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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: A 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 UN 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," Esmaeil 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 Katherine Reiche as the country's next economy minister and foreign policy expert Johann Wadephul as foreign minister. AP



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, QUADRUPLE 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

CRUCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AFFECTED

Huge power outage paralyses parts of Spain, Portugal, France

REUTERS
MADRID, LISBON, APRIL 28

A HUGE power outage brought parts of Spain and Portugal to a standstill on Monday, grounding planes, halting public transport, causing panic buying and leaving the two countries scrambling to restore power to millions of homes and businesses.

Some hospitals halted routine work, some shops shut their doors and the two countries' governments convened emergency cabinet meetings as officials tried to find out what caused the mass blackout from around 1033 GMT. Outages on such a scale are extremely rare in Europe. "We do not yet have conclusive information on the reasons for this (power) cut, so I ask the people, as we have done in past crises, to inform themselves through official channels," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said in a national address.

Hospitals in Madrid and Catalonia in Spain suspended all routine medical work but were still attending to critical patients,



People wait at Joaquin Sorolla train station after services were paused due to a power outage in Valencia on Monday. Reuters

using backup generators.

He said Spain's national security council would meet again on Monday evening to take stock of the situation. There were traffic jams in Madrid city centre as traffic lights stopped working, with people in reflective vests standing at intersections to direct traffic.

In Portugal, water supplier EPAL said water supplies could also be disrupted. The main

Portuguese electricity utility, EDP, said it had told customers it had no forecast for when the energy supply would be "normalised", *Publco* newspaper said. It warned it could take several hours.

Parts of France also suffered a brief outage. RTE, the French grid operator, said it had moved to supplement power to some parts of northern Spain after the outage hit.

ISRAEL'S ARMY is flattening the remaining ruins of the city of Rafah on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip, residents say, in what they fear is a part of a plan to herd the population into confinement in a giant camp on the barren ground.

No food or medical supplies have reached the 2.3 million residents of the Gaza Strip in nearly

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 US 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 Zelensky 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.

We will pay 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 cited the North's ruling party as saying.

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.

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68 killed in US airstrike on Yemen: Houthis

NAYERA ABDALLAH
DUBAI, APRIL 28

ONE-DAY ASSEMBLY SESSION OVER PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

J&K House slams selective targeting of victims, says outrage shows it is start of end of terrorism

Can't control a terrorist with a gun, but can end militancy if people with us, that time has come, says CM Omar

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, APRIL 28

DESCRIBING PUBLIC outrage in Kashmir over the killing of 26 tourists in Pahalgam on April 22 as "the beginning of the end of terrorism", MLAs across the Treasury and Opposition Benches in the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly here Monday resolved "to resolutely defeat the nefarious designs of those who seek to disturb the communal harmony and progress of the nation and of J&K".

"This House is mindful of the sinister design behind the selective targeting of the victims of this attack," said a three-page resolution unanimously adopted by the Assembly, which held a one-day special session Monday in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The resolution, moved by Deputy Chief Minister Srininder Choudhary, said: "Such acts of terror (are) a direct assault on the ethos of Kashmiriyat, the values

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BY UNNY

Thank you, China, for first reopening this channel to pray for divine impartiality. *Kailash Mansarovar Yatra*



The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly observes silence in the memory of the Pahalgam terror victims, in Jammu on Monday. PTI

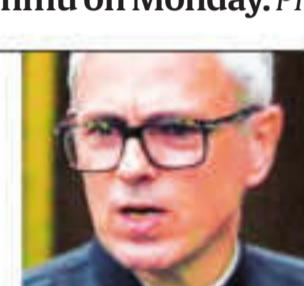
MLAs ON RAZING OF HOUSES: 'DON'T GO FOR COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT' PAGE 8

enshrined in our Constitution, and the spirit of unity, peace, and harmony that have long characterised Jammu & Kashmir and our nation." The Assembly also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

It will be shameful on my part if I tell the Central government that 26 people have died, now give me statehood...

OMAR ABDULLAH J&K CHIEF MINISTER



Cong leaders stray from party line on support to govt, put it in a spot

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a Congress event in Belagavi on Monday. PTI

Owaisi: Hindu brothers killed, Pak wants to instigate riots

AIMIM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

DEMANDING THAT Islamabad be placed in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list for terror financing, AIMIM president and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi said Monday that Pakistan wants to instigate communal riots in India and that "our Hindu brothers were killed" by terrorists in Pahalgam to send a message that "non-Muslims cannot" visit Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Owaisi said, "Be it ISI or ISIS or the deep state establishment of Pakistan, they want communal riots between Hindus and Muslims. The reason why our Hindu brothers were killed was that they wanted to tell us that non-Muslims cannot

LAC disengagement later, geotagging of patrolling points, more surveillance, patrols

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

EXPLAINED **E** The first steps

INDIA IS in the process of geotagging established patrolling points and other landmarks on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh to aid easier identification and demarcation of its boundary with China, which in turn would enable smoother patrolling by Indian troops while preventing clashes with Chinese soldiers, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

This, along with increased surveillance, regular patrolling, frequent interaction between Indian and Chinese commanders at various levels and readjustment of Indian troops stationed along the LAC are among the tactical developments

brought in by India in the last six months.

On October 21 last year, Indian and Chinese negotiators

BJP hits out: Shameful, do Kharge, Rahul control their party?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

ACCUISING THE Congress of "speaking the language of Pakistan" following the Pahalgam terror attack, the BJP Monday demanded that the main Opposition party take action against its leaders for making statements that are "being used" as "anti-India" propaganda across the border.

Addressing a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad described as "shameful" and "unwarranted" remarks by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramiah and other Congress leaders, such as Saifuddin Soz and Mani Shankar Aiyar, and others linked to the party, such as Robert Vadra.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

At 14, Suryavanshi storms into record books with 35-ball century

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, APRIL 28

AS THE clock struck 10.30 pm, 10.2 overs into their chase of 210, Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Suryavanshi wrote his name in history books by depositing spinner Rashid Khan over mid-wicket. At 14 years and 32 days, he became the youngest ever to score a century in the IPL. It was



Vaibhav Suryavanshi hit 11 sixes, 7 fours as Rajasthan Royals chased down 210 target against Gujarat Titans. Rohit Jain Paras

also the second-fastest century ever in the league, in 35 balls. His head coach Rahul Dravid, who has been on a wheelchair because of an injury, jumped up on his feet to applaud what was truly an innings for the ages.

