/11 of Village Ville Parle, Daulat Nagar, Relief Road, Near Late Ravindra Mhatre Chowk, Santacruz (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400054. Boundaries of the property: North: Shining Star Co Operative HSG Society; South: Sane Guruji Road; East: Chawl; West: C Wing, CERSAI Secu. Int ID:400005489134; Asset ID:200005480795 <b>Name of Title Holder: Mrs. Nanda W Raut</b> <b>Area : 498 Sq. Ft. Carpet Area (or) 576 sq. ft. BUA (Possession Symbolic)</b>	<b>Rs. 1,59,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 15,90,000/-</b>	<b>CANARA BANK SANTACRUZ WEST II BRANCH A/C No 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0015060/ Manager Canara Bank SANTACRUZ WEST II 8655963312 / 8487820640/ 9491457391</b>
2	<b>Borrower (S) :-</b> <b>M/s. Everon Alliance Inc through its Proprietor Sh Prasanna Karunakar Shetty</b> <b>Guarantor (S) :-</b> <b>Sh Prasanna Kumar Sheety &amp; Sh Virindra Maloni</b> <b>Mortgagor (S) :-</b> <b>Mr. Virindra Maloni, Proprietor of M/s. Coconut Bay Export</b>	<b>Rs. 3,55,79,252.32</b> (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two and Paisea Thirty Two Only) as on <b>30.09.2024</b> plus up to date interest and other charge due	All that part and Parcel of industrial gala no 208, 2nd Floor, Building no A to Z Industrial Premises Co-operative Society Limited, Fergusson Road, Lower Park, Mumbai 400013 Documented Built-up area 1080 Sq Ft + 432 Sq Ft (40% of Mezzanine Area) i.e Total Built Up area 1512.00 Sq ft recorded in the name of Mr Virindra Maloni, Proprietor of M/s Coconut Bay Export. Bounded as under: <b>North:</b> By A to Z Gate No. 6; <b>South:</b> By A to Z Gate No. 1; <b>East:</b> By Piramal Tower; <b>West:</b> By A to Z Gate No. 4 CERSAI Security Interest ID – 400067655245; CERSAI Asset ID – 200068718362 <b>Name of Title Holder: Mr. Virindra Maloni, Proprietor of M/s. Coconut Bay Export</b> <b>Area : Built-up area 1080 Sq Ft + 432 Sq Ft (40% of Mezzanine Area) i.e Total Built Up area 1512.00 Sq ft (Possession Symbolic)</b>	<b>Rs. 3,62,88,000/-</b> <b>Rs. 36,28,800/-</b>	<b>CANARA BANK MUMBAI WORLI BRANCH A/C No 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0000113/ Manager Canara Bank MUMBAI WORLI Branch 86559633175 /9065516585/ 8210939092/ 9491457391</b>

For Detailed terms & Condition of sale please refer the link E-auction provided through <https://baanknet.in/>. a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://baanknet.in/>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. b. The property can be inspected with prior appointment with Authorized Officer on the dates mentioned in Sale Notice. c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process with multiples of **For Sr. No. 1 Rs. 10,000/- & For Sr. No. 2 Rs. 30,000/-** d. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve price is to be deposited by way of Demand Draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, Branch. OR shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT/ Funds Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, on or before **4.00 p.m of 29.05.2025**. Details of EMD and other documents to be submitted to service provider on or before **5.00 p.m of 29.05.2025**. e. After payment of EMD amount the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before **5.00 p.m of 29.05.2025** to Canara Bank Branch by hand or by email. i. Demand Draft / Pay Order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/ NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No. ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID proof. However successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. iii. Bidder Name, Contact No., Address, Email ID. iv. Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD. f. The intending bidders should register their names at portal **M/s. PSB Alliance (BAANKNET) https://baanknet.in/** and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider **M/s. PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)**. Contact No. 8291220220, [support.baanknet@psballiance.com](mailto:support.baanknet@psballiance.com); <https://baanknet.in/>. g. EMD Deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them after 24 Hours of Bidding Process Completed and within 7 Working days. The EMD shall not carry any interest. h. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of **For Sr. No. 1 Rs. 10,000/- & For Sr. No. 2 Rs. 30,000/-** The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. i. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him / her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. j. For sale proceeds of **Rs.50.00 lakhs** (Rupees Fifty lakhs only) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate of the Bank. k. All charges for conveyance, stamp duty / GST registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. l. There is no encumbrance in the property to the knowledge of the Bank. Successful Bidder is liable to pay all society dues, municipal taxes / Panchayat taxes / electricity / water charges / other charges, duties and taxes whatsoever, including outstanding, if any, in respect of and / or affecting the subject property. m. Authorized Officer reserves the right to postpone / cancel or vary the terms and conditions of e – auction without assigning any reason thereof. n. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating in the e – auction, they can approach Canara Bank, Mumbai Circle Office or Regional Office, who, as a facilitating center shall make necessary arrangements. o. For further details contact Canara Bank, Recovery and Legal Section, Second Floor, BandraKurla Complex, Circle Office, Mumbai' Contact No. 022-26728432 and may be contacted during office hours on any working day or the service provider **M/s. PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)**., Contact No. 8291220220, [support.baanknet@psballiance.com](mailto:support.baanknet@psballiance.com); <https://baanknet.in/>

Date : 29.04.2025  
Place : Mumbai

Sd/-  
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



The blaze was confined within the bakery. Ganesh Shirsekar

# Four injured in Byculla bakery fire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

FOUR PERSONS were injured in a fire that was reported in a bakery in south Mumbai's Byculla. The injured have been identified as Jayesh Parekh (45), Javed Siddique (26), Jabil Ahmed (23), and Shahniar Raisi (36).

The incident was reported around 5.45 pm, following which the blaze was extinguished around 6.55 pm.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ravindra Ambulgekar - chief fire officer (CFO) said that the fire broke out following an LPG cylinder leak.

"The incident was reported from the bakery. An LPG cylinder that was kept inside the bakery leaked, after which a fire broke out as the oven was already burning," Ambulgekar said.

"The blaze remained confined within the bakery only and the adjoining premises were evacuated as a precautionary measure," he added.

Out of the four injured, Raisi suffered 40% burn injuries, followed by Parekh who suffered 30% burn injuries, Ahmed suffered 20% burn injuries, while Siddiqui suffered 15% burn injuries.

Civic officials maintained that the four injured were employees working at the bakery.

"The employees were heating the bread loafs and were close to the oven. As a result of which they suffered burn injuries. The injured were immediately rescued and transported to the local Masina hospital for further treatment," said the official. Civic sources said that the injured are currently under observation and are in a stable condition.



# 6 EXPRESS NETWORK

Police selectively targeting Hindu activists in the name of law and order: VHP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

THE VISHWA Hindu Parishad, along with like-minded right-wing organisations, has decided to hold a protest march against 'police atrocities' on Hindu activists in Mumbai on Tuesday. The march will begin at Churchgate railway station in south Mumbai and proceed to the Mumbai Police Commissioner's office.

"The police are selectively targeting Hindu workers under the pretext of law and order. We demand a fair investigation into such incidents and protection of Hindu society's rights," said Mahendra Salekar, secretary of VHP Konkan division.

When asked about the reasons behind VHP holding a rally when BJP is in power in Maharashtra, Salekar alleged higher authorities had assured them that police would allow the holding of rallies and be supportive, but it never happened.

The rally is to draw the attention of the administration and citizens to incidents of police harassment in Wakola and Wadala areas of Mumbai. The right-wing Hindu organisations alleged that police beat up activists when they tried to take out processions in Wadala area earlier this month. The VHP claims that despite being victims of attacks, their activists were arrested under false charges.

Earlier, three persons were injured, and shops and vehicles were vandalised in a clash between two groups in Wakola area on Saturday night, following which seven persons were arrested, police said on Sunday.

According to a VHP leader, police action was selectively harsh on Hindu workers.

The VHP has warned that if police don't stop their biased actions, Hindu organisations would intensify their agitation across Mumbai. "Our rally is aimed at seeking justice. We are committed to conducting it peacefully, but our patience must not be tested," Salekar added.

## Fire at ED's Mumbai office: papers burnt but agency says crucial documents safe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate on Monday stated that though certain documents were burnt in a fire at the agency's Mumbai office on Sunday, crucial documents were stored as digital records and were therefore safe, adding that no impediment in conducting investigations or trials was expected.

A fire broke out at the ED's Mumbai Zonal Office-I on the fourth floor of the Kaiser-I-Hind building in Ballard Estate around 2.25 am on Sunday. The fire brigade doused the blaze after starting fire-fighting operations around 3.30 am with more than 50 personnel and multiple fire tenders.

The prima facie reason for the fire appears to be a short circuit originating from the fourth floor.

The ED's statement followed speculations in media that the fire may have destroyed documents of many crucial cases the agency is investigating, such as those against many Maharashtra politicians, bank fraud cases involving Nirav Modi and Mehul Chowksi, and Covid scam cases.

The ED said that although

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, APRIL 28

ECONOMIC OFFENCES tend to be grave as they are a threat to the country's economy, unlike conventional crimes that affect individuals or groups, the Karnataka High Court has said while rejecting the bail pleas of actors Ranya Rao and Tarun Konduru.

## Delhi court accepts ED closure report in money laundering case against Kalmadi, others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

A DELHI court on Monday accepted the Enforcement Directorate's closure report in a money laundering case against Suresh Kalmadi, the former head of the 2010 Commonwealth Games organising committee, its then secretary general Lalit Bhanot and others.

This brings to end the money laundering angle in the alleged scam, which triggered a massive political uproar during the previous Congress-led UPA government.

"Since during the investigations, the prosecution has failed to make out an offence under section 3 (money laundering) of the PMLA... as no offence under section 3 of the PMLA has been made out or has been committed, despite discreet investigations by the ED, therefore, there is no reason to continue with the present ECIR, as a consequence, the closure report filed by the ED stands accepted," Rouse Avenue Court Special Judge Sanjeev

### Modi, Kejriwal must apologise for misleading country: Cong

*New Delhi:* With a Delhi court accepting the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) closure report in a case related to the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the Congress on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal must apologise to it and the people of India for misleading the country.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications

Jairam Ramesh said before 2014, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Kejriwal and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had come together to "fabricate scams" like 2G and Commonwealth Games (CWG) to defame his party.

"Two very honest and dedicated leaders -- Dr Manmohan Singh and Mrs Sheila Dixit -- were falsely accused," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

Aggarwal said in an order dated April 28.

Kalmadi and the others were accused of awarding two key contracts -- Games Workforce Service; and Games Planning, Project & Risk Management Services -- in a "wrongful manner" to M/s Event Knowledge Services (EKS) and M/s Ernst and Young (E&Y), allegedly causing a loss of Rs 30 crore to

the CWG organising committee.

After allegations of corruption in the conduct of the Games, the CBI and the ED had filed several criminal and money laundering cases, respectively. The CBI filed close to 20 FIRs related to the alleged scam.

The ED's money laundering case was built on the allegations of corruption in a CBI case, which

was the predicate offence. While accepting the ED's closure report, Judge Aggarwal relied on the fact that the CBI's closure report had been accepted and the ED had told the court that it could find no evidence of money laundering in the case.

The CBI's closure report, filed in January 2014 and accepted by a Delhi court in February 2016, stated that "no incriminating evidence surfaced during the investigation in the matter". In this case, the CBI had named, along with Kalmadi, the then COO of the CWG organising committee, Vijay Kumar Gautam, its then treasurer A K Matto and Event Knowledge Services, Switzerland, as accused, among others. Kalmadi faces another corruption case linked to the CWG Games, in which the CBI has accused him of alleged irregularities in awarding a contract to a Swiss firm allegedly causing a loss of more than Rs 90 crore to the exchequer. In this case, he was arrested on April 24, 2011 and, nine months later, granted bail by the Delhi High Court.

## Local who hid in tree key witness, NIA takes him to the site of massacre in Pahalgam

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 28

A LOCAL man believed to have been hiding atop a tree for more than an hour after the first gunshots rang out at Pahalgam is being questioned by police for crucial leads on the terrorists, *The Indian Express* has learnt. "He has also been taken back to Baisaran valley by the National Investigation Agency to recreate the scene," a source close to the investigation said.

Police are also collecting evidence from his mobile phone,



At Baisaran meadow where 26 people were killed. *File*

given that he viewed the entire episode from a distance.

Sources also told *The Indian Express* that on the day of the attack, at least 400 people were

present inside the vast Baisaran meadow. While the number of tickets sold at the park's ticket counter that day is still being ascertained, an early estimate has placed the figure during the attack at 400, with ticket sales close to 1,000.

"If not for the intervention of locals, the toll could have been higher," said a source. Eyewitnesses have told investigating agencies that at least three people entered the area by crossing over a chain link fence surrounding the park and began walking towards the centre, "shooting precisely".

This, according to the source, left the park's gate open, and the local ponywallas who remained outside helped tourists to safety. It is learnt that the militants then ran towards the forest bordering the meadow and crossed over the fence again.

Eyewitnesses, including Nazakat Ahmad Shah, who helped rescue some of the tourists at Baisaran on April 22, told *The Indian Express* that they have not seen security presence at the meadow in recent times. "I have been going to the park for years and not seen anyone in uniform there," he said.

## Govt blocks 16 Pak YouTube channels, objects to BBC use of word the 'militants'

MAHENDER SINGH  
MANRAL & DIVYA A  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

THE GOVERNMENT has banned 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, and false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its Army and security agencies following the Pahalgam terror attack, officials said Monday.

It has also conveyed its displeasure to the BBC over its coverage of the terror attack, objecting to the use of the word "militants", instead of terrorists.

The Pakistani YouTube channels that have been blocked include some leading channels like Dawn News, Samaa TV, Ary News, and Geo News.

A source said the decision to block the channels was taken on the back of the Pahalgam terror attack. The 16 channels have 63.08 million followers. "Geo News channel has 18.1 million followers, Dawn News has 1.96 million followers, Samaa TV has 12.7 million followers and Ary News channel has 14.6 m followers," a source said. The other blocked channels include GNN, Bol News, The Pakistan Reference and Raftar, the source said.

out. Therefore, merely for the reason that the alleged offences are compoundable and punishable with imprisonment up to seven years, bail cannot be granted as a thumb rule," he said.

The HC also pointed to the quantity of gold allegedly smuggled, over 100 kg, and the extension of government facilities like VIP protocols to Rao, the step-daughter of senior Karnataka IPS

Meanwhile, after the BBC India termed the terrorists as militants in one of its reports, the Centre approached channel head Jackie Martin via the Ministry of External Affairs, and conveyed its strong sentiments to him. "New Delhi's concerns have been strongly conveyed to the BBC by the MEA XP Division, and now the XP Division will be monitoring further reporting of the BBC," said a source.

Similar concerns have also been expressed to American news agency Associated Press and UK-based news agency Reuters, sources told *The Indian Express*. The MEA will continue to monitor the reportage and flag to those concerned about anything which it feels undermines the severity of the situation, or is factually incorrect.

In response to a query by *The Indian Express* in this regard, a BBC spokesperson said, "The BBC has sought to report the attacks... accurately, impartially and responsibly. We have included Prime Minister Modi's response to the attacks prominently in our coverage. Our long-standing position, reflected in the BBC's Editorial Guidelines, is to use the word terrorist with attribution. Anyone who has seen or listened to our coverage will have heard the word used in quotes and interviews."

officer K Ramachandra Rao. "Considering the manner in which accused no.1 has managed to smuggle huge quantity of gold to India, for which she has also made use of the Government facilities provided to her, and since investigation of the case is still under progress, the benefit of the proviso to Section 480 of BNSS, 2023, cannot be extended to her," Justice Shetty ruled.

#### PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

## All Pak nationals in Maharashtra identified, tracked, says Fadnavis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

ALL PAKISTANI citizens in Maharashtra have been identified and their departure being closely tracked, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Monday.

The CM told mediapersons the Centre's guidelines are being strictly followed. All the parameters cited in the Centre's guidelines mandating Pakistani citizens to leave India are being implemented, he added.

However, the Centre's directives will not apply to Sindhi Hindus who have come on long visas and applied for Indian citizenship, he clarified.

"The state government is



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis. *File*

closely monitoring the developments. While I cannot reveal the exact numbers at this moment, I can say all the Pakistani citizens have been identified. As they leave their movements are being tracked," Fadnavis said.

He also reiterated that there were no cases of untraced Pakistani citizens in Maharashtra.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah



Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during his visit to the residences of Hemant Joshi, Sanjay Lele and Atul Mone, who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terror attack at Dombivli in Thane on Sunday. *ANI*

## Cong's Wadettiwar faces BJP, Sena attack over Pahalgam remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

CHIEF MINISTER Devendra Fadnavis and Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Monday slammed senior Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar for questioning the survivors' accounts that the Pahalgam terrorists asked the religion of the victims before killing them.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Wadettiwar said, "We are being told that the terrorists ascertained the religion of the victims and then killed them. Do terrorists have so much time to go close to someone and whisper in their ears? It is highly controversial because some are claiming such things did happen while others are denying it. Do not plan anything around it. Terrorists do not have caste or religion." He added that the government must take responsibility of the attack. "Why was security not there? Was there no intelligence failure? Is this not the failure of the government? No one is talking about that," he said.

Fadnavis slammed Wadettiwar. "Such statements are like rubbing salt in the wounds of the victims's relatives. This is very bad. I don't know whether to call this stupidity,"

Fadnavis said.

"It has been repeatedly proven that Hindus are targeted in Kashmir, so in which world is Wadettiwar living? By claiming that terrorists have no caste or religion, who is Wadettiwar trying to please," Bawankule asked. "By his statement, Wadettiwar is making a disgusting attempt to shield terrorists and provide them protection. This is not just irresponsibility, it's a clear example of an anti-national mindset," he said, adding that every Indian who loves the country must condemn such remarks.

Wadettiwar also came under attack from Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Milind Deora, who said when Indians are killed by terrorists in Pahalgam, Wadettiwar's first instinct is to defend Pakistan "just like when he claimed that Pakistani bullets didn't kill Hemant Karkare during 26/11". The party protested outside its headquarters against Wadettiwar.

The Congress leader, however, later issued a clarification. "The terrorists came and they killed our people. If they have ascertained their religion before killing them, they did it with a purpose to destabilise the country. Their aim is start a fight between two major communities in India and eventually cause major losses," Wadettiwar said.

## Haryana woman, 5-year-old daughter gangraped, minor killed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

A 35-YEAR-OLD woman and her five-year-old daughter were allegedly gangraped and the minor smothered to death, reportedly after the woman entered into a spat with the accused who were drinking alcohol outside her shanty in Haryana's Jind. Police arrested all the accused -- three men -- and detained a 13-year-old following specific information. A local court Sunday sent the three men -- identified as Hameed Khan, alias Amit, (46), Shiva (19), and Biru (18) -- to one-day police remand. The minor has been sent to a juvenile correctional facility.

Though the incident took place on the night of April 21, the victim filed a police complaint after three days, leading to the arrest of the accused on April 26. All the accused are the residents

of the same locality as the victim woman, who makes ends meet by ragpicking, and the accused are residents of the same colony in the town.

As per the police, the four accused were allegedly consuming alcohol near the woman's shanty to which she objected. A heated argument ensued following which Khan allegedly dragged her to a nearby garbage dump and raped her, they said. The minor, who followed the woman on hearing her screams, was also sexually assaulted by the other accused, police said. With the minor screaming in pain, the accused then smothered her to death and then took turns raping the woman, they said.

The woman's husband was not at home when the incident occurred. On April 22 morning, some locals and the family found the child's body. "They noticed some injury marks on her neck

have given directives that Pakistani nationals must leave India. This is the overwhelming sentiment of every Indian. There are some Pakistani citizens in Maharashtra. There is information that 107 Pakistani citizens are untraceable." "Irrespective of their destinations all of them should leave. If they don't the police will track them down and take action. Even those who are giving Pakistani nationals shelter will face action," he warned.

On the 107 untraced Pakistani nationals, Fadnavis dismissed it as baseless.

"All the Pakistani nationals have been tracked. And they are being made to leave. The police will furnish the final numbers once the process is complete," the CM said.

## Maharashtra to set up tourism security force

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

IN THE wake of the terror attack on tourists near Pahalgam in J&K, the Maharashtra government on Monday announced to establish a 'Maharashtra Tourism Security Force (Tourism Mitra)', which will be tasked with the safety of tourists visiting the state.

State Tourism Minister Shambhuraj Desai said, "This force will be deployed for the safety of tourists. The personnel will undergo special training so that they can guide and protect tourists."

"The 'Maharashtra Tourism Security Force' will be launched on a pilot basis during the Mahabaleshwar Festival in Satara to be held from May 1 to 4. In order to create a sense of security in the minds of tourists coming to the state and to provide necessary information about the state's culture, history, tourist places, laws, rules and tourism, the tourism security force will be appointed on a contractual basis," Desai added.

In order to set up the force, the Tourism department has directed the Maharashtra State Security Corporation and Maharashtra Ex-Servicemen Corporation Ltd to submit information about their employees as soon as possible.

Around 25 personnel will be appointed by the Maharashtra State Security Corporation through the Satara district superintendent of police office. These personnel will be given necessary training for ensuring the safety of tourists. The expenditure incurred on this initiative will be borne by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation in coordination with the Maharashtra State Security Corporation and the Satara district SP office.

Tourism Secretary Atul Patne said the step is meant to create a safe environment at tourist destinations. "The force will have trained personnel, modern technology and a well-coordinated system, which will react immediately in emergency situations," he said.

apart from some bloodstains. However, considering it a natural death, the family buried the body," Jind's ASP Sonakshi Singh said. The woman, who regained consciousness two days later, informed the family and filed a police complaint.

On April 24, the police exhumed the girl's body and sent it to the BPS Government Medical College for Women in Sonipat district for post-mortem.

"The autopsy report stated that the five-year-old had been gangraped before being strangled to death. A medical examination of the mother also confirmed gangrape," the police officer said.

After the autopsy report came in, the police added charges under the POCSO Act, along with sections pertaining to gangrape and murder under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).





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CIN : U51102MP1977SGC001392

**NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION-CUM-REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**N.I.T. No. MPIDC/Tech-RFP/2025/209      Date : 28.04.2025**  
Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (MPIDC Ltd.) invites offers from interested consultants with proven capabilities and demonstrated performance to express their interest to participate in the competitive bidding for **“Engagement of Consultant to act as a Project Management Consultant (PMC) for Infrastructure Development of PM MITRA Park in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh”**.  
The Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement Portal <https://mptenders.gov.in>-MPIDC HO. M.P. Madhyam/119820/2025  
**CHIEF ENGINEER**

**BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED**  
**Registered Office:** Bajaj Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai - Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune – 411035  
**Branch Office:** Bajaj Finance Ltd, Cts No 6817b, 2nd Floor, Mukand Icon, Survey No 98/1, Plot No 157, Triak Road, Opposite Ayurved Hospital, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra 414001 **Authorized Officer's Details:** Name: Mr. Vaibhav Kadam, Email ID: vaibhav.kadam5@bajajfinserv.in Mob No. 9766231054

**APPENDIX-IVA** [See proviso to rule 8 (b)]  
**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**  
**Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("ACT")**  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagor(s) in respect of below mentioned secured asset which is mortgaged with Bajaj Finance Limited ("BFL"), and possession of which had been taken by undersigned Authorised Officer of BFL under the provisions of the ACT will be sold by Auction for recovery of the amount mentioned hereunder and further applicable interest, charges, and costs etc.  
The secured asset described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS"** under Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules ("the Rules") for recovery of the dues detailed as under:  

Particulars of E-auction	
Name & Address of Borrower	Mangesh Prakash Tarte (Borrower) Sonali Tarte (Co-Borrower) Both At: - Plot No. 3 Sub Plot No. 2, Shinde Mala, Savedi, Ahmednagar - 414001
Loan Account Number	441LAP0693781
Statutory Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated 12-Jul-21 Demand amount Rs. 25.63, 196/-
Outstanding Amount as on 24.04.2025	Rs.46,00,760.77/- (Rupees Forty-Six Lakh Seven Hundred and Sixty Rupees and Seventy-Seven Paise Only) as on 24/04/25
Description of Immovable Property	Office No. C-8 & O-9, Cts No. 5829 B, First Floor, Adarsh Sammrudhi Apartment, Chaudpat Karanja, Ahmednagar Maharashtra - 414001.
Reserve Price in INR	Rs. 27,09,000/-
EMD	Rs. 2,70,900/-
E-auction date and time	21/05/25 3.00 pm to 5:00 pm
E-auction Portal	<a href="https://bankauctions.in">https://bankauctions.in</a>
Last date of submission of EMD	20/05/25
Bid Increment Amount in Rs.	Rs.25,000/-
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From 01/05/25 to 20/05/25 on working day between 9.30 AM to 5 PM with Prior appointment

  
Public in General and Borrowers in particular please take notice that if in case auction on date scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then secured creditor may enforce security interest by way of sale through private treaty, at the discretion on of the secured creditor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link <https://bankauctions.in> and <https://www.bajajfinserv.in/sarfaesi-auction-notice>  
Date: 29/04/2025  
Place: AHMEDNAGAR  
Sd/- Authorized Officer  
Bajaj Finance Limited

**IN RE: INVITATION OF CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF MIRROR TRADING INTERNATIONAL (PTY) LTD. (IN LIQUIDATION)**

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

1. We write to you in our capacities as the duly appointed joint liquidators of Mirror Trading International (Pty) Ltd. ("MTI"), which has been liquidated in terms of South African Insolvency Act, 24 of 1936 ("Insolvency Act"). The final liquidation order was granted by the High Court of South Africa (Western Cape Division, Cape Town) on 30 June 2021.

