



# CANADA SWEEP BY LIBERALS, INDIA BE CAUTIOUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Toronto

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party has won the federal election, capping a stunning turnaround in fortunes fuelled by US President Donald Trump's annexation threats and trade war. Carney's rival, populist Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre, was voted out of his seat in Parliament, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation projected on Tuesday. The loss of his seat representing his Ottawa district in Monday's election capped a swift decline in fortunes for the firebrand Poilievre, who a few months ago appeared to be a shoo-in to become Canada's next Prime Minister and shepherd the Conservatives back into power for the first time in a decade. But then Trump launched a trade war with Canada and suggested the country should become the 51st state, outraging

voters and upending the election. Poilievre, a career politician, campaigned with Trump-like bravado, taking a page from the 'America First' president by adopting the slogan 'Canada First'. But his similarities to Trump may have ultimately cost him and his party. The Liberals were projected to win more of Parliament's 343 seats than the Conservatives. It wasn't immediately clear if they would win an outright majority — at least 172 — or would need to rely on a smaller party to pass legislation and remain in power. Elections Canada said it has decided to pause counting of special ballots — cast by voters who are away from their districts during the election — until later on Tuesday morning. The Liberals were leading or elected in 168 seats when the counting was paused, four short of a majority. Elections Canada estimated that the uncounted votes could affect the result in about a dozen districts.



Liberal Leader Mark Carney arrives in Ottawa in Canada PTI

The decision means Canadians won't know until later in the day whether Carney's Liberals have won a minority or majority mandate. In a victory speech, Carney stressed the importance of unity in the face of Washington's threats. He also said the mutually beneficial system Canada and the

## MODI CONGRATULATES CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the victory of his Liberal Party in federal elections and said he was looking forward to strengthening bilateral ties and unlocking greater opportunities for people of the two nations. Carney, an economist and political newcomer, led the Liberal Party to its remarkable victory in the elections held under the shadow of US President Donald Trump's tariff clash. It is the Liberal Party's fourth victory since 2015 though its race against the Conservative Party was much tighter than anticipated by the opinion polls.

"As I've been warning for months, America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country," Carney added. "These are not idle threats. President Trump is trying to break us so America can own us. That will never... Ever happen. But we also must recognise the reality that our world has fundamentally changed."

## A defeat for the Conservatives

Poilievre hoped to make the election a referendum on former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose popularity declined toward the end of his decade in power as food and housing prices rose. But Trump's actions, Trudeau resigned and Carney, a two-time central banker, became the Liberal Party's leader and prime minister. In a concession speech before the race call on his own seat, Poilievre vowed to keep fighting for Canadians.

# Terror fear shuts tourist spots in Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

One week after the Pahalgam massacre, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday closed down at least 48 out of 87 tourist hot spots in different parts of the Kashmir valley after intelligence agencies warned of the possibility of more terror attacks on tourists, non-local workers and others at the behest of Pakistan-based handlers of active terror groups in the valley. Meanwhile, the joint team of security forces has intensified anti-terror operations to hunt down the perpetrators behind the horrific killing of 26 tourists in the Baisaran valley of Pahalgam. Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the situation along the line of control also remains 'volatile' as the Pakistan Army has been consistently resorting to 'unprovoked' ceasefire violations since April 22.

According to a Defence PRO, the latest incident of ceasefire violation, the fifth in a row, was reported from the Kupwara and Baramulla districts in Kashmir, as well as the Akhnour sector in Jammu. In the wake of a heightened threat, the local farmers in the border areas are rushing to harvest their crops to avoid collateral losses. According to official sources, the decision to close down the tourist hot spots was taken after a recent review of the prevailing security situation and the threat perception. The tourist destinations that have

been closed include Doodhpathri, Aharbal, Kousarnag, Yousmarg, Tossamaidan, Bangus, Kariwan Diver Chandigam, Bangus Valley, Wular/Watlab, Rampora and Rajpora, Chearhar, Mundij-Hamam-Markoot Waterfall, Khampoo, Bosnia, Vijitop, Sun Temple, Verinag Garden, Sinthan Top, Margantop, Akad Park, Habba Khatoon Point, Babareshi, Ringawali, Gogaldara, Baderkote, Shrunz Waterfall, Kamanpost, Nambian Waterfall, Eco Park Khadniyar, Sangarwani, Jamia Masjid and Badamwari. Several other public parks, famous hotels and resorts have also been closed down in the wake of fresh intelligence reports. The intelligence agencies have also issued warnings to remain vigilant and protect the railway property across the valley, besides ensuring the safety of the non-local and PM Package employees deployed on duty at several vulnerable places.

## The joint team of security forces has intensified anti-terror operations to hunt down the perpetrators behind the horrific killing of 26 tourists in the Baisaran valley of Pahalgam

# PM commands full 'Operational Freedom'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Tuesday that the armed forces have 'complete operational freedom' to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, as he chaired a meeting with the top defence establishment. During the high-level meeting, which was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and the chiefs of three services, Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said. Modi expressed complete faith and confidence in the professional abilities of the armed forces. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan was also part of the meeting, which was held amid India weighing its options for countermeasures following the Pahalgam terror attack which left at least



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval and armed forces chiefs in New Delhi PTI

26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead. The meeting came a day ahead of Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday scheduled to take stock of preparedness at Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). He had earlier chaired CCS meeting last week and slew of measures like keeping Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance and suspending visas of Pakistani nationals were announced. Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, meanwhile, on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting which was attended by chiefs of three paramilitary forces and senior officers of two other security organisations, it was learnt. The government on Tuesday also blocked Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's social media account following the terror incident. Asif, in a recent TV interview, admitted to Pakistan's history of supporting and funding terrorist organisations. As regards Home Secretary's meeting, Director General (DG) of Border Security Force Daljit Singh Chaudhary, DG of National Security Guard Brighu Srinivasan and DG of the Assam Rifles Lt General Vikas Lakhera attended it, sources said.

## The ByStander



# Cabinet approves Bill to regulate fee hike

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

In a big step to regulate school fee structures across the Capital, the Delhi Cabinet has approved the Delhi School Education Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees Bill, 2025, aimed at controlling arbitrary fee hikes and improving transparency in private and aided schools. The Bill, which will apply to all 1,677 private unaided and government-aided schools in the city, aims to bring more clarity and fairness in how schools hike their fees. The legislation will lay out a clear mechanism for reviewing and revising school fees, which must now adhere to set guidelines determined by independent committees. This is the first time that the government is bringing a Bill to curb on arbitrary fee hikes by private and aided schools. The decision follows months of escalating public unrest over what parents describe as excessive, unapproved fee hikes by private institutions. Incidents were reported where students were denied admit cards, removed from class rolls, or confined for delayed payments, sparking widespread protests and court interventions. This will provide a huge relief to parents against the arbitrary fee hikes by private and aided schools. Terming it a bold and holistic step by approving the draft of the Delhi School Education Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees Bill, 2025 at the Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that schools will face strict



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta with Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

penalties from ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh for non-compliance of the government's directives. "In extreme cases, the school's recognition can be revoked, and the management may be taken over by the government. Additionally, the school's recognition may be canceled, and the management will be taken over by the Government. The Delhi School Educators Act of 1973 which lacked clarity on how the government could regulate private school fee hikes," she said. CM Gupta addressing a press confer-

# 'Unholy Nexus': SC orders CBI probe against builders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Observing an "unholy nexus" between the banks and developers to dupe homebuyers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the CBI to register seven preliminary enquiries against builders in NCR, including Supertech Limited. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh found a prima facie nexus between renowned banks and builders in Noida, Gurugram, Yamuna Expressway, Greater Noida, Mohali, Mumbai, Kolkata and Allahabad. The top Court took into account an affidavit filed by CBI and directed the UP, Haryana DGPs to give a list of DSPs, inspector, constables to the agency to constitute a special investigation team (SIT). The Court further directed the CEOs/administrators of Greater Noida Authority, Noida Authority, secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Reserve Bank of India to notify one nodal officer from among their senior-most officers within a week to extend necessary assistance to the SIT. The bench said it will be monitoring the status of the investigations on a monthly basis. Advocate Rajiv Jain, who is amicus curiae in the matter, called Supertech the "main culprit" in defrauding home buyers whereas Corporation Bank advanced more than ₹2,700 crore to builders

through subvention schemes. The court was informed that Supertech had 21 projects in six cities with agreement with 19 banks with 800 aggrieved homebuyers. The report of the amicus revealed Supertech alone had secured a loan amount of ₹5,157.86 crore since 1998. The underlying nexus between Supertech and the banks was therefore required a scrutiny on priority, it added. Under the subvention scheme, banks disburse the sanctioned amount directly to the accounts of builders, who are then required to pay EMIs on the sanctioned loan amount until flats are handed over to homebuyers. After builders started defaulting on EMIs to banks, as per the tripartite agreement, the banks sought EMIs from the homebuyers. The Apex Court previously said thousands of homebuyers were affected by the subvention scheme, where banks paid 60 to 70 per cent of the home loan amount to the builders without projects being completed within the stipulated time. The Apex Court had then ordered the CBI to submit a roadmap on how it planned to unravel the 'builder-banks nexus' which duped thousands of homebuyers in the NCR and proposed to go into the root of the matter. The top court was hearing a batch of petition filed by over 1,200 homebuyers, who booked flats under subvention plans in various housing projects in NCR region especially Noida, Greater Noida and Gurugram.

# Justice BR Gavai appointed as 52nd Chief Justice of India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The President of India Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday notified the appointment of Justice BR Gavai as the next Chief Justice of India with effect from May 14. "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 14th May, 2025," said the notification issued by Ministry of Law and Justice. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna had earlier written to the Union Law Ministry recommending Justice BR Gavai to be the next CJI. CJI Khanna is set to demit office on May 13. Justice Gavai will be the second-ever CJI from the Dalit community, the first being Justice KG Balakrishnan, who had demitted office in 2010. He will have a relatively short tenure at



the helm and will demit office on November 23, 2025. Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was born to RS Gavai and Kamala. His father RS Gavai led the Republican Party of India (Gavai) faction, former MP and Governor of Bihar, Sikkim and Kerala. Justice Gavai was appointed as an additional judge of the Bombay High Court on November 14, 2003, and became a permanent judge in 2005. He served at the High Court's principal seat in Mumbai and benches in Nagpur, Aurangabad and Panaji. He was elevated to the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019.

# Paneer bleeds over wedding guests

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

A festive wedding celebration turned into a horror scene in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district when a man, furious over the absence of paneer (cottage cheese) at the feast, rammed a minibus into the gathering, injuring at least six guests and leaving behind a trail of destruction worth over ₹3 lakh. The shocking incident took place late on Saturday evening in Hamidpur village, under the Mughalsarai Kotwali area, during the wedding of Rajnath Yadav's daughter. As the baraat (wedding procession) danced its way into the decorated venue, no one could have imagined the carnage that was about to unfold. Eyewitnesses recall that the atmosphere was jubilant until Dharmendra Yadav, a guest at the function, stormed towards the food stalls, visibly agitated. "He went from one counter to another, angrily flipping lids off dishes. He kept shouting, 'Where is the paneer? How can there be a wedding without paneer?'" said one guest, who wished not to be named.

When informed that no paneer dish was on the menu, Dharmendra's anger boiled over. In a move that left everyone stunned, he seized a parked tempo traveller and, without warning, drove it straight into the heart of the gathering. "The vehicle came charging through the crowd like a demon. People were screaming, plates and decorations were flying, and within seconds, the entire overturned, decorations destroyed, and gifts shattered. As chaos reigned, Dharmendra fled the scene in the same vehicle, leaving behind a community in shock and disbelief. Rajnath Yadav, the bride's father, demanded swift action. "We invited him with love. And just because there was no paneer, he destroyed our dreams. We refused to proceed with the marriage until the police registered a case against him," he said, holding back tears. The bride's family eventually filed a formal complaint, after which the wedding ceremony resumed around noon the next day. However, the memories of that night's terror will likely haunt them for years. Police have launched a manhunt for Dharmendra Yadav. "Efforts are on to trace and arrest the accused. We will ensure strict action is taken," said a senior police officer. Meanwhile, villagers remain shell-shocked. "We have seen fights at weddings before, but who thought lack of paneer could cause such madness?" said an elderly resident.

A festive wedding celebration turned into a horror scene in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district when a man, furious over the absence of paneer (cottage cheese) at the feast

**PIONEER IN SHORT**

**India slams Pakistan's support for terrorism at UN**

India said that the open confession of Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif admitting to his country's history of supporting and funding terrorist organisations exposes Pakistan as a 'rogue state' fuelling global terrorism and destabilising the region. India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel delivered a strong Right of Reply at the hybrid launch event for the 'Victims of Terrorism Association Network' (VoTAN) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism here Monday when Pakistan's delegate made a reference to the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. **FULL REPORT ON P9**

**'What's wrong if country using spyware against terrorists'**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed what was wrong in using the 'spyware against terrorists' and said any report which touched upon the country's 'security and sovereignty' won't be made public. A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh indicated it may address individual apprehensions of privacy breach but the report of the technical committee was no document to discuss 'on the streets'. The bench said, "Any report which touches the security and sovereignty of the country will not be touched. But individuals who want to know whether they are included, that can be informed. Yes, individual apprehension must be addressed but it cannot be made a document for discussion on the streets." The top court added it will examine the extent to which the technical panel report could be shared in public. **FULL REPORT ON P4**





# Three more dengue cases surface in Dehradun

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Three new cases of dengue were reported in the Dehradun district on Tuesday. Stating this, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Dehradun, Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma said that one case is from Dehradun, while the other two are from other districts. The total number of patients currently hospitalised after testing positive for dengue now stands at three, with one patient at Shri Mahant Indresh Hospital, one at Himalayan Hospital and one at Graphic Era Hospital. This brings the total number of ELISA-positive dengue cases to 37, which includes 21 patients from Dehradun and 16 from other districts or states.

# India can become world leader in drone technology: Governor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The governor lieutenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh said that India has the potential to become a world leader in drone technology. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Surya Drone Tech -2025 exhibition at Jaswant Ground in Dehradun Cantt on Tuesday.



technological advancements and shows how the drone technology can play an important role in giving a shape to our future.

The governor said that the exhibition is a platform of innovation and it provides a unique platform to the industry, policy makers, investors and researchers. He said that about 270 startups are working in the field of drone technology in the country and by the year 2026 and 2029, the industry is expected to be the tune of Rs 5,000 crore and Rs 12,000 crore respectively.

of 1,958 samples collected to date. Dr Sharma also stated that there have been no reported deaths from dengue so far.

It will be recalled that to mitigate the occurrence of dengue, the Health department has prepared an action plan set to begin in May. Under this action plan, the initiative will involve approximately 651 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in Dehradun and 40 in Rishikesh. These ASHAs will conduct surveys in their respective wards—100 in Dehradun and 40 in Rishikesh. Alongside the ASHAs, 100 volunteers for the Dehradun area and 40 for the Rishikesh area will engage in raising awareness and inspecting for larvae within their assigned wards.

Drones are becoming new engines of development of the country and are important in the agriculture, logistics, disaster management, defence and law and order maintenance.

He said that Uttarakhand with its strategic location, geography and invocation can become a leader in drone technology. Speaking on the occasion, the general officer commanding in chief of the Central Command lieutenant general Anindya Sengupta said that unmanned



systems have become an integral part of modern defence system. He said that today India is at the cusp of a technology revolution in the sector of defence.

Lieutenant general Navin Sachdeva, lieutenant general Sandeep Jain, lieutenant general DG Mishra and others attended the programme.

The programme was organised under the aegis of the central command of Indian army with assistance from society of Indian defence manufacturers.

# Price rise causes shift in jewellery choice on Akshay Tritiya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Jewellers in Dehradun have noticed a shift in consumer preference towards lighter gold ornaments this Akshay Tritiya, as gold prices have surged to an average of Rs 90,000. This year, Akshay Tritiya will be celebrated on April 30. It is customary for people to purchase gold jewellery on this auspicious day. However, due to the rising gold prices, sales of gold jewellery have decreased by 10 per cent this year compared to last year.

Many jewellery shop owners have been observed offering special pro-



motions and discounts on Akshay Tritiya to attract customers.

Jewellery shop owner Harkirat Singh said that gold prices have been rising for quite some time. Currently, the price of 22-carat gold is Rs 90,000 per 10 grammes. Due to these increasing prices, this year the sales of gold jewellery, particularly heavier

pieces, have declined by about 10 per cent compared to previous years. He said that social media plays a role in this downturn, with misleading videos suggesting that gold prices may drop in the future, further impacting sales. Shoppers are now opting for lighter jewellery. To entice customers, Singh highlighted that they are offering various deals for the occasion, including zero percent making charges on diamond jewellery and a 25 per cent discount on the making of gold jewellery.

Another jeweller not wanting to be named voiced concerns regarding the decline in gold sales this year during Akshay Tritiya. He said that with the soaring of gold prices, people are favouring lightweight jewellery and their overall sales have been adversely affected compared to past years.

Many other jewellers have echoed similar concerns about the reduced sales of gold jewellery for the occasion. A customer Heena said that she typically purchases gold jewellery every year for this occasion. However, this year, the rising prices have influenced her decision. But still leading her to opt for lightweight jewellery or diamonds instead, this year, she said.

# Annual athletic meet concludes at KU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NAINITAL

The sports department of Kumaun University's DSB campus organised a two-day annual athletic meet in which teachers and staff along with the students of the campus participated. Besides, students from many schools participated. Among the dignitaries

present was the vice-chancellor of the university Dewan Singh Rawat. In the annual sports, 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres and 1,500 metres races were held. Noted athletes Suresh Pandey and Harish Tiwari were felicitated on the occasion.

# Ambulance parking and Rain Basera to be built on space freed from illegal 'Mazar' at GDMC hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Following the demolition of the illegal 'Mazar' by the district administration, the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital administration has planned the development of an ambulance parking area and a Rain Basera at the site. It is pertinent to mention that the illegal structure, which was recently demolished, was situated on the hospital campus and occupied a significant portion of Uttarakhand's largest and busiest government hospital.

The chief medical superintendent of the hospital Dr RS Bisht informed that the administration has decided to build an ambulance parking facility along with a multi-storey Rain Basera for attendees at the hospital. He said that the hospital lacks a designated parking area for ambulances, which has creates difficulties. The construction of this parking area aims to address that issue.

Dr Bisht said that an ambulance parking facility will be constructed in the basement, capable of accommodating three to four ambulances

# All facilities in place for Char Dham Yatra in Rishikesh

# Free tea and lunch, sanitation and shelter being facilitated by MCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RISHIKESH

With the Char Dham Yatra set to start formally today, the Municipal Corporation of Rishikesh (MCR) has already taken various measures to ensure that the pilgrimage is convenient and that the visitors do not face any major inconvenience. In addition to handling the logistics and sanitation aspects related to the Yatra, the MCR is also handling the routine sanitation and other civic issues in the city at a time when the pilgrimage is expected to be bigger than last year with 22, 52, 212 persons having registered online and offline for the Yatra so far.



Rishikesh is the starting point of the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand from where the bulk of the pilgrims board buses and taxis to visit the Char Dham. Considering the interests of the pilgrims, Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal had directed the MCR and local administration in Rishikesh to ensure that all arrangements are upto the mark. The Rishikesh municipal commissioner Shailendra Singh Negi informed that the Gayatri Parivar had provided free afternoon meal to the pilgrims undertaking the Char Dham Yatra. This facility is proving to be considerably convenient to the pilgrims, he said.

The assistant municipal commissioner Ramesh Singh Rawat said that on the directions of the Dehradun district magistrate, the MCR has undertaken various measures to ensure the convenience of the pilgrims while also focusing on vital aspects and routine works like sanitation.

"The MCR is handling the logistics and other aspects related to the Char Dham Yatra in Rishikesh on the directions of the DM. In association with others, we have ensured free meals for the pilgrims and we are also focusing on sanitation and the convenience of the visitors. Apart from the free lunch, free tea is also being provided to the pilgrims. We have deployed mobile toilets and have also put up German hanger tents to provide shelter to travellers and pilgrims.

The police and regional transport office have put up checkpoints at various locations. There are six registration counters at the ISBT and 24 at the transit camps to ensure that the pilgrims do not face inconvenience or unnecessary delay even in case of crowding. We have also put up stalls of self help groups in various locations so that both the locals and the pilgrims benefit," he said.

# DM holds meeting on parking lots in Tehri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW TEHRI

The Tehri district magistrate Mayur Dixit held a meeting on Tuesday regarding the proposed/under construction/approved/constructed parking projects under the District Level Development Authority. He sought information about the progress of land transfer for parking lots, site selection report and updated status of operation of constructed parking lots. Dixit directed the district development authority officer to transfer the parking lot constructed at Lambgaon to the Nagar Panchayat for its free operation. Along with this, the official was told to inspect the parking lots constructed under the municipality and Nagar Panchayat areas and hand them over to the concerned municipality/Nagar Panchayat for their free operation. Further, he was asked to

complete works related to the parking lot in Chandrabadi temple complex in 15 days and to ensure smooth land transfer for construction of the multi-level parking lot below the Kriyayoga Ashram.

