



Maoist chief Basavaraju, 26 Naxals dead in Bastar encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Narayanpur (Chhattisgarh)

In a major success in the ongoing fight against left wing extremism, topmost leader and the backbone of the Naxal movement, Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, and 26 other dreaded Maoists were killed by security forces in a fierce encounter in the dense forests of Abhujmad in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. Basavaraju carried a reward of ₹one crore on his head in Chhattisgarh. He was believed to be 71 years old.

Hailing the operation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was proud of the security forces for the "remarkable success", while Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed it a "landmark achievement"

in the battle to eliminate Naxalism. Police said the gunfight took place in dense forests of Abhujmad on the tri-junction of Narayanpur-Bijapur-Dantewada districts.

The operation was launched two days back following intelligence inputs about the presence of Central Committee and Politburo members of the CPI (Maoists) as well as senior Maad Division cadres and PLGA (Peoples' Liberation Guerrilla Army) members.

So far, bodies of 27 Naxalites and a large number of weapons have been recovered from the spot. A member of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), a unit of Chhattisgarh Police, was also killed in the action while some others sustained injuries, police said.

Prime Minister Modi said he was

proud of the security forces who killed 27 Maoists in Chhattisgarh. "Proud of our forces for this remarkable success. Our Government is committed to eliminating

A resident of Jiyannapeta village in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, Basavaraju held a BTech degree from the Regional Engineering College, Warangal

the menace of Maoism and ensuring a life of peace and progress for our people," he said in a social media post.

The union home minister said this was for the first time in three decades of India's battle against Naxalism that a general sec-

retary-ranked leader has been neutralised by the security forces. "A landmark achievement in the battle to eliminate Naxalism. Today, in an operation in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh, our security forces have neutralised 27 dreaded Maoists, including Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavaraju, the general secretary of CPI-Maoist, the topmost leader, and the backbone of the Naxal movement," Shah wrote on social media.

Applauding the "brave security forces and agencies for this major breakthrough", the home minister said he was glad to share that after the completion of Operation Black Forest, 54 Naxalites have been arrested and 84 others have surrendered in Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Maharashtra. "The Modi Government is resolved to eliminate Naxalism before the

31st of March 2026," he said. Basavaraju was in his early 70s, officials said. Hailing from undivided Andhra Pradesh, Basavaraju was the brain behind several major attacks on security forces in Chhattisgarh. He was associated with the banned movement since the 1970s and elevated to the top post in CPI (Maoist) seven years ago, when Naxal activities in their stronghold Bastar region were appearing to be wearing out, officials said.

A resident of Jiyannapeta village in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, Basavaraju held a BTech degree from the Regional Engineering College, Warangal, and was seen as an enigmatic leader of the outlawed Naxal outfit. Known by the aliases of Prakash, Krishna, Vijay, Umesh and Kamlu, he joined the armed movement as a ground-level organiser. He was

considered to have developed expertise in imparting military training and triggering explosives and landmines. Basavaraju's age and looks are still a matter of speculation, with security agencies suggesting he was around 71 years of age. They have only a bundle of old photos from his youth.

Basavaraju carried a reward of ₹one crore in Chhattisgarh. The Governments of other States, including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana, have also announced rewards, an official said. With the latest action, 200 Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of them, 183 were eliminated in the Bastar division, which includes districts of Bijapur, Narayanpur, Dantewada and Kondagaon.

Ashoka professor granted interim bail, SIT to probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, arrested for his social media posts on Operation Sindoor, but refused to stay the investigation against him. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh directed the Haryana DGP to constitute a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an IG rank officer also including a SP rank woman officer within 24 hours to investigate the case.

The court said the interim bail was granted to the petitioner to facilitate further investigation and directed Mahmudabad to surrender his passport. The SIT, the bench said, should comprise three directly recruited IPS officers — not from Haryana but serving in the State. The bench said aside from the IG rank officer, two others should be police superintendents or above rank officers. The bench, which examined the

online post by the professor, who heads the political science department in the Sonapat-based Ashoka University, questioned his choice of words, saying they were used deliberately to humiliate, insult, or put others in discomfort.

"The choice of words are deliberately made to insult, humiliate or cause discomfort to others.

The professor, who is a learned person cannot lack a dictionary...He could have conveyed the very same feelings in a simple language without hurting others. He should have shown respect for the sentiments of others. He could have used a simple and neutral kind of language, respecting others," Justice Kant said.

The bench said though everybody had the right to freedom of expression, Mahmudabad's remarks seemed like "dog whistling," used in legal parlance. "This is what we call it as dog whistling in law. He should have used more respectful and neutral language," the court said.

Storm, rain, power outage exposes Capital preparedness

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Heavy rain, hail stones and strong winds crippled the Delhi-NCR on Wednesday evening, exposing the Delhi Government's much vaunted preparedness to meet such exigency. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for Delhi-NCR around 8.30 pm, warning of more intense weather activity over the next couple of hour.

A sudden dust storm with heavy rain accompanied a hailstorm hit Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), bringing relief from the heatwave conditions prevalent in the national Capital but also disrupting traffic, leading to water logging and power outages in several areas. Many areas reported disruption in electricity supply at the time filing of this report.

Flight operations were hit at the Delhi airport, while Metro passengers on the Yellow Line were stranded for hours. Hoardings fell and trees were uprooted in many localities, with some areas reporting wind speeds of up to 79 kmph.

An IndiGo flight from Delhi to Srinagar was caught in a sudden hailstorm mid-air



Pedestrians sheltering from rain at a bus stop in New Delhi on Wednesday evening

RANJAN DIMRI

on Wednesday evening, causing visible damage to the aircraft but prompting a swift and controlled response from the crew. The airline confirmed that flight 6E 2142 landed safely in Srinagar following standard operating procedures. The flight, 6E2142,

was nearing Srinagar when it encountered intense weather activity. Hail stones pounded the aircraft as it descended, resulting in what the airline described as "weather-related damage" to the nose of the aircraft.

Airline companies issued advisories,

saying the change in weather might impact flight operations. In a post on X, the Delhi airport said flight operations might be impacted due to the inclement weather, advising passengers to contact the concerned airlines for an updated flight schedule. In separate advisories, Air India and IndiGo advised passengers to check their flight status before reaching the airport.

According to Tata Powers, power disruptions were witnessed in areas across the Capital such as parts of Bawana, Narela, Jahangirpuri, Civil Lines, Shakti Nagar, Model Town, Wazirabad, Dhirpur, Burari. Power lines were damaged by falling trees and branches.

"To ensure public safety, electricity supply had to be temporarily suspended in certain areas as a precaution to prevent electrocution," it said.

The storm hit just around 8 pm with sudden gusts of winds, and was followed by rain, thunder and hail. While it caused a disruption in life, it also brought relief for the residents of the region from the intense heat experienced in recent days. Smiles of wind and dust hit several parts of the capital, reducing visibility.

The ByStander



Banu Mushtaq wins Booker for Kannada short story collection

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Writer, activist and lawyer Banu Mushtaq's short story collection 'Heart Lamp' (Hridaya Deepa) has become the first Kannada title to win the coveted International Booker Prize in London.

Mushtaq described her win as a victory for diversity as she collected the prize on Tuesday night at a ceremony at Tate Modern in London along with her translator Deepa Bhasthi, who translated the title from Kannada to English.



The winning collection of 12 short stories chronicles the resilience, resistance, wit, and sisterhood of everyday women in patriarchal communities in southern India, vividly brought to life through a rich tradition of oral storytelling. "This book was born from the belief that no story is ever small, that in the tapestry of human experience every thread holds the weight of the whole," said Mushtaq.

Top five SC judges skip summer vacation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

For the first time, Supreme Court's top five judges will sit on summer vacation. Earlier, two judges sat on the vacation benches. It is expected that during vacation the court will hear Presidential Reference on timeline placed on Governors and the President on giving assent to Bills.

"The first five judges are sitting through the vacation and continuing to work, yet we are blamed for the backlog. In reality, it is the lawyers who are unwilling to work during the vacations," said CJI BR Gavai on Wednesday. He was responding to an advocate seeking to adjourn the case to mid July, after vacation.

CJI Gavai said lawyers don't want to work during vacation but the judiciary is blamed for the backlog of cases. A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih got miffed when a lawyer urged listing of a petition after the summer vacation. Recently, the top court issued a notification on the benches that will function during the upcoming summer vacation, rechristened as "partial court working days", from May 26 to July 13.

Significantly, there will be two to five vacation benches sitting during the partial court working days and even top five judges, including the CJI, will be holding



FILE PHOTO

courts during this period. According to earlier practice, there used to be only two vacation benches during the summer vacation, and senior judges were not supposed to hold courts. The notification outlined the weekly allocation of Justices across benches.

From May 26 to June 1, the CJI, Justices

Suryakant, Vikram Nath J K Maheshwari and B V Nagarathna will be heading the five benches respectively. During this period, the apex court registry will remain open from 10 am to 5 pm for all officers and staff. The registry will be closed on all Saturdays (except July 12), Sundays, and public holidays.

Gandhis ask for time, Swamy gets chargesheet in ED case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Special court on Wednesday directed Enforcement Directorate to give a copy of its Chargesheet against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case to Subramanian Swamy. Congress leaders sought more time to study ED's chargesheet and Special Judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court said that it would hear the National Herald money laundering case on a daily basis from July 2 to 8.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the Gandhis, sought more time to go through the voluminous case record of more than 5,000. They asked that the matter be adjourned to July. However, the Court proceeded to allow the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to make its opening arguments today.

"Learned ASG has advanced opening submissions. The matter shall be taken on a day to day basis from July 2 till July 8 for submissions on behalf of ED and the proposed accused," Appearing for the ED, Additional

Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju and Advocate Zoheb Hossain sought to establish the proceeds of crime garnered in the case. In addition to Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Section 411 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which deals with the offence of dishonestly receiving or retaining stolen property, was also applicable to this case, they argued. "Young Indian had no business activity except for continuing for benefit of accused. The shares, assets and rent are the proceeds of crime.

The advertisements and loans have kept out...Once the share has been issued, it is a property. The issuance of shares [of A]L] to Young Indian amounts to an offence of cheating," Hossain said. The Court then asked, "These shares are the derivatives of scheduled offence? Scheduled offence is a trigger for money laundering. It has to be derivative. Not every activity of company may be money laundering. It may be criminal activity." The judge sought clarification on whether the alleged wrongful acts are ascribed to individuals, and whether the Congress party was a victim.

Mane attraction: Lions increase in Gujarat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Ahmedabad

The estimated population of Asiatic lions in Gujarat has increased to 891 from 674 five years ago as per the census conducted this month, officials said on Wednesday. Not only has the count gone up by 217, but the animals were found outside the Gir National Park, their traditional habitat, and spread across 11 districts of Saurashtra including non-forested and coastal areas, the officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed happiness at the rise in the population of lions in Gujarat, and said 'Project Lion' has helped create a conducive environment for the big cats and ensured their protection. He was reacting to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's social media post that the number of lions has risen to 891 in the State.

Modi said, "It is very encouraging information. It is heartening to note that the efforts under 'Project Lion' are providing them (lions) a conducive environment and ensuring their protection."

"Estimated population of Asiatic lions has increased to 891," Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel told a media briefing on the issue. As per the last census conducted in June 2020, the population of Asiatic lions, a subspecies only found in Gujarat's Gir area, was estimated at 674. As per the



FILE PHOTO

latest count, there are estimated 196 males, 330 females, 140 sub-adults and 225 cubs, said the Gujarat forest department.

As the population of lions is increasing, their spread in Saurashtra region has also expanded. The big cats were earlier confined to the Gir National Park in Junagadh and Amreli districts, but now they have spread to 11 districts, an official said. As many as 384 lions were counted in Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary and 507 were

found outside its limits, said Jaipal Singh, principal chief conservator of forest. The areas outside Gir where lions were spotted included sanctuaries like Pania, Mitityala, Girnar and Barda.

Some animals were seen in non-forested areas and coastal areas too. Seventeen lions were counted in Barda sanctuary, 15 km from Porbandar. The highest number of lions recorded in a single pride was 17 in Bhavnagar district, official said.

Guv lauds 100 days Ni-Kshay Campaign and Healthy Liver Mission

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government's efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) and promote liver health received wide acclaim at a ceremony held at the Sandipani Auditorium in Raj Bhavan. The event marked the inauguration of the 100-Day Ni-Kshay Camp Campaign Honor Ceremony and the launch of the Healthy Liver Mission. Governor Mangubhai Patel praised the government's successful execution of the 100-day Ni-Kshay campaign, which extended TB elimination initiatives across the state, supported by various societal groups distributing food baskets and achieving over 5,000 TB-free Gram Panchayats. He attributed these achievements to excellent teamwork and meticulous planning.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav emphasized that Indian cultural philosophy has always regarded "excellent health as the highest happiness," citing traditional practices of seasonal diets and disciplined lifestyles. He reiterated the government's commitment to making Madhya Pradesh TB-free by 2028 through focused efforts at every level. Highlighting the importance of physical fitness, he shared the daily routine of 72-year-old Padma Bhushan awardee Dr. S.K. Sarin as an inspiration. Patel stressed the critical need for infection control and timely, complete treatment to prevent drug-resistant TB. He also recognized the government's launch of the Healthy Liver Mission amid rising concerns over non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, urging people to adopt

healthy lifestyles and undergo routine liver check-ups. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla informed that Madhya Pradesh was the only state honored by the central government for the 100-day campaign. Under the Nirogi Kaya (Healthy Body) Campaign, screenings of 9 million people for diabetes, hypertension, and fatty liver have been conducted, with efforts ongoing for 100 percent coverage. He announced that individuals who donate organs or bodies will receive state honors, and the state is working towards establishing liver transplant facilities. Director of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Padma Vibhushan Shiv Kumar Sarin, highlighted the importance of making liver health a life mission. He praised Madhya Pradesh's leadership in

fatty liver prevention and emphasized early detection through waist measurements and BMI. Public Health and Medical Education Principal Secretary Sandeep Yadav shared key statistics from the 100-day Ni-Kshay Mitra Campaign, including over 625,000 TB tests conducted, 22,000 new patients treated, and 28,000 food baskets distributed by 18,000 Ni-Kshay Mitras. The campaign is now expanding statewide with the Healthy Liver Mission aiming to screen 25 million people. Several TB Champions shared their experiences during the event, and individuals and districts were recognized for exemplary performance. Notable awardees included Vidisha's Anjali Dangi and Mandla's Om Baiga, while Jabalpur's Minesh Kumar Jain and Mandsaur's Vishal Goyal

were honored for exceptional contributions. District teams from Chhindwara, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Sehore, and Narsinghpur were felicitated for their outstanding campaign efforts. Seoni and Betul districts, recognized for declaring the most TB-free Gram Panchayats for three consecutive years, were honored alongside villages Kanhar (Mandla), Patwa (Balaghat), and Sawarwani (Chhindwara). Corporate entities IOCL, UPIN, NPCIL, and Green Co. Pvt. Ltd. received accolades for their CSR initiatives. Health staff members including STS Umesh Sharma, STLS Siddhesh Sharma, Lab Technician Sushma Sharma, and community health officers Narendra Sharma and Nisha were also acknowledged for their service.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav honors the candidates selected in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2024, during a felicitation programme at Kushabhau Thackeray convention center in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Wild weather chaos grips MP: From scorching heat to sudden storms

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Large parts of Madhya Pradesh remained in the grip of wildly fluctuating weather conditions on Wednesday, as the state witnessed a dramatic mix of scorching heat, sudden hailstorms, intense winds, and unseasonal rains — all within a 24-hour span. The erratic weather has disrupted normal life across more than 13 districts. While daytime temperatures touched a blistering 46°C in some areas, cities like Bhopal and Indore saw brief relief when early evening showers followed a sweltering afternoon. Abhijeet Chakraborty, a senior official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said the intensification of monsoon activity at this pace is highly unusual for this

time of the year. He noted that the state has already seen a deviation from earlier summer patterns, where a lull of two to three days used to follow heavy rain or hailstorms. Now, back-to-back weather events have become more frequent. Due to this abrupt shift, the monsoon is expected to advance earlier than normal. While rainfall levels may be above average, Chakraborty added that even distribution across the state would depend on favorable atmospheric conditions. Meanwhile, sudden storms and heavy rain caused damage in several parts of the state. Villages in Sehore were hit by hailstorms, while strong winds and rainfall were reported from Ratlam, Vidisha, Dhar, Chhindwara, Narmadapuram, Raisen, Rewa, Sagar, and Balaghat. In Raisen, wind speeds of 50 km/h uprooted tin

sheds and signboards, damaging over 50 electricity poles. Between Mandideep and Obedullaganj on the Narmadapuram highway, more than 10 electric poles were bent, and a railway line was damaged along Hoshangabad Road. In Sagar's Gora village, a house roof was blown off by the storm, lifting two children into the air. Fortunately, they were unharmed. Flooding was reported in Ashta (Sehore), and waterlogging caused disruptions in Chhindwara. Despite the rain in some areas, the heatwave persisted in others. Khajuraho recorded the state's highest temperature at 46°C, followed by Nowgong at 45.2°C and Tikamgarh at 44.5°C. Among major cities, Gwalior was the hottest at 44.6°C, while Bhopal recorded 39.1°C, Indore 36.8°C, Jabalpur 41°C, and Ujjain

38.7°C. Ratlam remained the coolest, with a high of 34.6°C. In Shajapur, intense heat and humidity during the day gave way to cooler conditions after afternoon rainfall and storms. Meteorologists have attributed the ongoing storm and rain activity to three active cyclonic circulations and a trough line over Madhya Pradesh. Another weather system is expected between May 25 and 30, which could bring light to moderate rainfall to several areas. The Meteorological Department has also issued a heatwave warning for the last week of May. Temperatures may rise to 48°C in Khajuraho, Nowgong, and Prithvipur (Niwari), while Gwalior, Chhatarpur, and several districts in the Gwalior-Chambal and Malwa-Nimar regions are likely to experience temperatures touching 47°C.