2. You may have known MTI as an internet based crypto-currency club carrying on its business through its website <https://mticlaims.co.za/userpanel/login.php>. A copy of the order of the High Court of South Africa (Western Cape Division, Cape Town) dated 30 June 2021 is accessible at <https://www.investrust.co.za/mti-liquidation.html>.

3. MTI was declared an unlawful Ponzi Scheme, the bitcoin withdrawn by investors did not represent their own investment capital or return on their investment. MTI did not generate any returns on the investments received and utilised a later investor's funds to pay the capital and returns to an investor who invested earlier. The investors who withdrew funds and received payment from MTI therefore, received funds deposited / invested by other investors and benefited from someone else's investment and not their own. An investor in an illegal scheme is not entitled to any profit and therefore any profit made on investments are dispositions made by MTI for no value.

4. As MTI is undergoing liquidation, all the stakeholders/investors of MTI are invited to submit their proof of claim with the undersigned in a prescribed claim form in terms of Section 44 of the Insolvency Act, which is accessible at <https://www.investrust.co.za/mti-liquidation.html>

5. The following investors are entitled to submit claims (we refer you to the classes of investors as detailed in the circular dated 26 January 2024):

a. Class 1 investors who invested in MTI and did not withdraw anything, can claim for the loss of their entire investment at the Rand value thereof as at the date of the investment.

b. Class 2 investors who invested in MTI and withdrew a portion of their investment (therefore withdrew less than what they invested), can claim for the net loss of their investment, i.e. the Rand value of their investment at the date of the investment less the Rand value of the withdrawals at the date of the withdrawals.

c. Class 3 investors who invested in MTI and withdrew more than what they invested and therefore made a profit do not have an initial claim.

6. Process for the submission of claims:

a. Investors can obtain access to the MTI "back-office" to access their transactional history with MTI at [www.mticlaims.co.za](http://www.mticlaims.co.za).

b. An instructional video can be found on the home page of the abovementioned website, which will assist you in accessing the necessary data and in completing and submitting your claim electronically.

c. You will first be required to reset your password (if you have not yet done so) by using the email address you used to register on MTI's system and to provide your KYC ("Know Your Customer") documents.

d. Once you gain access to your data, you will be able to verify same and to download, complete and upload your claim document electronically. Please refrain from submitting claims via email or in hard copy format.

7. Supporting documents to be attached to your claim document:

a. Your Identity Document and/or passport,

b. Proof of residence not older than 3 months from the date of submission of your claim.

c. Bank statements as proof of the amount transferred from your bank account to an exchange, for example LUNO, Binance or BitMEX.

d. A bank confirmation letter issued by your bank as confirmation that the bank account referred to in paragraph 7.c is in your name.

e. Exchange statements as proof that the funds referred to in paragraph 7.c. was received and then transferred to your MTI wallet.

f. MTI statements as proof that the funds referred to in paragraph 7.e. were received in your MTI wallet.

8. The liquidators will inform the investor of their decision to accept, reject, reduce or increase the claim.

9. It is important to note that the full amounts claimed (whether a claim was accepted as is, reduced or increased) will not be paid. Investors will receive a proportionate dividend, which will be calculated based on the amount that is available for distribution in a particular Liquidation and Distribution Account and the value of the legitimate claims that remain after the claims' investigation- and objection-processes are finalised.

10. By way of the present e-mail, we call upon you to submit your claim form in respect of MTI by downloading the claim form from the link provided hereinabove, complete the claim form and submit it in PDF format.

11. Kindly do the needful on or before **23rd May 2025**.

12. Submission of false or misleading proof of claim shall attract penalties.

13. For further details on the liquidation proceedings of MTI, kindly access the following links:

a. <https://www.investrust.co.za/mti-liquidation.html>

b. <https://www.tygerbergtrustees.co.za/mirror-trading-international-pty-ltd.html>

Yours Faithfully,

Mr. Herman Bester,  
Mr. Adrian Willem Van Rooyen,  
Mr. Christopher James Roos,  
Ms. Jacolien Frieda Bernard,  
Ms. Diedre Basson,  
Mr. Chavonnes Badenhorst St. Clair Cooper  
Mr Kevin Titus  
Mr Daniel Sandile Ndlovu

(Joint Liquidators of Mirror Trading International (Pty) Ltd.)  
c/o Schabert Potgieter Attorneys Inc,  
81 Thomas Edison Street, Menlo Park, Pretoria, South Africa.



**Augmented reality AR and Virtual Reality VR for Architecture, Interiors and Builders**  
All Training Sessions with hands on practices  
Course Duration 2 Days Date-3,4 May 2025 Time-10.30 Am to 5.00 PM  
Venue: IDEMI, Swatantryaveer Tatya Tope Marg, Chunabhatti, Sion, Mumbai  
Email id : training@idemi.org      Web : www.idemi.org      Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4

Content : Immersive Visualization, Virtual Property Walkthroughs, Real-Time Property, Staging, BIM and Virtual Collaboration, Generative Design in Virtual Environments, High-Quality 3D Rendering, Site Analysis with Augmented Reality, Construction Simulations in Virtual Space, 360-Degree Property Tours, Interior Design in Virtual Reality, AI-Powered Design Environments, Interactive Design for Stakeholders, Geospatial Mapping for Site Planning, Virtual Furniture and Space Configuration, Mixed Reality for Precision Design, Efficient Construction Planning, MEP System Visualization, Lighting and Environmental Simulations, Sustainable Design Exploration, Cross-Platform Design Collaboration, Virtual Renovation and Remodeling, Remote Property Exploration, Building Code Visualization, Spatial Computing for Smart Environments, Historic Preservation, 3D Scanning and Modeling, Sustainability Simulations.

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**Contact-9403566219,8007765693, 8275181503,986908761**

QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH**  
**C.A.(CAA)/11(AHM)2025**  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;  
AND  
In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013;  
AND  
In the matter of Scheme of Arrangement involving transfer and vesting of the Advanced Materials Undertaking of Arvind Limited to Arvind Advanced Materials Limited.

**ARVIND ADVANCED MATERIALS LIMITED**  
(CIN U52100GJ2015PLC085165)  
a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013  
and having its Registered Office at  
Main Building, Arvind Limited Premises,  
Naroda Road, Ahmedabad – 380025  
In the state of Gujarat.....**Applicant Transferee Company**  
**NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF UNSECURED CREDITORS OF ARVIND ADVANCED MATERIALS LIMITED**  
**NOTICE** is hereby given that by Order dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 ('Order'), the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ('NCLT'), has directed to convene Meeting of the Unsecured Creditors including Creditors towards Lease Liabilities (hereinafter referred to as "Unsecured Creditors) of the Applicant Transferee Company ('Meeting'); for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, approving, with or without modification(s), the proposed Scheme of Arrangement involving transfer and vesting of the Advanced Materials Undertaking of Arvind Limited ('Applicant Transferor Company') to Arvind Advanced Materials Limited ('Applicant Transferee Company') and their respective shareholders and creditors ('Scheme').  
In pursuance of the said Order read with latest General circular issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ('MCA') viz. General Circular No. 09/2024 dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 ('MCA Circular') and as directed therein, further Notice is hereby given that separate Meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Transferee Company will be held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 4.00 p.m.; through Video Conferencing or Other Audio Visual Means ('VC/OAVM'), at which time the Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Transferee Company are requested to attend.  
Copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement, Explanatory Statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Act read with Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 can be obtained free of charge at the Registered Office of Arvind Advanced Materials Limited and/or at the office of the Advocate Mrs. Swati Soparkar at 301, Shivalik 10, Opp. SBI Zonal Office, Near Excise Chowky, S.M. Road, Ahmedabad 380015, Gujarat in accordance with second proviso to sub-section (3) of Section 230 of the Act and Rule 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016.  
NCLT has appointed Mr. Bimal Ranjan Garg, Advocate, to act as Chairman of the said Meeting to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 and in respect of any adjournment or adjournments thereof.  
Mr. Keshav Khaneja, Insolvency Professional, has been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting through e-voting during the Meeting, and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner;  
The Scheme of Arrangement, if approved in the aforesaid Meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval and sanction by NCLT and other regulatory authorities.

**FURTHER NOTICE** is hereby given that:  
1) Pursuant to the directions issued by NCLT by the Order dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 read with MCA Circular and the provisions of Section 230(4) and Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the business as set out in aforesaid Notice is to be transacted by Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Transferee Company through voting by means of remote e-voting facility or e voting at the time of the Meeting through National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). The necessary instructions for remote e-voting and e-voting during Meeting have been set out in the said Notice dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. This facility is being provided to the Unsecured Creditors having outstanding debt of the Company as on **cut-off date i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**.  
2) The voting right of the Unsecured Creditors shall be in proportion to value of outstanding debt of the Transferee Company as on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, being the cut-off date.  
3) The Company has sent by an email dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, the Notice of NCLT Convened Meetings to all the Unsecured Creditors of the Company whose names appear in the records of the Company as on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 and whose email addresses were registered with the Company and completed dispatch of the physical copy of the Notice at their registered address as on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 to those who have not registered their email addresses, in compliance with directions of NCLT.  
4) The aforesaid Notices along with the requisite documents are also available on the website of the Applicant Transferee Company at [www.arvind-amd.com](http://www.arvind-amd.com) and on the website of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).  
5) The remote e-voting commences on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 09:00 am and it will end on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 05:00 pm. During the voting period, Unsecured Creditors of the Company may cast their vote through remote e-voting. The Voting through remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond 5:00 p.m. on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter.  
6) Any person who becomes an Unsecured Creditor of Applicant Transferee Company after dispatch of the Notice and have outstanding debt due to them by Applicant Transferee Company as on the cut-off date may cast their votes by following the instructions of e-voting.  
7) Those Unsecured Creditors who will be present in the Meeting through VC / OAVM facility and had not cast their votes on the business through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system available during the Meeting.  
8) Unsecured Creditors, who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the Meeting may participate in the Meeting through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again.  
9) The Scrutinizer shall submit a consolidated Scrutinizer's Report of the total votes cast in favour of and against the resolutions and invalid votes, if any, after the conclusion of the Meeting to the Chairman of the Meeting or a person authorised by him, in writing, who shall countersign the same. The results of the Meeting along with the Scrutinizer's Report would be displayed at the Registered Office of Applicant Transferee Company, and on its website at [www.arvind-amd.com](http://www.arvind-amd.com) and on the website of NSDL.  
10) Unsecured Creditors facing any technical issue in login can contact NSDL helpdesk by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.com](mailto:evoting@nsdl.com) or call at 022 - 4886 7000  
11) In order to express their views and to seek explanations pertaining to Scheme of Arrangement during the Meeting, the concerned Unsecured Creditors of Applicant Transferee Company, are requested to register themselves as Speaker on or before 7 days prior to Meeting by sending their name, email id, mobile number at [bhavesh.shah@arvind.in](mailto:bhavesh.shah@arvind.in).

**Physical Holding**

By clicking on the below link, the Shareholders may register his / her email address, mobile number and bank details:  
[https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email\\_Register.html](https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email_Register.html)  
After clicking the above link, the Shareholders have to fill the relevant details in the respective fields and attach self attested copy of PAN and address proof and cancelled cheque leaf

**Demat Holding**

By clicking on the link below, the Shareholders may register his / her email address and mobile number:  
[https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email\\_Register.html](https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email_Register.html)  
For registration of bank details, the Shareholders may contact their respective DP's.

11) Helpdesk for Individual Shareholders holding securities in demat mode for any technical issues related to login through Depository i.e. NSDL and CDSL.

Login type	Helpdesk details
Individual Shareholders holding securities in demat mode with NSDL	Members facing any technical issue in login can contact NSDL helpdesk by sending a request at <a href="mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in">evoting@nsdl.co.in</a> or call at toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30
Individual Shareholders holding securities in demat mode with CDSL	Members facing any technical issue in login can contact CDSL helpdesk by sending a request at <a href="mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com">helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com</a> or contact at 022-23058738 or 022-23058542-43

In case of any queries or issues regarding e-voting, Shareholders, secured creditors and unsecured creditors may refer the Frequently Asked Questions and e-voting user manual available at [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com) under help section or write as email to [evoting@nsdl.com](mailto:evoting@nsdl.com) or call on 022-4886 7000.  
12) In order to express their views and to seek explanations pertaining to Scheme of Arrangement during the Meeting, the concerned Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors of Applicant Transferor Company, are requested to register themselves as Speaker on or before 7 days prior to Meeting by sending their name, email id, mobile number, DP ID and client ID (if applicable). Folio no. in case of Shareholders at investor@arvind.in.

**Place: Dehradun**  
**Date: April 28, 2025**

**Bimal Ranjan Garg**  
**Chairman appointed for meetings**

**"IMPORTANT"**  
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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH**  
**C.A.(CAA)/11(AHM)2025**  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;  
AND  
In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013;  
AND  
In the matter of Scheme of Arrangement involving transfer and vesting of the Advanced Materials Undertaking of Arvind Limited to Arvind Advanced Materials Limited.

**ARVIND LIMITED**  
(CIN L17119GJ1931PLC000093)  
a Company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1913 and having its Registered Office at Naroda Road, Ahmedabad-382345 in the state of Gujarat  
.....**Applicant Transferor Company**  
**NOTICE OF THE MEETINGS OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS, SECURED CREDITORS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF ARVIND LIMITED**  
**NOTICE** is hereby given that by Order dated 8th April, 2025 ('Order'), the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ('NCLT'), has directed to convene separate Meetings of the Equity Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors including Creditors towards Lease Liabilities (hereinafter referred to as "Unsecured Creditors) of the Applicant Transferor Company ('Meetings'); for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, approving, with or without modification(s), the proposed Scheme of Arrangement involving transfer and vesting of the Advanced Materials Undertaking of Arvind Limited ('Applicant Transferor Company') to Arvind Advanced Materials Limited ('Applicant Transferee Company') and their respective shareholders and creditors ('Scheme').  
In pursuance of the said Order read with General circular issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ('MCA') viz. General Circular No. 09/2024 dated 19th September, 2024 ('MCA Circulars') and as directed therein, further Notice is hereby given that separate Meetings of the Equity Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Transferor Company will be held on Friday, 30th May, 2025 respectively at 10:00 a.m., 12.00 noon and 2.00 p.m.; through Video Conferencing or Other Audio Visual Means ('VC/OAVM'), at which time the Equity Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Transferor Company are requested to attend.  
Copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement, Explanatory Statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Act read with Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 can be obtained free of charge at the Registered Office of Arvind Limited and/or at the office of the Advocate Mrs. Swati Soparkar at 301, Shivalik 10, Opp. SBI Zonal Office, Near Excise Chowky, S.M. Road, Ahmedabad 380015, Gujarat in accordance with second proviso to sub-section (3) of Section 230 of the Act and Rule 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016.  
NCLT has appointed Mr. Bimal Ranjan Garg, Advocate, to act as Chairman of the said Meetings to be held on 30th May, 2025 respectively and in respect of any adjournment or adjournments thereof.  
Mr. Keshav Khaneja, Insolvency Professional, has been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting through e-voting during the Meeting, and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner;  
The Scheme of Arrangement, if approved in the aforesaid Meetings, will be subject to the subsequent approval and sanction by NCLT and other regulatory authorities.

**FURTHER NOTICE** is hereby given that:  
1) Pursuant to the directions issued by NCLT by the Order dated 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 read with MCA Circular, SEBI Circular and the provisions of Section 230(4) and Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the business as set out in aforesaid Notice is to be transacted by Equity Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors of the Applicant Transferor Company through voting by means of remote e-voting facility or e voting at the time of the Meetings through National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). The necessary instructions for remote e-voting and e-voting during Meetings have been set out in the said Notice dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. This facility is being provided to the Equity Shareholders holding shares in physical and dematerialised form as on **cut-off date i.e. 23rd May, 2025**. This facility is further also being provided to the Secured and Unsecured Creditors having outstanding debt of the Company as on **cut-off date i.e. 30th April, 2025**.  
2) The voting right of the Equity shareholders shall be in proportion to value of fully paid Equity Shares of the Transferor Company held by them as on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025, being the cut-off date. The voting right of the Secured and Unsecured Creditors shall be in proportion to value of outstanding debt of the Transferor Company as on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, being the cut-off date.  
3) The Company has sent by an email dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, the Notice of NCLT Convened Meetings to all the Equity Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors of the Company whose names appear in the records of the Company as on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 and whose email addresses were registered with the Company or with the Depository Participants, as the case may be and completed dispatch of the physical copy of the Notice at their registered address as on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 to those who have not registered their email addresses, in compliance with directions of NCLT.  
4) The aforesaid Notices along with the requisite documents are also available on the website of the Applicant Transferor Company at [www.arvind.com](http://www.arvind.com), websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively and on the website of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).  
5) The remote e-voting commences on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 09:00 am and it will end on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 05:00 pm. During the voting period, Equity Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors of the Company may cast their vote through remote e-voting. The Voting through remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond 5:00 p.m. on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2025. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter.  
6) Any person who becomes a Shareholder/Secured Creditor/Unsecured Creditor of Applicant Transferor Company after dispatch of the Notice and holds shares/have outstanding debt due to them by Applicant Transferor Company as on the cut-off date may cast their votes by following the instructions of e-voting.  
7) Those Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors who will be present in the Meeting through VC / OAVM facility and had not casted their votes on the business through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting system available during the respective Meetings.  
8) Shareholders, Secured Creditors and Unsecured Creditors, who have casted their votes by remote e-voting prior to the Meeting may participate in the Meeting through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again.  
9) The Scrutinizer shall submit a consolidated Scrutinizer's Report of the total votes cast in favour of and against the resolutions and invalid votes, if any, after the conclusion of the Meeting to the Chairman of the Meeting or a person authorised by him, in writing, who shall countersign the same. The results of the Meeting along with the Scrutinizer's Report would be displayed at the Registered Office of Applicant Transferor Company, and on its website at [www.arvind.com](http://www.arvind.com), on the website of the Stock Exchanges where the Company's securities are listed and on the website of NSDL.  
10) In case Shareholders have not registered their email address with the Company / DP may follow the process detailed below for registration:

**Physical Holding**

By clicking on the below link, the Shareholders may register his / her email address, mobile number and bank details:  
[https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email\\_Register.html](https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email_Register.html)  
After clicking the above link, the Shareholders have to fill the relevant details in the respective fields and attach self attested copy of PAN and address proof and cancelled cheque leaf

**Demat Holding**

By clicking on the link below, the Shareholders may register his / her email address and mobile number:  
[https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email\\_Register.html](https://web.in.mpmns.mufg.com/EmailReg/Email_Register.html)  
For registration of bank details, the Shareholders may contact their respective DP's.







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Individual Shareholders holding securities in demat mode with CDSL	Members facing any technical issue in login can contact CDSL helpdesk by sending a request at <a href="mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com">helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com</a> or contact at 022-23058738 or 022-23058542-43

In case of any queries or issues regarding e-voting, Shareholders, secured creditors and unsecured creditors may refer the Frequently Asked Questions and e-voting user manual available at [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com) under help section or write as email to [evoting@nsdl.com](mailto:evoting@nsdl.com) or call on 022-4886 7000.  
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**Place: Dehradun**  
**Date: April 28, 2025**

**Bimal Ranjan Garg**  
**Chairman appointed for meetings**



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DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



## ‘P’ FOR PATRAKAR

SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday brought journalists under the umbrella of the “PDA”, a term coined by him for “Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak”. During a press conference on Monday, a journalist complained of a case against him for raising questions on the Pahalgam terror attack and said he was also receiving threats. In his reply, Akhilesh said that ‘P’ in PDA also meant ‘Patrakar’ and the journalist community, along with others, will be protected, too.

## HIGH SEAT

AT THE funeral mass of Pope Francis, President Droupadi Murmu was seated near Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. However, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju too was seated among the heads of the states — right behind Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. The seating arrangements for the dignitaries — other than the presidents of Argentina (Pope’s native country) and Italy (Pope is the Bishop of Rome) — were based on the French diplomatic alphabetical order and since Rijiju was the senior most minister from India, he got a prominent seat, sources say.

## BRIDGE THE GAP

AMID DELAY in textbooks for some classes, the CBSE is learnt to have communicated to the NCERT that if new textbooks for higher classes, Class 9 for instance, are being planned for the next academic year, they should be made available in advance, preferably by the end of this year. New textbooks for Classes 4 and 7 were made available only after the session began this month, while those for Classes 5 and 8 are yet to be provided. These classes are now using ‘bridge’ courses to ease the transition to the new material.

# National Mission for Clean Ganga now ‘authority’ under I-T law, gets tax relief

The Mission was facing income tax demands amounting to ₹243.74 crore

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

THE CENTRAL Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) as an authority under clause 46A of section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, granting it exemption from taxes on income. NMCG implements the Union government’s ambitious Namami Gange scheme.

The clause allows tax exemption for any income arising to a body, authority, board, trust, or commission, not being a company, which has been established or constituted by or under a Central or State Act for specified purposes.

“In exercise of the powers conferred...the Central Government hereby notifies the “National Mission for Clean Ganga”, an authority constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (No.29 of 1986), for the purposes of the said clause,” states the notification issued on April 22.

“This notification shall be effective from the assessment year 2024-25, subject to the condition that the assessee continues to be an authority constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (No.29 of 1986), with one or more of the purposes specified in sub-clause (a) of clause (46A) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act,” it reads.

CBDT, which comes under the Ministry of Finance, has also allowed NMCG’s application seeking condonation of the delay in filing revised return of income for assessment years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. The move will allow NMCG to avail income tax exemption for previous assessment years.

Last month, *The Indian Express* had reported that NMCG, facing tax demands amounting to ₹243.74 crore, had contested the I-T department’s assessment



**The NMCG implements the Centre’s ambitious Namami Gange scheme. File**

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** **Crucial breather**

THE MOVE by the Central Board of Direct Taxes to notify the NMCG as an authority under the Income Tax Act will bring much awaited relief to the mission. It will ease the burden of compliances from the NMCG officials who can focus on their core mandate of cleaning of Ganga.

orders and had requested the CBDT to allow it to revise its returns. Following this, Jal Shakti Ministry officials took up the matter with their counterparts in the Ministry of Finance and held a round of meetings, sources said.

Initially registered as a society on August 12, 2011, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, NMCG was later upgraded to an ‘authority’ on October 7, 2016, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Despite this transition, its PAN remained categorised as an Association of Persons (AOP). This led to scrutiny by the I-T department’s software, which flagged it as a high-income entity, resulting in repeated tax notices.

## ONE-DAY SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON PAHALGAM ATTACK

# J&K MLAs appeal on house demolitions: ‘Don’t hand out collective punishment’

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, APRIL 28

UNANIMOUSLY PASSING a resolution on Monday condemning the Pahalgam terror attack, members of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly pointed to the public outrage over the incident across the Valley and cautioned against any “misplaced action that alienates the people”. They referred to the reports of harassment of Kashmiri students and businessmen in other parts of the country, as well as the demolition of houses belonging to the families and even distant relatives of terrorists in the Valley, with one MLA describing it as “collective punishment”.

Referring to the fact that people came out of their houses in protest against the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 dead, 25 of them tourists, People’s Conference leader Sajad Lone said the biggest challenge law enforcers have had in the past is that they could not distinguish between an innocent man and a



**People’s Conference chief and MLA Sajad Lone and (right) CPM legislator M Y Tarigami speak during the special session of the J&K Assembly in Jammu on Monday. PTI**

terrorist, with several innocents dying in the process or suffering. The violence will not end unless there are thousands of pony wallahs such as Syed Adil Hussain Shah who had come to the rescue of tourists, Lone said. “However, to nurture people and make them like Syed Adil Shah, you have to create the environment... To have such an environment, we cannot take measures which are regressive.”

Stressing that the cooperation

of local people was needed for enduring peace, he said: “We have to make corrections. If we do not make corrections, we will bleed.”

The People’s Conference leader referred to alleged incidents of harassment of Kashmiri students in some parts of the country, and said this should be checked. “We have to tell the people that when you do something, it gets magnified and feeds the mindset that terrorists want. Let us not do what terrorists

want us to do.”

Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, an Independent MLA from Thanmandi in Rajouri, Jammu, who supports the ruling National Conference, said that while no words were enough to condemn the “cowardly” terrorist act, “there should not be collective punishment of innocent people just because someone in their distant family has become a militant”.

He said houses of even those



## BACK FROM PAK

Indian nationals return from Pakistan through the Integrated Check Post at Attari, Amritsar, Monday. According to officials, more than 1,000 Indians have left Pakistan via Attari over the last six days after their visas were cancelled in wake of the Pahalgam attack. *Rana Simranjit Singh*

# RJD, CPI call for special Parliament session

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

OPPOSITION PARTIES RJD and CPI on Monday asked the government to call a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and “its broader implications”.

RJD Rajya Sabha member Manoj Kumar Jha, in a letter, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take elected representatives into confidence for a transparent dialogue so as to send a “powerful message” of resilience. Besides the attack, the

session should discuss its “broader implications for the security, well-being, and aspirations of the people of India”, Jha wrote.

CPI MP P Sandosh Kumar, meanwhile, wrote to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

The missives by the two parties come amid the Congress’s plans for the Opposition to send a joint letter seeking the special session to discuss the attack and the steps the government plans to take.

The joint letter is being drafted by the Congress and the

party leadership was learnt to be in consultation with other Opposition leaders on the matter.