In its 18 seasons, the IPL has been the grand theatre of dreams. Many "wonder boys" have come and stolen the show. Yet, no one has done it in the most breathtaking fashion as Suryavanshi. His 38-ball 101, with seven fours and 11 sixes, made short work of the chase as Rajasthan hunted down

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

India, France sign agreement for procurement of 26 Rafale-M for Navy

The Rafale-M can operate from Indian carriers with short deck and ski jump

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

INDIA AND France inked an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) Monday for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M aircraft — 22 single-seater and four twin-seater — for the Indian Navy.

The procurement includes training, simulator, associated equipment, weapons and performance-based logistics. It also includes additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF), a statement from the Ministry of Defence stated.

The Rafale-Marine is a carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft with proven operational capabilities in maritime environments.

Officials told *The Indian Express* that a key India-specific enhancement will be that the aircraft will be able to take off and land from a short deck with a ski jump, which is a feature of Indian aircraft carriers.

INS Vikrant, for instance, uses



Indian and French officials exchange signed copies of the agreement in New Delhi. PTI

a Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) configuration. This means it launches aircraft using a ski jump and recovers them using arrestor wires.

French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle has a large, flat flight deck designed with steam catapults and arresting gears.

Officials said that among other weapons, ASTRA Mk1 air-to-air Beyond Visual Range Missile will be integrated into the aircraft.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

With tech & local help, forces close in on terrorists

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
PAHALGAM, NEW DELHI, APRIL 28

THE TWO Pakistani terrorists

suspected to be behind the killing of 26 people in Pahalgam are believed to have entered Jammu and Kashmir about a year and a half ago as part of a group of infiltrators from Pakistan. It is suspected that the group entered through the Samba-Kathua re-

gion by cutting through the fence and has since been involved in several terror attacks.

Their infiltration, sources said, had been investigated earlier too following certain terror incidents in the Valley, and a senior BSF officer even received con-

siderable heat for it from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

According to officials, teams of the Army, the Rashtriya Rifles and paramilitary forces are scanning the upper reaches of Anantnag, where the terrorists

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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• 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 backfacing 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 on the Pahalgam 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 Pahalgam". "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 Pahalgam tragedy, my feeling is that let us accept Pakistan's word," he told PTI.

Techie duped of Rs 21 lakh

Pune: An IT professional in Pune was duped of Rs 21 lakh after he was promised a high-paying job in Canada. The victim was manipulated into making multiple

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

• At 14, Suryavanshi storms into record books

Gujarat Titans' total of 209 in 15 overs in Jaipur.

Suryavanshi from Samastipur in Bihar, who grew up watching videos of Brian Lara, has already got many in Indian cricket excited about his potential.

Posting on X, former chief selector and 1983 World Cup winner Krishnamachari Srikkanth wrote: "At 14, most kids dream & eat icecream. Vaibhav Suryavanshi delivers a fabulous 100 against one of the contenders for IPL! composure, class and courage beyond his years. We are witnessing the rise of a phenom. Indian cricket's next super star is here."

Even before Monday night's knock, Suryavanshi had made a mark.

Last November, he made headlines when, at 13, he hit a century against the Australia Under-19 team off 58 balls. All said and done, that was against boys. Last week, with their sea-

son struggling to take off, Rajasthan took a punt by sending him out against Lucknow SuperGiants, where he hit the first ball he faced for a six to announce his arrival.

On Monday, he got off the mark by launching Mohammed Siraj for a 90-metre six in the second ball before unleashing himself against Ishant Sharma, a veteran of 105 Tests. He hit Ishant for three sixes and two boundaries in the fourth over.

Still in his early teens, Suryavanshi is a developing batsman, so his range is limited – it is mostly in the arc between long-on and square-leg on the leg-side and between covers and long-off on the off-side. With his ability to pick the length early, he relies on muscle power to smash the white ball. Of the 11 sixes, eight came between mid-wicket and square-leg off the pacers and the spin bowling of Washington Sundar and Rashid.

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struggling to take off, Rajasthan took a punt by sending him out against Lucknow SuperGiants, where he hit the first ball he faced for a six to announce his arrival.

Once he got that big over off Ishant, he was prepared for everything that Gujarat threw at him. It was a night where line or length hardly mattered as there was something inevitable about the manner in which Suryavanshi went about his

knock. Anything that was pitched within his reach disappeared into the stands, especially on the leg-side.

In many ways, Suryavanshi depicts the modern-day young Indian batsmen who aren't afraid of pace bowling. If anything, they prefer it – using the pace to their advantage. When Gujarat brought on Rashid, he struggled

– with little footwork and no intention to use the feet to get down the pitch, he appeared a sitting duck. But credit to Suryavanshi for not losing his head and not attempting anything that was out of his syllabus. With the required run-rate under control, he had the maturity to play Rashid safely. But if Rashid pitched anything in Suryavanshi's reach, he seldom needed a second invitation.

If Suryavanshi's father Sanjeev was watching it all unfold on television, a few happy tears would have been shed. When Sanjeev was working as a bouncer at a nightclub or at a Sulabh toilet or the port in Mumbai, watching young kids play cricket in the storied maidans, he had one dream – to make his kids cricketers. So Vaibhav would become that kid and Sanjeev would leave no stone unturned. He would come up with a net facility in their backyard, where Sanjeev would bowl for

hours. With Vaibhav never wanting to move out of the nets, he would even hire a few unemployed youths to bowl at him for a meal in return. This was how Vaibhav, coming from a non-descript village in a state where multiple associations are trying to take control of the game, made it to the limelight.

Beyond Sanjeev, Suryavanshi found a guru in Manish Ojha who moulded him into a cricketer who could aspire to earn the India cap.

"Frankly, the boy is gifted. He is at least 3-4 years ahead of anyone his age. If something is shown to him, he picks it up quickly. And before executing that in the middle, he would spend hours in the nets to make it muscle memory," he said.

On Monday night, all those hours in the nets, combined with incredible self-belief and clean hitting, helped Suryavanshi make history.

Demanding accountability in connection with the Pahalgam 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 probed 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.

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.

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.

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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

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), Waheedur-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 Pahalgam 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 Pahalgam, 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 Parikh, (NC minister) Sakina Ito, (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 Pahalgam 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 Pahalgam 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

is the start of an end... the end of social sanctity to violence... We shall create an atmosphere that this mindset does not get reversed."

The PDP's Waheedur-Rehman Para said the Pahalgam attack was a crime against humanity and a communal act.