BHEL Bhopal sets ambitious target of Rs 4,400 Cr turnover

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Bhopal Unit has set a challenging turnover target of Rs 4,400 crore for the financial year 2025-26, reaffirming its commitment to maintain growth momentum amid a competitive environment. The announcement was made during an interaction programme held on Wednesday at Devi Ahilyabai Hall, BHEL, Bhopal, with mediapers and key stakeholders. PK Upadhyay, Unit Head of BHEL Bhopal, congratulated employees and stakeholders on the unit's impressive performance in FY 2024-25, where it achieved a turnover of Rs 4,278 crore and a profit before tax of Rs 272 crore. He attributed this success to the visionary leadership of the then Executive Director SM Ramanathan and



the robust guidance of BHEL's Chairman and Managing Director K Sadashiv Murthy. Looking ahead, Upadhyay emphasized the need to focus on minimizing rework, maximizing cash collection, and enhancing value addition per employee as critical strategies to achieve the Rs 4,400 crore turnover target. "Our employees have the capability to face every challenge, and we are committed to achieving our goals for the coming year," he said. The Unit Head also under-

scored BHEL's dedication to social responsibilities, reinforcing the organization's broader role beyond business performance. Gautam Majumdar, General Manager and Additional Charge (HR), thanked all stakeholders for their unwavering support and highlighted the unit's commitment to protecting employee and stakeholder interests. Meanwhile, R K Agarwal, General Manager (SOM), presented a detailed review of BHEL Bhopal's key achievements in the past year along with the upcoming action plan aimed at sustaining growth and operational excellence. Upadhyay assured that BHEL Bhopal will continue striving for excellence by leveraging teamwork, innovation, and disciplined execution to overcome future challenges in the dynamic industrial landscape.

Alok, Mayor perform bhumi-pujan for Rs 2.28 crore projects

Bhopal: Bhopal parliamentarian Alok Sharma and Mayor Malti Rai on Wednesday performed the foundation stone ceremony for development projects worth Rs 2.28 crore in the Idgah Hills area of Ward 10. The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) will execute these projects to enhance public amenities in the area. Mayor-in-Council member Manoj Rathore and Zone Chairperson Vinita Soni attended the ceremony. Several councillors and citizens were also present to witness the occasion. The development projects aim to improve infrastructure and quality of life for residents in various parts of the ward. Officials emphasised the importance of timely execution and community involvement to maximise benefits.



Young women enjoy the rain in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Pioneer photo

ICICI Bank and Bhopal police fight cyber fraud

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

ICICI Bank, in collaboration with the Bhopal Cyber Crime Cell, conducted an awareness session at the Commissionerate Police Office on Wednesday to strengthen efforts against financial cyber fraud. The workshop aimed to improve coordination between law enforcement agencies and banking institutions to enhance the efficiency and speed of cyber fraud investigations. More than 100 police personnel from cybercrime units, technical cells, crime branches, and helpdesk officers across Bhopal attended the session. Officials from ICICI Bank shared insights into the bank's advanced fraud detection systems, real-time suspicious activity alerts, and rapid account-blocking procedures. The bank also outlined its streamlined protocol for

providing law enforcement immediate access to critical transaction data, enabling quicker freezing of fraudulent funds. Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime & HQ), Pankaj Shrivastava, emphasized the necessity for faster responses to financial cyber crimes. He noted that victims usually approach the police first, but the swift movement of defrauded funds through multiple accounts requires immediate tracing with the help of banking systems. Workshops like this help law enforcement understand banking operations better and improve communication between agencies. Additional DCP (Crime) Shailendra Chouhan stressed the need for a universal refund mechanism and suggested that primary inquiries be conducted at the bank level to expedite investigations. He highlighted

that the legal requirement of a court order to release victims' funds often discourages people from pursuing small-value fraud cases due to the time and expenses involved. The session focused on the importance of early intervention, warning that delays in reporting allow cybercriminals to transfer funds across accounts and evade detection. Officials discussed the need for synchronized response protocols to reduce investigation timelines from 72 hours to under 24 hours in priority cases. Participants were also informed about customer rights and the RBI Ombudsman's complaint resolution process. The event marked a significant step toward building a unified and proactive defense against cyber fraud, promoting stronger collaboration between banks and police forces.

Vacancies for paralegal volunteers

Indore: Indore District Court will appoint paralegal volunteers to promote legal aid schemes and offer free legal assistance to marginalised and underprivileged communities across the district. Eligible applicants include socially active individuals with no political affiliation, retired government servants, law students, MSW graduates, doctors, anganwadi workers, women's group members and municipal or self-help group volunteers. Those from remote and vulnerable communities will also be considered. Volunteers will help spread awareness about initiatives run by the National and State Legal Services Authorities. Judge and Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Indore, Shivraj Singh Gawli, said these roles are honorary and unpaid, though volunteers may receive an honorarium. Interested candidates can apply by visiting the District Legal Services Authority office in Indore.

Ujjain hosts inaugural meeting of Div Bodybuilding Association

PNS ■ Ujjain

The first general meeting for the formation of the Divisional Bodybuilding Association was held at Aashirwad Garden in Ujjain under the guidance of the Madhya Pradesh State Bodybuilding Association. Representatives from all seven districts of the division — Neemuch, Mandsaur, Ratlam, Ujjain, Shajapur, Dewas, and Agar — participated, with three representatives from each district attending. The association was unanimously formed as per the direction of the State Bodybuilding Association, with all positions filled unopposed. Vaibhav Yadav, President of the Ujjain District Badminton Association, was the chief guest at the event, which was presided over by Chairman Prem Singh Yadav. Social worker Dr. Ravindra Solanki attended as the special guest. Vaibhav Yadav was honored for his significant contributions to sports. In his address, he said, "Soldiers and sportspersons raise the honor of the national flag through their valor, courage, and discipline. No one is a bigger star than a sportsperson."

The welcome address was delivered by Jitendra Singh Kushwaha, former Mr. India (Civil Services) and President of the State Unit. The event was coordinated by Shailendra Vyas, popularly known as "Swami Muskurake." The newly elected divisional team includes Maqbool Warsi of Shajapur as president, Shailendra Singh Sisodiya of Mandsaur as general secretary, and Arjun Pandit of Neemuch as treasurer. Vice presidents are Amit Kanojia (Ujjain), Lokesh Bhargav (Mandsaur), Mehboob Khan (Neemuch), Khuman Singh Base (Dewas), and Rajkumar Shinde (Ratlam). Joint secretaries are Kirtish Jain (Mandsaur), Sanjay Sulania (Nagda), Anil Chavand (Ujjain), Imran Pathan (Neemuch), and Murtaza Multani (Agar). The election officers included Akbar Sheikh Aju (Dewas) as chief election officer, with Samir Vyas (Indore) and engineer Gajendra Mehta (Ujjain) serving as assistant election officers. Vaibhav Yadav administered the oath of sportsmanship to the newly formed Divisional Bodybuilding Association, emphasizing the values of discipline and dedication essential to the spirit of sports.

Tiger mauls two herders in BTR

Bhopal: A tiger attacked two herders in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) on Wednesday morning. One of them is reported to have suffered critical injuries. The incident occurred in the Panpatha Range near Rani Machan, deep in the Gangital area of the reserve. The herders had entered the forest early to locate missing cattle. The animals had strayed the previous afternoon and hadn't returned. Brajban Singh, 38, and Aditya Singh, 17, set off at first light with another herder to search. As they moved through dense forest undergrowth, a tiger sprang out from the bushes. It mauled Brajban on the back, waist and neck; Aditya was bitten on his hand. The third herder escaped unharmed and ran to alert villagers, who rushed to help. The Forest Department was informed, and both injured men were taken to Manpur Health Centre. Doctors said Brajban's injuries are more serious, but both victims are now out of danger. Forest officials have warned residents against entering the jungle due to the risk of further attacks.

Karate players from Gwalior shine at State Championship with seven gold medals

PNS ■ Gwalior

The players of the Karate Do Association of Gwalior (CAG) delivered a stellar performance at the State Karate Championship held from May 16 to 17 at the Basketball Stadium in Indore, bringing pride to Gwalior by winning 7 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals. Prithviraj Pandey made history by securing a hat-trick of gold medals for the second consecutive time, winning top honors in Individual Kata, Kumite, and Cadets Team Kata events—setting a unique record in the competition. Santosh Pandey, Executive Secretary of the Association, praised the players' outstanding achievements, saying, "The exceptional performance of our athletes has once again highlighted the karate talent of Gwalior on the national stage." In addition to Prithviraj's feat, Aman Sharma, Yogesh Jatav, and Saurabh Kushwaha won gold medals in the Boys Team Kata category, showcasing excellent

coordination. Vidhi Sharma also clinched a gold medal in the Individual Kata event. Sana Khan earned a silver medal in Individual Kumite, narrowly missing gold in a closely contested final, and added a bronze medal in the Kata event. Other bronze medalists included Nisha Khan, Akriti Tomar, and Anushka Bhadoria, further boosting Gwalior's medal tally. Santosh Pandey confirmed that all gold medalists from the championship will represent Madhya Pradesh at the upcoming KIO National Karate Championship, organized by the Karate India Organization (KIO) and recognized by the International Karate Federation. The national event is scheduled from June 10 to 14 at the Indoor Stadium in Dehradun. Karate Do Association of Gwalior President Keshav Pandey, Vice President Aditya Bhadoria, and other officials congratulated the players and coaches on their remarkable success and wished them the best for the national competition.



BJP State President VD Sharma pays tributes to Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar during her 300th birth anniversary celebrations in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Simhastha projects must be completed promptly: CM

Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has emphasized the need for the swift completion of all infrastructure projects related to Simhastha 2028. He directed that every task should have a defined timeline and activities must proceed accordingly. All office-level processes should be completed before the onset of the monsoon so that construction can begin immediately afterward. If

there is a shortage of technical officers or staff in Ujjain Municipal Corporation, the Development Authority, or other construction agencies, it should be resolved through deputation from other departments. Dr. Yadav highlighted that a large number of devotees are expected to travel by rail, with Mahakaleshwar, Omkareshwar, and the Pashupatinath Temple

in Mandsaur serving as major centers of pilgrimage. Therefore, in addition to road connectivity, efficient coordination with the Railways is essential to ensure smooth rail traffic and comfortable travel for pilgrims. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the third meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Simhastha 2028, held at the Mantralaya under his chairmanship.

On the cusp of change: Planning Bhopal’s metropolitan future

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Bhopal is preparing for a major transformation. With the Madhya Pradesh government passing the Metropolitan Planning and Development Act, 2025, the city is set to become the centre of a new metropolitan region. This change has the potential to reshape how people live, work, and move across five districts covering nearly 9,000 sq km. From students in Berasia to traders in Sehore and daily-wage workers in Raisen, the shift to the Bhopal Metropolitan Region (BMR) will touch every section of society. But the promise of progress will only hold if growth is inclusive, sustainable, and mindful of the region's people and environment. Bhopal is still counted among

India's cleaner Tier II cities, a reputation worth protecting. However, the city's air is under pressure. Traffic congestion, rising vehicle numbers, and open burning at roadside eateries are adding to pollution. If the BMR is to remain breathable, investments must focus on clean mobility, including electric buses, a well-run metro, and stronger enforcement of emission standards. Water security is a serious concern. Lakes are shrinking, borewells are multiplying, and groundwater is falling. A 2023 report by the Central Ground Water Board flagged consistent decline in the water table. This calls for urgent action: preserving lake catchments, creating rainwater recharge zones, and expanding solar-powered water pumping. Wastewater must be treated through decentralised systems that reduce the

load on ageing infrastructure. As towns around Bhopal join the metropolitan fold, land prices will rise. Without clear rules, this could force low- and middle-income families to the far edges of the city. The solution lies in zoning that supports affordable homes near transit routes. New plans must support housing for all income groups to avoid future slums and long commutes. With a literacy rate of over 83 percent and a large youth population, education will shape the BMR's future. Schools alone will not be enough; what is needed is an updated curriculum, skilled teachers, and better digital access in semi-urban areas. Institutions such as MANIT, AIIMS and IISER offer a good base, but planners must think beyond city limits. Skill centres and industry-linked campuses in smaller

towns could unlock local talent and reduce migration. Bhopal's weather is becoming harder to predict, with heat-waves, sudden storms and unseasonal rainfall becoming more common. The Meteorological Department expects these patterns to intensify. That means building differently, with permeable surfaces, rooftop solar, and rain-water harvesting. These should be standard for all new projects, not afterthoughts. Green corridors and shaded walkways must be part of daily life, not limited to upscale neighbourhoods. The new metro will only succeed if it connects smoothly to city buses, autos and pedestrian paths. Expanding road links can boost business in the region, but not at the cost of safety or community life. Planners must be more sensi-

tive to the needs of pedestrians, especially those with disabilities. For a region this large, doorstep governance is an absolute must. Without citizen involvement, a metropolitan authority risks becoming a distant, bureaucratic body. Citizen charters, ward-level planning, and digital complaint systems can keep decision-making open and responsive. People must feel they are part of the process, not just subject to it. While there is no doubt that Bhopal's tryst with a metropolitan destiny can bring prosperity, learning and pride, the outcome will largely depend on administrators. They will have to ensure that growth is not simply planned for the sake of statistics, but shaped around the lived realities of the city's residents.



Congress party workers stage a protest against the contract for the Bhopal and Indore metros with the Turkish firm Asis Guard, following reports that drones manufactured by it were allegedly used by Pakistan in anti-India operations during Operation Sindoor, at Bhopal Metro Rail Project office in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



BJP Mahila Morcha workers participate in a rally during Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar's 300th birth anniversary celebrations, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

BMC truck kills motorcyclist, driver flees

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

A 32-year-old man died on the spot after being hit and crushed by a speeding Bhopal Municipal Corporation truck at Prabhat intersection on Wednesday morning. The truck driver fled the scene immediately after the accident, and police have launched a search to apprehend him. According to police, the victim, Subhash Vishwakarma, was a professional driver and left for work as usual on Wednesday morning. The accident occurred near Subhash Petrol Pump when a high-speed truck collided with his motorcycle from the front. Subhash jumped off his bike

during the collision but was tragically run over by the truck's wheels. Local residents rushed to help, but the truck driver had already fled the spot. Police seized the vehicle and registered a case in connection with the incident. Subhash was the sole earning member of his family and the only son among four siblings. His elderly father is currently battling tuberculosis. Family members expressed concern over the financial crisis they now face following his untimely death. Subhash remained unmarried due to his family responsibilities. Authorities continue their efforts to locate the truck driver and ensure justice is served.

District health meeting focuses on service expansion

Bhopal: At a district health committee meeting on Wednesday, Collector Kaushlendra Vikram Singh directed health and municipal departments to accelerate Ayushman Bharat card issuance for citizens over 70 years of age. He said hospitals must also ensure Ayushman and ABHA IDs are provided to all senior citizens visiting OPDs. Outreach expansions to cover shelter home residents, prisoners, working women, newspaper hawkers, city bus staff and the elderly were reviewed. Awareness drives on child health and organ donation were highlighted. Health officials informed that seventy-seven Gram Panchayats have been declared TB-free. Over 11.9 lakh Ayushman Bharat cards have been issued. Antenatal care

(ANC) registration has surpassed targets, reaching 110%, with most registrations in the first trimester. Maternity schemes have covered 10,983 women under the Chief Minister's scheme and 14,380 under Janani Suraksha. More than 28,000 ANC tests were conducted under the extended safe motherhood campaign. Infant immunisation rates are at 97% for MR-1 and 92% for MR-2, with full immunisation exceeding 110%. Special Newborn Care Units at JP and Katju hospitals treated 1,036 newborns, while stabilisation units at Bairagarh, Berasia and Kolar hospitals treated 785 infants. Seventeen teams under the National Child Health Programme conducted free surg-

eries for heart defects, cleft lips, club foot and other conditions. Screening in private schools covered over 1.75 lakh children. Five Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres treated 791 malnourished children. Safe abortion services are now available at 118 centres across the district. Training initiatives were conducted on suicide prevention, dog handling and the health effects of climate change. Health teams also contributed to PM Shri Air Ambulance and the Global Investors Summit. The Collector instructed that Sanjeevani Clinics be strengthened to reduce patient load on major hospital OPDs. Existing programmes targeting TB, leprosy, blindness, tobacco use and vector-borne diseases were also reviewed.