In his letter, Jha said: “In moments of such profound national pain, it is within the Parliament that the anxieties, hopes and resolve of the people must find their fullest voice.”

“In moments such as these, it is essential that the government takes the nation and its elected representatives into full confidence. Transparent dialogue and open engagement across political lines strengthen the people’s trust in democratic institutions

and reinforce the collective resolve needed to overcome adversity. A shared national response, built through consultation and consensus, is the surest path to preserving unity and safeguarding our nation,” he said.

CPI’s Sandosh Kumar said that such a session would allow members across party lines to come together “to mourn the loss, to express the will of the nation and to send a clear and strong message that India remains united, resilient and resolute against those who seek to harm us through acts of terror”.

# In Pahalgam attack aftermath: Protect growing India story, send a strong message to Pakistan and terror



**THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN**  
Weekly insight into what’s changing in national politics — and why

THE MORE you think about it, the more you realise how carefully crafted was the move of the terrorists who gunned down 26 men in cold blood in the picturesque meadow of Baisaran in south Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22.

It was designed to turn back the clock in Kashmir, deepen the Hindu-Muslim divide across India, strike at the nation’s core identity, and push the government to scale up a conflict that would hurt the India story. And Pakistan, down in the dumps anyway, would get a chance to remobilise.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi accurately summed up the situation in Kashmir when he said the terrorists and their sponsors set out to destroy the peace and prosperity that were returning to the region.

However, the most unexpected response to the attack, and the counter to the terrorists’ design, came from the Kashmir Valley that stood with the rest of India in protest against the killings that were on a scale not seen in over two decades. There was a shutdown in downtown Srinagar, spontaneous protest marches in Pahalgam and other towns, worshippers at the Jama Masjid in Srinagar wore black armbands during Friday prayers, and newspapers published their front pages in black. Tourists from across India who had a narrow escape in Pahalgam also told stories of how local Kashmiris had helped them get back to safety. One pony operator was among those killed.

Behind this response from Kashmiris — National Conference president Farooq Abdullah described it as a “tippling point” in the Kashmir story — is that people in the Union Territory were coming to acquire a stake in peace. It led to a tourism boom, with 2.3 crore tourists visiting the state last year and enabling locals to make good money.

The people in the Valley, anguished by the abrogation of Article 370, were possibly reconciling themselves to the new power structure that had come into existence, with peace allowing them to experience economic well-being and normal life after years of turbulence and violence.

Few in India buy the line that Pakistan was not behind the terrorists, given that, only days earlier, Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir spoke of Kashmir being Islamabad’s “jugular vein” that they would not give up. The terrorists struck at the heart of this feel-good story of the last two to three years. It sent the tourists rushing out of Kashmir, cancelling their bookings, and given the uncertainty of the situation, this is unlikely to change in a hurry. An economic downturn, combined with the fallout of the search and combing operations, may go on to reinforce the sense of alienation and uncertainty among the locals, unless handled with care.

**Opposition’s support, security lapses**

While Kashmir has so far

stood with the rest of India, so has the Opposition stood with the government, even as it questions the security lapses that occurred.

The Congress has said it is for the government to decide the most effective way to respond to Pakistan-sponsored terror and that it will have its full support. Other Opposition parties have also struck a similar note amid questions about intelligence failure and the absence of security forces in the upper reaches of Pahalgam. That almost 2,000 tourists were in Baisaran that day and no security forces were present — they were an hour away — has its own story to tell.

This has emerged as a subject of immense concern even within the government. Its official explanation at the all-party meeting on April 24 to discuss the attack was that tour operators who took people to places like Baisaran did not inform the police. However, it did not wash with most parties. The government appears aware that there was an intelligence failure and that it needs to be fixed urgently and systemically.

The terrorists must have also calculated that gunning down Hindus may provoke a reaction in the rest of India and deepen the Hindu-Muslim faultlines, hoping that many incensed Hindus will fall into the trap of equating terror with Islam. Again, the Prime Minister has emphasised the critical importance of the country standing as one today in the face of this challenge in the aftermath of the attack. The real challenge lies in not playing into the hands of the terrorists and stopping them from deepening the communal divide.

Even as there is naturally outrage in the entire country, the Indian leadership will have to look beyond what people are feeling now and exercise deliberation, foresight, and wisdom in its decision-making to protect the India story and, at the same time, deliver an “enough is enough” message to Pakistan. That is not an easy call to take, and, to that extent, the terrorists have put the government in a bind.

It will also be naive to separate politics from what is hap-



**On Monday, a militant’s house that was demolished in Tral, south Kashmir. Reuters**

## Trinamool MP Ghose slams ‘bomb justice’ in Kashmir

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

TMC RAJYA Sabha member Sagarika Ghose on Monday said after “bulldozer justice” in Uttar Pradesh, which was ruled illegal by the Supreme Court, Jammu and Kashmir was witnessing “bomb justice”.

In a crackdown following the Pahalgam terror attack, security forces have blown up at least nine houses belonging to families of those wanted for terror activities in the Valley.

Ghose, in a post on X, called for a “decisive fight against terror” instead of “optics”.

The deputy parliamentary party leader of the TMC in the Rajya Sabha questioned why the government waited so long if it knew that the houses belonged to terrorists.

“...why did it require Pahalgam terrorist attack for this kind of action?” she asked.

“After bulldozer justice in UP is ruled illegal by the Supreme Court, now ‘bomb justice’ in Kashmir,” she said.

Political leaders in the Valley have also called on authorities to exercise caution and to avoid “alienating people”.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has called for avoiding any “misplaced action”.

Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti of the PDP has asked the Centre to distinguish “between a terrorist and a civilian”.

## How Prime Ministers Decide

pening around us. The bullets in Baisaran have already gone on to heighten Hindu consciousness and deepen a sense of Indian identity. After April 22, the BJP may be in with a massive advantage for the year-end elections in Bihar and the ones due in 2026 and 2027. At the same time, it may well be issues around national unity, as opposed to those centred on creating a communal divide, which inform politics in the future. Today, the BJP has the opportunity to transition to a party that can lead a united nation to stand together in the face of any eventuality. As for politics, there will be enough time for it.

A moment such as this comes but rarely in the life of a nation. But it is here now, in a country united by grief, anger, and resolve, and the leadership of the day has the chance to convert this crisis into an uplifting opportunity.

*Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of How Prime Ministers Decide*



# NEET-UG: Yr after leak, police escort for question papers, increased security

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

AFTER LAST year's NEET-UG paper leak, the Ministry of Education and the National Testing Agency (NTA) have stepped up measures to secure this year's exam — over 700 additional centres compared to last year, heightened involvement of district administrations and a police escort for transporting question papers.

After the leak during last year's exam the government had formed a high-level committee headed by former ISRO Chairman Dr K Radhakrishnan to suggest measures for the smooth conduct of public examinations.

In line with the panel's recommendations, district-level co-ordination committees headed by the District Magistrate and including a police officer have been constituted, said a source in the Ministry of Education.

As the panel had stressed upon the need to establish links between the district administration and the NTA while conducting exams, these district-level committees are now crucial, the source said.

The source said that NEET-UG will be held at 5,500 centres this year, up from 4,750 centres last year, and 4,097 centres in



NEET-UG will be held at 5,500 centres this year, 700 more than last year. File

2023. The testing centres have been identified and vetted by these district-level committees.

While picking testing centres, efforts have been made to ensure that more government-run institutions have been used.

The NTA conducts examinations in government-run schools, colleges and other institutions. Service providers conduct the exam at private centres.

While vetting examination centres, the district-level committees were tasked with ensuring that they were equipped with CCTV cameras and had sufficient infrastructure.

Last year, a third-party review of NEET-UG exam centres had found gaps including the absence of working CCTVs in a few exam centres.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# Bigwigs left out, BJP picks old RSS hand for Andhra RS seat

NIKHILA HENRY  
HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

AFTER WEEKS of speculation surrounding several high-profile names, the BJP picked old RSS hand Paka Venkata Satyanarayana as its candidate for the coming Rajya Sabha bypoll in Andhra Pradesh.

BJP sources said they chose Satyanarayana as he is a "loyal party worker who had grown along the ranks of the BJP". With Satyanarayana being from the OBC Goud community, the BJP hopes it can also send a signal to the backward classes.

"He is from the RSS and is well versed with the ideology of the party. Besides, he was also part of BJP's manifesto committees before crucial elections in the past two decades," a BJP leader told The Indian Express.

Former Tamil Nadu BJP President K Annamalai and former Union Minister Smriti Irani were among the names floating around for the Rajya Sabha seat vacated by YSR Congress Party leader V Vijayasai Reddy. The Rajya Sabha bypoll in Andhra Pradesh is scheduled for May 9. With no other candidate expected to file a nomination, his

road to the Upper House seems clear.

Another BJP leader echoed this, saying that Satyanarayana is a "deserving candidate who had risen up the ranks from being a foot soldier to holding key posts of the party".

He can be a "measured voice in the Rajya Sabha", the leader said.

Satyanarayana joined the RSS in 1976 as a 15-year-old. He was actively involved in student politics and was a leader of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, the RSS's student wing, at DNR College in Andhra Pradesh. He officially joined the BJP in 1980, and slowly went up its ranks.

He became the BJP town general secretary, then a district secretary, and the Bhimavaram councillor. Later, he served as the BJP Assembly Convener from Bhimavaram.

He contested the 1996 Lok Sabha elections from Narasapur but stood fourth, securing less than 1% of the votes. He threw his hat in the ring again for the MLC elections in 2006 but was unsuccessful.

However, his long and committed association with the party paid off, resulting in several organisational posts over the years.

ACCEPTS PLEA FOR MAINTENANCE; CITES 2014 VERDICT

# Sharia, Kazi court decisions not legally valid or enforceable, says SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

GRANTING MAINTENANCE to a Muslim woman, the Supreme Court has reiterated that a Sharia Court or a Court of Kazi has no recognition under Indian law and their decisions are not binding on anyone.

The bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, in a February 4 ruling made public on April 22, cited the top court's 2014 ruling in Vishwa Lochan Madan v Union of India wherein it was held that fatwas have no legal status in the country's Constitutional scheme.

Writing for the bench, Justice Amanullah said the "Court of Kazi", 'Court of (Darul Kaja) Kajiyat', 'Sharia Court' etcetera, by whatever name styled, have no recognition in law. As noted in Vishwa Lochan Madan

(supra), any declaration/decision by such bodies, by whatever name labelled, is not binding on anyone and is unenforceable by resort to any coercive measure."

The bench said "the only way such decision can withstand scrutiny in the eye of law could be when the affected parties accept such decision by acting thereon or accepting it and when such action does not conflict with any other law. Even then, such decision, at best, would only be valid inter-se the parties that choose to act upon/accept the same, and not a third-party."

The woman had approached the Supreme Court against the August 3, 2018 decision of the Allahabad High Court which dismissed her plea challenging the Jhansi Family Court order refusing to award her any maintenance.

It was the second marriage for both the woman and her husband, who was in the BSF, in 2002. A daughter and a son were

born to them.

In 2005, the husband filed for divorce in the 'Court of Kazi', Bhopal, but it was dismissed in view of a compromise between them on November 22, 2005.

The woman alleged that he used to beat her demanding dowry and turned her out of home along with her children in May 2008.

On September 16, 2008, the husband filed a suit for divorce in the 'Court of (Darul Kaja) Kajiyat', Bhopal. On October 13, 2008, she filed a suit before the Family Court, seeking maintenance of ₹5,000 a month for herself and ₹1,000 a month for each child.

The Family Court partly allowed the petition for maintenance and granted ₹1,500 per month to the daughter and ₹1,000 per month to the son. It, however, dismissed her claim for maintenance on the finding that the husband did not leave her but rather she herself, due to her nature and conduct, was the reason for the dispute and her departure from the matrimonial home.

She then approached the High Court which dismissed her plea, noting that since she was living separately from her husband without sufficient reason.

Deciding her appeal, the Supreme Court noted that the compromise agreement dated November 22, 2005 only said that the parties had decided to live together and agreed that they would not give each other any occasion to complain. "We are of the view that maintenance could not have been denied to the appellant-wife under the prevailing circumstances," the bench said.

The bench asked the husband to pay her a monthly maintenance of ₹4000 from date of filing of the application for maintenance before the Family Court. It also directed that the children too be paid maintenance from that date until they become major.

# PADMA AWARDS CONFERRED

Of the 139 persons named for Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, 71 were conferred the awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday



(Clockwise from top) President Droupadi Murmu, PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Union ministers and others at Durbar Hall; President Murmu confers the awards on former hockey player P R Sreejesh, wife of late BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi (posthumous), cricketer R Ashwin, and Suzuki CEO Toshihiro Suzuki on behalf of his late father Osamu Suzuki.

Photographs: PTI & ANI

# SC asks Govt to do 'something legislative' over OTT obscenity

Some regulation in place, some is in contemplation: SG Mehta to court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

THE SUPREME Court Monday called for legislative action to address "obscene content" on OTT platforms and social media.

Hearing a PIL by former information commissioner Uday Mahurkar and others, a bench of Justices B R Gavi and A G Masih issued notice to the Centre and OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, AltBalaji, Ullu Digital and Mubi, and social media companies including X, Google and Meta.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, who appeared for the petitioners, said the litigation is not adversarial and raises a genuine concern. Jain also submitted that the content was floating on social media platforms without restriction.

Justice Gavi told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre: "Do something... Something legislative."

Pointing out that objectionable content appeared even in some regular programmes, Mehta said some are so perverted that even two respectable people cannot sit and watch

them together. Mehta also said there should not be censorship and added: "There is some regulation in place, some is in contemplation."

Issuing notice, the bench said in its order: "This petition raises an important concern with regard to the display of various objectionable, obscene, and indecent contents on OTT platforms and social media. Learned Solicitor General fairly states that the contents go to the extent of perversity. He submits that certain more regulations are in contemplation."

Filed in March this year, the plea highlighted "an urgent and growing societal concern that threatens to corrupt the moral fabric of future generations, i.e. unrestricted access to obscene content, sexually perverted content, paedophilic, incestuous, bestiality as well as other kinds of pornographic content on the internet."

"The unchecked circulation of such material, including child pornography and soft-core adult content, has contributed to a rising trend of crimes against women and children while negatively shaping the psychological development of young minds."

# SC finds no error in HC impleading Centre and ASI in Shahi Idgah case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

THE SUPREME Court on Monday found no error in the Allahabad High Court's decision to implead the Centre and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in suits filed by Hindu worshippers seeking removal of the Shahi Idgah mosque from the Mathura site they claim to be Lord Krishna's birthplace.

"One thing is clear. The amendment to the original plaint by the Hindu plaintiffs has to be allowed," said Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, presiding over a two-judge bench.

The bench, also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar, was hearing an appeal by the mosque committee against the March 5, 2025, high court order allowing the Hindu side to amend its petition and to add the Centre and ASI as parties to the case. The Hindu side had sought to implead the ASI saying the mosque was under the agency and hence exempt from the application of

the Places of Worship Act 1991, which requires preserving the religious character of a place of worship as it was on August 15, 1947.

On April 4, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the Hindu petitioners. Hearing the plea again on Monday, the CJI said, "This plea is absolutely wrong...The High Court should have allowed the amendment to add the parties to the suit."

The court added that it would, however, assess whether the order was effective and also its impact on the mosque side seeking the rejection of the plaint.

The counsel for the Muslim side said there was also the issue of whether the suit by the Hindu plaintiffs was barred and whether the high court had the jurisdiction to entertain it.

To a query from the Supreme Court, the mosque committee's counsel said that it was yet to file its written statement on the amendment plea. The court directed that the written statement might be filed too.

# Flagbearer of Malayalam new wave, his films made it to Cannes thrice

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 28

INFLUENTIAL FILM director Shaji N Karun, whose movies garnered international acclaim, died in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. He was 73.

His first film, *Piravi* (Birth), was a 1989 Malayalam film that won several national and international awards. The film marked the birth of a director who soon found a place in world cinema and grew to become one of the prominent Indian faces in the international film circuits.

Karun, who was conferred a Padmashri in 2010, had been serving as the chairman of the Kerala State Film Development Corporation. A former chairman of the state Chalchitra Academy, he was conferred the J.C. Daniel Award — Kerala government's most prestigious award in cinema — in 2023 and was one of the architects of the International



SHAJI N KARUN  
1952-2025

Film Festival of Kerala, which was held for the first time in 1998.

Karun had started his career as a cinematographer in 1974. After securing a diploma in cinematography from Pune's Film and Television Institute of India, he had a short stint as a cameraman at ISRO and later worked as an assistant in the film industry. His first independent movie as a cinematographer was for G Aravindan's *Kanchana Sita* in 1978, and eventually went on to work with Aravindan, a doyen of paral-

lel films in Malayalam, on all his movies. Apart from Aravindan, he also wielded the camera for leading filmmakers of the 1980s such as K G George, Hariharan and MT Vasudevan Nair, working on as many as 40 films in Malayalam.

His much-acclaimed *Piravi*, the story of a father's wait for his missing son, won around 70 national and international awards at festivals — including Cannes. Its theme was compared to the case of Rajan, an engineering student who went missing during the Emergency, triggering political debate in Kerala.

The recognitions for *Piravi* included the Charlie Chaplin Award at Edinburgh, the Silver Leopard at Locarno, the Camera d'Or Special Mention at Cannes, the Silver Hugo at Chicago and the President of India's Gold Medal Award for the best film in the year 1989.

Karun made six other feature films. Throughout his career as a director, he has been known as a filmmaker who never compromised on the aesthetics of film. A

cinematographer-turned-director, Karun has been known for delivering well-crafted frames.

His second and third movies, *Swaham* in 1994 and *Vanaprastham* in 1999, were also selected for Cannes. The 2010 movie *Kutty Srank*, with Mammootty playing the lead role, won the best film award at the National Film Awards 2010 and was screened in over 45 international film festivals, apart from getting a theatre release in Kerala.

His last movie *Olu* — a fantasy film — had been the inaugural film of Indian panorama in IFFI in 2018 and had been selected as the opening film in several other international festivals.

In Kerala, Karun had been associated with Left movements.

Offering his condolences, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state had lost a unique filmmaker. "He was a flagbearer of new wave cinema in Malayalam. He worked tirelessly for the progress of the film industry..." he said.

PARIMAL A DABHI  
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 28

A VIDEO taken "for fun" by an Ahmedabad tourist during a zipline ride appeared to have inadvertently captured the killings in Baisaran valley at Pahalgam on April 22 with sounds, believed to be of gunshots, being heard in the background.

In the video that surfaced Monday, as the man takes the ride, some people are seen running across the meadow, with at least one of them stumbling to the ground.

The man, 36-year-old Rushi Bhatt from Ahmedabad's Paldi area, told *The Indian Express*: "As you can see in the video, I had shot it for fun. I did not even know that firing was on. But (the attack) was captured on my video..."

Bhatt said he had planned the Kashmir holiday with his family from April 16-27 but cut it short after the attack in which 26 people were killed. He was



A shot from the video shows multiple people running through the meadow.

accompanied by wife Bhakti, 35, and son Preet, 11.

"I realised that there was a terrorist attack after around 20 seconds when I saw that 4-5 persons had sustained bullet injuries below. During the first 2-3 shots, I could not make out...But when the firing increased and I saw 2-3 persons falling down, I realised it was

a terror attack," said Bhatt, who shot the video with a selfie stick.

"My wife and my son were shouting at me. I stopped shooting and jumped before the end point by opening the belt. My wife told me two people were killed (by terrorists) after asking their religion," he said.

According to him, the family

crouched on the ground for some time and started running when the firing stopped.

Bhatt said that after seeing the video on his phone on April 23, he shared it with a defence officer in Ahmedabad. "He (the officer) must have done inquiries at his end and after three days allowed me to share it."



# 100 DAYS ON

So far, India has done well in navigating Trump 2.0. Delhi and Washington must find an equilibrium that benefits both

TRADE WAR, an upending of the US's traditional relationships with its Western European allies, a polarising immigration policy, attacks on the established liberal order — Donald Trump's first 100 days in office have marked a disruption of the international systems, and presented a challenge to countries like India that must navigate the consequent uncertainties. To understand the impact and to try and anticipate what the future holds, it's important to look at the ideological shift in US domestic politics under Trump, and the issues that matter to his political base. Trump's attack on the global trading system that has served the US so well for decades is about catering to those left behind by globalisation and those suffering from a rising inequality. Second, many Trump supporters are tired of America's "security commitments" abroad, which they see as having led the country into costly and protracted conflicts. Third, among some sections, there was the impression that immigration policies had become too liberal and that a new balance needed to be struck. Fourth, Trump's politics has targeted "wokeism", which it sought to present as an elite concern. It is across these four registers that the most controversial of Trump's moves — and some would say, excesses — have taken place. The backlash from liberal circles is underway, but it remains to be seen whether it can pose a credible political challenge.

Delhi has had to navigate the Trump Administration's policies on trade and immigration, and now, increasingly, global security. On each, it has managed to play a holding game and, in many cases, made progress. India has been circumspect on Washington's tariff regime, choosing to work behind the scenes rather than engage in bluster on the international stage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to visit the White House in Trump 2.0, and US Vice President JD Vance's India trip earlier this month cemented the gains from the Modi-Trump meeting. The Terms of Reference for a trade deal have been finalised, and it is in the interest of both countries to firm it up sooner rather than later. On the security front, Washington seems eager to support partners with whom it shares interests and who, in turn, are willing to work with it. Given that India is not an ally and is looking for like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, the US's new outlook could work in its favour. On immigration, Delhi has accepted deportation of illegal immigrants while trying to protect the visa regimes that allow technology workers and other skilled labour to remain in America. The challenge in the next 100 days will be to find an equilibrium that benefits both India and the US. There is some reason to be optimistic. Both Trump and Vance have reiterated the importance of the Quad and India's role in it. The lack of equivocation vis-a-vis Pakistan in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam is also a welcome sign, as was the deportation earlier of Tahawwur Rana, the Pakistani-Canadian doctor involved in the Mumbai attacks. Moving forward, the understanding Delhi and Washington evidently share on security cooperation must be expanded to other areas, especially bilateral trade and immigration.

# PERIOD OF VOLATILITY

As Trump's trade policies cause fluctuations in markets, the near-term outlook remains uncertain

OVER THE PAST month, stock markets in India and around the world have seen a high degree of volatility. On April 2, when US President Donald Trump announced his policy of reciprocal tariffs, the Dow plunged 1,450 points or 3.4 per cent. Markets around the world tanked. By April 7, the BSE Sensex had fallen to 73,137, down from 76,617 on April 2. Over the same period, Brent crude oil fell from \$74.95 per barrel to \$64.4. But, in the days and weeks after, global markets recovered, although partially, and the Sensex reclaimed the 80,000 level. On Monday, it ended the day at 80,218, up 2.2 per cent year-to-date.

The sharp upturn in global markets has been attributed to Trump pausing the imposition of higher tariffs, allowing countries to negotiate deals with the US. The possibility of early conclusion of an India-US trade deal — US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is reported to have said that India could well be the first country to sign one — has buoyed sentiment in India. The dollar is also weakening. The dollar index — which measures the strength of the greenback against a basket of currencies — has fallen from around 111 in January to roughly 99 now. In April, the RBI's monetary policy committee cut the benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 per cent, and signalled the possibility of further easing in order to support the economy. Foreign investors have turned optimistic over the past few days, pouring money into the markets.

The global economy is, however, expected to slow down this year. The IMF has pegged growth at 2.8 per cent, down 50 basis points from its earlier estimate. The Fund has also scaled down India's growth estimate. Some analysts are, however, more pessimistic, expecting growth to slow down even more sharply. The fourth quarter results of India Inc already point towards subdued revenue and profit growth, with weakness being observed across a range of sectors, spanning consumption, investments and exports. For instance, HUL saw volume and sales growth at 2 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively. Dalmia Bharat saw volumes decline by 3 per cent, and Infosys, which saw a sequential decline in revenues, has pegged revenue growth at 0-3 per cent in 2025-26. The impact of Trump's tariffs, and the uncertainty they have unleashed, will only be visible in the weeks and months ahead. This will have a bearing on the markets.

# A 30-YEAR WAIT

Now, the tables have turned: As Manchester United toil, Liverpool's fortunes are on an upswing

MANCHESTER UNITED HAVE fallen off the rails since their legendary manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls were never the same since his (second) retirement. Chennai Super Kings seem to be fretting over the post-Dhoni era, if ever there will be one. Even Liverpool had to wait for 30 very long years since Kenny Dalglish's departure as the manager to win England's top-division league. But they didn't have to wait for a long time to win again. On Sunday, the Merseyside club clinched its second Premier League title in five years. And a lot of it is because they planned — and timed — the transition just right. Jurgen Klopp, who ended Liverpool's 30-year wait in 2020, left the club last summer because he felt drained. Before he waved goodbye, the German left a solid team for his successor and even had a say in picking him: Arne Slot. In his farewell speech, delivered standing in the middle of the fabled ground, Klopp urged the club faithful to throw their weight behind Slot. On Sunday, Slot turned to the same stands and returned the favour by getting the fans to sing Klopp's name. A lot of great teams would have grudgingly admired these scenes. None more so than their arch-rivals Manchester United, whose record of 20 titles Liverpool matched.

In the 30 years when Liverpool struggled to win the title, Manchester United clinched half of the titles to become the team with the highest number of English top-division trophies. That record was held in high esteem because, by many metrics, the English Premier League is regarded as the most competitive domestic club football competition in the world. The tables have now turned. As Manchester United toil, Liverpool's fortunes are on an upswing and the Slot machine could just be getting started.



