

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

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 attacked, 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.

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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 Akhnor sector in Jammu. In the wake of a heightened threat, the local farmers in the border areas are rushing to harvest their standing crops to avoid collateral losses.

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

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-Markot Waterfall, Khampoo, Bosnia, Vijitop, Sun Temple, Verinag Garden, Sinthan Top, Margantop, Akad Park, Habba Khatoon Point, Babareshi, Ringawali, Gogalada, Baderkote, Shrunz Waterfall, Kamanpost, Namban Waterfall, Eco Park Khadnyar, 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.

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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

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.

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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.

Termining 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

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 will 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-

ence at the Cabinet meeting, said the government will call an urgent session of the Delhi Assembly to approve the Bill. After that, the Bill will be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval. "This Bill, as the name suggests, will not only monitor school fees effectively but will also ensure a transparent and accountable process. Now, whether or not fees are increased, it will be done through a clear, rule-based, and fair process," Chief Minister said.

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'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

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

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.

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.

'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 P5

Bajaj auto MD praises Yogi govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Rajiv Bajaj, Managing Director of India's leading automobile company Bajaj Auto, has lauded the significant improvements in road connectivity and law and order in Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking in a podcast, Bajaj Auto MD Rajiv Bajaj said, "The growth of the two-wheeler industry in Uttar Pradesh over the past 12 months has surprised us. We had heard a lot about the excellent roads and improved law and order here. Uttar Pradesh's growth story has truly impressed us."



NOTICE

It is notified that I ANKIT SINGH s/o RAJENDRA SINGH lost my black wallet containing cash, Aadhar Card and Driving license along with the Original Registration paper of plot located near new bus stand bypass of REKHA SINGH which plot was purchased and registered to ANKIT SINGH S/O RAJENDRA SINGH resident of Rajpuram colony, near Singh Petrol Tank, NAGAR KOTWALL, Tehsil Nawabganj, District- Barabanki (U.P) pincode 225001 IF FOUND PLEASE INFORM TO ANKIT SINGH S/O RAJENDRA SINGH CONTACT :- 8303968501

NOTICE

I Have Changed My Name From Alina Aanchal Amir To. Alina Aanchal W/O Yusuf Amir R/o Emerald Gulistan Flat No. 434 3rd Floor Road No.24 J K Colony Jajmau Kanpur

NOTICE

I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME JAVED TO MOHD JAVED S/O MOHD ISRAIL FOR FUTURE PURPOSE. ADD- 40/135 MAIDA BAZAR KANPUR NAGAR.

NOTICE

In the discharge book obtained from the records of my husband, Late Jitendra Singh, Army No.15344543, Sipahi, my name is incorrectly written as Archana Devi, and the spelling of my daughter's name is incorrectly written as VASHNAVI SINGH, and my son's name is incorrectly written as Anurag . However, my correct name is Archana Singh, my daughter's correct name spelling is VAISHNAVI SINGH, and my son's correct name is Anurag Singh, as per my Aadhaar and PAN card, and my children's educational certificates, Aadhaar, and PAN cards, which are true and correct. In the future, we will be known by these correct names. Archana Singh, R/o 141, Gujaini, Kanpur Nagar

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 08-05-2025 अपराह्न 1:00 बजे कार्यालय सुप्रीम कोर्टापरिचय युनियन लि, सहकारिता मवनफ 14-विधानसभा मार्ग, लखनऊ में निम्नोक्त एवं अनुपयुक्त घोषित सामग्रियों की नीलामी जहाँ है-जैसी है/ आहार पर होगी, सिक्कोरिडी रु 10,000/- नकद निर्धारित समय से पूर्व कोषायुक्त, पी. सी. यू. के पास जी. एस. टी. पंजीकरण के साथ जमा होगी। आई पी.ओ सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

NOTICE

Shri Jasvir Singh son Mahendra, address village-Chandaukha, police station Madanpur, district Shahjahanpur Is Informed that the SLP(CRL) D.No.-5728/2023 State vs Jasvir related to FIR No. 28/2002 In police station Madanpur, district Shahjahanpur, pending in the Honble Supreme Court, New Delhi is fixed for further hearing in the Honble Supreme Court on 02.05.2025. In relation to which you are expected to ensure your presence before the Honble Supreme Court, New Delhi in the above SLP on 02.05.25.

NOTICE

In my daughter Shadika Husain school documents my name is Shakeela and my husband's name is Tajammul Hussain which is wrong where as my correct name is Shakeela Begum and my husband's name is Tajammul Husain , Shakeela Begum w/o Tajammul Husain resident-1/113 Vishal Khand Gontni Nagar Lucknow

NOTICE

(Vishwjeet Pratap Singh) Inspector In Charge Police Station Madanpur District - Shahjahanpur Moh. No. 9454404213, 9415256100

आवश्यकता है

मदरसा अनारकल उलूम हरिया बहदुराज प्रयागराज में सञ्चालित आर्या (नैतिक विषय) एवं सञ्चालित रहताया हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि 50 प्रतिशत अंकी सहित अथवा प्रशिक्षित स्नातक इच्छके साथ आर्या अथवा उर्दू से इम्प्ट का प्रमाण पत्र भी आवश्यक है। वेतनमान 44900-142400 लेवल 07 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 21 वर्ष। तथा सञ्चालित रहताया हेतु शैक्षिक योग्यता आर्या अथवा इम्प्ट उर्दू सहित वेतनमान 35400-112400

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my registered sale deed number 3941 Dated 23/07/1998 has actually been lost on Dated 20/03/ 2025. An online FIR for the same has been lodged at Fatehpur police station (kotwali) on Dated 29/04/ 2025. Mayur Gupta S/o Late Naresh Chandr Gupta R/o A/2 Refusi Colony Piranpur City & Distt. Fatehpur (U.P.)

लेवल 06 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञान की लिखित से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक के पदनाम से मदरसा उत्प्रेक्षक पर भेजे एवं सहाकार हेतु सूचना पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा अलग से दी जायेगी। प्रबन्धक मदरसा अनारकल उलूम हरिया बहदुराज प्रयागराज

NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the original allotment letter of my house number 4/97 Vibhav Khand Gontni Nagar Lucknow which was issued on 20/07/2002 has been lost and its use will be considered illegal. Whoever finds it should contact my lawyer within 7 days Paramhans Rai son of Ishwar Dev Rai, HNO- E 1/642 Vinay Khand Gontni Nagar Lucknow Ashutosh Tripathi & Associates Advocate High Court, Office: 002/376, Vinay Khand-2, Gontni Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Mobile No.-7080854098

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Banco Products (India) Limited, having its registered office situated at Bil, Padra Road, Near Bhauri Railway Station, Vadodra-391410, Gujarat, India, intends to sell my client the Land Plot No.14A with the area of 0.253 Hectare situated at Goyala Industrial Area Khata No.00093, Khasra No.454Sa (Ex Owner M/s. Purvanchal Builders having its registered office at A-10, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow) Village Dhawa, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, together with all the benefits and rights whatsoever by way of clear and marketable title, free from any encumbrances and with the vacant and absolute possession. I am required to issue the public notice in order to enable me to give the title clearance report sought by my client for the land bearing aforesaid Khasra Number. All person claiming any interest in the said land or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise in any manner whatsoever are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at the address mentioned below fourteen (14) days from the date hereof, failing which the said sale will be completed, without any reference to or considering such claim as non-existent and the such claim, if any shall be considered as waived.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Under the instruction of Axis Bank Limited, Lucknow, I hereby informed the general public that Smt. Rajni Shukla & Smt. Pooja Srivastava, wife of Sri Ashish are the owner of House constructed on Plot No. 40, Khasra No. 344 raised loan by depositing the aforesaid property situated at Village- Shuhar, Ward- Haiderganj, Tehsil & District- Lucknow by means of sale deed dated 10/05/2024 executed by Smt. Rajni Shukla & Smt. Pooja Srivastava, registered as vide book No. 1 at Si. No. 4800, duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar- II, Lucknow, regarding the ownership one original previous chain deed dated 17/04/2009 executed by Mr. Khalif Ali in favour of Mr. Gulran Ahmad, registered as vide book No. 1, 210 No. 4823 on Pages 167 to 168 at Si. No. 3538, duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar- V, Lucknow is lost somewhere, regarding this an NCR has also been registered in this respect having details: I.A.R No. 2025000278720, dated 25.04.2025. Police Unit-Police Computer Centre, Technical Services HQ, Lucknow Whereas Sri Sachin Singh is intended to public notice by depositing the aforesaid sale deed to any person bank corporation financial Institution may submit objections within 7 days in writings from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the period of this notice, no claim shall be entertained and such claim shall have no value in the eyes of law, it shall also be deemed that nobody has any objection for mortgaging the aforesaid property with Axis Bank Ltd. Virek Srivastava (Advocate) Office/Resi-3/40, Vastu Khand, Gontni Nagar, Lucknow-226010, Ph: 9839485155

Anti-encroachment team attacked

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

An anti-encroachment team of the Lucknow Municipal Corporation was attacked by unidentified individuals while removing encroachments at the Khazana Market crossing in the Ashiyana area on Tuesday.

As per information received, the LMC team reached Khazana Market crossing at around 7:30 am. As soon as the team began removing encroachments, around 6 unidentified individuals suddenly attacked the team and their official vehicle (UP41AT4084). The attackers included two women armed with sticks and iron rods.

Driver Shiv Govind sustained serious injury on his left hand in the attack, while other team members were also injured. The assailants broke the windshield of the official vehicle and also tore and took away official documents such as the vehicle's logbook.

According to eyewitnesses, stones were also hurled on the main road during the attack, injuring several passersby. Local residents stated that most of the attackers were street vendors who frequently encroach on that area. The incident caused panic in the vicinity for a brief period.

The municipal team immediately informed Ashiyana Police Station, following which an FIR was registered.

"The Lucknow Municipal Corporation firmly asserts that any form of obstruction to official duties or attacks on staff will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Strict legal action will be ensured against those responsible," said an LMC official.

Meanwhile, Lucknow Municipal Corporation launched a major drive against encroachment and garbage in Zone-6 on Tuesday. The campaign was conducted from Ghantaghar to Balaganj crossing during which public roads and spaces were cleared of illegal encroachments.

Youth killed by lover's father for 'honour'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

In a sensational case of 'honour killing' reported from Etawah, a youth was shot dead by the father of the girl he loved when he tried to meet her late on Monday night.

The assailant was later arrested by the police and a case was registered against him.