Ex-BJP MLA falls victim to ATM cloning fraud

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

A case of ATM card cloning involving former BJP MLA Ramkishan Chauhan, has come to fore from Arera Colony, Bhopal, after fraudulent withdrawals totaling Rs 6.83 lakh were made from his bank account. The incident has raised serious concerns about ATM security and digital banking fraud in the city. The Cyber Crime Branch, Bhopal, has registered a case based on Chauhan's complaint and launched a detailed investigation. According to police reports, Ramkishan Chauhan, a former MLA from the Bhojpur assembly seat, holds an account with Punjab National Bank. On May 5, Chauhan received a transaction alert for Rs 92 from his bank account, which

prompted him to visit the bank and review his account statement. To his shock, he discovered that Rs 6.83 lakh had been withdrawn in 54 separate transactions between February 2 and May 1. Further investigation revealed that Chauhan had withdrawn money from an ATM in Arera Colony in February, during which his card was likely cloned. The cloned card was then used to carry out multiple unauthorized transactions. Police officials are currently reviewing CCTV footage from the ATM booth to identify the suspects involved in the fraud. The case highlights increasing vulnerabilities faced by bank customers in the digital age, particularly concerning ATM skimming and card cloning tactics employed by cybercriminals.

Authorities have urged citizens to exercise caution while using ATMs, regularly monitor account statements, and report any suspicious transactions immediately. The Cyber Crime Branch is also coordinating with banking officials to strengthen security measures and prevent further such incidents. Meanwhile, Chauhan's case is being treated with priority, with police assuring a thorough probe and swift action against the culprits. Experts suggest that users should adopt additional security practices such as covering the keypad while entering the PIN, avoiding unknown or suspicious ATMs, and using banking apps' alert services to stay informed of transactions in real time. The investigation into this case continues as police work to apprehend those responsible.

Five teams qualify for final round of physiology quiz at AIIMS Bhopal

Bhopal: AIIMS Bhopal's Department of Physiology successfully organized the 6th edition of the National Undergraduate Physiology Quiz on May 19 and 20, 2025, bringing together thirty-five teams from medical colleges across India to foster knowledge-sharing and academic excellence among undergraduate students. The competition began with two online screening rounds. The first round on May 19 shortlisted the top 10 teams, which advanced to the second screening round on May 20. From these, five teams qualified for the final round, scheduled to be held in person on May 30, 2025, at AIIMS Bhopal. The teams that secured their place in the finals include two pairs from AIIMS Bhopal—Pranjali Khatri and Vedant Amalthe, Manav Khatri and Nayan Pandey—along with

Mann Tyagi and Avika Jain from Mahatma Vidur Autonomous State Medical College; Garvit Gupta and Ritika Malik from AIIMS Raebareilly; and Hargunvir Saini and Manmeet Singh Lailar from Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh. Prof. Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, highlighted the significance of such academic initiatives in enhancing critical thinking, conceptual clarity, and healthy competition among future healthcare professionals. He noted that the quiz not only celebrates academic excellence but also encourages collaboration, innovation, and leadership in medical education. The final round promises to be a dynamic intellectual exchange, and AIIMS Bhopal looks forward to welcoming the talented teams on its campus for the concluding event.

Rajgarh distt ranks first in water conservation works

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Rajgarh district has secured the top position in Madhya Pradesh under the Jal Ganga Conservation Campaign by completing the highest number of water structure constructions in the state. The district has earned a score of 81.60 out of 100 so far. Rajgarh has initiated the highest number of works under the Amrit Sarovar target, surpassing its goal and leading the state. Similarly, the district is ranked first in the state for initiating farm pond works beyond the assigned target. On the My Bharat portal, over 10,186 activities have been conducted against the youth registration target of 5,400. Due to these efforts, Rajgarh currently holds the top spot in the state with an overall

ranking score of 81.60. Under the leadership of Collector Dr. Girish Kumar Mishra, the district has undertaken significant water conservation works through the MNREGA scheme. Rajgarh received a target of constructing 18 Amrit Sarovar ponds, and site selection for all 19 ponds (exceeding the target) has been completed using the SIPRI app and entries uploaded on the Government of India's Amrit Sarovar portal. Construction of all these ponds has started. Additionally, Rajgarh has surpassed the target of constructing 1,866 farm ponds, finalizing 1,989 locations via the SIPRI mobile app, and construction has already begun. Against the target of 3,500 well recharge structures, 3,600 sites have been selected and work has begun on

3,165 of them. For well recharge structures alone, the district has received 18 out of 20 points in the state-level rankings for initiating 3,165 works out of the 3,500 target. Rajgarh currently ranks second in the state for initiating farm pond works. In Jodhpur village of Sohagpur in Shahdol, the flow of the Murna River had dried up. As part of the Jal Ganga Conservation Campaign, the Jodhpur Committee of the Jan Abhiyan Parishad and the local Gram Panchayat constructed a bori bandhan (sandbag barrier) in a pre-existing stop dam near the cremation ground. Thanks to voluntary labor (shramdaan), water levels in the river began to rise steadily. By the next morning, the river was brimming with water, bringing joy not

only to the villagers but also to local wildlife. The river now has ample water for drinking and daily needs. The Jal Ganga Samvardhan Campaign is actively being implemented in Dewas district as well. Water conservation efforts are being carried out by urban bodies and Gram Panchayats, with the campaign continuing until June 30, 2025, to conserve every drop of water. This includes construction and deepening of water structures. As part of the initiative, the Meetha Talab located in Rajoda, Dewas was cleaned and beautified. Tree plantations were also done along the pond's banks. In Umaria district, a bori bandhan was built in the Bhandari River by the Municipal Council of Manpur under the Jal Ganga Conservation Campaign.

Sindoor yatra to be held by women

Bhopal: A grand Sindoor Yatra will be organized by the women of Govindpura Assembly constituency in Bhopal on May 22, 2025. The procession will begin at 4:00 pm from Yadav Tea Stall in Indrapuri and conclude at 6:00 pm at Piplani Petrol Pump. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare, Krishna Gaur, said that thousands of women are expected to participate in this massive Sindoor Yatra, which has been organized by citizens to promote national security. The yatra will feature key attractions including a tableau of the BrahMos missile, a live tableau of Bharat Mata (Mother India), and a performance by the NCC band, among others.

Chief Minister reviews preparations for PM’s visit

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi firmly believes that the progress of the nation and its states is incomplete without the advancement of women. In line with this vision, under the framework of “Gyan ke Sutra” (Threads of Knowledge), the Prime Minister has placed special emphasis on women empowerment. As part of this initiative, PM Modi will visit Bhopal on May 31 to participate in the ‘Mahila Sammelan’ (Women’s Convention). The ‘Mahila Sammelan’, held to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, will focus on women empowerment and self-reliance. More than two lakh women are expected to attend, making it a record-setting event. Dr. Yadav reviewed preparations at Jamboree Ground, including traffic management and seating arrangements. He emphasized ensur-

ing adequate seating, food, drinking water, and cleanliness at the venue, considering the large number of participants. Dr. Yadav also shared that an exhibition will be organized during the event to showcase various activities related to women empowerment and self-reliance, particularly highlighting efforts by self-help groups and skill development programs. The legacy of Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai, a symbol of good governance, will be honored through dis-

plays of public welfare schemes being implemented across the state to improve citizens' quality of life. The Chief Minister made these remarks during a media interaction after inspecting the preparations at Jamboree Ground (BHEL) for the Prime Minister's visit.

THE PIONEER

CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

1. hitherto known as Brijesh Kumar S/o Jageshwar, R/o Vill.-Shahpura, PO-Shahpura, Shahpura, Dindori, Shahpura Niwas, Dindori, Madhya Pradesh-481990, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vipin Kumar.

PD(2072)C

Change of Name

This is to inform the general public that my son Shivam Chouhan, son of Gulabchand Chouhan, resident of Village Guzarkhedi, Tehsil Punasa, District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, has his name wrongly recorded as Sumit in his Aadhaar Card. However, his correct name Shivam Chouhan is duly mentioned in his 10th and 12th mark sheets and all educational records. Therefore, it is hereby notified that in the future, my son shall be known and recognized by the name Shivam Chouhan only.

Gulabchand Chouhan
Village Guzarkhedi, Tehsil Punasa, District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh

AARTECH SOLONICS LIMITED					
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STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31 st MARCH 2025					
(₹ in Lakhs except EPS)					
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31-Mar-25	31-Dec-24	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-25
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	957.16	1,029.18	1,034.64	3,903.32
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items and/or Extraordinary items)	(337.57)	141.38	61.21	144.99
3.	Net Profit / ((Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items and/or Extraordinary items)	(337.57)	141.38	61.21	144.99
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items Extraordinary items)	(249.97)	180.07	13.86	204.37
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax]]	(251.48)	180.07	17.44	202.87
6.	Equity Share Capital	1 588.52	1 588.52	1,059.01	1 588.52
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year				1,653.97
8.	Earnings per share (of Rs. 5/- each) (for Continuing and Discontinuing Operations)				
- Basic (₹)	(0.79)	0.57	0.04	0.64	0.45
- Diluted (₹)	(0.79)	0.57	0.04	0.64	0.45

STATEMENT OF AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31 st MARCH 2025					
(₹ in Lakhs except EPS)					
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		31-Mar-25	31-Dec-24	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-25
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
9.	Total Income from Operations	984.07	1,041.41	1,025.29	3,933.17
10.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items and/or Extraordinary items)	(291.60)	145.72	50.50	171.48
11.	Net Profit / ((Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items and/or Extraordinary items)	(289.59)	145.72	49.92	173.49
12.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items Extraordinary items)	(162.55)	183.83	(38.19)	276.42
13.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax]]	(164.06)	183.83	(34.61)	274.92
14.	Equity Share Capital	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,059.01	1,588.52
15.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year				1,557.04
16.	Earnings per share (of Rs. 5/- each) (for Continuing and Discontinuing Operations)				
- Basic (₹)	(0.51)	0.58	(0.12)	0.87	0.41
- Diluted (₹)	(0.51)	0.58	(0.12)	0.87	0.41

Notes:

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2025 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and year ended financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) viz www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and the website of the company www.aartechsolonics.com

b) The above Audited standalone and consolidated financial results along with Auditor's report were reviewed by the audit committee and thereafter approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 21st May, 2025. The auditors have issued unqualified audit opinion on these results. The IndAS compliant financial results were subjected to audit. However, the management has exercised due diligence to ensure that the financial results provide a true and fair view of its affair.

c) During the year ended 31st march, 2025, the company undertook a share split and issued bonus shares to the existing shareholders. In accordance with IND AS 33- Earning Per Share, the Earning Per Share (EPS) figures have been restated for all comparative periods presented to reflect the increase in the number of shares outstanding resulting from this corporate action. This restatement ensures comparability of EPS across periods, consistent with the requirement of IND AS.

d) Figures for previous period / year have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever necessary to conform to the current period presentation.

Place: Bhopal
Date: 21st May, 2025

For AARTECH SOLONICS LIMITED

Sd/- Amit Anil Raj,

Chairman and Managing Director (DIN: 00282385)

Nationalism completely vanished in Congress: BJP



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The BJP on Wednesday flayed the Congress over its allegation that the Government decided to send multi-party delegations to various countries to divert public attention from “tough questions”, saying nationalism has completely vanished in the opposition party.

The ruling BJP also lashed out at other constituents of the Opposition INDIA bloc over the recent remarks of some of their leaders on the Indo-Pak conflict, accusing them of “behaving like the Popular Front of Pakistan” at a time when they should have shown solidarity while keeping in mind India’s interest.

This came after Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi suddenly thought of sending multi-party delegations to visit different countries to divert attention from the tough questions he is being called to answer, while his image globally has been “shattered”.

Reacting sharply, BJP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi accused the Congress

The Congress is forced to make such a statement in frustration as it is not being able to ask for proof (of Indian military action). Nationalism has completely vanished from the eyes of the Congress

SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI, BJP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON

delegations) are displaying unity,” he said, without naming Rahul Gandhi.

“In some issues, the mindsets of Pakistan and the Congress are the same. Pakistan Army chief promoted as Field Marshal despite losing the war. In Congress also, people become Field Marshal after losing elections,” he said.

Trivedi said that all statements of “INDI Alliance” are being quoted in Pakistani media, the Pakistan national assembly, Pakistan army’s briefing and even in the dossiers being prepared by Pakistan against India.

“INDIA Alliance has started behaving like the Popular Front of Pakistan. Just having the name ‘India Alliance’ does not make you an Indian at heart,” he said.

Trivedi urged the Congress and other opposition leaders to rise above partisan politics and refrain from making such remarks when an all-party delegation is going abroad to convey India’s strong stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

“They should showcase India’s solidarity, keep control over their emotions at least for some time, and keep vote bank politics separate from national interest,” he said.

Trivedi said the BJP’s policy is clear that on such occasions, “we have to rise above party lines and show India’s unity on the international platform, whether we are in the Opposition or in the government”.

“When we were in opposition in 1995, Pakistan was bringing a proposal on Kashmir in Geneva. Our then Leader of opposition Atal Bihari Vajpayee had supported then Prime Minister PV Narashimha Rao in Geneva and also gave credit to his government,” he said.

leader of “belittling” the government’s effort to convey India’s strong stand against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

“The Congress is forced to make such a statement in frustration as it is not being able to ask for proof (of Indian military action). Nationalism has completely vanished from the eyes of the Congress,” he told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, when asked about Ramesh’s allegations.

“From the statements of Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Jairam Ramesh, it appears that they are trying to outdo each other in the race to gain popularity in Pakistan,” the BJP leader charged. Jairam’s remarks are an “insult” to all Members of Parliament (MPs), he alleged.

“They (Congress leaders) are engaged in a PR exercise for Pakistan while diluting the serious efforts of India by calling it diversionary tactics and a PR exercise,” the BJP leader said.

“Your leader either used to go abroad to draw attention (of the foreign forces) towards India or divide India. Every time he went abroad, he made statements to divide the country. It is for the first time that all party leaders (who are part of the

‘Government preparing dossier while terrorists remain at large’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Congress on Wednesday said India got the support of countries following the 26/11 attack as the perpetrators were killed and one was arrested but after the Pahalgam attack, the Government is sending diplomatic delegations abroad and preparing a dossier while the terrorists remain at large.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh lashed out at the BJP for its criticism of Rahul Gandhi and said it should instead channel its energies to target Pakistan and China.

“The BJP must answer who gave a clean chit to Mohammad Ali Jinnah and praised him? Jaswant Singh and LK Advani had lauded him and called him a great leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had taken out the Lahore bus yatra and it was none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had gone to Lahore to break bread with Nawaz Sharif,” Ramesh said here..

He also recalled that it was former prime minister Morarji Desai who got Pakistan’s highest civilian honour ‘Nishan-e-Pakistan’. The BJP must recall that Desai’s cabinet had Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the external affairs minister, he added.

Hitting out at the government, Ramesh asked why the terrorists behind the April 22 Pahalgam attack had not been arrested even a month after the incident. He pointed out that the terrorists who carried out the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks were killed and one was arrested, due to which India got the support of countries across the globe.

“Look at the current situation, we are preparing a dossier and sending diplomatic delegations abroad but the terrorists are at large. They must be arrested and interrogated, that is the real issue,” he said.

Ramesh’s remarks come amid a war of words between the Congress and the BJP over their leaders’ statements on the India-Pakistan conflict. The BJP called Congress leader Rahul Gandhi “modern



Jairam Ramesh

age Mir Jafar” and the opposition party hit back, describing External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as “new age Jaichand”. The two parties have traded barbs over their remarks on Operation Sindoor and also posted memes on social media, each suggesting that the other has betrayed the nation.

The Congress and Rahul Gandhi have attacked Jaishankar, alleging that he forewarned Pakistan about Operation Sindoor. It also asked how many planes India lost and how many terrorists escaped from their camps in Pakistan due to the minister’s “warning”.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives.

India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7, following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian side responded strongly to the Pakistani actions.

The hostilities ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations of both sides on May 10.

Existing cowsheds to be expanded, says Delhi CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta met dairy owners on Wednesday and assured them that the existing cowsheds (gaushalas) will be expanded and new ones will be established.

She held a high-level meeting at the Delhi Secretariat with representatives of all authorised dairies, gaushala representatives and senior officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Animal Husbandry Department, an official statement said. The meeting focused on reviewing the current state of gaushalas operating in the capital, the growing issue of stray cattle, and the dire condition of authorised dairy colonies, with an aim to ensure quick and effective solutions, it added.

Expressing concern over the rising presence of stray cows on Delhi’s roads, she alleged that this is the result of years of negligence and false promises by the previous government. “We are focusing on both citizen safety and animal welfare by ensuring proper management, shelter, and care. It is also our moral responsibility to ensure that animals shifted from the streets to gaushalas receive the care they deserve,” she added. The statement said comprehensive steps are being taken to ensure proper sanitation, fodder, medical care and shelter for animals.

She said a budget of Rs 40 crore has been allocated for the establishment of a state-of-the-art ‘Model Gaushala’ in Delhi. This gaushala will be equipped with modern facilities for cow protection, dairy production and veterinary care.

Gupta announced that considering the current situation, the government will now work on a concrete action plan to find a permanent solution. She stated that Wednesday’s meeting concluded with the decision to equip all authorised dairies with basic infrastructure such as drinking water, drainage, sanitation and sewage systems.