JAWED ASHRAF

PAKISTAN-SPONSORED AND assisted terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have a repetitive course. Every few years, there is an attack in Kashmir or elsewhere in India whose scale, brutality, visibility and toll triggers enormous national pain and rage. Even by the standards of the barbaric attacks we have seen, Pahalgam crossed many lines.

Every major attack draws a set of measures from India. The Parliament attack in December 2001, coupled with Kaluchak in May 2002, led to one of the largest military mobilisations, Operation Parakram; the downgrading of diplomatic, commercial and people-to-people ties; and intense diplomatic efforts for international censure of Pakistan. By January 2004, an agreement between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf led to a period of peace. The 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai in 2008 shattered that. India responded with familiar steps — to freeze bilateral ties and launch a massive international effort against Pakistan — but a major military response was eventually not pursued.

After 2014, India's approach has been a more aggressive mixture of counter-terrorism operations and heavy, disproportionate and unpredictable firing across the LoC, coupled with diplomatic initiatives, including at the UNSC and Financial Action Task Force (FATF). At the same time, like the prime ministers before him, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong effort for an end to terrorism through dialogue.

The attack in Pathankot followed his spontaneous stopover in Lahore. With Uri and Pulwama, India once again took the usual diplomatic measures. But its military response demonstrated its willingness to retaliate beyond the boundaries of anticipated war-gamed steps.

The global context and international responses also changed over time. It was not until the Kargil and the Chittisinghpura massacre in 2000 that the US and others began to accept the existence of cross-border "militancy" from Pakistan. It took the Srinagar Assembly attack in October 2001 and the Parliament attack to acknowledge the reality of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Engaged in a war in Afghanistan through Pakistan, the US's priority was to do enough to pressure Pakistan, as-



SWATI GHOSH

DOES MY COUNTRY remember me? — Let it not./ Stay blessed, my motherland./ My heart asunder with grief./ I roam, rootless, on alien shores/ Silence overwhelms my ways/ Darkness blinds the earth and the heavens./ Stars adrift in wilderness/ Stars lose out to wilderness—/ A deluge of despair/ grips days, nights and times/ While I wither/ You stay blessed/ My love/ Stay blessed ('Stay Blessed' by Daud Haider).

Daud Haider walked into *The Statesman* features room on a sluggish afternoon. He wished to get his memoirs on Doharpara, Bangladesh, translated for the newspaper. I was overwhelmed. Here was the exiled poet, author, famed columnist of independent Bangladesh, the one who penned the glorious verse, *Janmoi Amaar Aajanno Paap* ('Birth Is My Innate Sin', 1973), right in front of me. Memories flooded my mind. I remembered my father instructing my sister years ago — when she was on an office trip to Bangladesh and asked what she should get for him — that she must get a few of Haider's books. Didi did so, and for months, Baba was engrossed in reading the rebel poet's verses again and again.

Years later, I stumbled upon a coincidence. Haider was born on February 21, 1952. My father passed away on the same date in 1984. And the momentous Bhasha Dibas wove these two dates together — like "Doharpara and its bamboo grove/ the field where hud-



# The Pahalgam moment

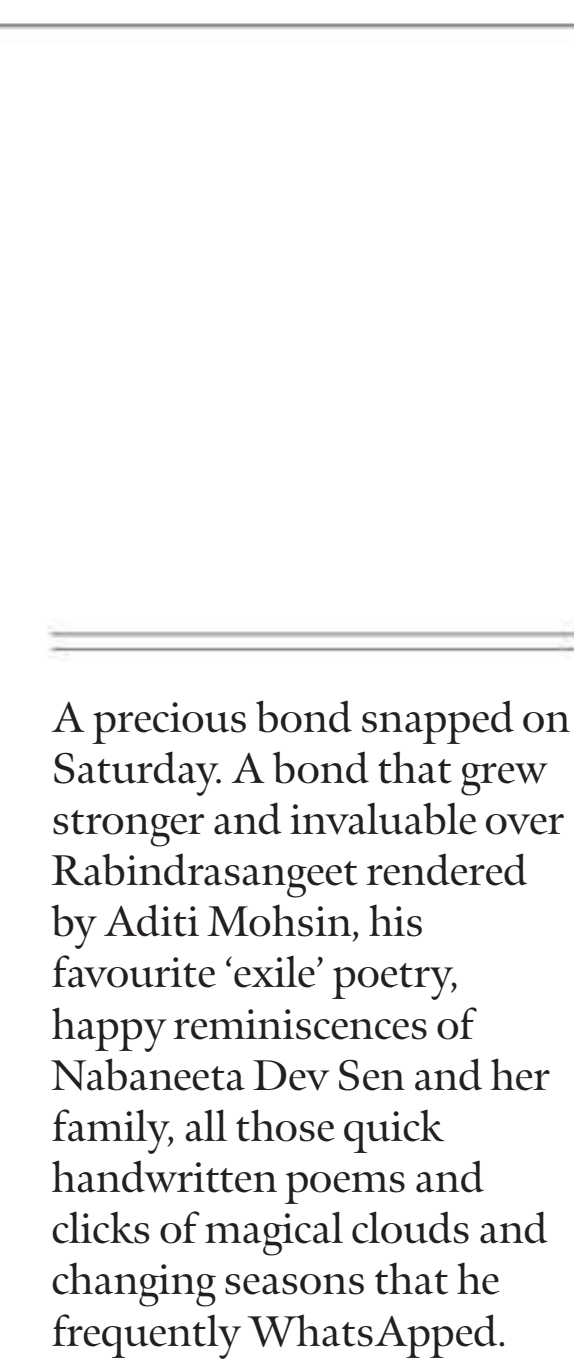
India has learnt lessons from the past. Lasting peace needs world to loosen military's grip on Pakistan



The US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Pakistan's rapidly diminishing strategic value and the weariness of Gulf countries facing their own terror threats from radical Islamist groups have reduced tolerance for Pakistan. China remains its principal external lifeline. The world, preoccupied with geopolitical shifts, has low patience for the dangerous distraction of cross-border terrorism. On the other hand, India's global stature has risen. International support for India after Pahalgam has been the strongest ever.

# REMEMBERING DAUD DA

*The exiled poet carried Bangladesh in his heart*



## APRIL 29, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

### SURAT VIOLENCE

THE ARMY WAS put on alert in Surat after the police fired two rounds to disperse a violent mob that set fire to a large number of huts in the Ambanagar slum area. Incidents of arson, rioting, looting of shops and stone-throwing were reported. Four people were injured in the firing. Two columns of Army jawans have reached Surat to help the civilian authorities in maintaining peace.

### LONGOWAL'S STAND

AKALI DAL PRESIDENT Harchand Singh Longowal's repeated assertions in the capital that the Akalis stand for the unity and integrity

WORDLY WISE  
TOO OFTEN WE ENJOY THE COMFORT OF OPINION  
WITHOUT THE DISCOMFORT OF THOUGHT.  
— JOHN F KENNEDY

suage India and prevent a war that would derail its own Afghan war. For much of that decade, including after the Mumbai attack, Pakistan used this leverage to insulate its India policy from larger punitive Western measures.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Pakistan's rapidly diminishing strategic value and the weariness of Gulf countries facing their own terror threats from radical Islamist groups have reduced tolerance for Pakistan. China remains its principal external lifeline. The world, preoccupied with geopolitical shifts, has low patience for the dangerous distraction of cross-border terrorism. On the other hand, India's global stature has risen. International support for India after Pahalgam has been the strongest ever.

India is at a moment of reckoning again. The obvious measures to further downgrade an already low-level of contact with Pakistan were announced immediately. The major escalation is the decision to keep the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance. That is not a surprise. India had already called for its review. Globally, many transboundary rivers have no arrangements or have non-treaty-based mechanisms under international conventions, including in the Brahmaputra basin from the Tibetan plateau in China to South Asia.

India will also mount a massive diplomatic outreach to a receptive world to take concrete steps, such as cutting off military assistance to Pakistan, including the US F-16 upgrade programme, and supplies of spares and components; the curtailment of non-humanitarian assistance; a review of multilateral funding; a freeze on projects in POK; a fresh listing in the UNSC sanctions committee; the extradition of wanted Pakistani terrorists; a demand for effective dismantling of terrorism infrastructure in Pakistan; and renewed FATF strictures. Modi has signalled to Pakistan and the world the security response with a twofold objective: To bring the perpetrators to justice and to go after the terrorism network.

The first order of business will be to pursue the terrorists in J&K while protecting the civilian population. The timing, target and method of a response to Pakistan will be carefully thought through and may not be as speculated. It will take into account our preparedness and Pakistan's capabilities, avoid repetition, contain an element of surprise, draw

intelligence support from some of our partners and, at its most expansive level, include a comprehensive set of military and non-conventional measures. We have learnt lessons from the past and are better equipped. Our immediate achievements may be short-term, tactical and publicly visible, but the long-term objective will be pursued relentlessly.

Pakistan's withdrawal from the Simla Agreement follows decades of disregard for its provisions and LOC violations. Pakistan will make a big mistake if it seeks to change the status quo on the ground. As for nuclear threats, as seen in the Ukraine war, nuclear weapons are normally not instruments of war, but guarantors of state survival. Global eyes and ears will track any movements for preventive steps. Pakistan is aware of possible responses to even the limited use of tactical nuclear weapons, let alone a strategic one.

In response to any Indian action, Pakistan may not want a long-drawn full-scale war. Pakistan's war objective, given its constraints, may be to trigger a limited conventional war that would invite international mediation, re-hyphenate Pakistan and India and re-internationalise the Kashmir issue. As has happened in the past, at a difficult time internally, the army will use this crisis to shore up its image as the only guarantor of Pakistan's security.

But we must not let Kashmir's quest for peace and progress, or the kindness of its people, be a victim of the Pakistan military's design, nor fall for its enduring objective of lighting the communal fire. More than military force, eliminating terrorism from Pakistan would require the world to come together to strengthen democratic forces and loosen the military's grip and militants' sway over it.

Meanwhile, an honest appraisal should be followed by enhanced security presence in J&K. As the dust settles on this brutal tragedy, the much-needed security, defence and military upgrade, including on technology and equipment, should not be lost in bureaucratic confusion and paralysis.

Nor should the passage of time lead us to stop reflecting on a long-term solution or on the destiny of South Asia, to which our own fortunes are linked. The region needs more attention than we have been giving it.

*The writer is a retired Indian ambassador*

dled five banyans/ Padma and its ceaseless songs/ Revellers at Gaajan.../ a collage of memories" that rose like "songs serene" in the solitary exile's heart.

Our friendship started on that sultry afternoon; he shared anecdotes of his home in Doharpara, Pabna; his neighbours; his days as a promising poet and literary editor in the 1970s; his expulsion from Bangladesh; the years in Kolkata; his association with the family of the eminent poet and essayist, Annada Shankar Ray; as a student of Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University, and how he left for Germany in 1987, having spent more than a decade in India.

I don't recall exactly when I started calling him "Daud da" and selecting poems together to be translated. On and off, there were urgent mails from him with ideas for sundry articles and collections of new verses. Going through them, I could figure out there was an exigency churning inside him. It was about a homeland far away, long snatched from him: "Levelling mountains and meandering streams/ I choose a recluse's freedom/ Shadows gather, like gurgling waters/ Crossing bridges —/ A surge towards Pabna, towards Doharpara" A surge towards a land which he often referred to as "my love/ stay awake/ in my heart/ my land, my storm-tossed Bangla..."

Daud da made sure we caught up for an *adda* — he was a great *addaholic* — whenever

he was in Kolkata. We last got together at the Kolkata Book Fair 2024. We sat down for hours of chitchat and he gave me a copy of his *Priyo 25 Kabita* ('Favourite 25 Poems').

A precious bond snapped on Saturday. A bond that grew stronger and invaluable over Rabindrasangeet rendered by Aditi Mohsin, his favourite "exile" poetry, happy reminiscences of Nabaneeta Dev Sen and her family, all those quick handwritten poems and clicks of magical clouds and changing seasons that he frequently WhatsApped.

Despite spending years in Germany, this Auslander's (outsider's) heart bled for Bangladesh. Why else would he write, "Who will be left standing on this scorched earth to carry my flag?/ Someone I can call my own?"

As Daud da moves on with "Incredible clouds bursting in my senses/ While silence commands recollections", I wish him "*gute reise*" with a translation he approved: "She holds the moon-crust in her hands/ She is the one I desire/ Alone, she breaks into thousands/ Her flowing tresses are afire/ My muse, my life-spring/ She is the giver, she is the end/ Rhythms of flames swivelling/ In her, wonders and woes blend/ The goddess in sleep, in the waking hour/ My pulse beats with her/ A fairy of blue-green splendour/ Beautiful Bangla forever. (Beautiful Bangla, forever)"

*Ghosh is a writer and translator*

### MGR'S DIRECTIVE

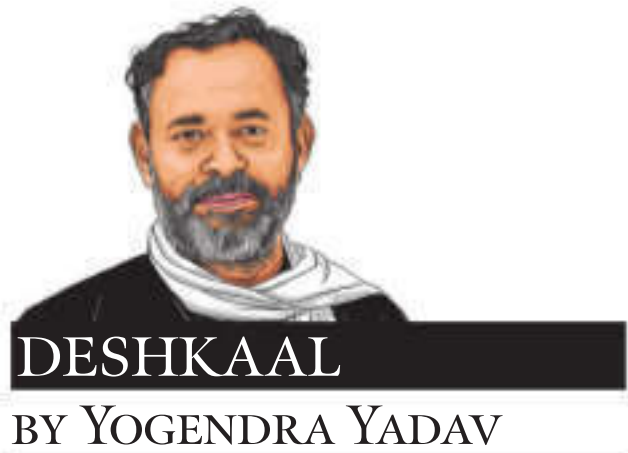
TAMIL NADU CHIEF minister M G Ramachandran has issued yet another directive for his party members not to criticise former party propaganda secretary Jayalalithaa. This is the second such directive since he was sworn in as chief minister in February, the first one coming shortly after assuming charge.



# The Ideas Page

## Once upon a country

Gopalkrishna Gandhi’s new book reminds us that history is not shaped just by great men and women, that ordinary people can often outdo them



YOU CAN SEE so much more once you get your own nose out of the way. That’s what I felt as I closed Gopalkrishna Gandhi’s personal history of independent India, optimistically titled *The Undying Light*, released this month. It is no small achievement to look at big and small events, national and family drama, without placing oneself at the centre.

This self-effacement, to a fault, is not just a charming personal virtue. For Gopal Gandhi, this is a fly-on-the-wall method of reading and viewing history. To be sure, he is not attempting an objective history of India since Independence. So there are no fresh archival sources, no sensational disclosures (except one, to which we will come later), no attempt at offering a new theory of history. Nor is this a memoir. The book is what it says: A personal history, a history of the last 80 years, seen from the eyes of a person. A story of how big events of independent India unfolded in the life and mind of one Indian.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is not quite an unknown Indian. If your paternal grandfather was the Father of the Nation, and your maternal grandfather was the last Governor-General of India, you can’t possibly remain unknown. The great achievement of Gopalkrishna Gandhi (and also his siblings) is to remain *sahaj* with respect to his ancestry. Neither does the author flaunt this connection, nor does he bear it like a cross. Of course, that does not shield him from accusations of using his surname. He shares this snippet from an angry letter he received from an unnamed person: “You have always encashed the Gandhi cheque and wrangled plump cushy postings... You are a very mediocre, average Jt Secy level officer... don’t you have any self respect?”

I first encountered Gopalkrishna Gandhi in 2007. I had written an article (in this paper, as it happens) explaining the rationale for OBC reservation in educational institutions. A few days later, I got an envelope (yes, the postal department worked in those days) marked Raj Bhavan, Kolkata, West Bengal. It carried my address in neat handwriting with an ordinary postal stamp (there used to be separate postal stamps for official communication). Inside, on the letterhead of the Governor, the same handwriting complimented me for my article and looked forward to a continued dialogue.

I couldn’t get over it for days — a Governor sending a handwritten letter and taking the trouble of writing the address on the envelope, something I had stopped doing in my own small office. This couldn’t be just a hobby or habit, this had to be *sanskara*.

More than Mahatma Gandhi, who died when he was barely two-and-a-half, Gopal Gandhi was influenced by his maternal grandfather, C Rajagopalachari, or Rajaji. Although a self-confessed “grandfather-smitten grandson”, he is ready to acknowledge the truth about the dubious manner in which Rajaji became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in an election in which Congress failed to secure a majority. “The development was undemocratic, not so much for the nomination route



CR Sasikumar

but because it denied the spirit of the election results its deserved culmination.” Nor does it prevent him from recording this most embarrassing truth about his family. “Our family with all the inherited halo of ‘Harijan sevā’ over its head, did not count, among its close friends, any Dalit. Not one. It had Muslim, Christian and Sikh friends. It had friends from the Black communities of the US, Jewish friends from across the world, but not one Indian Dalit.”

In our troubled times, this story reminds us of an era when public figures respected some norms. E M S Namboodiripad, the Communist leader whose government was unfairly dismissed by Nehru, could wax eloquent about Jawaharlal after his death. Jayaprakash Narayan could speak at St Stephen’s College in the aftermath of the Sino-Indian War of 1962 and remind his audience that the “Chinese are, after all, our Asian friends”. He insists that something of that tradition survived until Dr Manmohan Singh, the last politician to combine *siyasaat* with *sharafat* (politics with decency).

Gopalkrishna Gandhi contributed to this tradition by creating a model of how people in constitutional offices must behave. Rectitude and fearlessness without ever crossing the constitutional *maryada* defined his term as Governor of West Bengal during the most turbulent Nandigram phase. He met Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya four days after his statement indicting the government for the Nandigram killings. Gopal Gandhi, who was welcomed by the Left Front as the Governor, now offered to the CM: “You can, if you want, ask Delhi to get you another governor”. Buddha *babu* could have done so, for his party was still a coalition partner at the Centre, but he said: “I’m not that type of person, I will never do such a thing.”

The book avoids salacious gossip, but offers some personality sketches to savour. Here is a sample on CV Raman, the famous physicist who did not turn up to receive his Bharat Ratna as he was too preoccupied with a PhD interview! “An example of vanity masquerading as duty.” But the one I love most is about T N Seshan: “The god of governance has not created a more potent self-loading, self-ejecting, self-directing cannonball.” He also discloses that in the wake of Rajiv Gandhi’s assassination, the Chief Election Commissioner approached President R Venkataraman and asked to be made the Home Minister of India!

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is not quite an unknown Indian. If your paternal grandfather was the Father of the Nation, and your maternal grandfather was the last Governor-General of India, you can’t possibly remain unknown. The great achievement of Gopalkrishna Gandhi (and also his siblings) is to remain ‘sahaj’ with respect to his ancestry. Neither does the author flaunt this connection, nor does he bear it like a cross. Of course, that does not shield him from accusations of using his surname.

The book is laced with insights like this one: “Deaths in India are magnets. Every manner of metal, precious, semi-precious, base, rusty, alloy, tin is drawn to it. And funerals are moving mounds of emotions mixed with some open and many more concealed motivations.” Here is another gem — “All capitals breed gossip. Delhi does so with a panache of its own.”

It also reminds us that history is not shaped just by great men and women, that ordinary people can often outdo them.

There is a story about the Nizam of Hyderabad gifting a diamond-studded necklace to Rajaji’s daughter, Namagiri. Rajaji returned the gift on the ground that his daughter, a widow, was not accustomed to wearing ornaments of this kind. She said, a few years later, that she did not regret her father’s decision but would have preferred that he had not alluded to her widowhood. He could have said, “We are Gandhi’s disciples and do not own costly things.” Gopal Gandhi concludes, “daughters of the great can, at the crosshairs of dilemmas, out-great their forebears”.

If there is one story you want to read this week, it is that of the martyrdom of Maqbool Sherwani — “among one of the greatest victims of bigotry, and the greatest symbols of human courage”. In 1947, when Pakistani armed forces used tribesmen to invade Kashmir, 19-year-old Maqbool, a follower of Sheikh Abdullah, organised local resistance. He was finally captured by the invaders, taken to the town square of Baramulla and ordered to shout “Pakistan zindabad, Sher-e-Kashmir murdabad”. When he refused, he was tied to the porch posts with ropes and nails were driven through his palms. Legend has it that Sherwani cried out “Victory to Hindu-Muslim unity” before 14 tribesmen shot bullets into his body. Gandhi describes Sherwani’s death as “a martyrdom which anyone — Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, or any other — can be proud”.

Last Tuesday, another braveheart lost his life as he stood up for Kashmiriyat. Syed Adil Hussain Shah, 29, a pony ride operator, and the only link among the 26 killed in the terror strike in Pahalgam, was shot trying to confront the militants in an attempt to protect the tourists he had ferried on horseback.

*The writer is member, Swaraj India, and national convener of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan. Views are personal*

### WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“We hope both these nuclear-armed nations will renounce retaliatory actions and resolve their disputes at the negotiating table.” — **THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH**

## The opportunity for China and India

US trade and tariff war undermines rules-based order. It is time for global community, especially developing countries, to stand up to it



XU FEIHONG

The “Liberation Day” of the United States of America ignited a war without gunpowder — a trade and tariff war that has caused not only a crash in domestic stocks, bonds, and currency markets but also wiped out vast amounts of global wealth. China has firmly said “no” to the US’s tariff bullying, drawing international attention. I would like to share some perspectives on why China has taken this approach.

The US abuse of tariffs, under the guise of “reciprocity and fairness”, violates WTO rules, severely undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system, and disrupts the global economic order. All countries, regardless of their size, are equal. The US abuse of tariffs is a typical act of unilateralism, protectionism and economic bullying. Its essence is to deprive the vast majority of developing countries of their rights to development and progress, keeping them permanently at the lower end of the global supply chain in labour-intensive and low-value-added industries, and serving as the workforce of developed economies.

Certain countries, unwilling to engage in direct confrontation with the US, opt for concessions in an attempt to appease it and secure preferential treatment. Facts have proved that making unilateral concessions on economic and trade issues is like “bargaining with a tiger for its skin”, which will only embolden the US to escalate its demands. The sobering lessons of the devaluation of the US dollar, the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, and the Plaza Accord should not be ignored. If the world tolerates America’s arbitrary tariff abuses, we risk plunging back into the Great Depression, or even a regression to a lawless jungle where “might makes right”.

Against the backdrop of millennia-long human civilisation, America’s two-century existence is a blink of an eye. History marches onward, undeterred by the will of any one nation. The US is merely one country. It does not represent the whole world. Its share of the global GDP, once peaking at roughly 50 per cent, has since dwindled to about 26 per cent. Its foreign trade only accounts for 13 per cent of global trade volume, while the remaining 87 per cent is conducted among over 190 other countries. These nations possess vast potential for cooperation and are fully capable of driving stable growth in the global economy.

Moreover, the international economic order is not America’s “one-man show”. Major regional trade pacts like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) have all emerged as benchmarks for regional economic cooperation — without the US’s par-

ticipation. The *Financial Times* has rightly pointed out that if the US positions itself against the vast majority of countries that uphold free trade and support the multilateral trading system, the ultimate outcome will not be “economic deglobalisation”, but rather, “de-Americanisation of the world”.

Since the dawn of the 21st century, the rise of developing countries has been the most striking feature of the evolving international landscape. Take BRICS as an example: Its member states now account for nearly half of the global population and one-fifth of world trade. Their contribution to global economic growth exceeds 50 per cent, approximately double that of the G7. In terms of purchasing power parity, the total economic output of BRICS has already surpassed that of the G7.

China’s development is a result of self-reliance and hard work, not favours from others. China does not flinch from any unjust suppression. China’s resolute countermeasures against the US tariff bullying are not only to safeguard its own legitimate rights and interests but also to uphold the free trade system and protect the shared interests of the international community. It was precisely because China took the lead in standing up to it that the US was forced to announce a 90-day pause for other countries. Now, the ball is in America’s court. China’s position is clear: There are no winners in a tariff war or a trade war. If a negotiated solution is truly what the US wants, it should seek dialogue based on equality, respect and mutual benefit. If the US insists on continuing the fight, China will fight to the end with firm will and abundant means.

As major developing countries and emerging economies, China and India share the common goal of development and revitalisation. China is actively promoting high-quality development, while India is committed to realising the vision of “Viksit Bharat 2047”. As the only two nations with populations exceeding one billion, the convergence of the Chinese and Indian markets could generate a synergistic “1+1=11” multiplier effect. The IMF predicts that over the next five years, China and India together will contribute 36 per cent to global economic growth — more than all G7 countries combined. China is implementing a strategy to expand domestic demand and a special initiative to boost consumption, which will unleash enormous consumption potential. We welcome more high-quality Indian products to the Chinese market. China strictly complies with WTO subsidy disciplines and market rules. We will not engage in market dumping or cut-throat competition, nor will we disrupt other countries’ industries and economic development.

The tariff and trade war has once again placed the world at a crossroads. At this pivotal historical juncture, let us jointly uphold multilateralism, safeguard the international rules-based order as well as the development rights and interests of the Global South, and inject much-needed stability into a turbulent world.

*The writer is China’s ambassador to India*



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

There are areas in which Kerala has not been a leader. The setting up of private universities is one. But now an ideological rubicon has been crossed with the state’s legislative assembly recently passing the Kerala State Private Universities Bill (KSPUB). An article in this newspaper (‘Why Kerala has finally opened the door for private universities in the state’, March 29) stated that Kerala is the last state in the country to allow this. The change of mind has very likely been forced by the growing public attention drawn to the exit of college-age Malayalees to institutions outside the state. What will follow the legislative act is a matter of interest. Expectations would best be guided by both the experience with private universities elsewhere in the country and the long history of private presence in higher education in Kerala itself.

