Trump's 'Epic Fury' might be over, but the global economy will still be bleeding



Within just two weeks of this month, several significant developments have taken effect in the Iran war, some hinting towards a resolution but most indicating a prolonged period of stalemated conflict.

The most significant announcement was from the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, on May 6, when he announced the end of 'Operation Epic Fury', or the war in Iran. He, however, added that the naval blockade imposed by the US Navy across the Strait of Hormuz will remain in place till it is opened to international shipping by Iran.

Around the same time, President Trump announced a 'pause' in Project Freedom, which was launched on May 4, wherein the US Navy was to escort commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz, evading the Iranian blockade.

Third, the US, alongside Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar, announced a draft UN Security Council Resolution to defend freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. There was also an announcement of a 14-point peace proposal offered by Iran to the US on May 3, which was reviewed by the US, which in turn sent a counter-proposal to Iran, which Tehran revised and sent back, only to be termed by Trump as "unacceptable". As of now, the peace process remains in the doldrums.

Five other developments during the same period were significantly escalatory in nature.

On May 5, the IRGC published a map wherein it drew a clear zone depicting its naval blockade, bounded by two lines, stretching from Qeshm Island and Umm al Quwain (in the UAE) in the west to Mount Mobarak and Fujairah (in the UAE) in the east, virtually enclosing the UAE's territorial waters within its zone of control.

Also, Iran's Tasnim News Agency, affiliated with the IRGC, also reported that in case there is no permanent end to the war soon, Iran plans to impose fees on submarine fibre-optic internet cables passing through the Strait of Hormuz. This, it reported, was based on its "sovereignty" over the seabed and water column in the Strait of Hormuz under Article 34 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. On May 6, Iran also announced the formation of the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), a government agency to approve ship transits and collect tolls from vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

However, the most escalatory steps were the exchange of fire in the Strait of Hormuz as well as a brief exchange of missiles and drone strikes between the UAE and Iran. On May 7-8, the UAE was struck by ballistic missiles and drones from Iran (although Iran denied it). The UAE struck back and conducted retaliatory airstrikes against IRGC Navy sites, petrochemical facilities in Bandar Abbas, and other locations, including Qeshm Island.

The next incident was when Iran targeted three US Navy ships, all three Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, USS Truxtun, USS Rafael Peralta and USS Mason, on May 7, with missiles, drones and fast-attack naval crafts. The US responded, targeting Bandar Abbas, Qeshm and Bandar Kargan. During the same week, three Iranian-flagged oil tankers were disabled by the US forces. An F/A-18 Super Hornet targeted M/T Sea Star and M/T Sevda on May 8, while M/T Hasna's rudder was disabled by US F/A-18 aircraft on May 6.

Where Does the War Stand Now?

The war stands at a very critical inflection point. It is very clear that neither the US nor Iran has any appetite to restart hostilities, but neither is willing to stand down either. The US, particularly, finds itself in a bind because it has got entrapped on an issue which did not exist before the start of the war: the Strait of Hormuz. With Iran making it very clear that there will not be any discussion on the opening of the Strait of Hormuz to normal traffic unless there is a permanent end to the war, the US Navy is stuck enforcing a naval blockade, which it would otherwise not have.

On the other hand, Iran is emboldened with the way the narrative has progressed, especially after the initial announcement of a ceasefire on April 7. At every instance after that, it has been the US which has offered to stand down on the continuation of hostilities with Iran, not conceding on any demand. Plus, Iran has discovered the monetary and the political value of the Strait of Hormuz, which it now intends to encash monetarily as well as diplomatically in the future.

Secretary Rubio stated in his announcement of the winding down of operations that the US had achieved its military objectives. A brief review of the same, however, presents a completely different picture. There were three objectives set out by the US at the start of the war, and all three look far from being accomplished. The first objective was that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon. It entailed further destroying any nuclear enrichment capability that Iran may have despite the 'complete obliteration' of Iran's nuclear capabilities in June 2025 during the '12 Day War'. Connected with this was an objective that Iran should hand over 450 kg of enriched (60 per cent) uranium to the US and also make a commitment of complete stoppage of enrichment for at least ten years. On both counts, Iran has made it clear that it is not going to comply.

