Stage set to check civil defence preparedness in today's mock drill

GEARING UP. Union Home Secretary chaired a high-level meeting to formalise SOPs for 'Operation Abhyaas'

Dalip Singh
New Delhi

The country-wide mock drill on Wednesday will cover 244 'civil defence districts', mapped for housing sensitive installations such as nuclear plants, military bases, refineries and hydroelectric dams.

The exercise will assess real-time strategic emergency response to an impending threat of a retaliation to India's vow of hunting down Pakistan-based terrorists and their handlers for the massacre of 26 tourists in the Pahalgam attack on April 22.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday chaired a high level meeting with the Chief Secretaries and other top officials of the States and Union Territories to formalise the standard operating procedure of conducting the mock exercise, code named 'Operation Abhyaas' and happening for the first time after the 1971 war.

The meeting took place through video conference.

ON ALERT. The exercise, which will cover 244 districts, will assess emergency response to situations like missile strikes or aerial attacks ANI

The State governments and UT administrations seeking the participation of the State Disaster Response Force and various district departments, including the police, civil defence wardens and volunteers, home guards (active as well as reservists), National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and students came up for discussion at the meeting.

The drill is likely to happen from 4 pm on Wednesday, as was agreed in the meeting but sources clarified that the timing of the event in no way reflects the immediate threat of a conflict with Pakistan.

The Directorate General of Fire Service, civil defence and home guards, which comes under the MHA, shot off a letter on May 5, to inform Chief Secretaries of States and Union to conduct a mock drill for assessing civil defence preparedness in their respective identified vulnerable areas.

MEASURES IN PLACE

The Directorate General of Civil Defence, outlined measures that have to be executed for a successful mock drill. These include operationalisation of warning sirens in case of air raids by enemy fighter jets or any other incoming weapon of mass destruction. Similarly, operationalising hotline/radio communication links with the Indian Air Force, activating and manning control rooms/ shadow control rooms and also snapping electricity to black out districts in case of an escalation by an adversary nation.

Another step is training civilians, students and others on the civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of a hostile attack. Not believing in rumours is equally part of the drill. Besides that, early camouflaging of vital plants and installations, cleaning of bunkers and trenches that mostly exist in large numbers in border districts.

The conduct of the exercise is planned up to the village level, to bolster civil defence till the last tier of governance, given that it is considered integral to the nation's passive defence strategy.

On the basis of threat perception, the MHA has clubbed all the civil defence districts into three categories in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence.

DISTRICT CATEGORIES

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Surat and Vadodara, among a dozen cities, figure in category 1 civil defence districts. These are followed by 200 such districts which are comparatively less vulnerable such as Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar and North Goa, fall under the category 2. And, finally, around 40 like Pulwama, Aurangabad, and Ratnagiri come under category 3, as per the classifications done by the MHA.

Nineteen districts of UP, 13 of Gujarat, 5 of Madhya Pradesh and 3 of Karnataka will witness live mock drills like the rest of India on Wednesday. Meanwhile, PM Narendra Modi continued his parleys with security and military top brass, with NSA Ajit Doval meeting him over brewing tensions with Pakistan.

Kashmir's political class retreats from Pakistan outreach, post-attack

Gulzar Bhat
Srinagar

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, a pronounced shift is evident in the stance of major political parties in the Valley.

Whether the National Conference (NC), the People's Democratic Party (PDP) or the Peoples Conference (PC), each party has called for action while conspicuously refraining from advocating dialogue with Pakistan. Previously, their expected line may have been urging for a dialogue with Pakistan to prevent such terror incidents. But this has been replaced by a more cautious response, marking a significant departure from their earlier stand.

While the incident sparked widespread outrage, the political class batted for a decisive action against the perpetrators, showing hardly any sympathy for Pakistan.

"The usual calls for engaging with Pakistan or upbraiding the Central government are missing this time. It is perhaps for the first time," said a Valley-based political analyst.

On April 28, NC President Farooq Abdullah told reporters in Srinagar that earlier he used to favour dialogue with Pakistan, but now the nation wanted decisive action to prevent such incidents.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during a day-long special session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, said that he would not use the attack to demand the return of Statehood. He said that security was not under his control but as Chief Minister, he had invited the tourists and as host it was his duty to ensure their safe return. The statement signifies a measured political approach over leveraging the event to criticise the Central government.

Former Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah and conveyed to him that she stood with the nation in this hour of mourning. Mufti refrained from criticising the Central government and adopted a more measured tone, especially in light of the security forces' actions, which included demolishing the homes of terrorists and detaining hundreds for questioning.

