



INDIA SWINGS INTO ACTION AGAINST PAKISTAN

Demolition of terror factories in Kashmir commences

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

As tensions between India and Pakistan are gradually peaking in the aftermath of the horrific killing of tourists in Pahalgam, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi Friday visited the Kashmir valley and took stock of the 'operational' readiness of the troops and ongoing anti-terror operations launched to hunt down the perpetrators behind the massacre.

ceasefire violations were reported from the North Kashmir area of Uri to the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region. Rattled by India's tough posturing, the Pakistan army was probably assessing the ground situation and the preparedness of the neighbouring country. On his arrival in Srinagar, the Army Chief was briefed by the senior officers of the Northern Command headquarters in the presence of Goc-in-C Northern Command Lt-Gen MV Suchindra Kumar.



Debris of the house of LeT terrorist Adil Hussain Thokar, which was destroyed after an explosion, in Bijbehara, Kashmir

Identification of Pakistanis across the country announced

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Government is working on a strategy to ensure that not a single drop of water flows from India into Pakistan, Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil asserted on Friday following a high-level meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah. Paatil said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a slew of directives, and the meeting was held to follow up on them and Shah made several suggestions at the meeting for their effective implementation.

Talking to media, Jal Shakti Minister Paatil said "we will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India". Government is working on a long-term plan to ensure the effective implementation of its decisions. Shah held the meeting to discuss the future course of action on the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 with Pakistan, which has been kept in abeyance following Tuesday's Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

India on Thursday announced revoking all visas issued to Pakistani nationals from April 27 and advised Indian nationals residing in Pakistan to return home at the earliest, as tensions between the two countries escalated over the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, on Tuesday.

The Home Minister in the morning called up the Chief Ministers of all the States and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline. The Chief Ministers were also told to identify the Pakistani nationals staying in their respective areas and ensure their deportation, the sources said.

The Indus Water Treaty brokered by the World Bank has governed the distribution and use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960

The revocation of visas does not apply to the long-term visas already issued to Hindu Pakistani nationals, which "remain valid". Government has also formally issued a notification to suspend the Indus Water Treaty. The treaty brokered by the World Bank has governed the distribution and use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960.

The Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are collectively referred to as the eastern rivers, while the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab are known as the western rivers. The water of this river system are crucial to both India and Pakistan.

At the time of Independence, the boundary demarcation between the two newly-formed nations — India and Pakistan — cut through the Indus Basin.

UP Government serves eviction notices to Pakis

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

In a swift and sweeping response to the deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which claimed 26 innocent lives, the Central Government has cancelled all visas issued to Pakistani nationals currently staying in India.

Across cities such as Bareilly, Varanasi, and Rampur, Pakistani women can be seen with tearful eyes and packed bags, standing in queues at district administration offices or Foreigners Registration Offices (FROs), waiting for instructions on how and when to leave.

"I came to see my daughter who gave birth to a baby boy just last month," said 62-year-old Shabana Parveen from Karachi, holding her grandson in her arms outside an FRO in Bareilly.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has directed that all Pakistani nationals in India must return home by April 27, with a slight extension granted to those on medical visas until April 29.

All concerned district authorities have been directed to complete documentation and facilitate the return of Pakistani citizens by April 27. Those who

are in India on medical visas will be allowed time until April 29," DGP Kumar said. Senior police officials are coordinating closely with local intelligence units to ensure that all foreign nationals are accounted for and that there are no overstays or violations of visa norms.

Security has been tightened across UP, especially in areas with a history of communal tension. CM Yogi has ordered increased surveillance ahead of Friday prayers

This move is likely to have diplomatic implications, though the Centre has maintained that it is a security-driven decision in response to credible threats.

The Ministry of External Affairs is expected to issue a formal statement soon regarding the broader implications of the visa cancellations.

The abrupt decision follows the Pahalgam terror attack, which Indian intelligence agencies believe was planned by Pakistan-based terror groups. In response, security has been tightened across UP, especially in areas with a history of communal tension.

While security officials stress that the move is purely precautionary, the emotional fallout is undeniable.

The Bystander



Delhi shuts down in solidarity with Pahalgam

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Delhi downed its shutters to protest against the Pahalgam killings and Shahi Imam of historic Jama Masjid Syed Ahmed Bukhar said terrorists claim to be Muslims but have acted in a manner that is utterly "un-Islamic".



A poster put up in Janpath, Delhi, paying tributes to victims of the Pahalgam terror attack during a bandh called by city traders against the attack

According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), several of Delhi's busiest commercial hubs, including Connaught Place, Sadar Bazar and Chandni Chowk, were bereft of their usual hubbub on Friday as over 900 markets and 8 lakh shops downed its shutters.

Sadar Bazar, one of Delhi's most prominent markets, usually bustling with activity, wore a deserted look on Friday as even vegetable vendors did not turn up.

The shutdown was held to demand justice for the tourist who was killed and to stand united against terrorism," it said. Kashmiri Gate, Asia's largest spare parts market wore a deserted look.

Law made by Parliament, can't be stayed: Centre to SC on Waqf

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Centre on Friday sought the Supreme Court to dismiss the pleas challenging the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 and said there cannot be a "blanket stay" on the law as there was a "presumption of its Constitutionality".

"Right before even Mughal era, pre-independence era and post-independence era, the total of Waqfs created was 18,29,163.896 acres of land in India," the affidavit said.

The settled position in law that constitutional courts would not stay a statutory provision either directly or indirectly and will decide the matter finally. There is a presumption of constitutionality that applies to laws made by Parliament," it added.

The Centre went on, "While this court would examine these challenges when the cases are heard, a blanket stay (or a partial stay) without being aware of the adverse consequences of such an order in a gener-

ality of cases (even on members of the Muslim community itself) were the petitions to be unsuccessful would, it is submitted, be uncalled for, especially in the context of the presumption of validity of such laws."

The Government said the amendments were undertaken after a very comprehensive, in-depth and analytical study by a Parliamentary panel having members from major political parties.

The affidavit said replacing legislative regime, enacted by the legislature, was impermissible. On April 17, the Centre had assured the top court that it would neither denotify waqf properties, including "waqf by user", nor make any appointments to the central waqf council and boards till May 5.

Former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan passes away

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday condoled the demise of former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan and remembered him for playing a stellar role in the evolution of India's space programme.

He was conferred with Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan. He headed ISRO between 1994 and August 27, 2003.

He was the project director for India's first two experimental earth observation satellites — BHASKARA-I and II — and subsequently, was also responsible for the overall direction of the first operational Indian remote-sensing satellite, IRS-1A.

India's martyrs to be immortalised in Delhi's metro stations

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), in a unique gesture to honour Param Veer Chakra (PVC) awardees, has dedicated an entire platform wall at the Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Moti Bagh Metro station on the Pink Line.

showcasing the portraits of these gallant warriors. The Delhi Metro has thereby created a unique space that fosters national pride and inspires a sense of gratitude among its commuters.



courage and valour of our armed forces. Delhi Metro has honoured the legacy of distinguished heroes by naming select stations after them, such as Major Mohit Sharma Rajendra Nagar Station, Arjan

been curated at the Rajouri Garden Metro station. This unique exhibition titled "Veerta Aur Vikas" is a tribute to the gallantry award recipients of the Indian Armed Forces who have shown exemplary courage to preserve the sovereignty and dignity of the nation.