PM Modi pays tributes to Rajiv Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 34th death anniversary. In a social media, Modi said, “On his death anniversary today, I pay my tributes to our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji”.

Rajiv Gandhi was the last Congress Prime Minister to have headed a majority government, from 1984 to 1989. He was assassinated by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Sri Lanka-based terrorist organisation, on this day in 1991 while campaigning at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. His son Rahul Gandhi is currently the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

The Congress paid rich tributes to Rajiv Gandhi with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying his visionary and courageous interventions were instrumental in preparing India for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi also paid floral tributes to Rajiv Gandhi at his memorial at Vir Bhumi here.

In a social media post in Hindi, Rahul Gandhi said, “Papa, your memories guide me at every step. My resolution is to make your unfulfilled dreams come true - and I will do so”.

Paying homage to Rajiv Gandhi, Kharge said he was a great son of India and inspired hope among millions of Indians. “His visionary and courageous interventions were instrumental in preparing India for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century,” Kharge said in his social media post.

“These include lowering the voting age to 18, strengthening Panchayati Raj, spearheading the Telecom and IT revolution, implementing a computerisation programme, securing sustained peace accords, launching a universal immunisation program and introducing a new education policy focused on inclusive learning,” he said. “Our deepest respects to the Former PM, Bharat Ratna, Rajiv Gandhi on his martyrdom day,” Kharge added.

SC grants anticipatory bail to ex- IAS probationer Puja Khedkar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Is she a drug lord or a terrorist? The Supreme Court asked Delhi Police on Wednesday as it granted anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits in the civil services examination.

A bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma directed Khedkar to fully cooperate in the probe cautioning against any misuse of her liberty. She was ordered not to influence witnesses or tamper with the evidence.

“What is the grave crime she has committed? She is not a drug lord or a terrorist. She has not committed 302 (murder). She is not an NDPS offender. You should have a system or a software. You complete the investigation. She has lost everything and will not get a job anywhere,” the bench said.

The top court went on, “The appellant is entitled to the relief claimed under Section 482 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. We, therefore, allow this appeal and set aside the order passed by the high court.”

The relief was allowed on a cash security of ₹25,000 with two like sureties.

Delhi Police was, however, allowed to move for cancellation of the anticipatory bail in case of any violation of conditions.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing on behalf of Khedkar, said the investigation had been going on since July, 2024 and cited his client’s complete

cooperation in the probe. Khedkar was stated to have appeared seven times before the police.

Luthra contended the high court ought to have granted bail given the nature of offences and bearing in mind the facts and circumstances of the case.

The Delhi Police counsel opposed the plea citing Khedkar’s non-cooperation in the probe. The lawyer said Khedkar had exceeded the attempts of appearing in the civil services exam on the basis of a disability certificate, which she procured fraudulently.

On January 15, the top court granted her protection from arrest and sought the response of Delhi government and the Union Public Service Commission on her plea seeking anticipatory bail.

Khedkar is accused of misrepresenting facts in her application for the 2022 UPSC civil services examination for availing herself of reservation benefits. She refuted all the allegations against her.

While dismissing her anticipatory bail plea, the high court found a strong prima facie case against Khedkar, indicating the need for an investigation to unearth the “larger conspiracy” to manipulate the system. Khedkar was granted the interim protection from arrest when the high court issued a notice on her anticipatory bail plea on August 12, 2024, extending it from time to time.

The UPSC initiated a series of actions against Khedkar, including lodging of a criminal case, for availing attempts in the civil services exam by faking her identity, while Delhi Police lodged an FIR against her for various offences.

Swamy urges Haryana CM to probe into Ashoka University’s corruption, sedition charges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy urged for “State oversight” on Ashoka University, citing series of allegations of corruption, financial frauds, mysterious death of two students and indoctrination of students with anti-national, separatist, or seditious viewpoints. In a detailed letter to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, Swamy pointed out that certain promoters of the University is facing charges of money laundering charges of ₹1,627 crore, tax evasions and rampant use of narcotics in campus.

“However, reliable sources suggest widespread consumption of narcotics, including cannabis and other intoxicants, within the campus premises, which point towards systematic failure of university authorities in upholding the law and maintaining a safe academic environment. The gravity of the situation is further exacerbated by the arrest of a university faculty member, one Ali Khan Mahmudabad, by Haryana Police for inflammatory social media remarks related to national security (Operation Sindoor). The fact that such individuals are entrusted with mentoring students calls into question the institution’s hiring practices and its adherence to constitutional values and public order,” said Swamy in a detailed five page complaint to Haryana Chief Minister.

Swamy accused Ashoka University for “indoctrination of students with anti-national, separatist, or seditious view-



points” There is growing public concern that certain faculty members and administrative influencers at Ashoka University have been actively involved in promoting ideologically driven narratives that are antithetical to the interests of the Indian Republic. Repeated instances of indoctrination of students with anti-national, separatist, or seditious viewpoints, often disguised as academic discourse, appear to be the norm. These actions appear to systematically undermine the constitutional ethos, national unity and the spirit of responsible citizenship. Such ideological subversion, especially when directed at impressionable young minds under the garb of liberal education, poses a grave threat to the moral and intellectual fabric of our nation and must be investigated with the seriousness it deserves, alleged the BJP leader.

“It must be stressed that Ashoka University’s founding trustees include Pranav Gupta and Vineet Gupta, both of

whom were arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in 2023 in connection with a ₹1,627 crore bank fraud related to Parabolic Drugs Ltd. This fraudulent scheme is also being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Serious questions arise regarding the source of funds channelled into the university and whether Ashoka University has served as a conduit for laundering illicit proceeds.

“There are mounting concerns that funds meant for academic purposes are being systematically siphoned off through opaque financial structures, which appears to be confirmed by members of faculty in the public domain. There is an urgent need to examine whether the university and its related entities have evaded taxes, violated FEMA regulations, or misappropriated donations collected from Indian and foreign sources under false pretences, said Swamy demanding need for urgent State oversight on Ashoka University.

Indian Navy inducts 5th century ancient stitched ship as INSV Kaundinya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Indian Navy on Wednesday formally inducted and named the Ancient Stitched Ship as ‘INSV Kaundinya’ at a ceremonial event held at Naval Base, Karwar. Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat presided over the event marking the culmination of an extraordinary project that celebrates India’s rich shipbuilding heritage, defence ministry said here. Named after Kaundinya, the legendary Indian mariner who sailed across the Indian Ocean to Southeast Asia, the ship serves as a tangible symbol of India’s long-standing traditions of maritime exploration, trade and cultural exchange.

‘INSV Kaundinya’ is a stitched sail ship, based on a 5th century CE ship depicted in the paintings of Ajanta Caves. The project was initiated through a tripartite agreement signed in July 2023 between Ministry of Culture, the Indian Navy and M/s Hodi Innovations, with funding from Ministry of Culture.

Following the keel laying in September 2023 (the vessel’s construction was undertaken using a traditional method of stitching by a team of skilled artisans from Kerala, led by master shipwright Babu



Sankaran. Over several months, the team painstakingly stitched wooden planks on the ship’s hull using coir rope, coconut fibre and natural resin. The ship was launched in February this year at Goa.

The Indian Navy played a central role in the project, overseeing the design, technical validation and construction process. With no surviving blueprints of such ves-

Waqf case: Nobody has right over Government land, Centre to SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that nobody can claim right over Government land and it is legally empowered to reclaim properties which are declared Waqf by using the Waqf by user principle.

Waqf by user refers to a concept where a property is recognised as waqf based on its long-term use for religious or charitable purposes, even without formal documentation.

Responding to the submissions challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta commenced advancing his arguments on behalf of the Centre before a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavi and Justice Augustine George Masih. “Nobody has the right over government land,” the top law officer said.

“There is a Supreme Court judgment which says the government can save the property if it belongs to the Government and has been declared as Waqf,” he said.

At the outset, the law officer said no affected parties have moved the court and “it is nobody’s case that Parliament does not have the competence to pass this

legislation.” He referred to the report of the joint parliamentary committee and the fact that many state governments and state Waqf boards were consulted before the Act came into being. The bench sought response from the Centre on the pleas of the petitioners that an officer above the rank of the district collector can decide the claim over waqf properties on the grounds that they are of government.

“This is not just misleading but a false argument,” the law officer said. The hearing in the case is underway.

The Centre, in its written note, strongly defended the Act, saying waqf by its very nature is a “secular concept” and can’t be stayed as there is a “presumption of constitutionality” in its favour.

It addressed the issues the court had previously raised and said the law only sought to regulate secular aspects of waqf administration while safeguarding religious freedom. He said there was no “grave national urgency” calling for its stay. “It is a settled position in law that constitutional courts would not stay a statutory provision, either directly or indirectly, and will decide the matter finally. There is a presumption of constitutionality that applies to laws made by Parliament,” the note said.

‘Yoga is a way to unite body, mind and soul’

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

Amidst the serene 250-acre green expanse of Swarn Jayanti Park, which boasts a scenic 10-kilometer walking trail, a quiet wellness revolution has been quietly flourishing since October 2010.

Every morning from 6.30 to 8.30 am, yoga guru and naturopathy expert Rajesh Shrivastava leads two free batches of yoga training, drawing hundreds of participants seeking holistic health.

A diploma holder in yoga and naturopathy and post-graduate in yoga and human medical science, Shrivastava has dedicated his life to promoting yoga as a comprehensive path to physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. “Yoga is not merely a practice; it is a way to unite body, mind and soul,” he explains.

Under his stewardship, the Yoga Dharam Sadhana Kendra in Swarn Jayanti Park has become a sanctuary for wellness seekers of all ages. “Our sessions have empowered thousands, helping students unlock their potential, cultivate discipline, and enhance both mental and physical health,” Shrivastava said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person gatherings were restricted, Shrivastava swiftly transitioned to online sessions, ensuring continuity in



service and community engagement. His commitment remained steadfast despite the challenges.

Shrivastava is particularly focused on stress management, especially for students facing board and competitive examinations. He conducts special summer sessions annually for the students, with this year’s scheduled from June 1 to June 15.

His expertise spans Patanjali’s Ashtanga Yoga, Yoga Nidra, Vipassana Dhyana, Pranayama, Kriya Yoga, as well as techniques for weight loss and lifestyle disease management. Many participants have reported significant improvements in conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders and migraines through

yoga and diet alone. “Yoga empowers, nourishes, and heals. My mission is to make this ancient gift accessible to everyone,” Shrivastava emphasized. Each morning, approximately 80 participants join each of the two one-hour batches.

Recognising the growing community, the Capital Project Administration (CPA), which developed the park, has constructed a dedicated platform and a protective shed for practitioners.

As Bhopal awakens each day, the tranquil surroundings of Swarn Jayanti Park resonate with chants, mindful breathing, and the transformative power of yoga—led by a teacher whose focus remains on healing and service rather than profit.

AIMPLB to relaunch save Waqf campaign

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has decided to revive its nationwide Tahaffuz-e-Awqaf (Protection of Waqf) campaign, suspended earlier due to the sensitive national situation and the aftermath of Operation Sindoor.

The board is preparing for a series of public programmes and rallies across India, aiming to counter what it calls “systematic encroachment and government overreach” into waqf properties following amendments to the Waqf Act.

Addressing the media, Dr Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas, national spokesperson of the AIMPLB and convener of the All India Tahaffuz-e-Awqaf Committee, said the campaign is being resumed after May 16 with renewed urgency.

“After Operation Sindoor and the emergency-like atmosphere in the country, we had postponed all public meetings and dharnas. But the threat to waqf properties remains real and urgent. The government is creating confusion, and we are duty-bound to counter it with facts and public mobilization,” said Dr. Ilyas.

The board has finalised a detailed blueprint of public outreach programs under the Waqf Bachao Andolan banner. The campaign will begin with region-specific rallies and public meetings. A women-focused meeting will be held in Hyderabad on May 22, followed by events in Nizamabad (Telangana) on May 30, Jalgaon (Maharashtra) on May 23, Nanded on May 24, and Aurangabad on May 25.

The board will place special emphasis on Bihar, which is headed for assembly elections. The AIMPLB has tasked Imarat-e-Sharia (Bihar-Odisha-Jharkhand) with organizing awareness programs in Patna, Araria, Kishanganj, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Saharsa, Madhubani, Siwan, and Darbhanga.

The AIMPLB is preparing for a series of public programmes and rallies across India, aiming to counter what it calls “systematic encroachment and government overreach” into Waqf properties following amendments to the Waqf Act

“Bihar is electorally important, and it also has a large number of waqf properties under threat. People need to be made aware of their rights before the state goes to polls,” Dr. Ilyas explained.

Preparations for similar mass mobilization drives are underway in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

The campaign targets the controversial Waqf (Amendment) Act, passed by the Central government and further tightened in subsequent years, most notably with administrative changes and increased government control over waqf properties.

Under the amended law the Waqf Board’s autonomy is curtailed, allowing state and central governments more influence over

the management of waqf properties. Section 52A gives the government powers to remove waqf property managers or “mutawallis” under vague conditions. Section 4 allows for survey and reclassification of waqf lands, leading to alleged wrongful inclusion or exclusion.

“These amendments are not administrative improvements. They are part of a long-term design to seize community assets, particularly those located in prime urban locations,” said Dr. Ilyas. “We are not against regulation, but we are against the erosion of community ownership.”

The AIMPLB’s move comes amid growing concern within the Muslim community about alleged encroachments on waqf properties and the increasing centralization of their administration. Legal experts and minority rights activists have also flagged issues around lack of transparency and inadequate representation on state waqf boards.

The board emphasized that its campaign is peaceful, legal, and aimed at informing the public. “We will organize peaceful rallies, distribute literature, hold public discussions and raise awareness. This is not just about Muslims. This is about safeguarding one of the largest charitable land holdings in the country,” said Dr. Ilyas.

The Tahaffuz-e-Awqaf campaign, which had seen significant participation during its initial phase last year, is now set to gain traction once again, especially in poll-bound states. With heightened political and communal sensitivities in the backdrop, the board’s outreach could trigger wider debates over minority rights and state interference in religious endowments.

Heatwave grips western UP

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

Weather conditions across Uttar Pradesh remain sharply divided, with scorching heat gripping the western and Bundelkhand regions, while thunderstorms and rain lash the eastern districts. Banda emerged as the hottest city in the state this season, recording a searing 46.6°C.

Jhansi also faced extreme heat, with temperatures soaring to 45.4°C. In a tragic incident, a young man reportedly collapsed due to heatstroke and died before reaching the hospital.

In Prayagraj, efforts to prevent power outages include using coolers to lower the temperature of transformers. Meanwhile, in response to the intensifying heat, the Meerut district administration has declared summer vacations for all schools up to Class 8 until May 31. Schools for Classes 9 to 12 will also remain shut if examinations are not being held.

In stark contrast, eastern UP districts experienced strong winds and rain. In Kaushambi, a late-night thunderstorm uprooted hundreds of trees and electricity poles. A tent set up for a mass wedding under a government scheme was blown 200 meters away, and chairs and mattresses were drenched. The event, which was scheduled to host the weddings of 200 couples on Wednesday, has now been postponed to Thursday.

The storm also caused widespread power outages in several areas. Rainfall was recorded in at least eight districts in the past 24 hours, with Maharajganj in Purvanchal witnessing the highest at 11.5 mm.

In Lakhimpur Kheri, a wall collapsed amid rain and high winds on Wednesday

morning, resulting in the tragic death of a father and his 10-year-old daughter. Shrivastava too experienced strong morning showers with gusty winds. In Maharajganj, darkness enveloped the region as early as 8:30 a.m. due to dense clouds and strong winds. Balrampur also recorded heavy rainfall.

Lucknow, while not facing the brunt of the storms, remained under light cloud cover since morning. Meteorologist Atul

In response to the intensifying heat, the Meerut district administration has declared summer vacations for all schools up to Class 8 until May 31. Schools for Classes 9 to 12 will also remain shut if examinations are not being held

Kumar from the Lucknow Met Office attributed the weather fluctuations to moisture-laden easterly winds from the Bay of Bengal. “A new western disturbance and weather system are becoming active over Uttar Pradesh. The moisture inflow from the Bay of Bengal may temporarily reduce the impact of the heatwave in some districts,” he said.

However, he warned that the relief might be short-lived, as temperatures are expected to rise again over the next three to four days. “By the end of this month, temperatures could soar beyond 47°C in some areas,” Kumar added.

As climate variability continues to intensify, both citizens and officials across Uttar Pradesh are bracing for further disruptions in the days ahead.

Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam resembles ghost town after attack

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Pahalgam

One month after the devastating terror attack on April 22 in Pahalgam’s Baisaran Valley, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists, the picturesque hotspot resembles a ghost town.

Armed personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF and Indian Army stand vigilant at multiple checkpoints and patrol the deserted streets, a stark contrast to Pahalgam’s usual vibrancy as a tourist haven.