What was heartening was that "for the first time, people from every nook and corner of Kashmir came out to protest", Para said, adding that "Hindus too had shown patience and de-

feated the designs of terrorists".

Hoping that there were no more terror attacks like Pahalgam, the Congress's G A Mir said the intentions of terrorists in segregating people as per religion would be defeated by the entire country "unitedly".

Mir also called for an inquiry into "the security lapses", particularly as Pahalgam is heavily guarded for falling on the route to the Amarnath shrine, and urged the Centre to issue an advisory so that people from Kashmir are not harmed in other parts of the country.

Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, the Awami Ittehad Party MLA from Langate and the brother of jailed MP Engineer Rashid, called for a memorial in the memory of the Pahalgam deceased. He also praised the protests in Kashmir over the killings.

The NC's Altaf Kaloo condemned the killings while appreciating those tourists who had continued to stay in Kashmir despite the terror attack.

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".

He sought to know whether the Congress "truly" stood united with the Government as it had

stated during the all-party meet-

ing 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 fir-

too had shown patience and de-

feated the designs of terrorists".

Hoping that there were no more terror attacks like Pahalgam, the Congress's G A Mir said the intentions of terrorists in segregating people as per religion would be defeated by the entire country "unitedly".

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

• 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 meet-

ing 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.

"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 be-

ing the terror strike."

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 28



Builder Gurunath Chichkar allegedly died by suicide.

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 Kharhargh 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-

ment nearly two weeks back.

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

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

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Standalone | | | | | | Consolidated | | | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | | Quarter Ended | | Year Ended | | Quarter ended | | Year Ended | | Year 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 | 31.12.2024 Unaudited | 31.03.2024 Audited | (₹ in Lakh) |
| 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 | 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 | 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 | 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 | 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 | 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 | 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 | 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% | 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 | 0.16 | 0.27 |
| 13 | Earning Per Share (for ₹ 10/- each) 1. Basic 2. Diluted | 1.19 | 1.10 | 0.93 | 4.36 | 2.94 | 1.27 | 1.11 | 0.94 | 4.53 | 3.07 | 4.53 | 3.07 |
| 14 | Capital Redemption Reserve | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | Debenture 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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Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Exchange of MoUs for strengthening research and innovation with a joint investment of over ₹1400 crore

Modi Government building a robust nationwide Research and Innovation ecosystem through:

- AI Centres of Excellence
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)
- Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF)
- Research Parks
- One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)
- Rs 1 lakh crore for Research Development and Innovation (RDI) fund

Live Telecast on DD News

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.

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-



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



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 the 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.

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 Mahayati 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.

Despite the city recording

RS 1,000 PER OBJECTION

Students complain of errors in MHT-CET exam, CET Cell asks for formal objections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

amongst the four provided.

While students are alleging that they will suffer loss of marks due to the errors, Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell states that candidates should follow the procedure which demands that they officially raise objections to the answers. However under this process, each objection will cost

Rs 1,000, which is excessively high according to students.

"If I have to challenge 10 questions, should I pay Rs. 10,000? This is bizarre," said one aggrieved student, demanding the Cell take proactive steps to address the issue without waiting for formal objections.

Explaining this, Commissioner of Maharashtra

CET Cell, Dilip Sardesai said, "The question papers are not public domain. We will not know which questions are being challenged unless objections are raised officially. If an objection is found valid, the fee will be refunded, which we have done in the past." Last year multiple objections were raised and those found valid were refunded.

normal daytime temperatures, citizens have been reeling under uncomfortable conditions as humidity levels soared over 80 percent.

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 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

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."

Rani Baug zoo to revamp space left vacant after elephant Anarkali's death

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.

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.

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 permit.

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.

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

WELCOMES NODDY, TOM & PINGU

Three new penguins born at Byculla zoo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 28



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 "finest 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.

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-

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 footfall 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 28.9 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.

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.

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

| Distance | Old | New |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| Up to 5 km | ₹5 | ₹10 |
| Up to 10 km | ₹10 | ₹15 |
| Up to 15 km | ₹15 | ₹20 |
| Up to 20 km | ₹20 | ₹30 |

Monthly passes

| Distance | Old | New |
|----------|--------|--------|
| 5 km | ₹450 | ₹800 |
| 10 km | ₹1,000 | ₹1,250 |
| 15 km | ₹1,650 | ₹1,700 |
| 20 km | ₹2,600 | —* |

(*unchanged)

AC BUSES

| Distance | Old | New |
| --- | --- | --- |

<tbl_r cells

Mumbai likely to get a new police commissioner soon

Tenure of Vivek Phansalkar ends this month



Vivek Phansalkar

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

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

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

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 Nagrak 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.

Elphinstone Bridge: Affected residents to get redeveloped homes at same place

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 28

IN A major relief to the residents of the 19 buildings affected by the Elphinstone Bridge reconstruction, the Maharashtra government has decided to provide them with redeveloped homes at the same location and assigned the responsibility to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).

The crucial decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at the Sahyadri Guesthouse on Monday. During the meeting, Minister of Cultural Affairs and IT Ashish Sheland pointed out that based on suggestions from local MLA Kalidas Kolambari and a residents' delegation, it was initially anticipated that 19 buildings would be affected by the project. However, thanks to the revised government plan, only two buildings will be directly affected, providing significant relief to the residents. Sheland expressed gratitude to the government for the revised plan but highlighted lingering concerns among residents that the bridge construction could compromise the structural safety of

the remaining 17 buildings. In view of these fears, Sheland urged that instead of waiting for private developers, the MMRDA should directly undertake the redevelopment of all the 19 buildings, and Fadnavis accepted the proposal.

Sheland also urged that the residents of the two buildings to be directly affected must not be permanently relocated to Kurla, as was decided earlier. Instead, he proposed that they be provided temporary accommodation at Kurla and allotted new homes at their original location after the redevelopment. This suggestion was also accepted by the CM and the Deputy CM.

Accordingly, the residents from the two buildings will now be given interim transit housing at Kurla. After the redevelopment, they along with residents of the other 17 buildings will receive homes at their original location.

The meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik, MMRDA Commissioner Sanjay Mukherjee, BMC Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani, Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority CEO Sanjeev Jaiswal and Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Vice-Chairman and MD Anil Kumar Gaikwad.



The blaze was confined within the bakery. Ganesh Shirkar

Four injured in Bypulla 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 Bypulla. The injured have been identified as Jayesh Parekh (45), Javed Siddique (25), Jabril Ahmed (23), and Shahrin Raisi (36).