Second was the complete destruction of Iran's ballistic missile programme, which could pose an imminent threat to the US in the future. Despite the intense military campaign by the US and Israel and initial claims that 70-80 per cent of Iran's missile inventory and almost 80 per cent of its mobile missile launchers were destroyed, fresh assessments and reports indicate that Iran still retains a large inventory of missiles and its launchers. Plus, its defence industry is rapidly replenishing the missile stock. In fact, a recent report in the US states that Iran retains up to 70 per cent of its ballistic missile capabilities and is fast building additional capabilities.

Stop the Bite at the Source - A Blueprint to Defeat Dengue



Dr. Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit
Free-lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist
(dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in)

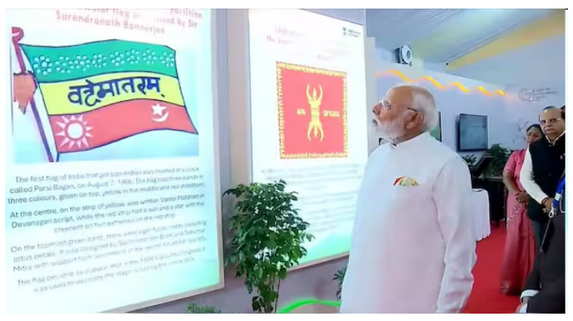
The National Dengue day is observed on 16 May with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Dengue is prevalent across the country. Dengue has wreaked havoc across India, yet current surveillance captures only laboratory-confirmed cases from government-identified sentinel hospitals, most of which are in the public sector, meaning many infections go unreported and the true scale of the problem remains hidden. Dengue has now eclipsed malaria in terms of morbidity and mortality in several regions, and globally dengue fever affects close to 400 million people each year, with about 40% of the world's population at risk of exposure and infection. A major reason for the rise in dengue is the failure of mosquito control programs, as governments often treat vector control as a seasonal or outbreak-driven activity instead of a year-round process, and for India to achieve its goal of eliminating malaria by 2030 and to curb other vector-borne diseases like dengue, sustained effort and strong political will are essential. While malaria remains one of the country's worst public health challenges, endangering one in every six Indians and causing nearly 50,000 deaths annually due to complications, dengue requires equal urgency, and immediate diagnosis and treatment of both diseases can prevent complications and death.

For malaria, every reported case triggers mapping and intensive fogging or spraying of pesticides in surrounding areas, but for dengue, which is spread by the Aedes aegypti mosquito that bites during the day and breeds in clean, stagnant water, a different approach is needed because one of the major causes of mosquito breeding is water stagnation in homes, construction sites, discarded containers, coolers, and plant pots, making public awareness critical. Recognition of mosquito breeding sites should be taught in schools and known to every adult, and community participation must be mobilized through weekly "dry day" campaigns where households empty and scrub all water containers to destroy eggs. The present overemphasis on mosquito repellents and fogging has done little to stop breeding since fogging only kills adult mosquitoes and gives temporary relief without addressing larvae, so instead of only focusing on preventing bites, we must attack the source by eliminating breeding grounds while also universalizing the use of mosquito nets, window screens, and full-sleeved clothing, especially for children and during daytime when Aedes mosquitoes are active.

To strengthen the fight against dengue, real-time surveillance must be improved by expanding case reporting beyond sentinel hospitals to include private clinics, labs, and digital health platforms to capture the true burden, and early warning systems should be introduced using weather data, rainfall, and temperature trends to predict outbreaks and launch preventive action before cases spike. Municipal accountability must be strengthened by making ward-level officials responsible for vector-control outcomes with public dashboards tracking breeding sites cleared and cases reported, and there should be greater investment in research on local solutions because despite traditional knowledge of neem, cow dung, and other plant-based repellents, scientific research on their effectiveness in dengue prevention remains limited. Year-round targeted IEC campaigns are needed using TV, radio, social media, and school curricula to teach "search and destroy" habits for breeding sites, and rapid testing must be ensured by making NS1 antigen and IgM tests widely available at primary health centers to enable early diagnosis and reduce severe cases, along with training healthcare workers to differentiate dengue from other fevers and manage warning signs like persistent vomiting, abdominal pain, and bleeding to prevent deaths.