The PWD Narendranagar executive engineer was asked to complete all pending road safety works on the alternative Neer Garh motor road in view of the expected large pilgrim turnout during Char Dham Yatra.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE		
Tender No. Sr. DEN-IV/P/Invitation/24-25	24-DRM-MB-25-26	25-DRM-MB-25-26
Dt. 29.04.2025		
Sr.DEN/IV/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against each column. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.		
Name of work	Provision of cover shed, grouting of joints at LHS No. 63, 68, 70, 71, 73, 80, 81 & 82 in the section of GUL-MZM under ADEN/GJL.	Provision of cover shed at LHS No. 06, 07 & 31 and grouting of joints at LHS No. 31 between KJY-HPU in the section of SSE/W/B/HPU under ADEN/HPU.
Tender Closing Date	22.05.2025	22.05.2025
Tender Closing Time	16:00	16:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	4,65,55,128.95	4,20,16,965.01
Earnest Money (Rs.)	3,82,800.00	3,60,100.00
Period of Completion	8 months	8 months
Bidding Start Date	08.05.2025	08.05.2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1261/25		

परिशिष्ट-अ  
क्षेत्रीय मुख्यालय (देहरादून)  
भारत- तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस बल  
पत्रालय-सीमाद्वारा (उत्तराखण्ड)  
'नीलामी सूचना'

क्षेत्रीय मुख्यालय (देहरादून) भारत-तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस बल, पत्रालय-सीमाद्वारा, जनपद-देहरादून (उत्तराखण्ड) द्वारा दिनांक-27.05.2025 को प्रातः 1000 बजे क्षेत्रीय मुख्यालय कैम्प परिसर में अनुपयोगी साजो-सामान जैसे-ई-वेस्ट, सभी इलेक्ट्रॉनिक, इलेक्ट्रिक, कम्प्यूटर, टेलीफोन सैट, प्लास्टिक/खर, मेडिकल इक्युपमेंट, गाडियों के स्पेयर पार्ट्स, बैट्री एवं विविध वस्तुओं की सार्वजनिक की जाती है।

नीलामी की शर्त:-

- सार्वजनिक नीलामी दिनांक-27.05.2025 को 1000 बजे की जायेगी, सामान का निरीक्षण उसी दिन 0900 बजे से 1000 बजे तक कैम्प परिसर में ही किया जायेगा, सभी इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से निर्धारित स्थान, तिथि व समय पर नीलामी में उपस्थित होने की प्रार्थना की जाती है।
- सभी बोलीदाताओं को बोली शुरू होने से पूर्व धरोहर राशि जमानत के तौर पर रु-5000/- (रुपये पांच हजार) पीठासीन अधिकारी के पास पंजीकरण करवाकर जमा करनी होगी, जो उसी दिन नीलामी के पश्चात वापस कर दी जायेगी।
- नीलामी के लिए अन्तिम बोलीदाता को हथोडा गिरने पर तुरन्त बोली की संपूर्ण राशि जमा करनी होगी।
- किसी भी प्रकार की GST जो देग होगी, उसका भुगतान सफल बोलीदाता द्वारा किया जायेगा।
- समस्त सामान का क्रय जैसा है जहाँ है कि पद्धति से किया जायेगा सामान को क्रय करते समय यह माना जायेगा कि बोलीदाता ने उसका निरीक्षण किया है।
- सामान का क्रय होने पर क्रेता द्वारा सामान को मौके पर जमा स्थान से अपने प्रबन्ध पर उसी दिन हटाना होगा। यदि निर्धारित समय में क्रेता द्वारा क्रयशुदा सामन नही हटाया गया तो उस सामान की जिम्मेवारी इस कार्यालय की नही होगी।
- प्रचलित बिक्री तथा केन्द्रीय बिक्री कर सरकारी खजाने में जमा करने के उपरान्त चालान फार्म देना होगा, जिसके पश्चात सामन ले जाने की अनुमति होगी।
- नीलामी के संबंधित एवं अन्तिम निर्णय करने संबंधी सभी अधिकार एवं बोली को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अहोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।

कमाण्डेंट (स्टॉफ)  
क्षेत्रीय मुख्यालय (देहरादून)  
CBC 19112/11/0012/2526

**SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd.**  
(Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.)  
Corporate Off.: 503 & 504, 5th Floor, G-Block, Inspire BKC, BKC Main Road, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051.  
Regd. Off.: Commercial IT Park, Tower B, 1st Floor, No. 111, Mount Poonamallee Road, Porur, Chennai - 600116, TN

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF 30 DAYS 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) RULES, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below listed immovable properties ("Secured Assets") mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as SMHFC) ("Secured Creditor"), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date and time mentioned herein below, for recovery of the dues mentioned herein below and further interest and other expenses thereon till date of realization, due to SMHFC Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) LAN	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date & Time of E-Auction	Date of EMD Submission
1.	Lan No. 611639210910139 1. Ravi Verma (5939) S/o. Harveer Singh Verma 2. Abhilasha Verma	All That Open Piece of Plot Forming Part of Land Bearing Khata No. 449 (Fasli Year 1422 To 1427) Khata No. 314 Ka Min Area Measuring 813.19 Sq.mtrs, Situated at Mauza Badonwala, Pargana Pachhwa Doon Tehsil Vikas Nagar, Distt. Dehradun, Boundaries :- East :- Land of Shri Surendra Singh Rawat, West :- Land of Shri Naveen, North :- 20 Ft Wide Passage, South :- 25 Ft Wide Passage.	Rs. 1,82,70,000/- Rs. 18,27,000/-	31.05.2025 at 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM	30.05.2025

Details terms and conditions of the sale are as below and the details are also provided in our/secured creditor's website at the following link website address (<https://BidDeal.in> and <https://www.grishashakti.com/pdf/E-Auction.pdf>) The Intending Bidders can also contact : Naveen Kumar Tomar, on his Mob. No. 7042853583, E-mail : Naveen.Tomar@grishashakti.com and Mr. Niloy Dey, on his Mob. 9920697801, E-mail : Niloy.Dey@grishashakti.com

Place : Dehradun, Uttarakhand  
Date : 29.04.2025  
Authorized Officer, SMFG INDIA HOME FINANCE CO. LTD. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.)

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**  
ALLAHABAD

Branch Office: Roorkee (5939)  
Distt: Haridwar- 247667

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers/ guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers / guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Sec. 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rules 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank Erstwhile Allahabad Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against the account herein below: The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name of the Branch /Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Immovable Property	Demand Notice Date	Date of Possession	Outstanding Due Amount
1.	Branch: Civil Lines Roorkee Borrower: M/s Ramji Lal & Sons through its Proprietor Mr. Ramji Lal S/o Hemraj Lakhani	Mortgage Assets: Shop No. 52/2 Old railway Road, Near Kundan Sweets Anaj mandi Tehsil Roorkee district Haridwar having Area 25.64 Sq. mtrs. In the name of Mr. Ramji Lal S/o Hemraj Lakhani. The Said property is Bounded as under- East: Shop of Rakesh Arora, West: Old Station Road, North: Shop of Tilak Raj, South: Shop of Rakesh Arora	18.02.2025	29.04.2025	Rs. 12,10,541.21 and interest thereon

Date: 29.04.2025 Place: Roorkee  
Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

**कार्यालय-नगर निगम, काशीपुर**  
**जिला- उधमसिंहनगर**  
पंचक-नीमो/मुन्नावाला/2024-25 दिनांक: 29.04.2025  
ई-निविदा संशोधित सूचना  
दिनांक 19.04.2025 को निर्माण कार्य एवं अन्य कार्य की ई-निविदा की तिथि क्रमशः 25.04.2025 एवं 26.04.2025 के स्थान पर ई-निविदा [www.uktender.gov.in](http://www.uktender.gov.in) से अपलोड करने की तिथि 01.05.2025 पदी जाये। शेष पूर्व में प्रकाशित सूचना अनुसार यथावत रहेगी।  
नगर आवुक्त महापौर  
नगर निगम, काशीपुर नगर निगम, काशीपुर

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In the birth certificate bearing Reg. No B20130100645 of my daughter, her Date of Birth is mistakenly recorded 18-06-2012 whereas her correct Date of Birth is 18.06.2011. It should be updated for all future purposes. Amit Kumar S/o Vijendar Kumar R/o H.No. 26 Lane No. 1A Dron Vatika, Near Gujra Inter College, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun

I LAXMI DEVI W/o GS No. 163841M, Rank LH ADM, BHAGWAN CHAND, Resident chamal gaon, hindolakhah, palethi Distt. Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand Pin 249122 have changed my Name from LACHI DEVI to LAXMI DEVI vide affidavit dated 28-04-2025 before Rishikesh.

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखों अनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम धर्म सिंह भंडारी दर्ज है, सही नाम धर्म सिंह आधार नं. 831047726985 F/o आर्मी नं. 15347624H हवलदार बलबीर सिंह, गांव - मुन्नावाला, पोस्ट- भानियावाला, तह-डोईवाला, जिला - देहरादून, उत्तराखंड - 248140 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखों अनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम इंद्रियती देवी दर्ज है, सही नाम इन्द्रवती देवी आधार नं. 566030996239 M/o आर्मी नंबर 15343586A हवलदार मुकेश कुमार, ग्राम खोरेडा, पोस्ट विक्रम, तह. पालीगंज, जिला पटना, बिहार 801104 है।

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I am Dinesh Chand son of Roshan Lal Resident of Enfield Vikasnagar, District Dehradun Army Number 15386809A Rank Ex HAV. In my military records, father ROSHAN LAL's date of birth is recorded as 01.07.1944. Mother's name is PHOOLA DEVI and date of birth is recorded as 01.07.1949. Father's correct date of birth is 07.01.1947 and mother's name is FULA DEVI and date of birth is 17.08.1952.

**NOTICE**

In the 10th and 12th school marksheet of my son Sahil, My name Saleem is wrongly mentioned as Saleem Khan whereas the correct name is Saleem. My Son's name also wrongly mentioned in 10th and 12th school marksheet as Sahil Khan whereas the correct name is Sahil. This is also to be use for amendment in the documents

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed the general public that Smt. Sunita Tyagi W/o Sh. Jaidarath Tyagi had purchased a land from Sh. Subhash Goyal S/o Sh. Laxman Prasad Goyal and whereas the prior owner Dr. P.K. Adhikari S/o Sh. Prahlad Adhikari purchased the above property/land having same area 112.87 sq.mtrs. from Sh. Abdul Rajjak and Sh. Abdul Hafeez both sons of Mohd. Hasim vide registered sale deed which is duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Dehradun in Book No. 1, Vol. 5, Page 2 A.D.F. Book No. 1, Vol. 542 Page 33 to 54 at Sr. No. 1483 on dated 18.05.1996 has been lost. Any one finds it please contact :  
Smt. Sunita Tyagi  
W/o- Sh. Jaidarath Tyagi  
Chauhan Mohalla,  
Shimla Bypass Road,  
Mehaula, Dehradun,  
Mob.: 8126371193

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For advertisement booking  
9045057787, 8909212518  
Email: pioneerdoon@gmail.com





# Dolis of Goddesses Ganga and Yamuna depart, Gangotri and Yamunotri to be opened today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Uttarkashi

The Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham will be ritually reopened to the public today. The Utsav Dolis of the Goddesses Ganga and Yamuna departed from their maternal homes in Mukhwa

and Kharsali villages respectively on Tuesday. The Goddesses stay in these villages during the winter when the main temples are closed to the public. Their Utsav Dolis departed from the villages after elaborate

ritual worship.

The ceremonies began early in the morning on Tuesday after which the Doli of Goddess Ganga departed from Mukhwa at 11:57 AM amidst Vedic chants. The procession of the Goddess will halt for the night at the Bhairav Mandir in Bhairavghati on Tuesday night and arrive at Gangotri on Wednesday.

Similarly, rituals were held at Kharsali early in the morning, after which the Utsav Doli of Goddess Yamuna departed at 8 AM from her maternal home. Her procession departed to the sounds of traditional devotional songs and Vedic chants.

It is pertinent to mention here that last year, there was an unprecedented rush of pilgrims in Gangotri and Yamunotri in the initial days of the Char Dham Yatra. The State government officials aver that necessary arrangements have been made for crowd control and other aspects to ensure that the pilgrims do not face any inconvenience. The reopening of Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham today will mark the start of the Char Dham Yatra this year.

# Will not spare anyone denigrating Char Dham, warns DGP

## U'khand Police ready for Char Dham Yatra, says Seth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Haridwar

The director general of police Deepam Seth said that anyone denigrating the Char Dham will not be spared and will face strict legal action. He said the police are also monitoring social media to ensure that disruptive elements do not exploit the platform to hurt religious sentiments. He further said that the Uttarakhand Police is fully prepared for the Char Dham Yatra starting today with the reopening of Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham in Uttarkashi district. The DGP said this during his visit to Haridwar on Tuesday. He also checked the Char Dham Yatra registration centre at Rishikul during his visit. Seth also interacted with the pilgrims he met at the location during his visit and enquired about their issues. He said that all arrangements for the Yatra have been completed, adding that various teams of the police have been deployed on the ground for this purpose. The police are also focusing on cyber criminals and the cyber cell and special task force are jointly working to ensure that cyber criminals do not dupe pilgrims. The police have also issued a QR code to enable citizens to protect themselves from cyber criminals. All relevant information will be available to the citizen using this QR code, he said.

The DGP also said that all requirements



of the police personnel posted on Char Dham Yatra duty will be taken care of by the department. Special focus will be laid on providing water and other aids to the personnel to help them avoid the negative

impacts of heat. The police have made a special traffic plan combining Haridwar and Rishikesh along with a plan B to handle any eventuality, so that the traffic can be managed efficiently.



Devotees in Mukhwa depart for Gangotri with the Utsav Doli of Goddess Ganga on Tuesday  
Pioneer photo

# Six arrested in double murder case in Rudrapur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The police arrested six individuals on charges of murdering a father-son duo in Rudrapur area of Udham Singh Nagar district. The senior superintendent of police Manikant Mishra said that the incident occurred on Monday during a dispute over a commercial property located in Galla Mandi in Rudrapur. The vic-

lected forensic evidence, reviewed CCTV footage and conducted manual surveillance to identify and trace the suspects. Investigation revealed that the property had been rented by Awadhesh to the deceased Gurmej five years ago. After Awadhesh defaulted on a bank loan, the shop was auctioned and later purchased by



tims, Gurmej Singh and his son Manpreet Singh, were shot dead when they reportedly attempted to stop the accused from demolishing their shop with a mechanical excavator. He said that the complainant Surendra Singh reported that Awadhesh Saluja and his brother Dinesh Saluja, along with their associates, arrived at the shop late at night with the machinery and labourers. When the complainant's family intervened, the confrontation escalated and gunfire followed. Mishra said that police registered an FIR at Rudrapur Kotwali under sections 103(1), 109, 351(2), 191(2), 191(3) and 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Mishra informed that three police teams were formed to investigate the case. "These teams col-

lected forensic evidence, reviewed CCTV footage and conducted manual surveillance to identify and trace the suspects. Investigation revealed that the property had been rented by Awadhesh to the deceased Gurmej five years ago. After Awadhesh defaulted on a bank loan, the shop was auctioned and later purchased by

# Dhami meets Union ministers Patil and Naidu, discusses State's issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met the Union ministers CR Patil and K Ram Mohan Naidu in New Delhi on Tuesday and discussed various issues related to Uttarakhand.

In his meeting with the Union Aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, the CM held discussion on development of the aviation sector, improvement in air connectivity and promoting tourism in Uttarakhand. The CM said that the Uttarakhand government has handed over 524.78 acre of land to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for increasing the length of the Pantnagar airport from existing 1,372 metres to 3,000 metres. He said that the AAI has prepared the master plan of the Pantnagar airport and requested the Union minister to direct the AAI to start work on the plan.

Dhami also requested the Union minister for the extension of Dehradun airport at Jolly Grant and extending the operation of the airport till midnight. He requested the minister to approve operation of regular flights from Naini-Saini airport (Pithoragarh) to Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. The CM said that Pithoragarh is a remote district of the State and improving air connectivity in the district will be beneficial for the local people. He requested Naidu that stalls of



'House of Himalayas' brand should open at Dehradun, Pithoragarh and Pantnagar airports. The CM also pitched for direct flights from Dehradun to Haldwani, Pantnagar and Nagpur.

In the meeting with the Union Jal Shakti minister CR Patil, the CM requested for the development and construction of eight hydropower projects to accelerate the social and economic development of Uttarakhand. These eight projects include seven projects of 647 MW capacity and one project of 114 MW.

He said that the State government is committed to maintaining purity, uninterrupted flow and environmental protection of Ganga and all other rivers and is moving forward towards the goal of sustainable development.

Dhami said that since the proposed 114 MW Sela Urthing hydropower project on Dhauliganga river in Pithoragarh district it is not a part of the Ganga basin and since there is no restriction on the projects on rivers other than Ganga and its tributaries, this project should be approved.

# Bhatt appeals to BJP MLAs for action against illegal mining

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The State president of Bharatiya Janata Party, Mahendra Bhatt has appealed to all party MLAs in Uttarakhand to take action against illegal mining in their respective constituencies. His statement follows an incident wherein Vikasnagar MLA Munna Singh Chauhan stopped an overloaded tractor-trolley allegedly involved in illegal mining. He intercepted the vehicle on Sunday afternoon and informed the police. According to his claims, he tried calling the police inspector concerned but someone else answered the call. A team from the Cheetah police unit reportedly reached the spot about 35 minutes later. Chauhan, angered by



the delay, confronted the police personnel on site. He also raised questions about the time taken to respond, claiming that nearly 20 people had arrived at the location in an attempt to remove the vehicle before the police showed up and when they saw the MLA, they left the scene. He also said that action should be taken against the entire police station staff for negligence. A video of the incident was recorded and later shared on social media. After the clip reached Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh, he reverted the police post officer in-charge Vaibhav Gupta, Cheetah unit head constable Manoj and constable Nawbahar to the police line. Responding to questions about whether Chauhan's complaint contradicts the BJP's earlier position that there is no illegal mining in Dehradun, Bhatt said the party maintains its stand. He added that if such activities occur in any area, strict action will be taken against those responsible. He stated, "What the opposition has not managed to do, our MLAs are doing. I appeal to all BJP MLAs to take action if such practices are taking place in their constituencies."

# Police seize 720 kg fake paneer meant for Char Dham Yatra, two arrested, three absconding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Dehradun police seized 720 kilograms of fake paneer that had arrived from Saharanpur for supply during the upcoming Char Dham Yatra. The police arrested two individuals and identified three others who are currently absconding. The Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said that he received confidential information after which a joint team from Raipur police station and the Special Operations Group conducted a raid at a shop in Upper Ishwar Vihar, Raipur. During the operation, police observed a pickup van reportedly unloading large quantities of paneer outside the shop. The teams recovered approximately 600 kilo-

located in a forested area of Kasampur near Basebagh, Saharanpur. The three operate the unit in partnership. Based on this information, police registered a case against all five individuals under sections 123 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police formed teams to search for the absconding accused at possible locations. Singh shared the factory details with the commissioner of Food Safety in Saharanpur. Following this, a team led by the assistant commissioner of Food Safety, the sub-divisional magistrate of Behat and officials from the Saharanpur Food Safety department raided the factory. The team seized 16 quintals of fake paneer, chemicals and

equipment used in its production. Authorities destroyed the recovered products and sealed the factory. The two arrested individuals have been identified as Abdul Mannan, a resident of Ishwar Vihar, Raipur Road and Arif, a resident of Bairagiwala, Sahaspur. The three absconding accused are Manoj Kumar from Herbertpur, Shahrukh from Kunja Grant and Narendra Singh from Chhotuwala, all from the Vikasnagar area of Dehradun. The investigation is ongoing, the SSP added.



# Bhatt calls Cong rally anti-Uttarakhand and disruptive to Char Dham Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Bharatiya Janata Party State president and Rajya Sabha MP Mahendra Bhatt said that Congress chose to conduct its Samvidhan Bachao rally on the commencement day of the Char Dham Yatra on Wednesday, showing an intention to adversely affect the economy of the State. This move by Congress becomes more unfortunate as it comes at a time when the country is mourning the Pahalgam attack, he said. He stated that Congress, despite its long record of constitutional misuse, is now claiming to protect the Constitution. He said that if Congress has any political ethics remaining, it should cancel the rally and contribute to smooth Yatra arrangements. In a Press conference at BJP headquarters on Tuesday, Bhatt questioned the timing and relevance of the Congress rally, stating that Char Dham Yatra plays a key role in Uttarakhand's economy. He said the opposition party's political event on the Yatra's first day reflects its negative approach. Bhatt said, "Congress does not want the State to develop or enhance its identity as a religious destination. This rally disrupts the administration and local people's efforts. Last year too, Congress made several similar attempts that continued until the end of the Yatra under the name of the Kedarnath Sanstha Yatra." Bhatt claimed the rally is an attempt to create unrest and manipulate public confidence. He said that freedom of expression allows parties to voice concerns but Congress has misused democratic rights in the

past. Bhatt said Congress even opposed initiatives like Constitution Day and Baba Saheb Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary celebrations and consistently questioned the credibility of institutions like the Election Commission. He said Congress blames EVMs after electoral losses but avoids proving its allegations when challenged. Bhatt claimed that Congress aims to weaken institutions like

the judiciary and EC. He listed several events to claim that Congress has repeatedly attacked constitutional systems. He said that Congress's long history shows repeated instances of disrespect toward the Constitution and constitutional offices. "If Congress is left with any political ethics, it should cancel the rally and contribute to smooth Yatra arrangements," Bhatt added.