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

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

The employees were heating the bread loaves 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.

New Delhi, Dated on this 23rd April, 2025.
By Order: Rajesh Nath - Assistant Registrar

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NAVARTHA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1978GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender No.: IRCON/2023/Shalimar/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 Shalimar 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. Correspondingly, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Chief General Manager/East, 378, Prantik Pally, Karsa, 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 [>>Careers>>Faculty](http://www.iisertirupati.ac.in). The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on June 16, 2025**
Advt. No. 08/2025/IISER-T/Rect./25.04.2025 Sd/- Director

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 Chandravu 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 Chandravu** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Shri Dipen Chandravu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shri Dipen Chandravu** 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, Annex-01
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/5271/N/2025

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
CIN : L65921MH1994PLC173469
GST : 27AAACD8981C12L

Gold Auction Public Notice
Registered Address: Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) The Company 502, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India Pincode-400013. Telephone-9891648999, e-mail- vinit.kumar@capriglobal.in
Notice is hereby given to the customers and the public in general that the loans 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 so far in spite of repeated notices, the Company will conduct online/public auction of the gold ornaments on "As is What is" & "What is not" basis. The auction will be conducted through online/e-auction platform on Date: 02 May 2025 from 10 AM. Those who are willing to participate are required to contact their branch. The address of sub-Taluka/branch have been duly notified on our website www.capriglobal.in in case of any future date or other reasons, the auction will continue for subsequent days under the same terms and conditions. And also the general terms and conditions of the auction will remain the same. The company Capri Global Capital Limited is having the right to postpone the auction to follow the date of 2nd Auction dates or on subsequent dates on the same terms and conditions via public auction/e-auctions through gold serial in their online e-auction platform without any further notice. Capri Global Capital Limited has the authority to remove any 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 AUCTION LOTS WILL BE CONDUCTED FROM 10:00 AM AT ALL DESIGNATED LOCATIONS & ONLINE ON THE SPECIFIED DATES

Locality: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India Address: CAPRI LOAN SANSHI VINAS PUNE NASHIK HIGHWAY BLDG NUMBER 476 M. N. BLDG 546 MANCHI NEAR SBI BANK AMBERGAON PUNE MAHARASHTRA - 410063
Auction Date: 06.05.2025
MANCHI PUNE-MH : L3010000215989, L3010000320398, L3010000347920, L3010000547255
District: RATNAGRI Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOAN SHOP NO. 02, 1 NEAR BANK OF INDIA, KAVILATI CHILUPA MAHARASHTRA - 415602 Auction Date: 06.05.2025
CHILUPA-KAVILATI-MH : L3010000016014, L3010000030451
Note: Customers can release the gold ornaments before the auction date on 01 May 2025
Note: Bidders are required to produce ID/PAN card No/CST cert. (in case registered dealers)
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 Consumer 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 April, 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 advised 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."

SHIRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

CIN No-L65191TN1979PLC007874

Reg.Off. Shri Tower, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032
Adm.Off: 6th Floor (Level2), Building No.Q2, AurumQParc, 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 SADEKAR | 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. Harms 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

कनरा बैंक Canara Bank

A Govt. of India Undertaking

RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION : Mumbai South Regional Office, Canara Bank, Cuff Parade, Maker Tower, E Wing, 14th Floor, Mumbai - mail : recoveryvums@canarabank.com website : 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 proviso 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.

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 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.

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 ECR, 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



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".

Eye-witnesses, 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.

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.

Eye-witnesses, 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.

Eye-witnesses, 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.

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M.P. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Secretariat for Single Window System
21, Aera Hills, Bhopal-462011 M.P.
Tel. : (91) 755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505
E-mail : helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website : www.invest.mp.gov.in
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://mpitenders.gov.in-MPIDC HO. M.P. Madhyam/119820/2025> CHIEF ENGINEER

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Organised by IDEMI Mumbai Ministry of MSME Govt. of India

**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 Tatyasaheb 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.

Fees-5000+18 % GST
Include Lunch + Tea (Fees are not refundable)
After successful completion, certificate will be issued
For architects, designers, contractors, real estate and interior designers

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Call for details between 10am to 6pm
Contact-9403566219, 8007765693, 8275181503, 986908761

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, Mukund Icon, Survey No 981, Plot No. 157, Tilak 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- IV [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
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, Saveli, Ahmednagar - 414001

Loan Account Number 441LAP08693781

Statutory Demand Notice u/s. Notice dated 12-Jul-21 Demand amount Rs. 25,63,196/-
13(2) Date & Amount

Outstanding Amount as on 24.04.2025 Rs.46,00,760.77/- (Rupees Forty-Six Lakh Seven Hundred and Sixty Rupees and Seventy-Seven Paisa Only) as on 24/04/25

Description of Immovable Property Office No. 0-8 & 0-9, Cts No. 5829 B, First Floor, Adash Samruddhi Apartment, Chauhati 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 <https://bajajauCTIONS.in>

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 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-notices>

Date: 29/04/2025

Place: AHMEDNAGAR

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Bajaj Finance Limited

**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 8th 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 Transferee 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 19th 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, 30th 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 30th 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:

- Pursuant to the directions issued by NCLT by the Order dated 8th 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 18th April, 2025. This facility is being provided to the Unsecured Creditors having outstanding debt of the Company as on cut-off date i.e. 30th April, 2025.
- The voting right of the Unsecured Creditors shall be in proportion to value of outstanding debt of the Transferee Company as on 30th April, 2025, being the cut-off date.
- The Company has sent by an email dated 28th 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 30th 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 28th April, 2025 to those who have not registered their email addresses, in compliance with directions of NCLT.
- The aforesaid Notices along with the requisite documents are also available on the website of the Applicant Transferee Company at www.arvind-amd.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- The remote e-voting commences on Tuesday, 27th May, 2025 at 09:00 am and it will end on Thursday, 29th 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 29th May, 2025. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 and on the website of NSDL.
- Unsecured Creditors facing any technical issue in login can contact NSDL helpdesk by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.com or call at 022 - 4886 7000.
- 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.

Place: Dehradun

Date: April 28, 2025

Bimal Ranjan Garg

Chairman appointed for meetings

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

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.