There are 471 private universities in India. That makes for over 15 universities in a state on average, a number large enough to influence the character of higher education in their respective states. Has their presence led to higher educational standards? As views on what constitutes a superior education vary, we may use a simple criterion to answer the question, which would be whether students graduating from the private universities are invariably better informed within their area of study and possess greater critical thinking abil-

ity. If you are to compare students from the very best undergraduate colleges of the public universities of India with those from the best private universities in their neighbourhood, the answer in many cases is “no”. The reason is not far to seek. The best private universities hire faculty with world-class qualifications, who mostly deliver instruction to global standards. It has been the experience, however, that this offering is not necessarily imbibed. When students are from the wealthiest sections of the commercial classes, being assured of an inheritance, they have no incentive to learn. Of the weak link between well-stocked universities and the quality of their product we should have learned long ago, from the experience of private medical colleges in southern India. India has allowed private enterprise to produce doctors who have, at no point in their past, faced competition, nor will they have to face it at any stage in their future. As long as India’s private universities function as client servers, it would be naive to expect that they can raise the standard of education in this country.

While Kerala may not have had private universities, it has, for at least a century, had private colleges. These are termed “aided educational institutions”, as they receive financial support from the government. We can learn from this history. That seats in the aided colleges are going abeg-

ging today shows that public perception of their academic value is low even at the very low fees set by the government. This is not surprising. By far the greater part of these institutions are virtually denominational, with strong caste or religious affiliations. They have been established to promote the career of sectional groups and to reproduce their cultural values. Such a mission is not aimed at providing a superior education, even as it has an ethically questionable exclusionary bias. Most of the private aided institutions have not upheld democratic values either. Their infractions range from dismissing, rather than backing, lecturers attacked by intolerant religious fundamentalists to colluding with conservative students who cancel the screening of films with a depiction of alternative sexuality. So, if private universities in Kerala are to emerge from the same ecosystem, we may expect little improvement by way of educational quality or a shift to a liberal culture.

Finally, while private universities may be secular, it is not necessary that they will also be liberal, that is, open to contending ideologies and permitting a critical stance by members vis-a-vis the power elite. We are seeing this play out right now in the United States, with its leading universities succumbing to the pressure to dismantle whole departments at the behest of a

regime hostile to their politics. How the private universities that may emerge in Kerala will handle similar pressure is anybody’s guess but it would be vital to their credibility as universities. Given the immense powers of the state, a tolerant one will be essential to the emergence of liberal private universities here. A university over which the fear of the state hangs like a sword cannot serve the purpose of being a site for the pursuit of knowledge. The KSPUB provides for a far greater presence of the state in governance than is the case in other states in India, with a provision for government representatives in many of the crucial steering committees. Even if such an arrangement is not a deterrent to entry, how it will pan out later on is yet unknown. There is the possibility that it may suppress voices critical of the state’s narrative or insist on partisan schemes adopted by the political party in power.

However, while one should not be overly optimistic of the outcome, one need not be like the past. If even a few excellent, secular and liberal private universities were to emerge in Kerala, competition could nudge its vast public university system to perform at least a little better in serving the aspirations of its youth.

*The writer is an economist*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### AFTER PAHALGAM

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A volatile stand-off’ (IE, April 28). The security forces of both India and Pakistan have exchanged intermittent fire across the border. Earlier, India declared its intention to disrupt the flow of water to Pakistan, whose irrigation system depends largely on upstream rivers. Pakistan has said it would suspend participation in bilateral treaties, including one that affects the Line of Control. The tit-for-tat cycle could move rapidly as Pakistan will never let go of its confrontationist attitude over Kashmir.

**SS Paul, Nadia**

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A volatile stand-off’ (IE, April 28). India’s response must be centred on a controlled escalation of kinetic responses aimed at stretching the Pakistan army. The focus of diplomatic, political and economic tools must also be on the Durand Line (Afghanistan-Pakistan border). The Pakistan army cannot maintain its balance if simultaneously challenged on both fronts. Instead of indulging in a tit-for-tat verbal duel with Pakistan, India’s political class must hold its nerve for maximum effect.

**Shubhada H, via email**

#### NEW WORLD ORDER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Flow and ebb’ (IE, 28 April). The tariff war unleashed by US President Donald Trump

and the protectionist response by developed countries are totally against the philosophy of globalisation and deregulation. The international system was promised a “New World Order” but is facing a chaotic disorder both politically and economically. Tensions between nations and within nations are manifesting. The tide is likely to turn in favour of welfare economic policies, leaving globalisation behind.

**Vasant Nalawade, Satara**

#### A SPACE PIONEER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Man and the mission’ (IE, April 28). K Kasturirangan will be remembered for his pioneering work in making available the benefits of space technology to the poor. India’s space programme is seen with admiration and respect all over the world. Space scientists like Kasturirangan were inspired by the likes of Vikram Sarabhai and Satish Dhawan, who dedicated their lives to making India a formidable space power

**Atul Thakre, Nagpur**

#### BILATERAL ISSUE

THIS REFERS TO the cartoon, ‘Freeze Frame’ (IE, April 28). Donald Trump has said both India and Pakistan are his friends. According to him, the Kashmir problem is more than 1,000 years old. It clearly indicates that India and Pakistan should settle it between themselves.

**Ravinder Kumar Jain, Ludhiana**



SALUTE THE SOLDIER

**OPERATION RAKSHAK**  
**SUBEDAR (LATE) BAL KISHAN KATOCH**  
**12 MAY 1958 - 29 APR 2007**

We pay our deepest respects to Subedar (Late) Bal Krishan Katoch, a brave soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Northern Command. On 29 Apr 2007, Sub Katoch lost his life in a tragic incident while performing counter-insurgency duties in Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir.

Subedar Katoch's dedication to duty and bravery in the face of adversity are an inspiration to us all. He embodied the spirit of a true soldier, always ready to put the nation's interest above his own. His sacrifice will never be forgotten and his memory will live on in our hearts.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Subedar Katoch and his family, particularly his wife, Smt Meena Katoch, for his sacrifice. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations and may his family's sacrifice be remembered and honoured.

We Salute Subedar Katoch's courage selflessness and commitment to serving the nation. His bravery will always be remembered and his sacrifice will never be in vain.

**Col Comdt, OIC Records & All Ranks of Intelligence Corps**

**KUT-AL-AMARA DAY**

You laid down your lives and made the supreme sacrifice in the highest traditions of the FIFTH ROYALS. Your inspiring and selfless deed has always been a source of motivation to each one of us.

Jem Gangaram Desai	Hav Kshnarao Pawar
Nk Babu Rewane, VRC	Sep Baban Jathar
Nk Mugutrao Jagdale	Sep Shikant Hadkar
Nk Vishnu Patil	Sep Dnyanoba Takalkar
Lnk Ananda Chawan	Sep Arjun Jadhav
Sep Kashiram More	Sep Balaji Sawant
Sep Namdeo Chawan	Lnk Tukaram Waghmode
Sep Mahadeo Kadam	Lnk Ganpati Petkar
Sep Laxman Gawas	2Lt MR Ghanekar
Sep Dayanba Gawas	Sub Tukaram Nikam
Sep Dhondu Mahadik	Hav Shripati L Chougale
Sep Kshnsa Kale	Hav Tukaram Yadav
Sep Kshnsa Patil	Hav Kisan Jagdale, VRC
Sep Krishna Salunke	Nk Bajirao Jadhav, SM
Lnk Jagnnath Pawar	Nk Eknath Kardile, VRC
P/Lnk Jagu Bache	Lnk Cik K Purushottaman
Lt Ronald Mathew Serrao	Lnk Sadashiv Bait
CHM Goma Gawas	Sep Eknath Mane
Hav Sandipan Naikode	Lnk Maruti Madilgekar
Sep Prahlad Saw	P/Lnk Ananda Ganpati Yadav
Sep Rajaram Nikam	Sep Dilip Krishna More
Sep Govind Sontakke	Sep Kondekar Madhukar S
Sep Vithal Misal	Sep Bhagat Sanjay Dagadu
Sep Vilas Salunkhe	Sep Mohan Kartekar
Sep Yadav Dattatray	Sep Patil Narayan Babu
Sep Anil Kumar Kadam	Sep Raghunath Prasad Patel
Sep Ramchandra Kadam	Sep Gaikwad H Babasaheb
Sep Vithoba Patne	Sep Shriram Talod
Sep Yashwant Mane	Capt Vinay R Sachan
Sep Govind Masalkar	P/Lnk Bharat Mhaske. SM
Capt N Murlidharan	Sep Patil Prakash Bhagwan
Nb Sub Namdeo Kore	Sep Pachange Fakkad Dagdu
Nb Sub K Tukaram Mundhe	Sep Shrikant Bodake
CHM R Soma Gawade	Maj Akash Singh, SC
Hav B Gulab Ghale	Nk Nale Dinkar Maruti
Hav Sudhakar Jadhav	Hav C Hambirrao Bapurao
Nk Vilas Joti Powar	Nk (TS) Ilake Pandurang J
Lnk (TS) Vasudeo R Sawant	Lnk Kadam Sambhaji Y

**Fondly remembered**  
**COMMANDING OFFICER & ALL RANKS**  
**FIFTH ROYALS**

**INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)**  
**29 April, 2025**  
**Constable Shashi Kumar**

ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Shashi Kumar of 23rd Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Uttarakhand in 2014.

**Resident of:** Vill.- Bajhera, P.O.- Jarot, Distt.- Kangra, (Himachal Pradesh)

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**O/o The Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), GHMC, Hyderabad**  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

Item No.	Name of Work	Date: 28-04-2025
1.	Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of 4 lane composite steel girder bridge on the pipeline road across Fox Sagar Surplus Land under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis".	30-04-2025 from 05.00 PM
2.	Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of Steel Flyover and Underpass at Jubilee Hills Check Post Jn., KBR Park Entrance Jn., and Mogha Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-1) under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)".	07-05-2025 at 03.00 PM Location: Office of the Chief Engineer (P), GHMC 6th Floor CC Complex, Tank Bund, Hyderabad.
3.	Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of Steel Flyover and Underpass at Road No.45 Jn., Film Nagar Jn., Maharaja Agrasen Jn. and Cancer Hospital Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-2) under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)".	21-05-2025 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, Construction Supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of Multi Level Flyovers/ Grade Separators at two junctions namely Khajeguda Junction, HIT Junction and Widening and Development of 215 feet Road from CP, Cyberabad office to Gachibowli Jn. and Widening and Development of Road to 150 feet from Anajiah Nagar to Rankly tower Road under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis".	21-05-2025 upto 04.00 PM
5.	Consultancy services for providing State of the Art architectural aesthetics for proposed Grade separators and At-grade roads at HIT Junction and providing 3D rendered videos.	23-05-2025 after 04.00 PM

S.No	Events	Date and Time
1.	Start date (Downloading)	30-04-2025 from 05.00 PM
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	07-05-2025 at 03.00 PM Location: Office of the Chief Engineer (P), GHMC 6th Floor CC Complex, Tank Bund, Hyderabad.
3.	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	21-05-2025 upto 03.00 PM
4.	Technical bid Opening	21-05-2025 after 04.00 PM
5.	Price bid Opening	23-05-2025 after 04.00 PM

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit [www.tender.telanganagov.in](http://www.tender.telanganagov.in) to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to [scripps@ghmc@gmail.com](mailto:scripps@ghmc@gmail.com). Address of the officer concerned Sri G. Sree Lakshmi, SEP-WZ, Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at "e Procurement <https://tender.telanganagov.in>.

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ) GHMC

R.O. No.: 669/PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 28-04-2025



## KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 02 Dated: 28.04.2025

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/ Equipments:

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value Rs. crores (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17.00hrs
<b>SHORT TERM TENDER</b>			
KSRTC/2025-26/SEI697	Engaging an agency for providing Driver Services on Contract Basis to Divisions of KSRTC.	45.37	03.05.2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND209	**Supply, Installation & Commissioning of UPS on Turnkey	0.12	03.05.2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND210	**Procurement of Server	0.03	03.05.2025

**\*\* Only Pre-qualified vendors as per GOK order no DPAR/113/EGM/2020 Dated:9.10.2023 are eligible to participate.**



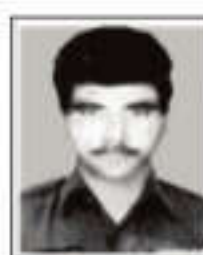
Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.

**NOTE:-**Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to [Support@eprocelpdesk.com](mailto:Support@eprocelpdesk.com) for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at [cosp@ksrtc.org](mailto:cosp@ksrtc.org), (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224)


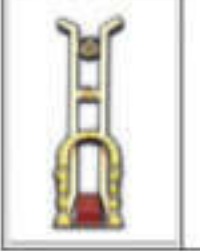
Sd/-  
**CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES**  
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/404/2025-26

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE		
 SH JAI SINGH, AC, PMG, PPMG 14.08.1955 – 29.04.2001	 CT SUSHEEL KUMAR PANDITA, PPMG 21.03.1972 – 29.04.2001	 CT SHABEER AHMAD KHAN, PPMG 10.04.1976 – 29.04.2001

Director General and all Ranks of BSF pay tribute to Sh Jai Singh, AC, PMG, PPMG, Constable Susheel Kumar Pandita, PPMG and Constable Shabeer Ahmad Khan, PPMG, on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they fought valiantly with militants near Budgam, J&K and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

 CT C H KRISHNAMA RAJU 13.07.1980 – 29.04.2001	 L/NK SITA RAM MEENA 30.08.1960 – 29.04.2001
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Director General and all Ranks of BSF pay tribute to Constable C H Krishnama Raju and Lance Naik Sita Ram Meena on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they fought valiantly with militants at Manu area, Rajouri, J&K and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

**SH S C GAUR, 2IC**  
**28.06.1949 – 29.04.1994**

Director General and all Ranks of BSF pay tribute to Sh. S C Gaur, 2IC, on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal grenade injuries while fighting with militants in Srinagar area, J&K and succumbed to it, while being evacuated to AIIMS, New Delhi.


**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**  
**29 April 2007**

On 29th April 2007, troops of 70 Battalion of CRPF launched an operation against Maoists in the MV-79 area, PS MV-79, District Malkangiri. During the encounter, SI Delip Chand, leading from the front, sustained bullet injuries but continued the assault, resulting in the neutralization of two Maoists. In securing victory for the nation, this braveheart made the supreme sacrifice. His valour and leadership will always be remembered by CRPF.

  
Veer Balidani SI/GD Delip Chand **70 BN.**  
6-4-1952 To 29-4-2007

**29 April 2006**

On 29th April 2006, while returning after providing security to a Medical Health Camp, troops of 111 Battalion of CRPF and TSR were ambushed by the extremists at Budhjoy Para, PS Ganga Nagar, District Dhalai, Tripura. In the fierce encounter, Constable Shiv Raj Chawan displayed exceptional courage, swiftly countering the attack despite grave threats to his life. Gravely injured, he continued firing, playing a crucial role in eliminating an extremist and recovering ammunition before making the supreme sacrifice.

  
Veer Balidani Constable Shiv Raj Chawan **111 BN.**  
8-7-1980 To 29-4-2006

**29 April 2001**

 Veer Balidani Constable Sushanta Kumar Sinha <b>122 BN.</b> 10-5-1968 To 29-4-2001	 Veer Balidani Constable Montu Pada Halder <b>122 BN.</b> 5-11-1968 To 29-4-2001	 Veer Balidani Constable A.A. Prakash <b>122 BN.</b> 22-5-1970 To 29-4-2001	 Veer Balidani Constable Chitte Gajendra <b>122 BN.</b> 15-1-1971 To 29-4-2001
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On 29th April 2001, CRPF troops of 122 Battalion launched an operation against militants in village Malapur, PS Birwaha, District Budgam. Although the search of the village did not establish contact with militants, while returning to their bases, the troops were ambushed with an IED blast followed by indiscriminate firing. One of the vehicles bore the brunt of the explosion, causing severe injuries to its occupants. Despite their injuries, the brave troopers held on to their weapons and retaliated fiercely. Thwarted by the determined response, the militants abandoned their plan to loot weapons and fled. In this valiant action, six courageous troopers — Constable Sushanta Kumar Sinha, Constable Montu Pada Halder, Constable A. A. Prakash, Constable Badri Prasad, Constable Chitte Gajendra, and Constable Chandra Kant Shinde — made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.

  
Veer Balidani Constable Badri Prasad **122 BN.**  
1-1-1971 To 29-4-2001

  
Veer Balidani Constable Chandra Kant Shinde **122 BN.**  
20-6-1979 To 29-4-2001



### RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT

Tender Notice No.A10/3660/2024 Dated: 26.04.2025

FORM OF CONTRACT: ITEM RATE (Two Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Additional Collector (D), DRDA, Cuddalore District invites e-bids (Two Cover System) for Procurement of steel rods for the year 2025-26.

1. For details visit [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)

2. The e-bid document can also be downloaded free of cost upto 13.05.2025.

3. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the estimated value.

4. Important dates:

1. Last Date and time for downloading and submission of e-Bid Document	13.05.2025 upto 3.00 pm
2. Date and Time of online opening of the Bid Document	13.05.2025 upto 5.00 pm

5. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.

DIPR.1728/Tender/2025 Additional Collector (D), DRDA, Cuddalore.



**Office of the Superintendent Engineer Cum Project Manager WCDC, Karauli**

No. :- 129 **NOTICE INVITING BID** Date :- 25/04/2025  
**NIB No. :- 03/2025-26**

Bids for anicut, pakka checkdam work Project MUSA 2.0 Phase 1 Block - Shri Mahaveerji of estimated value INR 141.11 Lacs [01 Package] are invited from interested bidders up to 06.00 PM, 25-05-2025, Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> or <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/>) of the state, departmental website.

**NIB CODE :- WSC2526A0078, UBN No. :- WSC2526WSRC00143**  
**Raj.Samwad/C/25/1409** Superintending Engineer and Project Manger

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SILCHAR**  
(An Institute of National Importance under MHRD, Government of India)  
PO. NIT Silchar-788010, Assam, India  
[www.nits.ac.in](http://www.nits.ac.in)

**Notice Inviting Tender**

E-tender(s) are invited from Reputed firms/Manufacturer/Authorized Dealer for supply and installation of Induction Heating Machine with Accessories for ME Dept. NIT Silchar-10, Assam.

E-tender(s) can be downloaded & uploaded through <http://eprocure.gov.in> /<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

All the contact details & registration procedure are available in the above mentioned website.

**Registrar, NIT Silchar-10**

**कार्यालय असीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्फिओवि वृत्त चूरु**  
क्रमांक :-116 ई-निविदा सप्तुना संख्या 01/2025-26 दिनांक :-16.04.2025

इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला चूरु में सड़क निर्माण कार्य (मय पौष वर्ष के दोष निवारण व सुचारु अवधि) कुल 2 सड़क कार्यों हेतु अनुमानित लगत राशि रू० 543.92 लाख की ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 16.05.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से सम्बंधित विवरण राज्य सरकार के वेबसाइट पोर्टल <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> व विभागीय वेबसाइट <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते है।

**NIB No-PWD2526A0131**  
**UBN No:-**  
1- PWD2526WSOB00399,  
2- PWD2526WSOB00401

Sd/-  
असीक्षण अभियन्ता  
सार्फिओ वृत्त चूरु

DIPRC/C/5375/2025

**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENIGNEER, PWD, ZONE BIKANER**  
Dt.: 16-04-2025

No.- 52  
NIB CODE:- PWD2526A0125

**NIB NO. 01/2025-26**

Bid for Various Budget Announcement works Sanctioned are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM dt. 06.05.2025 (tuesday) Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.in>) of the state and DIPR department website. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs. 276.30 Lakhs.

**UBN Code No.**  
PWD2526WLOB00384, PWD2526WLOB00385,  
PWD2526WSOB00386, PWD2526WSOB00387

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer,  
PWD, Circle Bikaner

DIPRC/5443/2025

**Rajasthan State Industrial Corridors Development Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Project SPV of Gol & GoR)  
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur (Raj.)  
Email: [acardra@ricco.co.in](mailto:acardra@ricco.co.in)

NIT No.2025-26/RIDCO/16 Date: 28-Apr-2025

**Short Term Notice Inviting e-RFQ cum RFP**

RFQ cum RFP for Engagement of Consultant to act as a Programme Manager for New Cities (PMNC) for Infrastructure Development of Industrial Township in Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar Industrial Area-Special Investment Region (JPMIASIR).

RIDCO, a Govt. company registered under the Companies Act 2013, invites online competitive bid(s) from reputed Project Management Consultants for the work of Engagement of Consultant to act as a Programme Manager for New Cities (PMNC) for Infrastructure Development of Industrial Township in Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar Industrial Area-Special Investment Region (JPMIA-SIR). The Tender/Bid shall be submitted through online tendering system i.e. [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) upto 05.00 PM on dated 21.05.2025.

Eligibility criteria and requisite details alongwith RFQ cum RFP document can be seen on the e-procurement portal of GoR [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and official website of RIDCO i.e. [www.riico.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.riico.rajasthan.gov.in) & NIDCO i.e. [www.nidco.in](http://www.nidco.in).

Address:-  
Addtl. Chief Engineer  
RIDCO-RDA, Room No. 222, Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005.  
Ph. No.: 0141-4593201, 4593207

Addtl. Chief Engr.  
JPMIA RDA (RIDCO)

Raj.samwad/C/25/1470

**कार्यालय अति० मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, सभाग-टैंक**  
क्रमांक:- कैरिचर/25-26/डी- 171-180 दिनांक : 17.04.2025

**निविदा सूचना संख्या : 02/2025-26**

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर परिचलित वजट वर्ष 2024-25 की घोषणा के अन्तर्गत संभाग टैंक के अधीन वृत्त टैंक सवाई माधोपुर के 02 निर्माण कार्य हेतु मय पांच वर्ष की मरम्मत एवं संचारण की अवधि लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों में पंजीकृत "ए" "ए" एवं "बी" श्रेणी तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संवेदकों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के पर्ययुक्त श्रेणी संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा प्रपत्र में 02 निर्माण कार्य हेतु जिनकी कुल राशि 662.65 लाख है, प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बंधित विवरण वेब साईट <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यवार UBN संख्या निम्नानुसार है।

**NIB code PWD2526A0174**  
**UBN is: PWD2526WSOB00529**  
**PWD2526WSOB00531**

(प्रेमराज मीना)  
अति० मुख्य अभियन्ता  
सार.नि.वि. संभाग टैंक



### RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM/RFC on behalf of President of India for the following item(s):-

S.No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos/Sets)	EMD(₹)
1.	17251128/12.05.2025	Set of Seats & Berths with Integrated Cushion and upholstery for L.H.B. SCN Coaches.	16 Sets	330400/-
2.	17251144/19.05.2025	Cable Tray 1X70X125 L= 3M   14921 Nos.	520810/-	
3.	17251128/21.05.2025	1) Automatic Smoke/Fire Detection System for Stand-Alone in LHB AC Sleeper Coaches. 2) Automatic Smoke/Fire Detection System for Stand-Alone in LHB AC Chair Car.	1) 333 Set 2) 122 Set	2000000/-
4.	14251050/19.05.2025	Adhesion Promoting Primer	445690 Litre	2000000/-
5.	02251089/26.05.2025	Feeder Junction Box for LHB Coach.	1957 Set P/L no. 33640580	2000000/-
6.	13255140/19.05.2025	Bearing Handling Manipulator	01 Nos.	196800/-
7.	05251159/09.05.2025	End Part Complete	190 Nos.	797700/-
8.	04241079/19.05.2025	110v, 120AH VRLA, SMF, Battery Set	100 set	362370/-
9.	04251025/26.05.2025	BLDC Fan	41457 Nos.	2000000/-
10.	02251094/26.05.2025	Double Inlet Centrifugal Blower (Two Types)	6338 Nos.	568930/-
11.	02251065/29.04.2025	Switch plate assly (10 Types)	2269 Set	928450/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website <http://ireps.gov.in> Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class IIIB digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at website <http://www.cce.gov.in>. 2. All limited tenders and Advertised tenders will normally close at 11:25 Hrs and 14:25 Hrs respectively on the stipulated date and will be opened at 11.30 Hrs and 14.30 Hrs. 3. Tender at Sr. No. 1 to 6 will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala and Tender at Sr. No. 7 & 11 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002. 4. For queries contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF Helpdesk at 011-23378658. **NOTE:** "GST No. of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them".

**PCMM**

**CORRIGENDUM: (1) Tender No. 17231508 Due date may be read as 09.05.2025 instead of 29.04.2025. (2) Tender No. 02251065 for Switch Plate Assly (10 types) Due date may be read as 09.05.2025 instead of 29.04.2025. (3) Tender No. 12231419A due on 09.05.2025 for Set of Partition Frame for LHB AC 3T Coach Quantity may be read as 100 set instead of 50 set and EMD may be read as Rs. 700000/- instead of Rs. 350000/-. (4) Tender No. 12231399C due on 06.05.2025 for the procurement of NON AC Area Ceiling Argtl. for LHB AC 3Tier Coaches Tender Quantity may be read as 100 Nos. instead of 50 Nos. and EMD may be read as Rs. 352160/- instead of Rs. 176080/-.**

**PCMM**

R.O. No. 010-S/2024-25 Dated: 28.04.2025

Centre tells SC :Will notify in a week cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

WITH THE Supreme Court pushing it, the Centre on Monday said it will notify within a week the scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during the "golden hour".

A bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan pulled up the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), seeking to know why the government was yet to notify the scheme under Section 162(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Justice Oka told the Secretary, who appeared before it Monday: "People are dying in road accidents. You are constructing huge highways but people are dying there because there is no facility. There is no scheme for golden hour treatment. What is the use of constructing so many highways?"

The Central Government under Section 162(2) of the Act is required to frame a scheme to provide cashless treatment to motor accident victims during the "golden hour". Section 2(12-A) of the Act defines "golden hour" as the period of one hour following a traumatic injury when prompt treatment has the highest likelihood of preventing death.

The scheme is yet to be implemented though Section 162 came into force on April 1, 2022. On January 8 this year, the SC had asked the Centre to frame the scheme by March 14.

Hearing it on April 9, the SC noted that the scheme was yet to be framed and asked the Secretary, MoRTH, to appear before it through videoconferencing.

On Monday, the bench told the Secretary that he was in contempt of court and wondered why he had not even filed an application seeking extension of time. "You are in con-

tempt. 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 (since) this provision has come into place. Are you really working for the welfare of common man?" asked Justice Oka.

The Secretary said that a draft had been prepared but the government faced a roadblock due to issues raised by the General Insurance Council (GIC).

"The GIC has not been cooperative," he said, adding that it has contended that it should be permitted to check the status of insurance policy of the motor vehicle involved in an accident.

Justice Oka asked, "Can you be so casual? Are you not serious about this provision?"

The bench pointed out that another agency could be appointed if GIC is not cooperating. The Secretary agreed to do this.

Senior Advocate Gaurav Agarwal, who is amicus curiae in the matter, said the issue could be sorted out by authorising the State Health Agency (SHA) to release payments directly to hospitals.

In its order, the SC also recorded that the "Secretary states that the government tenders an apology for non-compliance with the direction" to frame the scheme and notify it.

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

## TRUMP'S 100 DAYS: RATINGS TANK, WAITING FOR HIS TAX BILL NOW

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

AS DONALD TRUMP completes 100 days in office on Tuesday, his approval rating has taken a nosedive, marking the lowest for any American President in at least seven decades.

He has made a flurry of promises during this period, including pledging to end the Russia-Ukraine War, stem undocumented immigration, and withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement.

### The verdict on Trump

It does not flatter the President. A poll by Pew Research Center shows that his approval rating has declined by 7% since February and stands at 40% currently. His rapidly evolving tariff decisions have been received poorly, with 59% of respondents disapproving of these measures.

His move to minimise government has been divisive, with 55% disapproving of the administrative cuts on federal departments and agencies.

An analysis by The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy last week indicated that Trump's tariffs could increase the tax burden on the poorest 20% of American households (incomes less than \$29,000) by 6.2%, around four times more than those in the top 1% (incomes exceeding \$195,000).

This was based on the state of Trump's tariffs then, specifically 10% on goods from most countries, 25% sector-specific tariffs on some goods from some countries, and the 145% levy on China.

The Pew poll also indicates a decline in public expectations of economic performance — 45% of Americans expect economic conditions to worsen. Among these, the prices of food and consumer goods as well as housing costs are the chief concerns, with 67% very concerned



### TRUMP TARIFFS DAILY DECODE

[www.indianexpress.com/explained](http://www.indianexpress.com/explained)

about the former, and 61% very concerned about the latter.

### 'Big, Beautiful' tax bill

A key development will play out in the coming weeks in Congress, as Trump seeks to realise his "Big, Beautiful" tax bill. This promised bill has been a cornerstone of Trump 2.0, and both houses of Congress approved versions of this bill earlier this month.

In a nutshell, this bill aims to expand the scope of Trump's 2017 tax cuts to the wealthy while introducing new tax breaks, to cut federal spending and increase defence spending, and raise the debt ceiling by up to \$5 trillion.

The goal is to get the bill on its legs by early May, or latest by Memorial Day (May 26).

While the budget resolutions passed by both houses have been identical, the House of Representatives has advocated for deeper spending cuts on programmes like Medicaid and clean energy, amounting to at least \$1.5 trillion (as opposed to the Senate's \$4 billion in proposed cuts).

The two bills are undergoing a process of budget reconciliation, in which lawmakers from both houses work together to present a unified bill, amid resistance from party lawmakers to specific details.

NIKHIL GHANEKAR  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

THE GOVERNMENT has notified draft Rules introducing targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by "obligated entities" in energy-intensive sectors and industries.

The Draft Greenhouse Gases Emissions Intensity (GEI) Target Rules, 2025, notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on April 16, puts in place a compliance mechanism for the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 (CCTS).

The CCTS was launched to create a framework for the trading of carbon credits, to facilitate the reduction of emissions in energy intensive industries, and to support India's climate commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015.

The draft Rules are open for objections and suggestions in a 60-day window from the date of their notification.

### What is meant by greenhouse gases emissions intensity (GEI)?

GHGs are gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to the "greenhouse effect" that raises surface temperature on Earth.

The five most abundant GHGs in the atmosphere are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Other GHGs include synthetic fluorinated gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

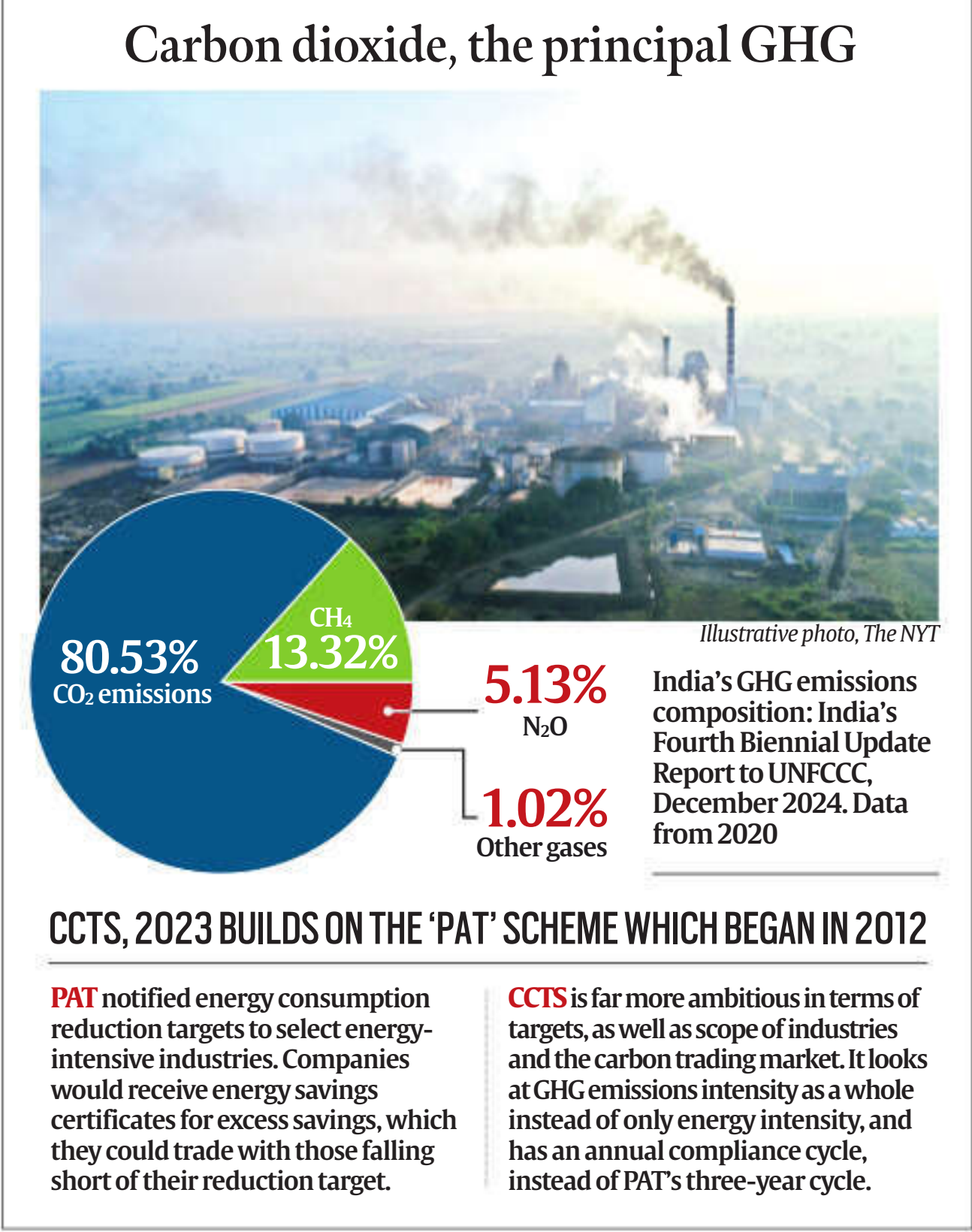
GHG emissions intensity, or GEI, is the amount of GHGs that are emitted per unit of product output — the amount of GHGs that are released in the production of, say, 1 tonne of cement, aluminium, or paper, etc.

The draft Rules define GEI as "greenhouse gases emission intensity in tCO<sub>2</sub>e/ equivalent output or product". tCO<sub>2</sub>e, or tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, is the standard unit used to measure the impact of all GHGs, not just CO<sub>2</sub>, based on their potential to warm the planet.

### So what do the draft GEI target Rules say?

The Rules set forth baseline emissions for 2023-24 and define gradual reduction targets for the years 2025-26 and 2026-27 as part of the mechanism to make India's Carbon Credits Trading Scheme, 2023, operational.

GHG intensity reduction targets and benchmarks have been set for the highly en-



ergy-intensive aluminium, chlor-alkali, pulp and paper, and cement industries.

These targets, for a two-year period starting 2025-26, cover 282 entities or industrial units in these industries — 13 aluminium plants, 186 cement plants, 53 pulp and paper plants, and 30 chlor-alkali plants.

Among the large corporations that have been assigned targets under the Rules are Vedanta, Hindalco, Bharat Aluminium, JSW Cement, Ultratech, Nalco, JK Cement, Dalmia Cement, Shree Cement, Grasim Industries, and JK Paper.

The Rules also lay down the mechanism for industries to comply with these targets, and specify penalties for their failure to do so.

### Why is it important to have the targets?

The introduction of industry-specific targets is crucial to meet India's climate goals. The ultimate objective is to push industries towards a low-carbon growth trajectory through reduction, removal or avoidance of GHG emissions.

A cement plant can, for example, reduce its GEI by adopting cleaner and greener processes in the various stages of production. It could replace the use of coal with biomass, and adopt cleaner, more energy-efficient kilns.

More importantly, the Rules aim to help India meet a key commitment made under the Paris Agreement — to reduce the emissions intensity of its gross domestic product

# Hanuman Garhi priest's journey to Lord Ram

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, APRIL 28

ON APRIL 30, the chief priest of Ayodhya's Hanuman Garhi temple will make a short journey. He will travel all of 1.6 kilometres, but he will be watched with great interest inside and outside of Ayodhya. That is because the priest will be breaking a tradition that is believed to be centuries old.

Mahant Prem Das will visit the Ram temple in Ayodhya — defying the "constitution" of Hanuman Garhi, which states that the *gaddi nasheen* (literally, the one on the chair, the chief priest) must not leave the premises of the Garhi.

The rule appears to have been followed strictly, with a *gaddi nasheen* having left the temple in the recent decades only once — to be admitted to hospital.

Why is this rule in place, and why is Mahant Prem Das about to break it?

### Hanuman Garhi

Hanuman Garhi is believed to have been built in the 10th century. A prevalent belief

is that a visit to the Ram Janmabhoomi temple is complete only after one visits Hanuman Garhi first.

The land for Hanuman Garhi is believed to have been given by the Nawab of Awadh in the 18th century, who was grateful after the priest of the temple cured the unwell son of the Nawab.

The temple is in the shape of a fort. Apart from the temple, the plot has hundreds of shops, houses, the Shri Ram Hospital, and the Hanumat Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya.

### Garhi's 'constitution'

Under the "constitution" of Hanuman Garhi, which lays down the rules by which it is run, the chief priest can only remain on the land in the possession of the temple, which covers 52 *bighas*.

In Ayodhya, it is believed that when Lord Ram departed Earth, he left his kingdom in the charge of Hanuman, who oversaw the birthplace of the Lord from his own adobe, Hanuman Garhi. Thus, the people of Ayodhya often refer to Lord Hanuman as their king —

and the temple's *gaddi nasheen* as his representative, who can't leave the post.

"Hanuman Garhi *ka samvidhan* (constitution) dates back more than 200 years, from the time of Baba Abhay Das ji Maharaj. When the three main *sadhu akharas* were formed, Hanuman Garhi became the main seat of Nirvani Akhara, and is governed by it to date," Dr Mahesh Das, Pracharya of Hanumat Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya and one of the primary disciples of Mahant Prem Das, said.

Mahesh Das explained that as per the rules, the *gaddi nasheen*, whose seat is established in front of the Hanuman idol in the temple, cannot leave the 52-*bigha* premises as he is the representative and also the "servant" of Lord Hanuman.

"When Hanuman *ji* is invited for any major religious function, it is his symbol, or *chinnah* — a flag with Hanuman's portrait, engraved with silver and golden threads — that goes with proper rituals, and not the *gaddi nasheen* himself," he said.

### 'Lord's command'

Disciples at Hanuman Garhi said that

Mahant Prem Das has been saying for a few months that Lord Hanuman has been appearing to him in his dreams and commanding him to visit the Ram temple.

"Following the *mahant's* request to visit the temple, a meeting of the Nirvani Akhara Panchayat, which has about 400 members, was called on April 21. The *panch*, after a long discussion, decided to allow the visit, considering that the call is by Lord Hanuman himself," a priest at the temple said.

The priests said that if the *gaddi nasheen* does step out, it has to be with the Hanuman Chinnah, on a chariot, with a royal procession of elephants, horses, camels, silver sticks, and thousands of followers. The *panchayat* has decided that this "historic visit" will be on Akshaya Tritiya, which is on April 30.

The *mahant* will leave Hanuman Garhi from the back gate, referred to as the "VIP gate". He will carry 56 types of *bhog* and other offerings for Lord Ram.

However, as the Ram Temple has its own security protocol, he will leave his chariot at a distance and enter the temple in a car through Gate number 3.

## HOW FEMALE BONOBOS BUST MYTH OF INEVITABLE MALE DOMINATION: STUDY

MALE DOMINATION is the natural order of things, some people say. But bonobos, primates with whom we share nearly 99% of our DNA, beg to differ. Despite males being bigger than females, bonobos live in female-dominated societies.

Scientists have long wondered how female bonobos maintain their matriarchies. A study published last week in *Communications Biology* provided the first evidence-based explanation.

Researchers, who tracked six bonobo communities in the Congo over nearly 30 years, found females forming coalitions against males to tip the balance of power in their favour. When male bonobos stepped out of line, females banded together to teach them a lesson.

From 1993 to 2021, the researchers observed 1,786 instances of a male starting a beef with a female. Examples included acting aggressively toward a female or her infant, or monopolising food. In roughly 61% of these fights, the female

teamed up with other females and emerged victorious.

As a result, males lost and females gained social rank, researchers said, leading to the average female bonobo outranking approximately 70% of the males in her community. This afforded females better access to food, and mates for their sons, among other things.

Martin Surbeck, a behavioural ecologist at Harvard University who was a part of the team behind the study, said that the findings support the idea that male dominance is not a biological inevitability. "Some might think that patriarchy is somehow an evolutionary trait in our species, that's really not the case," he said.

Along with chimpanzees, the endangered bonobos, found only in the Congo, are humans' closest extant relatives. Bonobos are difficult to track in the wild, making the latest research a major milestone in their study.

THE NEW YORK TIMES



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# Amid Stalin federalism push, recalling Rajamannar's blueprint for state autonomy

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, APRIL 28

MORE THAN half a century after it warned of creeping centralisation, a long-forgotten Tamil Nadu report has resurfaced at the heart of India's ongoing federalism debate.

Earlier this month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, citing concerns over the erosion of the powers of states, announced the formation of a high-level committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph to revisit the Centre-state relationship and suggest measures to strengthen the constitutional rights of states.

Back in 1969, Tamil Nadu's strongly federalist Chief Minister CN Annadurai had established the Centre-State Relations Inquiry Committee under the leadership of Dr P V Rajamannar, a former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

The three-member committee — also

comprising Dr A Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar and Justice P Chandra Reddy — was asked to study the Constitution and recommend steps to ensure "the utmost autonomy of the State in the executive, legislative and judicial branches...without prejudice to the integrity of the country as a whole."

The Rajamannar Committee concluded: "There has been a growing realisation of the strong domination of the Centre...and the tendency on the part of the Centre to exercise control over the States, drastically affecting the autonomy of the States."

### 'Administrative units of Centre'

The report complained that while the Constitution is federal, it had worked in a way that "the States had practically become the administrative units of the Centre" (p 18).

The committee backed its claim with detailed analyses of provisions such as Articles 256, 257, and 365, which gave the Centre sweeping powers to issue directions

to states, and enforce them through President's Rule.

"Article 365 highlights the subordinate position of the States... This obviously results in the assumption of the legislative and executive powers of the State by the Union," the Committee said (p 21).

It recommended that Article 356 — the provision that allows the Centre to impose President's Rule in a state — be repealed, and that a strong Inter-State Council be set up under Article 263 to resolve differences through dialogue.

### Control over money

The Committee also criticised institutions such as the Planning Commission, which was created by an executive order of the Centre. "The Centre has got a whip in its hands...because the grants are given by the Centre at its discretion... The Plan allocation is left entirely to the whims and fancies of

those who call themselves Members of the Planning Body" (p 8).

This, it said, had made the Finance Commission — which has a constitutional mandate — irrelevant. Worse, it had rendered states "suppliants for aid" in their own jurisdictions. The report warned that the "Triple" of central planning, massive grants, and party politics was eroding the federal balance.

### EXPLAINED HISTORY

### Meaning of 'strength'

The Committee questioned the understanding that a strong Centre is essential for India's unity.

"By taking upon itself too many obligations...the Centre will become incurably weak," it cautioned, adding that true strength lay in restraint and clarity of purpose, not expansionism (p 19).

The Committee quoted from

Annadurai's "trenchant criticism" of the implications of a "strong" Centre (1967): "I want the Centre to be strong enough to maintain the sovereignty and integrity of India [but]...I would put it in another way. It is to safeguard the independence of the country... Anybody will accept...that all these powers needed to make the Centre responsible for the safety of this country ought to be with the Centre. But that does not mean that the Centre in order to safeguard India from Pakistanis or the Chinese or the Baluchis, should think of having a health department here. In what way does that strengthen the sovereignty and independence of India? Should they have an education department here? In what way does that improve the fighting capacity of the military personnel there?"

### Now, once again

Annadurai's successor as Chief Minister, M Karunanidhi, submitted the report to

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1974. And half a century later, under vastly different political skies, the Stalin-led DMK government is once again asking uncomfortable questions about federalism.

Tamil Nadu has had high-profile disputes with the BJP-led central government over NEET, GST compensation, delimitation, and language policy, among others.

By invoking the Rajamannar Committee, Stalin seeks not just policy reform, but ideological realignment — returning to the Dravidian movement's core belief in state empowerment.

The newly constituted committee will study the current legal framework and recommend steps to restore state rights.

Whether its findings will be heeded in New Delhi is uncertain. The Rajamannar Report was never acted upon by the Centre. Its recommendations, echoed later by the Sarkaria Commission (1988) and Punchhi Commission (2010), remain largely shelved.







TALKS FOR A LONG-PENDING PACT ENTER FINAL STAGES

Goyal, Reynolds meet to push India-UK free trade agreement beyond finish line

RAVIDUTTAMISHRA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

AS RADICAL changes in US trade policy speed up bilateral trade deal-making globally, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met his counterpart, UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds, in London, for the conclusion of a long-pending trade agreement.

“Arrived in London for two days of engaging discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations. In my first engagement, held a productive meeting with the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds to advance Free Trade Agreement negotiations, reinforcing our commitment to deepening India-UK economic ties,” Goyal said in social media post.

The Indian Express had earlier this month reported that no new round of talks was being planned, as negotiations had entered their final stages, with only a few thorny issues pending between the two countries. Agreement on rules of origin and short-term service visas were among the remaining issues.

Goyal’s visit comes within a month of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s visit to the UK amid parallel discussions for a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) alongside the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

Meanwhile, Politico reported that India has accepted that Britain will only offer “minor changes to its visa regime” as negotiations for a trade deal enter



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal with UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds in London on Monday.

@PiyushGoyal

their final stages. The new rules will lead to “around 100 new visas” for Indian workers each year, a UK official told Politico.

The UK’s visa concession is a long way from New Delhi’s opening gambit, the official said, with India originally proposing larger quotas for professionals, particularly in sectors like IT and healthcare. This could be bad news for Indian negotiators, as the services sector was a key area where India could have benefited through greater access to service sector visas. A Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) report stated that the India-UK FTA is expected to

yield only limited trade benefits for India, as many of its exports to the UK already enjoy low or zero tariffs. On the contrary, the UK’s exports face considerable tariffs in India, particularly on items like cars, Scotch whisky, and wines. The tariff on cars is 100 per cent, and on Scotch whisky and wines, it is 150 per cent. The FTA could lead to tariff reductions on these goods, potentially offering the UK deeper access to Indian markets.

While the UK has asked India to reduce duties on cars and whisky among other items, India has sought better access for its service sector workforce in the UK.

The deal could see India lower duties to a greater extent, as it is a high-tariff country. The average tariff on goods imported from India into the UK is 4.2 per cent, but the average tariff in India on goods imported from the UK is 14.6 per cent.

Negotiations on cars and whisky have been hectic, as Indian industry has been seeking greater access to the UK market too. Indian whisky manufacturers have said that the UK should ease its three-year maturation rule, which acts as a barrier for Indian whisky brands seeking entry into the UK. The UK is seeking duty concessions in the auto sector, particularly in the EV segment.

India’s labour-intensive sectors are expected to see major gains from the India-UK FTA, especially the textile sector. Indian textile exports face tariffs as high as 10 per cent in the UK, and a trade deal could put India on par with competitors such as Bangladesh, helping to revive textile exports. Meanwhile, greater integration in the services sector with the UK could help create more jobs in the fast-growing industry.

Notably, the UK’s carbon tax has been a concern for India, as it could restrict Indian exports of metal products. The UK is currently in talks with the EU to align its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), expected in 2027, with a similar tax in Brussels on high-carbon emission imports such as steel, aluminium and cement. Progress to align the systems in London and Brussels is expected at a key UK-EU summit on May 19.

One of first US trade deals may be with India: Bessent

Washington: US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday said many top US trading partners had made “very good” proposals to avert US tariffs, and one of the first deals to be signed would likely be with India. “I would guess that India would be one of the first trade deals we would sign,” Bessent told CNBC, adding that the US had also held very substantial negotiations with Japan and discussions with other Asian trading partners were going well.

“Vice President Vance was in India last week, talked about substantial progress. 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,” Bessent told CNBC.

Speaking to reporters after two early morning television interviews, Bessent said the first such trade agreement might come this week or next.

He told CNBC that China’s recent moves to exempt certain US goods from its retaliatory tariffs showed that it wanted to de-escalate trade tensions with the United States, and said the US had refrained from escalating by embargoing those goods. REUTERS

PAKISTAN AIRSPACE CLOSURE

Govt working with airlines to assess extent of impact, find solutions

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

THE GOVERNMENT is working with Indian airlines to get a better assessment of the impact of Pakistani airspace closure, and to work out the best possible solutions for the passengers and carriers, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said Monday. According to Naidu, options on alternative routes will also be discussed in arriving at potential solutions, and the government’s priority is to try and see that the airspace closure does not adversely impact the average Indian passenger too much.

“The very next day (after Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers), we sat with the airlines. We got all the initial feedback, but I told them to work out more thoroughly what the assessment is going to be if this continues for six months or one year, what routes are going to be affected, and how the difference is going to be in future between the Indian carriers and the foreign carriers. We need to have a thorough understanding on all of this before we decide,” the minister told reporters. With Pakistan closing its airspace to Indian airlines from April 24 evening, over 800 international flights a week operated by Indian carriers are likely to be impacted by longer durations, increased fuel burn, and a few other complexities related to crew and flight scheduling, shows an analysis of airlines’ schedule data. All these flights were routinely overflying Pakistan on their way to various destinations to the west of India. The initial impact is already visible with Indian airlines’ flights from North India to West Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, the UK, and North America’s eastern region switching from their routine paths to longer routes.

Flight tracking data shows that some of Air India’s ultra-long-haul flights to and from North America are now taking technical halts—planned stops for refueling or crew change—at European airports, breaking the journey of the otherwise non-stop flights. The Indian carriers are working to ad-



File

just their schedules to factor in the ban from Pakistani airspace. IndiGo has already suspended its flights to Central Asian cities of Almaty and Tashkent as the closure of Pakistani airspace renders these destinations beyond the range of its aircraft. According to industry insiders, Indian airlines’ costs are bound to rise, which could translate into higher fares for passengers. Additionally, airlines from other countries will get cost and time advantage over Indian airlines as the Pakistani airspace remains open for them.

“The Indian passenger is going to be affected, especially someone going to Europe or America, long-haul flights from the northern sector. So, we’ll have to assess how much impact it is going to create, then we’ll try to come up with some solutions. And for that, we are going to closely work with the airlines,” Naidu said.