Similarly, PC leader Sajad Lone in a post on X termed the mass outrage against the Pahalgam attack as a rare occurrence, a first of its kind in the last 78 years. "...There is a general feeling across the valley that whole family is being punished for the actions of one person. We approached the court also and termed it as a form of collective punishment.. Using collectiveness to define criminality or criminal is a curse and will never allow reconciliation and social introspection," he wrote.

'SOCIETAL SHIFT'

Rekha Choudhary, an expert in identity politics and former professor at the University of Jammu, told *businessline* that the shift is more societal than political. "Kashmiri society responded to the killings with unprecedented outrage, even before the political class could articulate a response," she said. Choudhary described it as a crucial moment in the last 35 years of Kashmir's conflict.

Outlook firm; resistance can cap gains

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl. research bureau

The rupee appreciated about 0.8 per cent over the last week. On Tuesday, it closed at 84.44 versus the greenback.

The rupee performed well despite the dollar seeing a recovery recently.

WEEKLY RUPEE VIEW.

A slew of factors, particularly since the beginning of last week helped the rupee. The Reserve Bank of India announced that it will buy ₹1.25 lakh crore worth of government bonds between May 6 and May 19.

This boosted the sentiment as the demand for bonds will lower the interest rates and put more liquidity into the system.

Also, since April 28, the net inflows of the Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) stood at over $800 million as of May 6, per NSDL data.

Apart from this, OPEC announced a collective raise in output of 4,11,000 barrels a day for June, nearly thrice the volume actually scheduled.

This is weighing on the crude oil price and India being a big importer of the energy commodity, a lower crude oil price is good.

But there are risks. Better-than-expected jobs (addition of 1,77,000 jobs versus the expected 1,38,000 jobs) data in the US means that the labour market is strong which will give room for the Fed to keep the rates unchanged.

This can be positive for the dollar.

However, overall, the sentiment appears to be in favour of the rupee.

That said, although the charts are positive, it hints at a roadblock ahead.

CHART

The rupee rallied to hit an eight-month high of 83.75 on Friday before moderating to the current level of 84.44.

Per the chart, 84.25 and 84 are notable resistance levels.

If the local currency declines on the back of this, it can soften to 84.70 and 85.

But if the domestic currency appreciates and breaks out of 84, it can extend the rally to 83.50 and 83.

Looking at the dollar index, the likelihood for the rupee gaining more is high.

The dollar index, which recovered after finding support at 98 a couple of weeks ago, is struggling to move past a barrier at 100.25.

Until this level holds, the weakness will persist and can drag the index back to 98.

That said, if the resistance at 100.25 is breached, it can move up to 101.15, a crucial resistance.

Only a breach of this can lead to a sustainable upswing in the dollar.

OUTLOOK

There is a good chance for the rupee to appreciate from the current level of 84.44 to 84 over the next few sessions.

But since there is a resistance, it might as well stay in the sideways band of 84-84.70.

Aptus Value Housing Fin Q4 net up 26% y-o-y on strong disbursements

Our Bureau
Chennai

Aptus Value Housing Finance on Tuesday posted a 26 per cent year-on-year increase in the net profit for the quarter ended March 2025 (Q4) on the back of strong growth in disbursements.

The net profit for the March quarter stood at ₹207 crore compared to ₹164 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. Disbursements during the quarter rose 10 per cent y-o-y to ₹1,064 crore. Total assets under management (AUM) stood at ₹10,865 crore as of March 31, representing a 25 per cent increase compared to the year-ago period.

P Balaji, Managing Director, Aptus Value Housing Finance said that during FY25, the company expanded its footprint by opening 38 branches and increased its network to 300 locations. "In FY25, we disbursed ₹3,604 crore, achieving a 15 per cent year-on-year growth."

Aptus posted a 23 per cent y-o-y growth in net profit, reaching ₹751 crore in FY25, supported by business expansion and stable asset quality.

The company said that it has reached a 92 per cent adoption rate for digital agreements, their digital collections remained strong at 96 per cent, and the penetration of account aggregators increased to 57 per cent.

However, gross non-performing assets (GNPA) rose marginally to 1.19 per cent in quarter ended March 2025 compared to 1.07 per cent in Q4FY24.

Net NPAs were at 0.89 per cent in March 2025 compared to 0.80 per cent in the same quarter last year.

Sundaram Home Finance plans to raise over ₹6,000 crore this fiscal

Press Trust of India
Chennai

Sundaram Home Finance plans to raise over ₹6,000 crore to accelerate its growth during the current financial year.