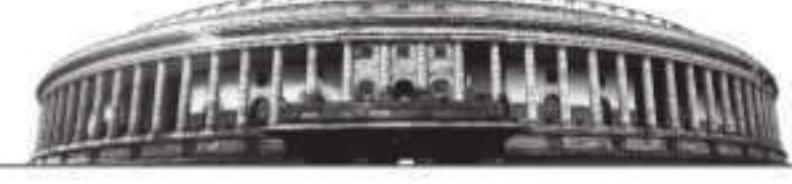
NCLT has appointed Mr. Bimal Ranjan Garg, Advocate, to act as Chairman of the said Meetings to be held on 30th May, 2025 and in respect of any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

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:

- Pursuant to the directions issued by NCLT by the Order dated 8th 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 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 Meeting have been set out in the said Notice dated 18th April, 2025. This facility is being provided to the Unsecured Creditors having outstanding debt of the Company as on cut-off date i.e. 30th April, 2025.
- 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 2



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

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 ensuring 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."

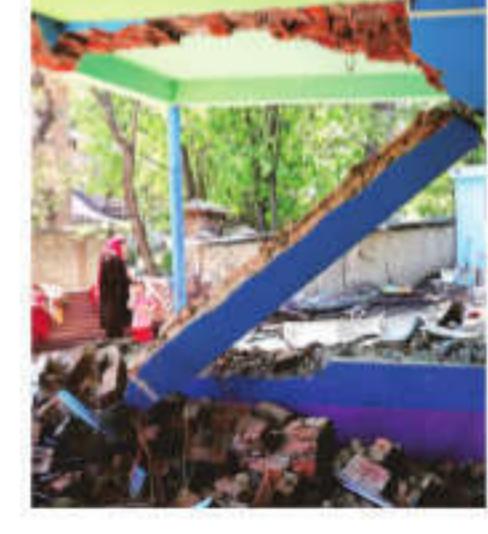
Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, an Independent MLA from Thanmandi in Rajouri, Jammu, who supports the ruling National Conference, said that while no words were enough to condemn the "cowardly" terrorist act, "there should not be collective punishment of innocent people just because someone in their distant family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

He said houses of even those

who no longer have any contact with their relatives who had joined terrorism had been demolished. "Such actions will not end the terror ecosystem," Khan said.

Veteran CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami accused the terrorists who struck in Pahalgam of "trying to foist their divisive agenda" on people. "A message should go from this House that we are all citizens of this country and it is our collective responsibility to ensure security of all", including tourists coming to J&K and the students from Kashmir studying elsewhere in the country, he said. "Only then can we defeat the terrorists' agenda of dividing people on communal lines."

Calling for establishing "the rule of law", Tarigami said this ran contrary to the demolition of houses to target terrorists. Many of these structures had been standing for years, he said, "but all of a sudden, you say today that these are terrorist hideouts". "The fight against terror cannot be successful unless the rule of law is established in J&K," he said.



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 Sugarka 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 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".

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 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

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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 happening 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 will 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

Kharge targets PM: 'When all-party meet held, he was giving poll speeches in Bihar'

PARUL KULSHRESTHA
JAIPUR, APRIL 28

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge in Jaipur on Monday. Rohit Jain Paras



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

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 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

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.

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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 re-mobilise.

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 state.

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 "tipping 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 "jugalbandi 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 systematically.

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 extent, the terrorists have put the government in a bind.

It will also be naive to separate politics from what is happening 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 will 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

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.

CBT, 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

orders and had requested the CBDT to allow it to revise its returns.

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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 coordination 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

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 counsellor. 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.

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 Chalachitra 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 par-

lal 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 M T 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. 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.

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.

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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.

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 it was a terrorist attack. 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

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 terrorist 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



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

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 *Jansi 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 na-

ture 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.

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.

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.

Hearing a PIL by former information commissioner Uday Mahurkar and others, a bench of Justices B R Gavai 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.

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.

In Ahmedabad man's zipline video, the moments of terror at Pahalgam

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.

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

100 DAYS ON

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

A 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 J D 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 frittering 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.

Jürgen 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 Chittisinghpur 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-

to-draw its attention to the situation. 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.



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 Doharpura, 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, *Jannoi Amar Ajanmo 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 "Doharpura and its bamboo grove/ the field where hud-

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

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 speculative. 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

REMEMBERING DAUD DA

The exiled poet carried Bangladesh in his heart

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').

Our friendship started on that sultry afternoon; he shared anecdotes of his home in Doharpura, 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 Doharpura" As he goes 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 swiveling/ 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

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

of the country and are opposed to violence seem to have made a good impact in political circles, and the visit might create the basis for further moves to solve the Punjab problem. Punjab Governor Arjun Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi are understood to have reviewed the Punjab situation in light of Longowal's speeches. Political circles seem to feel that Longowal is taking a reasonable stand.

AFTER BLUE STAR

PARKASH SINGH BADAL, former chief minister and a senior Akali leader, said the government would have to take "fairly major and liberal steps" to win the confidence of the Sikhs shattered by Operation Blue Star and

the November riots. The Akali leader, who was addressing his first press conference after release from 10 months of detention under the NSA, declined to specify the steps. He further said that the Sikhs could not tolerate the desecration of the Golden Temple and the Akal Takht.

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



DESHKAAL
BY YOGENDRA YADAV

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 It 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 *samskaar*.

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 'Harjan seva' 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 *siyaset* 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 C V 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 mardab". 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 local 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 convenor 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 counter-measures 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.

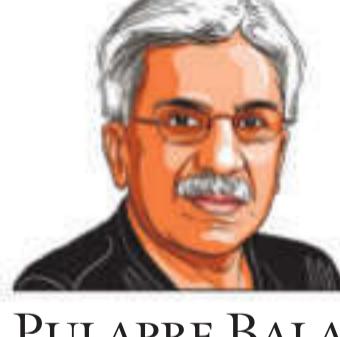
As major developing countries and emerging economies, China and India share the common goal of development and revitalisation. China is actively promoting high-quality development, while India is committed to realising the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047". As the only two nations with populations exceeding 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

Answer is not to go private

Private universities may not be a panacea for Kerala's education ecosystem



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 ability.



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-à-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 pessimistic either. The future 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, Noida

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, April 28). 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

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 April 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 out 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 Knshnarao 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 Knshna Kale | Hav Tukaram Yadav |
| Sep Knshna Patil | Hav Kisan Jagdale, VrC |
| Sep Krishana 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 Madigekar |
| Sep Prahlad Saw | PLnk 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 Bapu |
| 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 Bapura |
| 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 ROYALSINDO-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

Tender Notice No. 01/SE (P-WZ)/GHMC/2025-26

Date: 28-04-2025

Item No. Name of Work

- 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 project route across Fox Sugar Sulfur Nala under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC/Turkey Basis)".
- 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, KBR Park Extension Jn., and Mugdha Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-1) under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC/Turkey Basis)".
- 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 Km. 11, Pilan Nagar Jn., Mahara Agrusen Jn. and Hospital Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-2) under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)".
- 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 Km. 11, Pilan Nagar Jn., Mahara Agrusen Jn. and Hospital Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-3) under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)".