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank**  
Circle Sastra Centre- Dehradun, mail-id cs8218@pnb.co.in  
(NOTICE UNDER 13 (2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002)

A Notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers & Mortgagor: Smt. Sunita W/o Sh. Manoranjan Kumar, Sh. Manoranjan Kumar (Co- Borrower) have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The Notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Details of Properties/Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	Amount outstanding (as on the date of Notice)
1.	Branch: Survey of India, Dehradun 1. Smt. Sunita W/o Sh. Manoranjan Kumar (Borrower & Mortgagor) Add: 125 A, Rishi Nagar, Upper Adhoiwala, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun. Add: 78, Lane No. 4, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun- 248001. Sh. Manoranjan Kumar (Co- Borrower) Add: 125 A, Rishi Nagar, Upper Adhoiwala, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun. Add: 78, Lane No. 4, Sahasthradhara Road, Dehradun- 248001.	All that property bearing khasra no. 497 Cha(9) old khasra no. 512 area 105 sq. mtr out of which const. area at G. floor 66 sq.mtr & const. area at F.floor 66 sq.mtr total const. area 132 sq.mtr. Situated at Mauza Dhorankhas pargana Parwadood, Dist. Dehradun. Bounded and butted as:- East: Land others sm 22'6", West: 28' wide way (8.53 mtr) sm 22'6", North: prop of Govind Farswan sm 50', South: Land of Bharat Kumar sm 50'. As described in the sale deed duly registered in the office of SRO I, Dehradun at Bahi No. 1, Zild 6149, at page 163 to 184 at sr. no. 9798 dated 05.12.2014. Ownership:- Smt.Sunita Devi W/o Sh. Manoranjan Kumar.	22.04.2025	17.04.2025	Rs. 25,56,934.18 as on 17.04.2025 you are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses cost charges, etc w.e.f. 31.03.2025

The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (Whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 29.04.2025 Place: Dehradun Authorised Officer



# Government working on education system: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Education system plays a key role in preparing youth for the country's future and the government is working on modernising it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. Addressing the YUGM Innovation Conclave at Bharat Mandapam here, Modi asserted that it is crucial that the journey from idea to prototype to product is completed in the shortest time possible.

Emphasising the need to consistently promote AI, quantum computing, advanced analytics, space tech, health tech, and synthetic biology, Modi highlighted India's leading position in AI development and adoption.

"The education system plays a crucial role in this preparation and underscored efforts to modernise India's education system to meet 21st-century needs. The introduction of the New National Education Policy is designed with global education standards in mind," he said while noting the significant changes it has brought to the Indian education system.

Underscoring the importance of meeting the goal of a developed India within the next 25 years, the prime minister said, "it is crucial that the journey from idea to prototype to product is completed in the shortest time possible".

He stressed that reducing the distance from lab to market ensures faster delivery of research outcomes to the people, moti-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

vates researchers, and provides tangible incentives for their work.

"This accelerates the cycle of research, innovation, and value addition," he said.

The prime minister called for a robust research ecosystem, urging academic institutions, investors, and industry to support and guide researchers.

The youth today excels not only in research and development but have become ready, emphasising the transfor-

mative contributions of India's young generation to research across various sectors," he said.

Citing milestones like the commissioning of the world's longest hyperloop test track, a 422-metre hyperloop developed at IIT Madras in collaboration with Indian Railways, the Prime Minister lauded groundbreaking achievements such as nanotechnology developed by scientists at IISc Bangalore to control light at the nano-

scale and the "brain on a chip" technology, capable of storing and processing data across over 16,000 conduction states in a molecular film.

He further highlighted the development of India's first indigenous MRI machine just weeks ago.

Quoting the scriptures in Sanskrit meaning true life is lived in service and selflessness, Modi remarked that science and technology should also serve as mediums for service.

He remarked on the development of the National Curriculum Framework, Learning Teaching Material, and new textbooks for classes one to seven.

The prime minister highlighted the creation of AI-based and scalable digital education infrastructure platform - 'One Nation, One Digital Education Infrastructure' under PM e-Vidya and DIKSHA platforms, enabling the preparation of textbooks in over 30 Indian languages and seven foreign languages.

"The National Credit Framework has made it easier for students to study diverse subjects simultaneously, providing modern education and opening new career paths," he said. He stressed upon the importance of strengthening India's research ecosystem to achieve national goals, highlighting the doubling of gross expenditure on Research and Development from ₹60,000 crore in 2013-14 to over ₹1.25 lakh crore, the establishment of state-of-the-art research parks, and the creation

of Research and Development Cells in nearly 6,000 higher education institutions.

He underscored that leading global universities are also opening campuses in India, promoting academic exchange, research collaboration, and cross-cultural learning opportunities for Indian students. "The trinity of Talent, Temperament and Technology will transform India's future," stressed the prime minister, highlighting initiatives such as Atal Tinkering Labs, with 10,000 labs already operational, and the announcement of 50,000 more in this year's budget to provide early exposure to children," he said.

YUGM (a Sanskrit word meaning confluence) is a first-of-its-kind strategic conclave convening leaders from government, academia, industry, and the innovation ecosystem.

The day-long conclave aims to catalyse large-scale private investment in India's innovation ecosystem and accelerate research-to-commercialisation pipelines in frontier tech. The conclave will also include high-level roundtables and panel discussions involving government officials, top industry and academic leaders; action-oriented dialogue on enabling fast-track translation of research into impact; a deep tech startup showcase

Featuring cutting-edge innovations from across India; and exclusive networking opportunities across sectors to spark collaborations and partnerships.

## Election Commission to begin Voter ID-Aadhaar linking

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

As the Election Commission (EC) works to purify electoral rolls of duplicate entries, sources in the government asserted on Tuesday that Aadhaar sharing by voters on a voluntary basis as prescribed in the law will remain unaltered. They underlined that sharing Aadhaar details with poll authorities is voluntary under the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 and it will continue to remain so.

The sources also noted that there is no plan to tweak the law or related rules in this regard. They were responding to questions on whether there was a proposal to make Aadhaar sharing compulsory as also whether voters who don't share details will have to explain before poll authorities the reasons for not giving out details. They said the ground rules will remain unaltered and no provision is proposed to be added as of now. Amid a debate on the purity of electoral rolls, the Election Commission had said last month that the regular updating process of the voter list will be strengthened in close coordination with the birth and death registration authorities.

Technical consultations between the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and experts of the EC will begin soon on voter list-Aadhaar linkage, it had said, adding though an elector can only vote in the assigned polling booth and nowhere else, the poll body has resolved to remove duplicates countrywide and end a decades-long issue within three months. "Regular updation of the voter list shall be strengthened in close coordination with the birth and death registration authorities," the EC had said.

According to the prevailing law, no entries in the electoral roll shall be deleted for inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause as may be prescribed.

## What is wrong if country using 'spyware against terrorists': SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that what was wrong in using the "spyware against terrorists" and said any report which touched upon the country's "security and sovereignty" won't be made public. A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh indicated it may address individual apprehensions of privacy breach but the report of the technical committee was no document to discuss "on the streets". The bench said, "Any report which touches the security and sovereignty of the country will not be touched. But individuals who want to know whether they are included, that can be informed. Yes, individual apprehension must be addressed but it cannot be made a document for discussion on the streets." The top court added it will examine the extent to which the technical panel report could be shared in public.

Earlier on August 2022, then Chief Justice of India NV Ramana orally ordered for uploading the probe report by Justice (Rtd) Raveendran headed panel, saying Government did not co-operate with the probe panel.

However, the publication of the probe panel report was not found in the evening uploaded order.

Advocate Dinesh Dwivedi, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the question was whether the Government had the spyware and used it. "If they have it, there is nothing to prevent them from using it continuously even today," he added. The bench responded, "Please make submissions with regard to disclosure regarding individuals. The kind of scenario we are facing nowadays, let us be slightly responsible. We will see to what extent the report can be shared."

The top court went on, "What is wrong if the country is using the spyware against the terrorists? To have spyware is not wrong, against whom you are using is the question."

You can't compromise with the security of nation. Private civil individual who has right to privacy will be protected under the Constitution," the bench said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, referred to a US district court judgment. "WhatsApp itself has disclosed here. Not a third party. WhatsApp itself has disclosed that there was a hack. That time your lordships had not indicated whether

hacking took place. Even experts didn't say so. Now you have evidence. Evidence by WhatsApp. We will circulate the judgment. The redacted portion should be given to concerned individuals so they know," Sibal said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, however, suggested against any "roving enquiry". There was nothing wrong, Mehta said, in using the spyware against terrorists and they cannot have right to privacy. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, for one of the petitioners, said the report of the technical committee should be disclosed without any redaction.

The apex court then posted the hearing on July 30.

On August 25, 2022, the technical panel appointed by the top court to probe the unauthorised use of Pegasus found malware in five of the 29 examined cell phones but it couldn't conclude Pegasus was used. Following the report by former apex court Justice RV Raveendran, the top court recorded the Centre did not cooperate with the Pegasus probe.

The top court ordered the probe in 2021 into the allegations of the use of the Israeli spyware by government agencies for targeted surveillance of politicians, journalists, and activists and appointed technical and supervisory committees to examine the matter.

The overseeing panel submitted a "lengthy" three-part report, one of which suggested amending the law to protect citizens' right to privacy and ensure the nation's cyber security. The technical panel, which included three experts on cyber security, digital forensics, networks, and hardware, was asked by the top court to "inquire, investigate and determine" whether Pegasus spyware was used for snooping on citizens and their probe would be monitored by Raveendran.

The panel members were Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Prabakaran P, and Ashwin Anil Gumaste. Justice Raveendran, who headed the panel, was assisted by former IPS officer Alok Joshi and cyber security expert Sundeep Oberoi in monitoring the inquiry of the technical panel.

The apex court order said the probe panel would be empowered to enquire and investigate the steps or actions taken by the Centre after reports in 2019 claimed the hacking of WhatsApp accounts of Indian citizens using the Pegasus suite of spyware.

## IOS Sagar arrives in Port Louis, Mauritius

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Reinforcing the enduring bond between India and Mauritius, IOS SAGAR made a significant and engaging port call at Port Louis, Mauritius, from April 26 to 28, as part of its operational deployment in the Indian Ocean, Defence Ministry said here on Tuesday.

During its harbour visit, the ship's Commanding Officer called on the Commandant of the Mauritius Coast Guard, reaffirming the commitment to strengthen cooperation between the two maritime forces. Selected personnel of the multinational crew visited several key training facilities of the Mauritius Police Force (MPF), namely the Special Mobile

Force Squadron, Maritime Air Squadron, Coast Guard Training School and the Police Helicopter Squadron and interacted with their counterparts.

The visit provided a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience and discuss areas of mutual interest in maritime security.

As part of social activities, an invigorating joint yoga session was organised onboard IOS SAGAR, with participation from the multinational crew and MPF personnel.

The Commandant of the National Coast Guard also attended the event.

The crew of IOS SAGAR and the MPF also played a friendly volleyball match. IOS SAGAR opened its decks to visitors, wel-

coming members of the MPF, the Indian diaspora, and other enthusiastic groups.

Visitors were given a tour of the ship and briefed on her operational capabilities, navigation systems, and life onboard.

In addition, a trek to the iconic Signal Mountain was conducted for the ship's crew, including the multinational crew.

On departure from Port Louis, IOS SAGAR is scheduled to undertake a joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance with the Mauritius Coast Guard. Upon completion, the ship will proceed towards its next port of call, Port Victoria, Seychelles, continuing its mission of enhancing maritime security, regional cooperation, and goodwill in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

## Rahul writes to PM for Parliament session on terror attack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgalam terror attack and demonstrate a collective resolve.

Several opposition MPs have made a similar demand to the government in the wake of the dastardly attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed last week, evoking anger and public outrage.

In the letter to the prime minister, Kharge said, "At this moment, when unity and solidarity is essential, the opposition believes that it is important to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest."

"This will be a powerful demonstration of our collective resolve and willpower to deal with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgalam on innocent citizens on April 22. It is our fond hope that the session will be accordingly convened," the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha added.

Rahul Gandhi too wrote a letter to Modi with the same request and said the Pahalgalam tragedy has outraged every Indian.

"At this critical time, India must show that we will always stand together against terrorism. The Opposition believes that a special session of both Houses of Parliament should be convened, where the representatives of the people can show their unity and determination."

"We request that such a special session

be convened at the earliest," he added.

Sharing his letter to the prime minister on X, Gandhi said, "At this critical time, India must show that we always stand together against terrorism."

While the government has not made any response to the call for a special session of Parliament, sources discounted such a possibility and noted that the all-party meeting was called for the purpose of presenting a picture of national unity.

A BJP leader claimed that the opposition's demand is driven more by politics and cited the recent sharp attack on Modi by Congress leaders.

AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared the letters of the leaders of opposition in both Houses and said it was a request for a special session regarding the Pahalgalam terror attack.

"This is a very sensitive moment in our nation's history. We need to demonstrate unity, solidarity, cohesive will, collective resolve to deal with the situation, and what better way than having a special session of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha," he said.

Ramesh said the Parliament is the supreme political body in the country and it is not new as special sessions have been held earlier.

"This is not an occasion for political debate, confrontations, people are worried, anguished, this is a traumatic event that took place in Pahalgalam, it affected the entire country... An all-party meeting happened, but the PM didn't attend, he was campaigning in Bihar. We hope that the PM will agree, attend, and take Parliament into confidence. After all, this is 'Team



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge

FILE PHOTO

India, the PM is the captain of the team," he also said.

The Congress president, however, had been unrelenting in his attack on PM Modi.

At a party rally in Rajasthan on Monday, he lashed out at the prime minister for skipping the all-party meeting on the Pahalgalam attack and accused the BJP of creating divisions in the country.

Kharge had said that in this hour of cri-

sis, everyone wants to fight together, "but the BJP wants to spread venom and divide people".

India has cited "cross-border linkages" to the horrific incident and vowed severe punishment for those involved in the strike.

Opposition parties have also extended their support to the government in any action it takes against the perpetrators of the attack and their sympathisers.

## BJP calls Congress 'Lashkar-e-Pakistan' over image controversy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

A pictorial post by the Congress attempting to portray Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a leader missing in action during crisis was slammed by the BJP on Tuesday, which alleged that it was a 'sar tan se juda' imagery and an attempt to weaken India.

The image posted on social media by the Congress without naming Modi showed an old photo of him with his body missing, and his clothes forming the outline. The image carried the message 'Gayab' (missing) on top with a caption in Hindi that read 'jimmedari ke samay —Gayab' (missing at the time of taking responsibility). BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed the post was intended to send out a message to Pakistan that the Congress was with them at this time of crisis, as he called the opposition party "Lashkar-e-Pakistan Congress".

He also alleged that the Congress posted the image on social media at the behest of party leader Rahul Gandhi. "Whatever be the intention, this is not an innocent post by the Congress. It is a sinister design to weaken the integrity of Bharat," Bhatia told a press conference at the BJP headquarters.

"On one hand, Prime Minister Modi and the brave Army have taken a vow to destroy the power which has looked at India with an evil eye, while on the other is terror power, demonic power... Pakistan's thinking and Congress' thinking," Bhatia alleged. "They are trying to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and give signals to Pakistan that in the dastardly (Pahalgalam) terror attack, the Congress stands with Pakistan and not with its own country Bharat or India," Bhatia added.

The BJP spokesperson said former Pakistan minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, commenting on the Congress' post on X, made "objectionable remarks" against Prime Minister Modi and India and asked Rahul Gandhi if he was "betraying" India to receive praises from Pakistan.

"Sar tan se juda' has become the foundational ideology and character of the Lashkar-e-Pakistan Congress," he said.

At this crucial time, the Congress is trying to weaken India and send signals to Pakistan that it is with them, he charged. BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said on social media, "The Congress leaves little doubt with its use of 'sar tan se juda' imagery. This is not merely a political statement; it is a dog whistle aimed at its Muslim vote-bank and a veiled incite-

**The image posted on social media by the Congress without naming Modi showed an old photo of him with his body missing, the image carried the message 'Gayab' (missing) on top with a caption that read 'jimmedari ke samay Gayab'**

ment against the prime minister."

"It is not the first time the Congress has resorted to such tactics. Rahul Gandhi, on multiple occasions, has both instigated and justified violence toward the prime minister. Yet the Congress will never succeed, for the prime minister enjoys the love and blessings of millions of Indians," he added.

On the contrary, proverbially speaking, Malviya said, if anyone's neck has been slashed, it is the Congress, which has now been reduced to a "headless hydra", flailing without direction.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey alleged that the hand of Congress is with the terrorists from Pakistan and those protecting the murderers of Hindus.

Slamming the Congress, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged

that the opposition party seems to be taking its orders directly from Pakistan.

The Congress had stressed on unity at the all-party meeting but some of its leaders, including its Jammu and Kashmir chief, suggest holding talks with Pakistan, Bhandari alleged.

He also claimed that the Congress' social media post was quoted by a former Pakistani minister, which showed that Pakistan was doing the batting for the Congress, and the Congress was doing the bowling for Pakistan.

After a few days of speaking in one voice in the aftermath of the Pahalgalam terror attack that claimed 26 lives on April 22, the ruling BJP and the Congress have stepped up attacks on each other. The BJP has cited controversial comments by several Congress functionaries to accuse them of speaking the language of Pakistan, besides questioning the sincerity of its leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge in offering support to the government in its action against terrorists and their sponsors.

The Congress has in turn castigated Modi for not attending the all-party meeting and instead travelling to Bihar to address a public meeting to launch development projects, which the opposition linked to the upcoming polls in the state.

## SC rejects bail plea of convicted former-IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of convicted former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in a 1990 custodial death case in which he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said there was no merit in his plea for bail or the suspension of sentence in the case.

"We are not inclined to grant Sanjiv Bhatt bail. The prayer of bail is dismissed. The hearing of appeal shall not be affected. The hearing of appeal is expedited," Justice Nath said while pronouncing the verdict.

The appeal of Bhatt against the conviction and life imprisonment is presently pending in the top court.

Bhatt has moved the top court in 2024 challenging the Gujarat High Court's January 9, 2024 order dismissing his appeal. The high court also upheld the conviction of Bhatt and co-accused Pravinsinh Zala under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

The high court had dismissed the state government's appeal seeking to enhance the sentences of five other accused who were acquitted of murder charges but convicted under Sections 323 and 506.

On October 30, 1990, then additional superintendent of police Bhatt detained around 150 people following a communal riot in Jamjodhpur town following a 'bandh' call against the halting of BJP leader LK Advani's 'rath yatra' for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Prabhudas Vaishnani, one of the detained persons, died in hospital after his release.

Vaishnani's brother accused Bhatt and six other police officials of torturing him in custody and causing his death.

Bhatt was arrested on September 5, 2018, in another case where he is accused of falsely implicating a man for drug possession. The trial in the case is underway.

He is also an accused in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots cases along with activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat director general of police RB Sreekumar.



# CM Yogi slams SP leaders over terror attack remarks

SATISH TRIPATHI ■ Deoria

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while addressing a large public gathering in Deoria, lashed out at Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders for their "shameful" comments on the recent terror attack in Pahalgam. He said that some SP leaders sounded more like spokespersons for Pakistan than representatives of an Indian political party. "The entire country is united in condemning the terror attack beyond party lines, yet SP leaders are making disgraceful statements. It's hard to tell whether the comment came from a SP leader or a Pakistani official," the Chief Minister remarked.

He was referring to remarks made by an SP office bearer in Mumbai and a controversial response from SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who, when asked why he had not visited the family of slain Kanpur resident Shubham Dwivedi, allegedly said the victim was "not from our party."

CM Yogi called this response both unfortunate and shameful. He also slammed a national general secretary of the SP for saying "a Hindu killed a Hindu," claiming it was a veiled attempt to absolve Pakistan of blame.

He accused both the SP and the Congress of indulging in casteist, divisive, and appeasement politics that endanger the nation's unity and security.

The Chief Minister stressed that the double-engine government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking firm action against terrorism and Naxalism, and that the entire nation is united in this fight.