Earlier, the Modi government has 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees in 2023. These islands have been named after the 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, viz. Major Somnath Sharma; Subedar and Hony Captain (then Lance Naik) Karam Singh, MM; 2nd Lt. Rama Raghoba Rane; Major Jadunath Singh; Company Havildar Major Puru Singh; Capt GS Salaria; Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) Dhan Singh Thapa; Subedar Joginder Singh; Major Shaiban Singh; CQMH. Abdul Hamid; Lt Col Ardeshir Burzorji Tarapore; Lance Naik Albert Ekka; Major Hoshiar Singh; 2nd Lt. Arun Khetrpal; Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhona; Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran; Naib Subedar Bana Singh; Captain Vikram Batra; Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey; Subedar Major (then Rifleman) Sanjay Kumar; and Subedar Major Retd (Hony Captain) Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav.



Strict action to be taken against overcharging for dengue test

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Dehradun Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma said that the severe measures will be enforced against individuals who charge above the authorised rates for dengue testing.

He said that while during a recent meeting with representatives of the district's blood banks and private government pathology laboratories, it was mandated that the maximum rates for dengue tests should be displayed in the waiting areas and billing counters of private hospitals and labs.

He further stated that the Health department has set the rates for dengue tests, which include the following: the Dengue ELISA test for Rs 1,100 at NABL-

accredited labs and Rs 1,000 at non-NABL labs. The price for the rapid test (NS1) is Rs 500, while the Dengue rapid test (NS1 + IgG + IgM combo test) costs Rs 800.

In addition, he said that during the meeting, there was a discussion regarding other tests conducted by private labs, for which the rates have not yet been determined. He said that within two to three days, discussions will take place with the administration of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC). Consequently, the rates will be fixed for these additional tests.

He also said that there are two types of platelet bags: the Random Donor Platelet (RDP) bag and the jumbo bag. The price for the jumbo platelet bag has been set at Rs 12,000, but there is still some confusion regarding the pricing of the RDP bag. This will be resolved soon and until the RDP bag price is fixed, the previous rate will remain in effect.

IN BRIEF

Army jawans reach Hemkund Sahib to remove snow

JYOTIRMATH: With portals of the revered Hemkund Sahib opening on May 25, the army personnel have launched the snow-removing drive along the stretch from Ghangaria to the shrine. They said they are now preparing the path for the upcoming pilgrimage by cutting the accumulated snow.

Schools to have bagless day on last Saturday of every month

DEHRADUN: Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat announced that the last Saturday of every month would be observed as 'bagless day' in all government-run and private schools across the State. This move, he said, has been taken by the State government in line with the National Education Policy-2020.

UPES signs MoU with University of Nottingham for academic collaboration

DEHRADUN: To strengthen international academic partnerships, UPES signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Nottingham which has ranked 108th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2025. Senior UPES functionaries said that the MoU marks the beginning of a promising collaboration aimed at cultivating global learning experiences, academic exchanges and joint research initiatives.

KVS sports meet, Doon region, concludes at KV, OFD

DEHRADUN: The 54th KVS regional sports meet (Dehradun region) concluded at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya Ordinance Factory Dehradun on Friday. The three-day meet of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan featured athletics for boys (under 14, 17 and under 19). PM SHRI KV, OFD hosted various athletic events, including discus throw, javelin throw, shot put and hammer throw aside from different races.



Students and faculty with global perspectives, he said, adding that this collaboration would evolve into a dynamic platform for co-creating knowledge, fostering innovation and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow.

Tribal women trained in manufacturing, marketing value-added products

PANTNAGAR: A two-day training programme on manufacturing of multiple items like jelly and product marketing for creation of entrepreneurship opportunities was held in Loka village under Sitarganj block of Udhm Singh Nagar district under the joint aegis of the department of Agricultural Communication of G B P University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kashipur, with the financial support of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Regional Sports Meet concludes at KV, IMA

DEHRADUN: The 54th regional yoga and rope skipping competition (girls' category) which commenced on April 23 at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, concluded on Friday. The organisers of the event said that the participating girls during this three-day event showcased their skills and expertise aside from demonstrating self-discipline, courage and teamwork.



The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Pilgrimage should be main focus of U'khand:Naithani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Former Education minister and Congress leader Mantri Prasad Naithani emphasised that pilgrimage, rather than tourism, should be the primary focus in Uttarakhand. He said this while announcing the commencement of the Baba Vishwanath Jagagishila Doli Yatra in the State. Naithani stated that this year, for the 26th time, Baba Vishwanath Jagadishila Doli Yatra will be held in the State. It will begin this year on May 7 and conclude on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra on June 5. The Yatra will begin from Haridwar and, like in past years, it will pass through various places and temples across 13 districts, covering a distance of 10,500 kilometres throughout Uttarakhand.

Sports Authority of U'khand to be formed soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The process of constitution of the Sports Authority of Uttarakhand (SAU) has started. The authority will promote sports activity in the State under the sports legacy plan. According to officials, the minutes of a recent meeting have been circulated by the appropriate authorities, outlining the points that should be incorporated into the comprehensive project or proposal for the sports legacy plan. Following this, work has begun on developing the detailed project for the sports legacy initiative. The officials further said that the minutes indicate that the initial directive allows for the creation of SAU under the sports legacy proposal. This establishment is expected to facilitate the effective operation of the sports academies that will be developed under the legacy plan.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice. The bids are invited from the registered entities on IREPS by Sr.DCM./Chg./MB (ACO) through e-auction on 13.05.2025 for allotment of Battery Operated Vehicle, Rail Coach Restaurant, commercial advertising, and ATM contracts over Moradabad Division.

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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AYURVEDIC SCIENCES (Ministry of Ayush, Government of India). Advertisement 2025 June Batch. CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellowship Programme (CCRAS PDF Programme). The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, has initiated "CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellowship Programme" with the approval of Ministry of Ayush to identify promising young researchers with innovative ideas and provide them with training and research opportunities in different multidisciplinary areas in the field of Ayurveda.

NIEPVD to open shortlist of students selected for admission on April 28

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) will announce the shortlist of students selected for admission to specific classes on their official website on April 28. This information was shared by the principal of NIEPVD, Amit Sharma, during a discussion regarding the status of admissions for the year 2025.

Sharma said that the admission registration process for various classes at NIEPVD commenced on February 10, with a deadline of March 15. However, some parents encountered delays in schools issuing results, which affected their ability to finalise the registration. In response to these issues, parents requested an extension. As a result, the registration deadline for other classes was postponed to April 10. Subsequently, the online testing for applicants began on April 22, with the initial plan for the online tests to conclude on April 24.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the online test has been extended by one additional day, he said.

He further added that in light of this, the administration of NIEPVD has confirmed that the shortlisting process will still be completed on schedule. Further, the list of candidates who have successfully passed the online test will be published on their official website on April 28 at 10 AM. Applicants are encouraged to check the results there, he added.

It will be recalled that Sharma previously said that the online test will assess applicants' fundamental knowledge, subject-specific skills and psychological characteristics. A panel of four to five members will oversee the online test and the selection procedure. The NIEPVD has allocated 10 seats for Bal Vatika, with additional reserved seats distributed as follows: five for class I, three for class II, one for class III, two for class IV and ten for class IX. Additionally, no seats were available for classes V, VII and VIII this year.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice. The bids are invited from the registered entities on IREPS by Sr.DCM./Chg./MB (ACO) through e-auction on 16.05.2025 against Installation and Operation of Water Vending Machine On Stand Alone Basis at Railway Stations Over Moradabad Division.

IIFL FINANCE. PUBLIC NOTICE. The branch of IIFL Finance Ltd. located at Ground Floor, 275, Ward no. 11, Tanakpur, Dist. Champawat - 262309 (UK) will be shifting to below mentioned address with effect from 30th July, 2025.