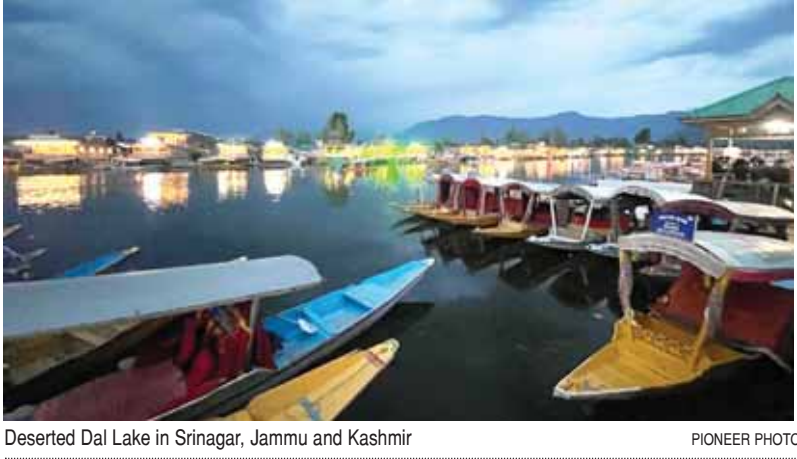
The attack, the deadliest on civilians in India since 2008, has crippled Pahalgam’s tourism-driven economy, leaving local businesses in despair and the region’s iconic charm overshadowed by fear.

“The only people we see are men in uniform,” said Shakeel Ahmad, a local shopkeeper who closed his handicraft store last week. “No tourists, no business—just fear.”

According to the representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir Hotels and Restaurants Association, 90% of hotels in Pahalgam are either shut or operating at single-digit occupancy, with cancellations exceeding 13 lakh bookings through August. Restaurants and tea stalls, once packed with visitors savoring Kashmiri/Punjabi/Chinese cuisine, stand deserted, their owners counting losses. “I used to serve 50-60 customers a day. Now, I’m lucky to see one,” said Shabir Ahmad, a restaurant owner near the Liddar River.

The closure of shops selling Pashmina shawls, saffron, and souvenirs has further deepened the economic gloom, with many vendors relocating to Srinagar in search of alternative livelihoods.

The economic fallout is catastrophic for Pahalgam’s residents, who rely almost entirely on tourism. The attack’s timing,



Deserted Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

PIONEER PHOTO

ahead of the peak summer season, has wiped out hopes of a bustling year, with losses estimated in crores.

The region’s iconic destinations—Gulmarg, Tangmarg, Sonamarg, and Dal Lake, Shankaracharya temple, Boulevard Road, and Lal Chowk—in Srinagar—remain hauntingly empty, as fear continues to deter visitors.

The Jammu region, including pilgrimage sites like Mata Vaishno Devi, Shiv Khori, and tourist hubs like Patnitop, mirrors this bleak reality.

The passenger traffic at Srinagar airport has sharply declined in the last month. Before the Pahalgam terror attack, more than 9000 visitors were landing at the airport. At present, the number has come down to 3000 (average).

The Jammu region transporters, who rely on tourist vehicles to ferry visitors across the region’s scenic routes, are equally distraught. “The highways are empty. We’re running at a loss every day,”

said a taxi driver in Jammu, who requested anonymity. The closure of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway due to landslides in Ramban district in April further compounded the crisis, though it has since reopened for two-way traffic.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, set for July 3, poses a monumental challenge for security forces. With India-Pakistan tensions heightened after “Operation Sindoor”—India’s May 7 missile strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir—and recent LoC skirmishes, ensuring a safe pilgrimage is daunting.

Last week, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar that tourism has been hit quite badly, and we have had very few tourists visiting Kashmir this summer. Right now, our focus is on the Amarnath Yatra — we want it to pass incident-free, and for all the yatris to return safe and sound. After that, we will look into ways to promote

‘Yoga teaches purification before liberation’

ANTARA MOHAN ■ Ranchi

Radha Aggarwal is a Delhi-based holistic healer and coach, with her foundations rooted in traditional Hatha Yoga. From a deeply intellectual academic background to holistic healing, her path has been anything but conventional. Yoga, as she describes, forms her core foundation.

She spent the latter half of her twenties travelling across countries and cultures, working varied jobs, while deepening her understanding of the self through practices like inner child healing, past life regression, Vipassana and other transformative modalities. Her journey eventually led her to the Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Ashram in Kerala, where she not only completed her teacher training but discovered yoga as a way of life.

She volunteered at yoga camps for children, went on to teach yoga internationally — in Italy, across India, and conducted special sessions for mothers. But her path didn’t end on the mat, it expanded far beyond it.

When did yoga move from exploration to awakening?

In early 2020, just before the pandemic, I began practicing advanced kriyas and bandhas under a senior teacher. I didn’t realise what they would open — buried grief, stored memory, deep energetic patterns. These weren’t just breath practices. They were catalysts.

Over the next two years, life felt like a spiritual firewalk. I quit a toxic job during lockdown. I was breaking down internally. Then, just as I began to build my healing brand, I was hospitalised in the second wave of COVID.

Then came a near-fatal car accident — a truck hit my side. The car was crushed, but I came out with minor scars and miraculously, no injury. I saw the hospital, police station and lawyer’s office all



in twelve hours. The chaos kept unfolding.

And months later, I reached my lowest. I felt numb, lost and was prescribed anxiety pills. Within three days of medication, I felt myself disappearing from inside, totally numb. That’s when I nearly gave up.

The morning after, I woke up with an unexplainable shift. I walked barefoot onto the grass, lay on my mat for hours, staring at the sky and just surrendered to nature. I got this nudge from within — to leave.

I couldn’t explain it, but my body knew something my mind couldn’t. Despite the fears, weakness, and uncertainty, I travelled alone to a country I had never been before. Rest is history. The person who returned was not the one who left. I chose to be called Radha — a name that came to me frequently in meditation, and let

go of my birth name Radhika. This was a metaphorical death. A rebirth. I never touched anxiety pills again.

Yogic initiation disturbs before it soothes. To bring you into union, it first clears the debris. Yoga, life taught me, is purification before liberation.

Were there moments of grace that reaffirmed your path?

Many. One of the most surreal was when the Krishna idol at home sipped milk late evening. It marked an awakening for my sister, who had lost faith in God. When I told my yoga teacher, he simply said, “This is the reward of your sadhana.” And perhaps the most beautiful gift was to see the shift in my family. Not through force, through energy. It still brings a smile to see God’s Leela. Yoga teaches you the power of faith and surrender.

Yoga is often treated as a post-retire-

ment or fitness option. What’s your perspective?

Yoga isn’t about fixing. It’s about rooting. What’s the point of digging roots after the tree is already sick?

We live on autopilot — chasing accomplishments, avoiding inner alignment, hoping peace will come later. As Krishna says in the Gita, “One who is devoted to the path of selfless action attains perfection.” But how can your actions be selfless if you don’t know who you are?

Yoga offers the seed of intention. When you treat your breath like a prayer, your life becomes a sadhana. You start choosing from awareness, not fear. You become comfortable in your own company. You create from presence, not pressure. Rooting in yoga early opens a direct link to the Creator, and teaches you how to co-create.

You now run a holistic healing brand. How does yoga live in the work you do today?

A: Yoga was the force that gave me the clarity to trust my vision, especially when no one believed in it, and I was expected to play safe and follow a conventional path.

As for my brand, Holsoltre, yoga forms its very foundation. While psychology focuses on the mind and medical science on the body, yoga teaches the union of all three — mind, body, and spirit. That’s exactly what Holsoltre stands for: the holistic soul of this triad. Healing cannot be fragmented; it has to be integrated. Yoga is the cement that binds together the multiple modalities I use in my work, including graphology, trauma healing, inner child work, and karma healing.

Most importantly, in a world where healing and the occult are repackaged as profit making industries, my roots in yoga remind me to choose depth over performance; it keeps me anchored in the core values of integrity, humility, and love as service.

Zoos, lion safari in UP to remain closed till May 27

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

Amid rising concerns over bird flu, the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department has extended the closure of all zoos and the Etawah Lion Safari for another week. The zoos will now remain closed to the public until at least May 27, according to a directive issued by Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Anuradha Vemuri.

This move comes in the wake of confirmed avian influenza cases in Kanpur Zoological Park and the recent death of a tigress at Shaheed Ashfaqulla Khan Zoological Park in Gorakhpur, which was attributed to bird flu.

“In view of the avian influenza outbreak, all zoos in the state, including the Lion Safari in Etawah, will remain closed for one more week. We are following all necessary protocols. The situation is under control, but we are taking these steps as a precaution,” said Anuradha Vemuri.

Last week, zoos in Lucknow, Kanpur, and Gorakhpur were temporarily shut for seven days as a preventive measure. However, following the latest assessments and confirmation of bird flu cases, the closure has now been extended across all zoological facilities in the state.

At the Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Park in Lucknow, authorities confirmed that there is no active case of bird flu. Still, the zoo will remain closed to visitors till May 27 on the orders of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife).

“Though there is no confirmed case in Lucknow Zoo, we are taking no chances. Intensive monitoring of all wild animals is being conducted as per Central Zoo Authority (CZA) guidelines,” said Aditi Sharma, Director of the zoo.

She added that health surveillance and sampling protocols are in place, and a spe-

cial team is monitoring vulnerable species such as birds of prey, waterfowl, and big cats round-the-clock.

The situation is more serious in Gorakhpur. The Shaheed Ashfaqulla Khan Zoological Park was the first in the state to report a fatal case – a tigress that succumbed to avian influenza. Following this, several food samples and biological samples from other animals were sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly for testing.

“We have lost several animals in recent weeks. While bird flu was confirmed in the tigress’s case, we are not taking any risk with other species,” a senior official at Gorakhpur Zoo stated.

The Kanpur Zoological Park also reported confirmed cases of avian influenza, prompting the state wildlife department to intensify its containment and surveillance measures.

Officials say that disinfection drives, restrictions on feeding practices, isolation of suspected animals, and regulated entry of staff are being strictly implemented at all locations. “The next review will be conducted before May 27. Any decision regarding reopening will depend on veterinary reports and the ground situation,” said Anuradha Vemuri.

Avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, is a contagious viral disease that primarily affects birds but can also infect mammals, including big cats. Zoos are especially vulnerable to outbreaks due to the presence of both avian and non-avian species in proximity, making cross-species transmission a significant risk.

According to experts, once a case is confirmed in any zoo, an extensive biosecurity protocol must be followed, including closing public access, isolating affected species, and testing both animals and their food sources.

Editor's
TAKE

Heat crisis deepens as summer peaks early

The unprecedented heat has gripped the capital and the worst part — the monsoon is still weeks away

Delhi is in a heat emergency. The threat is not just what the thermometer shows — it's in the air we breathe, the infrastructure we rely on, and the fragile lives caught in between. Delhi finds itself teetering on the edge of a climate emergency. With daytime temperatures already breaching unbearable levels and heat indices — the "feels like" temperature — soaring towards a blistering 50°C, the capital is caught in an escalating crisis. A new report by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), titled "How Extreme Heat is Impacting India," paints a stark picture of what's driving this relentless heat. Delhi now ranks among the top 10 most heat-vulnerable regions in the country. The report highlights a dramatic increase in very warm nights — indicating that nights are no longer bringing respite from daytime heat. This disturbing trend, combined with the city's dense infrastructure, is fueling what's known as the urban heat island effect, where tightly packed buildings and roads absorb and trap heat, pushing local temperatures higher than in surrounding rural areas.

To make matters worse, relative humidity in Delhi has climbed nearly 9 per cent in the past ten years. When humidity rises, the body's natural cooling mechanism — sweat evaporation — slows down, making it harder to cope and significantly increasing the "feels like" temperature. Compounding the crisis is the shrinking diurnal temperature range: the difference between day and night temperatures is narrowing, which means the city simply doesn't cool down enough after sunset.

More buildings, more energy use, more vehicles — all these lead to the heat load. While no one is entirely safe, the burden falls heaviest on the most vulnerable. Children, the elderly, and those who work outdoors — are at serious risk. Residents of informal settlements, where homes lack insulation, proper ventilation, or consistent electricity, are also disproportionately affected. Low-income families struggle to afford cooling appliances, while people with heart or respiratory issues face compounding health risks. Despite relatively good access to healthcare and electricity in Delhi, the scale of exposure and intensity of the hazard overwhelms these buffers, especially during prolonged heatwaves.

In these conditions, adaptation is the key for survival. People are urged to stay indoors during peak heat hours. Hydration is crucial — water intake should be frequent, even without thirst, while alcohol, caffeine, and sugary drinks should be avoided. Wearing loose, light-colored cotton clothing helps, as does using fans, wet towels, or mist sprays to cool down. And at the first sign of heat-related illness dizziness, excessive sweating, confusion, or nausea — immediate medical attention can save lives. Meteorologists indicate that some relief may arrive with the pre-monsoon showers expected in late June. The Delhi Government's newly launched Heat Action Plan is a timely and vital step, aiming to reduce both short-term harm and long-term risk. However, implementation and execution are vital. What's clear is that this extreme weather is the new normal, and it demands urgent, systemic change.

Balochistan: The search for nationhood

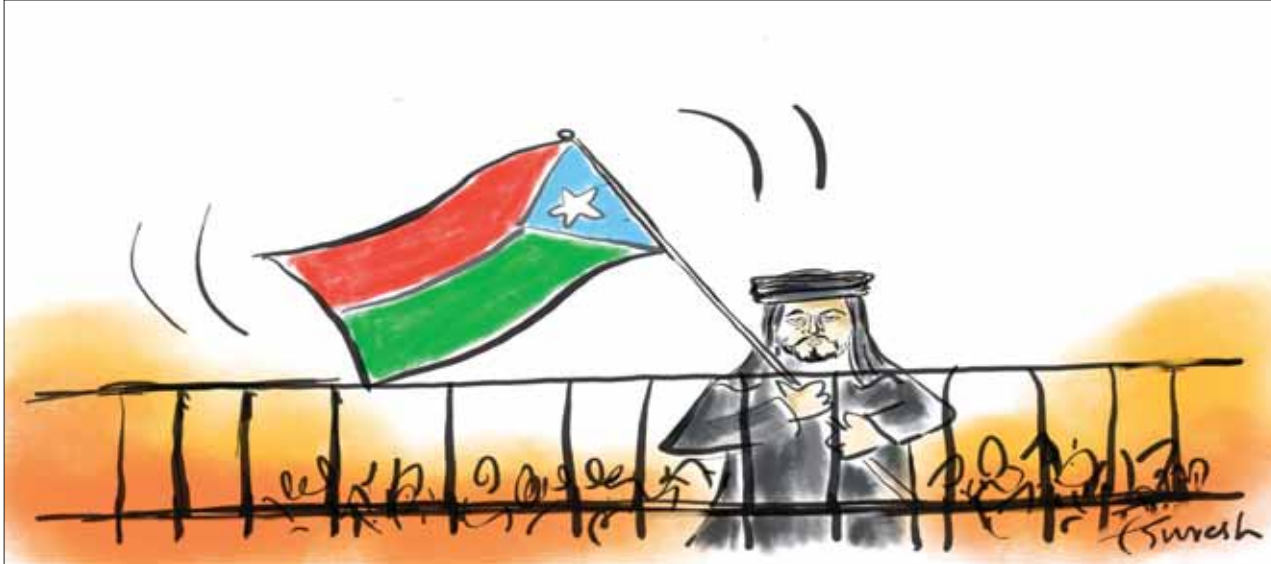
Citing decades of oppression and neglect, Baloch leaders are demanding international recognition for a long-suppressed cause — now thrust into global focus amid rising insurgency and regional turmoil

On May 12, 2025, Baloch nationalist leader Mir Yar Baloch made a historic and audacious move: he declared the Republic of Balochistan as an independent nation. In his impassioned address, he called upon the United Nations and the global community to recognise the new state, free from Pakistani domination. What was once seen as a peripheral movement has now emerged as a central fault line in South Asia's geopolitical landscape. The roots of the Baloch nationalist movement run deep. Balochistan — a region straddling Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan — has a long history of tribal autonomy and cultural uniqueness. Historically ruled by tribal confederacies and princely states such as the Khanate of Kalat, Balochistan fiercely resisted centralised control. During British colonial rule, the region served as a buffer zone against Russian expansion, with Britain exercising indirect rule while allowing internal autonomy. When British India was partitioned in August 1947, Pakistan was born on the 14th, followed by India a day later. But just before these momentous events, on August 12, 1947, the Khan of Kalat declared Balochistan an independent state. Pakistan's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, initially acknowledged Balochistan's separate identity.

However, pressures from global powers and regional considerations led to a shift. On March 27, 1948, Pakistan forcibly annexed Balochistan — a move widely viewed by the Baloch as illegitimate. This annexation marked the beginning of a long and bitter struggle for autonomy and justice. The decades that followed were marked by uprisings and brutal crackdowns. Major rebellions erupted in 1958-59 and again in 1963-69, led by Nawab Nauroz Khan and Sher Muhammad Marri. In 1973, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto dismissed the provincial Government, sparking another wave of insurgency. Inspired by the secession of East Pakistan in 1971, Baloch rebels fought for nearly four years before being crushed by superior military force and lack of internal cohesion.