During his visit to Deoria, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 501 projects worth ₹676 crore. Of these, 341 projects were completed and inaugurated, while 160 new projects were launched.

He distributed cheques worth ₹7.87 crore to women self-help groups, handed over loan cheques under the Chief Minister Yuva Udyami Yojana, keys to beneficiaries of the Chief Minister Rural Housing Scheme, tractors, and land leases to 37 beneficiaries.

Pension cheques were also handed over to differently-abled and destitute individuals. The Chief Minister also felicitated academic toppers Preeti Kushwaha and Shweta Prasad with certificates and medals.

Addressing the crowd, Yogi Adityanath recalled how, before 2017, Deoria was plagued with disease, lawlessness, and mis-governance. Festivals couldn't be celebrated peacefully, youth were migrating in search of employment, farmers were committing suicide, and marginalised communities like the Musahars and Vantangiys were suffering from hunger.

The then government, he said, was only concerned about the welfare of its own



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with other leaders during the inauguration and laying of foundation stone of development projects in Deoria district on Tuesday

family. "Today, Deoria and Uttar Pradesh are known not for encephalitis, malaria, or dengue, but for highways, railways, metros, and world-class expressways," he said. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the

district's first four-storey government degree college offering arts, science, and commerce courses.

A new degree college is being set up in Pathardeva with a focus on commerce edu-

cation. He also announced the construction of an auditorium in a college at Gauri Bazar to support academic activities. He said that the rise of self-help groups in rural areas, once unimaginable, is now a reali-

ty and a sign of development. "Once a hub for riots and disease, today's Deoria is shaping its identity through development," he added. Highlighting improvements in connectivity, he announced that a four-lane highway is being built between Deoria and Gorakhpur, linking the region directly to Delhi and other major cities. Similar work is underway on the Gorakhpur-Ballia route and on widening the roads connecting Deoria with Kasia and Padrauna.

He also spoke of the ongoing construction of medical and nursing colleges and emphasised that the government is committed to providing every possible facility to the poor, especially marginalised communities. Yogi Adityanath took a direct swipe at the Samajwadi Party, saying that their politics is centered around their families and caste equations, and that their time in power brought only poverty, unemployment, and insecurity to the people.

In contrast, he said, the present government is working tirelessly for the welfare of the poor, farmers, and youth, with an ambitious plan to connect 15 lakh underprivileged families with government schemes.

He concluded by saying that poverty is not just a challenge for the affected families but for the government as well, and assured the public that his administration will leave no stone unturned in addressing it.

## Dalit politics in flux: BSP fights to stay relevant in changing landscape

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

The rising cases of atrocities against Dalits across Uttar Pradesh have ignited political tensions, but for the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the situation is revealing deeper vulnerabilities within its core support base.

Once the undisputed voice of Dalits in Indian politics, the BSP now finds itself struggling to maintain its relevance as rivals like the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Azad Samaj Party aggressively court its traditional voters.

The recent attack on Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Suman has given the SP an opportunity to project itself as a protector of Dalit interests — a role that was historically owned by the BSP.

"The attack on our MP is not just an attack on an individual but on the dignity of the entire Dalit community."

"We will not stay silent," an SP leader from Lucknow told this correspondent, hinting at the party's plans to intensify outreach among marginalised communities.

While the BSP continues to raise its voice against incidents such as the vandalism of statues of Gautam Buddha and Dr BR Ambedkar and attacks on Dalit wedding processions, the response from the ground has been muted.

Realising the gap, the BSP high command recently instructed senior leaders to visit affected families, investigate cases thoroughly, and prepare detailed reports.

"It's not just about making statements anymore."

The ground reality demands that we stand firmly with our people and show real solidarity," said a senior BSP func-

tionary who is part of the internal review process.

However, party insiders acknowledge that the bigger threat is not from the Samajwadi Party, but from Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party. "Azad's appeal among young Dalits, especially those frustrated with traditional politics, is growing rapidly. He speaks their language — of assertion, dignity, and rights — not just token rep-

**The recent attack on Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Suman has given the SP an opportunity to project itself as a protector of Dalit interests — a role that was historically owned by the BSP**

resentation," said a former BSP district president who requested anonymity.

Adding to the party's internal problems is the sidelining of Akash Anand, the young and dynamic former national coordinator, who many within the BSP saw as the ideal figure to counter Azad's growing influence.

Instead, BSP supremo Mayawati has appointed veteran Rajaram to the post, leading to disappointment among party workers looking for generational change. "The youth wanted Akash."

They saw him as someone who could modernise the BSP's image and connect with first-time voters. The decision to sideline him has left many disillusioned," said a BSP youth leader from western Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, responsibility for the Bihar elections has been given to nation-

al coordinator Ramji Gautam, indicating that the party is falling back on old hands rather than taking bold new steps.

Political observers believe that unless the BSP adapts quickly, it risks further alienating its voter base.

"The Dalit voter today is not blindly loyal," says political analyst Dr Shailendra Tiwari.

"They are aspirational, politically aware, and looking for leaders who can genuinely address their concerns, not just symbolically represent them."

"The vacuum left by the BSP's organisational decline is being filled by new players like Azad, and to some extent, even by the SP's PDA strategy."

The situation is made more complex by the fact that Dalit voters are no longer a monolith. Different sub-castes within the community have different aspirations and while some still view the BSP with emotional attachment, others are ready to experiment with new political homes.

The turbulence within the BSP — marked by internal exits, inconsistent messaging, and a perceived lack of energy — has only worsened the uncertainty.

"There is still emotional capital left for Mayawati among older Dalits," says another Lucknow-based analyst, "but politics today demands mobilisation, visibility, and narrative control — and that's where the BSP is slipping."

As Uttar Pradesh prepares for the next round of political battles, the BSP finds itself at a crossroads: revitalise its organisational machinery and reenergise its support base, or risk slipping into political irrelevance as new claimants rise to occupy the space it once dominated.

## Gurugram gears up to combat waterlogging before monsoon

PARVESH SHARMA ■ Gurugram

The district administration is in action mode to tackle waterlogging problem in the city. To take stock of the arrangements made by the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG), National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) to provide relief to the people, deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar visited the critical points of waterlogging and inspected the works related to drainage on Tuesday.

During this, officials of the MCG and GMDA were also present. Kumar visited Ambience Mall, Shankar Chowk, Sikanderpur, Shiv Nadar School, AIT Chowk, Sector 52, 56, 46, 47, 57, Sushant Lok, Artemis Road and Mayfield Garden during the inspection and instructed the officials to complete all the necessary preparations in time before the monsoon this time at the places in the city where there was more waterlogging in the last monsoon. The DC directed the NHAI officials to construct a breaker before entering the underpass as well as install high capacity water pumps here.

"Ensure cleaning of all the culverts and adjacent drains built under the national highway in the limits of Gurugram so that the rainwater can easily flow into the main drain," the DC told the officials. Along with this, the NHAI officials were instructed to make necessary improvements in the arrangements for rainwater drainage in their area of work.

The NHAI officials informed that the DC the blockage of drains here due to people throwing garbage in surface

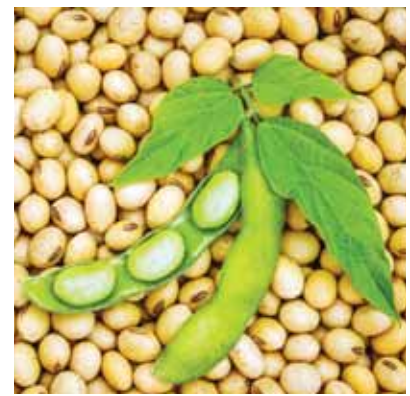
drains in various parts of the city is a big problem. Taking cognisance of the above problem, the DC asked the MCG officials to place big dustbins at such identified places told by the NHAI and also make the local people aware that they should throw garbage in those dustbins only. The DC said that he will soon visit Narsinghpur, Hero Honda Chowk and take stock of the work being done there. During this, the issue also came up that due to lack of proper cleaning of drainage and sewerage network in various sectors of the Municipal Corporation, rainwater overflows and creates the problem of waterlogging.

DC Ajay Kumar directed the corporation officials to identify all such sectors and ensure that the entire drainage and sewerage network is cleaned within the stipulated time period. During the inspection, GMDA Executive Engineer Vikram Singh informed the DC about the area related to Haryana Tourism Department adjacent to Udyog Vihar in front of Ambience Mall and said that C and D waste is being dumped illegally at some identified places here. Due to which the natural water bodies have been affected at this place.

He informed that soon the width of the pond area will be increased by GMDA through machines at this place. Due to which the water of Udyog Vihar, Surya Vihar and Dhundahera village can be diverted here.

Giving information about Leg One in Sikandarpur, he said that the cleaning work has been completed here. Giving information about the arrangements made near Shiv Nadar School, Vikram Singh said that check dams have been built at various places by GMDA in the Aravalli area.

## Cultivation of Soybean shrinks sharply in Madhya Pradesh



GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

The cultivation area of soybean in Madhya Pradesh, India's so-called 'Soybean State', has witnessed a sharp decline, raising concerns among farmers and agricultural experts.

Once spread across 6.5 million hectares, soybean farming in the state has now shrunk to just 5.51 million hectares, reflecting a troubling trend despite Madhya Pradesh continuing to lead the country in overall soybean production. Retired Agriculture Director GS Kaushal attributes the primary reason for this decline to the outbreak of the Yellow Mosaic Virus, a devastating disease caused by a Potyvirus and transmitted by whiteflies.

The virus spreads rapidly, especially during periods of intermittent rainfall, when whitefly populations thrive and infect vast swathes of crops. Continuous heavy rains usually suppress this risk, but irregular rain patterns in recent years have led to widespread infestations. Farmers, particularly smallholders, have struggled to contain the disease, largely due to a lack of timely guidance and effective support. To present a positive outlook, the state government has claimed an approximate two percent increase in soybean acreage compared to last year, estimating the current area under cultivation at over 6.6 million hectares. Ground reports and data from within the Agriculture Department itself suggest otherwise.

"There has certainly been a contraction in both area and production compared to earlier years," an official from the Madhya Pradesh Agriculture Department acknowledged on condition of anonymity. "Efforts are being made to improve the situation, but field realities are challenging, and the figures being quoted at higher levels do not always match on-ground observations." Though the government has set a minimum support price of ₹4,892 per quintal and facilitated procurement processes, these financial incentives have not addressed the deeper agronomic problems. The lack of robust disease management strategies, limited farmer training, and weak extension services have all contributed to the ongoing crisis.

The state expects to procure between 650,000 to 700,000 metric tonnes of soybean by the end of December. Around 200,000 farmers have already received payments totaling ₹1,957.1 crore. Neemuch, Vidisha, Rajgarh, Narmadapuram, Agar Malwa, Shahdol, Anuppur, Jabalpur, Umaria, and Khargone are among the top districts where over 75 per cent of registered farmers have been paid.

The Malwa region continues to be the epicenter of soybean cultivation in the state, and while logistical efforts such as transportation of procured soybean have been efficient, completing 95 per cent of the required movement, the deeper challenges facing soybean farming remain unresolved.

Without proactive engagement with farmers at the grassroots level and honest acknowledgment of the current crisis, experts warn that Madhya Pradesh risks losing its dominant position in soybean production in the future.

## Shinde Sena slams Congress for seeking Parliament session

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

Advising the Congress to "set its own house in order" before demanding a special Parliament session on Pahalgam issue, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Tuesday asked the Mallikarjun Kharge-led party to convene a special session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) to discuss "offensive statements" by its leaders on the attack in the Kashmir valley.

"The Congress party must first set its own house in order. Before making noise about convening a Parliament session, the party must urgently call an All India Congress Committee (AICC) session to clarify its stand on the deeply offensive statements made by its senior leaders—statements that mock the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack and echo the narrative of Pakistan," three-time Shinde Shiv Sena MP and Parliament party leader Dr Shrikant Shinde said.

Shrikant, who is the son of Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde, rooted for a special session of the AICC in retaliation to demand for a special Parliamentary session made by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to discuss the Pahalgam issue.

"The statements by the Congress leaders like (Maharashtra Congress legislature party leader) Vijay Wadettiwar, who cast doubt on the testimonies of survivors, to (Karnataka minister) R.B. Thimmappur and (Karnataka Chief Minister) Siddaramaiah, who downplayed the religious targeting of victims, (former union minister) Saifuddin Soz, who suggested India should accept Pakistan's

word, and Tariq (J and K Congress President) Hameed Karra, who called for "dialogue" with a state that sponsors terrorism, are not isolated remarks, they represent a dangerous mindset," Shrikant said. Taking strong exception to the statements by some Congress leaders, Shrikant said: "This isn't mere political immaturity. It's a betrayal of the nation's pain. The mockery and minimization of the grief of widows, orphans, and survivors is not just irresponsible—it is inhumane. The Congress party owes the nation answers. Does it stand with the victims of terror or with those making excuses for terrorists? This hypocrisy cannot be whitewashed."

"India deserves a strong, united political response to terror—not a fractured, confused, and appeasement-driven narrative. If the Congress party cannot take a clear moral stand on this, it has no business demanding accountability from anyone else," Shrikant added.

Earlier on Monday evening, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi wrote letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack and demonstrate a collective resolve against terrorism. "At this moment, when unity and solidarity is essential, the Opposition believes that it is important to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest," Kharge stated in his letter to the Prime Minister.

"This will be a powerful demonstration of our collective resolve and will to deal with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on innocent citizens. It is our fond hope that the session will be accordingly convened," Kharge wrote.

## Rahul to visit Pahalgam terror victim's family in Kanpur after two-day constituency tour



Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi being received by Congress leaders Pramod Tiwari, Kishori Lal Sharma and others upon his arrival in Lucknow

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, is set to visit Kanpur on Wednesday to meet the family of Shubham Dwivedi, one of the 26 victims killed in the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

"After completing his two-day visit to Raebareli and Amethi, Rahul ji will visit Shubham's family in Kanpur to offer condolences," said Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee president Ajay Rai.

The visit is seen as part of the Congress leader's broader outreach to grieving families and victims of terrorism, underscoring his stand on national security and human compassion. Rahul Gandhi began his tour in his Lok Sabha constituency,

Rae Bareilly, on Tuesday. During the first leg of his visit, he distributed solar-powered carts to underprivileged families, highlighting the party's focus on sustainable development and support for marginalised communities.

He was received at Lucknow airport by state Congress chief Ajay Rai, Amethi MP Kishori Lal Sharma and other senior party leaders.

From there, he proceeded by road to Rae Bareilly, where he interacted with local residents, Congress workers, and beneficiaries of welfare schemes. Though the Congress lost the seat in 2019, his visit signals continued efforts to reconnect with the grassroots and rebuild the party's support base in the region.

The stopover in Kanpur to meet Shubham Dwivedi's family adds a solemn

note to the visit. Shubham, a native of Kanpur, was among the victims of the brutal terrorist ambush on a convoy carrying workers in Pahalgam, an incident that has drawn national condemnation.

Congress leaders have criticised the central government for lapses in security and intelligence in the aftermath of the attack. Rahul Gandhi's visit, is intended not just as a personal gesture of solidarity but also as a reminder of the need for stronger security protocols in high-risk zones.

"Gandhi's schedule reflects a mix of constituency-focused development, political consolidation and empathetic outreach a strategy that party insiders believe is vital for reviving Congress's fortunes in Uttar Pradesh ahead of future elections," Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said.



Editor's TAKE

Canada elects: In the shadow of Trump

Canada's elections have unfolded at a time when its close ally has drifted away

Mark Carney will retain the office of Prime Minister of Canada as the Canadians have put a seal of approval on his candidature. He was declared the winner in Canada's federal election, promising to fight against US President Donald Trump's trade war and threats of annexation. While Carney's Liberal Party has won the election by a slender margin, the result puts to rest various theories of instability in the system and the future of Canada itself. Canada has put overwhelming faith in Carney as they feel he is the person who can talk to Trump in his language. Canada's elections have come at a critical moment on the world stage, with global trade tensions reshaping traditional alliances.

Notably, the ongoing influence of Trump-era tariffs continues to cloud Canada's trade relationships — especially with the United States, its largest economic partner. The elections have brought to power a leadership that faces immediate pressure to redefine Canada's external economic posture. The political establishment is now more aware than ever of the vulnerabilities exposed by US protectionism during Donald Trump's second presidential term.

Tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminium, and other goods have left lasting scars on Canada's perception of its reliance on American markets. This environment has prompted Canadian policymakers to look beyond the US for more resilient and diversified trade partnerships. India, with its massive economy and growing geopolitical clout, is naturally one of the foremost candidates.

For India, the elections signal an opportunity to deepen economic and strategic engagement with Canada's new regime. Talks around a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two nations have been on and off for years. The post-election moment could inject new urgency into these discussions. Canada's need for diversified markets aligns well with India's ambitions to increase exports and attract investment.

However, for that to happen, Canada and India would have to develop a mechanism to mitigate distrust and both nations will have to take baby steps to build confidence and repair relations, which took a beating in the wake of terrorism directed at India from Canadian soil. The relations between the two countries were at their lowest ebb during Justin Trudeau's regime, which Carney has tried to mend. Earlier this month, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney joined the Hindu community in celebrating Ram Navami. It signalled Carney's resolve to mend fences with India. Beyond trade, there are shared interests in technology collaboration, education exchanges, green energy transitions, and the critical minerals sector — where India has a growing appetite and Canada boasts abundant resources. A friendlier, more trade-oriented Canadian Government could facilitate greater Indian investment in Canadian sectors and vice versa.

Additionally, Canada's large and politically significant Indian diaspora one of the largest outside India — will continue to play a bridge-building role, especially if the new Government recognises and leverages this demographic strength.

However, challenges remain. Diplomatic ties have occasionally been strained over issues such as Sikh separatism and differing geopolitical alignments. Recent tensions involving Khalistan sympathisers have caused friction, and even a pro-trade Government would need to carefully navigate domestic political sensitivities. Moreover, Canada's closer ties to the US — despite the tariffs — will not disappear overnight. India's evolving ties with the US, including in areas like the QUAD security dialogue, could smooth some of these frictions but they will not eliminate them altogether.

Canada's elections, set against the backdrop of lingering Trump-era trade disruptions, offer a pivotal opportunity for Ottawa to recalibrate its foreign and economic policies. For India, this could mean a more open and motivated partner willing to invest in a broader, more diversified bilateral relationship.

But success will depend on political will, strategic patience, and a willingness to address longstanding irritants with pragmatism. If handled wisely, the next few years could usher in a new era of India-Canada cooperation — less reliant on the ebb and flow of US politics, and more focused on shared growth and global influence.

The endless war for Kashmir

The latest civilian attack in Pahalgam by Pakistan-backed terrorists not only shattered a long-standing unspoken pact against targeting tourists but also reignited calls for retribution, hinting at a dangerous new phase

The latest civilian attack in Pahalgam by Pakistan-backed terrorists not only shattered a long — standing unspoken pact against targeting tourists but also reignited calls for retribution, hinting at a dangerous new phase. The war over J&K is unending. It started in 1947 and has not ceased since the Partition and the birth of Pakistan. It is unlikely to stop even after three full-fledged wars, several skirmishes and many 'brink of war' situations.

The doyen of India-Pakistan relations, late Stephen Cohen, said, 'They will fight a hundred years'. Add the numerous terrorist attacks by Pakistan (mainly against BJP Governments) and India's retaliatory covert actions across LoC/IB and the cost is staggering — a setback to the economic progress of the region, countless loss in human lives and deepening roots of hate and violence. During this time, dialogue has not been given a proper chance, thanks to spoilers. Post-Pahalgam, it is déjà vu. The most consequential terrorist attack was on December 13, 2001 against India's Parliament, the citadel of democracy, by Pakistan's Jaish-e-Mohammad. The failed encounter near the entrance to Parliament was over in 12 and a half minutes — less time than terrorists took to kill 26 innocent Hindu tourists. Security forces were slovenly in acting to make up for the intelligence and security void in Pahalgam. In 2001, the BJP-led NDA Government took the unprecedented step of mounting the unsuccessful Operation Parakram within 24 hours, which brought India and Pakistan twice to the brink of war. Pakistan's proxy war then was at its zenith.

Twenty soldiers, 0.5 JCOs and 1.7 officers were being killed in counter-terrorism operations every month — akin to fighting one Kargil every 16 months. By strengthening deterrence — though deterrence is not effective against terrorists — and kinetic operations following terrorist attacks in Uri and Pulwama (as well as political measures like revocation of Article 370), levels of terrorism were significantly lowered from the peak of 4,000 to 5,000 terrorists in 2001 to around 100 terrorists today, of whom 75 are foreigners.

But Pahalgam has punched a hole in the Government's claim that J&K is free of terrorism and Kashmiris have joined the mainstream. Many have not — due to continuing alienation resulting in considerable local support for terrorists. Otherwise, hundreds upon thousands of overground workers and administration officials would not have been rounded up, with reprisals against families which would rebound and affect J&K's statehood. Pahalgam was qualitatively different from the previous choice of targets. Earlier, mainly military targets — like Pathankot air



base, Uri brigade headquarters and Pulwama CRPF convoy — were chosen. Pahalgam was a civilian target. In the Pentagon's book, an attack against civilian targets is terrorism.