Public Notice. The branch of IIFL Finance Ltd. located at Ground Floor, 275, Ward no. 11, Tanakpur, Dist. Champawat - 262309 (UK) will be shifting to below mentioned address with effect from 30th July, 2025.

सर्वजनिक सूचना. ग्राउंड फ्लोर, 275, वार्ड नं. 11, टनकपुर, जिला चंपावत - 262309 (उत्तराखण्ड) पर स्थित आईआईएफएल फाइनेंस लिमिटेड की शाखा 30 जुलाई 2025 से नीचे लिखे पते पर स्थानांतरित हो रही है।

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE. E-Auction Catalogue No. SEE-SLR-VPLEASE. The Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Sonpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Auction for award of contract for SLR Lease and VP lease of following trains over Sonpur Division for a period of two (02) years.

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Dhama checks Char Dham Yatra Transit Camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

LED screens at the Char Dham Yatra Transit Camp in Rishikesh will display bhajans, stories from the Ramayan and Mahabharat and information related to the Char Dham Yatra.

up a dedicated area for selling local products of Uttarakhand in the transit camp and to make promotional material available at the reception.



system to offer all services at one location. Dhama reviewed facilities at the camp including the registration counters, help and enquiry centre, hospital and lost and found unit.

in place. Medical services will run round-the-clock and a public address system has been installed at the police assistance centre.

Minister directs termination of teachers absent for long, again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat has directed that the teachers that are absent from the schools for a long period of time, should be terminated.

rected that the cases of voluntary and compulsory retirement in the department should be expedited. He also reviewed the process of distribution of free textbooks to the students of class I to XII in the meeting and warned that officers responsible for delay in textbook distribution will be punished.

Expressing his strong displeasure on the disparities in the categorisation of schools into Sugam and Durgam categories, the minister directed the director general of School Education to investigate the issue and ensure that the schools are categorized as per the norms.

The secretary Ravinath Raman, director general Education Jharna Kamthan, director Mukul Sati and other officers attended the meeting.

Teachers' organisation seeks closure of U'khand Education Directorate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Reacting to the recent order of the director general (DG), School Education, Jharna Kamthan, in which a restriction in the entry of people in the Education Directorate is imposed, the Rajkeeya Shikshak Sangh (RSS), the organisation of lecturers and Licentiate Teachers (LT) of the State has demanded that the directorate should be shut down.

tion. He said that from 2017, the promotions of teachers have ceased while the promotion process in other departments is going on smoothly. Chauhan said that the RSS has held various rounds of talks with the Education minister, secretary Education and other officers of department on various issues pertaining to teachers but barring inter-division transfers of teachers, all other issues such as promotion, increment, selection grade, pay disparity and travel leave have remained unresolved.

Foundation stone of Rs 100 crore rafting base station laid in Rishikesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama laid the foundation stone of the Iconic City Rishikesh Rafting base station in Rishikesh on Friday. The station will be constructed under the first phase of the Rishikesh Ganga Corridor project.

cameras, SOS alarms and emergency help stations will also be installed. The CM said that the multi-storey parking facility will solve the problem of traffic jams in Rishikesh especially during the Char Dham Yatra to a great extent.

DM urges ASHA workers to work dedicatedly to prevent dengue spread

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

In view of the rising number of dengue cases in Dehradun, district magistrate Savin Bansal asked Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers to carry out their duties with full dedication to help prevent the further spread of the disease.

ment ward-wise action plans for ASHA workers. Larval control activities will be monitored by the Health department and progress will be tracked through a Google spreadsheet, which will be made publicly accessible.

Shah also informed the DM that preventing the spread of dengue is a top priority and that related efforts are being monitored daily.

Confer Bharat Ratna on HN Bahuguna: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Uttarakhand Congress has demanded that the country's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna should be conferred upon the late Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna. A programme was organised by the State unit of the Congress party at Rajiv Bhawan to mark 106th birth anniversary of former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and Union minister Bahuguna.

He said that Bahuguna became active in student politics in Allahabad University and then took part in the freedom struggle. He was jailed by the British. After independence he was elected to UP Vidhan Sabha from Allahabad and later became CM of UP. Large number of the leaders and workers of the Congress party paid homage to Bahuguna on the occasion.

Officials deployed to manage tourist influx and traffic in Nainital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

During the summer tourism season in Nainital, the district administration has deployed officials to manage the increasing number of tourists and traffic congestion during weekly holidays. The deployment aims to guide tourists at entry points and parking locations and ensure the availability of necessary facilities, the additional district magistrate PR Chauhan said.

Russi Bypass and Narayan Nagar parking sites as per a roster. The designated nodal officers and staff will inform tourists about the status of internal parking spaces in Nainital and ensure their transfer to the town through shuttle services. They have also been directed to maintain cooperative and courteous conduct toward tourists and respond politely to queries.

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पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab national bank. E-Auction Sale Notice. Circle Office- 01 Paltan Bazar, PNB House, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. A-Euction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Editor's
TAKE

Lessons from Chernobyl disaster

Its remembrance day is a stark reminder of nuclear perils and human resilience

Every year on April 26, the world pauses to commemorate International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day, honouring the victims of one of the gravest nuclear catastrophes in human history. It is not just a day of remembrance, but also a solemn call for vigilance — against the potential hazards of nuclear power and the far-reaching consequences when things go wrong. On April 26, 1986, Reactor No 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, located in what is now Ukraine, exploded during a late-night safety test gone wrong.

The blast released radioactive material across much of the western Soviet Union, affecting territories now known as Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. Nearly 8.4 million people were exposed to high levels of radiation, with long-term effects on their health, environment, and livelihoods.

What made Chernobyl particularly harrowing was not just the scale of the disaster but also the delayed and inadequate response. The Soviet Government did not request international help until 1990, four years after the explosion, acknowledging only then the need for global cooperation in managing the fallout.

History records only two instances where nuclear explosions directly led to large-scale human casualties: the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, and the industrial disaster at Chernobyl in 1986. While the former were acts of war, Chernobyl was a stark reminder that nuclear technology, even in peaceful applications, can spiral into catastrophe without stringent oversight and safety protocols. Both events left indelible scars on humanity and taught us one crucial lesson: nuclear power is not merely a technological marvel — it is a profound responsibility.

In response to the disaster, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 45/190 in 1990, launching a global movement to mitigate the consequences of the explosion.

Over the years, more than 230 projects have been implemented in health, nuclear safety, environmental restoration, clean food production, and education. In 2002, the UN changed its approach, focusing not only on humanitarian aid but also on long-term sustainable development. Agencies such as the UNDP led regional recovery efforts in Belarus, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation.

The launch of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN) in 2009 further reinforced this developmental vision. Perhaps the most symbolic milestone was the 2019 completion and handover of the New Safe Confinement, a \$2.2 billion engineering marvel built to encase the damaged reactor. Funded by over 45 nations, it stands as a global symbol of what international cooperation can achieve in the name of safety.

Technological advancements have significantly improved nuclear safety since 1986. Modern reactors are equipped with passive safety systems, improved materials, and fail — safes that automatically shut down operations during emergencies. International regulatory bodies have also tightened oversight, ensuring higher standards for reactor design, operation, and waste management. Yet, the core truth remains: no system is immune to human error, natural disasters, or unforeseen technical failures.

As the world grapples with climate change and searches for clean energy alternatives, nuclear power is once again in the spotlight. While it offers low-carbon energy, it also carries high risks — making it imperative that caution, transparency, and global cooperation remain the cornerstones of nuclear development.

International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is not only about looking back; it's about ensuring we never repeat the mistakes of the past. It's about remembering the lives affected, the lessons learned, and the enduring message: with great power comes great responsibility — especially when that power lies in the nucleus of the atom. Let us honour this day by committing to a future where nuclear technology is wielded wisely, ethically, and with the utmost respect for life and the planet.