5. Consultancy services for providing State of the Art architectural aesthetics for proposed Grade separators and All-grade roads at HIT Junction and providing 3D rendered videos.

Note: The Bidders are advised to visit [www.tender.telangana.gov.in](http://tender.telangana.gov.in) for download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to serdpzz@gmail.com.

Address of the officer concerned Sri G. Sree Lakshmi, SE(P-WZ)

Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>.Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
(Projects-WZ) GHMC

R.O. No.: 969-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 |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| SHORT TERM TENDER | | | |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------|------------|
| 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@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224)

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

DIPR/CP/JA/404/2025-26

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

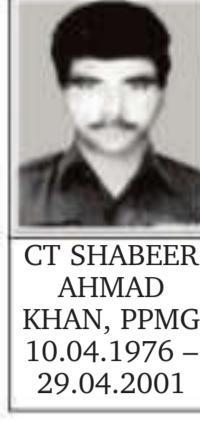
BORDER SECURITY FORCE



SH JAI SINGH, AC, PPMG, 14.08.1955 – 29.04.2001



CT SUSHHEEL KUMAR PANDITA, PPMG, 21.03.1972 – 29.04.2001



CT SHAHEER AHMAD KHAN, PPMG 10.04.1976 – 29.04.2001

Director General and all Ranks of BSF pay tribute to Sh Jai Singh, AC, PPMG, Constable Sushheel 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 | L/NK SITA RAM MEENA |
| 13.07.1980 – 29.04.2001 | 30.08.1960 – 29.04.2001 |

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.

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 Budhjy 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.

29 April 2001

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Veer Balidani Constable Shiv Raj Chawan 111 BN. 6-4-1952 To 29-4-2001 | Veer Balidani Constable Sushanta Kumar Sinha 122 BN. 10-5-1968 To 29-4-2001 | Veer Balidani Constable Montu Pada Halder 122 BN. 5-11-1968 To 29-4-2001 | Veer Balidani Constable A.A. Prakash 122 BN. 22-5-1970 To 29-4-2001 |
|--|--|---|---|

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.

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.

- For details visit www.tntenders.gov.in
- 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.

Additional Collector

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

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



TRUMP TARIFFS DAILY DECODE

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.

HOW FEMALE BONOBO 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.



Wikimedia Commons

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.

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

team 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 out-ranking approximately 70% of the males in her community. This afforded females better access to food, and mates for their sons, among other things.

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2 groups clash at MP village over Dalit man's last rites

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHPAL, APRIL 28

A MADHYA Pradesh village saw stone-pelting and a road blockade after a group of people disrupted the funeral of a Dalit man, police said. The incident took

place Monday in Sheopur's Lee-
lda.

Five days ago, Jagdish Jatav, who worked in Bengaluru, died in a road accident. His body was brought to the village Monday morning, and by 1 pm, his family with others were performing the last rites at a government plot.

However, police said, some people had encroached on the property and they objected to the rites being performed there. This led to an argument that then escalated to stone-pelting between the groups.

Jatav's community members then blocked a main road where

they placed his body in protest. Sheopur SP Virendra Jain said the Jatav community's designated crematorium was acquired by the Railways for a line to Kota, forcing them to use the disputed government land, which was encroached by people from the Rawat community.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, VV Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short Description of the Immovable Property

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

| Sl. No. | DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 691/2019) | Minimum Bid Price (Rs) | EMD (Rs) | Bid Increase Value (Rs) |
|---------|--|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | #803/18/25, PID No. 58-36-25, 36th 'G' Cross, 4th T Block, Ward No. 168/580 Jayanagar, Bangalore. East to West 40 ft North to South 50 ft Total measuring 2000 Sq.ft (Ground + 2 Floors) Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/NqkbZTZXAsduACuw5 | | | |
| (a) | Ground Floor, Flat No. GF-01, UDS-666.66, SBA-1570 Sq.ft | 1,90,00,000/- | 19,00,000/- | 1,90,000/- |
| (b) | 1st Floor, Flat No. FF-102, UDS-666.66, SBA-1570 Sq.ft | 1,92,00,000/- | 19,20,000/- | 1,92,000/- |
| (c) | 2nd Floor, Flat No. SF-103, UDS-666.66, SBA-1570 Sq.ft | 1,94,00,000/- | 19,40,000/- | 1,94,000/- |

| Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place | Date of Inspection & time | Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission | Date & Time of E Auction |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 27th May 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Tower, Bengaluru-01 | 28th May 2025, 11:00am to 05:00pm | 30th May 2025, Before 5pm | 31st May 2025, 11 am to 1 pm |

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauon@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Date: 22-04-2025
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/394/Zen/2025-26 (Under KPIDFE -IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

The Indian EXPRESS
Classifieds
FROM ANYTHING TO EVERYTHING.

BUSINESS

POULTRY

NECC Mumbai Zone suggestive farm-gate egg price for today (29/04/2025) is Rs. 470/- per 100 eggs. (for the information of Trade & industry). 0070962347-1

VENCOBB Ex-Farm Yesterday's price in Pune Rs. 88/-.

Suggested Retail Price is Rs. 112/-

0070957773-1

ZORABIAN Today's Ex-Farm Live Broiler Rate Rs. 94/- Retail Market Rate Rs. 122/- Mobile : 8879050887/ 9372663242

Office : 022-26604937/ 38/ 39.

0070960403-1

PROPERTY

SOCIETY NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE

(Issued Without Prejudice)

CORIGENDUM

Vasundhara Co-op.

REG.NO: NOBM/CIDCO/HSG/

(T.C)/10562/D.R./2024-25.

AMIR Broiler, Small: Rs.