Reports said that 18-year-old Lavkush Pal of Ajitmal area of Auraiya district was living with his brother-in-law Geetendra Pal in Kheda Helu village in Chaubia locality of Etawah for some time. He was having a love affair with a girl from the same village.

Around 11 pm on Monday, Lavkush reached the girl's house to meet her. When he was trying to climb to the second floor, the girl's father saw him and fired at him from his licensed gun. The bullet hit Lavkush and he died on the spot. On receiving information, Chaubia police station in-force Vipin Kumar Malik reached the spot with a police force and arrested the murder accused Anil Yadav from the spot.

Lavkush's brother-in-law Rajesh Pal informed the police about the incident and filed a written complaint, on the basis of which a murder case was registered against Anil Yadav in Chaubia police station. He was sent to jail on Tuesday.

State targets 500 GW solar power by 2030

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

The Yogi government is harnessing eco-friendly solar energy not just to light up homes, but also to illuminate people's lives by creating large-scale employment opportunities. With a vision to transform Uttar Pradesh, especially regions like Bundelkhand, Vindhya, and adjoining areas, into a hub for solar energy, the government is advancing policy-driven efforts to accelerate this green revolution. The state recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Smart Energy Council of Australia and the Hinduja Group in a significant move. The government has set an ambitious target to generate 500 gigawatts of solar energy by 2030.

As solar capacity expands, so will local employment — from panel manufacturing to installation, maintenance, grid integration, and transmission. The government has launched the Solar Mitra Yojana to build a skilled workforce.

When Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took office in 2017, the state's solar energy production was just 288 MW. Today, that figure has increased tenfold, and the growth is still ongoing. Under the Solar Energy Policy 2022, a near-term target of 2,200 MW has been set.

To realise this vision, solar parks will be established across all municipal corporations, solar grids will be installed along expressways and railway tracks, and streetlights will be powered by solar energy. Transmission infrastructure will also

Cleanliness works reviewed in city

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Municipal Commissioner Gaurav Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of various areas of the city to assess the preparedness of the Municipal Corporation on Tuesday. The aim of the inspection was to review cleanliness and development activities in view of the upcoming monsoon season and the proposed visit of the Vice-President.

The Municipal Commissioner inspected the Haidar Canal drain. Keeping the rainy season in mind, cleaning of the drain is underway by the Municipal Corporation. During the inspection, Kumar emphasised the need to maintain high standards of cleanliness to prevent waterlogging and ensure convenience for residents during the rains.

Kumar then visited Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) campus and surrounding areas in Zone-3. In light of the Vice President's upcoming program, he directed the Zonal Sanitation Officer (ZSO) to launch a special cleanliness drive in the area. He

Officials pulled up for sloppy work at Kathauta lake

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

In view of serious negligence observed during the desilting (silt removal) work at Kathauta lake, the general manager of Jalkal Department has issued a strong letter of displeasure to the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Urban). In the letter, the general manager has instructed Jal Nigam to immediately improve cleaning operations and remove mud and dust accumulated on roads to provide relief to local residents. Acting on the warning, Jal Nigam teams were seen

Youth attacked for intervening in fight between two groups

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

A youth was attacked when he intervened to end a fight between two groups of youths in the Bijnor police station area.

The incident took place on Sunday but a case was registered by the police on Tuesday.

As per reports, Rishu Yadav of Sarwan Nagar in Bijnor had gone to a swimming pool behind Shukla Farm House in Aurangabad Jagir locality on April 27.

On reaching the swimming pool, he found two groups of youths fighting with each other and intervened to end the fight. On his intervention, the fight ended and everyone started swimming.

At around 4:20 pm the same day, when Yadav was returning home, Lucky and Sunny, residents of Piprauli South City, and their two other unidentified accomplices attacked him. The accused hit Yadav on the head with an iron rod and a stick.

The victim alleged that the attackers also threatened to kill him if he complained to the police.

The police have registered a case against two named and two unknown accused. An investigation is on.

In a separate incident, a youth was allegedly thrashed by three youths on finding that he belonged to another community, in Gudamba police station area on Sunday. The incident came to light on Monday night and the police arrested the prime accused after registering a case against the trio. A hunt for the other two accused is on.

According to the victim, he left home for some work at 1 pm on April 27. On the way, the strap of his slippers broke as he tripped and so he went to his friend Adil's house to change the slippers.

After changing the slippers, he left his friend's house for another destination. When he was passing a girls' college near the Unity City crossing, a motor mechanic, whom he named as Chand, stopped him. Chand unnecessarily asked the victim to remove the slippers, claiming them to be his and that he did not belong to their community. On protest, Chand and his two friends dragged the victim inside a

shop. The victim was then allegedly stripped and beaten up when he resisted.

Gudamba Inspector Prabhatesh Kumar denied reports that the victim was forced to take off his pants and said a case has been registered against Chand and his two companions for assault, threat and other serious crimes.

"Chand has been arrested and the police are scanning CCTV footage for further investigation," the inspector said.

Meanwhile, one Abhishek Singh, of Govind Nagar in Para, alleged that after he uploaded the video of the incident, Hamza and Adil, residents of Kasaibara, threatened him over phone and pressured him to delete the video. He alleged that the accused were threatening to kill him and his family members.

Abhishek Singh later handed over to the police the screenshots of the threatening calls and messages he received from the accused.

An FIR has been registered against the accused at Para police station. Police station in-charge Suresh Singh said that the matter was being investigated.

Woman hangs self; parents accuse in-laws of dowry death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

A newly-married woman was found hanging at her house in Aliganj police station area on Tuesday.

While her parents cried foul and lodged an FIR, following which a case was registered, her in-laws said she committed suicide by herself.

As per reports, Preeti Gautam (24) of Shivlok Triveninagar III in Aliganj was found hanging from the ceiling of a room on the third floor of her home, with a dupatta tied around her neck, on Tuesday morning.

When her in-laws saw her hanging, they broke open the doors but by the time they could take her down from the noose, Preeti had died.

Later, her father-in-law, Mulluram, gave written information about the incident to the local police station.

On information, Aliganj police station reached the spot and called the field unit to inspect the incident site. The deceased's

parents and others in the family also reached the scene.

The police registered a case of murder for dowry against her husband and others in his family.

"On the basis of the complaint received from the victim's parents who alleged that she was murdered for dowry by her in-laws, the police registered a case under relevant sections of the BNS. The body has been sent for post-mortem after completing the panchayatnama proceedings. Other necessary legal proceedings are being done," the spokesman said.

Preeti Gautam was recently married to Akshay Gautam.

RUN OVER

A man was killed after he was hit by a train near Juggar bridge under BBD police station area on Tuesday.

As per reports, the police received information about the body of a man lying besides the railway tracks near the Juggar

bridge. On receiving information, a police team of BBD police station immediately reached the spot and found that the body of an unknown person was lying on the side of the track between Safedabad-Malhaar.

The police found an Aadhar card on the deceased and on its basis he was identified as Pramod Rawat (30) of village Juggar under BBD police station area. Later, his family was contacted and informed about the mishap.

The family members of the deceased told police that he worked as a labourer and used to commute by train from his home daily.

"Prima facie, it appears that his death was caused due to losing balance and falling while boarding or alighting from a train and getting hit by another train. In the presence of family members, the body has been sent for post-mortem examinations after the panchayatnama proceedings and further investigations are underway," the spokesman said.

10 Districts to get shelter homes

Lucknow: In a major step toward child welfare, the state government has announced the construction of shelter homes for orphaned children in 10 districts across the state under 'Mukhyamantri Bal Ashray Yojana'. The government has proposed a budget of Rs 100 crore for the project.

Notably, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's ambitious 'Mukhyamantri Bal Ashray Yojana', orphaned, abandoned, surrendered, and children living in adverse

conditions are provided with proper care, upbringing, and a safe shelter.

In the first phase, homes will be constructed and operated in ten districts — Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Ayodhya, Amethi, Mathura, Firozabad, Basti, Jhansi, and Kanpur Dehat — with a capacity of 100 children each in different categories.

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that Shri Bhagwati Educational Trust, 203 P. Market Ramnagar, Purva Gontni Nagar Lucknow, through Trustee An Prakash Singh, S/o Shri Bhawan Singh is the owner of property at Gata No. 886/3130 measuring area 0.3130 Hect. situated at Village Gahar, Pargana, Tehsil & District Raebareilly, U.P. and Gata No. 899/0840 Hect. measuring area 0.8940 Hect. situated at Village Gahar, Pargana, Tehsil & District Raebareilly, U.P. to be transferred to mortgagee by Varaha Finance Pvt. Ltd. The Original Sale Deed dt. 13.05.2019, vide No. No. 4359, Original Sale Deed dt. 13.05.2019, vide doc. No. 4352 and Original Sale Deed dt. 27.08.2012 pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and complainant L.A. No. 2025000278181 dated 23.04.2025, L.A. No. 2025000278122 dated 29.04.2025 were registered with U.P. Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property. Rajesh Tiwari (Advocate) Ch. 830, Patilaha House Courts, New Delhi - 110001 Mob. :- 91-8078188229

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY PARADIP PORT-754142, ODISHA (INDIA) ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT (ESTATE-WING) No. AD/EST/GEN-01/2025/1702 Dt.21.04.2025 e-Tender Call Notice An e-Tender Call Notice has been floated inviting bids for the work "Providing Field / Office Assistance for Estate Works for a period of 2 (two) years". The date of available of documents in website is from 22.04.2025 to 13.05.2025 at 16.00 hours. For details, please log on the website: http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Sr. Asst. Estate Manager Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/08/2025-2026 dt.29.04.2025

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Bank Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpat, Chennai- 600031. Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022 Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Bank Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Bank Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates. Sr No. Loan Account No. Type of Loan Section 13 (2) Notice Date Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice 1 34472804 LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY 29.03.2025 11,20,836.89/- NAME OF BORROWERS AND CO-BORROWERS : 1. MOHD ASIF 2. LAL MOHAMMAD PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PART OF HOUSE NO. 166A, AREA 85 SQ. MTRS., SITUATED CHANDARI, KANPUR NAGAR, KANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH 208013, AND BOUNDED AS:- EAST: PART OF WIDE ROAD, WEST: PART OF HOUSE NO. 166A, NORTH: PART OF HOUSE NO. 166A, SOUTH: PART OF HOUSE NO. 166A You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Bank Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Bank Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise. Sd/- Authorized Officer Date : 30.04.2025 IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) Place : KANPUR

CM condemns SP, Cong remarks on Pahalgam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday, condemned recent remarks by Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders on the Pahalgam terrorist attack, calling them "shameful" and akin to Pakistani rhetoric. He criticised SP leaders for dismissing the killing of Shubham Dwivedi and for divisive statements like labeling it a "Hindu killing Hindu" incident.