The funds proposed to be raised would be through a mix of refinance from NHB, bank debt, debentures and fixed deposits, an official said.

Q4 PROFIT UP 26%

Sundaram Home Finance reported a 26 per cent rise in its net profit for the January-March 2025 quarter to ₹71.57 crore from ₹56.80 crore registered in the corresponding quarter of last financial year.

Disbursements made during the quarter under review stood at ₹1,929 crore as against ₹1,469 crore in the corresponding quarter of last financial year. The assets under management during the financial year ending March 31, 2025 went up to ₹17,470 crore from ₹13,812 crore in the year ago period.

On the outlook for the financial year, the city-headquartered company's MD D Lakshminarayanan said, "The emergence of small towns as an economic growth drive is throwing up a lot of growth opportunities for us both in the prime home finance segment as well as the emerging business segment."

EMERGING BUSINESS

The company's emerging business segment has made disbursements of ₹229 crore for the year ending March 31, 2025.

"The emerging business segment has kicked off well in the first phase and we were able to register an over 60 per cent growth in disbursements last year on the back of branch expansion in small towns in TN," he said.

Godrej | CONSUMER PRODUCTS LIMITED

Extract of Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Months Ended March 31, 2025

(₹ Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-25	Quarter ended 31-Dec-24	Quarter ended 31-Mar-24	Year ended 31-Mar-25	Year ended 31-Mar-24
1	Total income from operations	3597.95	3768.43	3385.61	14364.29	14096.11
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, Exceptional items	670.77	687.44	691.18	2735.07	2675.09
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and after Exceptional items	639.41	681.70	-1684.47	2671.89	198.23
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	411.90	498.31	-1893.21	1852.30	-560.55
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) & Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	384.06	487.13	-1950.09	1987.98	-694.89
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital *(Face value per share: ₹ 1)*	102.30	102.30	102.28	102.30	102.28
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	11901.62	12036.32	12496.29	11901.62	12496.29
8	Securities Premium Account	1463.79	1463.78	1445.62	1463.79	1445.62
9	Net Worth	12003.92	12138.62	12598.57	12003.92	12598.57
10	Outstanding Debt	3882.59	3970.44	3154.64	3882.59	3154.64
11	Debt Equity Ratio	0.32	0.33	0.25	0.32	0.25
12	Earnings per share (of ₹ 1 each) (Not Annualised)					
	Basic (₹)	4.03	4.87	-18.51	18.11	-5.48
	Diluted (₹)	4.03	4.87	-18.50	18.11	-5.48
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46
14	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	5.79	6.54	-9.71	6.83	-0.02
15	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	6.43	7.29	-22.38	7.02	-0.06

Key numbers of audited Standalone Financial Results

(₹ Crore)

	Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-25	Quarter ended 31-Dec-24	Quarter ended 31-Mar-24	Year ended 31-Mar-25	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Turnover	2159.97	2237.15	2007.49	8814.36	8267.86
	Profit before tax	438.92	489.34	-525.36	2016.13	1284.84
	Profit after Tax	248.49	341.54	-700.91	1350.52	647.03

Note:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites viz. www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website viz.www.godrejcp.com.

Place:Mumbai
Date: May 06, 2025

By Order of the Board
For Godrej Consumer Products Limited

Nisaba Godrej
Executive Chairperson

Godrej One, 4th Floor, Pirojshanagar, Eastern Express Highway, Vikhroli (E), Mumbai 400 079, India www.godrejcp.com, CIN : L24246MH2000PLC129806

पंजाबी वारशाला सलाम...

दिलजीत दोसांझ हा गायक असा आहे की, जिथेही गेला तिथे आपली संस्कृती घेऊन जातो. तो मेट गाला २०२५ मध्ये देखील पंजाबी वारशाचे प्रतिनिधित्व केले. त्याचा लूक एखाद्या महाराजांप्रमाणे दिसत होता. त्याने आयव्हरी पगडी घालून लूक आकर्षक बनवला होता.

क्वीन ऑफ मेट गाला

'मेट गाला २०२५'च्या कार्पेटवर बेबी बंप फ्लॉन्ट करणारी कियारा ही एकटी नाही ठरली, तर जगप्रसिद्ध स्टार रिहाना हीदेखील बेबी बंपसह ढासू लूकमध्ये पाहायला मिळाली. रिहानाने राखाडी टू-पीस आउटफिटसह काळा ब्लेझर परिधान केलं होतं. यावर तिनं स्टायलिश हॅट कॅरी केली.

