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India foiled Pak attempts to target religious places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

It was "new low even for Pakistan" as it targeted places of worship and sent 300 to 400 drones in 36 locations attacking Indian military installations on Thursday. The failed attempt spanned from Leh to Sir Creek and sending of drones was violation of Indian airspace, Government said here on Friday.

Making these assertions here, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said targeting places of worship was with a particular design. He also said Pakistan's farcical denial of its attempts to target installations in India is another example of its duplicity. Addressing the media, he said Pakistan's attack on places of worship and its "preposterous" attempts to put the blame on Indian armed forces is reflective of Islamabad's evil design and efforts to deceive and mislead the world.

Citing Pakistan's attack on a gurdwara in Amritsar and its subsequent attempt to blame it on Indian armed forces, Misri said Islamabad's thinking that India would attack its own cities is the kind of "deranged fantasy" that only the Pakistani state can come up with.

The foreign secretary blasted Pakistan's provocative and escalatory actions to try and target Indian cities and civilian infrastructure using drones on Thursday night.

Misri especially hit out at Pakistan for its "blatantly farcical denial" of these attacks saying it is yet another example of Islamabad's duplicity and the "new depths" that it is plumbing to in its "quest for disinformation". Misri was severely critical of Pakistan for targeting religious places with an aim to give a communal colour to the current situation, and pointed to an incident of Pakistan attacking a gurdwara in Poonch and another religious place in Amritsar.

"Instead of owning up to these attacks, Pakistan made the preposterous and outrageous claim that it was the Indian armed forces and the Indian Air Force that was targeting cities like Amritsar and trying to put the blame on Pakistan," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, during a high-level meeting on the security situation in New Delhi PTI

"This is nothing but a desperate attempt by Pakistan to disown its acts of aggression; but it is also true to its efforts to deceive and mislead the world. It will not succeed," Misri said. He said that "we would attack our own cities" is the kind of deranged fantasy that only the Pakistani state can come up with. Perhaps they do it because they are well versed in such action as their history would show, he said.

Misri described it as a "blatant lie" Pakistan's allegations of India targeting the Nankana Sahib Gurdwara using a drone. "This is again yet another blatant lie and part of Pakistan's disinformation campaign. As we saw in the Pahalgam attack, Pakistan is again trying desperately to impart a communal hue to the situation with an intention to create discord," he said. "Again, we are not surprised. India's steadfast unity in itself is a challenge to Pakistan," he said. Misri said in view of the existing security scenario, the Kartarpur Sahib corridor has been suspended.

On India's strikes on Bahawalpur's Markaz Subhan Allah - the nerve centre of Jaish-e-Mohammed linked to the killing of Daniel Pearl, a journalist with The Wall Street Journal, Misri said the terror outfit was "directly or indirectly" responsible for his death. "Bahawalpur is the headquarters of the Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group that is proscribed by the UN. Its leader Masood Azhar, is a proscribed individual," he said, responding to a question. "You brought up the connection with the tragic death or killing of Daniel Pearl of the Wall Street Journal.

The JeM was in some way directly or indirectly responsible for the death of Daniel Pearl," he said. "But the real connection is through Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, the British Pakistani jihadi who was held in India but was finally released in 2000 and he was the person who lured Daniel Pearl to his...Murder," Misri said.

Addressing the media at the press briefing, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said Pakistan conducted an unprovoked aerial assault on May 7 at approximately 8.30pm.

Enemy drones lose sight in India

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

Pakistan, for the second consecutive night, launched swarm drone attacks on multiple locations across several North Indian cities of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan. At the time of going to press, the Indian air defence systems were able to successfully neutralise the threat.

According to ground reports, a suspected drone attack was also reported from Srinagar airport and in the holy city of Amritsar near the revered Golden Temple late Friday evening. Both these attacks were thwarted successfully.

The attack came a day after India thwarted attempts by the Pakistan military to hit Indian military installations and religious sites using drones and missiles., The sky was lit up in the Baramulla district as the Indian military shot down Pakistani drones. Blasts were heard and sirens sounded in the Jammu region and south Kashmir as many parts of the Union Territory plunged into darkness. In Srinagar, mosque loudspeakers were used to persuade locals to switch off their lights as a precautionary measure.

Officials said the drones were also engaged in Udhampur and Nagrota of Jammu and Punjab. Heavy cross-border shelling was underway along the International Border (IB) in Suchetgarh and Ramgarh sectors of Jammu and Samba districts.

From Srinagar and Jammu to Punjab's multiple districts and Jaisalmer and Jodhpur in Rajasthan, a vast stretch of the border areas plunged into darkness with public announcements made, urging people to switch off their lights as a precautionary measure. According to defence sources, "Drones have been sighted at 26 locations ranging from Baramulla in the North to Bhuj in the South, along both the International Border and the Line of Control with Pakistan. These include suspected armed drones posing potential threats to civilian and military targets".

"The locations include Baramulla, Srinagar, Avantipora, Nagrota, Jammu, Ferozpur, Pathankot, Fazilka, Lalgarh Jatta, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bhuj, Kuarbet and Lakhi Nala", they added.

Sirens rang out in Pokaran, and a complete blackout was imposed in the region. The blackout in Jodhpur, originally scheduled to begin at midnight, was implemented immediately. Barmer, Sriganganagar, and Phalodi also went completely dark.

According to them, an armed drone targeted a civilian area in Ferozpur, resulting in severe injuries to members of a local family. The injured have been provided medical assistance, and the area has been sanitised by security forces.

Defence sources maintained the Indian

In Samba, a major infiltration bid was supported by the Pakistani Rangers. According to BSF, cover fire was provided to them from a nearby Pakistani Rangers post

Armed Forces are maintaining a high state of alert, and all such aerial threats are being tracked and engaged using counter-drone systems. The situation is under close and constant watch, and prompt action is being taken wherever necessary.

Earlier, the alert troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) foiled a major infiltration attempt along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district in the early hours of Friday, killing seven heavily armed terrorists.

The beleaguered Pakistan army had also fired 300-400 drones on Thursday across several Indian cities. The attacks were intercepted by India's air defence systems, including the S-400 missile defence system, preventing significant damage. "On the night of May 7 and 8, the Pakistan army violated Indian airspace several times over the entire western border to target military infrastructure. Not only this, the Pakistani army also fired heavy-calibre weapons along the Line of Control. Around 300 to 400 drones were used to attempt infiltration at 36 locations," said the Government.

"The possible purpose of such large-scale aerial intrusions was to test air defence systems and collect intelligence. Forensic investigation of the wreckage of the drones is being done. Initial reports suggest that they are Turkish Asisguard Songar drones..." the Government added.

In Jammu, the drone attack was launched by the Pakistan army around 8.00 p.m. Jammu city plunged into darkness after blasts were heard and sirens sounded in the region.

"Intermittent sounds of blasts, probably heavy artillery, can now be heard from where I am," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X.He also posted a picture of the city in darkness, captioning the post as, "Blackout in Jammu now. Sirens can be heard across the city." "It's my earnest appeal to everyone in & around Jammu please stay off the streets, stay at home or at the nearest place you can comfortably stay at for the next few hours. Ignore rumours, don't spread unsubstantiated or unverified stories & we will get through this together," the Chief Minister added.

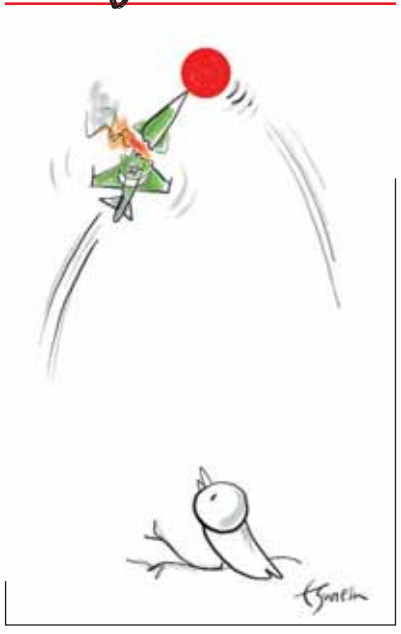
In Samba, the major infiltration bid was supported by the Pakistani Rangers. According to BSF, adequate cover fire was provided to the group of terrorists from a nearby Dhandhar post of the Pakistani Rangers The suspicious movement of a heavily armed group of infiltrators was caught on camera with the help of thermal imagers by the BSF troops around 11.00 p.m. near the Samba border.

Confirming the same, the BSF spokesman of the Jammu frontier posted on X, "At around 2300 hours on 8 May 2025, BSF foiled a major infiltration bid at the International Boundary in Samba district, J&K".

A video also showed BSF troops causing extensive damage to the Pakistani post Dhandhar while killing at least seven terrorists to foil a major infiltration bid.

Tension between the two neighbours soared after the Indian Armed Forces on Wednesday conducted precision strikes targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, PoK, in response to the April 22 attack.

The ByStander



PIONEER IN SHORT

IPL suspended for a week amid rising tensions

The IPL has been suspended for a week due to escalating India-Pakistan tensions following Operation Sindoor. The BCCI cited national interest and security concerns after Thursday's match was disrupted by air raid alerts. Players are disbanding, and a revised schedule will be announced later. September may be considered if the Asia Cup is postponed. The BCCI expressed solidarity with national forces.

Don't bring women Army officers' morale down: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday asked the Centre not to release from service Short Service Commission (SSC) women Army officers challenging the denial of Permanent Commission to them asking not to "bring their morale down" in "the prevailing situation". A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh which posted a batch of pleas filed by 69 officers for hearing in August, said they should not be released till the next hearing.

"In the prevailing situation let's not bring their morale down. They are brilliant officers, you can use their services somewhere else. This is not the time that they be asked to roam around in the Supreme Court. They have a better place to be and serve the country," Justice Kant said. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said it was an administrative decision based on a policy to keep the armed forces young.

She urged the SC not to grant any stay on their release and said the Indian Army needed young officers and every year only 250 personnel were granted permanent commission. Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing for Colonel Geeta Sharma, referred to the case of Colonel Sofia Qureshi, one of the two women officers who had briefed the media on the Operation Sindoor on May 7 and May 8. Guruswamy said Colonel Qureshi had to approach this court for a similar relief related to permanent commission and now she has made the country proud. The bench without commenting much on the submission said the case before the top court was purely a legal one, having nothing to do with the achievements of the officers. In its February 17, 2020, the top court said absolute exclusion of women from all

Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy referred to the case of Colonel Sofia Qureshi, one of the two women officers who briefed the media on the Operation Sindoor

positions, except staff assignments, in the Army was indefensible and their blanket non-consideration for command appointments without any justification couldn't be sustained in law.

The SC, which allowed permanent commission to women officers in the Army, said an absolute prohibition of women SSC officers to obtain anything but staff appointments evidently did not fulfil the purpose of granting permanent commission as a means of career advancement in the Army.

The top court also referred to the distinctions achieved by women officers, and put out an example of Col Sofia Qureshi's achievements.

Since the 2020 verdict, the top court has passed several orders on the issue of permanent commission to women officers in Armed Forces and similar orders was passed in the case of Navy, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.

Airport closures extended

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The Centre on Friday extended the closure of 24 airports in northern and western parts of the country until May 15 leading to major disruptions in air travel. Airports including Chandigarh, Srinagar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Bhuntar, Kishengarh, Patiala, Shimla, Dharamsala, Bathinda, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Leh, Bikaner, Pathankot, Jammu, Jamnagar, Porbander and Bhuj are among others, which have been temporarily closed for civilian flights.

Several airlines have also issued travel advisories for passengers and asked for them to remain updated on airport closures and enhanced security protocols.

Air India in a post on X on Friday stated, "Following a notification from aviation authorities on continued closure of multiple airports in India, Air India flights to and from the following stations — Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Bhuj, Jamnagar and Rajkot — are being cancelled till 0529 hrs IST on 15 May, pending further updates."

Air India also said customers holding valid tickets for travel during this period will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling charges or a full refund for cancellations.

In a post on X, IndiGo said in accordance with the latest directives from the relevant authorities, all flights to and from 10 destinations will remain cancelled until 0529 hours on May 15 due to temporary airport closures.

Capital's siren Abhyaas

VAISHNAVI MISHRA ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Government's Directorate of Civil Defence on Friday conducted testing of an air raid siren in the national Capital amid rising tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad.

The testing of the siren followed the Delhi Government's direction that all 11 districts of the Capital need to deploy air raid sirens, including manual and electrical, at important and critical locations and conduct trials.

The drill began at 3 pm and sirens were sounded at least twice for 15-20 minutes each. However, it was noticed by people that the sound of the first round of siren testing was low and some did not even notice it. People were also instructed to take shelter, preferably in the basement of buildings.

Officials said that this was a drill to keep everything prepared in case of an untoward incident. "Accordingly, it is requested that adequate publicity may be made through social and electronic media so that the general public are advised to stay calm and not to panic during the said exercise," the order signed by district magistrate (Central) G. Sudhakar reads.

The Station House Officer (SHO) in Daryaganj also made public announcements on Friday morning saying: "Today, at 3 pm, there will be checking of air raid sirens at PWD HQ.

The sirens will be heard at a radius of 4 km. Do not panic since this is only checking. Later on, whenever we use this, it would be a warning sign. But not today"

Delhi police teams were deployed to check the preparedness of the staff as well as equipment, an officer said.

Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma during the testing of an air raid siren installed atop the PWD building at ITO in New Delhi PTI

1971 war memoirs

Jammu: Same theatre, new technology

ANIL ANAND ■ Jammu

As the sky lit the border city of Jammu, my home town, with Pakistani drowns and other projectiles making futile bids to find targets in the City of Temples, it became reminiscent of the theatre of war one witnessed during my childhood and teens in 1965 and 1971. The only difference was the technology on display.

Circa 1965 — Pakistan thrust a war on India, my father was posted in hilly town of Batote, a safer place where I was studying in fifth class. But soon we were in Jammu on the first available opportunity as, perhaps, my father wanted all of us to see the remnants of armed conflict and become part of the social milieu engaged in relief work. He took us on a pilgrimage to a bombing site outside the then small Jammu airport followed by a visit to Srinagar (Kashmir) where a locality

Batmaloo, near the house of my maternal uncles, had been burnt to flush out the Pakistani infiltrators. The local Kashmiris had played an important role in informing about the infiltrators under Operation Gibraltar. Back to Jammu: Our first task was to get familiar with the black-outs and related drills followed by getting in touch, there were hardly any phones those days, with relatives and friends to know their well-being.

It was not an easy task as whenever we ventured out sirens went full-steam warning of air-raids. Nevertheless, soon we got accustomed to this culture and how to tuck ourselves to safe zones. Then followed the Herculean effort to find out the extent damage caused either by the air raids or the situation in the nearby borders.

The only source of news was the All India Radio- Radio Kashmir, Jammu as it was known then in Jammu and Kashmir. However, since the news bulletins were limited, most of the time it was the rumour mill at work.

Operation Sindoor: Pakistan in a quandary

GEN ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA ■ New Delhi

Thursday was a long night; the night of the Generals. Pakistan unleashed its tentative response to India's lethal precision strikes on 7 May against nine terrorist infrastructure targets across the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in the heart of Punjab, including the infamous dens of Muridke and Bahawalpur. The strikes caused immense hurt and pain to the military state as India escalated the intensity of punishment through Operation Sindoor, compared to the earlier Uri and Balakot reprisals.

Pakistan's retaliation was targeting 36 military and aviation installations stretching from Leh to Sir Creek with 400 Turkish drones designed to test India's layered air defence systems. These were accompanied by intense cross border shelling that lit up the blackouts in Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) notably Srinagar, Pathankot and Jammu. While India succeeded in blunting the drone strikes, several civilian and military casualties occurred. Rawalpindi had made a similar futile attempt but on a lower scale on Wednesday night too.

In his interview to the BBC Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif made a farcical denial of the drone attacks demonstrating Pakistan's perfection in obfuscation and disinformation that is floating like confetti during Christmas. Indian media is not lagging behind this. As in the Middle East, drones and precision guided missiles are primary weapons of a stand-off war. The Indian Air Force is in the lead along with missile firing units. Not crossing the LoC or the IB does not lower or enhance the legitimacy of offensive strikes but reduces risks of attrition. Pakistan stonewalling acquisitions of drone strikes is crafted to show that its response to Operation Sindoor is still in the making and that it will be delivered at a time and place of its choosing.

India has maintained its domination of the escalation matrix. It is Pakistan which has to make the next move. Pakistan has pledged a 'one notch up' retribution . Delhi has changed the terms of escalation post Balakot and served Islamabad with a warning that any misadventure will have consequences. This was not the case during Balakot, where India had announced an end of its operations after the initial strikes. A Pakistani 'one notch up' response threatens to attract an Indian counterstrike. So here is the quandary: "Pakistan has to escalate to de-escalate risking an Indian riposte". Delhi has responded to Rawalpindi's testing of air defence systems with caution but selectively degraded adversary's air defences.

Asif told the BBC we did not respond as we did not wish to reveal our air defence locations. This is funny. While avenging Operation Sindoor the General will have to think out of the box in targeting to vindicate Pakistan military's honour and image. The ball is in Rawalpindi's court.

Janata Darbar: DC resolves many cases on the spot

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In the weekly Janata Darbar held at the Collectorate office, Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal personally listened to grievances from citizens and assured timely redressal of their concerns. The interactive session saw a large number of people turning up with applications related to various civic and administrative issues.

Issues raised by the public ranged from school admissions and MNREGA appointments to land disputes, electricity connections, pending payments, housing, shop allotments, and gun license approvals. Disputes regarding cooperative housing societies and domestic matters were also brought to the fore.

Mittal patiently heard each complaint and assured that necessary investigations would be undertaken before appropriate action is taken. He directed officials to ensure quick and transparent resolution of all pending cases. Several grievances were resolved immediately during the darbar, offering instant relief to the complainants.

For the rest, the Deputy Commissioner forwarded the applications to concerned departments with specific instructions for expeditious handling.

He emphasized that accountability and prompt response to public issues remain a top priority for the administration.

The weekly Janata Darbar continues to serve as an important platform for citizen engagement and grievance redressal in the district.

In Search of Lasting Joy with Sri Eswaran R: A Heartfelt Conversation on Happiness through the Lens of Vedanta

In a recent beautiful gathering, Antara Mohan and Sri Eswaran R engaged in a profound and soul-stirring conversation about the essence of happiness. The discussion, held before an eager and reflective audience, explored the timeless wisdom of Vedanta and its perspective on true joy—what it is, where it lies, and how we can access it from within.

The depth of this conversation was so impactful that we felt it was only right to share this version with all of you. Now, we are honored to bring this insightful exchange to a wider audience, in the hope that it may inspire reflection and inner peace as you explore the true nature of lasting happiness.

1. Sir, in today's fast-paced world, most of us are relentlessly chasing happiness—through relationships, professional success, travel, and material achievements. Yet Vedanta gently reminds us that true happiness does not reside in the external world. May I ask, why then does this outward chase feel so compelling and real to us?

As long as one believes happiness comes from the world, the focus remains on the world. Yet, all human beings are ultimately seeking poornatvam—a sense of completeness. Recognize this first. Then ask: where is completeness, and where is it not?

If you believe it lies in wealth, name, fame, power, position, status, or relationships, Vedanta says: neti, neti—not that, not that. Even if you attain all seven, a sense of incompleteness may still remain.

What we truly seek is lasting, high-quality pleasure and freedom from sorrow. For instance, we eat not for food alone, but to end hunger—pain avoidance. We mistake these fleeting satisfactions for true happiness and keep searching in the world, like the old woman looking under a streetlight for a needle lost inside her hut.

Vedanta teaches us that the loss of happiness is imaginary—it was never truly lost. Real happiness is not regained but rediscovered. It is our own nature. Transcending the world comes not from frustration, but from deep understanding—and with that, the world no longer disturbs you.

2. The Bhagavad Gita beautifully states, "He who is unattached to external contacts and finds joy within, that yogi is united with Brahman." Sir, could you kindly help us understand what it truly means to "find joy within"? How does one begin to shift the focus inward amidst the distractions and demands of modern life?

"Happiness is within" means it is not found in the world, the body, senses, mind, or intellect—it is the very nature of the Self. The happiness we seem to get from the world is only reflected happiness, like moonlight. Just as we see light coming from the moon but we do not see the mooon receiving the light from the sun. We mistake worldly happiness for being real and permanent.

The shift inward begins only when you see the world clearly. Once you realize that what you truly seek is not out there, a natural U-turn happens. The mind keeps promising fulfillment but never delivers. Life, as it has been lived so far, hasn't brought lasting satisfaction. Recognizing this is key. The Upanishads call this parikshya lokan—examining life. Observe your own experiences. Pleasure and pain often come from the same source. Every gain leads to further craving or fear of loss. Despite achievements and possessions, a chronic dissatisfaction remains.

Everything you enjoy creates dependence—bondage. Their presence doesn't bring lasting joy, and their absence causes misery. When this is deeply understood, you turn inward, not out of despair, but out of wisdom.

3. Vedanta tells us that our essential nature is Ananda—pure bliss. Yet, many of us feel a deep restlessness or incompleteness, even after achieving what we thought would bring us happiness. Why is that so, Sir? What are we missing in our understanding of happiness?

The happiness we experience through contact with the world is merely the temporary cessation of mental agitation. What we call joy or pleasure is, in fact, the absence of mental disturbance.

To experience the bliss of the Self, one must make a sustained and deliberate effort—it takes time and commitment. This journey begins with understanding the Goal and the Means to achieve it. Remember: the greater the goal, the stronger the motivation; the higher the ideal, the deeper the inspiration. Shifting attention to the Self within is essential.

One might wonder, "How can I turn toward something I know nothing about?" This is where Vedanta plays a crucial role. It refines the subtle intellect, enabling it to conceive and visualize the grandeur of the Self.

Unfortunately, the pursuit of happiness is often seen as selfish, while seeking wealth, success, or knowledge appears socially acceptable. But when Vedanta says happiness is not in "the world," it refers specifically to your world—the world as you perceive and relate to it. It's not that others possess happiness and are withholding it from you—they do not have it. The error lies in expecting the world to give you something it does not contain.

4. Swamiji often says, "Never let your present happiness lean on a future acquisition." Sir, why does Vedanta caution us so strongly against placing our happiness in the future? What is the inner cost of this dependency?

Every action you perform is driven by desire. Desire is essentially the hope for future happiness—it is the way an unhappy mind attempts to find fulfillment. However, knowledge reduces this tendency by lessening the intensity of desiring.

What you imagine as a better future is often just a modified version of your past. For example, if you grew up in a joint family where six people shared a single room, having your own room may now seem like an ideal future. But this vision is simply an improvised past, not something truly new or transformative.

True happiness lies in the execution of action, not in its results.

At any given moment, there are two dimensions to your personality: the Doer and the Experiencer. The Doer becomes the Experiencer, facing the consequences of past actions. As a receiver of consequences, you are a passive participant—with no choice. And as a victim, how can one expect to be happy?

Happiness lies in performing one's obligatory duties with the right attitude. Hence, it is advised not to peg your present happiness to future acquisitions.

Agitation and disappointment are the costs of such dependence.

5. And finally, Sir, in your own quiet moments—when all labels, ambitions, and roles fall away—what remains? Could it be that the peace and silence we encounter within is the very happiness we have been seeking all along?

When you say "all falls away," is it a temporary suspension or a permanent dropping away? It is important to note that stunningness is not the same as saturation.

When the mind drops all sense of "me and mine," "thou and thine," it experiences a strange stillness—what Yoga refers to as chitta vritti nirodha. This must be clearly distinguished from a temporary state in which the mind, exhausted by constant activity, comes to a halt out of sheer fatigue. That is not the true state of stillness, because one cannot remain in it at will for any extended period. The pressure of unfulfilled desires eventually forces the mind to move and become active again.

Silence, in its true sense, is not something you enter and exit. True silence has a beginning—but no end.

Dr. Eswaran holds a doctorate in Psychotherapy and has specialized in Vedanta Philosophy. With over three decades dedicated to the study and research of Vedanta. He has conducted more than 7,500 hours of teaching across 5,000+ sessions in over six countries, addressing diverse audiences. In addition to his work in Vedanta, Dr. Eswaran serves as a life coach and mentor to business and corporate leaders, guiding them on values-based leadership and personal growth. He is also a regular contributor to leading publications on topics related to self-development, philosophy, and well-being. Dr. Eswaran is the Founder-Acharya of the Vedanta Institute Bangalore, a Public Charity.

GET IN TOUCH WITH THE AUTHOR BY INFO@VEDANTAINSTITUTE.ORG

DIC, BSL interacts with employees in 'Rubaru' session

PNS : BOKARO

An interactive session titled "Rubaru" was organized at the Learning and Development Centre of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), where Director In-Charge Birendra Kumar Tiwari engaged directly with 40 non-executive employees in an open dialogue.

The program began with a safety pledge led by the Director In-Charge B K Tiwari . Amit Anand, assistant general manager, delivered a presentation highlighting BSL's key initiatives in the field of employee learning and development. He spoke about partnerships with platforms like LinkedIn and Future Prime, MoUs with renowned institutions, and the launch of e-Pathshala and other digital platforms providing new opportunities for skill enhancement.

In his address, Birendra Kumar Tiwari emphasized the significance of continuous learning and self-development. He encouraged employees to make full use of available resources, adopt best practices, and stay abreast of advancements in digitalization and artificial intelligence.

The session also featured active participation from attendees, who shared their perspectives on learning and development. The event was conducted by Rajesh Kumar, deputy general manager, learning and development.

The Inner Classroom: The Left-Out Prompt

BY SHEETAL BAGARIA

Among the many essay prompts I present to students preparing to tell their life stories, the one that consistently gets left behind is the one on gratitude. "Too vague," some say. "Too boring," others dismiss. And yet, I gently linger on it. I watch their expressions when I ask, "Who has really changed your life in a way you didn't expect?" It is in that pause—awkward, silent, and untrained—that the first crack appears in the wall of self-presentation. Why do so few choose gratitude when given the chance? Perhaps because true gratitude asks us to soften. It's not performative. It's not competitive. It asks for reflection, for surrender of pride, for the courage to acknowledge that we didn't do it all alone. In The Inner Classroom, gratitude is not a polite thank-you note—it is a force. A mental reorientation. A quiet power that flips our gaze from what is missing to what is present, from entitlement to abundance, from cynicism to reverence. It is, in many ways, the beginning of all learning.