A crime against humanity

As India reels from the horror, pahalgam massacre underscores the persistent threat of cross-border terror, the fragility of peace in Jammu and Kashmir, and the urgent need for a robust national and global response

In the deadliest terror attack on civilians in the country since the Mumbai mayhem of 26/11, a picturesque meadow near Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam, which is the most — loved tourist destination and mini-Switzerland of India, was marred by a heart-wrenching act of perpetrators who brutally cut short innocent lives, leaving the consciousness of the nation stirred and the entire community devastated.

The ghastly and barbaric attack was not merely aimed at tourists or individuals; rather, it is seen as an assault and atrocity on humanity that has shattered the subtle fabric of cohesive society, as the terrorists selectively killed innocent people point-blank only after identifying their religion (Hindu).

It appears that they have tried to create inflammatory narratives in India, which is currently fending off the kerfuffle caused by the Waqf Bill and communally charged Aurangzeb rhetoric.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a splinter group of the Pakistan — based Lashkar-e-Taiba, is suspected of orchestrating Tuesday's terrorist attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran, which claimed 26 lives. The timing of the Pahalgam meadow massacre exposes the nefarious modus operandi of Pakistan, which has been the biggest enemy of normalcy in the Valley.

The assaults were carried out when Prime Minister Modi was visiting Jeddah for diplomatic engagement and bilateral talks to boost the centuries — old economic and socio-cultural ties between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The attack unfolded while US Vice President JD Vance's ongoing four — day visit to India marked an important milestone for the diplomatic push to deepen bilateral dialogues during Trump's trade tariff global gung — ho.

The Pahalgam terror attack, which mirrors former US President Bill Clinton's 2000 trip to India when LeT carried out a Sikh massacre in Chittisinghpura in Anantnag district of J&K, could be seen in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's reluctance to entertain Pakistan's Kashmir clamour.

The Pahalgam incident took place exactly a week after Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir made the most provocative comments filled with anti-India rants and called Kashmir Pakistan's "jugular vein." Pakistan, which currently represents hunger, poverty, extremism, terrorism, and economic decline — is at a crossroads as its military is reported to be facing the fire of inter-



RAMAKANT CHAUDHARY

caused great concern for China, which has significantly invested in several projects, including energy, transport, and infrastructure, in Pakistan. Pakistan's failure to engage with tribal communities has fuelled the growth of armed separatist groups, targeting security forces, Chinese interests, and migrant workers.

The growing alienation of the population, driven by the denial of democratic and economic rights, has fuelled anger, especially among the youth.

The brutal attack on tourists, which rarely happened even during the heydays of militancy in the Valley, vividly shows the frustration and desperation of Pakistan-based terror outfits.

The barbaric attack happened just ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, which attracts huge

numbers of Hindu tourists and pilgrims. The perpetrators aimed at blunting the sole growing tourist-based economy of J&K and tried to dismantle the perception that the Valley is steadily marching towards stabilisation after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

With peace limping back to the Valley in the face of a slump in terror attacks in the Valley, lakhs of tourists have made a beeline to the Valley. It prompted huge investment in the region to win the hearts of tourists.

As tulips bloom and tourism booms — this year Srinagar has witnessed huge footfalls of domestic and international tourists. The growing tourism endorses the success saga of the Government and the engagement of locals and Kashmiri youths for harvesting income, heralding normalcy in the Valley. So, the attack on tourism was the obvious choice of militants and "Mullahs."

The Government response must be befitting and multi-dimensional to give a tight lesson to evil minds.

The Pahalgam attack is the biggest since the Pulwama attack of 2019 in terms of casualties. India's past retaliatory actions are still echoing. The Uri surgical strikes (2016) and Balakot airstrikes (2019) have formed the foundation of India's punitive responses. In its full-scale diplomatic retaliation, the PM

Modi Government took a strong stand: Keeping the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in Abeyance, Shutting off Attari Integrated Check Post, Stopping of SAARC Visa Scheme for Pakistanis, Cutting of High Commission Strength to 30, and Declaration of Military Advisors in the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi Persona Non-Grata. India's military response to the Pahalgam attack appears to be another defining moment in the turbulent history of Kashmir and could add a new chapter in dealing with terrorism.

A swift and strategic response will not only deter future attacks but also reinforce India's commitment to safeguarding its citizens and restoring peace in the Valley.

By addressing the root causes of unrest and strengthening security measures, India can ensure that such heinous acts do not derail the progress towards stability and prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir.

It is pertinent to mention a famous quote of Kofi Annan to end terrorism: "The only way to deal with the scourge of terrorism is to address its root causes and unite against it with unwavering resolve."

(The author works with PRP Group as Content Head. Views are personal)

Towards economy with a conscience

SECOND Opinion

BY RAJYOGI BRAHMKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

During the last two decades or so there has been a growing trend towards globalisation of trade and commerce and a free-market economy. The academic economists believe that these steps would give a spurt to forces of competitiveness, efficiency, better job opportunities and generation of more wealth and prosperity.

But one has to take into account not just these benefits but also the overall consequences of globalisation and the free play of market forces. As everyone knows, globalisation is only a small bit of economic philosophy or policy and one must know the all-inclusive worldview or philosophy of which it forms a part. Without viewing it in the full context, one may have an erroneous view of it.

Like, the globalisation of business and trade without a global view of society as a global family would lead to social tensions and economic strife and this is what we are experiencing today.

Also, globalisation in economics is an outward-looking view and if it has no corresponding inward — looking view, it would unleash bitter competition and in the absence of the inward-looking balancing forces, it would lead to stark materialism and commercialism, diminishing or setting at nought the values of sympathy, kindness, compassion, world-brotherhood,

co-operation and so on. Thus, it would not only destabilise the financial markets but create disharmony in human relations as well. Moreover, it's a known fact that capital tends to flow from countries that have free — market economies to other countries where it has a better chance of profit by employing cheap labour, available resources, etc., whereas labour does not find it as easy to go to places where it has better prospects because labour has emotional ties with family and is affected by family circumstances.

Thus, due to better mobility and flexibility of capital in contrast to that of labour, international portfolio investors, and not the labour, would benefit the most.

Thus, globalisation would result in disproportionate profit to those who can invest capital and it would lead to uneven distribution of benefits and social and economic deprivation. Further, in a free-market economy, every player in the manufacturing sector would tend to drive others out of the market and thus competition would grow and stiffen and the financial markets, which are inherently unstable, would accentuate instability.

Thus, the whole economy would never return to some kind of equilibrium. In this state of instability, the business and industrial class would tend to adopt all sorts of unfair means to prevent any dwindling of its profit and, thus, the whole atmosphere would be vitiated, for the portfolio investors would try to take the politicians and the bureaucrats also with them to survive or thrive.

This would further give rise to corruption, black money and other evils. Thus, it is strange that our leaders talk of moral

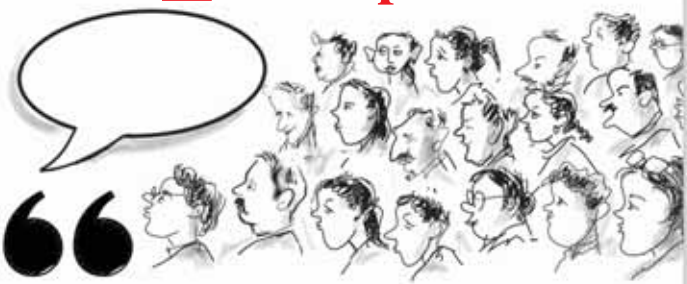
values on the one hand and of globalisation on the other hand without making any efforts to make popular a global spiritual view of society as a global family. One can see that the major economic powers today dominate the multilateral trading system. They define and redefine globalisation to suit their national interests. This leads to clashes of interests and instability. Again, to assess the merits or demerits of a system, one should also go into the ideological base of a policy and take notice of its consequences.