The CM also accused SP and Congress of using caste-based politics and appeasement, warning that such tactics jeopardise national security.

Addressing a public meeting in Deoria during the inauguration of 341 out of 501 development projects worth Rs 676 crore and laying of foundation stone for 160 others, CM Yogi Adityanath reflected on the region's grim state before 2017, marked by lawlessness, disease, and neglect. He highlighted how peaceful festival celebrations were impossible, youth had to migrate for work, and farmers faced extreme distress. Marginalized communities like Musahar and Vantangiya endured starvation, while those in power remained indifferent and isolated.

On the occasion, he also distributed benefits under various government schemes. These included loan cheques under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana, Rs 7.87 crore to members of self-



UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath interacts with specially-abled beneficiaries during the inauguration and laying of foundation stone of development projects in Deoria on Tuesday PTI

help groups, keys to homes under the CM Rural Housing Scheme, tractors, and land lease papers to 37 beneficiaries under the Patta Yojana. He also handed out cheques for Divyang and destitute pensions. Academic achievers Preeti Kushwaha (district topper in high school) and

Shweta Prasad (intermediate topper) were honoured with certificates and medals.

Highlighting the progress made under his government, CM Yogi pointed out that before 2017, thousands of children in Deoria died of encephalitis every year.

"Today, that reality has changed. Deoria, like the rest of Uttar Pradesh, is progressing rapidly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

He also announced the inauguration of a four-storey government degree college in Deoria — the first of its kind in the region — offering simultaneous arts, science, and commerce classes. A new degree college will also open in Pathardeva with commerce courses, while a new auditorium will be constructed in Gauri Bazar to support academic activities. "Earlier, no one imagined that self-help groups could thrive in rural areas—today, they are a reality," he said. "Deoria, once known for riots and disease, is now recognized for highways, railways, metro networks, and world-class expressways. This is the new face of Uttar Pradesh."

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that a four-lane highway is being constructed from Deoria to Gorakhpur, ensuring seamless connectivity to Delhi and other major cities. In addition, the Gorakhpur-Ballia route is also being upgraded to four lanes, while roads connecting Deoria to Kasia and Padrauna are being widened to improve regional connectivity. These infrastructure projects will significantly reduce travel time from Deoria to Delhi and Shamli, and are progressing swiftly toward completion.

The Chief Minister emphasised that Deoria is not only witnessing the establishment of medical and nursing colleges, but is also seeing rapid expansion in welfare initiatives aimed at the underprivileged. Marginalized communities like the Musahar and Vantangiya are being actively linked to various government schemes to ensure their upliftment.

Taking a strong stand against the Samajwadi Party, the CM criticised its leadership for focusing solely on their own families and engaging in caste-based politics. "When they were in power, they gave the state nothing but poverty, unemployment, and insecurity," he said. "In contrast, the current government has launched numerous initiatives for the welfare of the poor, farmers, and youth. A target has been set to connect 15 lakh underprivileged families with government welfare schemes," he added. "Poverty is not just a challenge for the individual, it is a responsibility of the government — and we are committed to eradicating it," the Chief Minister declared. On this occasion, Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Yogendra Upadhyay, Daya Shankar Singh, State Minister Rajni Tiwari, Vijay Lakshmi Gautam, MP Shashank Mani Tripathi, MLA Jai Prakash Nishad, Shalabh Mani Tripathi, Deepak Mishra, Surendra Chaurasia, former MP and former state President Dr. Rama Pati Ram Tripathi were present.

UP now free from mafia rule: Yogi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Lucknow

In a scathing attack on the opposition, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday alleged that these parties had "surrendered" themselves to the mafia while in power and ruled the state with "casteist" and "family-centric" mindset. In contrast, the BJP-led government has brought about a safe and development-driven transformation in the state, said the chief minister.

Addressing an event in Lucknow, he said, "Under the double-engine government, Uttar Pradesh has now become free from mafia, crime and riots."

"Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, this journey of success will be continued tirelessly, fearlessly and with an unwavering commitment," he said.

Assailing the parties now in the opposition, Adityanath alleged that they, while in power, had "kneled before the mafia" and were voiceless in front of criminal gangs. "The state was run at the behest of the mafia — be it those involved in illegal mining, land grabbing, forest crimes, or cattle smuggling."

While highlighting his government's performance over the past eight years, Adityanath did not pull any punches in slamming the previous dispensations. "Other governments had narrow agendas. They had a casteist mindset and their actions were family-centric. They couldn't think beyond their own families."

They imposed their own agenda on people without understanding the spirit and potential of Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister alleged, adding, "These were the same forces that led Uttar Pradesh into an identity crisis before 2014, despite the state's vast potential." he said.

Adityanath pointed out that Uttar Pradesh has grown to become the second-largest economy in the country from the seventh rank in 2017 when he became the chief minister for the first time. The goal now is to become a USD 1 trillion economy by 2029 and lead the nation on this front, he said. He also spoke about restoring peace and instilling confidence among people.

"Before 2017, festivals and celebrations were overshadowed by fear. Today, every festival, regardless of faith, is celebrated peacefully," he said, reiterating the government's zero-tolerance towards crime and corruption. Taking credit for reviving the MSME sector, Adityanath said, "The sector was on the brink of collapsing due to the apathy of previous governments. In 2018, we gave a fresh identity to Uttar Pradesh's traditional industries through the ODOP scheme. Today, ODOP is recognized across the country and has become a symbol of self-reliance and pride."

Rahul accuses state govt of making false claims



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi being received by Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai and others upon his arrival at airport in Lucknow. PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Congress MP from Rae Bareilly, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday, accused the state government of making false claims on providing employment to the youth. He cited examples of employ-

ment given in his Parliament constituency in support of his allegations and demanded a probe.

Actually, a list of 1,107 youths to be employed after training was sent to the MP by DM Harshita Mathur. But, many people included in it denied getting any train-

ing. Making the above allegations during the meeting of the 'DISHA' (District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee) held at Bachhat Bhawan in Rae Bareilly, Rahul Gandhi, who chaired the meeting, said that a random investigation of 25 youths included in the list had been done. In this, only three youths said that they had got employment. 10 youths have not got employment yet. Expressing displeasure, he said that such misleading lists should not be sent at all and asked the DM to investigate into the matter.

Legislative Council member Avnish Kumar Singh also said that Deendayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushalya Yojana should also be investigated. In the meeting, he also asked that the veracity of 1,107 youths included in the list should be probed. Amethi MP Kishori Lal Sharma, who was also present in the meeting, said that the report of physical verification of 182 projects under Jal Jeevan Mission was provided by Jal Nigam. When random investigation of the projects included in the list was done, 90 percent of the reports were found to be wrong. It appears that formalities have been performed in physical verification. The Amethi MP said that verifi-

cation should be done by forming a committee of officials in the presence of public representatives so that the truth can come out. The matter of Lalgaon bypass was also raised in the meeting. It was said that the work of Lalgaon bypass was to be completed in November 2024, but till now this work has not been completed. On this, the Project Director of NHA I replied that the work of bypass will be completed in the month of May. Dishā's nominated member Gaurav Awasthi said that like the district hospital, AIIMS also does not have adequate arrangements for the treatment of TB. Serious patients come to AIIMS for treatment. This facility should be available in AIIMS. On this, the Deputy Director of AIIMS clarified that the formalities of clinic and treatment have been completed. Treatment of tuberculosis patients will be started in AIIMS in two months.

Bachhawan MLA Shyam Sundar Bharti and nominated member Sundarlal raised the issue of patients being referred to AIIMS from the district hospital, CHC and PHC. Due to lack of resources in AIIMS, patients have to face problems. After the matter was raised, CMO Dr. Navinchandra was instructed to find out how many patients have been referred to AIIMS till now and

whether it was necessary to refer the patients. The CMO will give a report in this regard.

Earlier, Rahul Gandhi reached the Rail Coach Factory in Lalgaon on Tuesday afternoon. He discussed the progress of the Rail Coach Factory with officials and also inspected the factory along with General Manager PK Mishra and other officials.

After being given a grand welcome by the party leaders in Lucknow at the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Rahul Gandhi, on his way to Rae Bareilly, stopped at Visakha Factory located at Kundanganj in Bachhawan at around 9.30 am. He inaugurated the 2 MW Atom Solar Roof Plant and Atom Electric Charging Station. He also inquired about its functioning and also distributed 15 hand carts. From there, he reached the Civil Lines area of his constituency where he unveiled the statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Meanwhile Congress Legislative Party leader, Aradhana Mishra 'Moni' confirmed that the party's former president will visit Kanpur on Wednesday to meet the bereaved family of Shubham Dwivedi, who was killed in the Pahalgam terror attack. Shubham Dwivedi was among the 26 people killed in the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam.

Terror attack: AKY questions 'lack' of security for tourists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday assailed the BJP-led Centre over the Pahalgam terror attack with pointed questions on the apparent "lack" of security for tourists. He accused the government of prioritising VIP protection over public safety.

At least 26 people, mostly tourists, died in the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The execution-like killing by terrorists after reportedly asking about the victims' faith has left the entire country grieving and outraged.

Voicing the concern of tourists who survived the attack, Yadav, in a post on X, asked, "Why was there no one to protect me (the public) amid danger?" In the social media post, he went on to question the government's security policies, ostensibly referring to alleged Gujarat conman Kiran Patel who had allegedly posed as a PMO official and visited Kashmir under security cover. "Why are some individuals, who later turn out to be frauds, given such tight and comprehensive security by the government?" the SP chief posed.

Patel was arrested from a Srinagar hotel

on his third visit to the valley in March last year.

Yadav, the MP from Kannauj, also raised doubts about background checks done on individuals in sensitive areas, suggesting that anyone could gain access to high-security zones without proper scrutiny. He also took a dig at the ruling party, saying, "When the celebration-loving BJP organises controversial private events in such sensitive areas, thousands of security personnel are deployed for the safety of around 250 VVIPs whose job is to be the voice of others." "On what basis do such people, who have no existence of their own and even disrespect courts, get security and not tourists?" the former UP chief minister posed and termed these "very serious questions" that demand answers.

Yadav was apparently referring to BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's reported high-profile family event in Gulmarg under strict security cover, just days before the April 22 attack that has raised eyebrows among the BJP circles. The MP from Jharkhand's Godda had stirred a controversy with his comments on the Supreme Court and by blaming Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna for "religious wars" in India.