When I think of the Inner Classroom, I don't imagine a grand space. I think of a quiet moment—maybe at a desk, maybe while tying your shoelaces—when something shifts inside you. It's the space where you begin to notice. Where you remember that someone once waited for you, forgave you, believed in you. Where you begin to say, "That mattered." Gratitude, in this space, isn't an assignment. It's a return. A returning to softness, to connection, to the threads that hold us together. And that's where real learning begins—not in answers, but in awareness.

I've seen students write fierce essays about leadership, ambition, and hardship. But it is the ones who learn to articulate sincere, specific gratitude—often to a grandmother who stayed up late, a watchman who opened a gate during a moment of panic, or a teacher who once said, "I believe in you"—who unlock a depth in themselves they didn't know they carried.

Gratitude is radical because it is vulnerable. It acknowledges interdependence in a world that glorifies independence. And perhaps that's why it is hard. But in this very difficulty lies its magic.

In my own life, I find that every time I return to gratitude, something opens—a clarity, a calmness, an alignment. I stop struggling to make sense of things. Instead, I start feeling the sense they've always carried.

If I could give one prompt not just for an essay, but for life, it would be this:

"Write about someone you are grateful to—and how you showed it in a way that surprised even you."

Because maybe that one choice could change how you see your entire story.

I once worked with a student from Gabon who faced this exact prompt. Reluctantly, he drafted a letter of gratitude to his Indian neighbour who had delivered food to his family during the COVID lockdown. It was decent. Predictable. Indian to Indian. Same social and cultural familiarity. Safe.

But something about it didn't sit right. I asked him gently, "Why are you staying in the familiar zone in a country as culturally rich and complex as Gabon? Where is the solidarity? The human-to-human gratitude that transcends borders, status, and community?" But my questions didn't seem to nudge him out of the frame he had built.

I knew from earlier conversations that his house was under construction. So I decided to plant an idea—one that could stretch his imagination: "What if you wrote to the construction workers building your future home? What if you thanked them not just for laying bricks, but for shaping a dream you haven't even lived yet?"

That thought stirred something. But still, the essay felt half-baked.

And then, in a quiet moment of reflection, he remembered someone else—someone he had overlooked. A domestic staff member in his home. Not a teacher by profession, but the very first person who had taught him basic French when he had arrived in Gabon. She had done so informally, with patience, laughter, and affection. She hadn't expected recognition. She had simply shown up.

That's when the essay turned. His words found weight. His story found soul. And for the first time in our sessions, I saw him drop his armor. He wrote with genuine humility and warmth—acknowledging not just her role in his adaptation to a new country, but also her impact on who he was becoming.

This is what I mean when I say that gratitude—when genuinely explored—doesn't just transform the essay. It transforms the student. It shows them that the real heroes of their stories are not always in the spotlight. Sometimes, they are standing quietly in the wings—waiting to be remembered.

Perhaps that's the real lesson of the left-out prompt: that what we overlook is often what we most need to see.

Pranshu Singh wins Mondaq Thought Leadership Award

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Pranshu Singh, a bright legal mind from Jamshedpur and an alumna of Rajendra Vidyalaya, has been honoured with the prestigious Thought Leadership Award by the globally renowned law and legal research firm, Mondaq. She received the first prize in the immigration category for her research-based article, which emerged as the most-read article worldwide between October 2024 and March 2025.

The award is given biannually—in Spring and Autumn—to legal professionals across the globe, recognizing insightful legal analysis and impactful writing. Pranshu received the Spring edition of the award, which covered submissions from 16 countries across 16 distinct legal categories.

Currently residing in New Delhi, Pranshu works at the reputed Hammurabi & Solomon law firm. Her article, which received the accolade, explores trade relations between India and Portugal, shedding light on both challenges and emerging opportunities from a fresh legal perspective. A meritorious student since childhood, Pranshu completed her graduation from Christ College, Bengaluru, and later pursued law. She is the daughter of Jamshedpur-based trade union expert Praveen Singh. Expressing his pride, Singh said, "This award is highly prestigious in the legal community. I'm glad that Pranshu is carrying forward our legacy in the field of law." He added that she has also worked under several prominent Supreme Court lawyers and has published in leading legal journals both nationally and internationally.

In a short span of time, Pranshu has made a significant mark in the legal field, demonstrating deep insight and commitment through her writing and practice.

Tracks of Transformation: The Vision of Mr. Sudip Sen

Shreya kumari talks to Sudip Sen about his journey in revolutionizing sanitation and public hygiene across India.

Shreya : Mr. Sen, you've transformed the sanitation system of Indian Railways. What inspired you to take on this massive challenge, and how did you implement the changes?

Mr. Sen: I was in the right place at the right time. In 2010, when I joined Stone India Ltd, I adapted Sunrise products to Indian conditions, launched multiwall paper sacks with biodegradable packaging, manufactured with German technology and British collaboration. I also launched imported tools for cutting and processing granites, marbles, and other stones. Luckily, I happened to meet the MD of Stone India Ltd, who had conceived the pathbreaking technology of bio toilets and was looking for someone who would convert this into a viable commercial business. Stone India Ltd, being an 80-year-old engineering company, was selected by the Indian Railways to solve its sanitation problems. Earlier, Railway toilets discharged waste directly onto the tracks, creating cleanliness issues. It was evaluated that India was losing more than 6% of its GDP due to diseases caused by open defecation. Today, all Indian trains use biodigester tanks that eject clean water instead. I feel proud to have contributed to this transformation.

Shreya: Your work during the Kumbh Mela set a new benchmark for public hygiene and waste management. Could you take us through that experience?

Mr. Sen: As the Business Head of Shrachi Group, I led the initiative to provide portable toilets for the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj in 2019, a major challenge given the scale of over 7 crore pilgrims. Previously, open defecation and disease were widespread at these events. With the Government machinery and our 24*7 hard work, we ensured a defecation-free Kumbh by providing 1000+ toilets. Officials from the Guinness Book of World Records declared it the cleanest ever. Truly, "Where there is a will, there is a way"?

Shreya: What has kept you so driven over the years? Was there a particular moment or influence in your life that shaped this purpose?

Mr. Sen: I was drawn to Sanitation through the "Swach Bharat Mission". Even before that, I witnessed various public areas lacking toilets, with over 60% of the population defecating in the open.

I knew I had to act. Improving hygiene became my purpose.

Shreya: Your wife is also an advocate for menstrual health and hygiene. What led you both to speak out on this issue, and how are you working to create awareness around it?

Mr. Sen: We implemented various projects funded by Rotary International, including bio toilets for rural girls' schools to prevent dropouts due to poor sanitation. We also noticed a complete lack of awareness about menstrual hygiene among rural women.

This is when my wife joined me to provide them with training and awareness. During my visit to China, I noticed many women working.

And likewise, we must have the entire female workforce share the burden of nation-building. Since then, both my wife and I have been working for Women Empowerment.

Shreya: Looking ahead, Mr. Sen, when you envision a cleaner India, what does that future look like to you? And how can each of us contribute?

Mr. Sen: I envision a Vikshit Bharat by 2047, which CANNOT be achieved without revolutionising hygiene across all sectors of society.

I am committed to contributing my best. My spectrum of activities will now go beyond bio toilets and encompass the entire WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene). Catch up with all the action on www.swachatagreen.in or at Swachata Green Solutions. I request people to join me, as we have miles to go before we sleep!

The Pioneer
RANCHI | SATURDAY |MAY, 10 , 2025

Doctors' leaves cancelled in State, Health Minister issues order

PNS : RANCHI

Amid Indo-Pak tension, Jharkhand Health Minister Dr Irfan Ansari has taken a big decision. He has cancelled the leaves of all doctors in the state. He has posted on social media that the health department of Jharkhand is fully alert and fully prepared to deal with any emergency.

A special advisory will soon be issued by the state health department regarding Operation Sindoor. All civil surgeons and doctors in the state have been put on high alert. Strict instructions have been issued to hospitals in every district to be prepared.

The Health Minister said that special preparations have been made in the Army camp area and additional budget has been allocated to the hospitals there so that there is no hindrance in any kind of emergency medical arrangements. "Under the most important decision, the leaves of all government doctors in Jharkhand have been cancelled with immediate effect. All doctors have been instructed to remain available at their workplaces," he added.

Dr Ansari made it clear that if needed, the doctors of Jharkhand are ready to go to the border area and provide services on the frontline. He also declared that "I will personally lead those doctors and take them to the emergency area. We will not back down under any circumstances."

This decision of Dr Irfan Ansari has come at a time when there is tension on the borders of the country. This step is not only a proof of the activism of the health department of Jharkhand, but also shows that the leadership of Jharkhand believes in working on the ground, not just speeches.

The Health Minister has said that due to the vision and commitment of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, today Jharkhand is moving towards a new era in the field of health.

"My only goal is to make the health system of Jharkhand strong and technically capable. As a doctor, I understand the ground needs of the system and am constantly working in that direction. Now changes are visible on the ground," he added.

Health Minister Dr Irfan Ansari (Centre) with Additional Chief Secretary Health Dept Ajoy Kumar Singh and Director NHM Abu Imran. (File Photo)

Govt asks hospitals not deny release body of patients for any reason

PNS : RANCHI

The Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare has written to all Deputy Commissioners and Civil Surgeons of the State that it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India through a relevant letter that some hospitals/health facilities are refusing to hand over the bodies of deceased persons to their relatives after treatment on the ground that their bills are pending. The act of hospitals/health facilities causes unnecessary mental agony to the bereaved family members and disregards ethical and human principles.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has promulgated the "Patients' Rights and Responsibilities Charter" under "The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010" to resolve the complaints of patients and improve medical services. Along with this, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has also requested to display the said charter in all medical institutions. According to the charter, Release of dead body of a patient cannot be denied for any reason by the hospitals". In this regard, instructions have also been given in departmental meetings. In the light of the above, the Government of India has directed all medical institutions under the said Act to comply with the applicable legal and ethical guidelines and hand over the body promptly and respectfully after death.

Therefore, in the light of the above, it is directed that all the hospitals/medical institutions under your control should be directed to take necessary action as per the rules in accordance with the said Act/Charter. Also, ensure compliance of the said Act/Charter at your level.

JTET advertisement cancelled

PNS : RANCHI

The Jharkhand Government has decided to cancel the advertisement of Jharkhand Teacher Eligibility Test (JTET). According to the information, the departmental minister, Ramdas Soren has also given his approval to this. Soon an advertisement will be published to conduct the JTET examination afresh.

When Ramdas Soren was asked in this regard, he admitted that he has approved the proposal to cancel the advertisement of the examination. He also said that in the interest of the students, an advertisement will soon be published to conduct the JTET examination afresh. JTET is an important examination conducted by the Jharkhand Government, which assesses the qualifications of teachers. Through this examination, teachers are recruited in government schools of Jharkhand.

JAK had published an advertisement to conduct the JTET examination last year.

According to that, applications were invited for the JTET examination from July 23 to September 26. But after inviting applications, the examination was stopped due to some discrepancies and irregularities in the syllabus.

Now the government has decided to cancel the advertisement and is preparing to conduct the examination afresh. About 3.5 lakh students had applied for the JTET examination, after Jharkhand became a separate state, the JTET examination was conducted only twice in the last 25 years, in 2013, about 68000 students passed the JTET examination and in 2016, about 53000 students passed the JTET examination.

To encourage the soldiers fighting in this war and to give a befitting reply to Pakistan, Hanuman Chalisa was recited 51 times in the Mahavir temple located at Ranikudar in Jamshedpur on Friday. After this 501 lamps were lit in the temple and sweets were distributed among the local people. PNS

BJP doing petty politics in the name of tribal heroes: JMM

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has strongly condemned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of doing petty politics in the name of tribal heroes. JMM General Secretary cum Spokesperson Vinod Kumar Pandey said that on one hand the BJP pretends to respect tribal heroes, while on the other hand it has been continuously insulting the culture, history and tribal identity of Jharkhand.

Pandey said that the BJP has no moral right to comment on the sacrifices and legacy of the glorious tribal heroes of Jharkhand. He alleged that during its rule, the BJP conspired to hand over water, forest, land to corporate houses and ignored the basic problems of the tribals.

JMM said that tribal heroes like Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Sido-Kanhu,

Tilka Manjhi, Veer Budhu Bhagat had fought against colonial exploitation and social injustice. But the BJP tried to crush their ideals during its tenure. Citing the 2017 Land Acquisition Amendment Bill, the party said that through this law, an attempt was made to snatch the land of the tribals, which was thwarted due to the opposition of JMM and the tribal society.

General Secretary cum Spokesperson Pandey said that the BJP took symbolic steps like celebrating Birsa Munda's birth anniversary as National Tribal Pride Day, but it completely failed to formulate concrete policies in favor of the tribals at the ground level.

JMM said that the BJP's crushing defeat in the tribal-dominated seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections is proof that the people of Jharkhand have understood their false promises. The party said that under the leadership of Hemant Soren, JMM has given priority to the interests of the tribals.

Pandey said, 'We will continue to expose the hypocrisy of the BJP and continue the struggle to protect the rights, honor and self-respect of the tribals.' He appealed to the people of Jharkhand to recognize the divisive agenda of the BJP and protect their glorious history by uniting.

Congress holds Tiranga Yatra to boost morale of Defence Forces

Senior Congress leaders and workers during Tiranga Yatra in Ranchi on Friday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI

To boost the morale of the armed forces in support of the action taken by the Indian Army against terrorists and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, a Tiranga Yatra was taken out from Congress Bhawan to Albert Ekka Chowk under the leadership of State Congress President Shri Keshav Mahato Kamlesh here on Friday.

On this occasion, Kamlesh said that we are proud of the Indian Army for keeping our country's head high in the world. The way the soldiers have destroyed the terrorist hideouts located inside Pakistan to avenge the killing of 26 innocent civilians in Pahalgam is exemplary. We are in favour of any kind of military action against the country or person promoting terrorism. The people of the entire country are standing with the army. We are with the government in every decision to eradicate terrorism. When the country faced a crisis, the Indian Army removed the threat looming over the country with its courage and bravery. Even today, the Indian Army is responding to the Pakistani Army with restraint. The Indian Army had targeted terrorist hideouts, but Pakistan is attacking civilian areas which are a symbol of their cowardice. The martyred soldiers pay tribute to the civilians.

Former Minister Dr. Rameshwar Oraon said that there is an atmosphere of enthusiasm among the countrymen due to the action of the Indian Army and the Tiranga Yatra is to show their solidarity with the army. The Indian Army has always established its identity in the whole world through its valor and courage, on this critical occasion every citizen of the country is standing with the army along with Puria Gupta.

Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari said that we are with the country and the army without any discrimination, Congress has always been with the country. In the honor of the country, to keep the morale of the army high, we have taken out this Tiranga Yatra in the pride of the tricolour. We want terrorism and terrorists to end.

Rural Development Minister Deepika Pandey Singh said that this Tiranga Yatra has been taken out to support and accompany the soldiers. This is a way of paying respect to the soldiers. The entire nation stands with them for the strength with which they are fighting for the country. We pay our tribute to the soldiers and civilians who have attained martyrdom. Those soldiers deserve congratulations who are standing firmly despite all the dangers.

Former State President Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu, former Union Minister Subodhkant Sahay, Mamta Devi, Jaishankar Pathak, Sanjay Lal Paswan, Rajiv Ranjan Prasad, Shamsher Alam, Jyoti Matharu, Rakesh Sinha, Satish Paul Munjani, Amulya, Neeraj Khalko, Surendra Singh, Binay Sinha, Deepu, Rajesh Gupta, Alok Dubey, Kumar Raja, Dr. Rakesh Kiran Mahato, Kishore Shahdev, Amarendra Singh, along with hundreds of Congress workers participated in the programme.

Special prayers for Indian Army at Pahari Mandir

PNS : RANCHI

Pakistan is in a state of panic due to the Indian Army's 'Operation Sindoor' against the cowardly act of terrorists in Pahalgam. On the other hand, the youth of India are busy praying for the safety of their army and victory over the enemy. A group of youth prayed to Lord Bholenath in the historic Pahari Mandir of Ranchi. They had a picture of Bharat Mata with Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh in their hands.

During this, the priest chanted mantras for the victory of the Indian Army. After the worship, the youth raised slogans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Har-Har Mahadev, Indian Army Zindabad, Hindustan Zindabad, Pakistan Murdabad. The youth said that whatever PM Narendra Modi and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh said on the Pahalgam attack, they have done it.

Uttam Kumar, who is famous for organizing different programs from Tiranga Yatra to every patriotic occasion along with Republic and Independence Day in Ranchi, said that no one goes empty-handed from the court of Pahadi Baba. Therefore, he requested that the enemies of India must be reduced to dust. He said that the Pakistani army is trying to attack with drones. The Indian Army foiled those attacks. Pakistan will never forget the way the Indian Army has responded. Now the whole world knows how powerful the Indian Army is.

There is a temple of Lord Bhole Nath on a hill near Ratu Road in Ranchi. People come here from far and wide to worship. A huge crowd of Shiva devotees gathers here in the month of Sawan. It is said that before independence, the British used to hang freedom fighters near the Bhole Nath temple on the hill. Therefore, since independence, the tricolor has been hoisted on the hill temple on Independence and Republic Day.

India's 'impregnable' air defence wall - to protect the country from enemy missile and drone strikes - stood steadfast this week against two waves of attacks from Pakistan in less than 48 hours, knocking down projectiles targeting military installations in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

Youths and city residents offer special prayers for Operation Sindoor at Pahari Temple in Ranchi on Friday. PNS

State BJP raises objections to rechristening of DSPMU

PNS : RANCHI

BJP and the ruling JMM-Congress coalition have come face to face over the Jharkhand government's decision to change the name of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University. BJP has called this decision of the Hemant cabinet the beginning of a wrong tradition. At the same time, JMM and Congress are calling it an honor for Jharkhand's brave son and great freedom fighter Budhu Bhagat.

In fact, in the year 2017, during the reign of Raghubar Das, the government established Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University. Ranchi College, which runs under Ranchi University, was made a university in the name of Jan Sangh founder and freedom fighter Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Now in the cabinet meeting held on Thursday, May 08 under the leadership of Hemant Soren, it has been decided to change the name of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University to Shaheed Veer Budhu Bhagat University, the great hero of the Tribal

Rebellion.

The ruling party and the main opposition party BJP have come face to face over this decision of the Hemant cabinet. Leader of Opposition in Jharkhand Assembly Babulal Marandi has called it the beginning of a wrong tradition, while JMM-Congress leaders are calling it an honour for the great freedom fighter Veer Budhu Bhagat, a son of the state's soil, and the tribal society.

BJP State President and Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi has called the cabinet's decision unfortunate and the beginning of a wrong tradition. He said on the decision of the Hemant Cabinet that it is neither in honour of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee nor does it give due respect to the contribution of the great freedom fighter Veer Budhu Bhagat.

BJP State Spokesperson Pradeep Sinha, taking forward the statement of his State President, said that the narrow thinking of JMM and Hemant Government about Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who sacrificed his life to make the country united and all-pervasive as well as to protect Kashmir, is unfortunate.

Pradeep Sinha said that Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was born in Bengal and Bihar and Jharkhand were part of Bengal. Such actions for vote bank politics and that too when the Indian Army is responding to terrorism from Pakistan through Operation Sindoor, shows the petty thinking of the government and JMM-Congress. He said that the contribution of martyr Veer Budhu Bhagat is also noteworthy for the country, the government can create a separate university in his name, but changing the name of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University is not right.

Welcoming the decision of the Hemant Cabinet, JMM central spokesperson Manoj Pandey said that our government has been formed not to please the BJP leaders but to bring smile on the faces of the people of the state. He said that even before the First War of Independence of 1857, there was a Kol rebellion against the British, the hero of that rebellion was martyr Veer Budhu Bhagat. The British had put a reward of ? 100 on his arrest at that time. Today when our government is giving respect to that son of the soil, then why is the BJP and its leader Babulal Marandi having a stomach ache? Manoj Pandey said that Shyama Prasad Mukherjee has no contribution for the state.

Heat wave alert issued in Jharkhand from May 10

PNS : RANCHI

Heat wave conditions may develop in some districts of Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand from May 10. The effect of hot winds will be seen especially in Dumka, Pakur and Godda. From May 11 to May 13, other districts of Santhal Pargana including Deoghar, Jamtara, Sahibganj may also be hit by heat wave. In view of this, the Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert.

The weather has changed once again in Jharkhand. Light clouds remained in the sky since morning in Giridih, Jamtara, Latehar and Dhanbad districts including the capital Ranchi, which provided some relief from the heat. According to the Meteorological Department, light to moderate rainfall is expected in these areas, as well as strong winds can blow at a speed of 40 km per hour.

However, this relief is not going to last long. On May 8 and 9, the weather is likely to remain dry and the sky clear in most parts of the state.

While many districts were cloudy on Thursday morning, the weather is expected to clear after noon, due to which strong sunlight and heat can trouble people. There is also a possibility of increase in maximum temperature.

Vatsalyam-1 organised at SBPS, Ranchi

To honour the role of grandparents in every individual's life, Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi, hosted the Grandparents' Day Celebration-Vatsalyam 2025, on the theme 'Reverberation' – Echoes of Life, presented by the students of Std. II. The event commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the removal of darkness and the spreading of wisdom and knowledge. A warm live welcome song and dance followed, setting the tone for the joyous occasion. The Annual Report of session 2024-25 was presented by the Vice Head Girl, highlighting the school's achievements and incredible milestones. Each section of Std. II showcased mesmerizing performances on Spectrum of Strength: symbolising the unheard echoes of children, Vikram Veer: a spectacular show on the unheard echoes of the differently abled people, Hearts without Walls: an attempt to understand the unheard echoes of orphans, Power Within: the call of the child labours who are deprived of their basic rights, Swarnim Path: the echoes of the old people of the society and Triumph and Tranquillity: which unveiled the happiness that prevails after prolonged struggle. Each program symbolised unity, courage, and inner strength leaving the audience in awe. The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks, the School Song followed by the rendition of the National Anthem, leaving an everlasting impression of love and respect for grandparents among all present.

Principal, Paramjit Kaur, addressed the gathering and inspired the audience with words of wisdom and appreciation for grandparents' invaluable role in nurturing values. She further said that such programs aid in strengthening the bond between grandparents and grandchildren and foster a strong bond between them.

SCS Celebrates Rabindra Jayanti

The Art and Culture and Literary Club of Surendranath Centenary School celebrated Rabindra Jayanti with a rich lineup of performances honouring the 164th birth anniversary of India's first Nobel Laureate, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. In the Junior wing, students sang a melodious Hindi song as a tribute to Tagore, performed a dance, and recited one of his famous poems. The Senior wing organized a Recitation Competition featuring Tagore's poems, with Rabindra Nritya and Rabindra Sangeet captivating everyone's heart. Principal Samita Sinha said that such celebrations foster a strong sense of identity, heritage appreciation, and uphold Tagore's ideals of harmony, freedom, and creativity.

Jaishankar speaks to UK counterpart David Lammy on India-Pakistan tensions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

As the conflict between India and Pakistan spirals, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday held a phone conversation with his British counterpart David Lammy and conveyed to him that there must be "zero-tolerance" to terrorism.

The Jaishankar-Lammy conversation came against the backdrop of efforts by India's strategic partners to reduce tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad.

"Our discussions centered around countering terrorism, for which there must be zero-tolerance," the external affairs minister said in a social media post.

Jaishankar held phone conversations with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas on Thursday.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared significantly following India's Operation Sindoor on early Wednesday and Pakistan's subsequent unsuccessful attempt to attack 15 Indian cities.

US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said Rubio emphasised the need for immediate de-escalation.

"He expressed US support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan and encouraged continued efforts to improve communications," she said.

"The secretary reiterated his condolences for the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to work with India in the fight against terrorism," Bruce added.

On his phone talks with Kallas, Jaishankar said: "Discussed ongoing developments with EU HRVP @kajakallas."

"India has been measured in its actions. However, any escalation will get a firm response," he added.

On India-Pakistan tensions, the European Union said it is "monitoring closely and with great concern the growing tensions in the region and the ensuing consequences, including the possible loss of more lives."

"The EU calls on both parties to exercise restraint, to de-escalate tensions and desist from further attacks to safeguard civilian lives on both sides," it said.

"The EU urges both sides to engage in dialogue.

"It is vital that India and Pakistan also live up to their obligations under international law and take all measures possible to protect civilian lives," it added.

The EU said it will work with all parties to de-escalate the situation.

The British foreign secretary on Wednesday said current tensions between India and Pakistan are a serious concern.

"The UK government is urging India and Pakistan to show restraint and engage in direct dialogue to find a swift, diplomatic path forward," he said.

"The UK was clear in its condemnation of the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam last month.

"We need all sides to work urgently to see regional stability restored and ensure protection of civilians," he added.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday held a phone conversation with British counterpart David Lammy FILE PHOTO

IDY 2025 to be globally inspiring: Ayush Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The International Day of Yoga (IDY) this year will not just be successful but also inspirational for the entire world, Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav said.

International Day of Yoga, observed annually on June 21, has grown into a global cultural and wellness movement since its inception by the United Nations in 2015 at the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The minister chaired a review meeting on May 7 here to assess the ongoing preparations for the upcoming IDY which will be celebrated on June 21 across the globe. During the meeting, Jadhav reiterated the government's vision to make this year's celebration of yoga truly extraordinary and globally impactful. While addressing the officials, he stated that "we will work with utmost sincerity and commitment to ensure that International Day of Yoga 2025 is not only a grand success but also serves as a source of inspiration for the entire world". He encouraged all stakeholders to approach the event with renewed energy and unity, stating that the efforts should reflect the spirit of 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health.' "Let us reach every corner of the country and every part of the globe with the message of holistic well-being through yoga," he added.