We should ask ourselves the question as to why we want a free-market economy or a state — controlled one. We should be clear in our mind about our desirable goal and see whether a particular form of economy takes us towards that goal. If our goal is to remove poverty and great economic disparity and to have a society based on economic justice and fair play, then we should sort out whether globalisation or a state-controlled economy can do it better.

This should be judged by those who are neutral and have no vested interests in either form of economy. So, if in the present world situation, we must have globalisation, then we should have a global open society that has some sort of state control in certain sectors and constantly strives to correct and improve. In any case, a happy blend of economics and spirituality — both based on values — is necessary and, in the process of decision-making, involvement of such institutions as are neutral would be beneficial.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist. Views are personal)

Leaderspeak



The whole country is with the bereaved families. The Government is trying its best to ensure the well-being of those injured. Someone has lost a son, someone has lost a brother, someone has lost life partner... From Kargil to Kanyakumari, there is grief and rage. This attack was not just on innocent tourists; the country's enemies have shown the audacity to attack India's soul.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Letters to the Editor

A selfless act of a pony operator

Madam — I wish to pay my heartfelt tribute to Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the 30-year-old pony operator who displayed unimaginable bravery during the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

Adil selflessly attempted to shield tourists he had escorted to Baisaran Meadow, ultimately losing his life in the process. Reports state he even tried to snatch a weapon from one of the terrorists before being shot thrice in the chest. His sacrifice is both heroic and heartbreaking. In a time marred by religious polarisation, Adil's actions remind us of the innate goodness and humanity that transcends faith. He stands as a beacon of courage and compassion — proof that heroism knows no religion. While extremists attempt to divide us along communal lines, Adil's martyrdom reaffirms the simple truth: humanity is our greatest religion. It is often said that a terrorist has no religion. But those who die protecting others, regardless of the victims' faiths, show us what it means to truly embody divine values.

In contrast, religious zealots who push a narrative of "our god versus their god" only undermine the very essence of spirituality. Adil's story deserves national recognition. Let us remember him not just as a brave man from Pahalgam, but as a true son of India. We must amplify such stories of unity and courage, and let them shape the discourse of our nation.

SUJIT DEJ | KOLKATA

Bullish sentiment reflects optimism

Madam — The Indian stock market witnessed a remarkable upswing on April 24, 2025, with the BSE Sensex closing at 74,339.44 — an increase of 486.50 points (0.66 per cent). The NSE Nifty too mirrored this surge, climbing 167.95 points (0.75 per cent) to settle at 22,570.35.

The momentum was largely driven by robust performances in the banking, financial, and metal sectors. Investor sentiment appears buoyant, with consistent buying indicating renewed faith in India's macroeconomic outlook.

Analysts attribute this positive trend to multiple factors: stable inflation rates, proactive fiscal policies, and strong corporate earnings.

Foreign investment has also shown encouraging signs, reflecting global confidence in India's economic resilience. These gains are not just numbers — they signify broader economic stability and the potential for sustained growth.

A bullish market often translates into increased consumer and business confidence, spurring spending, job creation, and infrastructural development.

However, while optimism is warranted, it's essential to remain cautious and well-informed. Markets can be volatile, and policy decisions — both domestic and international — can influence future trends. Nevertheless, this surge offers a promising indicator for investors and the economy at large.

AAMIR ZAMAN | MUMBAI

An urgent appeal against rising hate

Madam — It is deeply distressing to witness the growing atmosphere of hostility and organised propaganda against minorities, particularly Muslims, in our country. As the world's largest democracy, India should be a model of co-existence and inclusivity.

Unfortunately, a segment of political and ideological forces seems determined to distort this legacy. Every day, Muslims are subjected to suspicion, hate, and vilification — under the guise of nationalism, patriotism, or allegations of extremism. These narratives are often propagated through media, political rhetoric, and social platforms, creating an environment of fear and alienation. The consequences are grave: rising intolerance, social division, and the erosion of communal harmony.

Such developments are a betrayal of India's constitutional ideals and its centuries-old tradition of unity in diversity. When citizens are targeted based on their faith, we do not just harm the targeted community — we weaken the fabric of the nation itself.

I urge your esteemed platform to bring attention to this pressing issue. The public must be made aware of these undercurrents of hate, so they can reject the politics of division and stand up for truth and justice. Only by confronting these challenges together can we ensure that India remains a truly secular and democratic republic.

OMAR FARUQUE MONDAL | GOALPARA

PAHALGAM ATTACK: A NATION'S ANGUISH DEMANDS STRONG ACTION

This is in reference to the headlines and editorial on the Pahalgam tragedy (April 24). The entire nation is engulfed in grief and anger over this horrific attack.

While diplomatic steps such as suspending the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down the Attari check post, withdrawing from the SAARC visa exemption scheme, recalling our diplomats, and asking Pakistani officials to leave are substantial in the long term, they fall short of addressing the immediate public outrage and sorrow. The statements of sympathy from Islamic nations to the victims' families seem, as always, perfunctory and lack meaningful substance.

These symbolic gestures do little to shake or impact Pakistan. The Jammu and Kashmir Government must accept accountability for this grave security lapse. Inviting tourists without ensuring their safety is a betrayal of trust. The popular Baisaran Valley, often referred to as "Mini Switzerland," attracts scores of tourists.

Yet, had there been adequate police or paramilitary deployment along the route, this tragedy could likely have been prevented.

Tourists were left vulnerable, ferried on ponies through remote and risky paths by pony operators, many of whom are reportedly insensitive to the needs of travellers. It is time the Government reconsidered promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a safe tourist destination.

The Northeast, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Odisha offer equally, if not more, breathtaking views without the shadow of constant threat.

More symbolic gestures — candle marches, market closures, and all-party condemnations — are not enough. It calls for another surgical strike across the nation, but the question remains — have previous strikes served as a deterrent? The public deserves justice, not platitudes.

VINOD JOHRI | DELHI

Building a new world economic order

A new, multipolar economic order is taking shape, led by nations like India, whose demographic strength, resource wealth, and deeply rooted ethos of fairness position it as a key architect of a more just and sustainable global economy

FIRST Column

The world economy is in for a big churning, a severe shake-up. The reasons are primarily two — a debt-based capitalistic model of development and the dominance of the dollar as the international monetary currency, delinked from any traditional tangible material resource like gold.

In the last 75 years, the economic models of the USA, Europe, and a major part of the rest of the world have been built on a typical capitalist ecosystem in which large funds, banking institutions, and a dominant global currency — the US dollar — have been the driving elements.

This model has begun to wear out, naturally, because it was unsustainable and out of sync with the fundamental economic principles that drive the economic growth of institutions, including that of nations.

It is the widely held view in the present times that economic growth occurs through the production of valuable goods and services and their sale to those who consume such goods or services.

But this understanding or definition needs clarification. Today, the economic growth of nations is defined and measured in terms of GDP, of which trade forms a major component.

Trade here connotes exports as well as imports. However, economic status depends on accumulated wealth due to the net inflow of money.

Accumulation of money takes place through two modes — international trade and domestic production and sale. But for a nation to grow rich, it has to be sovereign and politically independent — because the terms of international trade and domestic business need to be in tune with fairness and equity.

This was not the case during the British rule in India, which was a saga of depredation and plunder. This also is not true in the wake of an inequitable global economic order where rules of business are skewed in favour of the mightier and more influential nations.