'मेट गाला २०२५'

सेलिब्रिटींचा जलवा

न्यूयॉर्कमध्ये आयोजित 'मेट गाला २०२५' या सोहळ्यात जगभरातील अनेक तारे-तारकांनी हजेरी लावली. भारतातून शाहरुख खान, कियारा अडवाणी, दिलजीत दोसांझ, मनीष मल्होत्रा, ईशा अंबानी हे सेलिब्रिटी पोहोचले. प्रत्येकाच्याच लूकची सध्या सर्वत्र चर्चा आहे.

कियाराचा 'ब्रेव्हहार्ट्स' ड्रेस

अभिनेत्री कियारा अडवाणी तिच्या प्रेग्नेंसीमुळे बऱ्याच काळापासून चर्चेत होती. आता ती मेट गालामध्ये पहिल्यांदा सामील झाली. तिच्या ड्रेसला 'ब्रेव्हहार्ट्स' असे नाव देण्यात आले होते, जे महिलांच्या शक्तीचे, मातृत्वाचे आणि बदलाच्या नवीन टप्प्याचे प्रतीक आहे.

किंग खानला मीडियाने ओळखले नाही

शाहरुख खानचे चाहते जगभर असले तरी मेट गालामध्ये मात्र परदेशी मीडियाने त्याला ओळखलं नाही. त्याचं झालं असं की, मीडियासमोर येताच शाहरुख सर्वांना 'हॅलो' म्हणाला. तेव्हा पत्रकारांनी त्याला नाव विचारलं. यावर तो उत्तर देत 'आय ॲम शाहरुख...' असं म्हणतो.

निक-प्रियंकाचा किस चर्चेत

'मेट गाला २०२५'मध्ये गेलेल्या प्रियंका-निकचा व्हिडीओ सोशल मीडियावर वेगाने व्हायरल होत आहे. याशिवाय दोघांनी एकमेकांना मिठी मारली आणि सर्वांसमोर किस केलं.

'सितारे जमीन पर'चे पहिले पोस्टर आले

२००७ यावर्षी सुपरहिट झालेला 'तारे जमीन पर' हा चित्रपट अनेकांना आजही आवडतो. याच चित्रपटाचा सिक्वेल असलेल्या आगामी 'सितारे जमीन पर' चित्रपटाची आज अधिकृत घोषणा झाली आहे. आमिरच्या आगामी चित्रपटाचे पहिले पोस्टर आज चाहत्यांच्या भेटीला आले आहे. या चित्रपटात अभिनेत्री जिनिलिया देशमुख आमिर खानसोबत झळकणार आहे.

युलिया-दीपकची जमली जोडी...

सलमान खान आणि युलिया वंतूर वयाच्या ४४ व्या वर्षी अभिनय क्षेत्रात पदार्पण करणार आहे. ती एका इंग्रजी शॉर्ट फिल्ममधून डेब्यू करणार आहे. ५ मे २०२५ रोजी युलिया वंतूरने चित्रपट समीक्षक तरण आदर्श यांची पोस्ट सोशल मीडियावर रिशेअर करत चाहत्यांना आपल्या आगामी प्रोजेक्टबद्दल अपडेट दिली होती. 'इकोज ऑफ अस' असं या चित्रपटाचं नाव आहे.

अंकुश म्हणतोय 'थांब म्हटलं की थांबायचं'