The cardinal sin of terrorists was breaking the compact with Kashmiri awam: not to attack tourists. This was the first time they did so; this would hurt the local economy and livelihoods badly.

There was yet another difference. One of the terrorists told the wife of a victim that they were sparing her so that she could tell Modi about the attack. Targeting women and children is taboo for terrorists and insurgents, who also spare doctors.

Terrorists have made Pahalgam personal for Modi. After every major attack, Pakistan has denied its involvement, even after Mumbai 2008 where Kasab was captured. It has always demanded 'credible evidence' and invariably suggested a joint probe, though this time a 'neutral probe' endorsed by China.

During Parakram, India's biggest and longest military mobilisation, its initial demands on December 14, 2001 were the termination of activities of Jaish and Lashkar terrorists, detention of leaders and sealing of their offices. These demands were later expanded to Pakistan stopping cross-border terrorism

and full renunciation of terrorism in all its manifestations. Pahalgam terrorists chose their targets deep in the hinterland with the advantage of quick escape into high-altitude pine forests. Prime Minister Modi has directed terrorists to be hunted down till the ends of the earth. A bounty of ₹20 lakh has been offered. India's retribution so far has been chiefly diplomatic, economic and people-to-people. The already truncated Indian embassy in Islamabad has been scaled down to virtually nothing.

Unprecedented and unknown in effect, the Indus Water Treaty, which had survived all previous conflicts, has been held in abeyance. The war of words has begun: "Not a drop of water from the Indus River will flow into Pakistan"; "will bring Pakistan to its knees" are ministerial threats from India. Pakistan has responded with "Indian blood will flow if water is stopped". Modi has famously said, "blood and water can't flow together".

The long-threatened water wars could start. Usual war cries are also being issued from TV studios. Oft-repeated kinetic plans are being rebranded. Indians are crying out for revenge. A Pakistani minister has said its 130 nuclear missiles are not for show. Nuclear signalling has also begun.

But surprise — surprise: Ceasefire 2021 along the LoC is still breathing. Patriotism and nationalism should not blindside Indians to ground reality — though Pakistan's signature on terrorist attacks is well known. But a study of Pakistan's National Security Committee

statement in response to the release of India's CCS decisions post-Pahalgam could balance the debate about victimhood. While Pakistan is the acclaimed epicentre of terrorism, Indian agencies are no longer papal and pristine. Pakistan's NSC statement mentions Kulbhushan Jadhav and Indian covert activities in Balochistan and Afghanistan. NSA Ajit Doval's expressed threats on Balochistan are historic. After the serial attacks by BLA in Balochistan recently, including Jaffar Express, Pakistan's DG ISPR Lt Gen Ahmand Sharif Chaudhary said: "the rules of the game have changed", hinting at Indian involvement. The interview of the Editors of Friday Times, Najam Sethi to Karan Thapar, also helps to clear the fog. Terrorists chose a target that ensured unqualified success and quick exit. Nearly a week has come to pass.

There is no news of contact with terrorists. Their exfiltration will nail the blame on the Pakistan complex. India's inevitable kinetic response must be measured — not driven by public sentiment and emotion and below the escalation threshold. In Balakot, high risk of escalation was underwritten by Trump and high domestic electoral reward. Trump 2.0 is unpredictable, though Bihar elections are approaching. For Pakistan, no risk is too high to keep the Kashmir masalacentre stage.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)



ASHOK K MEHTA

Leaderspeak



It's an incredibly important relationship, the Canada-India relationship, on many levels. On the personal level, with Canadians having deep personal ties, economically, strategically... There are strains on that relationship that we didn't cause, to be clear, but there is a path forward to address those with mutual respect and to build out.

MARK CARNEY, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Fighting anaemia and malnutrition in Gujarat

SECOND Opinion

BY SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

When Hemant Deshmukh talks about health and nutrition, the community in Dang and Navsari, Gujarat, listens. This is not just because Deshmukh is educated, unlike many of them, but also because he happens to be a tribal like them. Being from the same community has helped Deshmukh build trust, make learning fun and debunk myths and misconceptions to improve the health and nutrition status of women, children and adolescents in both these predominantly tribal districts. Just how important reaching out to these communities has been can be gauged from the data of the latest National Family Health Survey 2019-2021 (NFHS-5).

According to NFHS-5, almost 77 per cent of adolescent girls in Dang and 72 per cent in Navsari are anaemic, and a significant percentage of tribal women are impacted by anaemia (72 per cent in Dang and about 60 per cent in Navsari). Further, anaemia prevalence among children under five is 82 per cent in Dang and 75.3 per cent in Navsari — both higher than the national average (67 per cent). It was these worrying statistics that prompted CHETNA, the Ahmedabad-based not-for-profit working on health and nutrition awareness, to focus its attention on these two districts. In March 2022, it began implementation of its three-year project in 16 villages in these two

districts to improve nutritional status and access to health-care services for women, children and adolescents. The first step of this project, called Arogya, was to ensure that the cultural and traditional sensitivities of the tribal community were respected. The decision to choose Deshmukh as the field coordinator proved to be a good one, as he not only belonged to the same tribal community but also spoke the local dialect and was well-versed in the local customs and beliefs. He was able to counsel pregnant women, adolescents and caregivers of children below five years in Dang and Kunki, the local dialects, on diets, health issues and even menstruation. Deshmukh was helped by the innovative anaemia kit developed by CHETNA to raise awareness of nutritional anaemia. Largely illustrative, the kit has multiple communication tools, including technical information on anaemia, a set of three posters on key messages, a script for a role play and a guide for the field workers on how to use these tools.

Additionally, it comprises a handbook of local folk songs modified to include anaemia messages, and a spinning disc game to make discussions on the causes and prevention of anaemia engaging. The kit also comprises a window chart. In this, the image of women who eat greens and full meals are shown as healthy; and to show how women who do not follow this healthy diet look, an image of a weak and tired woman is inserted atop it. Also handy was the kit explainer — to assuage fears of anaemic pregnant women that if they ate too much the baby would get suffocated in the womb; or if they ate brinjals, the baby would be dark-skinned; and that eating white-coloured food would cause difficulty during labour. Another effective

strategy used was collaboration with the local frontline health workers like the ASHA, ANM and Anganwadi workers. By getting them on board, Deshmukh was able to ensure an increase in access to Government schemes related to maternal, child and adolescent health. Thanks to the novel multi-pronged strategies and the dedicated effort by Deshmukh, women are no longer consulting with doctors — a practice popular before Arogya was initiated. Instead, they are visiting primary and community health centres close to their villages and are registering their pregnancies. Their families are maintaining a watch on their health and nutrition so that no woman is undernourished or anaemic when she delivers. Women are coming for ante and post-natal check-ups, getting their tetanus shots and having folic iron tablets.

Another visible change has come in the form of women making use of the nutrient — rich food packets distributed at the Anganwadi centre to pregnant women and lactating mothers. Before the Arogya project started, these packets were being fed to the cows at home so that they produced good milk. However, after demonstrations by Deshmukh and his team on how to cook these packets by adding locally available vegetables like jackfruit, dates and drumsticks, these are being consumed by the women. Undernourished infants are now also being fed four or five small meals a day to meet their nutritional requirements — underlining that change is possible with people-centred programmes.

(The author writes on development and gender. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Pakistan must stop exporting terrorism

Madam — One is hearing criticism from some humanitarians against India walking out of the 'Indus water treaty' and sending back Pakistani patients who had come here for treatment even before the ongoing enquiry into the Pahalgam terror attack is complete.

The 'liberal critics' who expect unending magnanimity from India would also do well to advise its recalcitrant neighbour to deserve the same.

For any enquiry to be a success, there has to be cooperation from all the parties involved. It is naive to expect even an iota of cooperation from a neighbour, who is a global exporter of terror, especially to India.

Despite submitting dossiers of evidence in the past, against those who have committed acts of terror and then found safe sanctuary in that country, no credible action has been taken. Against this backdrop, when facts cannot be immediately ascertained, there has to be conjecture, based not on emotion, but on past record.

In the circumstances, the completion of enquiry is a mere formality. Meanwhile, India needs to act on its own to defend and neutralise the terrorists who constantly infiltrate into its land from across the Western border and commit heinous acts of terror. If India and Pakistan are to be good neighbours Pakistan must act against its rogue elements.

V JAYARAMAN | CHENNAI

Online information can be misleading

Madam — Information available on the internet may not always be authentic. Almost everyone goes through the internet; but only some grow through it. Many doctors are baffled by the "immense internet knowledge" of patients and their relatives who blurt out their understanding on the subject through internet with regards to diagnosis, investigations, drugs and treatment.

Often it is almost like the patients take a second opinion from the doctor after having consulted their primary doctor, the internet.

Details on drugs and side effects can be, to an extent, accrued on the net. But when the addiction to internet propels the users to go for a drug not recommended by a doctor, or discontinue a treatment on their own, then the issue can get complicated.

In the process, the fine line between information and interaction, knowledge and experience, treatment and management, use and misuse get blurred. Unfortunately, people with Internet Derived Information Obstruction Treatment (IDIOT) syndrome or Cyberchondria are on a self medicating spree.

As a result, more and more patients who could have benefited from an early consultation with a doctor are going untreated or are being treated late in the day. Internet is a great resource but one must tread it with caution.

GANPATHI BHAT | AKOLA

Vaibhav Suryavanshi is a rare talent

Madam — It's natural, there was no exuberance, when Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid rose from his wheelchair to applaud the 14 years and 32 days young sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, etched his name in IPL history by becoming the youngest centurion. Kudos to Rahul Dravid for identifying and mentoring this young player. Representing Rajasthan Royals, Vaibhav blazed his way to a century in just 35 balls against Gujarat Titans at the Swamin Singh Stadium. The record of fastest century in IPL belongs to former West Indies batter Chris Gayle, who had brought up his triple figure mark in 30 balls for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Pune Warriors in April 2013.

Vaibhav obviously is natural, superbly talented and fearless. Many would have succumbed to the pressure but he was absolutely a picture of calm. After his last three IPL performances, cricket lovers hope Vaibhav should be groomed by Dravid to have good mental strength and character apart from cricketing skills.

No doubt Vaibhav Suryavanshi is a precocious talent like the great Sachin Tendulkar! He is a very quiet boy but when it comes to cricket, he is a great talker. Let him now progress in cricket at his own natural pace and with proper guidance from experts. He should be advised not to get too excited and then think ahead of himself. Hope the corporates don't tempt him with endorsements and kill his talent.

BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE | FARIDABAD

THE INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY LAPSES AT PAHALGAM

The intelligence and operational lapses that led to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people were shot dead, regrettably echo a pattern of past blunders — including Kargil in 1999, Mumbai in 2008, Pulwama in 2019 and Ladakh in 2020 — all devastating.

This rare admission came during an all party meeting in New Delhi on Thursday (April 24) evening, convened three days after the April 22 terrorist strike. Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijju said that Intelligence Bureau and home ministry officials had briefed MPs about the massacre in Pahalgam's unguarded Baisaran meadow, but offered no further details.

The opposition MPs, however, revealed that the official explanation for the glaring intelligence failure was a misguided assumption: that militants would not target tourists, given their contribution to Kashmir's local economy an assumption now tragically proven false. In other words, despite upwards of 1,000 tourists visiting

the site every day, no security personnel were deployed or present when the gunmen struck. Even after the attack, response times were painfully slow.

On April 22, all three layers failed simultaneously. The area was left wide open with multiple access routes through surrounding forests and trails. Moreover, the attackers, apparently in Indian Army fatigues, were never sighted en route to the meadow, indicating a severe lapse in surveillance.

Their undetected escape further underscored the breakdown in coordination between the Army, CRPF, J&K Police, and Kashmir's much-touted Unified Command structure. Even more startling was the absence of any immediate response despite the terrorists firing over 40 rounds from AK-47 rifles in an acoustically resonant mountainous terrain. There were no drones, surveillance cameras, or alert systems in place at Baisaran, despite its status as a popular tourist site.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI



# Trump's 'tariffs' trigger global trade turmoil

US President Donald Trump imposed sweeping new 'reciprocal tariffs' ranging from 10 per cent to 49 per cent on imports from nearly 60 countries, The move risks igniting retaliatory measures worldwide, with early signs of deepening economic strain already visible in the tit-for-tat tariff war with China

FIRST Column



UTTAM GUPTA

under the WTO rules, developing countries have the right to keep relatively higher "bound tariffs" (giving reasonable room for tariff hikes, if need be) for agricultural commodities.

The USA certainly doesn't fall into this category. Trump's argument that the imposition of "RTs" will help in re-invigorating domestic manufacturing by prompting companies to invest in the USA is far-fetched.

Firms are enthused to invest and expand capacities only when they are assured of demand. But a levy of RTs will kill demand by pushing up prices. And don't forget the devastating effect on demand for US products in other countries when the latter go for "tit-for-tat".

Forget any gains — it could take a serious toll on the US growth itself. According to former US

TRUMP ESCALATED THE TARIFF WAR, LEVYING A TOTAL OF 125 PER CENT ON CHINESE IMPORTS (INCLUDING A 20 PER CENT FENTANYL — LINKED TARIFF, WHICH COMES TO 145 PER CENT). CHINA HAS STRUCK AGAIN, INCREASING ITS ADDITIONAL TARIFF TO MATCH THE US AT 125 PER CENT.

Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, Trump's RTs will wipe out nearly US \$30 trillion — roughly equivalent to its one-year GDP.

The manner of arriving at the applicable additional tariff is mysterious. These tariffs seek to match the tariff and non-tariff burden that American businesses face while exporting to other countries. For instance, in the case of India, he looks at not just the existing tariffs but also loads on the tariff equivalents of non-tariff barriers and other trade-impacting measures like subsidies and currency adjustments. This way, it arrives at a high figure of 52 per cent. Having artificially inflated the number, Trump — in a gesture of benevolence — says 'we are imposing on India an additional duty of 26 per cent only, which is half of what New Delhi charged the US'.

The reality is that even the 'discounted' tariff of 26 per cent is more than double India's current trade-weighted tariff rate of 12 per cent on its imports from the US. Such a disingenuous and opaque method of arriving at RTs is evident in individual product categories. The resulting sharp

increase in tariffs on major export items from India such as chemicals, metals, gems and jewellery, engineering, automobiles, food products etc. will have a devastating effect on these sectors. India may have some reason to feel relieved when it sees RTs on its exports to the USA in juxtaposition with tariffs imposed on its key Asian competitors — viz. China (125 per cent), Vietnam (46 per cent), Thailand (36 per cent), Bangladesh (37 per cent) etc. In textiles and garments, India will have a clear edge over China and Bangladesh.

In electronics and telecom, steep tariffs on exports from Vietnam and Thailand should give India a leg up. In January 2025, the US imposed restrictions on the export of computer chip — making equipment, software, and high-bandwidth memory chips to China. This has undermined the latter's capabilities to boost the production of its goods such as electronics, automobiles etc.

China has also been impacted by EU countries imposing tariffs on their imports of Chinese EVs. These measures targeting China should help India find space for its electronics, EVs and automobiles in US/EU markets.

Trump has kept pharmaceutical formulations (besides energy and semiconductors) out of the purview of reciprocal levies. India caters to nearly half of the US market for branded generic medicines. The Americans get these medicines very cheaply when compared to the stuff made by US firms. It is, therefore, natural that the Administration has exempted their imports.

The US has offered some relief from its tariff assault to a country that takes significant steps to remedy non-reciprocal trade arrangements. For such countries, Trump says "I may decrease or limit in scope the duties imposed under this (reciprocal tariff) order."

India has already taken some steps such as cutting taxes on bourbon whiskey, fish feed, motor-cycles, mobile phone components and satellite parts. It could offer more under the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the USA it intends to conclude by the end of 2025. But Trump won't be satisfied with some more cuts here and there.

He has put forth big demands such as reforming India's stockholding programme for food security, allowing the import of GM (genetically modified) food, lowering tariffs on farm products, amending its Patent Act to allow evergreening (a fancy term for extending patent protection for older drugs and delaying generic alternatives), removal of ban on inventory-based model in e-commerce, granting US firms access to Government contracts including defence.

It won't be possible for India to yield ground in any of these areas. In February 2025, during a joint press conference at the White House, Trump had said Modi was "a much tougher negotiator" than him. Events seem to be proving otherwise.

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

## The consequences of experimenting with Yoga

Yoga, rooted in deep spiritual and scientific traditions, is increasingly at risk of being diluted by modern, hybrid practices that prioritise aesthetics and fitness over inner transformation



SHARMILA DAS

Aerial Yoga uses silk hammocks to suspend practitioners in mid-air. While it might look beautiful on social media, it introduces new risks to the musculo skeletal system, especially if taught without a proper understanding of traditional postures and body mechanics.

HIIT Yoga and CrossFit Yoga attempt to fuse high-intensity interval training and weightlifting principles with yogic postures. The fact is that Yoga was never intended to be a high-stress activity on the body.

Then there's Paddleboard Yoga and Spin and Yoga, both interesting combinations, but ones that often seem to dilute the inward focus that traditional Yoga demands. Balancing on a paddleboard or spinning on a cycle while trying

SHISHYA LINEAGES SUCH AS SIVANANDA YOGA, IYENGAR YOGA, OR SATYANANDA YOGA, THE CORE PRACTICES REMAINED LARGELY CONSISTENT, WITH ONLY MINOR VARIATIONS, AND WERE INTENTIONALLY GROUNDED IN BOTH PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE AND PROFOUND PHILOSOPHICAL WISDOM.

to breathe deeply and remain mindful often becomes more of a challenge to one's physical endurance rather than an invitation to stillness and self-inquiry. What concerns me is not merely the creation of these hybrids, but the way they are marketed: Yoga is increasingly sold as a product — a lifestyle choice that promises flat abs, glowing skin, and mental sharpness in 30 days or less.

The ancient aim of Yoga — union with the higher self — is often barely mentioned. The sacredness of the practice, its depth, and its inherent science seem at risk of being trivialised into a trendy hashtag or a flashy gym class.

Experimenting with traditional practices without a deep understanding of their purpose and structure can be risky. Traditional Yoga evolved slowly, through painstaking observation of the human body and mind. Every asana was designed with attention to anatomical, energetic, and psychological effects. Disrupting this carefully developed

sequence, speeding it up, loading it with weights, suspending it mid-air — can lead to injuries ranging from minor sprains to serious spinal issues.

Traditional Yoga balances the nervous system, calming the fight-or flight response and cultivating parasympathetic dominance (rest and digest mode). High-intensity fusions may instead overstimulate the nervous system, leaving practitioners wired and anxious rather than grounded and serene.

Having said that, I believe there is always room for creativity. Yoga should be alive, growing, and meeting the needs of new generations. But this growth must be rooted in respect for the science behind traditional systems. Without that grounding, we risk turning Yoga into just another fitness fad — here today, gone tomorrow — when in fact it is one of humanity's most precious treasures for holistic health and self-realisation.

As someone who has felt the profound benefits of traditional Yoga, I urge others — especially younger audiences drawn to "new-age" Yoga — to explore the traditional systems first. Understand the depth before seeking novelty. Build a strong foundation before experimenting. After all, Yoga isn't just something we do, it's something we become, and it's a way of life.

And that transformation is far too sacred to be rushed, repackaged, or compromised. Yoga, rooted in deep spiritual and scientific traditions, is increasingly at risk of being diluted by modern, hybrid practices that prioritise aesthetics and fitness over inner transformation. While innovation can breathe fresh life into ancient systems, it must not come at the cost of Yoga's core purpose — union, awareness, and holistic well-being.

Traditional Yoga is not just movement; it is a precise, time-tested science designed to harmonise body, mind, and spirit. Fusing it with high-intensity workouts or gimmicky formats may attract attention, but it often undermines its healing, meditative essence.

The danger lies not only in physical injury but in reducing Yoga to a trend, stripped of its depth and sacredness. For Yoga to remain a transformative path, its evolution must be rooted in respect and understanding. Before reinventing it, we must first embody it. Let us not forget — Yoga is a journey inward, not a performance outward.

(The author is a certified Sivananda Yoga teacher with over 30 years of practice. Views are personal)



# Pahalgam attack shows global zero terror tolerance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ United Nations

India said that the "strong, unequivocal" support and solidarity extended by global leaders in the wake of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam is a testimony to the international community's "zero tolerance" for terrorism. "The Pahalgam terrorist attack represents the largest number of civilian casualties since the horrific 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008," India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Yojna Patel, said.

"Having been a victim of cross-border terrorism for decades, India fully understands the long-lasting impact such acts have on victims, their families and society," Patel added.

Patel was speaking at the hybrid launch event for the 'Victims of Terrorism Association Network' (VoTAN) of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism at the world body's headquarters on Monday.