All major Indian airlines operate international flights to destinations to the west of the country, and many of these flights were routinely overflying Pakistan. Air India operates flights to West Asia, Europe, the UK, and North America, while IndiGo operates flights to West Asia, Turkey, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Air India Express, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet’s west-bound international flights are to destinations in West Asia.

On being asked if there is any alternative route that flights heading north and north-west of India could take without entering Pakistan’s airspace, the minister said that while there may be such

EXPLAINED

Airspace closure to bump up costs for carriers

INDIAN AIRLINES’ costs are bound to rise, which could translate into higher fares. Additionally, airlines from other countries will get cost and time advantage over Indian airlines as the Pakistani airspace remains open for them.

a flight path going through China, but it poses its own challenges.

“Technically speaking, they can go up north and take a route from the eastern side (through Chinese territory)...But the challenge there is that it’s a high-altitude route. You have to go over the Himalayas and then enter that region. So again, the technical capability of the aircraft and the pilots and the crew, all that comes into the picture...Any decision that you take in aviation, you can’t ignore safety. So, that becomes the utmost priority, even if it takes little longer you have to find a safer route,” Naidu said.

In response to a question on whether the government would be open to assisting Indian airlines financially for any loss they might incur due to the closure of Pakistani airspace, the minister said that he would not go as far as talking about any financial assistance to carriers at this stage.

When Pakistan closed its airspace for over four months in 2019 following the Balakot airstrikes by the Indian Air Force, Indian airlines are estimated to have lost around Rs 700 crore due to higher fuel expenses and operational complications that came with longer routes and additional stopovers some of their flights were forced to take. Air India was the worst affected Indian carrier at the time, as it operated more west-bound international flights than other airlines. Moreover, it was and continues to be the only Indian airline that operates long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights to Europe and North America.

BRIEFLY

Govt forms manufacturing mission panel

New Delhi: The government has set up an inter-ministerial committee to frame the broad contours of the proposed national manufacturing mission, announced in the Budget in February, an official said. The committee, established under the chairmanship of Niti Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam, is holding a series of stakeholder consultations. PTI

UltraTech posts ₹2,474-crore net profit in Q4

New Delhi: UltraTech Cement Ltd on Monday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,474.79 crore for the March quarter. It posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,258.58 crore in the year-ago period, the Aditya Birla group flagship firm said. PTI

IDBI Bank Q4 profit rises 26% to ₹2,051 crore

New Delhi: IDBI Bank on Monday reported 26 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 2,051 crore for the March quarter of FY25. The LIC-controlled bank had posted a net profit of Rs 1,628 crore for the year-ago period. PTI

IndusInd Bank’s deputy CEO Arun Khurana resigns

Mumbai: IndusInd Bank on Monday announced the resignation of deputy CEO Arun Khurana, weeks after it disclosed accounting lapses in its derivatives portfolio. REUTERS

Urban Company files draft papers for ₹1.9K-cr IPO

New Delhi: Urban Company on Monday filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,900 crore through an IPO. PTI

Factory output grows marginally to 3% in March; FY25 growth slows to 4%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

FACTORY OUTPUT growth picked up pace marginally to rise sequentially to 3 per cent in March from a six-month low of 2.7 per cent in February, even as it stayed lower than 5.5 per cent growth seen in the corresponding period a year ago, primarily due to weak mining growth, data released by National Statistics Office (NSO) on Monday showed. For the full financial year 2024-25, factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 4 per cent as against 5.9 per cent in the previous year.

Economists said advancement of the IIP data release date could be one of the reasons for lower-than-expected print in March. The IIP data for March was the first release after the NSO announced the change in timing to 28th of every month instead of 12th earlier. The time lag for the release of the industrial output data has been reduced to 28 days from 42 days at present.

“The IIP growth for March 2025 came in slightly lower than our forecast of 3.3 per cent. It is possible that the lower response rate associated with the preponing of the data release has damp-

IIP DATA RELEASE DATE HAS BEEN ADVANCED

THE IIP data for March was the first release after the NSO announced the change in timing to 28th of every month instead of 12th earlier

THE TIME lag for the release of the industrial

output data has been reduced to 28 days from 42 days at present

ECONOMISTS SAID advancement of the IIP data release date could be one of the reasons for lower-than-expected print in March

ened the estimated growth rate, which may subsequently undergo a relatively larger revision as compared to that seen in the past,” Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA said. She also said that while there is some evidence as well as commentary around frontloading in exports to the US, it needs to be seen whether this is driven by redirection away from other geographies or a bump up in output in the ongoing month.

As per the NSO, the quick estimate for IIP for a specific month will undergo revision only once, in the next month as the final estimate. Now, there will be only two estimates (quick estimate and final estimate) of a particular month instead of the earlier practice of releasing three estimates (quick estimates followed by a first revised estimate and second revised (final) estimate).

Manufacturing output, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, picked up pace slightly to grow 3 per cent in March from 2.8 per cent in the previous month, even as it was lower than 5.9 per cent in the year-ago period. “In sequential terms, the improvement in growth of electricity and mild uptick in that of manufacturing was offset to a large extent by the dip in the growth of mining,” Nayar said.

Electricity output grew by 6.3 per cent in March from 3.6 per cent in February, but it was lower than 8.6 per cent in the year-ago period. Mining output growth slumped to 0.4 per cent in March from 1.6 per cent in February and 1.3 per cent in March 2024, the data showed.

Infrastructure industries performed well with 17-month high

M&M eyes market share boost riding on SML Isuzu buy for ₹555 cr

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

THE SML Isuzu acquisition is strategically aimed at growing market share in the truck and bus segments, while also achieving greater cost efficiencies in the tractor segment, said Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Monday. The board of M&M on Saturday approved a proposal to acquire a 59 per cent stake in SML Isuzu for a total outlay of Rs 555 crore.

SML Isuzu, based in Punjab and India’s seventh-largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, saw its stock fall 10 per cent on the BSE, hitting the lower circuit limit.

SML Isuzu has a strong presence in the intermediate and

The board of M&M has approved a proposal to acquire a 59% stake in SML Isuzu for a total outlay of Rs 555 crore. SML Isuzu, based in Punjab, is India’s 7th-largest commercial vehicle manufacturer

light commercial bus segment, an area where M&M has been a smaller player. SML’s market share in the light bus segment is close to 16 per cent. Along with M&M’s own portfolio, the share jumps to 21 per cent after the acquisition. Rajesh Jejurikar, executive di-

rector, M&M, said: “We have a 3 per cent share of the overall trucks and buses segment. In FY19, it was close to 5 per cent. Last two years, we have been trying to get back this share. Our aspiration is to get to a 10-12 per cent share in FY31. A lot of this share gain will come from the LCV and ILCV segment.”

SML also has products in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle (MHCV) segment, where, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, its share stands at 2 per cent.

“In the MHCV segment, where we do not have a presence in the bus segment, our share was 3 per cent but is now at 2 per cent. We want to increase it to 5 per cent over the next 5 years,” Jejurikar added. FE

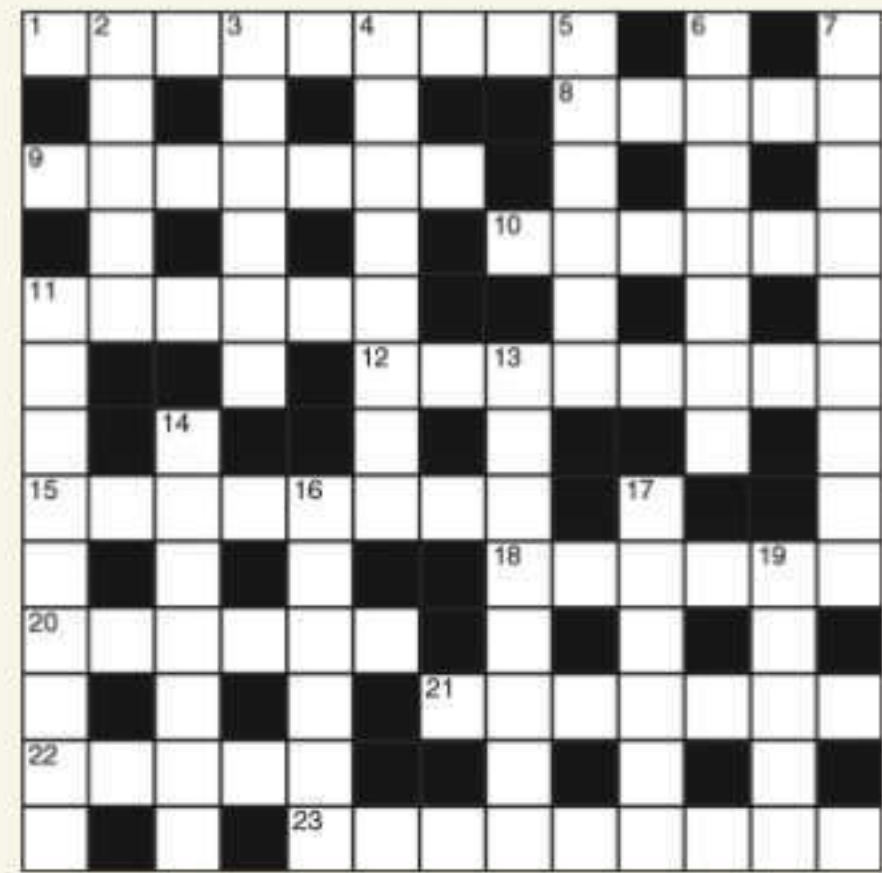
Address infra gaps to prevent UPI disruption: FM to NPCI

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively to address infrastructure gaps while underscoring the need to target 1 billion UPI transactions per day within the next 2-3 years. A review meeting was chaired by the Finance Minister.

UPI users experienced transaction failures on April 12, the third in less than a fortnight. “FM Smt. @nsitharaman urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively to address infrastructure gaps, enhance the end-user experience and cybersecurity architecture. The Union Finance Minister directed @NPCL\_NPCI to reinforce UPI’s robustness and prevent future disruptions,” the Finance Ministry said in a post on X. PTI



CROSSWORD 5662



- ACROSS
- 1 Time for a waltz? (5-4)
- 8 What might be there to put you out? (5)
- 9 Young gangster's time " of life (7)
- 10 Home brewing accessory (6)
- 11 Job is finished before these songs start (6)
- 12 Putting wild cattle on a ship is lacking sense (8)
- 15 Hardback produced by a printer (8)
- 18 A Verdi composition that's different (6)
- 20 The insecure should, when they lose heart (6)
- 21 Drunken coroner found singing (7)
- 22 A shade inexperienced? (5)
- 23 Make a smashing entrance (9)
- DOWN
- 2 Expression of disapproval by motorists or Scotsmen (5)
- 3 Get out of breath being no longer fit (6)
- 4 Twelve-inch pace? (8)
- 5 Modern note and coin (6)
- 6 Air transport for a lumberjack (7)
- 7 Rest opted out and objected (9)
- 11 First on the list of Christmas presents (9)
- 13 Remain silent? No, just the opposite (8)
- 14 Frustrated; that's what a mule is (7)
- 16 Display by top-class band (6)
- 17 Protection for king in love (6)
- 19 Vessels were wrecked on the point (5)

Solutions Crossword 5661 Across: 1 Low-down, 4 Laden, 7 Cats, 8 Censured, 10 More or less, 12 Take in, 13 Peanut, 15 Antifreeze, 18 Relieved, 19 Asks, 20 Mates, 21 Soundly Down: 1 Locum, 2 Water-ski, 3 Needle, 4 Losses heart, 5 Dark, 6 No doubt, 9 Motionless, 11 Unversed, 12 Tantrum, 14 Divers, 16 Essay, 17 Plot

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. True art is characterized by an \_\_\_\_\_ in the creative artist. - Albert Einstein (12,4)

EEEIR

IRRCI

LSTIST

GSUINB

Solution: True art is characterized by an irresistible urge in the creative artist. - Albert Einstein

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5939

Difficulty Level 1s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

7			3					9
	9	5		8	4	1		
	2	8	4		7			
	7		2		8	6		
5		1		9				4
	6	1		4			5	
		7			2	3	4	
	5	4	6		3		2	
6			1					8

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5938

8	3	4	7	9	1	2	6	5
9	2	6	8	4	5	3	7	1
7	5	1	2	6	3	9	8	4
2	4	9	3	8	6	5	1	7
5	8	7	4	1	2	6	9	3
1	6	3	5	7	9	8	4	2
3	9	8	1	5	4	7	2	6
4	7	5	6	2	8	1	3	9
6	1	2	9	3	7	4	5	8

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

CORRIGENDUM

Ref : Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(EP)/24-25/G/09

Following changes are made:-

S. No	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid Submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Deptt. Name
13	Polymerase Chain Reaction Machine (Multi-Block/Gradient/ Droplet Digital/Real Time	28.04.2025	12.06.2025	29.04.2025	13.06.2025	Immunopathology

All other details shall remain the same. Professor In-Charge (EP)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re/E T No.190&191/2024-25/SE/Q

JIM- Construction of 6MLD WTP & 3.00LL capacity OHSR in Piravanthoor and Pattazhy Vadakkekara panchayath EMD : Rs. 500000, 200000 Tender fee : Rs. 16540-2978, 11025+1985 Last Date for submitting Tender : 30-05-2025 02:00pm Phone : 0474 2745293 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-33-2025-26

Superintending Engineer PH Circle Kollam

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY

(A body constituted under Rajasthan State Highways Act, 2014)

Corporate Office: Nirman Bhawan, Jacob Road, Civil Lines, Jaipur-302006 E-mail: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in

No. E7(644)/RSHA/WB/Tt-01/HAM-04/2021-22D-44 Date: 15-04-2025

NIT No. 06/2025-26

Bids for Services of Independent Engineer during Operation and Maintenance of "Ramseen-Bhinmal-Nariwara Section of SH-31 from Design (Km 0.000 to Km 62.619) existing (Km. 44.800 to Km 107.600 (Total length 62.619 Km) in the state of Rajasthan under on Hybrid Annuity mode (Package No. RSHIP II Package WB/RSHIP II/Tt:01/HAM-04) are invited from interested bidders upto 11:30 AM on 15.05.2025.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (https://eproc-rajasthan.gov.in https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state. The estimated cost of the service is 2.18 Cr.

UBN: PWD2526SL0B00402

Sd/- Member (Tech.) RSHA, Jaipur

DIPRC/S366/2025

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. EL-G-RNC-OT-SOLAR-17-25, dated 25.04.2025.

e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/Ranchi, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work which is scheduled to open on 19.05.2025 at 16.00 hrs. or later.

Brief description/Name of the work : Supply, installation, commissioning and testing of Solar Power Plant at Ranchi Division. Tender cost : ₹ 12,66,56,210.25.

EMD/Bid security : ₹ 7,83,300/-. Tender closing date & time : 16.00 hrs. on 19.05.2025. Website participation : https://www.ireps.gov.in/ The tender detail can be viewed at the website https://www.ireps.gov.in The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderers/bidders can participate on e-tender. (PR-87)

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.

CIN : U60100MH2015SGC262054

(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)

(Thane Metro Rail Project)

"Metro Bhavan", VIP Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspath, Nagpur-440010. Telefax : 0712-2554217, E-mail: plnmrcl@gmail.com, Website : www.mahametro.org

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

It is for information of all concerned that Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (Maha-Metro) is implementing Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project. The total length of the corridor is 29 km with 22 stations and one depot.

RITES Limited on behalf of Maha-Metro will conduct Social Impact Assessment study (SIA) and Public Consultation at project level for Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project wherein public participation will be solicited. The SIA study will be commenced from 02 May 2025. During the course of the study RITES's Survey Team will interact with the stakeholders of the project including project affected people, government departments, citizens, Resident Welfare Association (RWA) representatives, trade union/market representatives, educational institutions, scientists, CBOs, NGOs etc. All stakeholders are hereby requested to cooperate with the Survey Team.

Director (Project) Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गुवाहाटी

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, GUWAHATI

(A statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam, Kamrup, Assam-781101, Website: www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in)

RFP No: 05/01/Cafeteria/Engg/AIIMS-GHY/2025-26/01 Dated: 11.04.2025

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Superintending Engineer (i/c), AIIMS Guwahati invites bids from eligible bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the bid document for "Leasing/Running of Cafeteria at AIIMS Guwahati". The Bid document is published in (aiimsguwahati.ac.in). Hard copy of bids (technical and financial in different sealed envelope) along with all forms and supporting documents shall be submitted offline to the Superintending Engineer (i/c), AIIMS Guwahati, Changsari, Kamrup (R) Guwahati: 781101, Assam.

Date of issue of bid document 11.04.2025.

Last date of submission of bids 02.05.2025 at 15.00 hrs.

Sd/- Supdt. Engineer (i/c) AIIMS Guwahati

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BHOPAL

Saket Nagar, Bhopal-462020 (India)

NIT No. AIIMSBHOPAL-TENDER/NIT/25-26/30 Date:28/04/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

AIIMS Bhopal invites e-Tender from registered manufacturers/dealers/ distributors/Contractors for below mentioned items:

E-Tender ID No.	Required Items/Services at AIIMS Bhopal	Est. Cost
AIIMS/Bhopal/Path Lab/RC/2024-25/33	Rate Contract for the Supply of Antibodies for flow cytometry investigation of leukemia, lymphoma cases for the Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine.	41,00,000/-
GEM/2025/B/6068192	Microwave Ablation System	57,50,000/-
AIIMS/BPL/Gel Card/2025-26/034	Rate Contract for Procurement of Gel Card for the department of TMBB at AIIMS Bhopal	Not Disclosed
AIIMS/BPL/Antisera/2 025-26/035	Rate Contract for Procurement of Antisera for the department of TMBB at AIIMS Bhopal	Not Disclosed

For further details of the above e-Tenders, the prospective bidders may please visit email: [www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in](mailto:www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in) and Email: [spso@aiimsbhopal.edu.in](mailto:spso@aiimsbhopal.edu.in). Tenders may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal [www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in](http://www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in) and CPP Portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). Any corrigendum/ amendments related to this NIT shall be published in the same websites only.

I/c Senior Procurement Cum Store Officer For & On behalf of Director, AIIMS Bhopal.

भारत सरकार, रक्षा मंत्रालय

रक्षा समर्पदा अधिकारी का कार्यालय, मुख्य वृत्त, मुख्य - ४००००५, दुर्गापुर : ०२२-२२२५३२३२

Government of India, Ministry of Defence, O/o. Defence Estates Officer Mumbai Circle, Colaba, Mumbai-400005 Telephone No. 022-22153232 (Telephone)

फाईल संख्या GEN/NEW/64/Project/X/93 दिनांक : 24.04.2025

E-Auction Notice

DEFENCE Estates Officer Mumbai Circle invites interested bidders to attend the E-auction on 19.05.2025 between 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs at online portal of Government e-auction System website [www.eauction.gov.in](http://www.eauction.gov.in) towards disposal of 34 standing trees under the project: Demolition and reconstruction of high security perimeter wall at INS Hamla Marve Malad (W), Mumbai. Document submission/ Payment Start date is 01.05.2025 and Document submission/ Payment end date is 13.05.2025. The trees will be shown on 30.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Necessary terms and conditions, list of documents required, e-auction form etc. shall be uploaded on online portal of Government e-auction System website [www.eauction.gov.in](http://www.eauction.gov.in) or can be seen/ obtained in the office hours at Office of Defence Estates Office, Mumbai Circle, Colaba Mumbai.

Sd/- (Harsha H. E. IDES) Defence Estates Officer Mumbai Circle

NPCL

Noida Power Company Limited

Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310 (CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)

TENDER NOTICE Date:29.04.2025

Sealed tender under two Bid System (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following job from all interested bidders

NIT No.	Tender Description	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Start and Due Date & Time of Submission
NPCL/FY25-26/AMC/04	AMC 11kV & 33kV Network Maintenance across NPCL area	Lot 1: 15.0 Lot 2: 3.0 Lot 1 & 2: 18.0	
NPCL/FY25-26/SS-PTR/05	Supply of 33/11kV 12.5 MVA & 16 MVA Power Transformer	18.0	
NPCL/FY25-26/SS-AIS/06	Supply of 11kv & 33kv AIS ID Panel Switch Board	7.0	
NPCL/FY25-26/SS-GIS/07	SITC of 33kV GIS ID Panel Switch Board	3.5	
NPCL/FY25-26/IT-FMS/08	Implementation of Fund Management System	0.65	
NPCL/FY25-26/Vehicle/09	Hiring of Vehicles on Rental Basis	2.0	

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/-

For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website [www.noidapower.com](http://www.noidapower.com)->Procurement->Tenders

Head (CMM)



IPL SNIPPETS



Under Gautam Gambhir, Harshit Rana has debuted for India across all three formats. *Sportzpics*

Aura associated with Gambhir slightly missing for me: Rana

**New Delhi:** The sense of aura and thrill associated with Gautam Gambhir's presence in the KKR dug-out is slightly missing during the ongoing season, feels India speedster Harshit Rana, who was singlehandedly fast-tracked into international cricket by the current national head coach. Under Gambhir's mentorship, Harshit had a breakthrough IPL 2024 season in which he snapped 19 scalps in KKR's IPL-winning campaign and never looked back. Before another 12 months ended, Gambhir had ensured that the burly pacer, who gets some zip off the surface makes his India debut across all three formats and does decently. Asked if the team misses him, Harshit replied: "I won't say that because composition of our support staff is basically the same (from last year). (Abhishek) Nayar Bhai has also come back. Chandu Sir, (Dwayne) Bravo are all good. But yes, there is this thrill factor which I miss a little. I am not talking about anyone else." When prodded to elaborate on Gambhir, he said: "You also know that Gambhir has an aura, the way he comes and takes the team along. I was just talking about that." **PTI**

Podcasters told to remove IPL content

**New Delhi:** A "polite legal letter" from the BCCI has prompted the creators of a popular Australian podcast to take down "every single video" related to their coverage of the ongoing Indian Premier League from their social media accounts. Sam Perry and Ian Higgins, who host The Grade Cricketer, received a legal notice from the BCCI and the IPL over the weekend. "You may have noticed that every single video from our coverage of this year's cricket tournament has been removed from YouTube, YouTube Shorts, Facebook, Instagram and X," Perry said on the podcast on Monday. "This is something we've done ourselves, it hasn't been done to us, we have removed these videos. On Saturday evening Australian time we received a very polite legal letter about elements of our content from the cricket tournament we speak to you about pertaining specifically to this season. "As a result we decided to take those videos down," he added. **PTI**

**SYNOPSIS:** It was a night that belonged to 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, whose swashbuckling 38-ball 101 overshadowed the batting displays of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill to lead RR to a dominant win.

**VENKATA KRISHNA B**  
APRIL 28

IT WAS an evening where India's batting talent came to the forefront across both the innings. If Shubman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan appeared to be two young blokes who want to carry forward India's proud batting legacy that is tied to textbook shots in the classical mould, in the run chase, 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi showed what modern day T20 is all about with a century that came of 35 deliveries. Watching it from the other end was Yashasvi Jaiswal, another special talent who is already a household name, who made an unbeaten 70 as Rajasthan Royals chased down the 210-run target that Gujarat Titans set for them with 25 balls to spare and 8 wickets in hand.

Power and muscle

Vaibhav and Jaiswal love hitting the cricket ball. There is something about the loud thud that they love when their willow comes in contact with the ball. It gives them an adrenaline rush. When it runs high, like it did in Jaipur on Monday, they become an irresistible force, who leave even the opponents short on questions. It is what Gujarat endured when they came out with 209 runs to defend.

In his storied career, as a player and as a coach, Rahul Dravid has seen many talents. But as Suryavanshi kept sending the white-ball high into the dark skies, he would follow its trajectory with his jaws-dropped. From Mohammed Siraj to Ishant Sharma, Rashid Khan to Washington Sundar, none of the Gujarat attack was spared by the teenaged Suryavanshi. Perhaps, it was the unknown package about him that made Gujarat repeatedly err by bowling in the slots that the left-hander preferred. With a natural flair to hit sixes, Suryavanshi didn't need any second invitation as runs poured. Such was the deluge of sixes and fours, that before Gujarat realised what hit them, it was all over. The onslaught of Suryavanshi was such that Jaiswal played second fiddle, remaining in the shadows to finish unbeaten on 70.

The night belonged to Suryavanshi who batted true to his age. He wasn't overawed by the occasion and didn't show signs of flinching when he was nearing the three-figure mark. He was on 64 off 28 balls before reaching his 100 in the next seven deliveries with a 6, 4, 6, 4, 4, 6, 6. It was his favourite pull shot, off Rashid Khan no less, that helped him reach the landmark. Balanced with his stance, he is blessed with the ability to pick the length early and if Gujarat pacers tried to intimidate the 14-year-old by targeting his body, he feasted on them by sending it over the ropes on 11 occasions.

Gill & Sai, the kill joy

Unlike the Rajasthan Royals duo, their counterparts Gill and Sai Sudharsan are all about flamboyance and grace. As has been the case so far, it was another outing where the duo set up the game for Gujarat with a 93-run stand which came in 10.2 overs. With a base intact, Jos Buttler walked in at No 3 to finish the job with the help of the middle-order as Gujarat put 209/4 when they seldom appeared to hit top gear. Maybe they would rue not pressing further.

Much of the damage as usual happened in the powerplay where Gill and Sai Sudharsan served a feast of the most eye-catching boundaries. The left-hander started it all in the first over with a graceful flick off



14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi hit 101 from 38 balls, including seven fours and 11 sixes against Gujarat Titans in Jaipur on Monday.