A pivotal moment came in 2006 with the assassination of Nawab Akbar Bugti, a prominent Baloch leader. His death galvanised insurgent groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), who began targeting Pakistani military installations, infrastructure, and Chinese investments — particularly those associated with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Balochistan's grievances are not merely historical. The region, which comprises 44 per cent of Pakistan's landmass and houses around 15 million people, remains one of the most impoverished and underdeveloped



areas in the country. Despite its rich reserves of natural gas and minerals, its people face chronic unemployment, illiteracy, and political marginalisation. Baloch representation in Pakistan's power structures — military, bureaucracy, and politics remains negligible. For many Baloch, Pakistan is not a nation but an occupying force.

The Tectonic Shift

Tensions escalated sharply after the May 7, 2025 launch of Operation Sindoor by the Indian armed forces. The operation was a direct response to the Pahalgam massacre, where terrorists — allegedly backed by Pakistan's military — attacked Indian tourists in Jammu and Kashmir. The attack was perceived as an affront to India's post-Article 370 peace efforts, prompting calls for decisive action across India.

Operation Sindoor was swift and strategic. As Pakistan reeled from the fallout and turned its focus eastward, the Baloch insurgency surged. On May 11, the BLA launched a coordinated attack across 52 locations, hitting 71 strategic targets in one of the most extensive operations in the movement's history. The very next day, the declaration of independence followed. What had long been simmering beneath the surface exploded into full view.

A Region on the Brink

The emergence of a declared Republic of



RAJIV MALHOTRA

Rural India can lead the biodiversity revolution

SECOND Opinion

With its rich biodiversity, deep-rooted farming traditions, and a population that still lives close to the land, rural India holds the key to reversing India's biodiversity crisis and achieving true sustainable development. As the world observes International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), the spotlight turns toward the communities that have long lived in harmony with nature and the urgent need to empower them as agents of ecological change.

As we near the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), it becomes increasingly clear that rural India is not only central to India's biodiversity agenda — it could well be the catalyst that tips the scales.

Biodiversity is far more than an environmental concern; it is the foundation of life. It supports our food systems, sustains livelihoods, regulates the climate, purifies water, and provides protection against natural disasters. The rapid loss of species and ecosystems, both globally and in India, is not just a tragedy for nature — it is a threat to human survival and well-being. The KMGBF calls for a global transformation: a new way of living that restores the balance between people and the natural world. In India, this transformation is most possible and most needed in our villages and agricultural farm-

lands. The legacy of the Green Revolution, while pivotal in addressing food shortages in post-independence India, also set farmers on a path heavily reliant on chemical fertilisers, pesticides, monoculture crops, and genetically modified seeds. Over time, this model has led to soil degradation, declining biodiversity, water stress, and increased input costs — leaving many smallholders vulnerable. As the ecological costs of this type of farming become more evident, the need of the hour is to re-educate and enable farmers helping them reconnect with time-tested traditional methods that work with nature, not against it. Natural farming, agroecology, and organic techniques offer a path toward regeneration. And it's not a case of easier said than done. Rural India is home to nearly two-thirds of the country's population and the majority of its agricultural production. For centuries, Indian farmers and indigenous communities have worked with, rather than against, nature. They've practised traditional farming systems that nurture biodiversity — rotating crops, saving seeds, maintaining mixed farming systems, and using organic inputs long before they were branded as "sustainable." These time-tested approaches offer valuable solutions to today's challenges — if only we can help our farmers remember them and adopt them.

By building on these traditions and expanding nature-friendly practices like agroecology, organic farming, and natural farming, India can move toward a truly sustainable agri-food system — one that supports biodiversity instead



CHANDRAKANT KUMBHANI

of depleting it. And yet, this transition requires more than just technical changes. It demands a shift in how we value and support rural communities. Farmers must be recognised not only as food producers but as stewards of biodiversity. Their knowledge must be respected, their leadership encouraged, and their work made economically viable.

This moment also calls for greater synergy between policy and practice. India's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans have an opportunity to meaningfully integrate the ambitious targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) while aligning with national and state-level development priorities. Government support will continue to play a crucial role — through enabling policies, incentives, training, and infrastructure. Just as vital, however, is the active engagement of civil society, CSR bodies, local institutions, and farmers themselves, who bring invaluable on-ground experience and insight. By working together across sectors, we can co-create solutions that are both locally rooted and globally relevant.

As the 2030 deadline looms, the need for action is urgent. But there is still time to rewrite the story. The International Day for Biological Diversity reminds us to recognise that India's future lies not in distant boardrooms or global summits — but in its villages, fields, and forests. Here, harmony with nature is a way of life — waiting to be recognised, revitalised, and scaled for a better tomorrow.

(The writer is COO, Community Development, Ambuja Foundation. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

The new wave of Corona virus

The latest wave of Coronavirus disease or COVID-19 has hit many countries in Southeast Asia, with the spread of new Omicron sub variants like JN.1. India, too has reported 164 fresh cases of Covid 19, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi and Rajasthan. To review the current COVID-19 situation and the rise in number of cases, the chairperson-ship of the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) has held a meeting with experts from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Emergency Medical Relief (EMR) division, Disaster Management Cell, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Government hospitals. Maharashtra has 56 active cases. Two Covid-19 related deaths have been reported, one 59 year old cancer patient and a 14 year old girl with Kidney disease. Kerala has reported 69 new cases. Tamil Nadu has 34 new cases. There are currently 257 active cases in India, a major spike observed last week. As of May 19, 2025, India has reported 257 active cases of Covid 19 cases. Both Singapore and Hong Kong are on high alert regarding the rise of covid cases. However, the symptoms have been 'mild' and not fatal, health authorities are taking extra precautions. Hospital arrangements and other precautionary measures are being taken by the health authorities. Experts have advised the citizens to wear masks and maintain social distance to prevent the mutation of this variant.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Dr Jayant Vishnu Narlikar is no more

Senior astrophysicist Dr Jayant Vishnu Narlikar passed away at his residence in Pune on May 20th, 2025. Dr Narlikar was not only a scientist but also a science writer and a pioneer of science fiction. He authored several books and articles in Marathi and English on scientific topics. To popularise science among the masses, he utilised television programs, article series, and lectures. He made significant contributions to astronomy, cosmology, and science outreach. He pursued higher education at Cambridge University. There, under the guidance of renowned astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle, he completed his PHD. Together they proposed the Hoyle — Narlikar theory of gravitation, which is considered an alternative to the Big Bang theory.

In 1988, he established the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune and served as its director until 2003. Dr Narlikar's dedication to science communication is evident in his writings, TV appearances, and lectures aimed at igniting scientific curiosity among the public.

He was honored with numerous prestigious awards such as: Padma Bhushan (1965) Padma Vibhushan (2004), UNESCO's Kalinga Prize (1996). Through his work, Dr Narlikar inspired generations to develop an interest in astronomy. With his passing, it feels as if a star from the universe has fallen.

DATTAPRASAD SHIRODKAR | MUMBAI

Healthy living is a fundamental right!

Yet in our country, it often feels like a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. Access to quality fitness programme, preventive care, and balanced nutrition remains out of reach for many.

It's time we change that. We must make affordable, high-quality wellness options a part of everyday life for every Indian. At the same time, we face a growing mental health crisis that is dangerously overlooked — chronic loneliness among young urban Indians. Many young people are silently struggling surrounded by people but disconnected within.

This includes regular medical check-ups, mental wellness support, physical fitness, and nutritional balance. A crucial first step is to normalise conversations around mental health. Concerns about loneliness, anxiety, and depression should not be dismissed as mood swings. We must recognise the deeper emotional wounds our society often ignores — anxiety, grief, conditional love, feelings of insignificance, shame, and broken relationships.

These unspoken burdens often lead to depression, which is a prolonged state of despair, hopelessness, and emotional exhaustion. Being excessively self-critical, and enduring toxic work environments are all triggers of emotional stress. It's time we see mental health as integral to overall well-being. Only then can we build a society where healthy living is truly a right for all.

CK SUBRAMANIAM | MUMBAI

THE INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS ARE WILTING AWAY



The once-warm relationship between India and Bangladesh now shivers under the shadow of trade tensions. India has boldly restricted \$770 million of Bangladesh's imports, 42 per cent of its total exports, in response to Bangladesh's restrictive policies, including bans on Indian rice, yam, and consumer goods, coupled with stringent border inspections. Bangladesh's policies stem from political motives. Post-regime change, hardline forces have fueled anti-India sentiments, straining trade. Last year's \$660 million in readymade garments will now enter only through

Kolkata and Nhava Sheva ports, closing northeastern land routes. Bangladesh's economy, reliant on \$45 billion in textile exports, faces challenges as its LDC status ends, threatening tariff-free access. India, which offered zero tariffs, now demands a review.

By limiting import routes while granting transshipment exemptions to Nepal and Bhutan, India strengthens regional diplomacy. Bangladesh must now choose between cooperation or confrontation. India's move is a masterstroke on the diplomatic chessboard.

RK JAIN ARJEET | BARWANI

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.

India’s semifinal victory in the fight against terrorism

The message of Operation Sindoor was clear: the path to a secure, developed, and globally respected India — Viksit Bharat — demands continued resolve, multidimensional preparedness, and an unflinching stand against terrorism in all its forms

FIRST
Column

In a bold reaffirmation of India’s commitment to counter cross-border terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi established a ‘new normal’ through Operation Sindoor as a strong response to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. This operation, which featured deep and precise strikes on terror camps located not only in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) but also well within Pakistan’s heartland, was unprecedented. It showcased India’s strong willpower, operational maturity, and ability to deliver high-precision strikes with minimal collateral damage. India’s air defence capabilities were proven effective in neutralising advanced and coordinated drone threats. The successful hits on strategic air bases of Pakistan underscored India’s operational readiness and deterrent strength.

Yet, as PM Modi remarked, “We will keep taking decisive steps,” which subtly foreshadowed that a full-scale final confrontation is inevitable. Although the exact timeline remains uncertain, decisive engagement appears to be a necessary milestone toward realising the vision of Viksit Bharat — a developed, secure, and globally respected India. Therefore, India needs a multidimensional and proactive strategy to prepare for the final stage of this prolonged conflict.

Diplomatic Front

Despite the operational success, the global diplomatic response did not meet our expectations. China, predictably, stood by its long-time ally Pakistan. The United States, while posturing as the champion of global peace, took a balanced, almost ambivalent stance, attempting to preserve its strategic interests on both sides. The European Union, meanwhile, continued to misinterpret the conflict through a limited prism of the Kashmir issue, failing to grasp the larger menace posed by Pakistan, which is the epicentre of terrorism the world over.

The short-duration conflict has made it amply clear that India was not just fighting Pakistan; rather, it appears to be a broader coalition of actors who perceive India’s growing assertiveness as a threat to their geopolitical agendas. This apprehension reached new heights after Operation Sindoor, where India’s swift, coordinated and targeted strike incapacitated multiple Pakistani military installations, including airbases, radars, drone depots, and air defence systems.

Western powers must reassess their assumptions. While China continues to back Pakistan both economically and militarily, India remains the most stable and democratic partner capable of upholding a rules-based global order in the Indo-Pacific region. The United States, in particular, must recognise that strengthening India is strategically aligned with its interest in counterbalancing Chinese expansionism. However, the American response so far indicates a hesitancy to decisively back India — opting instead



to maintain a superficial equilibrium between India and Pakistan. This approach is neither sustainable nor strategic. More importantly, India has to make efforts to shift the prevailing global narrative. The world must be reminded that the Indo-Pak conflict is not simply a territorial dispute over Kashmir — it is fundamentally a battle against state-sponsored terrorism. Pakistan remains a breeding ground for radical Islamic ideologies that have manifested in

global tragedies such as the 9/11 attacks, London bombings, Madrid train attacks, and the Charlie Hebdo massacre. These events are enough evidence that the terror ecosystem nurtured by Pakistan’s military intelligence, especially the ISI, has global ramifications.

India must proactively convey to the West that Kashmir has been an integral part of the Indian civilisation for thousands of years. Unlike Pakistan, which was founded on a rigid two-nation theory, India is a vibrant, pluralistic, and multi-polar democracy that cannot be confined within communal or sectarian boundaries.



ASHOK KUMAR

WESTERN POWERS MUST REASSESS THEIR ASSUMPTIONS. WHILE CHINA CONTINUES TO BACK PAKISTAN BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY, INDIA REMAINS THE MOST STABLE AND DEMOCRATIC PARTNER CAPABLE OF UPHOLDING A RULES-BASED GLOBAL ORDER IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

This historical and cultural context must be highlighted consistently in global forums to counter Pakistan’s manipulative propaganda. We need to actively counter-propaganda to reshape the Western perspective on the Kashmir issue.

External Security/Military Front

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident and the latest escalation with Pakistan, there is no scope for complacency. The emerging battlefield is not limited to traditional warfare — technological superiority is now decisive. China’s rapid advances in military tech, artificial intelligence, and unmanned systems must alert us to the urgency of preparedness. There is no room for laxity. Constant feedback loops from ground-level intelligence, robust cybersecurity infrastructure, and rapid response mechanisms must become the norm.

To effectively counter the growing China-Turkey-Pakistan nexus, India must ensure that it retains a decisive edge in armaments and warfare doctrine. Superior technology, robust logistics, and interoperability across forces are non-negotiable. This preparation must take place with the knowledge that while Pakistan appears on the back foot, its backing from China gives it a dangerous strategic cushion.

The Border Security Force (BSF) currently fulfils its peacetime mandate well, leveraging its familiarity with the terrain and local intelligence.

However, it must now evolve into a battle-ready force capable of handling wartime contingencies. This includes enhanced access to artillery support, drone and counter-drone technology, as well as electronic warfare capabilities. Training modules should be updated, and regular joint exercises with the Indian Army must become a routine to ensure coordination during high-stress scenarios.

Internal Security Front

Internal security presents equally pressing challenges. One of the most serious is illegal immigration, particularly from Bangladesh. In 2016, then Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju stated that “as per available inputs, there are around 20 million illegal Bangladeshi migrants staying in India.” This mass influx not only strains local resources but has also begun altering demographic compositions in sensitive border states — posing both security and social threat. Implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is imperative. However, it must be done transparently and fairly, shielded from political agendas and vote-bank compulsions. Handling illegal immigration with an iron hand is the need of the hour so that demographic changes can be stopped.

To maintain national harmony, India has to take strong steps against anti-national elements who are out to exploit societal divisions. India is under constant assault from psychological and information warfare, much of it orchestrated by hostile actors across the border. These campaigns are designed to sow discord, spread fake narratives, and erode the nation’s trust in its institutions. Social media has emerged as the frontline for such attacks and combating them requires a blend of technological vigilance and legal framework. We must consistently reinforce values of unity, national pride and patriotism. Fake news, hate speech and misinformation must be countered strongly.

In Conclusion

As India stands at a pivotal moment in its security journey, Operation Sindoor must be recognised not as a finale, but as a resounding declaration of intent. It represents India’s capability, resolve, and strategic acumen. However, the road to a decisive final confrontation will demand far more — visionary diplomacy, state-of-the-art military readiness, iron-clad internal unity, and above all, an unflinching political will. This is no longer just a regional struggle — it is a defining moment for India’s role as a global power. The semifinal has been decisively won. Now, the time has come to prepare — strategically, diplomatically, and militarily — for the final. Victory will pave the way for a truly Viksit Bharat.

(The writer is a retired DGP, Uttarakhand. He is currently serving as Vice Chancellor of Haryana Sports University. Views expressed are personal)

Be part of the plan: India’s bold vision for biodiversity conservation

As we approach the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, the 2025 theme, “Be Part of the Plan,” resonates deeply with India’s ongoing efforts to safeguard its extraordinary natural heritage. As one of the world’s 17 mega-diverse countries, India is home to over 45,000 plant species and 91,000 animal species, many of which are endemic. This rich biodiversity underpins our ecological stability, cultural identity, and economic prosperity. Drawing from my experience as PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden of Haryana and former IUCN Country Representative, I am proud to share how India aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to lead global conservation efforts.

Adopted at COP15 under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the GBF sets four global goals and 23 targets to be met by 2030. India played a pivotal role in shaping this framework and is now integrating it into our National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Our priorities — sustainable agriculture, water security, climate resilience, and disaster risk reduction — are seamlessly woven into this plan, with a strong focus on the 30x30 target (protecting 30% of terrestrial and marine areas), equitable genetic resource access, and enhanced biodiversity financing.

A Unified Conservation Strategy

India’s strength lies in its “whole-of-Government and whole-of-society” approach. We are converging sectoral schemes like MGNREGA, the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, the National Bamboo Mission, and PM Kusum with biodiversity goals. In Haryana, the Aravalli Green Wall Project is a testament to this synergy. By uniting the Forest Department, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) support, we are restoring degraded Aravalli landscapes with native flora, enhancing water recharge, and boosting carbon sequestration.

Preserving Agro-Biodiversity and Empowering Communities

Our agricultural legacy, with over 160 cultivated species and thousands of climate-resilient landraces, is a treasure we are determined to protect. Through the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, and Plant Genetic Resources Conservation, we are safeguarding indigenous varieties and traditional farming systems. State Biodiversity Boards and over 2.7 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)



at the Panchayat level are documenting this knowledge in People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). With over 2.9 lakh PBRs, India leads the world in community-based biodiversity documentation.