She said that "India deeply appreciates

and values the strong, unequivocal support and solidarity extended by leaders and governments across the world in the wake of the recent terrorist attack at Pahalgam, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a testimony to the international community's zero tolerance for terrorism."

The horrific April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam killed 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen. The victims were mostly tourists from all across India.

Global leaders, including US President Donald Trump, US Vice President J D Vance, Russian President Vladimir Putin, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and expressed their condolences and solidarity with India. Last week, the 15-nation UN Security Council issued a Press Statement condemning "in the strongest terms" the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir,



A security personnel stands guard a day after a terrorist attack in Pahalgam PTI

stressing that those responsible for these killings should be held accountable and organisers and sponsors of this "reprehensible act of terrorism" should be brought to justice. The Council members "stressed

that those responsible for these killings should be held accountable, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate

actively with all relevant authorities in this regard." A press statement is a declaration to the media made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of all 15 Members. France is President of the Council for the month of April and the press statement was issued by Council President Permanent Representative of France to the UN Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont. Pakistan currently sits in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member. A press statement requires agreement from all Council members and is a negotiated text. Patel highlighted that the Council, in its statement, has said that perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of reprehensible acts of terrorism must be held accountable and brought to justice.

"Acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. We reiterate that terrorism in all its forms must be condemned unequivocally," she said. India also termed the establishment of the Victims of Terrorism

Association (VoTAN) as a significant step, saying it will create a structured, safe space for victims to be heard and supported. "India believes that initiatives like VoTAN are essential to strengthening the global response to terrorism, ensuring that victims remain at the centre of our collective efforts," Patel said.

The hybrid launch event commenced with a video showing testimonies of survivors and families of victims of terror attacks around the world, including by survivor of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack Karambir Singh Kang, Nidhi Chaphekar and the son of a woman killed in the 1985 bombing of Air India flight 182 en route from Toronto to London.

VoTAN is an initiative bringing together victims of terrorism and victims' associations from across the globe to drive collective action to support victims' rights and needs. "Terrorism remains a serious threat to international peace and security, and a daily reality for thousands of people around the world."

## Disabled Pakistani teen appeals to PM Modi to allow his mother to return to Karachi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Karachi

A disabled Pakistani teenager, who was sent back from India without his treatment being completed, has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government to allow his mother to join them in Karachi.

Ayan's mother, who has an Indian passport and her sister, were not allowed to return to Pakistan when the youngster's family was expelled from New Delhi where they had gone for his treatment.

Ayan, 16, was carried off the train and put on a stretcher at the Karachi Cantt Railway Station when he returned on Monday from Lahore after his family was sent back by Indian authorities via Wagah.

"I had gone there for treatment at the Indraprastha Hospital, where I was receiving critical treatment under Dr Sudhir Kumar. But after the Pahalgam incident we were all told to return to Pakistan

immediately," he told media. Ayan was accompanied to Delhi by his parents, brothers, uncle and cousins.

He was shot by police last year due to a misunderstanding and this left him paralysed from the lower body.

"My wife is from India and after we got married, she came to Karachi. But when we were returning since she and her sister have Indian passports the authorities didn't allow them to come with us despite valid visas," Ayan's father said.

He said they had gone to Delhi last month with great hopes and were living with relatives because of the specialised and better medical care.

"His treatment had started but now it has been left incomplete," Haleem said.

Ayan's case is not the only one where Pakistani families, that had gone to India for medical treatment of their children, have been told to return as per the Indian government's directives after the Pahalgam

attack which left 26 people dead. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 Indians have left Pakistan for their home via the Wagah border over the last six days after they were forced to cut short their visits because of the cancellation of visas in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, an official said on Monday.

"Over 1,000 Indians have left Pakistan for their home via the Wagah border over the last six days. Similarly, more than 800 Pakistanis have returned home by Monday," a government official told to media. He added that those possessing long-term visas from both countries are facing problems in repatriation.

On Sunday, 236 Pakistanis returned home and 115 Indians crossed into their homeland. At Wagah, Pakistan Rangers and India's Border Security Force thoroughly checked the papers of the repatriated citizens before allowing them to proceed with immigration.

## Pakistan Foreign Minister vows steps to protect its right under Indus Waters Treaty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday promised to take "all appropriate steps" to protect its right under the Indus Waters Treaty that was suspended by India after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

Dar chaired a high-level meeting on the Indus Waters Treaty, attended by the Minister for Law and Justice and Water Resources Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attorney General Mansoor Awan, senior officials and technical experts, according to a statement by the Foreign Office.

On April 22, terrorists opened fire in Kashmir's Pahalgam killing 26 people, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the

attack. Dar also said that India's "unilateral and illegal move to hold the treaty in abeyance contravened the established norms of inter-state relations, international law, and the treaty's own provisions."

**The treaty is critical to regional stability and its sanctity must be preserved. Noting that the waters of the Indus River System remain a lifeline for Pakistan's 240 million people**

He said that the treaty is critical to regional stability and its sanctity must be preserved. Noting that the waters of the Indus River System remain a lifeline for Pakistan's 240 million people, he deplored the Indian attempts to weaponise water.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced to explore all options

to ensure uninterrupted flow of rivers allotted to Pakistan under the treaty.

Leading politician Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said that either water will flow in the Indus River or blood. India on Wednesday suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and downgraded diplomatic ties with Islamabad.

In response to India's decision to suspend the IWT, Pakistan on Thursday threatened to suspend the Simla Agreement and put other bilateral accords with India on hold.

Pakistan also suspended all trade, closed its airspace for Indian airlines and said any attempt to divert the water meant for it under the IWT will be considered an Act of War.

China welcomed measures to ease India-Pakistan tensions, including a fair investigation into the Pahalgam attack, and expressed support for its ally's sovereignty and security.

## Trump marks first 100 days in office with Michigan rally celebration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Warren (US)

President Donald Trump is holding a rally in Michigan on Tuesday to mark the first 100 days of his second term, staging his largest public event since returning to the White House in a state that has been especially rocked by his steep trade tariffs and combative attitude towards Canada.

Trump is making an afternoon visit to Selfridge Air National Guard Base for an announcement alongside Democratic Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. He's expected to speak at a rally at Macomb Community College, north of Detroit, allowing him to revel in leading a sprint to upend government and social, political and foreign policy norms.

His Republican administration's strict immigration policies have sent arrests for illegal crossings along the US-Mexico border plummeting, and government-slashing efforts led by billionaire adviser Elon Musk have shaken Washington to its core. Its protectionist import taxes imposed on America's trade partners have also sought to reorder a global economy that the US had painstakingly built and nurtured in the decades after World War II.

Trump has also championed sweeping



President Donald Trump speaks as he welcomes the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles PTI

US expansionism, refusing to rule out military intervention in Greenland and Panama, suggesting that American developers could help convert the war-torn Gaza Strip into a Riviera-like resort and even suggesting annexation of Canada.

"I run the country and the world," Trump told The Atlantic magazine in an interview. He told Time of his first 100

days, "I think that what I'm doing is exactly what I've campaigned on."

Only about 4 in 10 Americans approve of how Trump is handling the presidency, and his ratings on the economy and trade are lower than that.

Additionally, 46 per cent of US adults approve of Trump's immigration policies, with about half of Americans saying he has

"gone too far" when it comes to deporting immigrants living in the country illegally. Just 33 per cent of Americans, meanwhile, have a favourable view of Musk, the Tesla CEO and world's richest person, and about half believe the administration has gone too far in working to pare back the government workforce.

"The bottom line for the first hundred days is, lots of damage being done to the fundamentals of our government," said Max Stier, founding president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service, a non-profit dedicated to better government.

Stier noted that there'd been "a lot of interest in this idea of trying to make our government more efficient, and what we've seen instead is the most substantial destruction of our core governmental capabilities in history."

Michigan was one of the battleground states Trump flipped from the Democratic column. But it's also been deeply affected by his tariffs, including on new imported cars and auto parts.

Michigan's unemployment rate has risen for three straight months, including jumping 1.3 per cent from March to reach 5.5 per cent, according to state data. That's among the highest in the nation, far exceeding the national average of 4.2 per

cent. Automaker Stellantis halted production at plants in Canada and Mexico after Trump announced a 25 per cent tariff on imported vehicles, temporarily laying off 900 US employees. Industry groups have separately urged the White House to scrap plans for tariffs on imported auto parts, warning that doing so would raise prices on cars and could trigger "layoffs and bankruptcy."

That seemingly would make the state an odd choice for Trump to hail his own accomplishments. "I'm not sure that he is at all interested in doing the smart thing," said Bernie Porn, a longtime Michigan pollster. "He is what I would call an in-your-face president. This is what I'm going to do." Trump is also visiting Selfridge, which was established after the US entered World War I in 1917, and the community college campus in Warren. Both are near the Canadian border and home to many people with deep business and personal ties to that country. "Michigan always feels very, very positively toward Canada," said the pollster, who noted that its voters "can't be reacting well to the kinds of things he's done." Presidents usually hold multiple rallies at 100 days, but Trump is only stopping in Michigan before a Thursday speech in University of Alabama.

## Amazon launches satellites to rival Starlink

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Cape Canaveral

Amazon's first batch of Internet satellites rocketed toward orbit Monday, the latest entry in the mega constellation market currently dominated by SpaceX's thousands of Starlinks. The United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket carried up 27 of Amazon's Project Kuiper satellites, named after the frigid fringes of our solar system beyond Neptune. Once released in orbit, the satellites will eventually reach an altitude of nearly 630 kilometres. Two test satellites were launched in 2023, also by an Atlas V. Project officials said major upgrades were made to the newest version.

The latest satellites also are coated with a mirror film designed to scatter reflected sunlight in an attempt to accommodate astronomers and reduce interference with observations.

## Danish King visits Greenland amid rising Trump interest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nuuk (GREENLAND)

King Frederik X of Denmark arrived in Greenland on Tuesday, kicking off a visit to the semi-autonomous territory that US President Donald Trump wants to annex because of its strategic Arctic location. Frederik's trip to the island's capital city of Nuuk follows the new Greenlandic prime minister's visit to Copenhagen earlier this week.

Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen accompanied the monarch to Nuuk. The king wore a jacket with emblems of the Danish and Greenlandic flags as he disembarked from the plane to applause. Danish broadcaster TV2 asked Frederik about his mission during his trip.

He said he wasn't on a mission, and he was happy to be there. Nielsen also told reporters that the Danish royal house's love for Greenland can't be questioned.

He added that the monarch is well-liked on the island. The flight was originally scheduled for Monday, but was delayed because of poor weather conditions.

Frederik is expected to meet with the new Greenlandic government this week, as well as attend a traditional "kaffemik," or coffee break, to meet with Greenlanders, the royal house said. Weather forced him to cancel the anticipated trip on Wednesday to Station Nord, the island's northernmost military and scientific station, plus forgo a meeting with an elite dogsled unit of the Danish special forces that patrols the remotest parts of

northeast Greenland. The monarch visited Greenland last July, months after he took the Danish throne upon his mother's abdication. This week's Greenland trip comes after U.S. Vice President JD Vance visited a remote US military base on the island and accused Denmark of undermining it. Trump seeks control of mineral-rich Greenland, saying it's crucial for US security.

Trump hasn't ruled out taking the island by military force, even though Denmark is a NATO ally of the United States. In addition to official meetings, King Frederik is also expected to tour educational institutions and healthcare facilities to better understand the living conditions in Greenland. His itinerary includes a visit to a coastal village affected by climate change, where he will speak with scientists and local residents.

The royal visit is widely seen as a gesture of solidarity and an attempt to strengthen unity amid external geopolitical pressures. Greenlandic officials have praised the king's continued interest in their affairs, viewing it as reassurance that the island remains a valued part of the Danish realm despite growing calls for independence.

This visit is also seen as a reaffirmation of Denmark's support for Greenland's development, particularly in the areas of climate action, environmental sustainability, and economic growth, further solidifying their partnership and mutual goals for progress.

## Next Pope inherits Pope Francis' Indigenous legacy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Vatican City

Whoever succeeds Pope Francis will inherit his momentous and controversial legacy of relations with Indigenous people throughout the Americas.

Some found Francis to be a reconciling figure, others a disappointment. Even those who applauded the actions he took during his 12-year papacy said they were just a beginning, and that his successor will need to continue to work toward healing.

Francis, who died April 21, at age 88 issued a historic apology for the "catastrophic" legacy of residential schools in Canada and oversaw the repudiation of the "Doctrine of Discovery" — the collective name given to a series of 15th-century papal decrees that legitimised colonial-era seizure of Native lands.

But some Indigenous leaders criticised him as slow to fully recognise the traumatic impact of Catholic missionary efforts and for canonising Junipero Serra, the 18th-century missionary accused of mistreating Native people in present-day California. Even Francis' admirers says his work is unfinished.

"It's 150 years of trauma. It's going to take us a bit of time to recover," said Wilton Littlechild, a residential school survivor and former Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations in Canada. "He put us on a real strong path to reconciliation, but it can't stop."

Perhaps the most dramatic of Francis' encounters with the Indigenous commu-



Cardinals hug and shake hands at the end of a mass for mourning late Pope Francis PTI

nity occurred on a July day in 2022 in Maskwacis, a small town in the Canadian province of Alberta and the hub of four Cree nations. There, Pope Francis paid respects at a cemetery near a former residential school for Indigenous children. He then delivered a long-sought apology for Catholic complicity in the 19th- and 20th-century residential school system for the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people of Canada. "I am deeply sorry, sorry for the ways in which, regrettably, many Christians supported the colonising mentality of the powers that oppressed the Indigenous peoples," Francis said.

The Rev. Cristino Bouvette, an Alberta priest of Cree and Metis heritage who was liturgical coordinator for the pope's Canada visit, recalled hearing the applause

and seeing some onlookers weeping.

Bouvette said his late grandmother had attended a residential school and never felt the pope needed to apologise — but he, too, began to weep.

"My thoughts immediately turned to my grandmother," he said. "I think she would have been deeply touched had she been alive to hear those words herself, despite her not thinking it needed to happen." The first pope from the Americas also offered an apology in Bolivia for Catholic complicity in colonialism and he supported the use of Indigenous languages and customs at Catholic liturgies in Mexico. Francis "was a human being who tried to love and respect and honour people," advocating for the poor and migrants, said Valentin Lopez, chairperson of the

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in California. "But regarding the Native Americans specifically, there's a number of negative items that were pretty much totally ignored by the pope, and for that we're disappointed."

Kenneth Deer — a Mohawk activist from Canada who was part of a Native delegation that urged Francis in 2016 to rescind the Doctrine of Discovery — saw Francis as "very progressive, and he could have been more progressive if the Vatican wouldn't hold him back."

Deer noted that while the church was unwilling to state that the residential schools were an act of genocide, Francis was willing to say that in personal remarks. "That's who you want to listen to, the unscripted Pope Francis," Deer said.

Francis' successor will need "to continue working, continue to evolve," said Deer.

Visiting Bolivia in July 2015, Francis asked forgiveness "not only for the offenses of the church itself, but also for crimes committed against the Native peoples during the so-called conquest of America." Later that year in his only US visit, Francis officially declared Serra to be a saint. Many Native activists lambasted the canonisation, calling the missionary priest a prime culprit in what Francis had just apologised for in Bolivia — complicity with destructive colonisation.

Serra founded California's historic missions, where thousands of Native Americans were converted. Some were brutally whipped for misbehaving, resisting, or trying to flee, enduring severe punishment and hardship.







# Piyush Goyal explores avenues for greater collaboration with UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is in London on a two-day visit, focused on bilateral trade and investment ties during his interaction with a range of senior business leaders to explore the potential for greater collaborations with the UK. After a meeting with UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds to advance the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, Goyal held talks with Revolut Chair Martin Gilbert with a fintech focus and De Beers Group CEO Al Cook with a focus on "global trends in the gems and jewellery sector" on Monday.

"Exchanged views on the immense opportunities in India's fintech ecosystem and the importance of partnerships with global players to drive innovation and growth," Goyal posted on social media after meeting Gilbert.

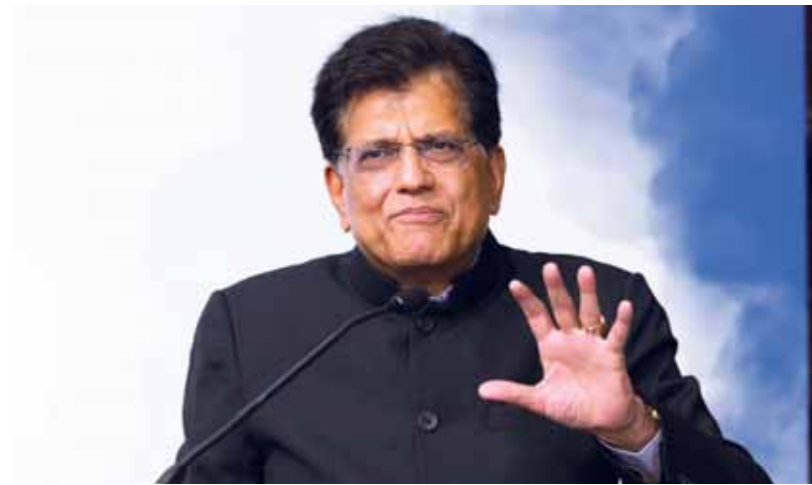
"We discussed India's opportunities, sus-

tainable practices, and growth prospects for the diamond industry," the minister said about his meeting with Cook.

These one-on-one discussions were followed by an interaction with a CEO's delegation travelling from India, including Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Senior Vice-Chairman Anant Goenka, and past presidents Harsh Pati Singhania and Rajan Bharti Mittal.

"Interacted with members of the Indian business delegation over dinner. Discussed the robust growth of our industry and avenues for greater collaboration with the UK for mutual prosperity," said Goyal.

On Tuesday, the minister will meet UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves, among other senior officials. All eyes are on the FTA negotiations, which were re-launched in February following a pause for general elections last year. They are aimed at clinching a deal that is expected to significantly enhance the estimated GBP 41 billion a year India-UK trade partnership.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal speaks during the India-UK Business Roundtable

"This government is committed to doing the right deal with India, which will improve access for UK businesses, cut tariffs, and make trade cheaper and easier," a UK Department for Business and Trade (DBT) spokesperson said.

# India, Rotterdam Port plan green, exports to Europe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The visit of Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal to the Netherlands has laid the groundwork for setting up a green and digital corridor between the Port of Rotterdam and Indian ports for the export of green hydrogen to Europe, an official statement said on Tuesday. The commerce ministry said that huge opportunities are there for enhancing cooperation between Indian ports and the Netherlands' Port of Rotterdam in areas such as digitalisation, green shipping, and logistics optimisation, to boost bilateral trade.

During the visit, Barthwal held discussions in this regard with the CEO of the Port of Rotterdam authority Boudevijn Siemon.

The Rotterdam port is Europe's largest and one of the world's most advanced ports. Both sides discussed opportunities in the areas including knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and sustainable port management practices.

In the meeting, Barthwal highlighted the potential for collaboration in modernising Indian ports, aligning with India's Maritime Vision 2030, which aims to enhance port capacity and logistics efficiency.

Both sides expressed interest in deepening ties through joint initiatives in port digitalisation, green shipping, and logistics optimisation, which are critical to boosting bilateral trade flows, the commerce ministry said.

"The visit laid the groundwork for setting up of a Green and Digital Corridor between the Port of Rotterdam and Indian ports like the Deendayal Port Authority Kandla, and export of Green Hydrogen and carriers like Ammonia and Methanol from India to Europe, with the Port of Rotterdam acting as a gateway to Europe," it said.

He also met ASML, a global leader in photolithography systems for the semiconductor industry, CEO Christophe Fouquet, and discussed deepening India-Netherlands cooperation in the sector.

# US watches India for alleged IP rights' violations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The US on Tuesday again placed India on its 'priority watch list' stating that New Delhi remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights.

The US Trade Representative's (USTR) 2025 Special 301 report said that over the past year, India has remained inconsistent in its progress on intellectual property protection and enforcement.

It said that although India has worked to strengthen its IP regime, including raising public awareness about the importance of the subject, and engagement with the US on IP issues has increased, there continues to be a lack of progress on many long-standing IP concerns.

"India remains one of the world's most challenging major economies with respect to protection and enforcement of IP... India remains on the Priority Watch List in 2025," it said.

**USTR said that India has worked to strengthen its IP regime, and engagement with the US on IP issues has increased, there continues to be a lack of progress on many long-standing IP concerns**

It added that patent issues continue to be of particular concern in India.

"Among other concerns, the potential threat of patent revocations and the procedural and discretionary invocation of patentability criteria under the Indian Patents Act impact companies across different sectors.

Moreover, patent applicants generally continue to confront long waiting periods to receive patent grants and excessive reporting requirements," the report said.

Stakeholders continue to express concerns over vagueness in the interpretation

of the Indian Patents Act, it alleged.