The meeting saw participation from senior officials of the Ministry of Ayush.

The review focused on the planning and implementation of major initiatives such as Yoga Sangam, which integrates yoga with institutions like schools, hospitals and corporates and Harit Yoga, which promotes eco-consciousness through yoga-linked plantation drives.

Four accused, identified as Vikash Kumar, Satyam Kumar, Devmani Rai and Ahmad Ansari, were previously charged by the local police under the Arms Act

The other initiatives such as Yoga Connect, which engages global and diaspora communities in yoga celebration and Yoga Bandhan, which fosters social unity and shared wellness through mass participation, were also reviewed.

Jadhav also emphasised the importance of engaging the youth, educational institutions and community leaders to amplify the message and participation in IDY 2025.

Delhi HC closes case after Ramdev pledges no more offensive remarks against Rooh Afza

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday closed a case after Yoga guru Ramdev pledged not to pass any further disparaging remarks against Hamdard's Rooh Afza.

Justice Amit Bansal said the averments of Ramdev and Patanjali Foods Ltd in their affidavits were binding on them and decreed the suit in favour of Hamdard National Foundation India.

The court had previously ordered removal of the controversial online content and asked Ramdev and Patanjali to file their undertaking.

The court passed the order while dealing with a lawsuit by Hamdard National Foundation India against Ramdev and his Patanjali Foods Ltd over the controversial remarks.

Hamdard claimed while promoting Patanjali's "gulab sharbat", Ramdev alleged the money earned from Hamdard's Rooh Afza was used to build madrasas and mosques.

On April 22, the court sought an affidavit from Ramdev and Patanjali assuring to "not issue any statements, social media posts or disparaging videos or advertisements in future similar to those which are subject matter of the present suit in respect of products of the competitors".

Ramdev's remark of "sharbat jihad" on Hamdard's Rooh Afza, the court said, was indefensible and shook its conscience, prompting the Yoga guru to assure he would immediately take down the related videos and social media posts.

Hamdard's counsel had said instead of taking down the objectionable YouTube video in terms of an earlier order, the defendant had only made it private.

Ramdev's counsel, on the other hand, said he had "great respect for the court" and its directions would be complied with.

On May 1, after the court warned of initiating contempt action against Ramdev, his lawyer assured that certain objectionable content which was subsequently published would also be deleted within 24 hours.

NIA chargesheets four for supplying arms to Naxals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted four accused for their involvement in supplying weapons to the Naxals and other criminal elements, an official statement issued on Friday said. The four accused, identified as Vikash Kumar, Satyam Kumar, Devmani Rai and Ahmad Ansari, were previously charged by the local police under the Arms Act, it said.

As per the NIA, which has been investigating the case since May last year, the accused "had conspired and were actively involved in the illegal procurement and smuggling of prohibited bore weapons to Naxalites and other criminal elements", said the statement issued by the probe agency. They had also raised and utilised funds for procurement of these arms as part of a conspiracy, aimed at disturbing the nation's unity, integrity, security and sovereignty, it added.

In its supplementary chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court in Patna on Thursday, the NIA has now charged all four under Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 13 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the statement said.

The chargesheet followed an investigation in a case related to the seizure of an AK-47 rifle in Bihar's Muzaffarpur.

The NIA said that the Muzaffarpur Rail Police had initially on May 7, 2024, recovered an AK-47 butt and a rifle lens from Vikash and Satyam.

Four accused, identified as Vikash Kumar, Satyam Kumar, Devmani Rai and Ahmad Ansari, were previously charged by the local police under the Arms Act

"The duo disclosed during investigation that they had supplied an AK-47 rifle and five live rounds to Devmani Rai alias Anish, a resident of Mankauli under Fakuli PS, Muzaffarpur," the statement said. "A search of Devmani's house later led to the recovery of the rifle and the live rounds. All three, along with accused Ahmad Ansari, were arrested in the case," it added.

Birla urges IAS officers to build legacy of service guided by Indian values and democratic deals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged the young civil servants to leave a legacy of service, guided by Indian values and democratic ideals. He also urged them to bring the sense of purpose, discipline, and service to their own roles in governance and public administration. Birla made these remarks while addressing IAS Officer Trainees of 2023 batch, in Parliament premises on Friday.

Birla exhorted the young officers to dedicate themselves to the vision of Viksit Bharat—a developed India that is just, inclusive, innovative, and globally respected. He called on them to make this vision their daily motivation and guiding principle. Whether it is addressing the needs of backward and tribal areas, using technology to improve the lives of the poor, or ensuring last-mile delivery of services, he said the future of India depends on the strength and dedication of its civil servants.

He encouraged the trainees to engage in daily self-evaluation and strive to make tangible differences in the lives of citizens through transparent, responsive governance. He invoked the vision of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who believed that a strong and principled administrative system was essential for safeguarding India's unity and democracy in the turbulent period following independence. Shri Birla emphasised that the Indian civil service must always be guided by the spirit of Indian culture, remain sensitive to public sentiment and support the continuous deepening of democracy.

He said that administrative systems should ensure vigilant compliance with policies while always remaining people-centric and transparent. Lok Sabha Speaker has emphasised the need for greater adoption of technology by IAS officers to enhance governance efficiency, transparency, and service delivery.

Highlighting the transformative role of digital tools in today's administrative landscape, the Speaker urged officers to proactively integrate emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, and e-governance platforms into their daily functioning.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with IAS officer trainees during a group photo before the inauguration of their study visit to the Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday PTI

BHISHM cubes deployed at Jammu hospital amidst India-Pakistan conflict

Union Health Minister JP Nadda during a meeting with senior officials of the ministry to review health infrastructure preparedness across hospitals in the country PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM) cubes, the indigenous portable modular medical facility, are being deployed at prominent hospitals such as AIIMS Jammu and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Srinagar near India's border under the government's Aarogya Maitri project to bolster medical readiness, officials said on Friday.

The development comes on the heels of Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Friday reviewing health infrastructure preparedness across hospitals in the country amid the ongoing Operation Sindoor and the ongoing India-Pakistan military conflict, official sources said.

These BHISHM cubes are also being stationed in other Institutes of National Importance (INIs) across India, including AIIMS in Rishikesh, Bilaspur and Delhi, they said.

"We are also providing operational training to the respective medical institutes where BHISHM cubes have been deployed. So far two BHISHM cubes have been deployed at AIIMS, Jammu and more are being diverted to this centre.

"Besides, around 35 other BHISHM cubes so far have been deployed across other Institutes of National Importance (INIs) across India," said Air Vice Marshal Dr Tanmoy Roy, HLL Lifecare.

Dr Roy said HLL Life Care Ltd under the Union Health Ministry is the nodal agency for the procurement and deployment of Aarogya Maitri Cube.

BHISHM cubes are portable and rapidly deployable modular medical facilities to provide emergency lifesaving clinical care in the event of disaster or public health emergencies.

Each cube is equipped with medicines and surgical equipment for basic operations, and it has the capacity to handle around 200 diverse emergency cases.

The cube comprises 72 easily transportable components, designed for versatile delivery methods including hand-carry, bicycle or even drone transport.

The aid cube is equipped with several innovative tools designed to enhance disaster response and medical support during emergencies. It integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics to facilitate effective coordination, real-time monitoring and efficient management of medical services in the field.

Being robust, waterproof and lightweight, the cubes are also built to withstand harsh conditions. Their flexible configuration allows deployment in diverse emergency scenarios. The system can be quickly dispatched via airdrop or ground transportation, ensuring swift response to crises anywhere.

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with secretaries of various ministries and called for continued alertness and clear communication, while reaffirming the government's commitment to national security and operational preparedness.

The Indian armed forces are on high alert in the wake of the current hostilities between New Delhi and Islamabad following the Pahalgam terrorist attack of April 22 and India's strike on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation.

Congress launches Jai Hind Yatra to back Indian soldiers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

History is witness that whenever someone challenged India's self-respect, they got a befitting reply, the Congress said on Friday and asserted that its Jai Hind Yatra, being taken out across the country, was in support of India's brave soldiers.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said once again India had been challenged and its tolerance and patience tested, with terrorists having ruthlessly killed innocent people.

They will have to pay the price for this, Ramesh asserted. "History is witness... Whenever someone has challenged the self-respect and self-esteem of India, we have given them a befitting reply," the Congress leader said in a social media post in Hindi..

"When our soldiers roar with passion to sacrifice every drop of their blood to protect this land, the heart of the enemy shivers. Once again we have been challenged, our tolerance and patience tested. The terrorists have ruthlessly killed our innocent people, they will have to pay the price for this," Ramesh said.

Every single Congress worker stands with the country's army in this difficult time, he added. "We are taking out a Jai Hind Yatra across the country today in support of our brave soldiers. We are proud of our soldiers. 'Jai Hind ki Sena,'" Ramesh said. The Congress also reiterated its solidarity with the government in whatever decision it takes against Pakistan.

Congress spokesperson Ragini Nayak said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had consistently said "we are with the government of India in thought, word and deed".

"If the Indian government takes any major decision against Pakistan, then our full cooperation and support is with the government. Today, we will reiterate this message through the Jai Hind Yatra," she said during a press conference at the party's 24, Akbar Road, headquarters.

The Indian Army is working day and night to give a befitting reply to the attacks of Pakistan and, in such a situation, "it is our duty to come together to boost the morale of the Indian Army", she said.

On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, India neutralised the Pakistan military's attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations with missiles and drones

The Congress appeals that it is the responsibility of the government to prioritise the safety of people in all villages and cities near the India-Pakistan border, Nayak said. "We express our deepest condolences to those who lost their lives in Poonch and it is also the government's responsibility to take care of their families and provide prompt treatment to the injured," she said.

"It is hoped that the government will take strong steps in this direction. The Indian Army will take revenge from Pakistan for the blood of innocent Indians," she added. On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, India neutralised the Pakistan military's attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations with missiles and drones.

On Thursday afternoon, the defence ministry said the Indian Armed Forces had foiled Pakistan's attempts to target military installations in 15 cities in the country's northern and western parts.

It said the Pakistani military attempted to target Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai and Bhuj. Defence Minister Singh on Thursday said no limit would become an obstacle to protect India's sovereignty and the nation was fully prepared for such responses.

Early on Wednesday, the Indian Armed Forces carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

Government dismisses Rajouri, Jalandhar attack claims as fake

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi/Jammu

The government on Friday dismissed claims of a suicide attack on an Army brigade in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and a drone attack in Punjab's Jalandhar by certain social media handles as "fake news".

The Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check Unit found that there was no "fidayeen" or suicide attack on any Army cantonment in Jammu and Kashmir, while the video claiming to be that of a drone attack in Jalandhar pertained to a farm fire.

The district collector of Jalandhar has confirmed it to be disinformation, the PIB said.

"A total of seven videos were fact-checked between 22:00 hours on May 8, 2025, and 06:30 hours on May 9. A list of the fact-checked videos, along with their links, has been compiled," the PIB said. It found that an old video shared on social media claiming to be of Pakistan's missile attack on India was actually of an explosive attack that took place in Beirut, Lebanon, in 2020.

In another case, a video claiming the destruction of an Indian Army post by Pakistani forces was found to be fabricated.

The Fact Check Unit verified that there was no such unit as the "20 Raj Battalion" in the Indian Army, as claimed in the video. "A barrage of coordinated disinformation has been carried out by certain social media handles in general and mainstream media in particular in Pakistan with the sole objective to instill fear among the Indian masses," a PIB statement said.

The Fact Check Unit also said that a video of an explosion on an oil tanker dating back to July 7, 2021, was passed off as an attack on the Hazira Port in Gujarat.

Bookings slump on Jammu-bound trains amid tensions on border

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

At a time when trains to the north are typically packed beyond capacity, the Jammu-bound trains from Lucknow are now running with hundreds of vacant seats. This rare development during the summer rush is being attributed to rising tension along the India-Pakistan border following Operation Sindoor.

What once was a travel route with lengthy waiting lists now tells a story of growing unease and uncertainty.

Railway data accessed by this reporter reveals a stunning drop in bookings. On Friday, the Jammu Tawi Summer Special (04609) had over 125 vacant berths.

Even more striking, as many as 557 seats in the Third AC Economy class remain unbooked for May 16, with similar vacancies observed on subsequent dates — 496, 531, 543 and 557 seats going unsold.

"We have not seen this kind of slump in summer bookings to Jammu in years," said Kuldeep Tiwari, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM), Northern Railway, Lucknow Division. "Usually there is a long waiting list by March-end, especially with pilgrims and families visiting Jammu and Kashmir. But this year, there has been a clear drop after tensions flared."

As many as 557 seats in the Third AC Economy class remain unbooked for May 16, with similar vacancies observed on subsequent dates — 496, 531, 543, and 557 seats going unsold

The impact isnot restricted to a single train. The Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express (13151) and Begumpura Express are also showing thin waitlists. The once-overbooked Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Express, popular among pilgrims, now has just one waitlisted passenger in Sleeper Class and six in Third AC for Friday. Among the affected is Neelam Sharma, a resident of Alambagh, Lucknow, who had planned a family trip to Vaishno Devi. "We booked tickets in April, but after hearing about the border tensions and watching the news about troop movement and air alerts, we decided to cancel," she said. "It is not worth the risk — our children were scared."

In a startling development on Thursday, several passengers traveling on Jammu-bound trains — including the Begumpura Express and Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express — chose to disembark mid-journey. According to railway sources, nearly 580 passengers departed Lucknow for Jammu that day, but many got off at intermediate stations such as Bareilly, Moradabad, and Saharanpur, opting instead to return home via buses or private vehicles.

"We have never seen passengers alighting en masse before their destination like this," said a train conductor who requested anonymity. "Some cited family pressure, others spoke of fear from news about airspace closures and security alerts." DCM Kuldeep Tiwari added, "There are no plans to curtail train routes at this moment. However, any decisions regarding route termination or travel suspension will be made only after orders from the Railway Board, based on intelligence inputs."

The travel disruption is not limited to the railways. Flight operations between Lucknow and Chandigarh — a key transit point to Jammu — have been suspended until May 10. IndiGo confirmed the cancellation of flights 6E 6552 (Lucknow to Chandigarh) and 6E 146 (Chandigarh to Lucknow), citing operational constraints due to suspended activity at Chandigarh Airport.

Additionally, international flights to Dammam and Sharjah have faced delays due to airspace restrictions and increased pre-flight security checks.

The cumulative effect is being felt by tour operators and pilgrimage planners. Manoj Jaiswal, who runs a travel agency near Lucknow Junction, said, "We usually send at least 30–40 groups to Vaishno Devi during May-June. This time, half our bookings have been canceled. Clients are postponing trips indefinitely."

As Indo-Pak tensions persist, it is evident that public sentiment is shifting toward safety over sentimentality — even in the face of long-cherished religious or holiday plans. "There is love for the shrine and the beauty of Jammu and Kashmir," said Narendra Srivastava, a university student from Barabanki, "but no one wants to end up stranded or worse. Everyone's watching the news and weighing their options carefully."

MP goes into alert mode

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

In view of the rising tensions along the India-Pakistan border, the Madhya Pradesh Government has moved into a heightened state of alert, with special emphasis on preparedness across strategic locations like Gwalior.

As a result, all police and medical staff in Madhya Pradesh have been placed on standby with immediate effect.

Leaves have been cancelled for personnel across these sectors to ensure maximum availability of manpower. District administrations have been instructed to monitor the supply and distribution of essential items such as food, medicines, and fuel, and to maintain uninterrupted access to emergency services.

In Gwalior, one of the state's most sensitive locations due to the presence of the Indian Air Force's Maharajpur Air Base, which houses Mirage 2000 fighter jets — security arrangements have been significantly stepped up.

The Air Force station, along with other critical defence and research facilities including the Army cantonment and DRDO laboratory, are under strict surveillance. Armed patrolling has been intensified, night-watch teams have been deployed in key areas, and drone flights have been banned across the city to eliminate the risk of unauthorised aerial surveillance or sabotage.

While talking to The Pioneer, Gwalior Superintendent of Police Dharamveer Singh said, "We are on high alert and taking every measure necessary to maintain peace and ensure readiness for any contingency. Surveillance has been increased at all vital points, and our teams are working round the clock in coordination with intelligence agencies."

In a significant move reflecting civil defence readiness, all major government hospitals in Gwalior have also been brought under emergency protocol. Special signage of Hospital is being erected prominently on rooftops and entry points of these hospitals to clearly designate them in case of any aerial activity or emergency response needs. Hospital administrators have been instructed to keep ICUs, trauma wards, and emergency supplies ready at all times. Ambulance services have been placed on high mobility, and drills are being conducted to test responsiveness in crisis scenarios.

While there is no immediate threat to public life, these developments indicate the state government's proactive approach to civil defence in light of national security concerns. Citizens are urged to stay calm, follow official advisories, and immediately report any suspicious activity.

The Madhya Pradesh government has assured the public that all necessary measures are being taken to safeguard the state's security and maintain order.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and World Bank President Ajay Banga during a meeting in Lucknow PTI

CM Yogi slams Pakistan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

On Friday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath participated in a commemorative event marking Maharana Pratap Jayanti, where he paid heartfelt tribute to valiant warriors such as Maharana Pratap, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and Guru Gobind Singh.

Taking a strong stance against terrorism, he targeted Pakistan, stating that the country has crossed all limits of audacity and now faces an existential crisis. He asserted that Pakistan's terrorist face has been fully exposed to the world.

Referring to the brutal terrorist attack on Indian tourists in Pahalgam on 22 April, Yogi Adityanath said the incident had stirred the conscience of every Indian and strengthened the resolve for decisive retaliation. He stated that under the firm leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian armed forces had delivered a robust and appropriate response to such provocations. As a result, he noted, Pakistan now finds itself globally isolated and severely weakened.

Condemning Pakistan's continued patronage of terrorism, CM Yogi pointed out the shocking participation of senior Pakistani military officials and politicians at the funerals of terrorists who were neutralised in Indian counter-terrorism operations. "This not only proves Pakistan's patronage of terrorists but also shows its deep-rooted complicity," he said, adding that Pakistan is now visibly struggling for survival.

In his address, the Chief Minister called on citizens to remain united and firmly stand by the Indian armed forces. He cautioned against the spread of misinformation and rumours on social media, urging people to stay alert and expose anti-national elements. "Every Indian must support our forces and expose anti-national elements. We must move forward with unity under the guidance of our central leadership," he emphasised.

CM Yogi reiterated that India will emerge victorious in every circumstance, and Uttar Pradesh stands unwaveringly with the nation's defenders. Drawing inspiration from history, he said the birth anniversaries of warriors like Maharana Pratap serve as reminders of India's legacy of resistance and bravery. Recalling the historic Battle of Haldighati, the Chief Minister highlighted how Maharana Pratap, with the support of Vanvasi and Girivasi warriors, forced Emperor Akbar's massive army to retreat — showcasing the triumph of courage over might.

On the occasion, Legislative Council members Rakesh Singh and Manvendra Singh were congratulated for beautifying a major intersection in the city, which will now be named Maharana Pratap Singh Chowk.

CM Yogi recalled that it was in 1998 that he had first proposed the installation of Maharana Pratap's statue at this location. Subsequently, similar statues were installed in cities like Lucknow, Gorakhpur, and Prayagraj, with support from leaders like Kalyan Singh and Rajnath Singh.

The event was attended by Legislative Council Chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh, Cabinet Ministers Suresh Khanna, Swatantra Dev Singh, Rakesh Sachan, and Dayashankar Singh, as well as public representatives including Acharya Shantanu Maharaj, Mayankeshwar Sharan Singh, Dinesh Pratap Singh, MP Brijlal, Sanjay Seth, Jai Pratap Singh, Rakesh Singh, Manvendra Singh, Santosh Singh, Kaushal Kishore, Dara Singh Chauhan, and other dignitaries.

Muslims across UP condemn Pakistan, back Indian Army

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

The first Friday namaz after the launch of Operation Sindoor witnessed an outpouring of patriotism from the Muslim community across Uttar Pradesh. From Lucknow to Varanasi and Sambhal, worshippers condemned Pakistan's aggression and raised slogans in support of the Indian Army and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a significant development reflecting national solidarity, large gatherings at mosques turned into scenes of protest against Pakistan. In Lucknow, noted Islamic scholar Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali stated, "Muslims of India stand united with the nation. We strongly oppose this cowardly attack by Pakistan and demand a fitting reply."

In Sambhal's Jama Masjid, a rare display of nationalist unity unfolded as hundreds of worshippers raised slogans of "Hindustan Zindabad," "Indian Army Zindabad," and "Pakistan Murdabad" after the Friday prayers. The congregation sent a clear message of loyalty to the nation.

Community representatives expressed full support for the government and the armed forces. "Forty crore Muslims of India are with PM Modi," said Shad Adil, who also mentioned that prayers were offered for India's prosperity and global peace. "Pakistan cannot stand before India," he added.

Muslims hold a tri-colour and placards as they celebrate Indian armed forces' 'Operation Sindoor' after Friday prayers in Prayagraj on Friday PTI

Masood Hussain Farooqui voiced his readiness to sacrifice for the nation, saying, "I am willing to give my blood for Hindustan." Echoing the sentiment, Hussain Saifi remarked, "Pakistan survives on India's mercy. If India cuts off water, Pakistan will become a desert."

Worshippers also condemned attacks on mosques by Pakistan and asserted that such acts would be answered with strength. Special prayers for peace, unity, and the safety of Indian soldiers were offered in several mosques.

Statewide Security Stepped Up

In response to the heightened India-Pakistan tensions, the Uttar Pradesh government has put the entire state on high alert. Intensive checking is being conducted at hotels, railway stations, religious places, and other crowded locations. In Lucknow, police personnel on leave have been called back to duty with immediate effect.

Special security measures have been implemented at key religious sites including the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Krishna Janmasthan in Mathura, and Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi. Every visitor is undergoing strict screening.

Major medical institutions like KGMU and SGPGI in Lucknow have been placed on alert. Seven Indian Air Force stations under the Central Air Command are also on high alert.

Security along the India-Nepal border has been intensified. Drone surveillance is being conducted in border villages, and every individual crossing into India is being screened and their identity verified.

Amidst the nationwide support for Operation Sindoor, former Pilibhit MP Varun Gandhi posted on X (formerly Twitter) after a year-long hiatus. In his message, he praised Prime Minister Modi and the Indian Army, writing:

"The entire nation salutes the valor and sacrifice of our brave soldiers. Under PM Modi's strong leadership, India has shown the world it will never retreat from defending humanity and justice."

Gandhi's last post was on March 28, 2024, shortly after being denied a ticket from Pilibhit.

Akhilesh Yadav dons Rajput symbolism

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

In a calculated political move to reclaim cultural icons and widen his support base, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday made a bold outreach to the Rajput community by donning the traditional Mewari Safa and demanding a two-day public holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap.

The gesture, made during a press conference at SP headquarters in Lucknow, came amidst backlash over controversial remarks by a senior SP leader against Rajput king Rana Sanga.

"Maharana Pratap is not the pride of a single caste — he is a national hero who symbolises courage and resistance, values that transcend caste lines," said Akhilesh, addressing a gathering that included prominent Kshatriya leaders and intellectuals. He further pledged, "If voted to power, we will install the grandest statue of Maharana Pratap on the Gomti Riverfront in Lucknow, with a golden sword in his hand." The SP chief's shift in tone and symbolism is widely seen as damage control after senior party leader Ramji Lal Suman's remarks against Rana Sanga triggered protests from Rajput groups, especially the Karni Sena. Political observers note that Yadav's embrace of Rajput iconography is a strategic response to the BJP's long-standing dominance over upper caste sentiments.

"By wearing the saffron-checkered turban—a symbol of Rajput pride—and making bold commitments to honor Maharana Pratap, Akhilesh Yadav is clearly trying to bridge the trust gap with a community that has traditionally leaned towards the BJP," said a senior political analyst. "Whether this will translate into electoral dividends, especially in key constituencies with high Rajput populations, remains to be seen."

The Rajput community constitutes nearly 10 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's electorate and holds sway in over 100 assembly constituencies, making them a critical demographic in the run-up to the 2027 state elections. Recognising this, the SP appears to be recalibrating its outreach strategy — shifting from its traditional Yadav-Muslim base to embrace upper caste groups who may be disillusioned with the BJP.

Responding to questions about Ramji Lal Suman's remarks, Akhilesh avoided direct criticism but offered a veiled rebuke: "One should leave behind history that divides, not unites."

Beyond symbolism, Akhilesh used the occasion to launch a sharp critique of the BJP's economic policies. "BJP's agenda never had space for employment or entrepreneurship. That is why they are now targeting traditional markets and age-old fairs that support local economies," he said. He also alleged that the central government was quietly issuing Letters of Intent (LOIs) on key policies during a time of national tension—"That is not how democracy works," he remarked, without offering further details.

The event was attended by several influential Kshatriya leaders within the SP, including former minister Arvind Singh Gope, ex-MLC Udayveer Singh, and former MP Arvind Singh, signaling a united front and the party's commitment to expanding its caste coalition.

Akhilesh's latest outreach is being viewed as part of a larger strategy to undercut the BJP's cultural nationalism by offering an inclusive, development-oriented reinterpretation of history. In doing so, the SP hopes to carve a broader narrative that blends caste neutrality with economic justice — an approach that could redefine the contours of Uttar Pradesh politics in the years ahead.

RSS congratulates Government, armed forces over 'Operation Sindoor'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian armed forces for launching "Operation Sindoor" against Pak-sponsored terrorists and their supporting ecosystem following the cowardly attack on unarmed tourists at Pahalgam.