India my home, don't want to go back: Pak wife of UP man

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ ABulandshahr

With only a day to go before the Uttar Pradesh government deports the "last" Pakistani citizen, Islamabad native Maryam on Tuesday made a frantic appeal to the Centre to stay on in the state with her Indian husband.

It is so far unclear whether Maryam, who holds a short-term visa, is the last Pakistani left in Uttar Pradesh to be "expelled" under the Centre's orders after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Maryam's appeal comes at a time when Uttar Pradesh, according to an official statement, became the first state to achieve almost 100 per cent repatriation of Pakistani nationals within 24 hours, with only one remaining to be deported.

The state government did not mention the exact number of Pakistani citizens sent back or their visa details (short-term or long-term). It also did not specify who the last Pakistani citizen left to be deported on April 30.

Maryam got married to Amir, a resident of Khurja in Bulandshahr district, three years ago. The Pakistani woman has been living in Khurja since she received her short-term visa two months ago.

"I am from Islamabad, but I am married here. I came to this country after leaving mine. Now this is my country. I don't want to go back," Maryam said, adding that immediately after her arrival, she

applied for a long-term visa to remain in the country with her husband.

"Where my husband lives, that is my home. I want to stay here with him," she pleaded.

Maryam expressed sorrow over the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down.

"I am deeply saddened by what happened in Pahalgam. Those responsible for this act should be punished," Maryam said.

Responding to the situation, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Tejveer Singh, said, "Maryam has submitted an application. Further action will be taken as per directives from higher authorities."

According to police sources, four Pakistani women who were in Bulandshahr on short-term visas have already been repatriated following the Centre's order. Maryam is the only remaining Pakistani national in this district, currently under close watch by law enforcement agencies.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, the central government had issued immediate advisories for all states to repatriate Pakistani nationals.

Acting swiftly, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath convened a high-level meeting with Home Department officials and other agencies, instructing all districts to locate and escort Pakistani citizens to the border.

Encourage Akash, others who rejoined party: Maya to cadre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Bahujan Samaj Party national president Mayawati has come in support of her nephew Akash Anand and posted a series of statements on social media, asking the party workers to encourage all those returning to join the BSP mission.

On Tuesday, the former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh took to social media platform X and wrote: "It is known that some people associated with BSP commit a lot of mistakes due to their ignorance, enthusiasm and carelessness or by getting influenced by the conspiracy of the opposition parties, who then have to be removed from the responsibility of the party and in serious cases, even expelled to correct the situation in the interest of the party."

She pointed out that after some of them change and apologise, they have to be taken back in the interest of the party and

its movement. "Since the party was formed, this has been done, some people have been expelled from the party many times and have also been taken back. This happens in other parties as well," she added.

The BSP chief further stated that in the case of Akash Anand, especially some selfish and sellable people of the Bahujan Samaj, who have formed many of their own parties and organisations to divide and weaken the votes of the party, keep spreading false propaganda about this in the media every day. Mayawati said the BSP members should be cautious of such opportunistic and selfish elements and should also encourage Akash Anand so that he could work wholeheartedly for the party. "Similarly, all the other people who have been taken back into the party should also be given full respect and honour, which is in the interest of the party," she added. On Monday too, the BSP chief had issued a statement in defence of Akash Anand without naming him.

Unemployment rate in state drops to 3 per cent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh has seen a historic drop in unemployment, from 18% in 2016 to just 3%. The government's transparent recruitment processes and youth-focused policies are driving this significant improvement.

Thanks to CM Yogi's sustained efforts, unemployment in Uttar Pradesh has decreased sixfold since 2016. The state government has not only created numerous government job opportunities, but also boosted private sector employment, fostering greater confidence and self-reliance among the youth. Through its fair and transparent recruitment policy, the Yogi government has provided over 8.5 lakh government jobs via various commissions and recruitment boards. These include appointments in departments such as police, edu-

cation, health, and revenue. The emphasis on transparency in the recruitment process has strengthened the youth's trust in the government system. The new outsourcing policy ensures job security for personnel while introducing transparency in operational procedures. The formation of an Outsourcing Service Corporation is underway, aiming to protect outsourced employees' interests and create a centralised, transparent employment structure statewide.

With structured policies and a transparent system, the UP government has transformed the state into a major employment hub. Youth are now looking to build their futures within the state rather than seeking opportunities elsewhere.

Initiatives like startup schemes, self-employment plans, and the Mission Rojgar program have created new employment avenues.

यू०पी० सिविल सेक्रेटारिएट प्राइमरी कोआपरेटिव बैंक लि०
विधान भवन, लखनऊ फोन : 7007609553,9335926693

पत्रांक 336 प्रेस विज्ञापित दिनांक 28/04/25

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि यू पी सिविल सेक्रेटारिएट प्राइमरी को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लिमिटेड, बैंकिंग रेगुलेशन एक्ट 1949 की धारा 22 के अंतर्गत लाइसेंस प्राप्त बैंकिंग संस्था है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के पत्र दिनांक 23.12.2023 द्वारा यह परामर्श दिया गया था कि बैंक की वित्तीय स्थिति करिबय कार्यों से निगेटिव नेटवर्थ होने के कारण बैंक को संचालित किए जाने की स्थिति नहीं रही है। अतः बैंक का किसी अन्य बैंक के साथ विलय करने अथवा इसे क्रेडिट सोसाइटी में बदलने के लिए बोर्ड द्वारा अनुमोदित प्रस्ताव पारित कराया जाए।

दिनांक 11.03.2025 को बैंक के संचालक मण्डल ने एक बैठक आहूत कर यह निर्णय लिया गया कि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा दिए गए परामर्श को स्वीकार करते हुए बैंक को क्रेडिट सोसाइटी में परिवर्तित कर दिया जाए। संचालक मण्डल के उक्त निर्णय को दिनांक 22.04.2025 को आयोजित आम सभा एवं विशेष सामान्य बैठक में सदस्यों द्वारा सर्वसम्मति से बैंक को सोसाइटी में परिवर्तित किए जाने पर अनुमोदन प्रदान कर दिया गया है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के पत्र दिनांक 24.03.2025 के माध्यम से बैंक को यह निर्देश दिए गए हैं कि बैंक को सोसाइटी में परिवर्तित करने के पूर्व बैंक के संचालक मण्डल के स्तर से इस आशय का प्रस्ताव पारित कर उपलब्ध कराया जाए कि, बैंक अपने नॉन मेम्बर अथवा गैर सदस्यों के बैंक में जमा धनराशि को वापस करने की समुचित व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करेगा।

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के उक्त निर्देशों के क्रम में यू पी सिविल सेक्रेटारिएट प्राइमरी को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लिमिटेड, के गैर सदस्यों को सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त नोटिस निम्न होने के एक माह के भीतर अपनी जमा धनराशि का भुगतान बैंक से प्राप्त कर लें। चूंकि अब उक्त खाता धारक बैंक के खाता धारक नहीं रहेंगे और बैंक में जमा धनराशि के अन्तिम आहरण के पश्चात उनका खाता स्थगित रूप से बन्द कर दिया जाएगा। अतः बैंक के समस्त नॉन मेम्बर अथवा गैर सदस्यों से अनुरोध है कि वह बैंक से संपर्क कर अपना जमा धनराशि प्राप्त करना सुनिश्चित करें।

सचिव/सामान्य प्रबंधक

SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.
Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
Ph : 0124- 4212530/31/32, E-Mail: customercare@shubham.co website : www.shubham.co

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT')

It is to bring to your notice that your loan account has been declared as NPA by secured creditor Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited having its registered office at 608 - 609 , 6th Floor, Block - C Ansal Imperial Tower, Community Center, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi - 110028. (herein after called 'SHDFCL') and you are liable to pay total outstanding against your loan to SHDFCL. You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. Therefore, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to SHDFCL within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which SHDFCL will be empowered to exercise the power under Section 13(4) of the ACT. The details of borrowers and secured assets are as under:

S. No.	Loan Account No. Borrower(s) Name	Applicant Address	Demand Notice Amount & Date	Secured Asset
1.	OLK0240900005090922, FAROOQ ANSARI, NAAJ SAFI ANSARI, MOHAMMAD TUFAL	131 Khyalganj Aminabad Park, Near Kesarbag Bus Stand, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226018	Rs. 20,82,806/- & 22/04/2025	Flat No. O on 4th Floor Built On House No.117/100 Situated in Awadh Apartment Pl Jhual Thana (Wazirganj), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226018, Area: 555 Sq.ft. Boundaries: East- Others Property, West: Flat of Parmesh, North: Passage & Stairs, South: Others Property

PLACE: GURGAON, DATE: 29-04-2025 SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COMPANY LTD.

AUTHORIZED OFFICER,

10 honoured on Parashuram Jayanti

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Kanpur

Rajya Sabha MP and former Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister of Dr. Dinesh Sharma honoured 10 distinguished Brahmin personalities from the fields of education, medicine, literature, religion and social service on the occasion of Lord Parashuram Jayanti.

The felicitation ceremony was organised by the All India Sarv Brahmin Mahasabha at Pramila Auditorium, Moti Jheel. Dr Dinesh Sharma honoured Dr Om Prakash Shukla Amiya, Professor Arvind Pandey, Ramkumar Tiwari, Press Club president Saras Bajpai, renowned doctors Dr Umesh Paliwal and Dr Jyoti Dixit, social worker Avadh Bihari Mishra and Anoop Kishore Tripathi by giving them shawls, mementos and certificates. The general secretary of the organisation Satish Bajpai was honored posthumously.

The programme commenced with a recitation of the 'Sundarkand'.

The ceremonial worship was performed by national president of the Mahasabha Virendra Dubey, vice-president Dr Diwakar Mishra, state president Dr Narendra Dwivedi, Mayor Pramila Pandey, MLAs Mahesh Trivedi, Surendra Maithani, Naresh Tripathi, Asem Bajpai, Varun Mishra, Umesh Shukla, Naresh Shukla, Dr Dinesh Gaur, Bhupendra Sharma (Bulandshahr), Shivshankar Tiwari, Manju Tripathi, Girish Pandey, and Swapnil Bajpai.

Meanwhile, the Lord Parshuram Jayanti was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Kanpur Bar Association Hall on Tuesday.

The event commenced with general secretary of the Lawyers' Association Abhishek Tiwari garlanding the portrait of Lord Parshuram. In his address,



Rajya Sabha MP and former Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma taking part in a programme organised on Parashuram Jayanti.

he said Lord Parshuram was a great scholar of both weapons and scriptures and was regarded as the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The event coordinator and former president of the Lawyers' Association, Pandit Ravindra Sharma, said, "As advocates, who are an

integral part of the judicial system, we are celebrating his birth anniversary with great fervour to strengthen the system of justice".