महाराष्ट्राचा 'स्टाइल आयकॉन' अंकुश चौधरीचा 'पी.एस.आय. अर्जुन' चित्रपटातील 'थांब म्हटलं की थांबायचं' हा डायलॉग सोशल मीडियावर सध्या जोरदार ट्रेंडिंगमध्ये असून चित्रपटातील त्याच्या रुबाबदार पोलीस अधिकाऱ्याच्या लूकचीही सर्वत्र चर्चा आहे. नुकत्याच प्रदर्शित झालेल्या उत्कंठावर्धक ट्रेलरने ही उत्सुकता शिगेला पोहोचवली आहे. या चित्रपटाचा भव्य ट्रेलर लाँच सोहळा संपन्न झाला. यावेळी नवापूर पोलीस स्टेशन उभारून तिथे ट्रेलर लाँच करण्यात आले. चित्रपटातील पोलीस अधिकारी बेड्या ठोकून अंकुश चौधरीला जेलमध्ये घेऊन आले. अंकुशची ही जबरदस्त एंट्री सगळ्यांसाठीच खास ठरली. तसेच यावेळी चित्रपटातील प्रमोशनल साँगही येथे सादर झाले. फॅन्सनी सादर केलेल्या या परफॉर्मन्समध्ये अंकुशनेही ठेका धरून वातावरण अधिकच चैतन्यमय केले. दिग्दर्शक भूषण पटेल म्हणतात, 'मराठी प्रेक्षक चोखंदळ असल्याने त्यांच्यासाठी एखादा जबरदस्त चित्रपट घेऊन येण्याची खूप इच्छा होती. 'पी.एस.आय. अर्जुन' एक असा चित्रपट आहे, ज्यात ॲक्शन, सस्पेन्स, रोमान्स असे सगळेच आहे. त्यामुळे फॅमिलीसाठी हा चित्रपट म्हणजे मनोरंजनाचे परिपूर्ण पॅकेज आहे. आम्ही प्रेमाने आणि मेहनतीने हा चित्रपट बनवला आहे. मला खात्री आहे, प्रेक्षकांना 'पी. एस. आय. अर्जुन' नक्कीच आवडेल.'

जेलमध्ये संपन्न झाला जबरदस्त ट्रेलर लाँच सोहळा

निर्माते विक्रम शंकर म्हणतात,' खूप वेगळा चित्रपट आम्ही प्रेक्षकांसाठी घेऊन येत आहोत. हा चित्रपट म्हणजे मनोरंजनाचे परफेक्ट पॅकेज आहे.'

या चित्रपटात अंकुश चौधरीसह किशोर कदम, राजेंद्र शिसटकर, नंदू माधव, कमलाकर सातपुते, अक्षया हिंदळकर यांच्या प्रमुख भूमिका आहेत. व्हिस्ट्रोमॅक्स सिनेमा, ड्रिमविव्हर एंटरटेनमेंट निर्मित 'पी. एस. आय. अर्जुन'चे भूषण पटेल दिग्दर्शक आहेत तर विक्रम शंकर आणि ध्रुव दास निर्माते आहेत. येत्या 9 मे 2025 रोजी चित्रपट प्रदर्शित होणार आहे.

Godrej | CONSUMER PRODUCTS LIMITED

Extract of Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Months Ended March 31, 2025

(₹ Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-25	Quarter ended 31-Dec-24	Quarter ended 31-Mar-24	Year ended 31-Mar-25	Year ended 31-Mar-24
1	Total income from operations	3597.95	3768.43	3385.61	14364.29	14096.11
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, Exceptional items	670.77	687.44	691.18	2735.07	2675.09
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and after Exceptional items	639.41	681.70	-1684.47	2671.89	198.23
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	411.90	498.31	-1893.21	1852.30	-560.55
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) & Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	384.06	487.13	-1950.09	1987.98	-694.89
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital *(Face value per share: ₹ 1)*	102.30	102.30	102.28	102.30	102.28
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	11901.62	12036.32	12496.29	11901.62	12496.29
8	Securities Premium Account	1463.79	1463.78	1445.62	1463.79	1445.62
9	Net Worth	12003.92	12138.62	12598.57	12003.92	12598.57
10	Outstanding Debt	3882.59	3970.44	3154.64	3882.59	3154.64
11	Debt Equity Ratio	0.32	0.33	0.25	0.32	0.25
12	Earnings per share (of ₹ 1 each) (Not Annualised)					
	Basic (₹)	4.03	4.87	-18.51	18.11	-5.48
	Diluted (₹)	4.03	4.87	-18.50	18.11	-5.48
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46
14	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	5.79	6.54	-9.71	6.83	-0.02
15	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	6.43	7.29	-22.38	7.02	-0.06

Key numbers of audited Standalone Financial Results

(₹ Crore)

	Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-25	Quarter ended 31-Dec-24	Quarter ended 31-Mar-24	Year ended 31-Mar-25	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Turnover	2159.97	2237.15	2007.49	8814.36	8267.86
	Profit before tax	438.92	489.34	-525.36	2016.13	1284.84
	Profit after Tax	248.49	341.54	-700.91	1350.52	647.03

Note:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites viz. www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website viz.www.godrejcp.com.

Place:Mumbai
Date: May 06, 2025

By Order of the Board
For Godrej Consumer Products Limited

Nisaba Godrej
Executive Chairperson

Godrej One, 4th Floor, Pirojshanagar, Eastern Express Highway, Vikhroli (E), Mumbai 400 079, India www.godrejcp.com, CIN : L24246MH2000PLC129806