In a joint statement issued on Friday, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said: "We congratulate the central government leadership and our armed forces for decisive action "Operation Sindoor" taken against Pak-sponsored terrorists and their supporting ecosystem following the cowardly attack on unarmed tourists at Pahalgam"

Endorsing the military action taken by the Government, the two RSS leaders said: "This action to serve justice to aggrieved families and the entire country in the brutal massacre of Hindu tourists has enhanced self-respect and morale in the whole country. We totally agree that military action being taken against terrorists, their infrastructure and support systems in Pakistan is necessary and inevitable for the security of the country." "In this hour of national crisis, the entire country stands with government and armed forces in spirit and action," Bhagwat and Hosabale said.

Condemning the attacks being carried out by Pakistani army on religious places and civilian settlement areas on the border of Bharat, the RSS leaders expressed heartfelt condolences to families of victims in these savage, inhuman attacks.

"In this challenging time, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh appeals to all citizens to ensure full compliance of instructions being given by the government and administration," they said. Calling for precautions to ensure against the anti-national forces to succeed in disrupting social unity and harmony, the two RSS leaders said: "Along with this, while discharging our sacred civic duty, we all have to be cautious and do not let any conspiracy of anti-national forces to succeed in disrupting social unity and harmony"

"All citizens are requested to display their patriotism and be ready to cooperate with the army and civic administration wherever and however required and strengthen all efforts to maintain national unity and security," Bhagwat and Hosabale said.

CM Mamata warns traders against hoarding during crisis hours

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has warned a section of business community against black-marketing of essential commodities saying such attempts would be strongly dealt with. The order came following reports that a section of traders particularly in the wholesale markets were hoarding items, in turn, jacking up price of essential commodities like potato, egg, edible oil etc sources said.

"Love for the motherland is not to be shown on the streets but in spirit too," Bannerjee said reminding how the country should remain united in every respect from family affairs to the battle front.

"A situation has arisen after the Pahalgam attack by terrorists when many innocent people were killed, in that respect it is a necessity that we should be prepared for certain situations, our stocks should be kept ready, in that context it is necessary that people do not indulge in blackmarketing of essential commodities taking advantage of the situation. We are keeping a strong watch on the hoarders, traders are asked not to supply produce through the borders to make money," Banerjee said adding this was the time for everyone to remain united not only in words but also in their acts.

The Chief Minister has also asked the respective departments to ensure that Sufal Bangla stores (Government run outlets) should remain open with increased supplies. "We have around 700 outlets and we will have 100 more. These stores are doing good job," but at the same time their efficiency should be increased during the hour of need, she said.

Banerjee's instruction to the top officials including the State Director General of Police came at a time when there were reports of some unscrupulous traders hoarding essential commodities allowing price of food products to shoot up.

"There is plenty of supplies and there is no need to panic, only we will have to ensure that such things are not hoarded and artificial scarcity is not created. The DGP has to keep track of t his and hold virtual meetings on a regular basis," Banerjee said asking the departmental ministers and people's representatives to keep a strong vigil on the situation too.

Banerjee's statement came within hours of the Government cancelling leaves of all the Government employees.

The Chief Minister had earlier requested the private schools to announce summer vacations earlier than schedule "though this is not an order." A number of schools had followed her instructions and had announced summer vacation sources said.

Elsewhere the authorities at the Netaji Subhas International Airport too issued circulars cancelling leaves of its staff particularly those associated with the security system, sources said. "The repair work at the second landing strip too has been suspended for now and a state of alert has been sounded," a senior official said.

Meanwhile, in a parallel development the Special Task Force of the State police arrested two terror operatives reportedly linked to Bangladesh's banned terrorist group Jamatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). The arrests were made following raids at some locations at Nalhati and Murarai in Birbhum district bordering Murshidabad. The terror moles have been identified as Ajmol Hossain (28) and Saheb Ali Khan (28). Murarai is not very far from Khagragarh village where two JMB terrorists were killed while making bombs in October 2014.

Editor's TAKE

A humble shepherd with a global vision

Revered for his humility, Pope Leo XIV is poised to shape a new chapter for the Church

In a historic and unexpected turn, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has been elected as the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church, taking the name Pope Leo XIV. His election on May 8, 2025, marks the first time an American has ascended to the papacy, signaling a significant shift in the Church's global orientation.

Born in Chicago in 1955, Pope Leo XIV brings a rich tapestry of experiences to the papacy. His extensive missionary work in Peru, where he served as a bishop, and his leadership roles within the Augustinian order and the Vatican's Dicastery for Bishops, reflect a deep commitment to pastoral care and global outreach. Known for his reserved demeanor and thoughtful deliberation, he is often described as a "bridge builder" who seeks unity within the diverse tapestry of the Catholic Church.

His choice of the name Leo XIV pays homage to Pope Leo XIII, renowned for his advocacy of workers' rights and social justice. This selection underscores Pope Leo XIV's dedication to continuing a legacy of compassion and inclusivity.

Pope Leo XIV's election carries significant implications for the intersection of faith and politics, particularly in the United States. He has been an outspoken critic of nationalist policies, including those associated with former President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, especially concerning immigration and social justice issues. While maintaining traditional Church teachings on matters like same-sex marriage and abortion, he emphasises the importance of pastoral sensitivity and the dignity of every individual.

His nuanced positions reflect a commitment to upholding doctrinal integrity while engaging with contemporary societal challenges. This approach aims to foster dialogue and understanding within a polarised global landscape.?

The process leading to Pope Leo XIV's election was marked by thoughtful deliberation among the College of Cardinals. Following the death of Pope Francis in April 2025, 133 cardinal electors convened in the Sistine Chapel, engaging in a conclave guided by centuries-old traditions and the apostolic constitution Universi Dominici Gregis. After four ballots over two days, Cardinal Prevost emerged as a consensus candidate, reflecting a desire for continuity with Pope Francis's reformist agenda and a commitment to global inclusivity.

In his inaugural address, Pope Leo XIV emphasised themes of unity, peace, and pastoral care. He called for the Church to be a beacon of hope and a bridge in a fractured world. His leadership is expected to continue the synodal approach championed by his predecessor, promoting greater lay participation, environmental stewardship, and a compassionate outreach to marginalised communities.

As the Catholic Church embarks on this new chapter under Pope Leo XIV, his blend of humility, global experience, and commitment to social justice positions him to navigate the complexities of the modern world while staying rooted in the timeless teachings of the faith.

The Catholic Church, one of the oldest institutions in human history, has undergone profound transformations over the centuries — spiritually, politically, and culturally. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostolic tradition, the Church has had to continuously adapt to changing times while maintaining its theological foundations. In its early centuries, the Church faced persecution before eventually becoming intertwined with state power in the Roman Empire. The medieval period saw it wield immense political influence, often blurring the lines between spiritual authority and temporal control. However, this power was challenged by events such as the Great Schism and the Protestant Reformation, which forced the Church to re-evaluate its structures and doctrines.

The 20th century marked a particularly significant era of change. The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) was a watershed moment, modernising Church practices — introducing the use of vernacular languages in liturgy, promoting ecumenical dialogue, and encouraging greater engagement with the modern world. This opened the Church to a more pastoral and inclusive approach, focusing not only on doctrinal purity but also on social justice, human rights, and global outreach.

In recent decades, under popes like John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and especially Francis, the Church has further grappled with issues like secularism, clerical abuse, gender roles, and the role of laity. Pope Francis's emphasis on mercy, care for the poor, and environmental stewardship has redefined the Church's mission for many in the 21st century.

Now, with the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first American pontiff, the Church stands at another pivotal juncture. His leadership signals a continued embrace of reform, cultural diversity, and moral courage in facing the world's pressing social and political challenges. Through centuries of change, the Catholic Church has shown a remarkable ability to evolve — slowly, at times painfully, but always with a deep concern for its spiritual mission and global relevance.

India's power and resolve

The Prime Minister's decision to rely on the armed forces reflects a deeper commitment to professionalism, affirming that India's future depends on capable, values-driven experts and globally aligned views

After almost two weeks of the Pahalgam massacre, India retaliated by carrying out cross-border strikes with precision and depth. According to a press release under Operation Sindoor, altogether nine terror camps and headquarters of Jaish and Lashkar were targeted in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. While India showed its strong will to strike back by carrying out cross-border strikes, the strategic message was beyond punishment this time.

Until now, India's strike-back pattern suggested punitive deterrence with a limited hitting range. Uri strikes in 2016 and Balakot Strikes in 2019 demonstrated India's capability to enforce punitive deterrence against Pakistan by sending the strategic message that any undesirable behaviour will be met with a swift and severe response. In fact, after the Parliament attacks, India launched Operation Parakram, which was also an attempt to demonstrate an act of punitive deterrence, but punitive deterrence became an ineffective strike-back option as Pakistan built a perception that India's deterrence behaviour could be sustained with the ability to counter-strike as they were credible and had a limited hitting range. Pakistan's perception was demonstrated in Operation Swift Retort when Pakistan swiftly acted the next day after the Balakot strikes by breaching India's airspace with JF-17s and attempting to carry out air strikes on non-military targets in J&K. While the escalation ladder was in a pretty controlled state from both sides. Still, India's larger objectives of enforcing deterrence against Pakistan remain quite faint as both states resorted to punitive deterrence, almost seroing down the effectiveness of deterrence on Pakistan. Consequently, Pakistan didn't learn its lessons. It continued its terror operations in J&K and even shaped its sub-conventional tactics to such an extent that it could launch deep terror strikes with an element of plausible deniability. Creating offshoots and front organisations like The Resistance Front.

The echo to configure strong offensive deterrence was found in former Chief of Army Staff General Krishnaswamy Sundarji's vision paper — India's Army Perspective Plan 2000. He argued that for Pakistan, we have to adopt a maximised offensive deterrence ranging from seizure of territory to destruction of Pakistan's military and economic capabilities. Similarly, another former Chief of Army Staff, General Sundarajan Padmanabhan, who oversaw India's Operation Parakram, said, "Perpetrator would be punished so severely that its continuation thereafter in any form would be in doubt," Both the Generals echoed, maximum and credible deterrence against Pakistan, not aiming to punish Pakistan but to escalate deterrence and offensive measures to such extent that Pakistan's sub-conventional warfare capability gets eroded but this erosion requires continuity in delivery of credible deterrence such as done in Operation Sindoor.

Operation Sindoor demonstrated three key swift shifts from earlier striking patterns. First, India expanded its striking horizon by going beyond Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and striking deep inside Pakistan by targeting key cities- Bhawalpur and Muridke. Second, multiple targets increase operational selectivity, which was limited to only one or two camps until now — third — Attempt to push Multi Domain Detterance against Pakistan. India's five-pointer diplomatic strike after a few days of attack which notably included keeping the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance to isolating Pakistan's diplomatic and economic potential was an attempt to bring double squeeze strategy into play by exploiting and exacerbating Pakistan's internal weakness at one end and strategically isolating at the global stage- miserable failure of Pakistan at UNSC closed-door meeting despite launching renewed decades-old narrative of "false flag" is one testament of strategic isolation.

ABHINAV NARAYAN

Earlier, India's isolatory approach towards Pakistan had demonstrated ordinary diplomatic measures, but this time India attempted to demonstrate some extraordinary diplomatic measures, adding the actual element of multi-domain deterrence. Overall, this time, India's strategic response demonstrated its capability to impose a sustained, credible and multi-dimensional deterrence against Pakistan.

Operation Sindoor echoes the beginning of a shift from immediate deterrence to long-term credible deterrence against Pakistan. The idea of long-term credible deterrence can push Pakistan to the margins if India continues to develop its long-term deterrence by adding more credibility by precisely striking the Octopus — the head of terror outfits in future. This shift in deterrence against Pakistan will force Pakistan to realise the new strategic reality that any misadventure would be met with an overwhelming response, not limited to plain responses. India's Operation Sindoor also gives a glimpse that India is also chalking a path of integrated deterrence and gradually departing from the traditional notion of deterrence, a similar move that the United States did in its National Defence Strategy after realising increasing threats and risks to its strategic security especially after 9/11 and began to sharpen its integrated deterrence in modern time after realising increased threat from rising threat from Russia and China in a heightened strategic completion environment.

The threat of the escalation ladder spiralling is one major issue in the retaliation cycle between India and Pakistan. This gets further aggravated if the Pakistan leadership is strongly tilted towards Islamic generals- from Zia, Musharraf, Parvez Kayani, to Asim Munir. Though India has already made it clear that its actions are calculative, precise, and non-escalatory, targeting only terrorists, Pakistan has tried to play with fire when it comes to controlling escalations from unprovoked offensives at the border to launching nuclear rhetoric. After India's thunderbolt response, Pakistan's top echelons may be in a dilemma in delivering a reaction while considering the escalation factor, as the onus of escalation is now on Pakistan. Last year, Pakistan carried out limited air strikes in response to Iran's retaliatory response against anti-Iran terror groups in the bordering region of Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistan might opt for limited air-to-cross-border strikes but may also exercise in-depth strikes. At present, Pakistan is attempting to flare up by indiscriminate shelling against civilians in J&K's bordering regions. Poonch is one of the worst-hit areas by Pakistan's shelling.

Whatever Pakistan's response, Asim Munir must realise that he is already suffering with high costs, with his nation getting humiliated and bleeding. If Munir attempts to deliver a miscalculated response, then the escalation ladder might spiral, and he might get consumed by his fire. Pakistan must also realise that it does not have many options; it cannot afford to put its strategic security at more risk, especially when Pakistan's western frontier is almost smoked by TTP and Baloch fighters. It's high time that Pakistan realises that now, higher costs and risks are involved in coercing India after it has demonstrated a swift shift in its deterrence against Pakistan by showing both power and resolve.

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

Leaderspeak

Our response was targeted and measured. It is not our intention to escalate the situation. However, if there are military attacks on us, there should be no doubt that it will be met with a very very firm response. As a neighbour and close partner, it is important that you have a good understanding of the situation.

S JAISHANKAR, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Power of choice and faith

SECOND Opinion

BY BARBARA O'NEILL

My journey into the world of mental health began early, shaped by personal experience and a natural call to care. I was just 18 or 19 when I found myself taking care of my mother, who was wheelchair-bound. At the same time, I was studying psychology at night, and it quickly became clear that nursing — especially psychiatric nursing — was where my heart belonged. Even while enjoying the life of a young adult, I was deeply curious: What causes mental illness? What pushes a person to the edge?

One case I'll never forget involved a man admitted in utter crisis. His wife had left him, his business collapsed, his home was destroyed in a fire, and his son became a paraplegic — all in a short span of time. He had reached breaking point. But with coordinated care from social workers, financial advisors, and mental health professionals, his life began to mend. Just a week later, he walked out of the facility with a bag in his hand and hope in his heart. That experience taught me a vital truth: with the right support, people can recover-even from the depths of despair.

At 25, my path took a spiritual turn when I became a Christian. Around the same time, I developed a deep interest in natural remedies and a holistic approach to raising my children. A pivotal moment came when I was given a book called Psycho-Dietetics, published in 1976. It explored how American doctors were using minerals, vitamins, and lifestyle changes to support mental health. That book lit a fire in me. It launched a lifelong pursuit of natural, empowering, and faith-aligned ways to support the mind.

I've always believed in raising independent thinkers — emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. I didn't spoon-feed my children; I wanted them to think, question, and grow strong from within. That same principle guides my approach to care: give people tools they can use on their own, not just within the walls of a clinic. In recent years, especially amid global upheaval and restrictions, many people have started to look inward-and upward-for answers. The need for holistic self-care-mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual — has never been clearer. People are realising that healing is not just something that happens in a doctor's office; it starts with taking responsibility for one's own well-being.

Mental health is complex, but one truth remains: our mindset matters. Depression is often a state of mind — though this may be difficult to hear, it carries weight. Therapies like Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) help us see that while we can't always change our circumstances, we can choose our responses. Gratitude, even in suffering, is one of the most powerful tools. In a world gripped by fear and uncertainty, we must remember the profound power of choice. It is central to mental freedom, parenting, and spiritual growth. When we choose to trust God in adversity, we're not simply holding onto hope-we're resisting fear itself. But this choice also reveals a deeper spiritual truth: God is not a tyrant. He gives us freedom, even when it means people sometimes choose wrongly and others suffer. Still, in reclaiming our minds from destructive patterns, this freedom becomes our greatest strength. We are not victims of our thoughts. We can choose what we focus on. As Dr Neil Nedley says, "The mind stayed on Him is a choice." Sometimes, that choice starts with "fake it till you make it." It may sound hollow, but it's a powerful truth-repetition creates reality. Just like going to the gym builds identity over time, practicing hope reshapes our inner dialogue.

Living in the present is also vital. We're often robbed of today by regrets or fears of tomorrow. But as one speaker said, "Love today. Love where you are. Love what's happening — because you'll never have that moment again." Gratitude brings healing. Even when self-critical, pause and reframe. Maybe your feet look odd — but they carry you. You are free.

Lastly, mental wellness is deeply rooted in the physical laws of health, where simple, consistent habits yield profound results. Breathing through the nose, rather than the mouth, enhances oxygenation and naturally filters the air we take in, supporting clearer thinking and calmness.

Regular movement, exposure to sunlight, and quality sleep are equally vital — research shows that just ten nights of six-hour sleep can reduce brain function by up to 50 per cent. Hydration and proper nutrition, particularly with omega-3 fatty acids, form the building blocks of cognitive and emotional balance. Faith doesn't remove fear, but it gives us the courage to keep walking, step by step.

(The author is a world renowned holistic healer and advocate of transformative wellness. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Caste census must bridge gaps

Madam — The move to conduct a caste-based census must be viewed with thoughtful consideration. Data can be a tool for progress if it promotes fairness and opportunity, not division. Global principles emphasise equal dignity, social cohesion, and the recognition of merit beyond inherited identity. While marginalised communities deserve focused support, categorising citizens primarily by caste may risk reinforcing societal barriers.

Instead, emphasis should be placed on gathering data related to education, employment, and healthcare disparities. Nation-building thrives when every citizen feels valued as part of one collective future. Let us ensure that any data collection fosters inclusion, not fragmentation. Policy must balance historical realities with a shared vision for equity and unity. Progress lies not in highlighting our differences but in bridging them meaningfully.

In conclusion, the call for a caste-based census must be grounded in a vision that uplifts rather than divides. While acknowledging historical injustices, we must prioritise data that addresses real developmental gaps — education, employment, healthcare — without deepening social fault lines. The aim should be to craft policies that empower the marginalised while reinforcing our shared national identity. India's progress depends on fostering unity through inclusion, not fragmentation through labels.

HASNAIN RABBANI | MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma calls it a day gracefully

Madam — Unfortunately, an underachiever in Whites called it a day for reasons known only to him. India captain Rohit Sharma has retired from Test cricket. It comes after reports in the Indian media that he would be removed as captain for the Test series in England this summer. Rohit gave nonchalant joy whenever In form and in mood. Retires when still good enough to play for couple of years.

In his test Career, Sharma played 67 Test matches, scoring 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57, including 12 centuries and 18 half-centuries. As a captain he succeeded Virat Kohli as Test captain in 2022 and led India in 24 matches, winning 12. In his ODI Career Rohit Sharma will continue to play ODIs and has recently led the team to the 2025 Champions Trophy title.

His T20 Career ended as he retired from T20 internationals after India's victory in the 2024 — T20 World Cup.

A graceful exit, Rohit Sharma bows out of Test cricket with 4,301 runs in 67 matches, 12 centuries, and a captaincy that saw India win half of his 24 Tests in charge. Though his departure follows whispers of a captaincy change, Rohit exits with dignity intact, still capable, still cherished. Having led India to triumphs in the 2024 T20 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy, his legacy lives on. Sometimes, it is best to leave them wanting more.

JAYANTHY SUBRAMANIAM | MUMBAI

Operation Sindoor: Precision Strike

Madam — On May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor, a precision military strike targeting nine terrorist hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). This decisive action followed the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists. Between 1:05 AM and 1:30 AM, Rafale Jets armed with SCALP missiles hit camps run by Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Notably, Indian forces avoided Pakistani military targets, signaling a calculated and focused counterterrorism mission. The operation highlights India's evolving military doctrine — marked by swift retaliation, strategic restraint, and intelligence-based targeting.

It reinforces India's stance of measured but firm responses to cross-border terrorism while bolstering its defense credibility. Geopolitically, the strike comes amid Pakistan's internal instability and raises the risk of regional escalation. Islamabad is likely to seek diplomatic support, especially from China and Turkey.

China's stance will be closely watched, given its Indo-Pacific ambitions. Western nations, particularly the US, may support India's right to self-defense while calling for calm. Beyond immediate security implications, Operation Sindoor could influence economic and diplomatic ties, including trade dynamics and water-sharing talks. As India aligns military action with broader national strategy, its assertive posture may mark a significant shift in South Asia's geopolitical landscape.

AMARJEET KUMAR | HAZARIBAGH

PAKISTAN LEANS ON CHINA FOR ARMS SUPPLIES

Since the US having cut off arms supplies to Pakistan in the wake of the changed geopolitical situation in Afghanistan, cash-strapped Islamabad has been increasingly leaning on China in recent years to fill the gap.

According to data compiled by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China was the largest supplier of military hardware to Pakistan, accounting for as much as 81 per cent of the country's total imports, followed by the Netherlands at 5.5 per cent and Turkey at 3.8 per cent. Turkish President Erdogan expressed solidarity with Pakistan amid rising tensions with India following Operation Sindoor.

The total arms imports from China between 2019 and 2023 alone were valued at $5.28 billion, which accounted for 63 per cent of Pakistan's total arms imports, according to SIPRI data.

Pakistan has been getting defence hardware from China that ranges from fighter jets for the air force to submarines and frigates for the country's navy and artillery guns for the Pakistan Army. The JF-17 Thunder fighter jet is a flagship project of China-Pakistan military cooperation. The JF-17 is currently a mainstay of the Pakistan Air Force after the US stopped supplying its F-16s. Production of the jets started in 2007, and deliveries are ongoing, with each delivery introducing upgraded modern variants.

In 2015, Pakistan ordered eight Type-041 Yuan-class conventional submarines from China, four of which were to be built in China, and four to be made under license in Pakistan at Karachi Shipyard. Delivery schedule for these submarines runs from 2022 to 2028, with the deal valued at $5 billion. Pakistan has also got Chinese SH-15 155mm self-propelled artillery guns for deployment to the Indian border. With this the Pakistan having full support of mighty China currently which is worrisome for India.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

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

Victory's veil: The allied legacy of moral evasion

Eighty years on, the Allied victory is still hailed as a triumph over tyranny — but behind the celebration lies a legacy of deceit, injustice, and moral compromise. The victors fashioned a postwar world less defined by liberation than by selective memory and calculated impunity

FIRST Column

When President Harry Truman read the plea from Manhattan Project scientists urging a reconsideration of the atomic bomb's use on Japan, his response likely showed no moral hesitation or remorse. Instead, his actions reinforced a postwar global order based not on liberty, but on selective memory and perverse exoneration.

Eighty years after Victory in Europe Day, the dominant Western narrative continues to present the war's outcome as a triumph of virtue, ignoring the uncomfortable ethical compromises and strategic duplicities that underpinned it. The mythology of liberation has become sacrosanct, while the darker aspects — such as rendition, racial internment, scientific justification of war crimes, and indifference to colonial sacrifice — remain marginalised or erased. The obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — while dressed in the procedural lexicon of wartime necessity — was, in fact, the Western world's inaugural postbellum moral abdication. The bombings were less a denouement of global conflict and more a vulgar display of technological supremacy calculated to dissuade Soviet assertiveness. The horror, therefore, was not simply that a nuclear Rubicon had been crossed, but that it was done with an exculpatory grin, and later justified with the antiseptic language of 'strategic imperatives'. It is no longer speculative fiction but a matter of record, buried in declassified memoranda, that alternatives existed — namely, Japan's increasing willingness to consider surrender if the Emperor were retained. Truman's decision was not an exigency of war, but a deliberate theatricality of dominance. The supposed Allied moral high ground crumbled further when Operation Paperclip was set into motion.

Over 1,600 Nazi scientists, including unrepentant perpetrators of ghastly human experimentation, were clandestinely ferried into the United States under the auspices of national security and scientific utility. Wernher von Braun, a man whose rockets were lubricated by the blood of enslaved labourers at Mittelwerk, became a lauded patriarch of American aerospace triumph. The apologia was monstrously bureaucratic — his past affiliations were 'scrubbed' to sanitise his assimilation into American exceptionalism. In a 1947 CIA memo, the chilling intent is laid bare: "It is not desirable that the public or press become aware…" — a line that resounds like a macabre hymn to state-sanctioned impunity. This institutional duplicity was not uniquely American.

The British intelligence establishment had its own euphemistically elegant form of deceit. Through the "Double Cross System," MI5 successfully manipulated German intelligence via double agents, such as the legendary Juan Pujol García, to misdirect Axis expectations about D-Day. Though tactically ingenious, this also reveals an alarming precedent: deception, once wielded in wartime, quickly transmogrifies into peacetime governance. The ability to deceive a foreign enemy soon turned inward — domestic populations were no longer sacrosanct from psychological warfare, propaganda, and informational obfuscation. Simultaneously, the West turned a wilfully blind eye to Soviet atrocities for the sake of fragile alliances. The Katyn Forest massacre, wherein Stalin's NKVD executed over 22,000 Polish officers, was known to the Roosevelt and Churchill administrations.

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

Declassified communications confirm that both leaders opted for calculated silence, fearing the rupture of wartime unity. One CIA memo chillingly advised that "public disclosure not advised due to diplomatic concerns." In those words lies the DNA of postwar moral relativism: truth subjugated to expediency.

Even within the triumphant United States, the internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans — a move unreplicated in scale or racial homogeneity for any other ethnic group — was executed under the pretence of national security, yet dripped with racial animus. The true indictment emerges not just from the camps themselves, but from what came after. Thousands of Japanese American men volunteered to fight for a nation that caged their families. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, largely composed of these internees' sons, became the most decorated unit of its size in US military history. Their leader, Senator Daniel Inouye, once said, "We fought not just the enemy, but the prejudice of our own country. Still, we fought."