In states like Maharashtra, Kerala, and Odisha, BMCs are driving conservation reserves, sacred grove restoration, and marine biodiversity monitoring by local fisherfolk and coastal communities. This grassroots momentum embodies the spirit of “Be Part of the Plan.”

Restoring Ecosystems for a Sustainable Future

To meet the GBF’s Target 2—restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030 — India is scaling up forest landscape restoration, wetland rejuvenation, and coral reef revival. The Namami Gange Programme is a global benchmark, integrating

fish diversity monitoring, turtle nesting conservation, and riverine ecosystem restoration. The National Wetland Mission and MISHTI scheme for mangrove plantations further protect ecologically sensitive habitats, ensuring community participation and climate resilience.

Reviving Wildlife and Engaging Youth

Our flagship species recovery programs — Project Tiger, cheetah reintroduction in Kuno National Park, vulture conservation in Pinjore (Haryana), and blackbuck protection in Gujarat and Haryana — demonstrate targeted action. The expansion of Protected Areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones, and Conservation Reserves balances conservation with community livelihoods.



VIVEK SAXENA

The youth are our future stewards, and the National Green Corps (NGC) Eco-Clubs, active in over 1 lakh schools, are proof of this. These clubs lead plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and biodiversity documentation. Digital platforms like iNaturalist India and the India Biodiversity Portal empower citizens to contribute to science and climate action.

Innovative Financing and Global Leadership

India is pioneering biodiversity financing with Green Bonds, Payment for Ecosystem Services, and CSR partnerships. The National CAMPA Authority directs funds toward restoring degraded ecosystems, while the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism ensures communities benefit from biological resource use. Globally, India leads the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and shares expertise in community forestry, medicinal plant conservation, and biodiversity law with Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Call to Collective Action

“Be Part of the Plan” is more than a slogan — it is a responsibility. Whether you are a policy-maker crafting biodiversity-friendly laws, a student planting trees, a farmer cultivating indigenous seeds, or a forest officer patrolling a sanctuary, every action counts. As India links biodiversity conservation with climate action, health, and sustainable development, we set a global example. This International Day for Biological Diversity is a moment to commit — a collective pledge to protect our planet’s living legacy. Will you join us?

(The writer is IFS, is the PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden of Haryana and a former IUCN Country Representative. Views expressed are personal)

How terror stilled the dreams of Kashmiri women

Pahalgam, often called “the valley of shepherds,” rests gently in the cradle of the Himalayas. With its snow-fed Lidder River, dense pine forests, and sprawling meadows, it’s easy to see why this corner of Kashmir is called “paradise on Earth.” Each spring, travelers from across the world arrive to ride ponies into the hills, sip hot kahwa by the riverside, and breathe in the crisp mountain air. It is a place where time slows down and serenity fills every breath.

This year, the arrival of spring brought more than blooming flowers — it brought hope. After years of pandemic lockdowns and political tensions, Kashmir’s tourist season was finally stirring back to life. Markets began buzzing again, homestays reopened their doors, and visitors started returning.

For many local women, this revival wasn’t just economic — it was deeply personal. Tourism had become a path to independence. Women were stepping out of their homes and into new roles: hosting travelers in homestays, selling traditional crafts, running food stalls, leading nature walks, and offering embroidery workshops to curious tourists. Slowly, silently, they were stitching together lives of dignity.

Then came April 22, 2025. On that day, in broad daylight, five armed militants attacked a group of people in Pahalgam, opening fire with chilling precision. It was sudden, merciless. Twenty-six people lost their lives, and more than twenty others were injured. It was the deadliest terror attack India had witnessed in recent years, and its impact reverberated far beyond the blood-stained valley.

National headlines captured the horror of the moment — but what happened in the days that followed, especially to the women of Kashmir, was barely mentioned. Tourists began cancelling in droves. According to a recent LocalCircles survey, more than 62 families across India abandoned their travel plans to Kashmir. Travel agencies were flooded with calls for refunds. Hotels and guesthouses stood empty. The laughter, the click of cameras, the joyful hum of a region trying to heal — all of it vanished overnight. And once again, silence returned to the valley. But this silence was not just the absence of visitors. For countless women, it meant the loss of their only source of income. It meant doors closing — on opportunity, on movement, on possibility. Rubeena, who runs a modest kahwa stall near Aru Valley, spoke through tears: “We had just started recovering from COVID-19. April was supposed to be our busiest time. And now, we are back to nothing.”

In Anantnag, artisan Shabnam echoed the pain: “We had tourists who returned every year, who remembered our names. Now, they’re afraid to come. And just like that, we are invisible again.”

Studies in recent years have shown that tourism in Kashmir offered women more than jobs — it gave



them confidence, skills, and a space in the public sphere. In a place long scarred by conflict, these acts — selling tea, guiding a walk, teaching embroidery — were radical steps forward.

Every kahwa poured, every shawl stitched, was a quiet act of resilience.

Now, with fear in the air again, families are reluctant to let women step outside. Daughters are told to stay home. Homestays once proudly run by women stand deserted. Kahwa stalls are shuttered. Craft workshops lie still. The energy that was just beginning to return has gone cold again.

And this is where the true damage of terror lies — not just in lives lost, but in dreams interrupted. In the retreat of women from the spaces they had only just begun to inhabit. In the silence that replaces the sound of ambition. Kashmir’s instability doesn’t just make headlines; it crushes livelihoods. And while the world debates security and geopolitics, it is the women — without safety nets or alternative employment — who bear the brunt of the fall-out. Every cycle of violence sets them back years. When we speak of Kashmir, let us not reduce it to borders and political disputes.

Let us also see the human cost — especially for those whose stories rarely reach the surface. It’s not just about danger. It’s about lost dignity, interrupted growth, and deferred dreams. Pahalgam has always symbolised peace. But if we allow violence to keep defining this region, we are not just losing a tourist destination — we are losing the women who dared to hope. We are letting fear win over freedom, silence over voice, and darkness over the promise of spring. And that, truly, would be the greatest loss of all.

(The writer is an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Views expressed are personal)



TRIPTI SHINGHAL SOMANI

Suicide blast on bus kills 5, including 3 children in Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OPF INDIA ■ Islamabad/Karachi

At least five people, including three children, were killed and several others injured in a suicide attack on a school bus in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Wednesday. The incident occurred in the Khuzdar district when a bus carrying schoolchildren was targeted, the army said in a statement. Calling it a "cowardly" and "ghastly" attack, the army said three children and two adults were killed and multiple other children sustained injuries. In a statement on X, the Interior Ministry said the blast was allegedly carried out through a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Khuzdar Deputy Commissioner Yasir said that 38 people were injured in the blast, which occurred near the Zero Point area, the Dawn newspaper reported. After the attack, law enforcement agency personnel reached the site to collect evidence for an investigation, Yasir said, adding that preliminary findings indicated that the attack was a suicide blast. The bodies and those injured were taken to the Combined Military Hospital, from where those with serious injuries will be referred to medical facilities in Quetta and Karachi, he said. Initial

reports indicated that four children were killed in the blast. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack and expressed deep sorrow over the killing of innocent children and their teachers, Geo News reported. He also instructed authorities to identify the

perpetrators and bring them to justice. President Asif Ali Zardari also strongly condemned the attack as a human rights violation and extended condolences to the families of the victims. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also strongly condemned the explosion

and said, "The beasts who target innocent children do not deserve any leniency." No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insur-

gent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects. The province has been facing unrest for about two decades due to allegations by the local ethnic Baloch groups and parties that the fed-

eral government was exploiting its mineral wealth. Following the attack, provincial Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti vowed to not only expose every terrorist operating in the province, but also "eradicate them completely", the report said.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES) 22-Sham Nath Marg. Delhi - 110 054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications are invited for engagement of 11 posts (on contract basis) in NCDC IT Unit at NCDC Headquarters under PM-ABHIM, through Screening cum selection mode, with an initial period of one year at NCDC, 22-Sham Nath Marg (Near Civil Line Metro Station), Delhi- 110 054, as under: -

Name of contractual posts	Number of vacancies
Team Lead (ICT)	01
Network Engineer	02
System Admin	2
Programmer (Open Source)	02
UI Designer	01
Graphic Designer	01
IT Support Staff	02
Total	11

The last date of submission of application is 05.06.2025. The application must reach this office on or before 05.06.2025, by speed post/ by hand on all working days from 10.00 A.M. TO 5.00 PM at General Services Section, Room No. 202, NCDC, 22- Sham Nath Marg, New Delhi - 110054.

Application received after 05.06.2025 will not be entertained.

After scrutiny of the application forms, only eligible candidates as per ToR will be informed through email to appear for interview with date and time.

The Educational Qualification, ToR and other conditions may be viewed on the NCDC Website: www.ncdc.mohfw.gov.in

NOTE: The Competent Authority reserves the right to modify or cancel selection process (in part or full), if need so arises, without issuing any further reasons whatsoever.

Assistant Director (Admin.)
Email: prakashdoyal@ncdc.gov.in
CBC 17129/11/0001/2526 Phone No. 011-23971875

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No. / Work Name	Amount (₹ in Lacs)
1.	02/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2025-26, M/o park in sector-44 In front G-90 and RSP Over Varanasi Ghaat, Taj Mahal Central Verge Yamuna Bridge Triangle High Tension Line, Round about Mahamaya Flyover for two year maintenance. Noida	87.77
2.	80/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, M/o Park/Green Belt (Civil maintenance work in sector-135 under Horticulture Division-III area for One year maintenance. Noida	40.46

Which can be uploaded by date 28.05.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 29.05.2025 at 11.00 AM.

(B).

S. No.	Job No. / Work Name	Amount (₹ in Lacs)
1.	01/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2025-26, M/o RSP with two year maintenance vilopit Kudaghar 110 nos various Location and cement pot road side sector-06, 14A, 16A, 18, Noida stadium sector-21A, Gulmohar marg, Udhog marg, road no-06, M.P.-I,II and III, Toilets Kudaghar and 4650 nos Cement pots and 250 nos Planter Noida.	83.35
2.	06/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2025-26, M/o Park (Re-Construction of footpath in Park, A- Block, Sector-46) Noida.	80.27
3.	07/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2025-26, D/o Park (C/o Skating Court in Children Park Sector-33-A and City Park Sector-93) Noida.	72.71
4.	23/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2024-25, D/o Green Belt Opposite (Hilstone Residency Sector-79) Two Year Maintenance.	60.51
5.	06/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2025-26, M/o Park (C/o Footpath and other Civil Maintenance Work in Front D-47 Park, Sector-80) NOIDA	31.00
6.	09/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2025-26, M/o Park & Green Belt Super MIG Sector-93 with 02 Year maintenance.	72.19
7.	15/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2025-26, M/o Park Sector-85, P-2, 93B, 110, 130,132,137,141 and 144 Abadi 05 percentage (Subhead Supply of Moorum)	44.77

Which can be uploaded by date 04.06.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 05.06.2025 at 11.00 AM.

Director (Hort.)
Noida
Office: Sector-39
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Ajay Kumar Gupta S/o. Sh. B. B. Gupta is the absolute 'Title Holder' and 'Owner' in possession of 'Society Built Up Freehold Property Bearing Flat No. C-301, Third Floor, Sagar Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd., Plot No. 113, Sagar Sadan Apartments, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, New Delhi-110092 measuring 90.49 sq. mtrs., hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property vide Conveyance Deed dated 27.11.2024 duly registered as Regn. No. 2024/11/11106, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 10048, pp. 11-20 on 10.12.2024 in the Office of the Sub Registrar - VII, N.A. New Delhi. That original documents for the Schedule Property, i.e. (i) Share Certificate, (ii) Allotment Letter and (iii) Handing Over Taking Over Possession Letter issued by the Society in the name of the Title Holder, have all been lost/ misplaced and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 16.05.2025 bearing LR No. 2841336/ 2025 has been filed with Delhi Police. This notice is thus issued to the Public at large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUFs etc. having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lost/ misplaced/ untraceable original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. in the Schedule Property, by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and as waived and the Title Holder shall continue with the Sale of the Schedule Property as is presently intended.

Joni Kashyap, Advocate
Address: Chamber No. 6, Block-E, Karkardooma Court
New Delhi-110032, Contact No. +91 98716 26467

CPJ College of Higher Studies & School of Law

(Recognized by Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Bar Council of India, AICTE & Affiliated to GGSIPU University, Delhi)
Plot No. 002, Sector - 48, Noida, Delhi - 110040
Mob.011-35044787, Mob.9177888444

Applications from the Candidates are invited for admission against Management Quota Seats in different courses, detailed hereunder, for the Academic Session 2025-26.
a) CLAT PG-2025/CUET PG-2025 Qualified & GGSIPU Registered Candidates for Admission in LL.M (Criminal Justice, Corporate Law & ADR)
b) CLAT UG-2025/CUET UG-2025 Qualified & GGSIPU Registered Candidates for Admission in BALLB (H)/BBALLB (H)
c) CET of GGSIPU/CUET Qualified Candidates for Admission to BBA (G)/ BBA(CAM)/ BCA. CUET Qualified Candidates will only be considered for admission after the entire CET Qualified Candidates are exhausted.
d) Eligibility, Admission Process & exact date of counseling of LL.B (3 years) will be notified in due course of time and the course is subject to the approval of GGSIPU/BCI.

Application Forms are available from the College Office. Candidates can also apply through mail on cpj_chs@gmail.com / MQ Portal on College Website or University's MQ Portal on its website. Last date of Submission is 16-06-2025*. The Merit List will be displayed on 18-06-2025* & Counseling will be held on 20-06-2025* at 11 AM in the College Campus. No separate intimation will be sent for Counseling. Reservation of Seats as per GGSIPU University / GNCT Delhi Rules. For further details & updates, please visit college website www.cpj.edu.in. *Exact dates will be notified on College Website & Notice Boards. Director

JASCH GAUGING TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

Regd Office: 502, NDM-II, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi – 110034
CIN: L33111DL2021PLC381513

Extract of audited standalone Ind AS financial results for the quarter and financial year ended on 31st March 2025 (under Regulation 47 (1)(B) of SEBI Listing Regulations)

SI No	Particulars	Standalone		
		Quarter Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ended
		31.03.25	31.03.25	31.03.24
		Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations.	1613.71	5826.37	1797.58
2	Net Profit for the Period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	583.27	2009.65	669.24
3	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	583.27	2009.65	669.24
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	408.18	1468.08	494.23
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [(Comprising Profit) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	408.18	1468.08	494.23
6	Equity Share Capital	453.20	453.20	453.20
7	Reserves	8448.16	8448.16	7290.28
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)	09.01	32.39	10.91
Basic & Diluted:				

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and yearly financial results filed with BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results is available on the website of the BSE i.e. www.bseindia.com and also on the website of the Company i.e. www.jasch.net.in.
- The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

Sonipat
20.05.2025
Jai Kishan Garg
Chairman & Managing Director

म.प्र. पुलिस आवास एवं अधोसंरचना विकास निगम

कार्यालय परियोजना यंत्री, इंदौर संभाग क्रमांक-02, जी-13, प्रथम 'तल'
एम.आई.जी. कॉलोनी, एम.आई.जी. थाने के पीछे, इंदौर (म.प्र.)
मो.नं.-9425601512, दूरभाष : 0731-2550472
E-mail-Id : mpphidclindore2@gmail.com

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना - 7/2025-26

म.प्र.पु.आ.एवं अधो.वि.नि., इंदौर संभाग क्र.-02, इंदौर द्वारा ओ.आर. ट्रान्जिट होस्टल थाना मण्डलेष्टर, जिला खरगोन के निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 04.06.2025 तक खरीदे जा सकते हैं, जिसकी विस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं अन्य विवरण <http://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

म.प्र. माध्यम/120204/2025 परियोजना यंत्री

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI.
4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI-110001.
Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1983 read with rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rule) 1993) in the matter of

APPEAL NO 13/2024 DATE: 16.05.2025
INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK VERSUS APPLICANT
SMT. MADHU SAPRA & ORS. RESPONDENT

To, DEFENDANT
D1. Smt Madhu Sapra W/o Sh Anil Kumar
B-108 1st And 2nd. Floor Derawal Nagar New Delhi - 09
D2. M/s Raaj Wires. 67 Badli Industrial Estate Phase-II, New Delhi
D3. Smt. Neeraj Magan W/o Subhash Magan
D4. Smt Neeraja Magan W/o Nawal Magan
D5. Mr. Subhash Shroff
D6. Mr Nawal Magan
ALL AT: R/o. B-108 DERAWAL NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 09

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 40,23,49,249/- (RUPEE FORTY CORE TWENTY THREE LAKH FORTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY NINE ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 29.09.2025 At 11.00 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing or physical and for that purpose:-

- All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" Application /software.
- "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in
- In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748478. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 16th day of May, 2025

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,
SECTION OFFICER
DRT-II, DELHI

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM
Ref: i) Tender Notice No.04/2025-2026 dated 15.04.2025
ii) Tender No. 15255019 due on 30.05.2025
01. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 12.05.2025 to 30.05.2025.
02. In reference to above tender, Specifications has been revised.
All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.
The Corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in SMM/G 1494/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Regd. Office-456, Aggarwal Metro Hight, Netaji Subhash Place,
Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034
CIN:L65993DL1990PLC040101, website : www.cubicalb90.com
E-mail : cubfinser@yahoo.com