The world economic order over the last 80 years since the cessation of the Second World War has been determined and drawn by the victor block of the war — the Allied powers.

The Allied power group created vassal or semi-vassal states out of the vanquished Axis power states and other states.

Military might created political hegemony, and this gradually transformed into economic hegemony through one-sided trade rules that perpetuated the poverty of third-world countries and further enriched the first-world countries.

The establishment of the UNO and its sub-organisations did not do much to alter the tilt of the economic order towards the First World block. Things became worse 30 years later when the US dollar, the reserve currency of the world, was delinked from gold, thus giving it overriding and overwhelming dominance.

Growth potential was always with the resource-rich third-world countries, and the high econom-



ic growth of these countries through the eighties and nineties of the twentieth century could not be matched by the economically saturated and stagnating first-world block, WTO and a set of trade rules thereunder, like GATT and TRIPS, were established.

But these also could not give the intended growth impetus to the first-world block, because of the working of immanent natural laws of economics.

It is time again today to look at the above natural laws. The capitalistic, debt-based model of growth is unnatural and unsustainable. The plunder or exploitation-based model is inhuman and naturally unsustainable too.

The world is staring at a new economic order because of the changing power equations across



ATUL SEHGAL

MILITARY MIGHT CREATED POLITICAL HEGEMONY AND THIS GRADUALLY TRANSFORMED INTO ECONOMIC HEGEMONY THROUGH ONE-SIDED TRADE RULES THAT PERPETUATED THE POVERTY OF THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES AND FURTHER ENRICHED THE FIRST-WORLD COUNTRIES

the globe. Today, military and industrial technology is not the sole preserve of the designated first-world nations of the twentieth century.

China, India, Brazil, and Iran are some of the ex — third-world countries that, besides being resource-rich, also have industrial and military technologies.

China and India possess nuclear arsenals, and even Iran is on its way to acquiring nuclear capability. So, neither military might nor economic might of the erstwhile powers can sustain the old world economic order.

The mammoth debt of China, pegged at 300 per cent of GDP, and of the USA, estimated at 36 trillion US dollars (more than 100 per cent of its GDP), is already showing its detrimental effects in both these countries, evidenced by the economic recession, inflation, and unemployment.

The Belt and Road initiative of China has landed in a quandary, and WTO rules are being thrown to the winds by the Trump administration in the USA.

The new world economic order will, inex-

orably, see the decline and demise of the US dollar as the dominant currency and the emergence of a multiple — currency basket for trade.

The natural laws of economics are manifesting their work in the resurgence of India, and there seems to be no stopping the slow-stepped elephant after the dragon in its neighbour seems to have fagged out.

The unique positive naturally endowed features of India are its plentiful, productive Human Resources and its economically strategic agro-climatic location along with its rich mineral resources.

Today, this country is mostly free from exploitative interference and arm-twisting by global powers and is poised for rapid take-off to become a developed nation.

The new economic order will, therefore, inevitably, see a strong economic resurgence of the Indian subcontinent, regression of the euro-zone countries, and a relatively slow growth of Latin American and African countries. The latter will pick up growth led by a resurgent India in the years and decades to come.

The Indian subcontinent, in its growth and development journey, will not indulge in the exploitation of the smaller and weaker states, unlike its colonial masters and their new avatars. It is not in the DNA of India to invade, conquer, and plunder other nations.

The Indian ethos underlines the philosophy of 'live and let live' instead of 'survival of the fittest'. That is another area where India is different and unique.

In conclusion, the global economic landscape is undergoing a profound transformation driven by the unsustainability of a debt-fuelled, capitalist model and the waning dominance of the US dollar.

The era of Western economic hegemony — rooted in military might, exploitative trade practices, and the artificial supremacy of fiat currency — is rapidly eroding. Emerging economies like India, China, Brazil, and Iran, rich in resources and technological capabilities, are reshaping the balance of power.

Among these, India stands uniquely poised for sustained and inclusive growth, bolstered by its demographic advantage, strategic location, and ethical economic philosophy.

As the global order pivots toward a multi — currency trading system and more equitable partnerships, India's non-imperial ethos positions it as a natural leader in the evolving economic era.

The new world economy will not just be about wealth accumulation but about fairness, sustainability, and mutual progress — principles deeply embedded in India's civilisational values. A future rooted in cooperation, not domination, is now within reach.

(The writer is a management consultant based in New Delhi. Views are personal)

Ramanujan: Eternal lamp in the temple of mathematics

On April 26, 1920, the nation lost Srinivasa Ramanujan a rare mathematical genius. His mathematical consciousness illuminated the world for eternity. This is not merely his death anniversary; it is a celebration of a saint — like devotee of numbers who elevated mathematics to the realms of philosophy and the divine

When numbers resonate and equations seem to dance with the soul, one name echoes through the very fabric of creation — Srinivasa Ramanujan. On April 26, 1920, a dark day in Indian history, the nation lost this priceless gem.

Yet, in that moment, his mathematical consciousness illuminated the world for eternity. This is not merely a death anniversary; it is a celebration of a saint-like devotee of numbers who elevated mathematics to the realms of poetry, philosophy, and divine connection. Ramanujan was no ordinary mathematician — he was a mystic of numbers, a seeker of hidden truths, a visionary who saw the universe through the lens of infinite equations.

His story is a spark that turns the impossible into the possible. Born on December 22, 1887, in the small town of Erode, Tamil Nadu, Ramanujan's life was nothing short of a modern fairy tale. Raised in a humble Brahmin household, surrounded by financial hardships and lacking formal education, he faced walls that would deter most.

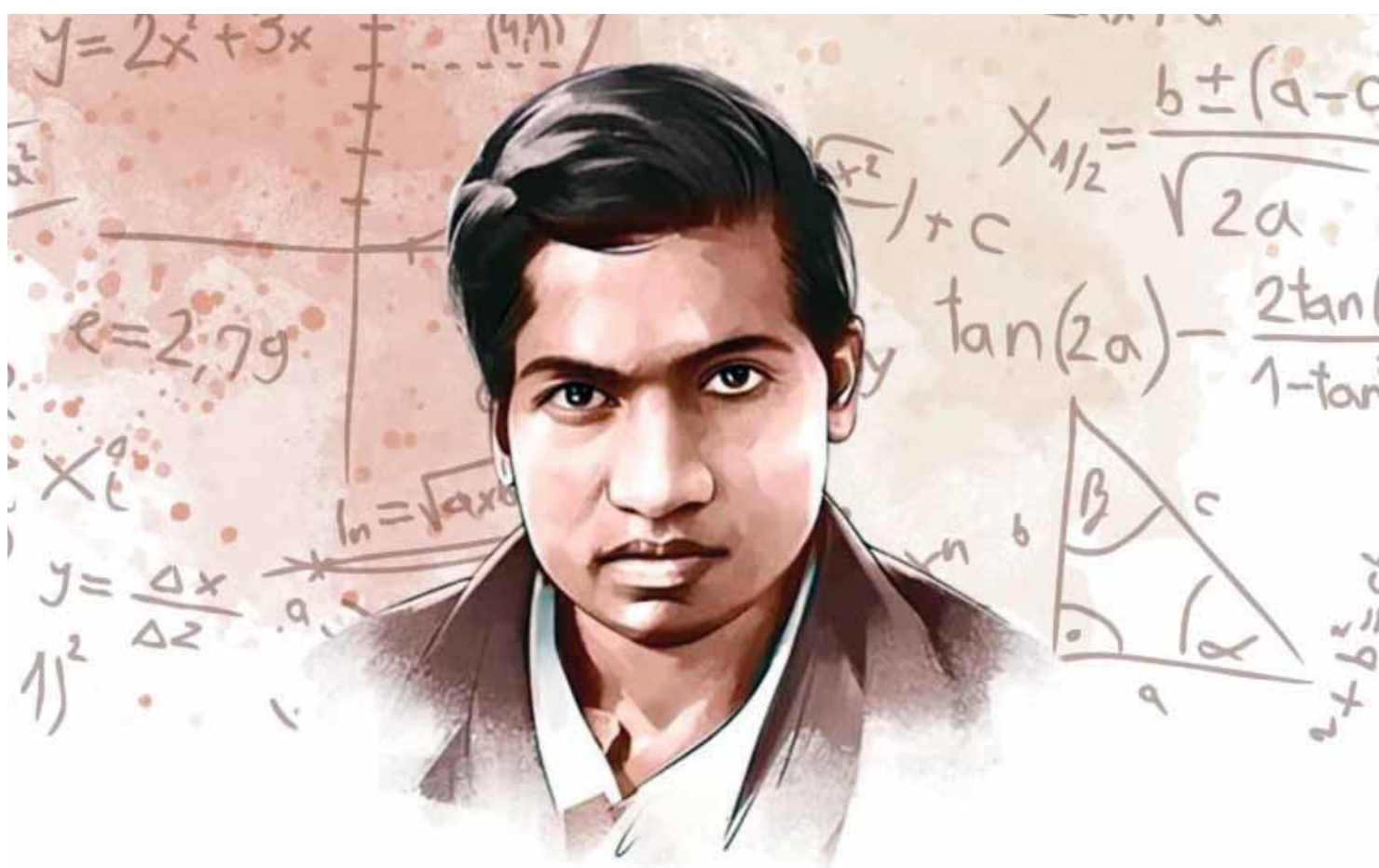
But his genius was a relentless wave that shattered every barrier. From a young age, numbers were his companions and his playground. While other children played with toys, he delved deep into the mysteries of mathematics.