> EVEN WITHIN THE TRIUMPHANT UNITED STATES, THE INTERNMENT OF OVER 110,000 JAPANESE AMERICANS — A MOVE UNREPLICATED IN SCALE OR RACIAL HOMOGENEITY FOR ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP — WAS EXECUTED UNDER THE PRETENCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY, YET DRIPPED WITH RACIAL ANIMUS

That their legacy was received with patronising nods rather than substantive restitution only amplifies the grotesquerie of their sacrifice. Meanwhile, British colonial troops — 2.5 million strong from India, Africa, and the Caribbean—were deployed across the world's war fronts, shedding blood for a Crown that had no intention of emancipating them.

In Burma, Indian troops bore the brunt of the jungle war, their bodies discarded in the colonial ledger as expendable assets. Their gallantry was neither commemorated with equitable pensions nor with places in British collective memory. A veteran of the Burma Campaign once lamented: "We fought for the British, yet after the war, they forgot us. My medals mean little without respect." Postwar Britain, engrossed in rebuilding its own wounded self-image, had no space for the sepia-toned loyalty of its colonial wards. Simultaneously, the Soviet Union — while lionised for its monumental military sacrifice — was also the architect of unspeakable internal savageries. The Holodomor, the Great Purge, and mass deportations — these were not aberrations but policies. The Red Army's entry into Berlin was marked not only by military triumph but by a tidal wave of civilian rapes and looting, acts that were obfuscated or trivialised in postwar historiography.

Allied complicity in whitewashing these crimes was another ethical forfeiture. The mythos of the 'liberator' prevailed, even as countless women were left psychologically eviscerated by the supposed liberators themselves. There were no clean hands in this war — not among the Allies, not among the Axis, and certainly not among the institutions that shaped the postwar order. The psychological experiments of Unit 731 in Japan, which included live vivisections and plague dissemination, should have led to Nuremberg-style prosecutions in the Pacific. Instead, many of its physicians were rewarded with amnesty by the United States in exchange for their data on biological warfare. "Data on human experimentation is valuable…" read a US Army report in 1947.

It is difficult to concoct a phrase more morally desiccated. Nor was the West's complicity confined to acts of commission; its sins of omission reverberate just as loudly. The Jewish partisans in Eastern Europe, those who rose from the ashes of ghettos to sabotage Nazi convoys and derail genocide, were rarely included in the triumphalist Allied narrative. Their resistance did not conform to the clean binaries of statehood or military discipline — it was desperate, feral, and incandescently courageous. Faye Schulman, one such partisan, wrote: "I vowed never to be taken alive again. The forest became my freedom, my gun my answer."

The war also eviscerated any illusions of gender equality. Thousands of women risked and gave — their lives in resistance movements, logistics, and espionage. Noor Inayat Khan, a British Muslim spy of Indian heritage, refused to betray her comrades under Gestapo torture and was eventually executed at Dachau. Her last known words were: "I have nothing more to say." Yet after the war, women were largely herded back into domestic anonymity, their wartime roles ossified as aberrations rather than recognised contributions to victory. The truth is that, while the West defeated fascism with the indispensable support of the Global South and poorer nations, it merely adopted fascist mechanisms, cloaked them in democratic rhetoric, and integrated them into the Cold War order. What followed was not peace, but a cover-up, where impunity was dressed as security and complicity as strategy. The moral divide between Axis villainy and Allied virtue crumbles, revealing a postwar world shaped not by justice, but by duplicity, omission, and a profound fear of moral reckoning.

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

Time for the People of J&K to Rise and Shine!

Once plagued by instability, Jammu and Kashmir is now witnessing a transformative resurgence in tourism, infrastructure, and investment, ushering in a new era of growth, opportunity, and national integration

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places on earth. It, however, has also been one of the most volatile regions due to the delusional and dogmatic mindset of our western neighbour. The result: ever since 1947, it has been subjected to periods of turmoil, instability and tremendous external pressures.

The casualties in this entire process have been the people of the State along with our brave security forces, who have defended the people from both external as well as indoctrinated internal elements. Post-Independence, the economy of the State was doing quite well, and it was driven to a large extent by the tourism industry. For decades, this sector formed a critical part of the State's economy and was the favourite destination of India's most loved entertainment source — the Bollywood movies!

As a result, the State remained in the limelight, with the most famous actors, in a way, becoming its brand ambassadors. As many as 50 per cent of the movies were shot in the State, showcasing its beauty and creating avenues of growth for various extensions of the entertainment industry.

This had a huge bearing and created fertile conditions for the coming up of tourist destinations, hotels, markets for local handicrafts, the Kashmiri 'apple' and 'dry fruits', shikara (houseboats) — all of which generated tremendous employment for the people of the State.

In 1955, over 50 thousand domestic and foreign tourists visited J&K; this number crossed 74 thousand by 1960, to over 1.5 lakh by 1968, and stood at around 5.85 lakhs in 1980. Srinagar, in the 1960s and 70s, had approximately 5–9 daily flights from many Indian cities and was relatively well connected back in the days.

According to a Government survey, J&K welcomed 7 lakh tourists in 1987, and this went down to a mere 6,000 three years later. This proves the sheer economic damage that the State suffered due to instability and mischievous propaganda of vested interests. Things improved a little post-1989, and unfortunately the region was embattled in the Kargil War in 1999. Things did take a turn for the better, and by 2010 — 30 years after 1980 — the number of tourist arrivals touched the 5-lakh mark, going on to show that despite some recovery, the State made no real progress in this area in 30 years due to the prevailing uncertainties and an environment of terror.

In 2019, when the Government took the bold step of abolishing Article 370, and firmly conveyed its position — that enough is enough — J&K once again began an era of unprecedented economic and all-round progress. The improved overall environment and sentiment was first and foremost reflected through the tourist arrivals that broke all records. In 2021, 1.13 crore tourists visited the UT; 1.89 crore in 2022; this increased to 2.12 crores in 2023 and 2.36 crores in 2024. This has also resulted in many multinational and domestic hotel chains opening new properties in the UT, and the region currently offers 62,488 registered tourist beds across hotels, guest houses and houseboats.

ANIL RAJPUT

In addition, J&K is developing 75 new tourist destinations, 75 heritage/cultural sites, 75 Sufism/religious sites and 75 adventure treks/sites — potentially attracting tourists for all the four seasons.

> ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT SURVEY, J&K WELCOMED 7 LAKH TOURISTS IN 1987, AND THIS WENT DOWN TO A MERE 6,000 THREE YEARS LATER. THIS PROVES THE SHEER ECONOMIC DAMAGE THAT THE STATE SUFFERED DUE TO INSTABILITY AND MISCHIEVOUS PROPAGANDA OF VESTED INTERESTS.

There has also been a massive increase in the daily flights to Srinagar, which is today witnessing around 45–50 daily flights in summer and 35–37 flights in the winters. To complete a full circle, as many as 300 movies and web series were shot in J&K in two years (2022 and 2023) — a clear signal that the atmosphere was back to the pre-1989 days. In fact, here it is critical to mention the laudable and impactful steps that the Central and the UT Government have taken since 2019: the Prime Minister's Development Package — 2015 was accelerated and 53 projects pertaining to 15 ministries are being implemented at a cost of ₹58,477 crores in various sectors such as roads, power, health, education, tourism, agriculture, skill development and much more — out of these, 29 projects have been completed with many others in advanced stages of production.

A new Central Sector Scheme was notified in 2021 for the industrial development of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, with an outlay of ₹28,400 crores. In addition, J&K has received investment applications of more than ₹54,000 crores, out of which projects worth more than ₹36,000 crores have been allotted industrial land. The construction work of 17,601 km of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was completed up to March 2022, and this has connected over 2,074 places. Two AIIMS, seven new medical colleges, two cancer institutes and 15 nursing colleges have been taken up and operationalised, along with reviving power projects for about 3,000 MW capacity.

Three major irrigation projects that include Ravi Canal (₹62 crore), third stage of Tral Lift Irrigation Scheme (₹45 crore) and the comprehensive flood management plan of river Jhelum and its tributaries — Phase I, costing ₹400 crores — have been completed. In addition, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has carried out recruitment in the public sector from 2019 onwards, totalling nearly 30 thousand employments. Another 5.2 lakh persons are estimated to be employed through self-employment schemes from August 2019 up to June 2022. A hundred per cent saturation has also been achieved in 17 individual beneficiary-centric schemes, including Saubhagya, Ujala, Ujjwala and Indradhanush schemes. Therefore, things really began to look up, and the period from 2019 onwards is actually the golden period for the Valley and the UT of J&K.

That is, till the recent and most unfortunate and orchestrated attack that happened at one of the UT's most famous tourist destinations — Pahalgam. It was clear that the recent development of the region, and the overall environment of prosperity, did not go well with a neighbouring state which has an evil eye on J&K — and their frustration led to this desperate attempt to damage the economy and derail the progress being made by the local population. It has always been the people of the UT who have, today and in the past, remained the biggest sufferers and have paid a steep price for such senseless acts. It is my firm belief that the best is yet to come for the Valley and its people. Ultimately, the answer for J&K's growth and a bright future lies in the local Kashmiri's resolve and ability to recognise and call out the sinister agenda of external forces. They need to awaken and defeat these evil designs for their own good, and for this to happen — cooperating and trusting the local administration, which has always tried to ensure their safety and security, along with that of their future generations — is the need of the hour!

The writer is President – Corporate Affairs, ITC. Views are personal)

Indian envoy to UK calls on Pakistan to take 'off-ramp'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

India's response to Pakistan's original conflict escalation with the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam last month was "precise, targeted" and focussed solely on terror infrastructure but Pakistan has chosen to continue to escalate the matter instead of taking an "off-ramp" to end the crisis, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK has said. Vikram Doraiswami was interviewed by a series of UK media outlets on Thursday to present India's stance on the rising tensions between India and Pakistan. He told 'Sky News' that the international community can intervene by pointing out the opportunity for an off-ramp to Pakistan.

He also displayed an image live on air of US-designated terrorist Abdur Rauf leading prayers for the terrorists killed in Operation Sindoor, also presented during a briefing by Foreign Secretary Vikram Mistry in New Delhi.

"Everybody knows that for the last 30 years, Pakistan has used this (terrorism) as a means of sub-critical warfare against India," said Doraiswami. "If the international community really wants to be able to look at this and worry about it, the simple solution is to tell Pakistan it has an opportunity for an off-ramp. These are things that the world should have compelled Pakistan to do 30 years ago, and to compel them to implement their promises about taking down this infrastructure. It has not done so," he said. Asked if India fears a further escalation of conflict in the region, the envoy asserted that the "original escalation" is Pakistan-sponsored terror groups attacking and shooting civilians in Pahalgam on April 22. "Our response thereafter was precise, targeted, reasonable and moderate. It was focused principally and solely on terrorist infrastructure. We did not strike the Pakistani military establishment. We did not strike national infrastructure, and we made it abundantly clear… that the object of this exercise was clearly to avoid military escalation - a fact actually acknowledged in a left handed way, of course, by the Pakistani side in terms of their own official statements which said that the airspace hadn't been violated," said Doraiswami.

The Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami PTI

"The logical solution would be, as we've said repeatedly, for Pakistan to take the opportunity of an off ramp, which we have made abundantly clear, including this morning, that if Pakistan stops attacking our military facilities, the matter ends there, but it is for them to decide," he said.

The High Commissioner was also pressed on media reports around Indian jets being allegedly shot down, claims that remain unsubstantiated.

Imran Khan's party files petition seeking his jail release

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad

Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party on Friday filed a petition in the High Court here seeking his release from jail, claiming a threat to his life due to the impact of the prolonged detention on his health and in view of the current situation with India.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party, in a WhatsApp message, said that the party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur approached the Islamabad High Court for the release of the party founder.

Khan, 72, has been incarcerated in Adiala Jail of Rawalpindi, the garrison city, since mid-2023 in connection with multiple cases.

"The Islamabad High Court has been approached for the release of Imran Khan. An application has been filed by Chief Minister KP Ali Amin," the party said.

"It has been requested that in view of the current war situation with India, for national harmony and solidarity, and due to the fear of a drone attack in Adiala Jail, he be immediately released on parole/probation."

The court has not set any date for the hearing of the plea.

Speaking to the media at the Islamabad High Court premises, Gandapur described the PTI founder as a leader of the Muslim Ummah (community) and expressed hope for justice.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party, in a WhatsApp message, said that the party's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur approached the Islamabad High Court for the release of the party founder

He expressed concern about the lack of law and order in the country, stating that they have knocked on all doors seeking justice.

Gandapur argued in the petition that Khan's prolonged detention due to politically motivated cases is violating the basic rights of the PTI founder.

He stated that the Constitution provides a remedy for release on parole to avoid such detention. The petitioner further mentioned that there is a risk of health deterioration due to prolonged imprisonment.

We are at war with the terrorists, India states to US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

India is at war with the terrorists and will bring justice to victims of the Pahalgam attack by holding the "lowlifes, subhuman monsters" accountable, Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra has said, underscoring that in no world would these terrorists be allowed a free pass.

"The frame and the template in which we look at is the terror template. April 22 was the most heinous terrorist act," Kwatra said in an interview to CNN on Thursday.

The interview comes as India ramps up its diplomatic offensive against Pakistan following the military confrontation triggered by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that had cross border linkages.

"It is nobody's case to say that these terrorists should be given a free pass, and that's precisely what we did the day before yesterday, held them accountable," Kwatra said and described India's action as "a very precise, calibrated, measured response to these terrorists."

"We are at war with the terrorists, and we will, as I said, bring justice to the victims and hold them accountable," he said answering a question if India is at war with Pakistan. "Our foremost objective in this was (to) hold these lowlifes, subhuman monsters accountable and bring justice to the victims."

India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, striking terror factories at nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians and for which The Resistance Front (TRF), a front for the UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, had claimed responsibility.

Underscoring the fact that four terrorists backed by Pakistan killed 26 civilians, Kwatra said "in no world would you allow such terrorists to be given a free pass. And that is precisely what we did the day before yesterday.

"We carried out a very precise, calibrated, measured response to these terrorists, to their factories, to their integrated facilities, which they run out of Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. (We) took them out where they train them, they equip them, organise them, those are the facilities we took out."

"It is nobody's case to say that such terrorists should be given a free pass, wherever they are located."

He added that from a large number of Congressmen, Senators to the whole world, they all appreciate that India should respond and bring accountability for these terrorists and justice for the victims.

Kwatra asserted that the original escalation and the original breakout of tension happened on April 22, when four terrorists backed by Pakistan carried out "brutal, subhuman, monstrous kind of killings" of 26 civilians, including a Nepali national.

He said the terrorists killed the civilians on the basis of religion, identifying and killing "all non-Muslims".

"So what we did the day before yesterday was essentially our response to terror," Kwatra said, adding that India's response has been very measured, calibrated and proportionate.

Responding to a question on explosions being heard in Kashmir, Kwatra said Pakistan has again decided to stand with the terrorists. "Rather than take action against them, they are essentially lending them support," he said.

"We wouldn't be surprised if they are themselves involved in this, but that's what is the message," which Pakistan is telling the world that it is with terrorists, it is not with the rest of the civilised world, the rest of humanity.

"Pakistan's belief lies in perpetrating these proxies of terror killings, brutal killings of innocent civilians," he said.

To a comment that Pakistan has denied involvement in the attacks, Kwatra said that "denial and obfuscation" has always been the first part of Pakistan's strategy.

"They have this unique characteristic where they assume responsibility of their past actions in future, not in the present moment," he said as he asked where was Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who plotted the September 11 attacks in the US, found. The killer of American journalist Daniel Pearl or perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks found?

Responding to a question, Kwatra said that with Operation Sindoor, "we, from our perspective, had brought a certain finality to it, but it was, of course, subject to whether Pakistan has brought finality to it. Pakistan chose to escalate it further. Now it's duty-bound for us to respond to that."

When asked how concerned should the world be that the tensions between India and Pakistan could escalate into a nuclear war, the Indian envoy said, "I think the world should be concerned about the fact that Pakistan's support to terrorism and terrorist activities continues."

"I think that's what the world should be concerned about. And I think that's what the world should tell Pakistan - to stop supporting terrorism. I think that's the crux of the question," he asserted.

When asked if he thinks it could get to the point of nuclear weapons, he said: "That's for you to ask Pakistan for that."

He also drew attention to what he called was "Pakistan's old habit of misinformation campaign."

US to stay out of war: Vance on India-Pakistan tensions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the US has said it is not going to get involved in a war that's "fundamentally none of our business".

While the US cannot control India and Pakistan, it can encourage the two nuclear-armed neighbours to de-escalate, Vice President J D Vance said in an interview with Fox News on Thursday.

"Look, we're concerned about any time nuclear powers collide and have a major conflict," Vance said when asked how concerned the Trump administration is about a potential nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

Vance quoted US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio who have said that Washington wants the tensions to "de-escalate" as quickly as possible.

"We can't control these countries though. Fundamentally, India has its gripes with Pakistan. Pakistan has responded to India. What we can do is try to encourage these folks to de-escalate a little bit. But we're not going to get involved in the middle of war that's fundamentally none of our business and has nothing to do with America's ability to control it," the vice president said.

"America can't tell the Indians to lay down their arms. We can't tell the Pakistanis to lay down their arms. And so we're going to continue to pursue this thing through diplomatic channels. Our hope and our expectation is that this is not going to spiral into a broader regional war or, God forbid, a nuclear conflict, but sure, we're worried about these things.

"But I think the job of diplomacy, but also the job of cooler heads in India and Pakistan is to make sure this doesn't become a nuclear war. If it happened of course it would be disastrous. Right now we don't think that's going to happen," he said.

US Vice President J D Vance PTI

Vance, Second Lady Usha Vance and their three children were on their first official visit to India when terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22.

Two weeks after the attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on Wednesday, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. On Thursday night, India neutralised Pakistan military's attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations with missiles and drones as tensions soared between the two countries amid fears of a wider military conflict.

After the Indian military foiled the Pakistani attempts, the defence ministry said India remains "fully prepared to defend its sovereignty and ensure the safety of its people".

Earlier on Thursday, Secretary of State Rubio spoke separately with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, emphasising the need for immediate de-escalation.

In his call with Jaishankar, Rubio expressed US support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan and encouraged continued efforts to improve communications. He reiterated his condolences for the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam and reaffirmed the US' commitment to work with India in the fight against terrorism.

In his conversation with Sharif, Rubio reiterated his calls for Pakistan to take concrete steps to end any support for terrorist groups.

In a press briefing on Thursday, State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said Rubio underlined the need for de-escalation in his conversations with Jaishankar and Sharif.

"...At this moment in time, there is like one thing that has to stop, which is a back-and-forth and a continuation of this, and that is what we're focused on right now," she said.

The message from the Secretary of State and from the United States "is that the violence should stop, that military action, war, as we've seen in that region, certainly in the Middle East, has clearly for generations proven that it is not a solution because it never ends.

"There has to be a change in that regard. So obviously, when it comes to solving a problem, this administration has made itself clear, that war, the military, more violence is not a solution. Diplomacy is a solution, new ideas to stop generational violence and problems."

Asked if Rubio offered to mediate between the two countries, Bruce said, "We are not going to be speaking about the details. That is certainly our policy."

The US continues to urge India and Pakistan to work towards a responsible solution. Washington remains engaged with both governments at multiple levels, she said.

The US wants the perpetrators to be held accountable and are supportive of any efforts to that end, she added.

Bruce told reporters that Rubio underlined that the conflict should not escalate.

"Clearly this has been an issue for decades and... With what we saw over the last few weeks after the terrorist attack, it was not surprising but very, very disappointing. But... It should not escalate.

"And communication was fundamentally key, that there should be talks, that there should not be silence and that America obviously was in the centre of this in speaking with a variety of leaders of both countries over the last two days," Bruce said.

Pakistan says economic affairs ministry's X account hacked after post seeking loans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad/New Delhi

Pakistan on Friday said that the X account of its ministry of economic affairs was hacked and an appeal was posted on it for more international loans to meet the "heavy losses" caused by the current tensions with India.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued a 'FAKE TWEET ALERT', saying the account was "hacked".

An official also confirmed that the X account has been hacked, and "work was going to switch off the account".

The hacking led to a fake appeal by the Economic Affairs Division of the ministry, calling for more loans and urging the international community to help defuse the tensions with India following the Pahalgam terror attack. The tensions caused the stock market in Pakistan to tumble.

"Government of Pakistan appeals to International Partners for more loans after heavy losses 'inflected' by enemy. Amid escalating war and stocks crash, we urge international partners to help de-escalate. Nation urged to remain steadfast," the post on the account said.

Interestingly, 'inflicted' was misspelt in the post, leading to suspicion as official handling accounts seldom make such glaring mistakes.

The post came after the Pakistan Stock Exchange fell by more than 6,000 points on Thursday. However, the market recovered on Friday and gained more than 1,000 points in the morning trading session.

The timing of the post was also intriguing as it coincided with a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board to decide on the next installment of a $7 billion loan agreed last year.

Pakistan is expected to get more than $2 billion as part of the second tranche of the loans and a new loan which the fund approved to combat the impact of environmental changes. Earlier, India's Press Information Bureau had took a swipe at the fashion the economic affairs division of Pakistan was seeking alms.

Nepal's human rights group protests outside Indian, Pakistan embassies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Kathmandu

A Nepalese human rights group staged demonstrations outside the Indian and Pakistani embassies here on Friday, urging both nations to end ongoing tensions and promote peace in South Asia.

The Human Rights and Peace Society organised the protests, led by activist Krishna Pahadi and HURPES president Renuka Paudel.

The group condemned terrorism and extremism, emphasising that peace is the only path forward for the region.

Demonstrators carried placards with slogans such as, "No one will win in war, only humanity gets defeated," "Terrorism is deplorable in all times," "In peace all will win," and "Let's make South Asia a war-free zone".

The activists also raised concerns over specific issues, with slogans questioning the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty and Pakistan's protection of those involved in the Pahalgam terror attack.

"How lawful to suspend the Sindhu Water Agreement?" "Why did Pakistan protect those who attacked tourists in Pahalgam?", and "Why Pakistan, who itself is victim of terrorism and extremism is harboring terrorism?," were the other slogans the placards were displaying. A memorandum addressed to the Indian government was handed over to Indian Embassy officials in Kathmandu, while a similar letter for Pakistan was sent via email after embassy officials declined to accept it, the HURPES said in a press release.

Kim supervised missile tests simulating nuclear strikes: North Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised tests of short-range ballistic missile systems that simulated nuclear counterstrikes against US and South Korean forces, state media said Friday, as the North continued to blame its rivals for escalating tensions through their joint military exercises.

The report came a day after South Korea's military detected multiple launches from North Korea's eastern coast and assessed that the tests could also be related to the country's weapons exports to Russia during its war in Ukraine.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday's tests involved a mobile ballistic missile system apparently modelled after Russia's Iskander, as well as 600-millimetre multiple rocket launchers that South Korean officials classify as ballistic due to their self-propulsion and guided flight. Both are part of a growing lineup of weapons systems that the North says could be armed with "tactical" nuclear weapons for battlefield use. KCNA said the tests were intended to train military units operating missile and rocket systems to more effectively execute attacks under the North's nuclear weapons control system and ensure a swift response to a nuclear crisis.

The agency criticised the United States and its "vassal states" for expanding joint military exercises on and around the Korean Peninsula, which the North claims are preparations for nuclear war, and said Thursday's launches demonstrated the "rapid counteraction posture" of its forces.

Kim stressed the need to strengthen the role of his nuclear forces in both deterring and fighting war, and called for continued efforts to improve combat readiness and precision strike capabilities, KCNA said.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said multiple missiles of various types were launched from the area around the eastern port city of Wonsan on Thursday from about 8:10 to 9:20 am, with the farthest travelling about 800 kilometres. Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs, said in a briefing the North Korean launches were possibly intended to test the performance of weapons it plans to export, as the country continues to send military equipment and troops to fuel Russia's warfighting against Ukraine.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters that none of the North Korean missiles reached Japan's exclusive economic zone and there was no damage to vessels or aircraft in the area.

It was the North's first known ballistic activity since March 10, when it fired several ballistic missiles hours after US and South Korean troops began an annual combined military exercise, and the country's sixth launch event of the year.

Russia holds Victory Day parade for 80th anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Moscow

Russia marked the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II with a massive military parade on Red Square on Friday attended by President Vladimir Putin and foreign leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Victory Day, which is celebrated in Russia on May 9, is the country's most important secular holiday.

The parade and other ceremonies underline Moscow's efforts to project its global power and cement the alliances it has forged while seeking a counterbalance to the West amid the conflict Ukraine that has dragged into a fourth year.

World War II is a rare event in the nation's divisive history under Communist rule that is revered by all political groups, and the Kremlin has used that sentiment to encourage national pride and underline Russia's position as a global power.

The Soviet Union lost 27 million people in what it calls the Great Patriotic War in 1941-45, an enormous sacrifice that left a deep scar in the national psyche.

Speaking at the parade, Putin hailed Russian troops fighting in Ukraine, saying that "we are proud of their courage and determination, their spiritual force that always has brought us victory."

The parade featured over 11,500 troops and more than 180 military vehicles, including tanks, armoured infantry vehicles and artillery used on the battlefield in Ukraine. As a reminder of Russia's nuclear might, launchers for the Yars nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles rolled across Red Square.

Fighter jets of Russian air force's aerobatic teams flew by in close formation followed by jets that trailed smoke in the colours of the national flag.

After the show, Putin shook hands with Russian military officers who led the troops on Red Square. He also talked to a group of medal-bedecked senior North Korean officers who watched the parade, hugging one of them.

Last month, Putin thanked North Korea for fighting alongside Russian troops against Ukrainian forces and hailed their sacrifices as Pyongyang confirmed its deployment for the first time. The Russian and North Korean statements that underlined their expanding military partnerships came after Russia said that its troops have fully reclaimed the Kursk region that Ukrainian forces seized in a surprise incursion last year. Festivities this year were overshadowed by Ukrainian drone attacks targeting Moscow and severe disruptions at the capital's airports.