Despite India's justifications of limiting IP protections as a way to promote access to technologies, India maintains high customs duties directed to IP-intensive products such as ICT products, solar energy equipment, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and capital goods.

"While steps to improve intellectual property Office operations and procedures are to be commended, India's overall IP enforcement remains inadequate," US Trade Representative's said.

It added that the US intends to continue to engage with India on intellectual property matters, including through the trade policy forum's intellectual property working group.

The report has listed eight countries, including India in its 'priority watch list'. China, Indonesia, Russia, Argentina, and Venezuela are among others on the list.

It has also placed 25 countries, including Pakistan and Turkey, on the list.

# Sensex climbs 70 points on foreign fund inflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled marginally higher in a volatile trade on Tuesday as investors turned cautious amid concerns over geopolitical tensions.

However, intense buying in blue-chips Reliance Industries, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services and unabated foreign capital inflows supported the domestic market.

The 30-share BSE benchmark gauge climbed 70.01 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 80,288.38. During the day, it jumped 442.94 points or 0.55 per cent to 80,661.31.

The NSE Nifty ended marginally up by 7.45 points or 0.03 per cent to 24,335.95.

From the Sensex firms, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, Eternal, HCL

Tech, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest gainers.

In contrast, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Mahindra and Mahindra were among the laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹ 2,474.10 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

"The market exhibited largely range-bound oscillation, as caution prevailed amid geopolitical concerns over border tensions. The sustained inflows from FIIs provided support to market sentiment and restricted further pessimism. Meanwhile, mixed Q4 results have raised the risk of downward revisions to FY26 projections," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

# Rupee falls two paise to close at 85.25 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day 2 paise lower at 85.25 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, on recovery in the US dollar and geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan. However, positive domestic markets and a decline in crude oil prices cushioned the downside for the domestic unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.06 and moved between the intra-day high of 84.96 and the low of 85.40 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 85.25 (provisional), registering a fall of 2 paise over its previous closing level.

On Monday, the rupee appreciated 18 paise to close at 85.23 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to remain under pressure amid uncertainty over trade tariffs and the ongoing geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan. Meanwhile, nearly 50 public parks and gardens located in vulnerable areas of Kashmir valley have been shut as a precautionary measure in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, officials said on Tuesday.

Gates have been closed at 48 of the 87 public parks and gardens in Kashmir in view of the threat perception to tourists, they said.

They said the security review was an ongoing process and more locations may be added to the list in the coming days.

Besides, the Union Cabinet will be meeting on Wednesday for the first time since the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people dead.

Choudhary noted that positive tone in the domestic markets and foreign fund inflows may support the rupee at lower levels and traders may take cues from job openings and labour turnover survey (JOLTS) and CB consumer confidence data from the US.

"USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 84.90 to 85.60," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.16 per cent at 99.17.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.64 per cent to \$ 64.78 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 70.01 points or 0.09 per cent to close at 80,288.38, while the Nifty rose 7.45 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,335.95. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹ 2,474.10 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.

# Netradyne to elevate passenger safety

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bengaluru

Netradyne, the global provider of AI-powered fleet and driver safety solutions, on Tuesday announced plans to expand its global footprint to 15 countries by the end of 2026. Currently having commercial operations in 10 nations, Netradyne will add Japan and Spain in 2025 and further expand its presence to three more nations — Ireland, France and Italy — by the end of 2026.

"Today, Netradyne operates through three key offices worldwide — Bangalore (India), San Diego (Headquarters in USA) and San Francisco (USA). This global footprint supports our innovation, customer success, and expansion across international markets. Currently we are in the process of starting commercial operations in Japan and Spain, which will happen by the end of 2025. By the end of 2026 we will add Ireland, France and Italy. We also have other key European markets in focus. As road safety becomes a pressing global concern, Netradyne's AI-powered solutions offer a strong use case worldwide. Netradyne stands as a shining example of deep tech with the R & D Center in India making a global impact," said Durgadutt Nedungadi, Netradyne's Sr vice-president, EMEA and APAC.

Apart from the US and India, Netradyne has commercial operations in Canada, Mexico, Germany, UK, Belgium, Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand. Earlier this year, after raising \$90 million in its 'Series D' funding round at a valuation of \$1.34 billion, Netradyne entered the Unicorn club.

"We are increasing our presence to scale efficiently in various countries. In many global markets, we already have on-

ground employees working remotely, ensuring presence without heavy infrastructure investment. India serves as a major R&D hub, housing key design, development, and testing laboratories," Nedungadi added. Today, Netradyne has more than 650 team members in India and 850 globally.

With the addition of Eminent Transit, Netradyne expands its influence in the corporate and employee transportation segment. This strategic partnership aims to elevate safety, efficiency and passenger comfort through the integration of Netradyne's "Driveroi" technology — an advanced fleet camera system that analyses 100 per cent of driving time to monitor and improve driver behaviour in real time.

On selecting Netradyne as their fleet safety solution partner, Ravi Kiran, CEO of Eminent Transit, said, "We serve over 70 corporates in more than 160 cities across India with a combination of fleets, delivering executive-class journeys. Deployment of Netradyne's 'Driveroi' technology not only elevates the safety, reliability, and efficiency of our transportation services but also provides essential protection for women employees traveling late at night.

Eminent Transit is a premier provider of corporate travel and employee transportation solutions across India. This strategic partnership aims to elevate safety, efficiency, and passenger comfort through the integration of Netradyne's Driveroi technology."

Netradyne is a global provider of AI-powered fleet and driver safety solutions. Its flagship product — "Driveroi" — leverages AI and edge computing to deliver real-time feedback and insights that improve driver behaviour and fleet safety.

# SBI, LPAI sign MoU to enhance services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) to strengthen banking services infrastructure across 26 land ports bordering neighbouring countries.

LPAI currently operates 15 land ports across 8 border states adjoining Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar, with 11 more ports sanctioned across states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

These land ports are handling trade volumes of ₹ 70,952 crore, and total passenger movement through these transit

points stood at 30.46 lakh as on 2023-24. Over a decade, the ports witnessed a 15-fold rise in trade and an 18-fold increase in passenger movement.

Land ports currently handle ₹ 71,000 crore in forex trade, and nearly 31 lakh people cross borders through these land ports annually.

These land ports are going to play a very pivotal role in international trade, and SBI's presence at these sites will not only contribute towards business growth but also will have a remarkable imprint on the financial landscape of the country, while India aspires for Viksit Bharat by 2047, a joint statement said.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding, employees of Land Ports

Authority of India would get a corporate salary package with host of offers, including personal accident insurance, and concession in locker rent.

SBI will also explore catering to banking needs like forex transactions, Bulk Cargo Insurance, digital banking products and an array of other banking products in the ports in the next six months, it said.

This strategic collaboration will strengthen India's border trade ecosystem and provide modern banking solutions to businesses and individuals at land ports, it said.

SBI will partner with Land Ports Authority of India and aspire to improve the trade transactions for ₹ 80,000 crore at present to ₹ 2 trillion by 2030.

# Trent Q4 profit down 56.2 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Tata group retail firm Trent Ltd on Tuesday reported a 56.24 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹ 311.60 crore for the March quarter, on account of exceptional gains in the previous corresponding quarter.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹ 712.09 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Trent Ltd, which operates retail stores under the brand names — Westside, Zudio, and Star.

Its consolidated revenue from operations was up 27.87 per cent to ₹ 4,216.94 crore during the March quarter. It was at ₹ 3,297.70 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Trent's profit before exceptional items and tax was up 38.5 per cent to ₹ 416.85 crore in the March quarter. It was at ₹ 301.03 crore in the corresponding quarter. "In Q4FY24, the term of leases

had been reassessed under IND AS116, resulting in an exceptional gain of ₹ 543 crore, tax impact thereon was ₹ 137 crore and the same was recognised as an exceptional item last year," Trent said in an earnings statement. Trent's total expenses increased 26 per cent during the quarter to ₹ 3,874.43 crore in FY25.

The total consolidated income, which includes other income, of Trent was at ₹ 4,291.28 crore, up 27.16 per cent in the December quarter.

"For the fashion portfolio, the like-for-like growth in Q4FY25 was in the mid-single digits and for the financial year it was in the double digits. We continue to build on our presence in metro/Tier 1 cities. The agenda has been to drive material reach and share of revenues across key markets," said Trent. FY25, Trent's net profit was up 3.85 per cent to ₹ 1,534.41 crore, as against ₹ 1,477.46 crore a year ago. In FY25, Trent's total income was at

₹ 17,353.17 crore, up 37.02 per cent. As of March 31, 2025 Trent's portfolio included 248 Westside, 765 Zudio (including two stores in the UAE) and 30 stores across other lifestyle concepts, according to the earnings statement from the company. "In FY25 we opened 40 Westside and 244 Zudio stores and consolidated 24 Westside and Zudio stores each," it said.

In FY25, Trent added presence across 64 cities/towns including many in Tier-II and III locations. "The traction from customers has been encouraging given the growing awareness of our brands across markets. We believe this play out augurs well as an indicator as we pursue the next phase of our growth," it said. "The emerging categories, including beauty and personal care, innerwear and footwear continued to gain traction with customers. These emerging categories contribute to over 20 per cent of our revenues," it said.

# CM Naidu inaugurates landmark academic, hostel blocks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Amaravati

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Academic Block one of its kind of largest academic blocks in the country, 3 new hostel blocks, and launched the global innovation challenge — V-Launchpad 2025 in the university campus.

The event marked a pivotal moment in the university's commitment to academic excellence, innovation and global collaboration.

The Chief Minister, who had laid the foundation stone for the Central Block of VIT-AP in 2016, has graced the occasion as chief guest today and inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Academic Block — India's largest single academic block. Standing tall at 45 metres and spanning 7.68 lakh square feet, the block houses cutting-edge classrooms, lecture halls, collab-



Chandrababu Naidu giving speech at inauguration ceremony

PIONEER PHOTO

orative learning spaces and a 700-seater auditorium. His visit to the campus signifies a powerful milestone in the institution's remarkable journey towards becoming a global centre of learning and innovation.

In addition, Nara Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the new Men's and Women's hostel blocks, namely the VV Giri block (2.31 lakh sqft), Acharya NG Ranga (2.26 lakh sqft), block and Durgabai Deshmukh (2.26 lakh sqft) blocks.

These facilities aim to provide students with a nurturing and inspiring environment for academic and personal development.

The day also witnessed the official launch of V-Launchpad 2025 — Global Innovators Challenge for Swarna Andhra @2047, a groundbreaking initiative designed to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership among students and startups.

## IN BRIEF

### LIC ANNOUNCES RELAXATIONS FOR VICTIMS OF PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

LIC of India expresses deep grief over the death of innocent citizens at Pahalgam in the terrorist attack. LIC of India is committed to supporting those affected and will expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief. Siddharta Mohanty, CEO and MD of LIC announced many concessions to mitigate the hardships of the claimants of LIC policies. In lieu of death certificates, any evidence in Government records of death of the policyholder due to the terrorist attack or any compensation paid by Central/State government will be accepted as proof of death.

### CONFERRMENT OF THE RANK OF HONORARY COLONEL ON PROFESSOR PRATEEK SHARMA, VICE CHANCELLOR OF DTU

It is with immense pride and honour that we share with you that the Pipping Ceremony of Professor Prateek Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Delhi Technological University was held on 25th April at Delhi Technological University during Saamant, 2025 organised by National Cadet Corps (NCC) DTU. Professor Sharma was conferred the prestigious rank of Honorary Colonel by the Government of India.





# AIFF asks Churchill to return I-League trophy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Monday asked Churchill Brothers to return the I-League trophy it presented to the club, even as Goa Football Association (GFA) questioned the rationale behind awarding the silverware despite a stay order from the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

On Sunday, hours after Switzerland-based CAS stayed AIFF's decision to declare Churchill Brothers as I-League champions and barred it from conducting any formal medal ceremony, the national federation awarded the winners trophy to the Goan club.

AIFF deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan presented the trophy to Churchill Brothers players and later claimed that the federation learnt about the CAS order only after the ceremony was over as its secretariat was closed on Sunday.

But on Monday, the AIFF was forced to ask Churchill to return the trophy.

"On Monday, we have written to

Churchill Brothers to return the I-League trophy," an AIFF source told PTI on condition of anonymity.

"We are bound to obey CAS order. Let the CAS decide on the matter and we will hand over the trophy after the decision."

Meanwhile, GFA President Caitano Fernandes on Monday wrote a letter to the AIFF Executive Committee members to hold an "urgent inquiry on the potential disregard of the CAS order."

"The decision to proceed with the presentation in apparent disregard of a CAS directive brings serious embarrassment to AIFF. Ignoring a CAS order would undoubtedly have severe consequences for the AIFF and the reputation of Indian football on the international stage," Fernandes wrote in the letter.

"Therefore, I implore the esteemed members of the Executive Committee to treat this matter with utmost seriousness it deserves. A comprehensive and impartial probe must be launched immediately to investigate. The rationale behind proceeding with the event."

He also claimed that he was not provided any communication regarding the I-



League trophy presentation after he was initially invited for the formal ceremony on Sunday. He said by doing so, the AIFF has shown "unacceptable level of mistreatment towards the GFA."

"On the evening of April 26th... I received an e-mail from Satyanarayan inviting me in my capacity as GFA president and member of League Committee to attend the trophy presentation sched-

uled to take place in Goa on April 27. The e-mail stated that the venue and specific schedule would be confirmed upon his arrival in Goa," he wrote.

Fernandes said he received no further communication regarding the trophy presentation and later came to know that the ceremony has already taken place "completely bypassing the involvement and presence of GFA."

He demanded a comprehensive and impartial probe on the reasons behind the failure to communicate the presentation details to GFA and the "utter disregard shown to the GFA."

Asked about Fernandes' claim, Satyanarayan said, "It was unintentional (development). The trophy was to be presented on April 26 initially but Churchill said to be done on April 27."

"They (Churchill) also did not give any venue initially. So, I myself did not know the venue beforehand."

"Later, Churchill also wanted the ceremony to be a small one. I just landed in Goa and straightaway went to the venue to present the trophy. So, there was no intention on my part to cause any incon-

venience to Mr Fernandes."

Churchill Brothers had finished provisionally on top of the table with 40 points after the final round on April 6. But, their title and Indian Super League promotion were subject to the outcome of Inter Kashi's disputed points from their January 13 match against Namdhari SC, which the latter had won 2-0.

The AIFF Disciplinary Committee had awarded a 3-0 forfeit win and three points to Inter Kashi after ruling that Namdhari fielded an "ineligible player."

That decision would have taken Inter Kashi to 42 points, enough to clinch the title. However, the AIFF Appeals Committee later put the Disciplinary Committee order "inoperative and in abeyance" pending a final hearing.

After a delayed process, including a postponed April 12 hearing due to Namdhari's counsel citing "sickness," the AIFF's Appeals Committee on April 18 set aside the Disciplinary Committee's order and ruled in favour of Churchill.

On the basis of its Appeal Committee ruling, the AIFF had declared Churchill Brothers as I-League champions.

## Donnarumma remains vulnerable on set pieces, corners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Paris

Gianluigi Donnarumma was hailed as the world's best goalkeeper by Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique after his saves helped the French club reach the Champions League semifinal against Arsenal.

However, for all of his shot-stopping ability, Donnarumma remains alarmingly vulnerable on set pieces and corners — areas which just happen to be Arsenal's major stronghold.

The sides meet on Tuesday in London in the first leg of their semifinal, where Donnarumma will be in the spotlight.

His blunders cost PSG when it lost 2-0 at Arsenal early into the league phase.

Two weeks ago, the 26-year-old Italian made great saves with his team under pressure against Aston Villa in the quarterfinal return leg. PSG emerged 5-4 winners on aggregate thanks in large part to their goalkeeper.

Donnarumma has proved to be outstanding on his line thanks to remarkable speed and agility. He starred in a penal-

ty shootout when Italy won the European Championship in 2021 and did so again when PSG eliminated Liverpool on penalties in the last 16.

**Despite being 1.96 metres tall and stockily built, Donnarumma does not impose himself under the high ball**

It is a far different story on set pieces. Too hesitant Donnarumma's reluctance to come for corners and crosses dates back to last season's competition. It could become a serious problem considering Arsenal is the best side in Europe's top five leagues from set pieces and especially strong on corners. Set-piece coach Nicolas Jover has been Arsenal's mastermind on dead-ball situations. Jover also worked with Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta when both were at Manchester City.

Despite being 1.96 metres tall and stockily built, Donnarumma does not impose himself under the high ball. Accurately flighted balls sent toward the

penalty spot often cause panic in PSG's defense, creating a kind of no man's land between the goalie and his defenders.

PSG lost 3-1 at home to Nice on Friday for its first defeat in Ligue 1, with two of the goals coming from crosses. Sports daily L'Equipe gave Donnarumma a 3-out-of-10 rating for his performance.

Donnarumma's passing from the back is also erratic, leading to some blunders in Ligue 1 and almost causing a farcical-looking goal against Brest in their Champions League playoff match in February. Receiving a routine pass back from captain Marquinhos, he somehow kicked the ball straight at the head of striker Ludovic Ajorque a few meters away and the ball rolled narrowly wide of the goal.

Ongoing issue Donnarumma's hesitancy under the high ball was exposed in October's defeat at Arsenal.

He was beaten by a dipping cross as Kai Havertz nodded in Arsenal's first goal.

Last season in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg against Barcelona, Donnarumma failed to claim a corner and defender Andreas Christensen headed in

the winner. Donnarumma stood rooted to his line and, earlier in that match, he had struggled with Lamine Yamal's cross when Raphinha put Barcelona ahead.

It was a repeat scenario in the semifinal return leg against Borussia Dortmund when central defender Mats Hummels rose unchallenged to head in Julian Brandt's corner. Again, Donnarumma seemed reluctant to commit himself and there appeared little communication between him and Marquinhos.

Battle on the wings Another key area in the game could be the contest on the wings. Left winger Gabriel Martinelli and right winger Bukayo Saka tormented Real Madrid in the quarterfinal return leg, with both scoring as Arsenal won 2-1 to advance 5-1 on aggregate.

PSG right back Achraf Hakimi and left back Nuno Mendes both scored against Villa in the return leg. But their attacking intent may be reigned in as they deal with the forays of Martinelli and Saka, who likewise will be careful not to leave too much space behind them when they push up.

## FIA president signals change to swearing punishments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

The president of Formula 1's governing body FIA has signaled he'll make "improvements" to punishments for swearing and criticism which have sparked a backlash from F1 drivers.

FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem posted on Instagram Monday that after "constructive feedback" from drivers across the various event the FIA governs, "I am considering making improvements to Appendix B."

That's the document which lays out the punishments for a range of offenses ranging from physical violence to political statements, swearing and any comments deemed to cause "moral injury or loss" to FIA. Ben Sulayem has been seeking to crack down on swearing since last year and punishments were tightened for 2025 to allow for larger fines and suspensions for drivers who swear repeatedly.

The crackdown on swearing prompted a backlash from F1 drivers when Max

Verstappen and Charles Leclerc were punished last year. Leclerc was fined and Verstappen was asked to make amends with community service. Drivers in the World Rally Championship boycotted TV interviews last month after one of them was fined.

After the last F1 race in Saudi Arabia, Verstappen refused to talk about a penalty which cost him the lead because, he suggested, any criticism risked breaking the FIA rules. "I know that I cannot swear in here but at the same time, you can also not be critical," he said.

There was one sign of a more flexible approach when Carlos Sainz, Jr Was not fined for using an expletive in a news conference while he protested another fine for being late for a national anthem.

"Humans make the rules and humans can improve the rules," Ben Sulayem wrote Monday. "The principle of continuous improvement is something I have always believed in and is at the heart of all we do at the FIA."

## Purcell accepts 18-month doping ban, says ITIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Sydney

Two-time Grand Slam doubles champion Max Purcell has accepted an 18-month ban after breaching anti-doping rules, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said on Tuesday.

The Australian player admitted to a breach of rules relating to the use of a "prohibited method" after unknowingly receiving an intravenous infusion of vitamins above the allowed limit of 100 milliliters in a 12-hour span and entered into a provisional suspension in mid-December.

Purcell said he'd informed the clinic he was a professional athlete and that the infusion had to be less than 100 milliliters.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency said the 27-year-old had received IV infusions of over 500 milliliters twice but his full cooperation and information sharing during the investigation had allowed for a 25 per cent reduction in the sanction.

"This case does not involve a player testing positive for a prohibited substance

but demonstrates that the anti-doping rules are broader than that," ITIA chief executive Karen Moorhouse said.

"It also shows the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) considers intelligence from a range of sources with the overriding aim to protect everyone covered by the tennis anti-doping rules, and ensure a level playing field for all."

Purcell said the stress of the ongoing case had been "seriously affecting (his) quality of life" over the past few months.

"From being unable to sleep and eat properly, and refusing to be by myself, to developing nervous and anxious tics which I still currently battle day to day," Purcell said in a statement he posted to Instagram.