School textbooks quickly proved inadequate, and he began exploring advanced mathematical concepts on his own. At the age of 15, he discovered A Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure Mathematics by GS Carr — a book that became his sacred scripture. It fuelled his imagination and transformed his notebooks into treasure troves of original formulas and theorems.

To Ramanujan, mathematics wasn't just about calculations — it was a spiritual quest. He often credited his insights to his family deity, Goddess Namagiri, saying, "Every formula that comes to my mind is by the grace of the Goddess." To him, mathematics and divinity were two expressions of the same truth. His work — be it infinite series, continued fractions, or partition functions — read like verses of a cosmic poem.

His formulas for calculating pi are so elegant and precise that they are still used by modern supercomputers. His partition function transformed number theory, and his discoveries in theta functions and modular equations have found applications in cryptography, physics, and even black hole theory. The world took notice of his genius in 1913, when he sent a letter filled with groundbreaking formulas to the eminent Cambridge mathematician GH Hardy.

Initially sceptical, Hardy was soon astonished. Upon meeting Ramanujan, he said, "Ramanujan's



RK JAIN ARJEET

mathematics is beyond the human mind; it is divine inspiration." Ramanujan was invited to Cambridge, and his collaboration with Hardy sparked a revolution in mathematics. The Hardy — Ramanujan formula on the distribution of prime numbers, along with their other contributions, are considered monumental achievements.

Ramanujan's greatest legacy lies in his notebooks — thousands of formulas, many without proofs, that took mathematicians decades to fully understand.

His mock theta functions, penned during his final days, baffled mathematicians for nearly a

FROM A YOUNG AGE, NUMBERS WERE HIS COMPANIONS AND HIS PLAYGROUND. WHILE OTHER CHILDREN PLAYED WITH TOYS, HE DELVED DEEP INTO THE MYSTERIES OF MATHEMATICS

century but are now essential in quantum physics and string theory.

His contributions to the Riemann zeta function continue to influence research on one of mathematics' most profound mysteries — the Riemann Hypothesis.

Yet, Ramanujan's journey was not without immense struggle. At Cambridge, he battled cultural isolation, dietary challenges, and the harsh English climate. Diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1917, his health deteriorated, and he returned to India in 1919.

Just a year later, on April 26, 1920, at the age of 32, he passed away in Kumbakonam. But though his mortal life ended, his spirit lives on through his work.

The discovery of his "Lost Notebook" in 1976 reignited excitement and opened new doors in mathematical research. Ramanujan's influence goes far beyond mathematics. His story is a bea-

con for dreamers and doers who dare to rise above adversity. In 1987, India marked his birth centenary by declaring it National Mathematics Year. His legacy continues in the world's top institutions, and his life inspired Robert Kanigell's biography The Man Who Knew Infinity, later adapted into a global film.

In his honour, December 22 is now celebrated as National Mathematics Day in India. Ramanujan's life is proof that genius needs no degree, wealth, or privilege. His journey is a testament to passion, faith, and the boundless potential of the human mind. His discoveries not only advanced science but also revealed a deep philosophical truth — that within each of us lies the power to touch the infinite.

Today, as we remember him on April 26, we do more than pay tribute — we renew our commitment to nurturing the spark within us. Like Ramanujan, may we turn our dreams into devotion. Equations may evolve and theorems may change, but there will never be another Ramanujan.

He is the eternal lamp in the temple of mathematics — forever radiant. His legacy is not India's alone — it belongs to all of humanity. As long as numbers are written and equations are solved, Ramanujan will remain immortal — a soul who touched infinity and offered its light to the world.

Srinivasa Ramanujan was not just a mathematician — he was a visionary who transformed numbers into a divine language. On April 26, we don't just mourn his passing; we celebrate a life that elevated mathematics into art, spirituality, and cosmic truth.

Despite humble beginnings and relentless hardships, his passion and genius blazed trails that continue to shape modern science.

His discoveries — ranging from infinite series to mock theta functions — remain cornerstones of mathematics, physics, and beyond. Ramanujan's journey proves that brilliance needs neither privilege nor pedigree.

His life is a testament to what the human spirit can achieve with faith, curiosity, and devotion. Today, his legacy lights the path for dreamers, thinkers, and seekers of truth across the world. As we remember him, we also honour the infinite potential within us all.

Ramanujan lives on, not just in equations, but in the eternal quest for knowledge he so passionately embodied. He is, and always will be, mathematics' guiding flame.

(The writer is a columnist and a blogger. Views are personal)

A Sacred Step

A powerful dance drama that brings the Ramayan to life with grace, strength, and deep emotion, says SAKSHI PRIYA

CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Ms. Rekha Gupta, the Chief Minister of Delhi, whose presence added prestige to the event and highlighted the cultural significance of the evening. Her support for the arts is well-known and her attendance at this dance drama reflected her dedication to promoting India's rich cultural heritage.



Ram's birth in Ayodhya to his return as king, through classical dance, dramatic expression and layered symbolism. Guru Ajay Bhatt and Aamrapali Bhandari's choreography respected the epic's soul.

Every movement was chosen with care. Ram's journey began with the celebration of his birth in Ayodhya. The air was alive with movement and colour. But celebration gave way to duty. Ram's departure into vanvaas was a haunting moment, his farewell to Kaushalya staged with restraint, as dancers encircled him like time closing in. The lighting shifted to capture the weight of sacrifice.

The forest scenes were among the most visually captivating. With nothing more than cloth, shadow and body formations, the dancers created rivers, trees, and wild animals. Sita stood tall with presence and dignity, while Lakshman reflected Ram's sense of duty with measured steps.