Military troops in Red Square before the Victory Day military parade in Moscow in Russia PTI

Russian flag carrier Aeroflot on Wednesday morning cancelled more than 100 flights to and from Moscow, and delayed over 140 others as the military were repelling repeated Ukrainian drone attacks on the capital.

Russian authorities have tightened security ahead of the parade and cellphone internet outages have been reported amid electronic countermeasures aimed at foiling more potential drone attacks. Putin had declared a unilateral 72-hour ceasefire starting May 7 to coincide with the Victory Day celebrations, but warned that Russian troops will retaliate to any attacks.

Moscow has been reluctant to accept a U.S.-proposed 30-day truce that Ukraine has accepted, linking it to a halt in Western arms supplies to Ukraine and Kyiv's mobilisation effort, conditions Ukraine and its Western allies have rejected.

Ukrainian authorities reported scores of Russian strikes on Friday that killed at least two people in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and damaged buildings. As the Red Square parade and other festivities unfolded in Moscow, dozens of European officials were meeting in Lviv, in western Ukraine, to endorse the creation of a special tribunal tasked to prosecute Russian officials accused of war crimes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **Mr. Rakesh Pandey** who is purchasing the **Property No. S.E-25, area measuring 297.70 Sq. Meters, situated at Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.**, and This property was owned by Mr. S.C. Goyal (Sushil Chand Goyal) through Freehold Deed executed by GDA in favour of him Regd. as Document No. 470, Book No. I, Volume No. 24, on pages 208-212, registered on dated 27.12.2008 (SRO-Ghaziabad-V),Further,upon demise of Sushil Chand Goyal his legal heirs namely Mr. Chand Goyal & Mr. Mohit Goyal mutate the name through Mutation Letter dated 21.11.2014 in respect of said property, Now, Mr. Chand Goyal & Mr. Mohit Goyal intending to sell the said property. **Mr. Rakesh Pandey** is intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from **Axis Finance Limited**. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned about his objections within **10 days** from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. **Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049,Contact # 011-40046316**

LOST & FOUND

I, Rattan Lal Raina, S/o Late Shri A.N. Raina, R/o House No. 45, Sector 1A, South Extension, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu (J&K), through my duly authorized Power of Attorney holder Shri Hira Lal Dasi, S/o Late Shri Mohan Lal Dasi, R/o 206-B, Pocket B, Mayur Vihar, Phase – III, East Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "the Applicant"). That I am the legal heir and representative of my late sister Vijay Raina, in whose name the following properties were allotted by M/s Ansal Housing Limited, formerly known as M/s Ansal Housing & Construction Limited:

1. Plot No. C-F-289, Area 150 Sq. Yds, Golf Link – 1, Greater Noida.
2. Plot No. C-E-124, Area 239 Sq. Yds, Golf Link – 1, Greater Noida.
3. Plot No. BD-32, Area 299 Sq. Yds, Golf Link – 2, Greater Noida.
4. Plot No. AE-044, Area 239 Sq. Yds, Golf Link – 2, Greater Noida.
5. Flat No. A-902, Neel Padam – 1, Sector – 5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.

That the original allotment letters, payment receipts, and all other related documents pertaining to the above properties have been inadvertently lost/misplaced while in transit from the residence of my GPA holder Shri Hira Lal Dasi to the office of M/s Ansal Housing Limited. If found. Please contact. 9810866407.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client VIMAL KUMAR son of Late Shri Prabhu Dayal, resident of H.No. IV/3500, Upper Ground Floor, Plot No. 87, Dr. Ambedkar, Gali No. 10, Vishwas Nagar. Shahdara, Delhi- 110032 declare that my Client is the sole and absolute owner of the said property. There is no other legal heir or claimant to this property in any manner whatsoever.

NAKUL SHARMA (ADV)
Office No.8, Shiva Market, Nr Petrol Pump at Khureji Red light, Delhi-110051

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Following properties are available for immediate sale:

1. Freehold property, measuring 300 sq. yards, Ground Floor, Gulmohar Park, fully constructed along with 28% undivided right/share in the land underneath.
2. Basement, measuring 300 sq. yards, located in Gulmohar Park, New Delhi, comprising of large hall along with utilities along with 12% undivided and indivisible rights in the land underneath.

Parties interested in purchase may contact the following
Issued by: Prakash
Email ID: Pra.shtvs@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Shri Vijay Kumar Gupta S/o Shri Kishan Gupta and Smt. Renu Gupta, W/o Shri Vijay Kumar Gupta, Permanent resident at A-Block, House No. 1/14 Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have debarred their son Chirag Gupta and daughter-in-law Deepanshi from their all moveable, immoveable properties and severed all their relations due to their bad conduct and misbehavior. My clients shall not be responsible for any act of them in future.

(Dharmendra Pratap Singh) Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to informed you that Sh. Shri Pal Bhati and Smt. Rajeshwari Devi is the owner of Plot No-120, Block-B, Sec-51 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP that Mr. Ashutosh Kacker S/o S.K. Kacker R/o Directors Bungalow New Delhi executed a General Power of Attorney in favour of Dr. S.K. Kacker Dated-13 Nov 1992 has lost any where. If anyone find this Original Document or have any objection regarding this document kindly inform me on my given mobile number 9911004142 within 7 days from the date of the notice.

Yogesh Kumar (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client **[1] Mr. SAMEY DEEN** S/o Sh. Kapoor and **[2] Mrs. HOOR BANO** W/o Sh. Samey Deen both R/o E-173, Gali No.3, Subhash Vihar, North Ghonda, Delhi-110053, have disowned their son and daughter-in-law namely **"IMRAN IDRISI"** and **"GULAFSHA KHATOON"** respectively and severed all their relations social and financial with them due to their disobedience. They have debarred them from inheriting their properties movable and immovable. They shall not be responsible for any of their acts, deeds and things. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and costs.

RAKESH KUMAR (Advocate)
R.K. Garg Block, Supreme Court of India, Tilak Marg, Delhi-110001.
Mob:-9818608254, 9821050454

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that Smt. Sudeshna Sengupta W/o. Sh. Asish Sengupta and Sh. Arghya Sengupta S/o. Smt. Sudeshna Sengupta are presently the absolute joint 'Title Holders' in possession of **'Entire First Floor of Freehold Built Up Residential Property Bearing Plot No. 313, Block – A, Defence Colony, New Delhi measuring 217.00 sq. yards'**, hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' vide Sale Deed dated 16.06.2016 duly registered as Regn. No. 1607, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 71, pp. 163-172 on 21.06.2016 in the Office of the Sub Registrar – V(1), Defence Colony, New Delhi. That the erstwhile Title Holders of the Schedule Plot, i.e. 'Plot No. A-313, Defence Colony, New Delhi', had lost/ misplaced the original title deeds and other documents pertaining to the Schedule Plot, which are (i) Power of Attorney executed by Sh. Fauja Sigh in favour of Sh. Sewa Singh, (ii) Lease Deed dated 29.04.1977, (iii) Transfer Letter dated 30.04.1977 (iv) Death Certificate of Sh. Fauja Singh, (v) Deed of Relinquishment dated 08.09.1992, (vi) Deed of Relinquishment dated 23.12.1994, (vii) Substitution Letter dated 07.08.1995, (viii) Mutation Letter (MCD) dated 03.12.1995, (ix) Conveyance Deed dated 11.12.1997, (x) Sanction for Construction Letter dated 04.01.1999 and (xi) Completion Cum Occupancy Certificate, which remain lost/ misplaced/ untraceable as on date and in lieu of which Information Report dated 09.05.2025 bearing LR No. 2822866/ 2025 has been filled with Delhi Police. The Title Holders are desirous to alienate the Schedule Property to intending Purchaser(s), who have applied for a housing loan with the State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre, South Extension, Part – I, New Delhi (Branch Code – 16683). Thus, this notice is 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/ Schedule Plot, 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 or to sbi.16683@sbi.co.in, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null & void and as waived. **Joni Kashyap, Advocate**
Address:Chamber No.6, Block-E,Karkardooma Court New Delhi-110032, Contact No. +91 99716 26467

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Ph: 01639-256232-256236

Advt. No.BFU-25/14

VACANCIES

Online applications are invited wef **10.05.2025 to 24.05.2025 upto 05:00 PM** from eligible candidates for the recruitment to the posts of **Professor-02, Associate Professor-(07), Assistant Professor-(32) and Biostatics (01)** on regular basis at constituent Colleges/institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Advance Cancer Institute, Bathinda and TCCC, Fazilika).
For Application form, fee, specialty wise detail of posts, Category wise distribution and other terms conditions, visit University website: **www.bfuhs.ac.in.**

REGISTRAR

nil/12/296/2023/44273 Dated CHD :- 5/9/2025

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

This is to hereby inform for Public Notice that TRUST NAMELY :- SRI SHARDA INSTITUTE OF INDIAN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION TRUST (Regd.) of J.S.M.D.Sri Sharada Peetham, at Plot 7, Institutional Area, Phase II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070,
Has presently made the following change Amendment by Supplementary Trust Deed Regd. as Document No. 2024/16/IV/1542 Book No. IV, Volume No. 2314, on Pages 1 to 262, on date 18/10/2024 with the office of Sub-Registrar-South West Kapashera, Delhi.

1. The Name of the Trust: "SRI SHARDA INSTITUTE OF INDIAN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION TRUST (Regd.), has been changed to a SHORTEN NAME:-SRISIIM RESEARCH FOUNDATION
2. MOHAN SUBRAMANIAN AND DEVENDER KAPOOR have been terminated from their post of Trusteeship of the Trust Vide Resolution Date 05/09/2018.

At Present the Board of Trustees of the Trust is as under :-
1. Sri Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati - Permanent Chairman & Managing Trustee
2. Dr. V. R. Gowrishankar – Permanent Trustee
3. Dr. C. Rajendra Kumar – New Trustee
4.Dr. Om Prakash Bohra – New Permanent Trustee & Secretary of the Trust.
5. Swami Sakshatkrutananda Sarasvati – New Permanent Trustee All The Amendment/ Change w.e.f.15/09/2024 in accordance with provision of the bye laws of the Trust Deed and The Memorandum of Constitution as per resolution passed by the Board of Trustees in its meeting held on 15.09.2024

Sd/-
Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the public at large that my client Mrs. Panchi W/o Mr. Ram Prasad R/O E-131, Vishwakarma Colony, M.B Road, Lal Kuan, Jaitpur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044 has disowned, debarred, and disinherited his son namely Mr. Preetam Singh, from all their moveable and immoveable properties and my client shall not be responsible for any immoral or moral activities from them i.e., Mr. Preetam Singh, in present or future from today.If anybody deals with them, will do so at their own risk, cost and consequences and my client shall not be responsible in this regard in any manner and my client further declares that my client shall not be liable for any act or deed done by them i.e., Mr. Preetam Singh at their above-said residence or anywhere, in any manner whatsoever.

Mohit, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to inform to general public that my clients Sh. Balwinder Singh S/o Inderjeet Singh and Smt. Rajwant Kaur W/o Sh. Balwinder Singh R/o WZ B-53, Punjabi Market, Vishnu Garden Part-I, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 hereby declare that they have disowned and disinherited their son Sh. Parvinder Singh and their daughter- in-law Mrs. Neha from all their immovable and movable properties and also severe all their relations from their said son and his wife. Any person dealing with him or his wife shall be doing so at his own risk, consequences and cost, for which my clients will not be responsible in any manner.

Ms. Harsh Chachra (Adv.)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice

Name of Work and its location	**30-Elect-01-T-2025-26-E3 Electrical work in connection with provision of centralized air cooling system at New Delhi station Ajmeri gate side.**
Approx cost of the works in	₹ 33.65 lacs
Address of the Office	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs. 67300.00
Date & time of submission of tender	30.05.2025, 12.00 Hrs
Opening of tender	30.05.2025, 12.00 Hrs
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

1376/2025
Serving Customers With A Smile

RUNGTA IRRIGATION LIMITED

SYMBOL OF QUALITY
REGD. & HEAD OFFICE:
101, Pragati Tower 26, Rajendra Place, New Delhi 110008
Tel: 011-40453330,31,32
CIN : L74899DL1986PLC023934
E-mail: info@rungtairrigation.in
Website: www.rungtairrigation.in

Statement of Audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2025

The board of directors of the Company, at the meeting held on May 9, 2025 approved the Audited financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2025.

The Financial results along with the Auditors' Report, have been uploaded on BSE at https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/046ab4ec-5063-4496-8662-23b031ff6b57.pdf and can be accessed by scanning the QR code:

For Rungta Irrigation Limited
Sd/-
Shruti Rungta
Whole-Time Director
DIN: 00229045

Date : May 09, 2025
Place: New Delhi

Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited

Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector – 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002
Whereas the undersigned is the Authorised officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd. ("SSFBL") under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to discharge in full their liability to the Company by making payment of entire outstanding including up to date interest, cost and charges within 60 days from the date of respective Notices issued and the publication of the Notice as given below as and way of alternate service upon you. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset (s) have been mortgaged to SSFBL by the said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) respectively.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor		
LAN - 237000000633, 1. MR. JOGINDER SAINI S/O SHYAM LAL SAINI, 2. MRS. MINAKSHI W/O JOGINDER SAINI.	Date of Demand Notice	20.04.2025
	Date of NPA	10.04.2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 73,30,615.83/- as on 11-Apr-25.

Description Of Secured Asset(S) /Immovable Property (Ies) : All That Piece And Parcels Of The Property Bearing House Measuring 110 Sq. Yards Flat No. Ug-002, Ug-003, 102, 103, 301, 302, 303 Having Its Covered Area 3900 Sq. Ft. Under Khasra No. 5834/105, 11193/5835/105 Situated In The Revenue Estate Of Village Gurgaon Gaon Presently Known As Rajendra Park, Teshil And Distt. Gurugram Haryana. Bounded As East: 15 Ft. Road, West: 29 Ft. Road 12 Ft., North: 46 Ft. Other's Property, South: 46 Ft. House No. 1.

Place: Haryana ,Date : 10.05.2025 **Authorised Officer, Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

उत्तराखण्ड भू–सम्पदा नियामक प्राधिकरण
(Uttarakhand Real Estate Regulatory Authority)
5th फ्लोर, राजीव गाँधी बहुउद्देशीय कॉम्पलैक्स, डिस्पेन्सरी रोड, देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड।
Website: www.uhuda.org.in **E-mail-ukrera2017@gmail.com**

आवश्यक सूचना

M/s G.R.Realcon Pvt.Ltd., द्वारा Shastradhara Road, IT Park, SIDCUL, Dehradun में निर्मित की जा रही परियोजना **"Sikka Kimaya Greens"** (Registration No. UKREP09170000018) के पंजीकरण को जारी रखे जाने की अनुमति दिये जाने से सम्बन्धित मामला प्राधिकरण में विचाराधीन है। इस परियोजना के पंजीकरण को भू सम्पदा (विनियमन एवं विकास) अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 7(3), सह पठित धारा 37, के अन्तर्गत जारी रखे जाने के सम्बन्ध में परियोजना के आवंटीगण (allottees) तथा आवंटियों की Association/RWA यदि अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करना चाहते हैं तो वे दिनांक 14.05.2025 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे प्राधिकरण कार्यालय 5th फ्लोर, राजीव गाँधी बहुउद्देशीय कॉम्पलैक्स, डिस्पेन्सरी रोड, देहरादून में उपस्थित होकर निर्धारित सुनवाई में अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

(रबीन्द्र पंवार) अध्यक्ष

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ravina W/o No.6499934W NK Amit Kumar, R/o- Vill- North Koeri Tola, PO & P.S- Hilsa, Dist- Nalanda, Bihar- 801302, have changed my name from Ravina to Ravina Kumari, vide affidavit dated 09/05/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2004)C

I, Lagna Devi, Mother of No. 10136600A Hav Manoj Kumar, R/o- W11/279 HGI, Labour Colony Sultanpuri, Near Rly Crossing, Delhi- 110086, have changed my name from Lagna Devi to Lagni Devi, vide affidavit IN-DL818447453152265X dated 09/05/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2005)C

I, Sangeeta Sharma W/o- Ajay Sharma R/o- H.No. 172, EA Block, Maya Enclave, Hari Nagar, Delhi- 110064, declare that in my Passport (Passport No. G1534693), my husband's name is written as Ajai Kumar Sharma, whereas his correct name is Ajay Sharma which may be amended accordingly for all purposes.
PD(2006)C

I, Premveer Singh, Father of- No.15687055F Hav Sunder Singh, R/o- Vill- Sihali Nagar, PO- Unachagaon, Teh- Anoopshahr, Dist- Bulandshahr, U.P.- 203398, have changed my name from Premveer Singh to Premvir Singh, vide affidavit dated 09/05/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2007)C

I, Rajpali Devi, Mother of- No.15687055F Hav Sunder Singh, R/o- Vill- Sihali Nagar, PO- Unachagaon, Teh- Anoopshahr, Dist- Bulandshahr, U.P.- 203398, have changed my name from Rajpali Devi to Rajpali, vide affidavit dated 09/05/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2008)C

I, hitherto known as Ajay Kumar Sharma S/o- Bihari Lal Sharma, R/o- H. No. 172, EA Block, Maya Enclave, Hari Nagar, Delhi- 110064, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ajay Sharma, for all purposes.
PD(2009)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the company Rise Project Projects Private Limited is undertaking development of a group housing plot under the name and style of "RISE SKY BUNGALOWS" in Sector 41,Faridabad, Haryana over an area admeasuring 2.64 acres under the terms and conditions of Allotment Letter bearing memo no. MCF/AEO/2013/505 dated 12.04.2013granted by Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Faridabad (in short"MCF").
WHEREAS, the "Rise Project Projects Private Limited"has been granted the RERA Registration of the project on land area admeasuring 2.64 acres vide registration no. RERA-PKL-FBD-267-2017 dated 09.10.2017 from the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Panchkula (in short "Hon'ble Authority").
Whereas the Hon'ble Authority has directed the Company to publish the bank account details of the project for perusal/reference of the Allottees/General Public. The Company hereby declares the following bank accounts of the project "RISE SKY BUNGALOWS".

Sr.No.	Head of Bank Account Name	Account Number
1	Collection Account	0200102000037590
2	RERA Account	0200102000037581
3	Current Account	0200102000037572
	Bank Name: IDBI BANK	IFSC Code: IBKL0000200

Authorized Signatory
For Rise Projects Pvt. Ltd.
GH- 02, Revenue Estate of village
Sarai Khawaja, Sector- 41, Faridabad, Haryana

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	GSU_DLI_SNT_14 dated 09.05.2025
Name of work with its location	
Supply and installation of CCTV system and audio conference system in Administrative building i.c.w Development of Infrastructural facilities for maintenance of electric locomotives in Diesel Loca Shed, Tughlakabad	
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 48,55,089.14/-
Bid Security deposit	Rs. 97100.00/-
Completion period of Work	06 months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:30 hrs on 02.06.2025 Opening of tender at 11:30 hrs on 02.06.2025
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. GSU_DLI_SNT_14 Dated: 09.05.2025 **1381/2025**
Serving Customers With A Smile

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE
Date: 10.05.2025

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/PR/FH/1280	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1 KV PVC INSULATED COPPER CONTROL CABLE (FRLS)	2.37 Crores	4.74 Lacs	30.05.2025 15:00 HRS	30.05.2025 15:15 HRS
CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/PR/FH/1281	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY DIFFRTET TYPES OF FEEDER PILLAR	1.72 Crores	3.44 Lacs	30.05.2025 15:00 HRS	30.05.2025 15:30 HRS
CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/PR/KG/1282	RFQ FOR SUPPLY OF LEDS INCLUDING CCMS PANELS FOR INSTALLATION IN JURISDICTION OF FOUR ZONES (NAJAFGARH ZONE, WEST ZONE, CENTRAL ZONE & SOUTH ZONE) OF MCD FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS IN BRPL	NA	NA	19.05.2025 15:00 HRS	19.05.2025 15:45 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document : ₹ 1180/-
For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website **www.bsesdelhi.com**
Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 I Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 I Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. USCL/374 Tender ID: 2025_UAD_422294_1 दिनांक 09.05.2025

Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Interested parties:- **"Supply, Installation, Commissioning, and Testing of Digital Gallery at Ujjain Planetarium (Tara Mandal) including Operation and Comprehensive Maintenance for five years under Ujjain Smart City".- 3rd Call.** Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at **www.mptenders.gov.in**.

Earnest Money Deposit	1,50,000/-
Cost of Document	12,500/-
Probable Amount of Contract	1,50,00,000/-
Purchase of Tender Start Date	09.05.2025
Pre-Bid Meeting Date	16.05.2025
Last Date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	23.05.2025 up to 17:00 hrs

For more details, please visit **https://www.mptenders.gov.in**. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

AXIS BANK LTD.

RETAIL ASSET CENTRE: AXIS BANK LTD. GIGAPLEX, NPC-1, 3RD FLOOR MIDC, AIROLI KNOWLEDGE PARK MUGULSAN ROAD AIROLI NAVI MUMBAI-400708

ALSO AT: AXIS BANK LTD., AXIS HOUSE, TOWER T-2, 2ND FLOOR, I-14, SECTOR-128, NOIDA EXPRESSWAY, JAYPEE GREENS WISHTOWN, NOIDA (U.P.)-201301, CORPORATE OFFICE: 'AXIS HOUSE', BLOCK-B, BOMBAY DYEING MILLS COMPOUND, PANDURANG BUDHKAR MARG, WORLI, MUMBAI-400025, REGISTERED OFFICE: 'TRISHUL', 3RD FLOOR, OPPOSITE SAMARTHESWAR TEMPLE, LAW GARDEN, ELLISBRIDGE, AHMEDABAD-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the **Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd.** under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Axis Bank Ltd.**
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attentions is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

S. No	Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Date of Demand Notice
1.	**1. Mr. Mohan Lal S/o Mr. Som Pal** H. No- 309/26, Manohar Nagar Gali No- 17, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 **Also At**- Mr. Mohan Lal Plot No- 1229, Sector-7 Extn. Urban Estate, Gurgaon Haryana-122001 **2. Mrs. Prerna Rani W/o. Mr. Mohan Lal** H. No- 309/26, Manohar Nagar Gali No- 17, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001 **Also At**- Mrs. Prerna Rani W/O. Mr. Mohan Lal H. No- 269, Adarsh Nagar, Near Geeta Mandir Camp, Ymuna Nagar, Haryana- 135001	**28-Jan-2025** / Date of Possession: **4-May-2025** / Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.): **Rs. 51,46,601/- (Rupees Fifty One Lakh Forty Six Thousand Six Hundred One only)**
	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:- Residential Hose No-1229, Consisting Of Ground Floor, First Floor And Second Floor, Situated In The Residential Colonyknown As Sector 7 Extn, Urban Estate , Gurugram, Haryana And **Bounded As Under- East -** As Per Title Deed, **West -** As Per Title Deed, **North -** As Per Title Deed, **South -** As Per Title Deed	
2.	**1. Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh S/o. Mr. Shyama Nand Singh** R/O. Sfs, Flat No.- 316, 1st Floor, Sec -3, Pocket-16, Dwarka, Delhi-110078 **Also At**- M/S. Royal Paper Ind. D-9, G.f., Manohar Park, Panjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026 **2. Mrs. Ritu Singh W/o Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh** R/O. Sfs, Flat No.- 316, 1st Floor, Sec -3, Pocket-16, Dwarka, Delhi-110078	**26-Dec-2024** / Date of Possession: **4-May-2025** / Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.): **Rs. 30,33,670/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Only)**
	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:- Dda Built-Up Free Hold Sfs Flat No. 316, On First Floor, Cat-Ii, Pocket-16, Sector-3, Along With One Scooter Garage At Ground Floor, Situated In The Layout Plan Of Dwarka Residential Scheme, New Delhi And **Bounded As Under - East -** As Per Title Deed, **West -** As Per Title Deed, **North -** As Per Title Deed, **South -** As Per Title Deed	
3.	**Mr. Savit Bhati S/o Mr Dhanraj Bhati** R/O I-419 Delta -2 Greater Noida, UP 201306. **Also At:** Mr. Mr. Savit Bhati Bharti Lal Inter College Dankaur, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, UP- 201306.	**24-Sep-2024** / Date of Possession: **07-May-2025** / Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.): **Rs. 4,76,811/- (Rupees Four Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eleven Only)**
	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:- Residential House No.419, Block -1 Sector –Delta -02, Greater Noida , Distt Gautam Budh Nagar (Up) Having Total Area 120 Sq Mtrs And Total Coveed Area 94.522 Sq Mtrs . Along With Share And Interest In The Said Land Underneath The Building In Which Said Property Is Located And In The Common Areas And Facilities Provided In The Building/ Scheme/ Complex And **Bounded As Under: East** : As Per The Sale Deed, **West** : As Per The Sale Deed, **North** : As Per The Sale Deed, **South** : As Per The Sale Deed	
4.	**1. Mr. Romesh Kumar Yadav S/O Sh. Durga Prashad** R/O- 207 Mahaluxmi Homz Sec-14, Kaushambi Ghaziabad Up 201010. **Also At:** New Age Construction (Proprietor) Mr. Romesh Kumar Yadav 509 Antriksh Bhawan, K G Marg New Delhi-110001 **Also At** Mr. Romesh Kumar Yadav Flat.1207 & 1208,12th Floor Migsun Homezsec-14, Kaushambi Ghaziabad Up-201010 **2. Mrs. Komal Romesh Yadav W/O Sh. Romesh Kumar Yadav** R/O- 207 Mahaluxmi Homz Sec-14, Kaushambi Ghaziabad Up 201010. **Also At** Mrs. Komal Romesh Yadav Flat.1207 & 1208, 12th Floor Migsun Homezsec-14, Kaushambi Ghaziabad Up-201010	**27-Dec-2024** / Date of Possession: **08-May-2025** / Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.): **Rs. 41,76,420/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Only)**
	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:- 1- Residential Apartment No. 1207, on 12th Floor (without roof rights) having saleable/Super Area 1275 sq. ft i.e. 118.49 sq. mtr., Covered Area 768 sq. ft i.e. 71.37 sq. mtr. (covered area including walls, columns, balconies & cupboard of the flat) in the Group Housing Complex known AS "MIGSUN HOMZ" **situated at Group Housing plot Near Neelam Sahkari Awas Samiti, Sector-14, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, U.P.** (hereinafter called the "SAID APARTMENT"). **2-** Residential Apartment No. 1208, on 12th Floor (without roof rights) having Saleable/Super Area 1550 sq. ft i.e. 144.05 sq. mtr., Covered Area 950 sq. ft i.e 88.28 sq. mtr. (covered area including walls, columns, balconies & cupboard of the flat) in the Group Housing Complex known AS "MIGSUN HOMZ" situated at Group Housing plot Near Neelam Sahkari Awas Samiti, Sector-14, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, U.P. (hereinafter called the " SAID APARTMENT").	