"I could not sit and enjoy anything without the thought of the case and the endless possibilities of what sanction I would receive. I am so glad this is finally over for me and I can move on with my life."

Purcell teamed with Jordan Thompson to win the US Open last September, and with Matt Ebden to win Wimbledon in 2022.

## Madrid Open suspended due to major power outage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Madrid

Former US Open champion Coco Gauff was preparing to shower in a dark locker room after play at the Madrid Open tennis tournament was suspended and then postponed because of a major power outage in Spain and Portugal.

Then Gauff realised that the water was off, too. "So I just had to take baby wipes and wipe myself. Gauff said on Monday, "and spray some perfume and call it a day."

Gauff managed to beat Belinda Bencic 6-4 6-2 shortly before the outage, which apparently cut off the sound as she was giving a post-match interview on the court. Then the 2023 US Open champion posted an Instagram story showing only an emergency light working in an otherwise dark locker room.

The ATP Tour said that two singles matches and one doubles match were underway when power went out at 12:34 p.m. Local time (1034 GMT).

"The cut is preventing the use of electronic line calling systems and also left a spider cam dangling over the court inside Manolo Santana Stadium," the ATP added. Tournament organisers said they "had no choice but to suspend/cancel all



sporting activity in order to guarantee the safety of the players, fans and personnel." They recommended all spectators leave the sports complex.

The event is scheduled to resume on Tuesday. There will be third-round matches in the top of the draw, and fourth-round matches in the bottom of the draw.

Grigor Dimitrov was leading Jacob

Fearnley 6-4 5-4 inside the main stadium when play was stopped. Also, Matteo Arnaldi was leading Damir Dzumhur 6-3 3-2 when play was suspended. That match later continued — apparently with manual line calling — and Arnaldi won 6-3 6-4.

The doubles match was also completed and some players were practicing

despite the outage. A few people remained in the stands to watch.

The blackout brought much of Spain and Portugal to a standstill, knocking out subway networks, phone lines, traffic lights and ATM machines.

Spanish power distributor Red Eléctrica said restoring power to large parts of the country after the outage could take up to 10 hours. The company declined to speculate on the causes of the blackout.

Gauff also posted a photo of candles being distributed.

"I don't think we're even going to be able to go back to the hotel because the traffic lights are out," Gauff said.

"It's just crazy how much we depend on electricity. It's really insane and puts it in perspective." Another fourth-round women's match was also completed before the blackout: Mirra Andreeva beat Yulia Starodubtseva 6-1 6-4. Second-ranked Iga Swiatek "sat in the darkened players' lounge, talking with members of her team," ahead of her scheduled match against Diana Shnaider, the WTA Tour said. Swiatek and Shnaider had been scheduled to play in the main stadium after the Dimitrov-Fearnley match.

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka had been scheduled to play Peyton Stearns later.

## Chithambaram finishes joint first in rapid section of Superbet Rapid, Blitz Tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Warsaw

Delivering under pressure, Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram put it across Frenchman Alireza Firouzja in the final game to finish joint first with 11 points after the end of the rapid section of Superbet Rapid and Blitz Tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour.

The Indian wild card entrant needed to match Firouzja and Slovenian Vladimir Fedoseev on points, and he got a little lucky after wild complications as the Frenchman lost on time from what could have been a drawn rook and pawns endgame.

Star performer R Praggnanandhaa bounced back in the event and jumped to joint fourth spot, scoring crucial victories over Romanian David Gavrilescu and Duda respectively in the last two rounds. The Indian shares the fourth spot along with American Levon Aronian on 10 points. With 18 blitz games still remaining in the first tournament of the Tour, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France is not far behind on nine points, a full point ahead of Deac Bogdan Daniel of Romania and Duda.

Gavrilescu stands ninth in the ten-player tournament on seven points, a couple of points more than former world champion Veselin Topalov who is in last spot.

Aravindh started the day with a victo-



ry over Duda who was outdone in the complexities arising out of an early piece sacrifice by the Indian.

The middle game offered chances for Duda but it was never easy to find precise moves in a jungle of variations that had to be navigated. Aravindh eventually won a rook back and the resulting position offered little resistance.

In the eighth round Aravindh lost to Vachier-Lagrave but that did not let his hopes down and a final victory over Firouzja ensured that the Indian would top the list in rapid section that offered two points for a win and one for a draw.

The scoring system will be back to normal in blitz section as the winning side will get a full point. However, with so many

games still to come, it could be anyone's overall victory. Praggnanandhaa found himself back on track after an indifferent start that had given him just five points in the first six games. The Indian played out a draw with Fedoseev and then the wins in last games ensured that remains within striking distance of the leading trio.

Standings after Rapid:

1-3 Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind), Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo), Firouzja Alireza (Fra) 11 each.

4-5: R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) Levon Aronian (Usa) 10 each

6: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 9.

7-8: Duda Jan-Krzysztof (Pol), Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou) 8 each.

9: David Gavrilescu (Rou) 7.

## Barcelona on course for hat trick of European titles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nyon

Barcelona is on course for a hat trick of European titles after beating Trabzonspor 4-1 in the UEFA Youth League final on Monday.

It was won the day after Barcelona reached the Women's Champions League final and two days before the men's team hosts Inter Milan in the first leg of the Champions League semifinals.

Leading from the 11th minute, on the first of two precise left-foot strikes by Mali youth international Ibrahim Diarra, Barcelona was rarely tested to claim a record third European youth title. Trabzonspor got a deserved goal in the 88th.

No club has swept European titles at each level since the Youth League started in the 2013-14 season. Barcelona won the inaugural edition and also lifted the trophy in 2018.

Barcelona's youth system is so strong that first-team players Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsi were still eligible for the under-19 team that plays in the UEFA Youth League.

The starting lineup on Monday had 10 players older than superstar winger Yamal, who turned 17 last July on the eve of helping Spain win the European Championship final against England.

Barcelona was too strong for Trabzonspor, the first Turkish team to reach even the round of 16 in the competition. Hundreds of its noisy claret-and-blue fans outnumbered Barcelona's support in the small stadium next to UEFA headquarters.

Diarra's opening goal was added to in the 18th when defender Andres Cuenca tapped in a loose ball after goalkeeper Erol Can Çolak pushed away a powerful header by Landry Farré.

Barcelona captain Hugo Alba placed a rising shot in the 57th and Diarra again found the bottom corner of the net in the 68th.

A late header by Trabzonspor defender Bican Tibukoglu hardly dimmed the celebrations for Barcelona, which could have a stellar end to the season.

The La Liga-leading men's team must get past Inter over two legs to earn a Champions League final on May 31 in Munich against Paris Saint-Germain or Arsenal.

The women's team faces Arsenal in their Champions League final on May 24 in Lisbon.

The youth team coached by Juliano Belletti — who scored a Champions League-winning goal for Barcelona against Arsenal in 2006 — did its part on Monday.

## Bhaker, Kusale, Palak in squad for Munich WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Paris Olympics stars Manu Bhaker and Swapnil Kusale were on Tuesday named in the 23-member Indian squad along with reigning Asian Games champion Palak for the Munich leg of the Rifle/Pistol ISSF World Cup, beginning June 8.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced the squad with Bhaker being the only member to make the cut in two individual events — women's 10m and 25m pistol events.

Also returning to the national team is Sandeep Singh in men's air rifle. Kusale and Sandeep will be seen in action for the first time since their Paris Games appearances.

The Indian rifle and pistol squad recently returned from a two-legged combined ISSF World Cup stage in Argentina and Peru, with 15 medals including six gold. India were second in the standings in Argentina and third in Peru.

A total of 13 members from that squad find themselves in the Munich team as well, with no changes seen in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) and 25m pistol competitions only. There will also be as many as three debutants in Munich.



# CSK look to turn around fortunes against PBKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chennai

Their play-off hopes all but over, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) would look to turn around a floundering campaign when they square off against a better-placed but erratic Punjab Kings (PBKS) in their Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

It has been a disappointing season for five-time champions CSK, languishing at the bottom of the table with just two wins out of nine games.

PBKS, on the other hand, are placed fifth in the standings with five wins from nine matches and would look to rise up with a victory against a demoralised CSK side, which failed to get its combinations right so far in the season.

What has been most disheartening for CSK is their inability to master the home conditions at the Chepauk, considered a fortress for a long time.

CSK would be desperate to register their

third win of the tournament to keep slim hopes of making it to the playoffs alive.

Even a talisman like Mahendra Singh Dhoni has failed to fire up the side after taking over the leadership from Ruturaj Gaikwad, who has been ruled out due to an elbow injury.

And Dhoni admitted that CSK are struggling to get their line-ups right.

"If you see the powerplay, whether it was the combination or the conditions, we are struggling with both bat and ball," Dhoni had said.

## Key match-ups

CSK's young recruit Ayush Mhatre, who grabbed eyeballs on his IPL debut, will look to put on a strong display when he takes on Arshdeep Singh in the powerplay.

The most entertaining battle is expected to be between Shivam Dube and Yuzvendra Chahal in the middle overs.

Chahal has been in magnificent form for PBKS in the second half of the tournament,



and it would be interesting to see how the CSK middle order handles him.

Priyansh Arya and Prabhshimran Singh have been in good form for PBKS while opening the batting and the onus would be on left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed to contain the duo.

In skipper Shreyas Iyer, PBKS have got a batter, who can control the pace of the game, but CSK would rely on Afghanistan spinner Noor Ahmad to deliver the goods.

At 43, Dhoni has shown glimpses of his legendary finishing skills but despite being a shrewd tactician, he is struggling to field a winning combination on the field.

Rachin Ravindra too has been inconsistent at the top. The struggles of Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Matheesha Pathirana haven't helped CSK's cause either. On the batting front, the likes of Vijay Shakar, Deepak Hooda and Rahul Tripathi have been below par.

In Marco Jansen, PBKS have a very good all-rounder, while the bowling unit will be

spearheaded by Arshdeep and Chahal.

## Teams

**Chennai Super Kings:** MS Dhoni (c&wk), Dewald Brevis, Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Shaik Rasheed, Vansh Bedi, Andre Siddharth, Ayush Mhatre, Rachin Ravindra, Ravichandran Ashwin, Vijay Shankar, Sam Curran, Anshul Kamboj, Deepak Hooda, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Noor Ahmad, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Shreyas Gopal, Matheesha Pathirana.

**PBKS:** Shreyas Iyer (c), Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Nehal Wadhwa, Glenn Maxwell, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Yash Thakur, Harpreet Brar, Vishnu Vinod, Marco Jansen, Lockie Ferguson, Josh Inglis, Xavier Bartlett, Kuldeep Sen, Pyla Avinash, Suryansh Shedde, Musheer Khan, Harnoor Pannu, Aaron Hardie, Priyansh Arya, Azmatullah Omarzai.

# Vaibhav can serve Indian cricket for long, says Rathour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jaipur

Rajasthan Royals (RR) batting coach Vikram Rathour termed 'wonder kid' Vaibhav Suryavanshi as a special talent who can serve Indian cricket for a long time if he keeps his focus.

Suryavanshi, on Monday, made a record 38-ball-101 to become IPL's youngest centurion at 14 years and 32 days. The left-handed Suryavanshi smashed 11 sixes and seven fours in his stunning onslaught against an array of international bowlers including Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Prasad Krishna, Washington Sundar and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan and Karim Janat to hand RR eight-wicket win.

"We have been watching it nets for last few months, we knew what he is capable of and what shots he can play but to do it in front of these kind of crowd and in a situation like this against a really good bowling attack, it was really special and

lot of credit to him (Suryavanshi)," Rathour said at the post-match press conference. "He is a special talent and he has got great downswing if go into technique and that helps him generate this kind of power and today he showed everybody how good he is.

**It is too early and it is unfair on the kid to be compared to Sachin Tendulkar. He is a special kid and he is a special talent**

— VIKRAM RATHOUR, RR COACH

"For a 14-year-old kid to play like this definitely makes him special. We saw him first time four months back when he came for the trials and from that day onwards we knew we have found something special and it was on us to nurture him and bring him to this level."

Rathour feels Suryavanshi can serve Indian cricket for a long time, provided he continues to work hard.

"Lot of credit to him that he kept his nerves. He has a solid head on his shoulders, he showed great temperament today. Even the couple of games earlier also he showed what he is capable of and today was an extra ordinary innings.

"Exceptional knock, spectacular knock. The kind of power he generates, the kind of position he gets into, cleanly hits the ball. "Everything is special about that kid and if he keeps going and keeps working hard, he is going to have a long, long career in Indian cricket," he said.

Vikram Rathour, however, said it would be unfair on Vaibhav Suryavanshi to compare him with someone like Sachin Tendulkar who made his India debut at the age of 16.

"It is too early and it is unfair on the kid to be compared to Sachin Tendulkar. He is a special kid and he is a special talent," said the former India coach. Rathour believes RR still have an outside chance of qualifying for the play-offs if they win

their remaining four games.

"Every season is important but it is a long term vision as well. We picked a young team and looking at the way they played today, I think we have a special team.

"We still have four games to go and if we win all four still I am not sure whether we are in a position to qualify but 14 points can get you to the play-offs sometimes. So fingers crossed," he said.

Gujarat Titans batter Sai Sudharsan too was effusive in his praise for Suryavanshi.

"No credit taken away from Vaibhav the way he batted was tremendous and was fantastic to watch but at the same time we could have reacted well. The way they started the powerplay was brilliant but we could have better plans," Sudharsan said.

"When we finished we felt it was par or may be 10 runs above par. But the way they started and batted showed us we were wrong and we could have also maximised a bit more."

# Cricket world praise Vaibhav Suryavanshi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

What were you doing at 14?" asked some of cricket's biggest names as they saluted the fearless and evidently gifted Vaibhav Suryavanshi for his blazing hundred in the IPL, describing the child prodigy as a star in the making.

After Suryavanshi, playing for Rajasthan Royals, smashed Gujarat Titans' Rashid Khan for a six over mid-wicket in Jaipur to become the youngest centurion in T20s last night, the cricketing world duly applauded his special feat.

"Vaibhav's fearless approach, bat speed, picking the length early, and transferring the energy behind the ball was the recipe behind a fabulous innings. End result: 101 runs off 38 balls. Well played!" the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, himself a child prodigy who went on to become one of the best batters in the game, wrote on 'X'.

Suryavanshi broke former Rajasthan Royals batter Yusuf Pathan's record for the fastest hundred by an Indian with his 35-ball century. Suryavanshi was not even born when Pathan smashed a 37-ball hundred 15 seasons ago.

"Many congratulations to young

#VaibhavSuryavanshi for breaking my record of the fastest @IPL hundred by an Indian! Even more special to see it happen while playing for @rajasthanroyals, just like I did.

"There's truly something magical about this franchise for youngsters. Long way to go, champ!" wrote Pathan. India great Yuvraj Singh too was left hugely impressed. "What were you doing at 14?!! This kid is taking on the best bowlers in the world without blinking an eyelid! Vaibhav Suryavanshi - remember the name! Playing with a fearless attitude. Proud to see the next generation shine!" wrote Yuvraj.

Former India opener Kris Srikkanth called Suryavanshi the next superstar of Indian cricket.

"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 phenomena. Indian cricket's next superstar is here," said Srikkanth.

The national T20 captain and Mumbai Indians star Suryakumar Yadav lauded the teenager as well and described his knock as a "carnage of an innings".

# Rüdiger to miss season after knee surgery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Madrid

Real Madrid defender Antonio Rüdiger underwent knee surgery on Tuesday and is expected to miss the rest of the season. Madrid said Rüdiger successfully underwent surgery on a meniscus tear in his left knee and will begin "his recovery process shortly."

Rüdiger had to be replaced in extra time of Madrid 3-2 loss to Barcelona in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday. He made headlines for shouting at the referee from the bench and for apparently throwing a small bag of ice onto the field. Rüdiger apologised for his behavior but the incident prompted former Germany player Dietmar Hamann to call for the defender to be left out of Germany's squad for the Nations League final four in June.

# Shadman's century gives Bangladesh lead in 2nd test against Zimbabwe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chattogram

Opener Shadman Islam hit a century to give Bangladesh a narrow lead in the second and final test against Zimbabwe. Shadman made a career-best 120 to guide Bangladesh to 291-7 at stumps on Day 2, leading the visitors by 64 runs. But a late flurry of wickets prevented Bangladesh from taking complete control as Zimbabwe leg-spinner Vincent Masekesa claimed 3-44 on his debut. Masekesa's three-for included the wicket of Mominul Haque (33) and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (23), who appeared set for a big knock. Veteran Mushfiqur Rahim was run out for 40 to give Zimbabwe further hope.

Shadman and Anamul Haque gave

Bangladesh a good start, adding 118 runs for the team's first century partnership in the opening stand since December 2022. They kept the side unscathed throughout the morning session after Zimbabwe couldn't add to its overnight score and was all out for 227 in the first innings.

Bangladesh bowler Taijul Islam got the better of Blessing Muzurabani with the first ball of the day, leaving Tafadzwa Tsiga stranded on 18. Taijul finished with 6-60 from 27.1 overs.

Anamul and Shadman were proactive right from the start with the latter slashing Richard Ngarava for a boundary past point in the third over to show his aggressive intent. Playing his first test in three years, Anamul got off the mark with two boundaries against Ngarava in the fifth over.

# Rameshwar fails dope test, gets five-year ban from AIU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Rameshwar Munjal, who had won title in the Navy Half Marathon in Mumbai on December 8 last year, was on Tuesday handed a five-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) of World Athletics after he tested positive for prohibited substances.

The 27-year-old had clocked 1 hour, 9 minutes and three seconds to win the IndianOil WNC Navy Half Marathon but he is now stripped of his

title as his in-competition urine sample was found to contain Erythropoietin (EPO) and Darbepoetin (dEPO) — which are prohibited at all times.

His sample was tested at the World Anti-Doping Agency-accredited National Dope Testing Laboratory in New Delhi which reported the Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) on March 12 this year.

The AIU reviewed the AAF and notified the athlete of the adverse result. On Monday, Munjal admitted to the anti-doping rule violation and

accepted the consequences.

It was Munjal's first doping offence and under normal circumstances, his maximum ban period would have been four years. But, the presence of multiple prohibited substances in his urine sample would come under the definition of "aggravating circumstances", which would lead to an increase in the period of ineligibility unless the athlete can establish that he did not knowingly commit the violations.

"The Athlete has failed to establish that he did not know-

ingly commit the Anti-Doping Rule Violations. Therefore, the period of Ineligibility to be imposed is a period of six (6) years," the AIU said in its ruling.

"However, Rule 10.8.1 ADR provides that an athlete potentially subject to an asserted period of Ineligibility of four (4) years or more may benefit from a one (1)-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility based on an early admission and acceptance of sanction..

Since, Munjal promptly admitted to the anti-doping

# Women's Tri-Series: Pratika Rawal fifty helps India beat South Africa by 15 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Colombo

Spinner Sneha Rana grabbed three wickets in a single over for her maiden five-wicket haul in WODIs while Pratika Rawal excelled with a well-crafted fifty to shape India's 15-run win over South Africa in the Women's Tri-series here on Tuesday. Rawal continued her rich vein of form with a measured 78 off 91 balls, helping India post a competitive 276 for six after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur elected to bat first under sunny skies.

Rana then snared five wickets as South Africa were bowled out for 261 in 49.2 overs despite Tazmin Brits 109. South Africa lost their last five wickets for 21 runs, giving India their second consecutive victory in the tournament.

The seasoned off-spinner ended with figures of 5/43. She bowled a crucial 48th over, picking three wickets while giving away just three runs. Chasing a challenging total, South Africa came out all guns blazing, putting India on the backfoot early



in the chase.

Brits weathered adverse conditions and cramps to score a gritty 108 off 105 balls. She and captain Laura Wolvaardt stitched together a commanding 140-run opening stand, threatening to take the game away.

But just when the momentum seemed to have shifted decisively in South Africa's favour, India's spinners turned the tide.

Seasoned off Deepti Sharma (1/40) broke the stand in the 28th over, trapping Wolvaardt leg-before with one pitched outside off. Soon Rana struck, bowling Lara Goodall (9) to further tilt the game in India's favour.

Brits went on to register her third ODI century and followed it up with back-to-back boundaries.

However, she retired hurt as she was cramping up, leaving South Africa with two new batters at the crease.

Sensing an opening, skipper Kaur brought on Arundhati Reddy (1/59) and the right-arm pacer delivered immediately, removing debutant Karabo Meso.

Left-arm spinner Shree Charani (1/51) then dismissed the experienced Sune Luus, caught at deep midwicket, as India tightened their grip on the match.

With the required run rate touching nine, Chloe Tyrone and Annerie Dercksen tried to accelerate but Rana accounted for both of them and Nadine de Klerk and Brits, who returned in the 48th over, to complete a memorable five-wicket-haul.

Earlier, having scored a fluent fifty in the opening game, Rawal struck seven boundaries and a six during her composed knock. She and Smriti Mandhana (36) gave India a solid start, putting on 83 runs in 18.3 overs for the opening wicket.

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