All the attendees offered floral tributes to the portrait of Lord Parshuram. The programme concluded with the dis-

tribution of sweets. Prominent attendees included Ajit Shukla, Arvind Dixit, Giridhar Dwivedi, Pramod Mishra, Sachin Awasthi, Sanjeev Kapoor, Neeraj Tripathi, Shivam Gangwar, Indresh Mishra, Priyam Joshi, Hari Shukla, KK Yadav, Veer Joshi and others.

Student's body found hanging

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Prayagraj

The body of a PhD student was found hanging from a ceiling under mysterious circumstances in a hotel in Kohdar, here. He was identified as Achyut Tripathi.

The incident happened on Monday night. Achyut reached the hotel with his two friends at 9 pm. Around 1 am, he sent a message to his cousin with location and called him. When his cousin reached the hotel, Achyut's friends were eating outside the room. The room was locked. His friends refused to open the lock. When his cousin broke the lock and opened the room, he found Achyut's body hanging from a ceiling fan. His friends took Achyut to the SRN Hospital. Some of Achyut's friends were already present there. The police took one friend into custody, while the other absconded. ACP (Meja) Ravi Gupta said on being informed about the incident, Meja police reached the spot and reviewed the situation. Jarnadan Tripathi, brother of the deceased, has given a complaint to the police and accused the friends of murder. The police is interrogating the youth taken into custody.

COUPLE'S MURDER

Mystery shrouds the murder of an elderly couple, Arun Srivastava and his wife Meenu Srivastava, in PDA LIG Colony in Naini on Monday afternoon.

The accused had attacked the couple with a small hammer and knife several times. Apart from the walls of the veranda and the rooms, blood stains were found on the floor. The water filled in the buck-

et kept near the basin in the veranda had turned red. A blood-stained cloth was also found on the floor.

According to DCP Yamunanagar Vivek Chandra, a suspicious youth has been detained. Investigation is being done on his information. Apart from this, some sanitation workers are also being questioned.

ARRESTED

With the arrest of a woman, the Civil Lines police on Tuesday claimed to have worked out the mysterious death of a 35-year-old businessman. Police said that glass businessman Maqsood Ahmed, who was found dead in a hotel in Civil Lines in December 2024, was murdered by his female friend Sadab alias Sadaf.

Maqsood Ahmed of Saket Nagar in Dhoomanganj, was with his female friend in the hotel on the evening of December 8. His health deteriorated after dinner.

The woman took him to SRN Hospital with the help of the businessman's friend Salman. Doctors declared Maqsood dead. Initially the death was considered normal. On seeing contusion on the businessman's body, wife Chandni Khan suspected murder and had accused Sadab and Salman.

After the viscera report confirmed poison, the police intensified the investigation. The accused woman was arrested on Monday night. During interrogation, Sadab said Maqsood had made their personal relationship public which affected her marital life. To take revenge, she killed Maqsood by mixing poison in his food.

Civil Lines Inspector Ramashrya Yadav said based on concrete evidence, the accused was sent to jail.

19-year-old student commits suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Kanpur

A 19-year-old student died allegedly committed suicide at G SVM (Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial) Medical College late on Monday night. He was pursuing a BCG Technician course at the institution. When he did not answer phone calls on Tuesday morning, his family members went to his hostel room and found him hanging.

The incident was reported to the principal of the medical college. On receiving the information, the police reached the spot. After breaking open the door, the student was found hanging from the ceiling fan in the hostel room. The Swaroop Nagar police and the forensic team carried out investigation and sent the body for autopsy.

The deceased, Arvind Prajapati, was a native of Bamraula village, under Markas police station in Banda. He was in the first year of the BCG Technician course at G SVM Medical College. His father, Motilal, said when Arvind didn't answer

his calls he went directly to his son's hostel room and found it locked from inside. After repeated knocks went unanswered, the door was broken and Arvind was found hanging inside.

SUMMER SCHOOL ON AI TO BE ORGANISED FROM MAY 26

The Department of Computer Science & Engineering at Harcourt Butler Technical University (HBTU), Kanpur will organise a week-long summer school on 'AI and App Development for High School Students' from May 26 to 31. The event is being conducted in collaboration with the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (CIS) and sponsored by the IEEE Uttar Pradesh Section under the IEEE High School Outreach Programme. The program, fully sponsored by IEEE CIS and IEEE UP Section, will offer practical, hands-on learning in areas such as:

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI); Mobile Game App Development; AI

Chatbot Development; Introduction to Machine Learning; Data Science and Analytics; Gesture Recognition with Edge AI. To ensure participation, a nominal registration fee of ₹500 is being charged. Students maintaining 100 per cent attendance will receive a full refund of the fee at the end of the programme.

The programme is organised by Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, HBTU Kanpur, Dr Rashi Agarwal, who secured the grant from IEEE CIS. Dr Twinkle Tripathi, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Kanpur, will serve as the Co-Chair of the event.

Dr Rashi Agarwal said, "This initiative aims to spark innovation and technological curiosity in students at an early stage of their academic journey. Schools across Kanpur have been invited to partner in this initiative and interested students can register through their respective institutions. Limited seats are available for the programme, she added.



People cover their faces to protect themselves from the scorching sun on a hot summer afternoon at Sangam in Prayagraj on Tuesday

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Intensive checking campaign conducted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Prayagraj

To maintain cleanliness and ensure a pleasant journey for passengers, Prayagraj Division of North Central Railway (NCR) under the direction of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager / Coaching, Himanshu Shukla, conducted an intensive checking campaign in the financial year 2024-25. Under the campaign a fine of Rs 32,63,050 was collected from 26,964 passengers.

Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Prayagraj Division of NCR Amit Kumar Singh said that 26,253 passengers were fined Rs 31,23,925 for littering in trains and station premises while 711 passengers were fined Rs 1,39,125 for smoking in prohibited areas.

The Prayagraj Division appeals to all passengers to refrain from littering and smoking in trains and station premises to avoid fines. As per the

The Prayagraj Division appeals to all passengers to refrain from littering and smoking in trains and station premises to avoid fines. Singh said the campaign aims to provide a safe, pleasant and comfortable journey for passengers

Indian Railways rules, littering and smoking are punishable offenses that can result in fines, imprisonment, or both.

Singh said the campaign aims to provide a safe, pleasant and comfortable journey for passengers by enforcing cleanliness, preventing irregular travel and ensuring good food, pure drinking water and clean toilets.

Gang involved in theft of transformers busted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Muzaffarnagar

An inter-district gang involved in the theft of power transformers has been unearthed with the arrest of 12 people, four of whom sustained gunshot injuries during an encounter with police, officials said Tuesday.

The arrests were made on Mansurpur-Shahpur Road under the jurisdiction of Mansurpur police station on Monday night, they said.

Police also recovered around 300 kg of stolen copper, 700 kg of transformer wiring, a truck used in the crime, and several illegal firearms. The total value of the recovered materials is Rs 7 lakh, a senior official said. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Circle Officer Rupali Rao said, "The police intercepted a canter truck carrying stolen electrical equipment. When signalled to stop, the suspects opened fire on the police team. In retaliatory firing, four of the accused sustained bullet injuries, and all 12

Police also recovered around 300 kg of stolen copper, 700 kg of transformer wiring, a truck used in the crime, and several illegal firearms. The total value of the recovered materials is ₹7 lakh, a senior official said.

gang members were apprehended."

The injured were immediately taken to a hospital and are reported to be in stable condition, she said.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Sompal, Ravinder, Vikas, and Saleem (all injured), along with Salman, Irfan, Rohit, Niraj, Sudhir, Rahul, Arvind, and Mehtab. Circle Officer Rao added that the gang was active across multiple districts and had been targeting electricity infrastructure for several weeks. Further investigations are underway to trace their network and other possible associates, she added.

Jilted lover kills woman, held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Varanasi

In a suspected case of unrequited love, a 24-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by a man here after she refused to marry him, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, Surendra Singh Patel, opened fire at a police team during evidence recovery and was injured in retaliatory firing. He has been admitted to the district hospital for treatment, they said.

The incident took place on the intervening night of April 27-28 in Kolhuva village in Paschim Sharira area.

Police said Jyoti was attacked while she was asleep in her house. Her throat was slit and the veins of both her arms were severed with a knife, they said. A murder case was registered against an unknown person.

Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said, "Multiple teams, including the SOG and police from three stations, were formed to solve the case. Based on electronic surveillance, closed

circuit television (CCTV) camera footage and technical evidence, several suspects were questioned."

During the investigation, Patel, 25, hailing from Bhagwatpur Katari village, emerged as the key suspect.

"Upon being quizzed, Surendra confessed to the crime. He told the police that he was in love with Jyoti and had been pressuring her for marriage. Upset over her repeated refusals, he murdered her," said Circle Officer (CO) Abhishek Singh.

On Tuesday morning, police took Patel to Bhagwatpur for evidence recovery based on his statement.

At the spot, the accused allegedly opened fire at the police with a pistol kept in a hidden bag. In the retaliatory fire, he was shot in the right leg.

Police said they have recovered a country-made .315 bore pistol and the knife used in the murder, among other items. Srivastava announced a cash reward of ₹25,000 for the police teams that cracked the case and arrested the accused within 24 hours.

IFFCO team visits village, educates farmers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Prayagraj

The IFFCO Phulpur unit team on Tuesday visited Chak Mohammad alias Puri Ki Sudi village to educate farmers about the benefits of using Nano Urea Plus and Nano DAP on paddy crops. The team demonstrated the spraying method, optimal quantity and advantages of these products.

Senior Executive Director Sanjay Kudesia emphasised that the future of agriculture relies on innovative products like Nano Urea Plus and Nano DAP. He encouraged farmers to experiment with these products on a portion of their land to witness the difference.

IFFCO announced plans to provide free drone-based spraying services, with CORDET offering training to farmers on drone usage. Farmers



attending the chaupal showed enthusiasm towards Nano Urea Plus and Nano DAP, with many expressing interest in adopting these products for their paddy crops.

The event was attended by key officials, including Principal of CORDET Dr Harishchandra, Manager Training Anurag Tiwari, PRO Swayam Prakash and local farmers.

Bus catches fire, passengers escape unhurt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Varanasi

A bus going from Azamgarh to Varanasi caught fire on an over-bridge near Mohaw in the Chhapur area on Tuesday, prompting passengers to jump out of the bus for safety, police said.