125/-, Big: Rs. 121/-

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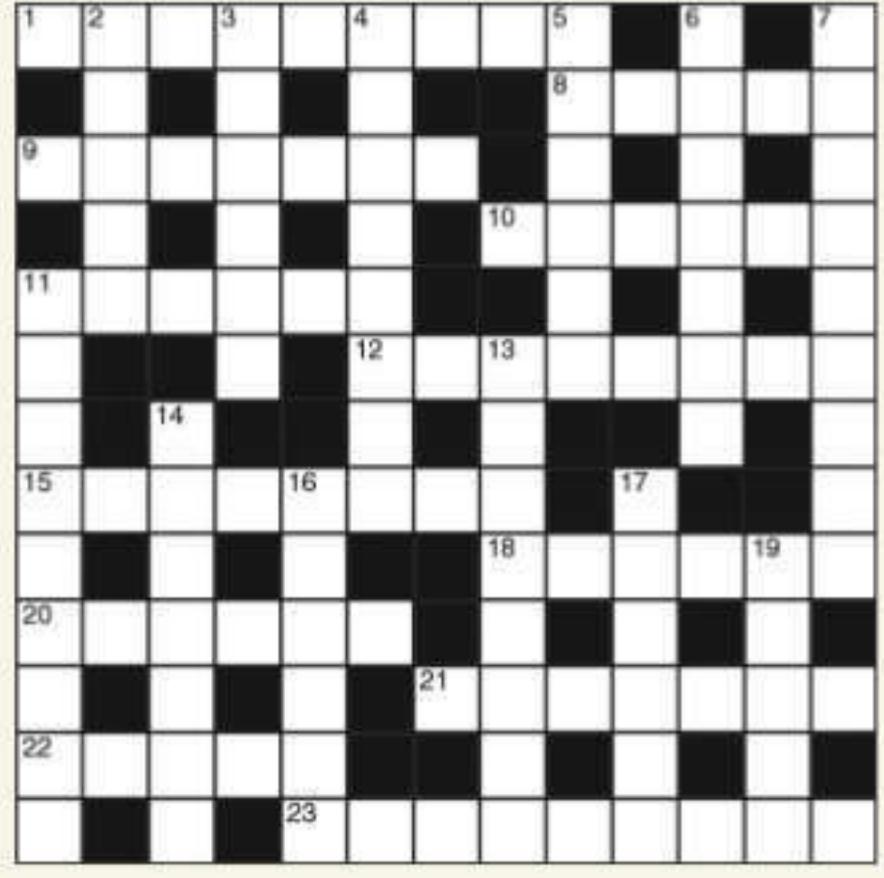
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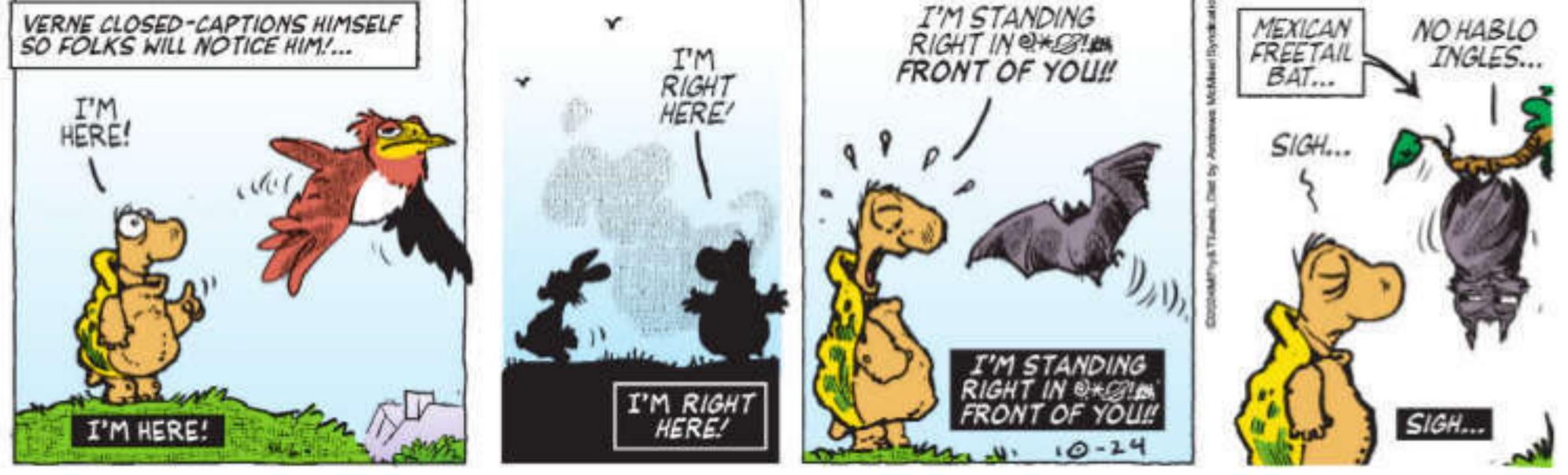
CROSSWORD 5662



- 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 Loses heart, 5 Dark, 6 No doubt, 9 Motionless, 11 Unversed, 12 Tantrum, 14 Divers, 16 Essay, 17 Plot

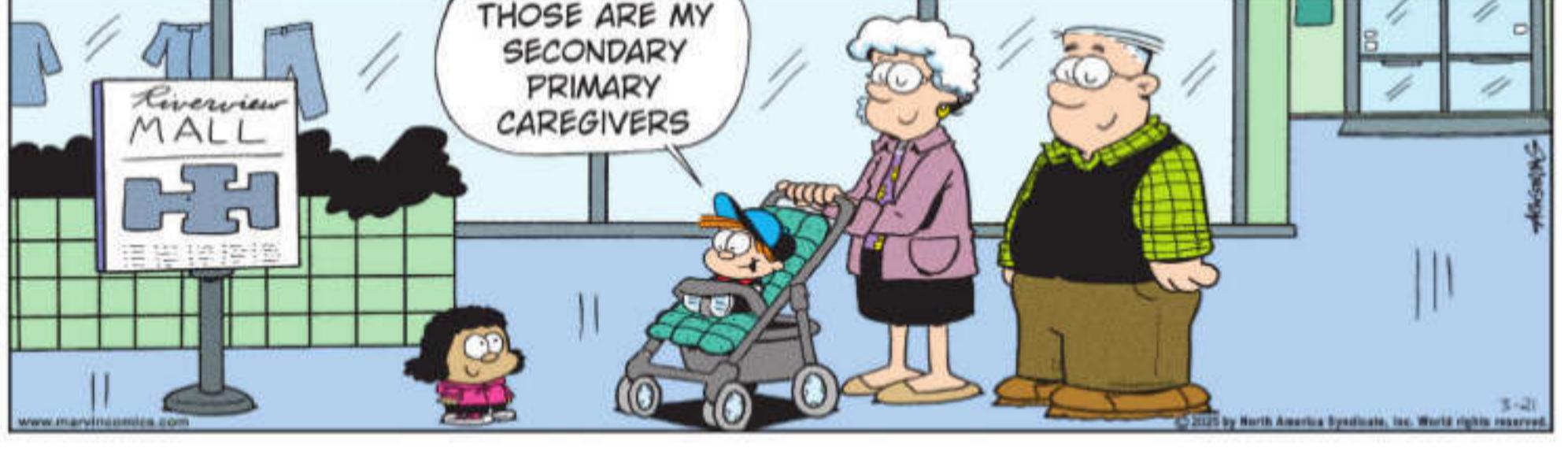
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