Extract of the statement of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/year ended March 31, 2025 (Rs. In Lacs)

Sl.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Year Ended	Year No. Ended
		3/31/2025	3/31/2024	31-03-2025	31-03-2024
		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from operations	33.76	48.15	241.99	273.45
2	Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	12.94	70.44	67.82	128.70
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	-5.78	64.50	37.54	115.88
4	Equity Share Capital	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40
5	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve	—	—	206.44	169.27
6	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (of Rs. 2/- each)				
Basic				0.06	0.18
Diluted				0.06	0.18

Note: The above is an Extract of the Detailed Format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full Format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Website of Bombay Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com & on Company website at www.cubicalrealtors.com. By Order of the Board of Directors for CUBICAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED Sd/- ASHWINI KUMAR GUPTA MANAGING DIRECTOR DIN-00348616

DATED : 21ST MAY, 2025
PLACE : DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client 1. Sh. Rizwan Khan, 2. Sh. Irfan Khan, 3. Sh. Mohmmid Usman Khan owner of the PLOT NO.10 AREA 25X3 YARDS, KHASRA NO.337, NASIRPUR, WEST SAGARPUR DELHI and 1. Sh. Rizwan Khan, 2. Sh. Irfan Khan, 3. Sh. Mohmmid Usman Khan purchase property from Sh. Ajay Jain vide Notarized GPA, ATS and Will dated 23.08.2021 and now 1. Sh. Rizwan Khan, 2. Sh. Irfan Khan, 3. Sh. Mohmmid Usman Khan wants to sell aforesaid property. And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim/right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch.No. 760 /Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mobile : 9899013918

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Komal Jasbir Singh, W/o Madhav Bhatnagar and D/o Jasbir Singh Khanuja, R/o A-19, First Floor, Nizamuddin West, Delhi, Pincode-110013, declare that: (i) Before marriage I was known as Ms. Komal Jasbir Singh, D/o Jasbir Singh Khanuja; (ii) That I got married to Mr. Madhav Bhatnagar, S/o Sh. Raghav Prasad Bhatnagar and after marriage my name has changed to Mrs. Komal Bhatnagar, W/o Madhav Bhatnagar; and (iii) That in future I will be treated as 'Mrs. Komal Bhatnagar' for all purposes. Further, I hereby declare that: (i) the both names 'Komal Bhatnagar' & 'Komal Jasbir Singh' are one and the same person/lady; and (ii) that after marriage, my current and actual address is A-19, First Floor, Nizamuddin West, Delhi, Pincode-110013.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, am RAJNISH TEWARI S/O Chander Mohan Tewari R/O T-504, Vasundhara Valley Apartments, Sector-6, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P.) 201012 In Vasundhara Valley Apartments records/documents my name is misspelt and written as RAJNEESH TIWARI, my correct name and it's spelling is RAJNISH TEWARI. PD(2071)C

I, Ranjit Biswas, F/o-No.1493746W Nk Prokash Biswas, R/o- Vill- Subudhipur, PO- Mahadevpur, Teh- Kalyani, Dist- Nadia, W.B.- 741257, have changed my name from Ranjit Biswas to Ranajit Biswas & my correct DOB is 18/06/1953, vide affidavit dated 21/05/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(2073)C

I, Reema W/o JC-677556F N/ Sub Kumar Dheeraj, R/O- Rampur, Kumbharkol, Vaishali, Bihar- 844507, declare that in my husband's service record, my name is wrongly written as Reema whereas my correct name is Rima which may be amended accordingly. PD(2074)C

I, Nilkantharao, F/o-No.14671039X Hav Khushal Nilkanth Tayade, R/o- VTC- Ner, PO- Ner Parsopant, Dist- Yavatmal, Maharashtra-445102, have changed my name from Nilkantharao to Nilkanth Pundlikrao Tayade, vide affidavit dated 21/05/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(2075)C

PD(2079)C

JASCH INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Regd. Off. : 502, NDM-II, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi - 110034
CIN NO. L24302DL1985PLC383771
Website : www.jaschindustries.com, Email : accounts@jasch.biz

Extract of Audited Ind AS Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended on 31st March 2025 (Standalone Financial Results under Regulation 47 (1)(B) of Listing Regulations)

SI No	Particulars	Standalone		
		Quarter Ended	Year Ended	Quarter Ended
		31.03.25	31.03.25	31.03.24
		Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations.	5003.00	18466.08	4003.77
2	Net Profit for the Period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	308.36	973.12	95.34
3	Net Profit for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional Items)	308.36	973.12	95.34
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional Items)	256.31	748.58	77.08
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising of Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	256.31	748.58	77.08
6	Equity Share Capital	679.80	679.80	679.80
7	Reserves	5683.94	5683.94	4968.19
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)	03.77	11.01	01.13
Basic & Diluted:				

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and yearly financial results filed with BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid results is available on the website of the BSE i.e. www.bseindia.com and also on the website of the Company i.e. www.jasch.net.in.
- The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

Sonipat
20.05.2025
Jai Kishan Garg
Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of PUJA MOHAPATRA who is purchasing FLAT NO. 2ND FLOOR, HAVING COVERED AREA 800 SQ. FT. APPROX. ON PLOT NO. A-79, BLOCK A, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 11/242 AND 17/4, GALI NO. 04, INSTAATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE POCHANPUR, P.O. DHUL SIRAS, COLONY KACHHWAAS POCHANPUR EXTN., SECTOR-23, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110077 from Mr. Prem Chand Yadav who had owned the same vide Regd. General Power of Attorney dated 24.09.2011 bearing Document No.3176, Book No. IV, Volume no.492, on pages 118-132, dated 24.09.2011 (along with Agreement to sell and Will), now PUJA MOHAPATRA intend to purchase and mortgage the same against financial assistance from ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances hence, Lucem Legal LLP Plot No. 136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

CANCELLATION NOTICE FOR NON - PAYMENT OF DUES AS PER AGREED TERMS.

Supercity Developers Private Limited
Registered Office: 330, Shahdara GT Road, Delhi-32

TO ALL CONCERNED

This notice is issued to the following individuals (Series 1 to 21) and any other person claiming interest in the flats mentioned herein:

1	L-1701	Pramod Kumar Ranjan
2	D-1403	Rama Sharma
3	L-702	Uma Singh
4	F-403	Manju Bhadwaj
5	D-603	Rakesh Kumar
6	F-1104	Shikha
7	K-1205	Madhuri Kumari
8	D-701	Uma Day
9	E-301	Abhishek Sharma
10	E-406	Pawan Lata Singh
11		

India-US may announce interim trade agreement before July 8

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India and the US may announce an interim trade agreement before July 8, with New Delhi seeking full exemption from the additional 26 per cent tariff on domestic goods, an official said.

The US on April 2 imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, but suspended it for 90 days till July 9. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place. The government official said India's endeavour to protect its sensitive sectors may entail some quota or minimum import price (MIP). Such sectors include agri goods and dairy.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was there in Washington earlier this week to give an impetus to the trade talks. He held meetings with US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

"Talks are moving positively. Before July



8, we are looking at concluding an interim deal before the first tranche. It will include goods, non-tariff barriers, some

areas of services also like digital. We are trying that the 26 per cent additional duty and the 10 per cent baseline tariff should

not be there for India," the official said, adding that India is seeking concessions for its labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather.

At present, the Trump administration requires approval from the US Congress to bring tariffs below the MFN (most favoured nation) rates.

But the administration has the authority to remove the reciprocal tariffs imposed on a number of countries, including India. India may look at certain commitments from the US on the duty concessions for its labour-intensive sector in the first tranche of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BT). Both countries have fixed a deadline to conclude the first phase of the pact by fall (September-October) of this year to more than double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

The minister-level meetings were followed by the deliberations between chief negotiators of the two countries, which will continue until May 22.

Officials from New Delhi and

Washington are looking to take advantage of the 90-day tariff pause window to advance the talks.

The US has suspended the additional 26 per cent tariffs on India till July 9. It was announced on April 2 to bridge the widening trade deficit.

To boost bilateral trade, India is seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes and bananas in the proposed pact with America.

On the other hand, the US wants duty concessions in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles (electric vehicles in particular), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, agriculture items such as apples, tree nuts and GM (genetically modified) crops.

While the import of GM crops from the US continues to remain a non-starter due to regulatory norms in India, New Delhi is open to import non-GM products like

Alpha alpha hay (a kind of cattle feed).

The US has on multiple occasions raised concerns over certain non-tariff barriers being faced by American goods in the Indian markets.

Whether another round of talks will happen on the proposed pact between the two countries, the official said, "We are trying to finalise things as early as possible."

The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at \$131.84 billion. The US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports and 10.73 per cent in the country's total merchandise trade.

With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of \$41.18 billion in goods in 2024-25. It was \$35.32 billion in 2023-24, \$27.7 billion in 2022-23, \$32.85 billion in 2021-22 and \$22.73 billion in 2020-21. The US has raised concerns over this widening trade deficit.

India, EU looking for early harvest trade agreement: Official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Negotiations for a proposed trade pact between India and the 27-nation European Union are progressing at a faster pace and both the sides are looking at concluding the talks for an early harvest trade agreement by July this year, a government official said on Wednesday.

The early harvest or an interim trade agreement would include issues such as intellectual property rights (IPRs), government procurement, tariff and non-tariff barriers, the official said.

An Indian official team from the commerce ministry is visiting Brussels this week for the next round of negotiations on the trade agreement with the European Union (EU).

This visit comes in the backdrop of recently-concluded eleventh round of talks between chief negotiators of both the sides on May 16 here in the national capital.

"We are looking for an early harvest. We are trying to do it as early as possible. Targeting by July for early harvest," the official added. The two sides have agreed to conclude the agreement in two phases on account of the uncertain global trade environment, particularly due to the US tariff actions under President Donald Trump.

India has followed the practice of negotiating trade pacts in two phases with Australia.

The early harvest pact would lead to a full fledged free trade agreement.

Besides demanding significant duty cuts in automobiles and medical devices, the EU wants tax reduction in products like wines, spirits, meat, poultry and a strong intellectual property regime.

Indian goods' exports to the EU, such as ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, can become more competitive if the pact gets concluded successfully.

In June 2022, India and the 27-nation EU bloc resumed negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement, an investment protection agreement and a pact on geographical indications (GIs) after a gap of over eight years.

It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets. On February 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the European Commission President agreed to seal a much-awaited free trade deal by the end of this year.

The India-EU trade pact negotiations cover 23 policy areas or chapters, including Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Competition, Trade Defence, Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, Intellectual Property Rights, Geographical Indications and Sustainable Development.

India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was \$137.41 billion in 2023-24 (exports worth \$75.92 billion and imports worth \$61.48 billion), making it the largest trading partner for goods.

The EU market accounts for about 17 per cent of India's total exports, while EU's exports to India make up 9 per cent of its total overseas shipments. In addition, the bilateral trade in services, in 2023, between India and the EU was estimated at \$51.45 billion.

Hindustan Zinc offers metal buying through online auctions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Hindustan Zinc Limited (NSE: HINDZINC), India's only and the world's largest integrated zinc producer, is redefining the metal procurement experience through its transformative Online Price Discovery (OPD) and Digital Pricing Automation platforms. Integrated into the state-of-the-art Vedanta Metal Bazaar, these pioneering digital initiatives aim to bring the seamless, transparent experience of B2C e-commerce to the traditionally complex world of metal procurement. With 100 per cent of its zinc, lead and silver portfolio now available through real-time, transparent online auctions,

Hindustan Zinc is setting a new industry standard by offering customers unparalleled accessibility, flexibility and control while delivering a seamless experience even amid fluctuating commodity prices.

All of Hindustan Zinc's products are now offered through online auctions. The dynamic pricing model enables real-time digital transactions, allowing businesses of all sizes - from MSMEs to large industrial enterprises - to discover market-driven prices for premium-quality zinc and lead. The company's offering includes London Metal Exchange (LME)-registered world-class products such as Special High-Grade (SHG) Zinc, High-Grade (HG) Zinc, Asia's first low-carbon 'green' zinc EcoZen, Prime Western (PW)

Zinc, Continuous Galvanizing Grade (CGG) Zinc, Special High-Grade Jumbo Zinc, High-Grade Jumbo Zinc, Hindustan Zinc Die Casting Alloys 3 and 5, Special High-Grade Lead, as well as London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)-registered silver bars (30 kg and 1 kg) and Silver Powder, among other variants.

Sharing his thoughts, Arun Misra, CEO — Hindustan Zinc, said, "Metals are the core of India's economic progress, enabling industries that shape our nation's future. At Hindustan Zinc, we believe that collaborating with customers and offering them best-in-class services is key to driving this progress. With our pioneering Online Price Discovery and Digital Pricing Automation

platforms we are placing the control directly in the hands of our customers thereby democratizing access to critical resources."

Speaking about the digital experience, Hindustan Zinc's esteemed customer Lalit Shah from Mahaveer Metals said, "Vedanta Metal Bazaar has truly transformed the way we engage with metal procurement. The platform is intuitive, transparent and designed with the customer in mind — from live LME pricing to seamless bidding processes, every aspect empowers businesses like ours to make smarter, faster decisions. What once required cumbersome processes is now available at our fingertips through digital platforms, giving us greater visibility, control and confidence."

VIT-TNMGRMU sign MoU on AI-driven healthcare research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) and Tamil Nadu MGR Medical University (TNMGRMU) has entered into a partnership to foster collaborative research in the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to formalise this initiative that includes: cooperation in teaching, joint research, socially conscious product design and technology transfer.

The MoU was signed by GV Selvam, vice-president of VIT and K Narayanasamy, vice chancellor of TNMGRMU in the presence of T Thyagarajan, pro-vice chancellor of VIT Chennai, SP Thyagarajan, advisor to chancellor and K Sivasangeetha, Registrar of TNMGRMU.

The MoU focuses on fostering joint research at national and international levels, PhD supervision, submission of R and D proposals, joint publications, development of new technologies and joint



patent filing. In addition, the agreement promotes clinical validation processes, ethical clearances and other collaborative activities that support translational research and innovation.

Through this partnership, VIT and TNMGRMU aim to significantly raise the bar for collaborative research, and soci-

etal impact in the healthcare sector. Under this collaboration, both institutions will also jointly work to enhance the quality of training and research through initiatives such as: exchange of students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes; faculty exchange programs, project guidance, to utilise facil-

ities at both the institutions; conduct of co-hosted seminars, workshops, hackathons and conferences periodically from time to time; to share knowledge resources, academic and training materials including access to library and other digital resources of each other within the mutually agreed framework; to conduct certificate and other courses, to provide scholarship/fellowship for scholars/scientists/faculty members involved in research work.

GV Selvam said, "This partnership reflects VIT's commitment to aligning higher education and research with the nation's developmental and public health goals. Bridging engineering and medical research is essential for future-ready healthcare, driving smarter and more accessible innovations."

Emphasising that today's research paves the way for tomorrow's treatments, K Narayanasamy highlighted the need for integrating technology with healthcare to deliver high-quality treatment.

Sensex-Nifty rebounded sharply on Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply on Wednesday, snapping their three-day falling streak on the back of buying in blue-chips HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank and a firm trend in Asian peers. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 410.19 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 81,596.63. During the day, it surged 835.2 points or 1.02 per cent to 82,021.64. The NSE Nifty climbed 129.55 points or 0.52 per cent to 24,813.45.

Among Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Bank and a firm trend in Asian peers. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 410.19 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 81,596.63. During the day, it surged 835.2 points or 1.02 per cent to 82,021.64. The NSE Nifty climbed 129.55 points or 0.52 per cent to 24,813.45.

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— BRENDON MCCULLUM, ENGLAND HEAD COACH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Evian-les-Bains
(France)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The young cricketer from Barbanki, Uttar Pradesh credited his childhood coach for shaping his cricketing career. 'I have played the UPT20 League. The best part for me was the support I got from my coach. He helped me understand that if you're a bowler - and if you're unable to hit sixes or finish games - you limit your overall growth. Spending time with him really helped me develop as a player,' Nigam said.

Amrit Stations of VIKSIT BHARAT



Inauguration of
Redeveloped 103 Amrit Stations Across India

6 Including
Amrit Stations in Madhya Pradesh



SHAJAPUR



NARMADAPURAM



KATNI SOUTH



SHRIDHAM



SEONI



ORCHHA

Benefits

- Stations are developed as City Centres with provision of amenities like roof plaza, retiring room, spacious circulating area etc.
- Virasat bhi Vikas bhi - designs of station buildings inspired by local architecture
- Provision of segregated entry & exit gates, better parking, lift, escalator, executive lounge, waiting area, travelator and Divyangjan friendly facilities
- With the integration of multi-modal connectivity these stations will become the centre of socio-economic activities of the region
- Energy efficiency and green measures used to mitigate environmental impact

by
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

(Through Video Conferencing)

Thursday 22nd May, 2025 at 10:30 hrs

In the August presence of

Mangubhai C. Patel
Governor, Madhya Pradesh

Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting
and Electronics and Information Technology

Arjun Ram Meghwal
Union Minister of State for Law & Justice
(Independent Charge) and Parliamentary Affairs



INDIAN RAILWAYS