The fire broke out when the bus was crossing the overbridge. Alerted by the driver about engine overheating, the conductor asked the passengers to disembark, officials said.

As flames engulfed the vehicle, passengers panicked and jumped out of the bus. No injuries were reported, though the bag of one passenger was gutted in the fire, police said. While personnel from the nearby fire station and Chhapur police station rushed to the spot to douse the flames, the bus was completely gutted by the time the fire was brought under control. The bus was operating under a contract from Azamgarh and was en route to Varanasi at the time of incident.

UCO Bank declares financial results

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Kanpur

Chairman and Managing Director of UCO Bank Ashwani Kumar, in a virtual press conference, declared the bank's financial results for 2024-25.

Executive Directors Rajendra Kumar Sabu and Vijay Kumar Kamble were also present during the conference.

The annual financial statements for the fiscal year 2024-25 were presented during the session. In the current financial year, the bank reported a net profit of ₹2,445 crores, marking a 47.80 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

The total profit earned by the bank rose to Rs.6037 crore, registering a 31.92 per cent growth.

Managing Director Ashwani Kumar stated that the bank has proposed a dividend of Rs.0.39 per share, whereas it was Rs.1.38 per share in the previous year. The Earnings Per Share (EPS) has increased



UCO Bank CMD Ashwani Kumar.

to Rs.2.04 in FY 2024-25. The bank currently operates 2,522 ATMs and has access to 10,653 business correspondents, he said.

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

PTI

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 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 Paranjay 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 Chaudhry, Prabaharan 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. Select 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 Pahalgam 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 Pahalgam 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 Pahalgam 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 Pahalgam 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 Pahalgam, 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 Pahalgam 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 "Laskar-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 (Pahalgam) 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 Laskar-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 Pahalgam 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 Pravinshih 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.

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.

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

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 awaam: 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 Kuldeshwan 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 Kashmiri 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)

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 handout 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 witch 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 Swainam 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 Rijiju 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

Issuing an executive order citing "national emergency" on April 2, 2025, US President Donald Trump slapped additional customs duties branded as "reciprocal tariffs" (RTs) — in the range of 10 — 49 per cent — on nearly 60 countries including India, which faces a 26 per cent extra levy on most products across industrial and farm categories. While a 10 per cent baseline duty is applicable from April 5, 2025, the full additional impost takes effect from April 9, 2025.

The additional tariffs will apply over and above the current US levies, which average 3.3 per cent on a most favoured nation (MFN) basis. While the above levies are applied country-wise, certain product — level tariffs also take effect concurrently in all countries.

A 25 per cent duty on steel and aluminium products has already become operational from March 12, 2025, and a 25 per cent impost on automobiles and auto parts took effect from April 2, 2025. The US had earlier announced special extra tariffs for three of its largest trading partners — namely China, Mexico and Canada.

On imports from China, the US imposed a 54 per cent additional tariff (34 per cent RTs plus 20 per cent special extra tariff). China retaliated by imposing 34 per cent RTs on its imports from the US. The latter retorted with an additional impost of 50 per cent on imports from the former — taking the total to 104 per cent.

This bullied China to impose a further RT of 50 per cent on imports from the US, taking its total additional tariff to 84 per cent. 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.

Even as EU countries, Japan and Australia had earlier hinted at retaliation, Trump's announcement of a 90-day truce with countries other than China (however, a 10 per cent baseline duty will apply) has led them to defer their plans for now. Reciprocal tariffs are trade duties that one country imposes in response to tariffs placed on its goods by another country.

In simple terms, if Country A charges extra taxes on goods from Country B, then Country B does the same in return. It's like a "tit-for-tat" in trade. This approach is seriously flawed. First, Country B need not be importing the same goods from Country A that the latter does from the former. Even when the product basket is the same, the foundational principle of comparative advantage suggests that Country B should import a product from Country A if the latter can deliver it at a lower price.

It makes no sense for Country B to artificially increase the price of the product (albeit cheaper) coming from Country A by imposing a higher import duty/tariff. There can be exceptions to this foundational principle for less developed or developing countries wherein the Governments are committed to protecting certain sectors. For instance,



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

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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, motorcycles, 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

Growing up, I always learnt and practised Yoga with a quiet, disciplined, and almost sacred approach. In India, Yoga was never just an exercise; it was a deeply spiritual and scientific system, honed over thousands of years to align the body, mind, and spirit. Whether it was traditional forms like Hatha Yoga and Ashtanga Yoga, or guru — 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.

Hatha Yoga, which I practise at Sivananda School of Yoga, for instance, is not merely about bending the body into various shapes. It is about balancing the masculine and feminine energies within oneself ('Ha' in 'Hatha' means Sun and 'tha' means Moon). The slow, purposeful asanas are designed to prepare the body for deeper spiritual practices like meditation and so on.

Ashtanga Yoga demands discipline and synchronisation of breath with a progressive series of postures, promoting physical endurance and mental clarity.

Iyengar Yoga, developed by BKS Iyengar, emphasises precision and alignment. Props like belts and blocks are used not as gimmicks but as intelligent aids to help practitioners achieve the correct posture safely. Satyananda Yoga, from the Bihar School of Yoga — also a disciple of Swami Sivananda, offers a holistic system combining asanas, pranayama (breath control), and meditation, deeply grounded in ancient scriptures yet highly accessible to modern practitioners.

These traditional forms of yoga were complete systems — designed not just to build strong bodies but to cultivate resilience, compassion, inner peace, and eventually, spiritual awakening.

But today, the variations presented, especially to attract younger audiences — are at times of concern. In the quest to make Yoga more "appealing", a whole new breed of hybrid practices has emerged, at times sans focus on posture or mind-breath-body coordination.

While innovation can often bring new energy to old traditions, in the case of Yoga, I worry that something fundamental is being lost. Yoga, for example, was developed to suit the Western craving for calorie-burning workouts. It emphasises speed, strength, and sweat but often sacrifices breath awareness, alignment, and the contemplative aspects that are central to Yoga.



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 to breathe deeply and remain mindful often

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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.

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)

Mamata to inaugurate Jagannath Temple at Digha

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

Bengal Chief Minister will on Wednesday inaugurate the stunning replica of Puri's Jagannath Temple constructed at the beach town of Digha, a four-hour drive from Kolkata.

The grand facsimile of the Puri's iconic ancient structure imitating the Kalinga school of architecture and built by the State owned Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. comes up at a cost of ₹250 crores.

The Trinamool Congress think tank hopes the Wednesday's mega act would not only go a distance in mopping Banerjee's alleged "anti Hindu" and "pro Muslim" image but it will also stand out as an answer to Ayodhya's Ram temple the construction of which was inspired and inaugurated a few years ago by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Puri's Jagannath Dham is one of the four major pilgrimage centres of India — apart from Badrinath, Dwarka and Rameswaram Dhams. At Puri Lord Jagannath is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu (read Krishna) being worshipped here by the side of the Bay of Bengal.

The Digha temple, almost equal in height too stands barely a few hundreds metre from the same sea and is expected to draw large number of tourists from



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee speaks with the media on the eve of the inauguration of the Lord Jagannath temple at Digha in Purba Medinipur district in West Bengal on Tuesday

across the country and abroad the TMC leadership feels.

The grandiose of the structure spread over 20 acres of land, crafted from exquisite pink sandstone sourced from Rajasthan and carved out by 800 skilled workers from the western State is likely to turn out to be a massive revenue generator for the cash starved State experts say.

Complementing the Chief Minister but requesting anonymity even a senior BJP leader whose party is eyeing to topple her Government in 2026 Assembly elections said: "She has literally ruined Bengal... taken corruption to the level of an art... driven away industry and nurtured an army of unemployed smugglers and election goons... but you cannot deny the fact

that this is a scheme that has come out of her 'hand'... exquisite!... you cannot just distinguish the duplicate from the original..."

At the Puri temple its Digha mirror image includes a Bhog Mandap, Natmandir, Jagmohan, and the sacred Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum), all adorned with intricate carvings and divine statues.

A towering 34-foot-long, 18-faced Aruna pillar, sculpted from black stone and crowned with an Aruna idol, stands majestically at the temple's entrance. There are two idols of the Lord inside the temple — one made of traditional wood like the one in Puri and the other of marble, sources said.

Already christened as 'Digha Dham' — after Puri Dham — the majestic structure has a Singhdwar, Byaghradwar, Hastidwar, and Ashwadwar — all in a straight line — apart from a temple of Goddess Lakshmi and a separate Bhogshala for preparing the sacred Bhog Prasadam for Lord Jagannath.

The Chief Minister being the Jajman — or the Patron of the inaugural Puja — the prayers were offered in her name.

The Pandas (priests) who came from Puri performed the Tuesday's Puja Yajna and Homam — sacred offering to Agni or fire — in her name.

Banerjee who had personally selected the spot at New Digha expressed hope that

the place would attract thousands of tourists from India and abroad. "Because of the sea, Digha has a special charm. Now, if it becomes a place of pilgrimage, more tourists will come. This temple will definitely add a new feather to the state's cap. Digha will grow into an international tourist attraction. This will serve as a place of harmony."

The construction of the temple had not been free from controversies with the BJP questioning State funding in the construction of the Digha temple while a section of Muslim people from East Midnapore demanding construction of a mosque after the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya.

When asked whether he would any day visit the temple Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said he would keep a keen watch on whether any non-Muslim person entered the temple premises or not.

"If any non-Muslim fellow enters the temple premises then we will make the Chief Minister face consequences," he said.

Meanwhile the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday granted permission to organise a Maha Sanatani Dharma Sammelan at Contai barely 20 miles from Digha. Adhikari is likely to attend the religious affair where about 3,000 people will assemble.

The event is being organized to offset the inauguration of the Digha Jagannath temple the TMC alleged.

Ayush Ministry to organise National Ayush Mission Conclave on May 1-2

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Ayush Ministry is set to organise the National Ayush Mission (NAM) Conclave 2025 on May 1-2 at Kaivalyadhama in Lonavala, according to an official statement.

The two-day event is aimed at strengthening the integration of traditional Indian medicine systems into mainstream healthcare, making wellness more accessible and affordable to the common citizen, the ministry said in the statement.

The conclave is scheduled to be inaugurated by Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, whereas the Rajasthan deputy chief minister and health ministers of nine states and UTs of India are also expected to attend the conclave.

"The National Ayush Mission Conclave is a significant step towards fostering a collaborative ecosystem to strengthen the wellness and healthcare infrastructure across the country," Jadhav said on the upcoming event.