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002

Dated: 10.05.2025, Place:- Noida **Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.**

BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LTD.
CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038, Tel No: 011-49800900
Email: commodities@bharatbhushan.com, Website:www.bbinvestments.in
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
(Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
	31-Mar-25	31-Dec-24	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	-13.76	1.31	21.40	29.34	71.33
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-21.46	-14.72	9.43	-13.70	27.97
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-21.46	-14.72	9.43	-13.70	27.97
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-18.71	-11.81	9.54	-12.96	21.76
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-105.15	-160.36	63.36	-19.85	472.41
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations) Basic	-0.55	-0.35	0.28	-0.38	0.64
Diluted	-0.55	-0.35	0.28	-0.38	0.64

Notes : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2025 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2025 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in).
2. The above Audited Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rule made thereunder and other accounting principles to the extent applicable.
3. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 08.05.2025
4. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.
5. The figures of the last quarter of the current year and of the previous year are the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the respective financial year.

Place : New Delhi
Date : 08.05.2025
Sd/- ON BEHALF OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Vijay Bhushan, Director
DIN: 00002421

OFFICE OF THE DIGP, GROUP CENTRE, C.R.P.F. DADRI ROAD GREATER NOIDA-201306

No. F.IV.1/2025-26-M/School **Dated, the /05/2025**

ADVERTISEMENT

In Reference to the advertisement number F-VI-01/2025-26-Montessori-School previously issued by this office, published on the date 17/04/2025 and printed on 20/04/2025.
The advertisement previously issued by this office is hereby amended as follow:-

Sl No.	Post	Number of Post	Honorarium per month	Age	Education Qualification	Accused
01	Headmistress	01	15,000/-	30-45	Graduation with at least 50% Marks and B.Ed or Two year Diploma in Elementary Education or B.T.C or equivalent and five years teaching experience in Basic School.	In addition t serving as Headmistres s, she will also perform the duties of a teacher
02	Teacher	03	12,500/-	21-40	Graduation with at least 50% Marks and B.Ed or Two year Diploma in Elementary Education or B.T.C or equivalent.	
03	Aaya	04	10,000/- (2 post for Creche)	18-30	Passed class V or equivalent examination with Hindi.	

Note:- The number of above mentioned posts can be reduced and increased at any time without informing. 02. **Application form/mode of application:-** (A) Application form has to be submitted in the following format (1) Name/paste photo of applicant (2) Name of the father/husband of the applicant (3) The post for which the application is made (4) Applicant's permanent address (5) Applicant's current correspondence address and mobile number (6) Applicant's citizenship (7) Applicant's date of birth (8) Applicant's caste (9) Applicant's education (10) Applicant's class nursery educational experience (11) Any other information (12) Signature of the applicant (B) **Method of applying**:- Application of interested candidates, for the appointment to the said posts can till **date 15/05/2025 till 1600 hrs.** to Office of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force, Dadri Road, Greater Noida-201306 and Candidates qualifying to the post will be called appear for the interview on **26/05/2025 at 10:00 hrs** at the Office of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Group Centre, CRPF, Dadri, Greater Noida-201306. Note:- Detailed advertisement can be on the website of CRPF www.crpf.gov.in.

Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Group Centre, CRPF, Greater Noida

TRAI recommends spectrum fee for satcom operators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Telecom regulator TRAI on Friday released its recommendations on pricing of spectrum to be given for satellite-based internet services, suggesting a levy of 4 per cent of annual revenues as fee on operators like Elon Musk's Starlink. Operators offering services in urban areas would have to shell out an additional ₹500 per subscribers annually, TRAI said in its recommendations to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). No additional levy would be applicable for services in rural areas.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended that satellite broadband spectrum be allotted for five years, which can be extended by another two years. The 4 per cent of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) spectrum charge would be for both geostationary orbit (GSO) and NGSO (non-Geostationary orbit) operators. These would be subject to a minimum annual spectrum charge of ₹3,500 per MHz. Releasing the recommendations, TRAI chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said satcom services once available can play a vital role in taking connectivity to underserved areas where telecom networks are not available. They also play a critical role in disasters, in rescue and relief operations.

Starlink earlier this week got a Letter of Intent (LoI) for the start of its services. It now has to procure a license before starting services in India.

SpaceX, the aerospace company led by Elon Musk, has already tied up with rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Aitel to bring Starlink's broadband internet services to India. Both Indian firms will offer Starlink equipment through their network and also support customer installation and activation on devices.

Over the past few months, rivals Jio and Airtel had come together to demand an

auction for awarding spectrum for satellite services in India. Musk on the other hand lobbied for administrative allocation as per international norm. In October last year, the government sided with Musk on the issue of allocating airwaves, to be used for offering low latency internet services using satellite, at a pre-decided price through administrative route.

Both Jio, India's largest wireless carrier, and Airtel, the No 2 player in the world's most-populous nation, where data usage is rapidly rising, feared lower entry cost will chip away some of their subscriber base.

Based on the recommendations of TRAI, the DoT would now go to the Cabinet for pricing of satellite spectrum and once approved any satcom wanting to offer services in India can apply.

Starlink is the world's largest Low-Earth-Orbit (LEO) constellation operated by SpaceX. Bharti already partners with Eutelsat OneWeb, the second largest LEO constellation. Similarly, Jio Platforms has a joint venture with SES, a leading global satellite-based content connectivity solutions provider.

Jio Space Technology Ltd, where Jio holds 51 pr cent and SES 49 per cent, is to use multi-orbit space networks that is a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul and retail customers across the length and breadth of India and neighbouring regions.

Eutelsat OneWeb, in which Airtel is the single-largest shareholder with a 21.2 per cent share, and Jio's joint venture with SES have already secured GMPCS licenses and IN-SPACe approvals.

Starlink currently operates over 6,000 LEO satellites, while Amazon's Kuiper project plans to deploy 3,236 satellites starting in early 2025.

India, New Zealand FTA talks conclude

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The five-day talks between India and New Zealand for a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA), aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment, will conclude on Friday, an official said.

After a gap of about ten years, the two countries on March 16, 2025 announced resumption of negotiations for the FTA.

"The first round of negotiations started on May 5 here," the official said.

India and New Zealand began negotiating the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in April 2010 to boost trade in goods, services, and investment. However, after ten rounds of discussions, the talks stalled in February 2015. With bilateral trade continuing to grow steadily, surpassing $ 1 billion during April-January 2025, the FTA would help unlock new avenues for businesses and consumers.

According to the think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), a major challenge in the renewed talks will be the disparity in tariff structures.

New Zealand's average import tariff is only 2.3 per cent, with over half of its tariff lines already duty-free, meaning Indian goods already have substantial access to its market. In contrast, India's average tariff stands at 17.8 per cent, meaning it would have to make significant reductions, making a traditional FTA less attractive for India. "As talks resume, both countries will need to find common ground on these issues to move forward successfully," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Earlier New Zealand has demanded greater access to India's dairy market, which India has resisted to protect its domestic industry that supports millions of farmers.

Currently, India's dairy imports from New Zealand are minimal (around $ 0.57 million). The country has not given duty concessions in the sector in any of its trade pacts. New Zealand may look for duty concessions on products like meat and wine. The bilateral trade between the two countries stood at $ 873.4 million (exports $ 538.33 million and imports $ 335 million) in 2023-24 as against $ 1.02 billion in 2022-23. India's key goods exports to New Zealand include clothing, fabrics, and home textiles; medicines and medical supplies; refined petrol; agricultural equipment and machinery such as tractors and irrigation tools; auto; iron and steel; paper products; electronics; shrimps; diamonds; and basmati rice.

The main imports are agricultural goods, minerals, apples, kiwifruit, meat products such as lamb, mutton, milk albumin, lactose syrup, coking coal, logs and sawn timber, wool, and scrap metals.

In FY24, India's services exports to New Zealand stood at $ 214.1 million, while New Zealand's services exports to India totalled $ 456.5 million.

India's key services exports include IT and software services, provided by companies such as Infosys and HCL, along with telecommunications services to support New Zealand's digital infrastructure.

India also exports healthcare services, including medical tourism, pharmaceutical research, and telemedicine. Financial services are another important area, with Indian banks and fintech companies offering digital payment solutions.

New Zealand's services exports to India are led by education services, with thousands of Indian students pursuing higher education in New Zealand.

Tourism services are also significant, as Indian tourists are drawn to New Zealand's natural landscapes and adventure activities.

New Zealand provides fintech services, offering digital solutions to India's financial sector, and specialised aviation training programmes for pilots and cabin crew.

Additionally, New Zealand firms offer niche IT services such as data analytics and automation solutions.

India imposes anti-dumping duty imported solar glass

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to $ 664 per tonne on imports of a certain type of solar glass from China and Vietnam for five years in a bid to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap imports from these two countries, according to a government notification. The duty was imposed after the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) recommended for the same after conducting a detailed probe on the dumping of 'Textured Toughened (Tempered) Coated and Uncoated Glass' from China and Vietnam.

Commonly used in solar panels, these glasses are also referred to as Solar Glass, Low Iron Solar Glass, Solar PV Glass, High Transmission Photovoltaic Glass, and Tempered Low Iron Patterned Solar Glass. It has concluded in its findings that there is a substantial increase in the volume of dumped imports of the glass from these countries in absolute and relative terms. "The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years from the date of imposition of the provisional anti-dumping duty, that is, December 4, 2024, unless revoked, amended or superseded earlier," the finance ministry said in a notification.

The imposed duty will be in the range of $ 570 per tonne and $ 664 per tonne. The DGTR conducted the probe following applications regarding the same from Borosil Renewables Ltd on behalf of the domestic industry.

In a BSE filing, Borosil has hailed the decision and said that it will encourage rapid and significant growth in domestic manufacturing of solar glass.

Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

As a countermeasure, they impose these duties under the multilateral regime of the Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO). Both India and China are members of the multilateral organisations, which deals with global trade norms.

The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

India has already imposed anti-dumping duty on several products to tackle cheap imports from various countries, including China.

Britannia Q4 profit rises 4.2 pc sales up 9 pc at Rs 4,375.6 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Bakery food company Britannia Industries Ltd has reported a 4.2 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹559.13 crore for the March quarter of FY25, despite subdued demand and a challenging operating environment. The company had posted a net profit of ₹536.61 crore in the same quarter a year ago, according to a late-night regulatory filing on Thursday by Britannia Industries. Britannia Industries' revenue from the product sales rose 9 per cent to ₹4,375.57.30 crore in the March quarter. Its revenue from the operation increased 8.9 per cent to ₹4,432.19 crore in the March quarter from ₹4,069.36 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Commenting on the results, Vice Chairman & Managing Director Varun Berry said, "With a high single-digit value growth of 9 per cent during the last quarter of the year amidst a tight consumption scenario, the performance underscores our resilience in a challenging operating environment."

No need for panic buying: Oil firms assure of fuel stocks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, on Friday said ample stocks of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG are available in the country and there is no need for panic buying of fuel.

The statement comes after social media was flooded with posts and videos showing people queuing at petrol pumps to stock fuel as tensions between India and Pakistan escalated. "Indian Oil has ample fuel stocks across the country and our supply lines are operating smoothly," IOC said in a post on X. "There is no need for panic buying, fuel and LPG are readily available at all our outlets."

Panic buying was mostly witnessed in states bordering Pakistan. Several towns in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab enforced blackouts after Pakistan's armed forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire western border on the intervening night of May 8-9. The Indian Army said the attacks were "effectively repulsed".

These had led to a fear of escalation in tension and panic buying.

"Help us serve you better by staying calm and avoiding unnecessary rush. This will keep our supply lines running seamlessly and ensure uninterrupted fuel access for all," IOC said.

India on Wednesday struck at nine sites in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan, its deepest strikes inside Pakistan in decades, in retaliation for a deadly terrorist attack two weeks before. Thereafter, Pakistan attempted to unleash drones and missiles at Indian military targets in more than a dozen cities and towns, many of them home to air force bases. IOC advised the citizens to stay calm and avoid unnecessary rush, which will help the company in keeping their supply lines running seamlessly and ensure uninterrupted fuel access for all. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in a statement assured that sufficient petrol, diesel, CNG, and LPG are available across its vast nationwide network. "All BPCL fuel stations and LPG distributorships across its nationwide network are operating smoothly and are fully equipped to meet the energy needs of consumers," it said.

Booking platforms halt offerings to Turkey, Azerbaijan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Amid escalating tensions with Pakistan, various online booking platforms on Friday announced suspension of new travel offerings to countries, including Turkey and Azerbaijan for their "support" to Pakistan and advised customers to avoid "non-essential" travel to these destinations, while urging Indians to exercise "utmost caution" before planning trips to sensitive regions.

Cox & Kings said it has decided to temporarily pause all new travel offerings to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkey.

"In light of recent developments, we have decided to pause all new travel offerings to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Turkey. This decision is driven by our commitment to uphold principles that matter deeply to us and the people of our country. We also advise Indian travellers to exercise discretion and avoid any non-essential travel to these destinations until there is greater clarity and alignment in the broader geopolitical environment," said Karan Agarwal, Director, Cox & Kings.

"Travel Advisory — Following the Pahalgam attack and escalating tensions between India & Pakistan, travellers are

urged to stay aware. As Turkey & Azerbaijan have shown support for Pakistan, we strongly recommend visiting only if absolutely necessary," EaseMyTrip said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, on Thursday evening. EaseMyTrip Founder and Chairman Nishant Pitti also took to X, saying he was "deeply concerned" by the recent developments and advising all its customers to exercise utmost caution and stay updated on official travel advisories before planning trips to sensitive regions.

Travomint said the company has suspended the sale of all travel packages to Turkey and Azerbaijan to support Indians' call for boycotting these two countries.

"Due to the escalating tensions with Pakistan and countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan supporting it, we at Travomint have taken a firm and responsible stand. We have decided to support the Indians' call for boycotting Turkey and Azerbaijan. With immediate effect, Travomint has suspended the sale of all travel packages to these countries," Travomint Chairman and CEO Alok K Singh said in a statement.

In addition to this, he said, no cancellation fees will be charged on existing bookings to Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Emergency flight bookings will be available in case of any emergency or urgent need, Singh said.

Meanwhile, Vice President of Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Association of India (FHRAI) and Hotel And Restaurant Association (Western India) - HRAWI spokesperson Pradeep Shetty shared that there have been cancellations for hotels in states including Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, among others.

"There are cancellations... We are observing the situation closely," he told PTI. India on Wednesday carried out strikes on nine sites in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan, marking its deepest strikes inside Pakistan in decades, in retaliation for a deadly terrorist attack two weeks before. Thereafter, Pakistan attempted to unleash drones and missiles at Indian military targets in more than a dozen cities and towns, many of them home to air force bases.

Trade unions ready for May 20 strike but will review situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Central trade unions on Friday said they are ready for the workers' nation-wide strike scheduled on May 20, but will review the evolving situation in the country due to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

A joint platform of central trade unions and independent sectoral federations said in a statement that preparations on general strike on May 20 is determinedly progressing and situation will be reviewed again on May 15 amid tension at Indo-Pak border.

"We call upon all workers to be in the fore front to maintain the unity and harmony among the masses," the statement said. If further said that the members of the platform met on Thursday and reviewed the preparations for the scheduled nation-wide general strike. The members also condemned unequivocally the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 civilians were killed. It was resolved that the central trade unions will meet again on 15th May to review the situation as it evolves further, it said. The platform has ten central trade unions on board, including INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, and UTUC.

Rupee closes at 85.41 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

The rupee pared its initial losses and settled for the day higher by 17 paise at 85.41 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as likely intervention by the Reserve Bank of India helped contain excess depreciation of the rupee.

Forex traders said the rupee opened on a weak note on the escalation of hostility between India and Pakistan, however, RBI intervened to prevent major weakness.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.88 and moved between the intra-day high of 85.32 and the low of 85.88 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 85.41 (provisional), registering a gain of 17 paise over its previous closing level.

On Thursday, the rupee saw its steepest single-day fall in more than two-and-a-half years and settled 81 paise lower at 85.58 against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by heightened geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan. "Indian rupee opened weak on Friday amid flaring up of geopolitical tensions across the border. Weak domestic markets and a rise in crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee.

"However, the domestic currency recovered in the latter half of the day on reports of selling of dollars by the Reserve Bank of India as well as a correction in the US dollar index," said Anuj Choudhary – Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan. On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, India neutralised the Pakistan military's attempt to hit military

stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur and some other locations with missiles and drones.

Pakistan's armed forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire western border on the intervening night of May 8-9, which were "effectively repulsed", the Indian Army said on Friday. Pakistani troops also resorted to "numerous ceasefire violations" along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army said in an early morning post on X.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.26 per cent at 100.38.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.80 per cent to USD 63.97 per barrel in futures trade.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias as the geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan may continue to weigh on the domestic unit. Rising crude oil prices and risk aversion in the domestic markets may further pressurise the rupee.

"However, FII inflows may support the rupee at lower levels. Any de-escalation of tensions over the weekend may also support the rupee at lower levels, Choudhary added. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 880.34 points, or 1.10 per cent, to close at 79,454.47, while the Nifty fell 265.80 points or 1.10 per cent to settle at 24,008.00. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,007.96 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data.

SBI sells stake in Yes Bank to Sumitomo corporation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Hong Kong

State Bank of India (SBI) and seven other lenders on Friday announced selling 20 per cent of their combined stakes in Yes Bank to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for a consideration of Rs 13,483 crore, making it the largest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector.

Following completion of the transaction, SMBC will become the single largest shareholder of Mumbai-based Yes Bank.

Of the 20 per cent stake, SBI would dilute 13.19 per cent stake in Yes Bank in favour of SMBC for a consideration of Rs 8,889 crore, while 6.81 per cent shareholding will be offloaded by seven other lenders -- Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank -- for about Rs 4,594 crore. SBI and the seven investor lenders had invested in the bank as part of the YES Bank Reconstruction Scheme in March 2020. The share sale is proposed to take place at a price of Rs 21.50 per equity share, it said.

The executive committee of the central board (ECCB) of the bank in the meeting has accorded approval to divest 413.44 crore shares or equivalent to 13.19 per cent stake in Yes Bank for a consideration of Rs 8,888.97 crore, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

SBI, which currently holds 24 per cent stake in Yes Bank, will be left with a little over 10 per cent stake after the dilution.

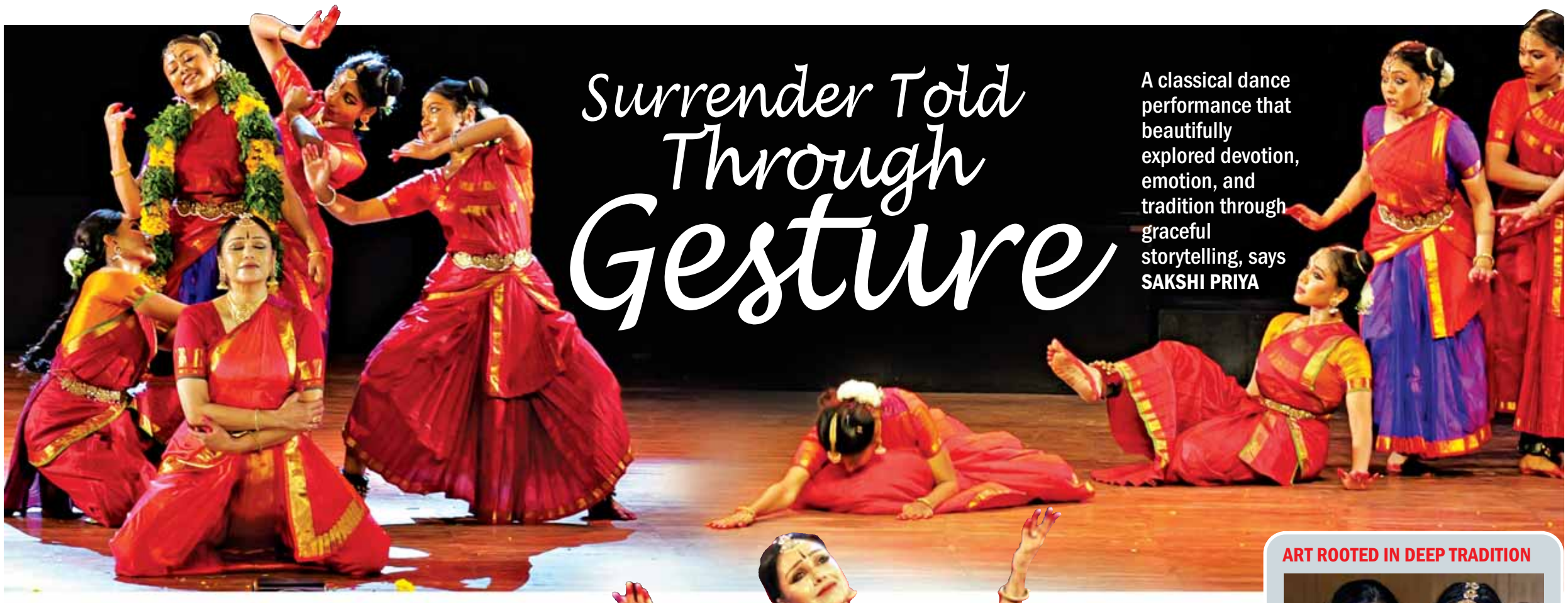
Among other lenders, HDFC Bank had 2.75 per cent, ICICI Bank 2.39 per cent, Kotak Mahindra Bank 1.21 per cent, Axis Bank 1.01 per cent, IDFC First Bank 0.92 per cent, Federal Bank 0.76 per cent and Bandhan Bank 0.70 per cent as on March 31, 2025.

"This transaction is the largest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector...The transaction is a significant milestone to drive YES Bank's next phase of growth, profitability and value creation and we expect to leverage SMBC's global expertise in this phase," Yes Bank said in a separate filing.

The transaction is subject to the necessary regulatory and statutory approvals including from the Reserve Bank of India and Competition Commission of India and will be subject to customary closing conditions, it said.

SMBC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc (SMFG). SMFG is the second largest banking group in Japan with total assets of USD 2 trillion as of December 2024 with strong global presence.

SMBC is among the leading foreign banks in India and SMFG's wholly-owned subsidiary SMFG India Credit Company Limited is among the largest diversified NBFCs in India.



Surrender Told Through Gesture

A classical dance performance that beautifully explored devotion, emotion, and tradition through graceful storytelling, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

To witness true devotion is to see the soul dance and in this performance, the dancer became the voice of Andal's longing." HCL Concerts' recent presentation of **Maalyada — Andal's Sacred Garland** was an experience that left the audience quietly moved.

Choreographed by Rama Vaidyanathan and based on Maalyada, The Sacred Garland, the book by Jeysundhar D, the work drew from Andal's Thiruppavai and was accompanied by live music composed by Sudha Raghuraman. From the first movement, an emotional thread work through the performance. It avoided flourish and showmanship, focusing instead on a sincere portrayal of devotion. The approach resonated deeply, creating a mood that stayed well beyond the final curtain.

Nine Pathways to Bhakti

The choreography followed Nava Vidha Bhakti — the nine traditional forms of devotion, with coherence and emotional precision. Rama Vaidyanathan shared the stage with four of her disciples: Sayani Chakraborty, Reshika Sivakumar, Vaishnavi Dhore, and Shubhamani Chandrashekar. Together, they built a rhythm of gesture and meaning that gave shape to Andal's spiritual longing.

The journey began with Shravanam, the act of listening. Each gesture was attentive, almost reverential. In Smaranam, expressions carried a quiet ache, recalling Krishna with intimacy. Sankeerthanam brought a sense of lyrical energy, measured and full of clarity. Pada Sevanam offered one of the most touching moments of the evening. The portrayal of Andal at Krishna's feet carried a stillness that seemed to hold time. In Sakhyam, devotion as friendship was expressed with gentle warmth, while Dasyaminvoked episodes from Krishna's life as the protector, each sequence distinct in mood and intention. The final section, Atma Nivedanam, a complete surrender, felt stripped of all ornament, pure, steady and heartfelt. The silence that followed in the auditorium was its own applause.

Music and Light in Dialogue with Dance

The live music — led by Sudha Raghruraman (vocal), Sumod Sreedharan (percussion), Raghuraman Govindarajan and Himanshu Srivastava (flute), and Sannidhi Vaidyanathan (mridangam) — provided an elegant and responsive framework. Rather than seeking prominence, the musicians supported the dancers with sensitivity. Their presence added emotional texture, allowing the audience to absorb each moment more fully.

Lighting by Gaurav Sharma played a restrained yet vital role. Gentle shifts in tone allowed the stage to adapt to each form of devotion. The production design was thoughtful, avoiding spectacle in favour of intimacy.

Celebrating Golden Year

This performance also coincided with a special milestone: this is the 50th year of Ganesa Natyalaya which is run by Rama Vaidyanathan, the Bharatanatyam institution founded by the late Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan. Celebrated through the Swarna Saroja Festival, the institution has grown from a small classroom to a cultural landmark.