*Sportzpics/BCCI*

STANDINGS							
	M	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR	
RCB	10	7	3	0	14	0.521	
MI	10	6	4	0	12	0.889	
GT	9	6	3	0	12	0.748	
DC	9	6	3	0	12	0.482	
PBKS	9	5	3	1	11	0.177	
LSG	10	5	5	0	10	-0.325	
KKR	9	3	5	1	7	0.212	
RR	10	3	7	0	6	-0.349	
SRH	9	3	6	0	6	-1.103	
CSK	9	2	7	0	4	-1.302	

Jofra Archer by getting up high on his toes. Off Maheesh Theekshana, he brought out cover-drives that scorched the Sawai Man Singh surface before being offered a life by Shimron Hetmyer. He would then again bring out what is turning into his trademark flicks off Archer and Theekshana. Apart from the wonderful transfer of weight from front foot to back, it was the timing that stood out in both the shots.

Gill wasn't going to be left behind. Off three successive deliveries from Yuvhir Singh and Archer, he came up with as many boundaries with his wrist work at its regal best. First up was the short-arm pull that went over mid-wicket. Then came a fore-hand pull, which soared over the mid-on fielder. And the pick of the lot came off Archer, where he stood tall and brought out a textbook straight-drive that sped to the fence. Thereafter, it was all about stamping their authority. Gill picked up his pace further as he opened up his shoulders to hit four sixes as Buttler took a bit of time to get his eye in. Despite losing Gill for 84, Buttler ensured Gujarat got a couple of big overs to finish at 209/4.

**Brief Scores:** Gujarat Titans 209/4 in 20 overs (Gill 84, Buttler 50) lost to Rajasthan Royals 212/2 in 15.5 overs (Suryavanshi 101, Jaiswal 70) by eight wickets.

Another slow turner at Kotla could put DC on back foot against KKR

**NAMIT KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

IN THEIR six-wicket loss to the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Sunday, Delhi Capitals (DC) had to contain a sluggish, two-paced surface with plenty of turn on offer, a far cry from the batting paradise that their traditional home patch at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground was last year.

2151 runs were belted in five games in New Delhi in the 2024 season at an average strike rate of 179.39. In the three games there so far this year, despite the tiny boundaries, scoring has been contained by the spinners – not only through the smarts of Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav, but also bringing the likes of Vipraj Nigam and Karn Sharma into play.

Call the correction a side-effect of the reversal of the ban on using saliva on the ball, allowing crucial reverse swing at the death, and a general aversion in the kind of wickets that most IPL grounds have seen this year. But so far, games at the Kotla are shedding the tag of being all-out run fests.

In particular, Sunday's slower, dry surface where the ball got stuck in led to a low-scoring affair in which batting was only made easy once dew set in for the chasing side. Despite having a pair of elite Indian spinners though, DC mentor Kevin Pietersen would like for a different kind of playing surface for their match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Tuesday. "It (the pitch) depends on the opposition," he said after the defeat to RCB about DC's struggles to win in New Delhi. "With the kind of players and the kind of team that Bengaluru are, this was probably a better wicket to play against them, whereas against KKR on Tuesday, I hope it's not the wicket we had tonight."



Varun Chakravarthy (L) and Sunil Narine can be dangerous for KKR. *Sportzpics/BCCI*

With home comforts hard to buy for DC this season – they have lost two of the three games in the capital, and their only win was via Super Over courtesy some heroics from Mitchell Starc – Pietersen's apprehensions about a slower wicket stand to reason. Their batters have shown a struggle to accelerate in the middle overs and build partnerships once spinners come into play in each of the three games.

And the upcoming opposition can make them pay. Despite KKR's faltering season – the defending champions languishing in seventh place with just three wins in nine – Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy, have been in form, taking seven and 11 wickets respectively and staying economical. The two were seen in an hour-long training session on the eve of the game, and if the conditions play similarly to Sunday, they will be crucial for KKR. In that case, a curious battle of spin –

Axar, Kuldeep vs Narine, Chakravarthy – may hold the key in the battle for DC to turn around their home form.

Local boy and KKR speedster Harshit Rana is quite sure about how the wicket will behave. "Expectations (from the pitch) are the same. Bounce usually remains low at Kotla. The slower one was gripping the surface (in Sunday's game) and the RCB bowlers made good use of that," he said at the pre-match press conference here on Monday.

A larger debate may occur about whether or not slow conditions are conducive to the entertainment that this tournament wants to create at all costs. Pietersen feels it's good for the game in general. "Is it good to see the bowlers being served up into the stands like last year? Do people want to see that every night? I know I don't. I don't think it's a bad thing (to have slow pitches at times)," he said, just not for Tuesday's game, he wished with a grin.

Puja on Pujara: A woman's voice narrates story of men's cricket

**SANDEEP DWIVEDI**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

A COUPLE of years ago, after India's 2023 World Test Championship final loss to Australia, their perpetual No.3 Cheteshwar Pujara got the call that most cricketers in their mid-30s dread. It was the chief selector on line informing him that they wanted a younger Test side and he wasn't part of it. Despite his 100-plus Tests, unlike other equally out-of-form seniors, he didn't get the long rope. Pujara, a veteran of many setbacks and comebacks, was hurt. True to his temperament, he went silent.

But not his wife, Puja, a close witness and sherpa to Cheteshwar's arduous cricketing journey. She was outraged, her anger exploded into pithy rhetorical questions: Why was Cheteshwar expected to shoulder the blame for India's defeat? Why should you put yourself through so much scrutiny? Why don't you call it quits? Both knew, there were no answers.

Then Puja said something that would go on to be the theme of a book she would pursue in the days to come: "You are not the only one who is going through these highs and lows. We, as your family, are equally affected by it."

Two years later, the one-of-a-kind sports

book -- "The diary of a cricketer's wife" (HarperCollins) -- is out and the scene at the Pujara household when he got dropped finds space on its pages. The cover calls the book "A very unusual memoir" but there is a case for adding 'honest' to the tag line.

Sporting arenas have been insensitive in dismissing the partners of players as mere props. Often the support system and bouncing board of sporting superstars, the Wives and Girlfriends go by a rather reductive and dismissive collective noun – WAGs.

On match days, as they sit bunched in VVIP stadium boxes, they are expected to give the game situation appropriate expressions. In the grand cinema called Indian cricket, they have a bit part but no dialogues. Finally, there is a book that records the all-important female voice of men's cricket.

The Pujaras are keen to talk about the book. Puja says the role of wives, and other family members, rarely gets discussed in detail. "We are always given this glamorous role when that is not the case. Behind the smiles and cheering in the stadium, there are 20,000 thoughts in our head. They keep switching the cameras to the spouses. And that's where the story ends, right? Nobody follows up or nobody hears from the spouse also much after that," she tells *The Indian Express*.

Puja's book introduces readers to a world where the men of the house are perpetually



Puja and Pujara with 'The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife.'

absent. It's a peek into the lives of women who, at times, have a lonely existence with only fear and anxiety for company.

While the cricketers get hailed as gladiators, the wives are left to deal with the daily battles of raising kids and being the first, and at times, the only responders, to medical emergencies of elders. Most times, they don't

even have the option of sharing their problems with their cricketer partners. What if it disturbs the men burdened with unreasonable expectations of a cricket-crazy nation?

That was the reason, according to the book, why Puja hid from her husband the news about his father's heart condition while he was in the middle of that 2018-2019 historic series in Australia. She was holding the fort at home when Cheteshwar with three hundreds in four Test matches was conquering Australia -- India's first-ever series win Down Under.

With the second Test at Perth to start in a few hours, it was 2.30 am at the Pujara household in Rajkot. At that ungodly hour, Puja's phone rang. Next to her bed was her daughter, in the cradle yet to celebrate her first birthday.

It was her father-in-law calling from the first-floor of their home. He had a heart condition and was now suddenly feeling uneasy. Puja called Cheteshwar's cricketer-friend Kuldeep. She also reached out to his siblings and other relatives to take care of her daughter while she headed to the hospital. The doctor would later recommend "a heart ablation procedure".

Sleepless and stressed, she got the usual pre-match call from Cheteshwar -- a ritual they had followed for years. Puja had to act normal. The book captures that delicate mo-

ment of deception wonderfully. "The second Test was beginning that very morning, so I freshened up, took a short nap and woke up in time to wish Cheteshwar luck for the match. I carefully omitted all mention of the events of the previous night... 'How's the hamstring,' I asked casually. 'Fine,' he answered, insouciantly. 'Best of luck for the match,' I wished him, with a spurious attempt at jollity. 'Thanks,' he replied, distractedly, his mind already on the game ahead," Puja writes.

After the game, Cheteshwar was informed about his father's condition and the impending operation in Mumbai. That date clashed with the final Test in Sydney. When Puja was on the flight to Mumbai with her father-in-law, Cheteshwar was fighting the Aussie bowlers. When she reached the hospital, her husband had crossed a hundred.

The book says that while in the hospital lift, Puja saw attendants watching the India-Australia game on their mobile phones. Little did they know that the batsman they were following diligently had their hospital on his mind. When the operation ended, the day's play was over. Cheteshwar was unbeaten on 130. Next day, he ended up scoring 193. Cheteshwar had played the path-breaker, the Aussie bastion had fallen.

Puja awaited the homecoming of the national hero but was once again stumped by

cricket's uncertainties. She describes in the book another of those long-distance conversations with her famous husband. "A vacation? A teeny-weeny break -- as a treat for all the sleepless nights I had endured? These dreams lasted till Cheteshwar's next phone call. He had already booked his tickets to travel to Kanpur for Saurashtra's quarter-final game," Puja writes.

That wasn't new to Puja. Cheteshwar had missed the birth of his daughter because of another Ranji game previously.

Not a regular member of the India team, Cheteshwar tries his best these days to compensate for his long absences. He drops his daughter to school and in the days ahead will take a "back seat" if Puja wants to start a business or any other new venture.

Speaking to this newspaper, Puja refers to Cheteshwar's acknowledgment of the role she has played in his career and describes the joy of "being part of someone equally" and how that has made "everything worth it".

She goes back to the 2018-19 series in Australia to make her point. "Though I did not travel to Australia, just those raw emotions of fans gives you warmth and love. No matter how small or big a part you have played, it just feels so, so special. I feel like it's my victory as well. The warmth you see everywhere you travel, it just feels there's so much gratitude," she says.



BRIEFLY

Women’s baseball team for Asia Cup

**Bangkok:** The Indian women’s baseball team on Monday qualified for the Asian Cup to be held this year after entering the gold medal match of the qualifying tournament. India beat Thailand 6:5 to finish second in Super Round stage standings, while Indonesia took the top spot. The top two teams from the Super Round qualify for the main Asia Cup tournament. The top two teams — Indonesia and India — will also face in the gold medal match on Tuesday. In the eight-team Women’s Baseball Asia Cup Qualifiers, India had topped Group A after winning all their three matches — against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Iran. India had also competed in the Asian Cup in 2023 where it failed to get past the opening round.

Aravindh 3rd in Rapid & Blitz

**Warsaw:** Making his debut in the Grand Chess tour, India’s Aravindh Chithambaram had a good second day as he beat former world champion Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria and drew the last two games to find himself on the sole third spot in the Superbet Rapid and blitz chess tournament here. With each win worth two points, Alireza Firouzja of France and Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia share the lead on eight points each with Aravindh on seven points following them. As many as three players — Levon Aronian of United States, Deda Bogdan Dziel of Romania and Duda Jan-Krzysztof of Poland share the fourth place on six points each, a full point ahead of R Praggnanandhaa.

SSCB, Haryana dominate at Nat’nls

**Noida:** Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) and Haryana dominated the ring, claiming the team gold medal in men and women categories respectively at the Youth Men & Women National Boxing Championships on Monday. The week-long event was also a qualifier for the prestigious Under-19 Asian Boxing Championship 2025 with twenty boxers booking their berth. In the men’s team category, SSCB boxers consistently outclassed opponents across different weight categories winning six gold, one silver and two bronze medals. REC and Haryana finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. In the women’s team event, Haryana emerged as the overall champions with a haul of eight medals while Delhi and Rajasthan finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Why I League fiasco is a blow to AIFF’s credibility

Despite CAS order, football body hands trophy to Churchill only to take it back

MIHIR VASAVADA  
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

IN ANOTHER universe, the story could have been about the return of Churchill Brothers — one of India’s finest legacy football clubs — to the country’s top division. Or, it would have been about a team formed just 21 months ago, representing India’s most populous state but a footballing black hole — Uttar Pradesh — staging a remarkable triumph before their second birthday.

Either way, it would have made for a compelling tale, one that the I-League — severely mishandled by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) — constantly keeps producing.

Yet, it is neither.

On Sunday, three weeks after the final round of matches were played, the AIFF handed over the I-League trophy to Churchill Brothers. Minutes later, rather embarrassingly, they had to ring the club and ask them to return the silverware. This, after the intervention of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Inter Kashi had appealed the AIFF’s decision to declare Churchill as the champions before the sports court, which stayed the move. The AIFF said they went ahead with the trophy presentation, claiming they were unaware of the CAS order because their office was closed on Sunday.

And so, India’s tier 2 league still has no winners and the 13 Indian Super League teams will wait further to know which of the two teams — Churchill or Kashi — will join them in the top division next season.

The reason for this almighty mess? A mere technicality involving a nondescript, journeyman Brazilian forward who plays for neither of the two clubs.

The controversy

Dé — or Cledson Carvalho da Silva, a Brazilian centre forward — had played for a dozen clubs in seven years before he landed at Namdhari last year. In his uneventful career, he’s played 117 matches and scored 35 times, according to the website Transfermarkt. It’s the rare occasion Dé finds himself involved in a title battle — one where, ironically neither he nor his team Namdhari stand to gain.

On January 13, Namdhari beat Inter Kashi 2-0 in the I-League. After the match was over, Inter Kashi disputed the result, alleging that Namdhari had fielded an ineligible player, Dé. They contended that Dé should have been suspended under the AIFF’s rules, claiming he had accumulated four yellow



The stay on AIFF ruling has come as a relief for Inter Kashi. File/AIFF

cards through the season. The fact that one of his yellow cards led to a sending-off presented a confusing scenario for the parties involved.

The protest and the appeal

It took more than one month for the AIFF’s Disciplinary Committee, headed by a former Uttarakhand High Court judge, to announce its verdict. On February 24, the committee upheld Inter Kashi’s appeal and handed them a 3-0 win. At that point, it placed Inter Kashi above Churchill Brothers in the title race.

Namdhari immediately appealed the decision. The Punjab-based club claimed that the AIFF’s portal ‘did not show’ that the player was suspended for the match and hence, they fielded him.

Another month later, on March 27, the AIFF Appeals Committee, headed by a former Allahabad High Court judge, put the earlier decision in abeyance. It meant that Churchill regained their position at the top of the table. The appeals committee said it would continue hearing the case on April 28, long after the league was done and dusted.

Simultaneous celebrations

On April 6, when the referees blew their whistles for the final time this season, celebrations erupted simultaneously in Srinagar, where Churchill did just enough against Real Kashmir to finish top of the table with 40 points, and in Kalyani, where Inter Kashi defeated Rajasthan United.

Inter Kashi ended the season that afternoon 39 points but hoped that if the AIFF’s

appeals committee give the verdict in their favour, like the disciplinary panel, they would get the three points and leapfrog Churchill to become champions.

Amidst confusion and outcry over the lack of clarity regarding the champions, the appeals committee brought forward the hearing to April 12. And after speaking to all parties, it sided with Namdhari, thus paving the way for Churchill to be crowned the champions on April 20 — two weeks after the league was over.

Inter Kashi approached CAS, which on Sunday, when the AIFF handed over the trophy to Churchill, stayed the decision.

The saga, which will continue for the next few weeks (CAS has given Churchill and Namdhari time till Tuesday to submit their replies) has left the AIFF’s reputation battered.

AIFF’s reputation in tatters

The AIFF has already outsourced the running of the Indian Super League to Football Sports Development Limited, where Reliance Sports has a big say. It has left the national team in the doldrums because of a lack of vision. The grassroots programmes have been in limbo. Its coffers are drying up. And a Supreme Court verdict could well lead to another administrative shake-up.

Amidst all the gloom hanging over Indian football, the I-League kept the romance alive by dishing out thrilling finales one season after another and producing new champions from different corners of the country. Now, they have bungled up that, too.

This season could have been a story of the enduring resistance of the I-League. Rather, it turned into an event that landed another blow to the AIFF’s credibility.

Dutch coaches back in vogue after Slot’s success

REUTERS  
LIVERPOOL, APRIL 28

DUTCH COACHES have worked for decades across European leagues but Arne Slot is the first to win the top flight in England where many of his compatriots have suffered dents to their reputations over the years. The 46-year-old led Liverpool to the Premier League title with Sunday’s 5-1 thumping of Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield, sealing the championship with four games to spare and bolstering the image of coaches from his country. “(It feels special) because the country I’m from has a lot of great football players, had a lot of great managers as well,” Slot told reporters on Sunday. “To be the first one is so special, because that will always be, that will always stay the same.”

Taking over from German Juergen Klopp was always going to be a tough job but Slot proved a more than capable successor and joins Rinus Michels, Johan Cruyff, Leo Beenhakker, Louis van Gaal and Frank Rijkaard in winning a championship outside the Netherlands.

Michels was the first at Barcelona, where his concept of ‘total football’ encouraged players to frequently interchange positions and create devastating attacking play.

Cruyff and Rijkaard continued those principles and were also Spanish league winners, while Beenhakker, who died earlier this month, had LaLiga success with Real Madrid.

While Van Gaal was successful in both Spain with Barcelona and in the Bundesliga with Bayern Munich, he also tops the list of Dutch coaches who arrived in the Premier League to much fanfare only to depart with a tarnished reputation.

His two seasons at Manchester United saw them finish fourth in 2015 and fifth the following year, with his last game in charge an FA Cup final victory over Crystal Palace.

Like Van Gaal, Erik ten Hag made his name at Ajax Amsterdam but his tenure at Manchester United was equally disappointing and brought to a premature end with his sacking last October, early into his third season at Old Trafford.

Ruud van Nistelrooy was the other Dutch coach in the Premier League this season but is awaiting his fate after relegation with Leicester City, who have lost 11 of their last 12 fixtures. Frank de Boer, Ruud Gullit, Guus Hiddink, Dick Advocaat and Ronald Koeman are among the other high-profile Dutch coaches who failed to make the desired impact in England.

However, Slot’s success could help bring more opportunities to his countrymen in England and other top European leagues.

“We’ll have to wait and see. What Slot has done is unique and truly magnificent,” Mario Captein, director of the professional coaches association in the Netherlands, told the daily Algemeen Dagblad.

Slot praises Klopp

Moments after the final whistle sounded to confirm Liverpool as Premier League



Arne Slot won the title with Liverpool in his first season. Reuters

champions in a remarkable debut season for manager Arne Slot, the Dutchman paid tribute to the man who helped pave the way for his success at the Merseyside club.

Slot’s post-match salute to the delirious Liverpool fans at Anfield involved leading them in a song about the club’s beloved former manager Juergen Klopp.

After his emotional final game with Liverpool last season, Klopp, who won seven major trophies in his nine years on Merseyside, had encouraged the Anfield faithful to sing the same song — set to the tune of Austrian band Opus’s ‘Life is Life’ — about the incoming Slot.

Klopp’s classy gesture stuck with the 46-year-old Slot. “Because of what (Klopp) did, before I even arrived here,” Slot said, when asked why he paid tribute to the German who guided Liverpool to the 2020 Premier League title. “I think that is something that not even one manager ever did before, so that definitely helped me.

“He helped me even more with the team he left behind and the culture he left behind, the culture of hard work, not only from players but also from the staff members had been incredible. For obvious reasons I thought it was a nice moment to thank him as well.”

Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk had looked disconsolate after Klopp’s emotional final game, fighting back tears as he wrapped his boss in a hug on the Anfield pitch that day.

“To replace Juergen, it’s a big job and I think the manager did it in his own way together with his staff. He definitely deserves a lot of credit for that,” a delighted Van Dijk said on Sunday.

“I don’t think anyone — obviously that’s been said by so many from the outside world — would have thought that we’re going to be Premier League champions.”

Priyansh aims to hit bull’s eye consistently

PRITISHRAJ  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

IN A tense final of the men’s compound archery at the national ranking tournament, the two contestants, one a veteran and the other 13 years his junior but the top-ranked in the country, found a light moment. The scores were tied at 58-58 in the third round when the announcer praised 22-year-old Priyansh’s body language. The 35-year-old Abhishek Verma took the opportunity to pull Priyansh’s leg before they resumed taking aim at the target.

Abhishek won the final with 148 points, but Priyansh (146), ranked 6th in the world, kept snapping at the veteran’s heels till the last round. When asked about the banter between the two during the final, Priyansh said, “Abhishek bhैया was joking with me today when the commentator was talking about my body language. When I was selected to the senior team last year, the likes of Abhishek bhैया guided me.”

Priyansh, despite losing the final, is emerging from the shadows. 2024 was a breakout year for him as he won a total of four medals in the World Cups, two individual silver medals and one gold and silver in the mixed events.

Son of a media professional from Delhi, Priyansh picked up archery in 2018 and quickly rose up through the ranks winning the individual and mixed titles at the 2022 World Archery Youth Championships in Ireland. “I started archery randomly. I used to play many sports and one day while going past the Yamuna Sports Complex, I saw people shoot with bows and it got me interested,” Priyansh told *The Indian Express*. “In 2018, I took up the sport under the guidance of Lokesh Chand sir and that’s how my archery journey started.”

After a strong showing at the World Youth Championships in 2022, Priyansh made it to the senior team and won a gold medal at the Asian Championships in Bangkok in 2023. The transition from the juniors to seniors, had its own set of challenges. “It was not very difficult for me as I knew everyone in the team already but from a competition point of view,



Priyansh during the National Archery Ranking Tournament. Express Photo

it was not easy. At the senior level, the pressure is immense and it starts from the first arrow but it is not the same at the junior level,” Priyansh explained.

The high-quality competition at the national level is an advantage. “Another thing that helps in transition is the competition at the National level. We have people winning World Cup medals and then competing at the junior nationals. It helps as the players get used to tough games very early in their career,” Priyansh added.

For Priyansh medals matter but he also wants to have fun while competing.

“I enjoy the sport and everything that comes with it. I think one of the reasons that I have been doing well is because of this mindset. I don’t stress much about the sport, it makes everything easy for me,” Priyansh said. “The best part of archery is the travel. I am fascinated by new cultures and I love meeting new people, it’s a way of learning for me,” he added.

Priyansh, who is less experienced compared to the other compound archers, wants to work on his technique and refine it further. “All the other archers have been competing for a very long time and I am fairly junior compared to them. I have to work on my shooting technique. The muscle memory when holding the bow is a very important thing. I want to refine that along with achieving precision while shooting.”

Improved PSG ready for Arsenal in UCL re-match

REUTERS  
APRIL 28

PARIS ST GERMAIN will be a tougher proposition for Arsenal when the sides meet for a second time in this season’s Champions League, the French club’s manager Luis Enrique said on the eve of their semi-final first leg on Tuesday.

Goals by Kai Havertz and Bukayo Saka led Arsenal to a comfortable 2-0 victory over PSG in a group game in October, with the French champions failing to impress.

PSG have since won their fourth straight Ligue 1 title, however, and reached the French Cup final as well as eliminating Premier League champions Liverpool and Aston Villa en route to the Champions League’s final four.

Asked about PSG’s defeat by Arsenal in October, Luis Enrique told reporters on Monday: “That was seven or eight months ago. I saw the match again. We’re a much better team today.

“We had a very intense group phase, with a lot of games that could have been finals. So I think that made things difficult because we were in a difficult position, but it has made us much stronger and we are more complete. “These are Champions League semi-finals, but they’re still two games between two teams with the same goal. The key will be managing the pressure.”

Arsenal, who secured a crushing 5-1 aggregate win over holders Real Madrid in the quarter-finals, are unbeaten at home in the Champions League this season. “They’re one of the best teams in Europe and they’ve been doing a remarkable job with their coach for several years now,” Luis Enrique said.

“We all deserve to be here. I like my team the most, that’s why I’m here. Some people will like Paris more, others Arsenal, that’s part of life.” Both Arsenal and PSG are bidding to win Europe’s elite club competition for the first time. “The objective is difficult to achieve. That doesn’t mean we’re under any pressure, we’re ambitious,” Luis Enrique added.

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Audited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) for the Quarter and Year Ended 31st March, 2025

(₹ in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		Quarter Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (net)	813679	698461	2947353	251987	813679	698461	2947353	251987
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax , Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	103614	80551	383355	256885	103614	80551	383355	256885
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	103614	80551	383355	256885	103614	80551	383355	256885
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	65243	52577	244496	165374	66572	53786	246798	167155
5.	Total Comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	Refer Note 2							
6.	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1253956	1195596	1253956	1195596	1253956	1195596	1253956	1195596
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	1541844	1240327	1541844	1240327	1529847	1226027	1529847	1226027
8.	Securities Premium Account	504271	362571	504271	362571	504271	362571	504271	362571
9.	Net Worth	2107411	1625385	2107411	1625385	2696548	1611085	2696548	1611085
10.	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.08
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	2.29	0.93	2.29	0.93
12.	Earning Per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)								
1. Basic :		0.54	0.44	2.04	1.38	0.56	0.45	2.06	1.40
2. Diluted :		0.54	0.44	2.04	1.38	0.56	0.45	2.06	1.40
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve								
14.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	Not Applicable							

Note: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly/yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (BSE: [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and NSE: [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)). Bank's website ([www.ucobank.com](http://www.ucobank.com)) 2. Information relating to total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to the bank.

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Executive Director

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