The event will include discussions around the latest developments, research innovations, and sectoral collaborations across Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy in various states and UTs.

Minister-level discussions will also be held to chalk out future expansion of the NAM scheme, the statement said.

The conclave will also see the launch of Blueprint for Ayush Policy 2025 and Standard Treatment Guidelines (STG) on Metabolic Disorders in Ayush System of Medicines.

Jadhav, along with health and Ayush ministers from various states and UTs will participate in the conclave, the statement added.

Gurugram gets new Ashray centre for delivery workers

PARVESH SHARMA ■ Gurugram

Gurugram Mayor Raj Rani Malhotra, in collaboration with Amazon India, inaugurated the new Ashray centre here in Gurugram's Sector-66 on Tuesday.

Ashray Centres are dedicated rest spots that offer air-conditioned seating, clean drinking water, electrolytes, mobile charging points, washrooms, first-aid kits, and refreshment facilities to delivery associates across the e-commerce and logistics ecosystem. The centres are available free of cost to all delivery associates.

Malhotra inaugurated the center in the presence of Amazon leader Nitumani Goswami, North Region Director, and other dignitaries. With this addition, six Ashray centres now serve delivery associates across Gurugram.

At the inauguration, Gurugram Mayor Raj Rani Malhotra said, "I applaud Amazon for prioritising the safety and well-being of delivery associates. These Ashray centres provide essential support, particularly during the hot summer season, offering much-needed respite from the heat and safe working conditions for delivery associates across sectors. This is a welcome addition to our city."

Dr Karuna Shankar Pande, VP of Amazon Logistics, Amazon India, said, "At Amazon, we are committed to maintaining industry-leading infrastructure to

enhance the on-road experience for delivery associates.

"Project Ashray" has proven to be successful in improving driver experience and well-being, and this new center in Gurugram builds on that momentum. By providing dedicated rest points with essential amenities, we ensure all delivery associates — whether with Amazon or other companies — have the most comfortable environment while they work. We thank the Gurugram Mayor for her support, he said.

He further said the company plans to expand its network of Ashray centres to 100 across India by 2025. With the launch of this new centre, there are now 11 Ashray centers in the Delhi-Gurugram area, providing convenient access to essential amenities for delivery associates across the city.

This effort is an industry-first initiative designed to offer dedicated rest centres to delivery associates and logistics partners in high-footfall areas.

Located at petrol pumps and commercial rental spaces, these centers are equipped with essential amenities. Ashray centers operate from 9 am to 9 pm, 7 days a week all year round, offering free access to all visiting delivery associates for up to 30 minutes per visit.

With a capacity to accommodate up to 15 people at any time, the centres offer convenient parking spaces as well.

DDA inform NGT for reclaiming land in Yamuna Vanasthali project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed the National Green Tribunal that it has reclaimed 24 acres of land in the Yamuna Vanasthali project area from January to April as part of its efforts to reclaim the river's floodplains from encroachers. The Yamuna Vanasthali plan is one of the Yamuna floodplain restoration projects on the eastern bank, stretching from the Wazirabad Barrage to the ISBT Bridge, spread over an area of 236.5 hectares.

"In compliance with the directions of the NGT, DDA has been making consistent efforts to reclaim the land from the encroachers in the floodplains. Ever since the last order of this Tribunal (on January 16), the DDA recently repossessed 24 acres of land in the Yamuna Vanasthali project area," the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) said in its report on Tuesday.

The report said that though the DDA was continuously engaged in the removal of encroachments, it was sometimes tough to protect or fence the area after a demolition drive was carried out. "Thereby, re-encroachment happens at some places, which is again removed," it said.

Cop reunites 200 missing kids with their families

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

By day, Ajay Jha is a policeman, but after hours, he becomes a man on a mission to reunite families with their missing children. Over the past 18 months, Jha has helped reunite more than 200 missing children, most of them specially-abled, with their families under 'Mission Milap,' an initiative he pursues beyond the call of duty. Jha, an Assistant Sub-Inspector in the security unit of the Delhi Police, began the initiative in November 2023, after he was moved by the difficulties faced by his 17-year-old son, who is also specially-abled — an umbrella term used often to describe certain emotional, speech, or mental impairments.

He says he gets about 100 calls and messages on average day from parents desperately seeking help to locate their children. As part of his calling, Jha goes to shelter homes to counsel specially-abled children and finds leads through 'Mission Milap' on Facebook and WhatsApp groups. Jha also bears the cost of travelling incurred by the families, who come from nearly every state of the country, even Nepal, and refuses to take any reward announced on the successful location of the missing.

"When I started doing this, I just had one thought—my child is safe with me, but what about the many families whose children have gone missing?" he said. He said

that since his son has been in counselling for 14 years, he understands better how to communicate with such children.

"They usually do not have an idea what they are doing. Some get separated at such a young age that they do not know a thing about their homes. More importantly, they find it hard to talk to people, making it harder to locate their families," he said. Often, the parents are so poor they do not have a mobile phone, do not know where to begin, and end up getting duped by some fraud or the other, he said. "I want to make such people aware too and help them in finding their loved ones."

Terror fear shuts tourist spots in Valley

Continued from >> P1

After the horrific killing of tourists in Pahalgam, the tourist foothold was constantly declining. The tourist arrivals at the Srinagar airport also recorded a fifty per cent decline in the last week. Compared to the average arrival of over 9,000 tourists before April 22, the numbers have come down to little over 4,000 fresh arrivals daily since April 22. According to the information provided by the helpdesk, set up to facilitate visiting tourists, the visitors can come and visit tourist places in Srinagar, Gulmarg and Ganderbal districts.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up across famous tourist places in Srinagar and Gulmarg.

The quick reaction teams of the Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, paramilitary forces, have

been deployed across sensitive tourist locations; this includes Gulmarg, Sonamarg and the Dal Lake areas, which remain open to visitors.

The anti-terror operations have been going on at several locations in the valley to instill a sense of security and safety among the local population, especially in the rural pockets, following a massive crackdown against the over ground workers and their sympathisers in the area. In the Jammu region, a high alert has been sounded along the International border of the Jammu frontier. The village defence groups have been activated and they are assisting the local police and paramilitary forces during night patrolling and maintaining a tight vigil on the movement of miscreants and anti-national elements.

PM commands full 'Operational Freedom'

Continued from >> P1

Additional Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal Anupama Nilekar Chandra were among the other attendees in the meeting. The BSF guards India's international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, the SSB secures the borders with Nepal and Bangladesh, the Assam Rifles protects the border with Myanmar and the NSG is a commando force specialising in anti-terror operations.

On Prime Minister's Modi's review on Wednesday, it was learnt a series of meetings are scheduled as the coun-

try reviews its security preparedness in the wake of the terror attack. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) — the country's highest decision-making body on national security — will hold a meeting around 11 am. It will mark the second round of discussions at the highest level since the Pahalgam attack. Security preparations are likely to be discussed at this meeting.

After the meeting of CCS, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) will also meet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Modi. Besides the Prime

Minister, the CCPA comprises Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Health Minister JP Nadda, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and other senior ministers. The Cabinet's Economic Affairs Committee will meet thereafter, followed by a Cabinet meeting.

After the April 22 Pahalgam attack, the CCS decided to keep the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance with immediate effect, saying Pakistan has breached its conditions.

Cabinet approves Bill to regulate fee hike

Continued from >> P1

"A complete guideline, procedure for fees will be decided for all 1,677 schools in Delhi, whether they are aided, non-aided or private. For the first time in history, such a Bill is being drafted by the government," she added.

Sharing details, the Chief Minister said as of April 28, 2025, inspections have been conducted in 970 schools in Delhi, and notices have been issued to over 150 schools for complaints regarding fee hikes. 42 schools were found to be running dummy classes, and action was taken against them. More than 300 complaints regarding non-provision of books and uniforms have also been successfully resolved.

The Chief Minister, flanked by Education Minister Ashish Sood, said that the issue was discussed widely in recent days and there was "panic" among the parents due to activities of some schools and complaints regarding "harassment" of students in the name of fee hike. She also revealed that the government had received several complaints regarding "harassment" of students in the name of fee hike.

"The previous governments in Delhi made no provision to prevent fee hike. There was no guideline to help government prevent fee hike by private schools," she said.

The new Bill introduces a three-tier committee system to regulate and ensure transparency in the fee determination process. At the first level, there will be School-Level Fee Regulation Committee. The second level will be district fee Appellate Committee and the third will be Revision Commission. The school level committee will comprise of Representative of Management of the private school, principal, three teachers, five parents from

Parent-Teachers Association and government nominee. The committee will be responsible for decisions related to fee hikes or any other related issues.

The District Fee Appellate Committee will be Constituted by the Director of Education at the District level. Deputy Director of Education (District) will be chairman. The other members will be Deputy Director (Zone) as member secretary and members include Chartered Accountant/account functionary (nominated by Director), Accounts functionary of District/Region, two teacher representatives (from School Level Committee, nominated by Director) and two parent representatives (from School Level Committee, nominated by Director).

The Revision Committee constituted by Government notification at the State level. AAP Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj slammed the BJP-led Delhi government for crafting a 'Private School Fee Act' that empowers school managements to hike fees unchecked, eliminates audit provisions, and blocks parents from raising complaints unless they gather support from parents of 15 per cent of students.

The Education Minister said that the Bill proposes formation of a three-tier committee at school, district and state levels. This will bring much-needed transparency and structure to the process of determining school fees and protect parents from unregulated hikes. The entire process will be time-bound, ensuring that parents are not left in limbo, he said.

According to the Education Minister, at the first level, every school will constitute a school-level fee regulation committee. This committee will include the chairperson of the school management,

the principal as member secretary, three teachers, and five parents, including members from SC/ST communities and at least two women.

"A nominee from the Directorate of Education will serve as an observer. Schools will no longer be able to increase fees arbitrarily. Any hike will be allowed only once every three years and only after approval from this committee."

"The decision to increase fees will be based on 18 critical parameters, including the condition of classrooms and buildings, the school's financial reserves, and the quality of science laboratories, libraries, and playgrounds," he said.

These standards aim to ensure that fee hikes, if approved, are justified by real infrastructure or service improvements. Sood further announced that these school-level committees will be formed by July 31 and will be required to submit their reports within 30 days. "If the school-level committee fails to submit its recommendation on time, the matter will be escalated to the District Level Committee. If resolution is still not achieved, a State Level Committee comprising seven members will be empowered to take a final decision," he said. The minister also said that a 10-member committee will be formed at the district level. It will include two women and one from either the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe category.