The Institution has also been active in outreach, offering Bharatanatyam training to underprivileged students through collaborations with organisations such as the Guild of Service, Aravindam Foundation, and SARVAM. Over the past year alone, more than 35 events have been held across national and international platforms.

ART ROOTED IN DEEP TRADITION

Sudha Raghuraman and Rama Vaidyanathan brought together music and movement in a deeply reflective performance. Sudha's rich, emotive vocals blend effortlessly with Rama's expressive Bharatanatyam with grace and clarity rooted in artistic grace.

This context gave the performance an added layer of depth. It stood not only as an artistic interpretation of Andal's devotion, but also as a reflection of a long-standing commitment to preserving and evolving the Bharatanatyam tradition.

A Performance Rooted in Feeling

Throughout the evening, the performance avoided grand gestures in favour of quiet strength. Every movement was anchored in intention. The Performace led with clarity, allowing each dancer to bring her own energy to the stage. Rather than overpowering the space, the ensemble shaped it together, with balance, care and deep respect for the material. There was no distance between emotion and execution. Every section felt like a step in a spiritual journey, one shared between dancer and audience, saint and seeker.

A moving tribute to Andal's devotion, told with restraint and rare emotional clarity. For those present, it felt less like watching a performance and more like being invited into a sacred conversation. Few evenings in recent memory have offered such stillness, such grace, and such honesty on stage.

CAN ART STILL MOVE US TO SILENCE IN A WORLD FULL OF NOISE?

Maalyada – Andal's Sacred Garland, answers with a resounding yes — not through spectacle, but through sincerity. What stayed beyond the performance wasn't just choreography or technique, it was the emotional honesty work into each moment. This was a evening where Bharatanatyam spoke not to the intellect alone, but to something quieter and deeper. In a time where tradition is often repackaged to suit trends, Maalyada held its ground — anchored in faith, simplicity and artistic integrity. The live music, careful lighting and absence of excess allowed the focus to remain on the essence of devotion. It was a moment of living it.

An Artist's Map of the Soul

BY TEAM VIVA

Some exhibitions speak; others whisper. Shinei Sharma's **The Journey of Soul** does neither — it listens. The works in this collection do not impose meaning but create space for it, drawing viewers into a dialogue with the unseen.

The exhibition is structured as a spiritual pilgrimage, beginning with *Hiranya Garbha*. Here, Sharma explores cosmic origins through a careful balance of form and emptiness. The golden tones suggest creation's first moments, while the deliberate negative space around them carries equal weight. This series establishes the exhibition's visual language — one where absence is as articulate as presence.

The Five That Form the World translates elemental energies into visual terms. Earth appears not as literal soil but through dense, textured layers of pigment. Water emerges in fluid brushstrokes that seem to ripple across the canvas.

Each element maintains its distinct character while contributing to a cohesive whole, much like the philosophical concepts they represent. In the *Maya* series, Sharma's technique becomes particularly compelling. Semi-transparent layers of paint create figures that appear solid from one angle yet dissolve when viewed differently. This literal visual trickery mirrors the exhibition's thematic concern with perception and reality. The artist's control of medium here is precise — each brushstroke serves both the immediate image and the larger philosophical inquiry. The final section, *The Gate of Liberation*, employs a restrained palette of deep blues and blacks punctuated by subtle metallic accents. The compositions are simpler but no less powerful, with geometric elements suggesting architectural thresholds. These works feel like inviting viewers to stand before them as one might at an actual gate — contemplating whether to cross, and what might lie beyond. Sharma's background in Sanskrit and philosophy informs every artistic decision, from colour choices to compositional structures.

The works reward close viewing — the texture of a particular brushstroke or the careful placement of a symbolic element often reveals deeper layers of meaning. The Tokyo showing attracted particular attention for how these deeply Indian philosophical concepts resonated with Japanese audiences.

THE EXHIBITION SUCCEEDS BY CREATING CONDITIONS FOR THEIR DISCOVERY. IN AN ART WORLD OFTEN DOMINATED BY SPECTACLE, SHARMA'S QUIET CONFIDENCE IN HER MATERIALS AND IDEAS FEELS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT.

How Paper Became Art's Living

A centuries-spanning exhibition reveals how artists have transformed humble sheets into vessels of memory and rebellion, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In an art world increasingly dominated by large-scale installations and digital spectacles, there's something quietly subversive about an exhibition that insists we pay attention to the humble sheet of paper. **Paper Alchemy: Tracing Memories** through Time does exactly this, revealing how this fragile medium has borne witness to centuries of artistic evolution in India. The exhibition opens with delicate Company School works that immediately challenge our expectations. The precision of botanical studies and architectural renderings demonstrates how paper became a meeting ground for cross-cultural exchange long before globalisation became a buzzword.

This exhibition of works on paper transforms what many consider a preliminary medium into the main event, proving that artistic significance isn't measured in square footage. These aren't dry documentation but vibrant encounters between European techniques and Indian subjects. The precision of botanical illustrations and architectural studies shows paper serving as both witness and participant in cultural exchange. The Bengal School section demonstrates paper's emotional range. Abanindranath Tagore's wash paintings use the medium's absorbency to create dreamlike images where forms emerge and dissolve like memories.

The way pigment interacts with fibers becomes a metaphor for history itself — certain details remain sharp while others fade into suggestion. Modernist works bring a different energy. The Progressive Artists' sketches and prints capture creative urgency, their spontaneous marks preserved in ink and graphite. Souza's aggressive lines and Husain's fluid figures show artists testing ideas, using paper's immediacy to their advantage. These works remind us that some of the most vital art happens in notebooks, not just on canvases.

Contemporary artists push paper's possibilities further. Atul Dodiya and others treat the medium as raw material to be cut, layered and reconstructed. These pieces acknowledge paper's history while reinventing its potential, mirroring India's own balancing of tradition and innovation. The journey begins with pioneering British artists who shaped early visual narratives of India. William Hodges' aquatints from *Select Views in India* (1780-1783), including *A View of a Mosque* at *Rajemaha, A View of the Jungle Terry*, demonstrate his groundbreaking approach to Indian landscapes. The Daniells' meticulous architectural studies like *Gate of the Tomb of Emperor Akbar* and *Govinda Ram Mittee's Pagoda*, Calcutta, from their Oriental Scenery series showcase their unparalleled documentary precision blended with artistic vision.

In an age of digital reproduction, Paper Alchemy feels particularly relevant. It celebrates the physical artifact while demonstrating how limitations can spark creativity. The exhibition doesn't overwhelm with spectacle, but invites a deeper engagement. Here, paper is an active collaborator in the artistic process, recording every decision and accident with equal fidelity.

GREAT BANYAN ART REVEALS ITS EXQUISITE PRIVATE PAPER COLLECTION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN "PAPER ALCHEMY," PRESENTING 100+ MASTERWORKS THAT TRACE THREE CENTURIES OF ARTISTIC INNOVATION ON PAPER.

Chopra, Rohit, Kohli back Indian armed forces amid conflict with Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India's sporting icons, including Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, have come out in strong support of the country's armed forces for their strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan, hailing them as "the soul of our nation."

India on Thursday night swiftly thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike its military bases with drones and missiles including in Jammu and Pathankot after foiling similar bids at 15 places in northern and western regions of the country, as tension soared between the two neighbours amid fears of a larger conflict.

"With every passing moment, with every decision taken I feel extremely proud of our Indian Army, Indian Airforce & Indian Navy. Our warriors are standing tall for our nation's pride. It's important for every Indian to be responsible and refrain from spreading or believing any fake news. Stay safe, everyone! #OperationSindoor #JaiHind," Rohit wrote on his X account on Friday.

Modern-day great Kohli posted his tribute on his Instagram page.

"We stand in solidarity with, and salute our armed forces for fiercely protecting our country in these difficult times. We are forever indebted to our heroes for their unwavering bravery and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices they and their families make for our great nation," Kohli wrote.

"We are proud of our Brave Indian Armed Forces who are fighting for our nation against Terrorism. Let's do our part and make sure to follow guidelines to ensure everyone's safety during this time," double Olympic-medallist Chopra posted.

Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler Sindhu also paid tribute to the courage of Indian armed forces.

"To the brave men and women of the Indian Armed Forces — your courage, discipline, and sacrifice are the soul of our nation. In moments like OperationSindoor, we're reminded of the silent strength and selfless service that keep our tricolour flying high. India stands with you. Jai Hind " Sindhu posted.

Thursday's IPL match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was called off due to security reasons following air raid alerts in nearby areas, prompting the BCCI to suspend the league indefinitely.

Former opener Sehwag blamed Pakistan for the current situation.

"War has been chosen by Pakistan when they had an opportunity to keep quiet. They have escalated to save it's terrorist assets, speaks so much about them. Our forces will reply in the most appropriate manner, a manner Pakistan will never forget," Sehwag posted on 'X'.

Monitoring situation in India, Pakistan: Cricket Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Sydney

Cricket Australia (CA) on Friday said it is "closely monitoring" the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan given that over 20 Australian players and coaches are currently involved in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL)and the Pakistan Super League.

The IPL was thrown into uncertainty on Thursday after air raid alerts in nearby cities forced the match between Delhi Capitals (DC) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) to be abandoned midway in Dharamsala.

The disruption has prompted the BCCI and IPL organisers to review the unfolding situation and consider their next steps.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to shift the remaining matches of the Pakistan Super League to the UAE due to growing security concerns.

"We continue to closely monitor the situation in Pakistan and India, including obtaining regular advice and updates from the Australian Government, the PCB, BCCI and local government authorities"

"...And maintaining communication with our players and support staff currently in the region," CA said in a statement.

Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head and coaches Ricky Ponting and Brad Haddin are involved in the IPL while the likes of former batter David Warner, pacers Ben Dwarshuis, Riley Meredith and Sean Abbott are competing in the PSL.

According to local media reports, several Australian players have expressed concerns about their safety and are keen to leave India as soon as possible.

IPL chairman Arun Dhumal on Thursday said government directives are being awaited before deciding on whether to continue with the league

"We are reviewing the situation right now. It is an evolving situation. We haven't received any directive from the government. Obviously the decision will be taken keeping all the logistics in mind," Dhumal said on Thursday night.

However, he confirmed that Friday's match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru would go ahead "as of now."

Yashasvi Jaiswal wants to continue playing for Mumbai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has requested the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) to allow him to remain with the domestic giants, a month after asking for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to switch to Goa.

In April, Jaiswal surprised everyone by writing to the MCA to seek its approval for a shock move to Goa. On its part, the MCA too had swiftly approved Jaiswal's request.

PTI is in possession of Jaiswal's email to the MCA in which he said he is available to represent Mumbai in the next domestic season.

"I the undersigned would request your goodself to consider my request in withdrawing my NOC given to me as I had some family plans in shifting to Goa which for now has been curtailed !," Jaiswal wrote.

"So I sincerely request MCA to allow me to play for Mumbai this season! I have not submitted the NOC to BCCI nor to Goa Cricket Association!," he added.

Jaiswal, who moved from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi to Mumbai as a young player and rose through the ranks to make his debut across formats for India over the last couple of years, was also believed to have shifted to Goa from Mumbai owing to the prospect of becoming their captain.

A packed international calendar perhaps would not have allowed the 23-year-old Jaiswal a lot of time to spend with Goa, but becoming their skipper would have given him some experience in major leadership roles.

The secretary of the Goa Cricket Association, Shamba Desai had earlier confirmed to PTI that Jaiswal would be their captain with the Goa team being promoted from Plate division to Elite ahead of the 2025-26 season.

Why scrapping of Asia Cup is best option for BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The currently suspended Indian Premier League's (IPL) 16 remaining games can be completed during a 10 to 12 days window in September as the Asia Cup is now uncertain due to the rising armed hostilities between India and Pakistan.

It would be a miracle if Asia Cup, which is supposed to be hosted by India (at a supposedly neutral venue), goes ahead given the raging conflict which was triggered by the killing of 26 people in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

The nearly non-existent sporting ties are unlikely to resume at any level till tensions ease. The Asia Cup was given a 19-day window in September where at least two Indo-Pak matches were to take place apart from the possibility of a final clash between the bitter rivals which would have assured the broadcasters of high advertising revenue.

"It is extremely bad optics if cricket continues when there is a possibility of war with a rogue nation (Pakistan). Sports can continue when everything is normal. Plus it is very natural for foreign players and coaches to be wary and wanting to return home," a senior BCCI official told PTI on condition of anonymity after the league was suspended indefinitely on Friday.

Incidentally, the Asian Cricket Council is now headed by Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi and the onus will be on him to deal with financial losses that the Asia Cup cancellation would cause.

It is understood that the BCCI top brass' decision to suspend the league was well thought out call as only a handful of matches are left which can be completed in a 10-day window with possible double-headers.

The options for BCCI?

The IPL has a dedicated window from March end to May end during which no international cricket is scheduled allowing the best of world cricket to ply their trade in the league. Now that the schedule has gone haywire, the BCCI will have to explore the available options.

The Indian team will be touring England from first week of June to first week of August and that schedule cannot be changed. The only period that looks good right now is between the second and fourth week of September where the BCCI can also negotiate with the various cricket boards to allow their players (except for freelancers who don't need permission) to come back and complete the assignment.

Why not August?

In August, India have a six-match white ball away series against Bangladesh which could have been stalled for IPL. However, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)'s 'The Hundred' will be played between August 5 to 31 where most of the top T20 players, who also play in IPL, will be taking part. Most IPL franchise owners like Reliance and RPSG group have bought stakes in 'The Hundred'.

Also Australia will be hosting South Africa for a six-match white ball series through the month of August so players from both countries won't be available.

Why September is best option

From August 15 till September 22, the Caribbean Premier League will also be held where some of the top West Indies players are going to take part. But during the second week of September, a fair number of West Indies players can be made available for their respective IPL teams.

Chelsea advances to Conference League final against Real Betis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Chelsea rested its regular starters and still comfortably advanced to the Conference League final by beating Djurgården 1-0 in their semi-final second leg. The Premier League club advanced 5-1 on aggregate to set up a May 28 title match against Real Betis, which prevailed in extra time for a 4-3 aggregate win over Fiorentina to reach its first European final.

At Stamford Bridge, midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall collected a through pass from Tyrique George before scoring the winner with a low left-footed shot in the 38th minute.

"Amazing to be in the final," Dewsbury-Hall told TNT Sports.

"We set our sights at the start of the season to get as far as we can in this tournament and it has been a long couple of months but one more game to go and and hopefully we can lift that trophy." Chelsea remains on course to become the first club to win all major European competitions. The Blues have claimed the Champions League (2012, '21), the Europa League (2013, '19), Cup Winners' Cup (1971, '98) and Super Cup (1998, '21). The final takes place in Wroclaw, Poland.

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca used only Marc Cucurella from the team that beat the new Premier League champion Liverpool 3-1 on Sunday.

Sixteen-year-old midfielder Reggie Walsh was given his first career start and drew frequent fouls from the opposition defense. When he was used as substitute in the first leg, he became the third youngest player for Chelsea, the club said. The Conference League champion is rewarded with a place in the second-tier Europa League next season, hardly a desirable bonus for Chelsea given that it is fighting in the Premier League for a Champions League spot.

Chelsea, in fifth place in the Premier League, should have fresh legs Sunday when it plays at Newcastle.

In Florence, Antony crossed for substitute Abdessamad Ezzalzouli in the 97th minute to score past goalkeeper David De Gea for a 2-2 draw that sent Betis to the final. Ezzalzouli also scored in the first-leg 2-1 victory in Sevilla last week. Betis increased its aggregate lead from the first leg to 3-1 with a goal from Antony in the 30th.

UAE set to decline PCB request to host PSL games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) plans to conduct the remaining Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in the UAE may not succeed as the Emirates Cricket Board is "unlikely to approve" its request due to the border tensions between India and Pakistan.

A source close to the developments in the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) has indicated that the Board is set to reject the request from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which has already announced that the PSL would be held in the UAE.

The source has cited "security concerns potentially emanating from the rising tension between India and Pakistan."

It is learnt that the recent developments have made the Emirates Cricket Board "vary of being perceived as an ally of PCB", which it believes the act of hosting the PSL may suggest.

"The Emirates Cricket Board has enjoyed a strong relationship with BCCI in recent years having hosted the 'India' edition of the ICC T20 World Cup 2021, editions of the IPL as well as India matches during ICC Champions Trophy 2025," the source further stated.

Dubai is also the headquarter of the International Cricket Council, which is currently headed by former BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

"The UAE has a diverse South Asian population which enjoys cricket. Hosting a tournament like the PSL in the midst of such tense circumstances could vitiate harmony, pose security risks and stir unnecessary friction between communities," the source said.

The PCB said early this morning that the last eight PSL fixtures, which were previously scheduled in Rawalpindi, Multan and Lahore, will now be staged in the UAE.

Schedule of matches, outlining the dates and venues, will be shared in due course, a statement said.

On Thursday, the PCB called off a scheduled match between Peshawar Zalmi and Karachi Kings at the Rawalpindi stadium.

India launched missile attacks on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir a fortnight after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

FIFA's President Infantino plans to visit Saudi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Geneva

FIFA President Gianni Infantino will go to Saudi Arabia next week during US President Donald Trump's state visit while the soccer body's 211 member federations gather at their annual Congress being held in Paraguay. It is unprecedented in modern times for a FIFA president to skip any part of the days-long congress program, where FIFA voters in soccer's six continental bodies caucus ahead of the main meeting often called the sport's parliament. "The FIFA president has accepted invitations to attend a series of important events with world leaders, where FIFA World Cups will also be discussed," soccer's governing body said in a statement. Infantino also is expected to visit Qatar, the 2022 World Cup host which also is on the US President's Middle East tour schedule. Infantino's close ties to Trump during the president's first term have grown stronger in about 10 meetings together since December, including Tuesday at the White House with a task force to oversee federal plans for the 2026 World Cup being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. The FIFA leader also meets regularly with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whose kingdom will host the men's World Cup in 2034.

Infantino helped steer those hosting rights to Saudi Arabia in an uncontested vote last December. Infantino is expected to return from the Middle East in time for the FIFA Congress on Thursday, the last meeting of all FIFA members before they come to the 2026 World Cup. It also is their first meeting together since before the online votes six months ago that confirmed the Saudi bid for 2034 and sent the 2030 edition to Spain, Portugal and Morocco plus single games in Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay.

Manchester United, Tottenham reach Europa League final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Manchester

For Manchester United or Tottenham, a miserable campaign will end in Europa League glory. Despite both teams languishing in the bottom half of the Premier League, the Champions League is now just one game away.

That's the reward on offer after the two troubled English clubs advanced to the final of Europe's second-tier competition on Thursday. United beat Athletic Bilbao 4-1 in the semifinal second leg at Old Trafford and won 7-1 on aggregate. Tottenham won 2-0 away at Bodø/Glimt to seal a 5-1 aggregate victory. It sets up an all-English Europa League final for the second time in six years after Chelsea beat Arsenal to lift the trophy in 2019.

"If we don't win the final, it means nothing for us," United coach Ruben Amorim said. "It's hard to describe what it's like to be manager of this club. You want to give them (the fans) something, because we've been so disappointing in the Premier League." United came back from 1-0 down at halftime against Bilbao, with Mason Mount coming off the bench to score twice after the break. Casemiro and Rasmus Hojlund were also on target. Dominic Solanke and Pedro Porro struck for Tottenham against Bodø/Glimt in Norway. The final is in Bilbao on May 21. "It's an unbelievable feeling," Spurs defender Micky van de Ven said. "We've had a tough season, but we're one game away from winning silverware." A major title, alone, would be enough to salvage what has otherwise been a season to forget for both United and Spurs. But the added prize of a place in the lucrative Champions League would put the winner back among Europe's elite next term. That hasn't looked likely for either team for most of the campaign as they have languished closer to the relegation zone than the top five. United is 15th in the standings having lost a club record 16 games in the Premier League. It is also certain to record its worst-ever points total in the modern era, as well as its lowest finish. For Tottenham, it's even worse — sitting one place below United after a club record-equaling 19 losses in the Premier League. Now, one of those teams has the chance to effectively erase their woeful domestic form by winning the final, which will be the fourth time they have faced each other this season.

Spurs won all three of the previous encounters — twice in the league and also in the English League Cup. "We are struggling, both of us, so I don't know what is going to happen," Amorim said. "That is a good thing and a bad thing with this team. I never know."

United's two-legged victory over Bilbao defied its performances for most of the season, which saw former coach Erik ten Hag fired in October and his replacement, Amorim, oversee 12 losses in 24 league games. Bilbao, fourth in the Spanish league, trailed 3-0 from the first leg but mounted a fightback through Mikel Jauregizar's curling long-range shot in the 31st minute at Old Trafford.

There were signs of nerves in United's play as the visitors applied more pressure, but the introduction of Mount in the 62nd turned the game. He spun and curled a low shot past Bilbao goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala 10 minutes after coming on. Casemiro headed United in front in the 79th and Hojlund scored from close range in the 85th.

Mount got his second when he spotted Agirrezabala off his line in the first minute of stoppage time and fired home from near the halfway line.

It is United's third Europa League final in eight years, having won the competition in 2017. United won the FA Cup last year and the League Cup in 2023 and this would be a third trophy-winning season in a row.

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013 CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)
(As per Appendix IV read with Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 a**nd in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notices as mentioned below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.**

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, **that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules.**

The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date mentioned below.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub- section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s) /Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Possession Date
TCHHF05770 00100237702, TCHIN057700 0100239417, TCHIN057700 0100311695	MR. MD. IRFAN & MRS. SULTAN PARWEEN	Rs. 30,47,890/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Forty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Only) as on 10-12-2024	07-05-2025
Description Of Secured Assets/immovable Properties:- All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Being A Shop On The Basement Floor Measuring Super Built Up Area Of 149 Sq. Ft. Together With All That Undivided Invisible Proportionate Share **Situated At Mouza- Dhanbad, Mouza No. 51, Municiapl Khata, Plot No. 3792, 3817, Within Anchal & Dist- Dhanbad, Jharkhand**			
TCHHL05450 00100256864, TCHIN054500 0100257668	Mr. Binya Min Tirkey & Ms. Sushana Tirke	Rs. 47,60,997/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Seven Only) as on 14-02-2025	08-05-2025
Description Of Secured Assets/immovable Properties:- All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Being A Plot Of Land Measuring 10 Decimals In Plot No.193, Sub Plot No. 193/e Part Under Khata No.10, **Situated At Village-pertol, Thana- Sadar, Thana No.172 In Dist- Ranchi In The State Of Jharkhand Butted And Bounded As Follows:- Bounded And Butted By:- North:** Sub Plot No. 193/C, **South:** Plot No. 193/G, East 10 Feet Wide Proposed Road, West Plot No. 193.			
TCHHF05770 00100278911, TCHIN057700 0100279536	Mr. Roshan Kumar Sharma & Mrs. Priti Kumari, M/s Shree Vishnu Sales Represented Through Its Prop. Roshan Kuamr Sharma	Rs. 34,81,324/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Four Only) as on 11-12-2024	07-05-2025
Description Of Secured Assets/immovable Properties:- All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Being Measuring An Area 5.05 Decimal Of Land Situated At Mouza Govindpur, Mouza No, 166, New Khata No. 691, Old Khata No 38, New Plot No 401,402,403, Old Plot No.311 & 312, **Within Anchal Govindra, Dist. Dhanbad, Jharkhand. Property Is Butted And Bounded As Follows: North:-** Plot No. 312 And Plot No. 321, **South: -** Part Of This Plot, **East: -** 15 Feet Wide Road, **West: -** Plot No. 310			
TCHHL05350 00100209504, TCHIN053500 0100209515, TCHIN053500 0100300610	Mr. Anup Hansda & Mr. Karmu Hansda	Rs. 39,82,530/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Only) as on 14-02-2025	06-05-2025
Description Of Secured Assets/immovable Properties:- All That One Ownership Residential Flat Bearing Flat No. B-2, On The 2nd Floor, In The Building Commonly Known As "maa Sharda Apartment" Having Super Built Up Area Measuring Area 1366 Sq.ft. Comprising Of Bed Rooms, Drawing-cum-dining Hall, Kitchen, Latrine/bathroom, Balcony, Alongwith One Four Wheeler Parking Space In The Ground Floor, Alongwith Undivided Proportionate Share Of Land Area Measuring 100 Sq.ft., In Portion Of Plot No. 1263, Under Khata No. 571, Corresponding To R.S. Khata No. 21 Being R.S. Plot No. 666, **Situated In Mouza Gamariagora, PO & P.S. Kadma, Thana No. 1157, Ward No. 1 Jnac, Within Town Jamshedpur, District Singhbhum East, State Of Jharkhand. Which Is Bounded As Follows: - North:-** Corridor & Stair, **South:-** Pucca Makan, **East:-** B.S. Palace, **West:-** Rasta.			
TCHHL05350 00100226533, TCHIN053500 0100227518	Mr. Uttam Kumar Goyal & Mrs. Komal Goyal	Rs. 32,25,469/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Nine Only) as on 08.01.2025	06-05-2025
Description Of Secured Assets/immovable Properties:- All That Piece And Parcel Of The Flat Bearing No. M-1, Which Consisting Of Two Bedrooms, One Dining, One Kitchen, One Bathroom, One Toilets, And One Balcony Etc. Constructed Over The Said Land Being Known As "ankur Complex" Having Super Built Up Area 760 Sq.ft. Within 'm' Block, Together With Undivided Share In The Land At Mouza Sonari Ward No. 1, New Plot No. 241, Under New Khata No. 446, Corresponding To Portion Of R.S. Plot No. 172, Under R.S. Khata No. 32, Thana No. 1156, P.O. And P.S. Sonari Jamshedpur, District East Singhbhum, District Sub-Registry Office **At Jamshedpur State Of Jharkhand. Property Which Is Bounded As Follow As Follows: North:-** Campus Road, **South:-** Alley, **East:-** Flat No. M-2, **West:-** Duplex. (more fully described in Schedule A hereto)			

DATE :- 10-05-2025 **Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER,**
PLACE:- JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND **FOR TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

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