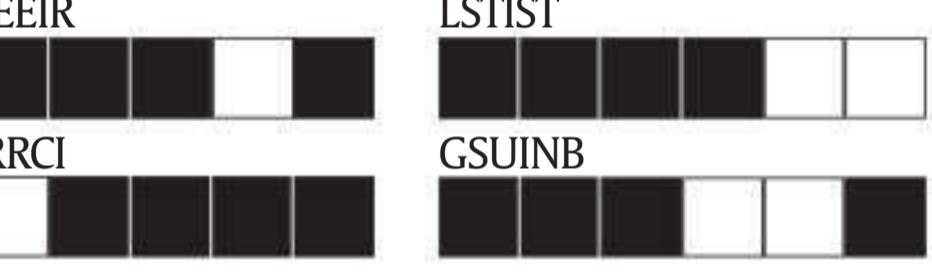
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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)

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.



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5938



Solutions: EEEIR, LSTIST, IRRCI, GSIUNB. True art is characterized by an irreducible urge in the creative artist. - Albert

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today's stars are a direct extension of yesterday's, indicating that there will be few new developments to cope with. If you're starting to run into the mud at work, don't worry; take the opportunity to have some time off.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If you have ever wondered why you experience bouts of financial indecision, it's because it's all in the stars! Actually, there is a way out if you would just put your fears and worries to one side and stop allowing your feelings to interfere with your good sense.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon's continued alignment with your sign is a direct indication that the world lies at your feet, speaking metaphorically of course. The fact is, though, that a mighty act of self-sacrifice may be necessary if you are to make the most of partners' support.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Your mystical aspirations are being stirred up and this process creates a sort of 'divine discontent' leaving you deeply ambitious. You're reluctant to settle for anything less than the best, but you should consider whether a temporary compromise would be a good idea.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

A number of very powerful alignments have remained in vital areas of your chart, in spite of the fact that the main gaggle of planets has moved on. You should therefore keep up your guard and resolve never to be caught out again, at least, not by the same person.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

If there are choices to be made, try to clarify your ideas today, and recognise that change may not only be necessary but also desirable. Devote additional time to professional responsibilities, and don't shrink from taking on new tasks. Do your best.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Don't listen to what partners say, watch what they do. If you can separate thought from action and word from deed, you'll realise that there is an internal consistency in their actions, even though they're completely unaware of it! It will make sense soon.

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 : 18.00 hrs. on

19.05.2025. **Website particular :** <https://www.ireps.gov.in/>

The tender detail can be viewed at the website <https://www.ireps.gov.in/>

In the tenders/bidders must

have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate

and must be registered on IREPS portal.

Only registered tenders/bidders can

participate on e-tender.

(PR-87)

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 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 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

दिनांक : 24.04.2025

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| S. No. | Equipment/Item Name | | Original Bid Submission Date | Revised Bid Submission Date | Original Bid Opening Date | Revised Bid Opening Date | | |
| 13 | Polymerase Chain Reaction Machine (Multi-Block/Gradient/ Droplet Digital/Real Time) | | 28.04.2025 | 12.06.2025 | 29.04.2025 | 13.06.2025 | | |
| Professor In-Charge (EP) | | | | | | | | |
| All other details shall remain the same. | | | | | | | | |

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re/E T No.190&191/2024-25/SE/Q
JMM- Construction of 6MLD WTP & 3.000L capacity OHSR in Piravanthoor and Pattazhy Vadakkekara panchayat EMD : Rs. 500000, 200000 Tender fee : Rs. 16540+2978, 11025+1985 Last Date for submitting Tender : 30-05-2025 02:00:pm Phone : 0474 2745293 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

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E-mail: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in

No. F.7(644)/RSHA/WB/Tr-01/HAM-04/2021-22/D-44 Date: 15-04-2025

NIT No. 06/2025-26

Bids for Services of Independent Engineer during Operation and Maintenance of "Ramseem-Bhimali-Raniwara Section of SH-31 from Design (Km 0.000 to Km 62.619) existing (Km. 43.800 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/Tr01/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://sppr.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state. The estimated cost of the service is 2.18 Cr.

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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 Firouza 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, Deac Bogdan Danel 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'l's

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 Jürgen 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 La Liga 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 Jürgen 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 Jürgen, 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



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."

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,

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.

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."

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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UCO GST SMART FINANCE **Attractive ROI** **UCO CAR LOAN** **ROI 8.20% p.a.** **UCO BUSINESS** **(Current Account)**

Consistent Growth Built Upon A Legacy of Trust

Audited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) for the Quarter and Year Ended 31st March, 2025 (₹ in Lakh)

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Quarter Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited) | Quarter Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited) | Year Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited) | Year Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited) | STANDALONE | CONSOLIDATED |
|---------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Total Income from Operations (net) | 813679 | 698461 | 2947533 | 251887 | 813679 | 698461 |
| 2. | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items) | 103814 | 80551 | 383355 | 256885 | 103814 | 80551 |
| 3. | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items) | 103814 | 80551 | 383355 | 256885 | 103814 | 80551 |
| 4. | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items) | 65243 | 52577 | 244496 | 165374 | 66572 | 53786 |
| 5. | Total Comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax) | | | | | | |
| 6. | Paid up Equity Share Capital | 1253956 | 1195596 | 1253956 | 1195596 | 1253956 | 1195596 |
| 7. | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) | 1541844 | 1240327 | 1541844 | 1240327 | 1529847 | 1226027 |
| 8. | Securities Premium Account | 504211 | 362571 | 504211 | 362571 | 504211 | 362571 |
| 9. | Net Worth | 210741 | 1625385 | 210741 | 1625385 | 2696548 | 1611085 |
| 10. | Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt | 0.07 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.08</ | | |