Then came the heart of the epic — Ravan's entrance. Played with authority and presence, his character carried pride and ego that ultimately led to his fall. The abduction of Sita was staged in stillness: a tight spotlight, the sudden clash of cymbals, and her hands rising in despair.

No cries — only silence, and it was deafening. Hanuman's scenes brought a shift in energy. His entry was spirited and charged, with leaps and spins that filled the stage. The youngest performing alongside the seasoned artists, especially in the search for Sita, held their own with focus and honesty, proving that emotion carries more weight than age or training.

AND THEN THE WEDDING SEQUENCE

Of all the moments, this stood out as the most poetic. Ram and Sita's swayamvar was staged with dignity. The breaking of Shiva's bow was done through a symbolic gesture — the clap and sudden illumination. But it was what followed that left the audience completely still: the phoolon ki baarish. There were no real flowers, yet one could see them. Each dancer opened their palms to the sky, then turned their hands downward, releasing imaginary petals in slow motion. It was the suggestion that created magic. The hall watched in stillness, as if the gods themselves were blessing the union. The battle between Ram and Ravan was marked by strong choreography, precise and deliberate, reflecting the conflict both within and around. And when Ram returned to Ayodhya, it was the sight of the people lighting lamps, forming the deepmala with their bodies that brought home the meaning of Diwali.

The dialogues were few, spoken with clarity at the right moments — Ram's declaration of duty, Sita's quiet resolve, Hanuman's pledge. The lighting throughout was purposeful — never overpowering, always in line with the mood of each scene. This was the Ramayan performed with clarity, discipline and respect. Dr Mehra and her team brought together talent, tradition and a deep sense of purpose.



DEVOTION CAPTURED IN EVERY STEP AND MOTION

Every scene, every expression, every beat of the foot was in service of the story, what stayed was the feeling that something timeless had passed before our eyes, an offering of art, devotion and truth that will remain with those who witnessed it.

There are moments when art stops being performance and becomes prayer. When the movement of feet, the strength of hands, and the silence between gestures speak louder than words. **Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram**, presented by the Urvasi Dance Music Art & Cultural Society, was one such offering. The dance carried with it the weight of legacy, the fire of devotion, and the strength of truth.

It began in silence — no fanfare. Just the stage slowly lighting up to the sound of a conch, a chant rising through the Kamani Auditorium and the sight of dancers entering barefoot, as if walking into a sacred space. From that very first moment, the performance became an experience. Among the distinguished guests in attendance was Ms Rekha Gupta, the Chief Minister of Delhi, whose presence highlighted the cultural significance of the evening. Directed with remarkable sensitivity by Dr Rekha Mehra, the production traced the arc of the Ramayan from



Art as a form of Reflection

A moving journey through colour and memory, where quiet forms speak to something deeply human

BY TEAM VIVA

Art, in its purest form, communicates feelings that words cannot capture. Through the play of form, colour, and texture, it creates a space for personal reflection. The exhibition, **Beyond Myth & Metaphor** by Shabir Hussain Santosh and curated with an essay by Archana Khare Ghose, is being held at Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi and is presented by Sanchit Art.

It invites the viewer into a world where myth is not retold but felt. Santosh's paintings do not aim to deliver a heavy narrative; instead, they evoke a deeper feeling, a subtle undercurrent of emotion that emerges through his use of abstract forms. He doesn't seek to tell stories in the traditional sense. Instead, he captures the essence of myth in a way that goes beyond its literal meaning. The figures in his paintings are often soft, undefined, allowing for a sense of fluidity and openness. The colours employ a particularly striking. Warm, earthy reds and glowing yellows are infused with a quiet energy, evoking both the warmth of the earth and the depth of memory.

Standing in front of these paintings, viewers often find themselves captured by the quiet stillness of the artwork. They stare, perhaps searching for a clearer understanding of what the painting is about, but it is precisely this uncertainty that makes the work so compelling. The figures are often incomplete or fragmented, and yet they evoke such a powerful emotional response.

Artist ability to convey such powerful emotions with the simplest of forms speaks volumes about his understanding of the human condition. His work is not about spectacle but about evoking a quiet space for thought and reflection.



EXHIBITION THAT ENCOURAGES SLOWING DOWN AND ALLOWING THE EMOTIONS IN THE PAINTINGS TO TAKE ROOT. IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL APRIL 30, 2025. GO SEE IT - NOT TO UNDERSTAND EVERY DETAIL, BUT TO FEEL THE MESSAGE.



The Rediscovery of a 17th-Century Masterwork

BY TEAM VIVA

Art, in its essence, is an exploration of human emotions, experiences, and ideas. **Caravaggio's Magdalene in Ecstasy** offers a vivid representation of these elements, capturing a raw and sincere moment in a remarkable way. This painting, rediscovered after centuries, provides an intimate view into the depths of Mary Magdalene's emotional state, offering more than just a visual experience, but a deep reflection on penitence and spiritual devotion.

Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy (1606), 40.75 in x 36 in, showcases the artist's masterful use of chiaroscuro — the dramatic contrast between light and shadow — which imbues the painting with both realism and emotional intensity. Roberto Longhi, a key researcher of Caravaggio, noted that the subject was interpreted in a unique and innovative manner, with Caravaggio placing the figure in a diagonal position that draws the viewer into the 17th century.

The rediscovery of this painting is a remarkable event in the art world. Mina Gregori, an expert in Caravaggio's work, recalled the emotional experience she had when first encountering the painting, describing how it felt like an act of devotion. This painting is not only significant for its artistic merit but also for its historical value in understanding the role of images and faith during the Counter-Reformation period.

One of the most notable aspects of Magdalene in Ecstasy is the rendering of the hands. Caravaggio's attention to detail in these hands, with their vivid colours and naturalistic depiction, is considered one of the defining elements of the original painting. These hands, full of tension, convey a deep sense of emotion that goes beyond technique, showing the artist's ability to bring life into his work. The face of Magdalene is another focal point of the painting. The careful blending of light



and shadow on her face gives it an inner mobility, which, in turn, heightens the emotive impact of the piece. Caravaggio's treatment of the eyes, especially the tears, merging the emotional depth of the subject with the natural world around her. The striking red hair of Magdalene, cascading over her shoulder, is depicted with equal intensity.

Caravaggio's use of light to highlight this feature contributes to the painting's dramatic effect, and the folds of her red cloak, executed with bold, vigorous brushstrokes, further emphasise the dynamic tension within the composition. The cross and skull, symbols of death and devotion, are placed strategically in

HISTORIC BAROQUE MASTERPIECE

In an exciting cultural milestone, **Magdalene in Ecstasy** will be unveiled in New Delhi as part of a historic exhibition. The Cultural Centre of the Italian Embassy, in partnership with The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, proudly announces the arrival of Caravaggio's masterpiece in Delhi on the occasion of the visit of Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani and Minister for University and Research Anna Maria Bernini. The exhibition will be opened to the public at KNMA Saket till May 18, 2025. The rediscovery of this work is a powerful reminder of the timeless nature of Caravaggio's art. His ability to capture the essence of human emotion, through light, shadow, and form, continues to resonate with modern viewers, offering them a glimpse into the complexities of the human soul.

the painting to prompt reflection. The positioning of these elements invites the viewer to contemplate not only the life of Magdalene but also the broader themes of redemption and eternal life.

The crown of thorns, situated above Magdalene, speaks to her sacrifice and connection to the suffering of Christ, urging viewers to meditate on the spiritual significance of her actions.

Through his masterful technique and vivid portrayal of the human experience, he conveys not only the visual appearance of his subjects but also their internal emotional state. In **Magdalene in Ecstasy**, every brushstroke carries the weight of human struggle, spirituality, and devotion.