There have been long-standing complaints by parents and guardians against "irregular and exorbitant" fee hikes by private unaided schools in the national capital. The parents have also alleged coercive practices by schools, including denial of admit cards for board examinations and threats to strike off names of students over

non-payment of what they describe as unauthorised fees. They also alleged that students faced mental harassment at schools if the fee payment was delayed.

The big move comes weeks after many parents across Delhi protested outside the Directorate of Education's office, demanding immediate rollback of fee hikes. This follows an announcement by the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) on April 16, stating that it has taken action against unaided private schools found guilty of illegally increasing fees. The actions include initiating de-recognition proceedings and the potential takeover of school management.

The issue has taken a political turn in recent weeks. Opposition leader Atishi publicly challenged the BJP-led government over the fee crisis, accusing it of failing to act. In response, the government issued notices to several institutions accused of unjustified hikes and began auditing hundreds of schools through district-level teams.

In September 2024, parents of Maharaja Agrasen Model School in Pitampura protested against annual fee increases of 18-20 per cent, alleging that the school issued School Leaving Certificates to students who refused to pay the hiked fees, despite the Department of Education's rejection of such hikes.

Similarly, in Mayur Vihar, Vanasthali Public School faced backlash for a 100 per cent fee increase, with parents claiming that students were removed from the rolls for non-payment.

In April 2025, parents protested outside DPS Dwarka over fee hikes, leading to political leaders promising action against such practices.

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"We are cognisant of the fact that we didn't get over the finish line yet," Poilievre told supporters. "We know that change is needed, but change is hard to come by. It takes time. It takes work. And that's why we have to learn the lessons of tonight — so that we can have an even better result the next time Canadians decide the future of the country."

Poilievre can still lead Conservative Party

Even with Canadians grappling with the fallout from a deadly weekend attack at a Vancouver street festival, Trump was trolling them on election day, suggesting again on social media that Canada should become the 51st state and saying he was on their ballot. He also erroneously claimed that the US subsidises Canada, writing, "It makes no sense unless Canada is a State!"

Trump's truculence has infuriated Canadians, leading many to cancel US vacations, refuse to buy American goods and possibly even vote early. A record 7.3 million Canadians cast ballots before election day.

Reid Warren, a Toronto resident, said he voted Liberal because Poilievre "sounds like mini-Trump to me." He said Trump's tariffs are a worry.

"Canadians coming together from, you know, all the shade being thrown from the States is great, but it's definitely created some turmoil, that's for sure," he said.

Historian Robert Bothwell said Poilievre appealed to the "same sense of grievance" as Trump, but that it ultimately worked against him.

"The Liberals ought to pay him," Bothwell said, referring to the US president. "Trump talking is not good for the Conservatives."

The Liberal way forward

Carney and the Liberals secured a new term, but they have daunting challenges ahead. If they don't win a majority in Parliament, the Liberals might need rely on one of the smaller parties. The Bloc Quebecois, which looked set to finish third, is a separatist party from French-speaking Quebec that seeks independence. Trudeau's Liberals relied on the New Democrats to remain in power for four years, but the progressive party fared poorly on Monday and its leader, Jagmeet Singh, said he was stepping down after eight years in charge.

"This is a dramatic comeback, but if the Liberals cannot win a majority of seats, political uncertainty in a new minority Parliament could complicate things for them," said McGill University political science professor Daniel Béland.

Foreign policy hasn't dominated a Canadian election this much since 1988, when, ironically, free trade with the United States was the prevailing issue.

In addition to the trade war with the US and frosty relationship with Trump, Canada is dealing with a cost-of-living crisis. And more than 75 per cent of its exports go to the US, so Trump's tariffs threaten and his desire to get North American automakers to move Canada's production south could severely damage the Canadian economy.

While campaigning, Carney vowed that every dollar the government collects from counter-tariffs on US goods will go toward Canadian workers who are adversely affected by the trade war.

He also said he plans to keep dental care in place, offer a middle-class tax cut, return immigration to sustainable levels and increase funding to Canada's public broadcaster, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

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 JD 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 urged 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 Pakistan 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 US Vice President JD Vance visited a remote US military base on the island and accused Denmark of underinvesting in 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 legitimated 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 herself, 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 26.43 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.

CONFIRMATION OF THE RANK OF HONORARY COLONEL ON PROFESSOR PRAITEEK 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 semi-final 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 pen-

alty 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 semi-final 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 Rituraj 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 Prabhsimran 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, VJ Jay 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 Shedge, Musheer Khan, Harnoor Pannu, Aaron Hardie, Priyansh Arya, Azmatullah Omarzai.

Narine stars as KKR keep playoff hopes alive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Veteran off-spinner Sunil Narine snapped up three crucial wickets in the space of seven balls to help Kolkata Knight Riders beat Delhi Capitals by 14 runs and keep their playoff hopes alive in the IPL here on Tuesday.

Sent in to bat, KKR, who came into the game with three losses in their last five matches, managed to post 204 for nine, riding on a blazing start by their top-order batters.

Chasing the total, DC were 62 for 3 in seven overs, but Faf du Plessis (62) and Axar Patel (43) kept them in the hunt with a 76-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

However, Narine (3/29) picked up three key wickets at a crucial juncture to derail DC's chase, as the hosts were restricted to 190 for nine in their 20 overs to succumb to their third loss in four home games at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

With this win, defending champions KKR

reignited their playoff hopes, though they remained at the seventh spot with nine points. DC stayed in the top four with 12 points.

KKR skipper Ajinkya Rahane's gamble to hand the ball to Anukul Roy paid off as the spinner dismissed Abhishek Porel (4) with his second delivery. Vaibhav Arora then trapped Karun Nair (15) lbw before a direct hit from Narine found KL Rahul (7) short of his crease, reducing DC to 62 for 3 in the seventh over.

Axar Patel, who had left the field in the 18th over due to a hand injury, returned to open opener du Plessis. The duo negotiated the spinners well, adding 76 runs off 42 balls to keep DC in the contest.

Du Plessis smashed Chakravarthy for two fours and a six in the ninth over before bringing up his fifty off 31 balls.

Axar then took charge, clobbering three sixes and four boundaries in his 23-ball 43 to keep the scoreboard ticking.

However, Narine's return in the 14th over

changed the game as he dismissed Axar and Tristan Stubbs (1) in the same over, before removing du Plessis with the second ball of his next to derail DC's chase. With 59 needed off 30 balls, Impact Player Ashutosh Sharma deposited Harshit Rana over long-off, but Chakravarthy returned to remove him and Mitchell Starc in successive deliveries. Vipraj Nigam tried to mount a late charge with two sixes and three fours, but it wasn't enough.

Earlier, KKR got off to a flying start as Narine (27) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (26) put on the team's highest opening stand of the season — 48 runs off just 17 balls.

On a better batting surface compared to the previous game, Narine took the attack to Dushmantha Chameera (1/46), smashing him for 25 runs in an over, including two sixes — one of them a one-handed slog over midwicket — and a four.

Gurbaz then took on Mitchell Starc, hitting two boundaries and a six before edging to Abhishek Porel in the third over to end

the stand.

Skipper Rahane (26) carried the momentum, hitting Starc for a six and a four, and then adding two more boundaries off Mukesh Kumar to take KKR to 79/1 at the end of the powerplay.

However, DC's spinners pulled things back. Vipraj Nigam (2/41) trapped Narine leg-before, before Axar Patel removed Rahane and Venkatesh Iyer (7) in quick succession, reducing the visitors to 117 for 4 in 10 overs.

Young Angkrish Raghuvanshi (44) steadied the innings along with Rinku Singh (36), the duo adding 61 runs off 46 balls. Raghuvanshi struck two big sixes off Vipraj, while Rinku targeted Kuldeep Yadav, smashing two boundaries and a six in a 17-run over that helped KKR cross the 150-run mark.

However, KKR lost the momentum again as both Raghuvanshi and Rinku departed in quick succession, falling to Chameera and Vipraj respectively, just when they looked set to accelerate.



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".

"Absolutely insane!" he posted on Instagram. India pacer Mohammed Shami wrote: "Vaibhav Suryavanshi, what an incredible talent. Scoring a century at just 14 is unreal. Keep shining brother."

Former India women's team captain Mithali Raj was among the greats of the game who were left in awe of the teenager from Bihar.

"Watching Vaibhav Suryavanshi today felt like witnessing history in the making. At just 14, he has taken on a 200+ chase with a level of confidence beyond his years. 100 off 35 balls, and he made it look effortless. Well played, champ!" she wrote.

Cricketer-turned-commentator Ian Bishop was left stunned by Suryavanshi's onslaught.

"I hope we don't go too far with praising him, but you cannot step back from the fact that tonight was absolutely mind-blowing, other-worldly," he said on 'ESPNcricinfo'.

Former Australia captain Aaron Finch joined the chorus of applause by expressing his amazement at the Suryavanshi's talent. "Have you ever seen anything like this? #vaibhavsuryavanshi what a talent!" he wrote on X.

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. But just after the lunch session, Muzurabani had Anamul leg-before for 39 after a gritty 80-ball-knock that was laced with four fours.

Shadman, who made just 12 and 4 in the two innings of the first test in Sylhet, drove pacer Richard Ngarava for a boundary past cover to raise his second test ton off 147 balls. His first century also came against Zimbabwe in Harare in 2021.

He also became the 16th Bangladeshi batter to reach 1,000 runs.

Shadman and Mominul added 76 runs for the second-wicket stand but then fell in two balls just before tea. Left-arm spinner Wellington Masakadza (1-77) broke the partnership by dismissing Mominul for 33 and Brian Bennett got rid of Shadman in the next 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 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

"The Athlete has failed to establish that he did not knowingly 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 rule violation, his ban period was reduced by one year, from six to five. His ban period began from April 14, 2025 (the date of provisional suspension), and his results disqualified from December 8, 2024 onwards.

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.

Smriti Mandhana played the supporting role, allowing the younger Rawal to take the lead. The partnership was eventually broken in the 19th over when Mandhana was caught down the leg side by wicketkeeper Karabo Meso off Annerie Dercksen's bowling.

Harleen Deol then contributed a steady 29 off 47 deliveries and added 68 runs with Rawal for the second wicket, before being bowled by left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba.

Rawal, who had brought up her fifth ODI fifty, looked set for a second hundred before Mlaba cleaned her up as well.

Despite the setback, the middle order fired with Harmanpreet Kaur (41), Jemimah Rodrigues (41), and Richa Ghosh (24) all making valuable contributions, pushing India towards a challenging total.

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