Urban planning must also address the issue by enforcing building codes that prevent water logging, ensuring proper drainage, and regulating construction sites that often become breeding hotspots. Eliminating dengue and malaria must be a national priority, but grand pronouncements are meaningless if data is incomplete and governance is weak, because bad data distorts planning and poor execution wastes resources, so we need accurate reporting, consistent funding, community ownership, and science-backed action. Recognition of mosquito breeding should be universal knowledge, and until we shift from reactive fogging to proactive breeding-site elimination, mosquitoes will keep biting and diseases will keep spreading. **(B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad - 380 015)**

No controversy can dim Vande Mataram's enduring legacy in nation-building



The union cabinet has just cleared an amendment putting the national song Vande Mataram on par with the national anthem Jana Gana Mana. And yet, this decision did not attract universal applause given that it was the rallying cry of our freedom movement. Instead, it has, almost immediately, stirred a hornet's nest of controversy, with a section of Muslim leaders saying an ode to the mother goddess was unacceptable to them.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi wrote on social media that Vande Mataram could not be treated on par with the national anthem because "the nation is not a goddess; it does not run in the name of a god or goddess and it does not belong to one god or goddess". He went on to add that several leaders of the freedom movement – including Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Rabindranath Tagore – "all rejected it".

History, though, says otherwise. The lyrics by legendary Bengali litterateur Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay were set to music by Jadu Bhatt, a hugely respected musician in the early 20th century, and were repeatedly sung at multiple sessions of the Congress. Tagore himself sang it at the 1905 session, and so popular was his rendition that there were several encore demands from the audience, and the poet happily obliged. But Tagore was not the first to sing the song. His niece Sarala Devi sang it at the 1895 session of the Congress, just a year after Bankim's death. As for Netaji, he supported the singing of Vande Mataram all through his stint in the Congress. There are multiple books on the INA and the song itself that clarify this point.

But first, it is important to go back to the history that inspired this hymn. When it first appeared in print 151 years ago, 'Vande Mataram' was a requiem for a revolution ostensibly referencing the Sanyasi rebellion of the 1760s, when 'Om Vande Mataram' became a battle cry. In effect, it was also referencing the uprising of 1857, which was fresh in popular memory at that point. First published on its own in 1875 before being included in the author's historical fiction work Anandamath in 1882, the song was in fact a clarion call to the nation, demanding that Mother India be worshipped as the goddess that she is, asking Indians to consecrate her with both daring and devotion (sharire shakti and hriday bhakti).

In his book on his uncle called Bankim Jeebani, Bankim's nephew Satish Chandra Chattopadhyay recounts an anecdote about what the song meant to the man who penned it. The author is said to have quizzed his eldest daughter about the song, and she, playfully, told him that people don't like it much. That banter made Bankim think. Then he said, prophetically, that there will come a day when all of Bharat will come alive to the words of the song.

That Bankim knew what the song would become in the context of India's struggle for independence becomes clear not just from this anecdote but from another quoted by Jagadish Bhattacharya in his book Vande Mataram. Apparently Bankim had written the song several years before it was published and refused multiple requests for its debut. He is said to have told his assistants at Banga Darshan, the literary magazine he edited, that "people may not be able to appreciate its value now, but they will soon, even if I am not around to see it".

Bankim's prophecy proved correct. After his death in 1894, very quickly, 'Vande Mataram' became the rallying cry of the freedom movement. Leaders like Sri Aurobindo called it the mantra to worship the motherland. In his essay on Bankim Chandra, Sri Aurobindo wrote, "Among the rishis of the later age we have at last realised that we must include the name of the man who gave us the reviving mantra which is creating a new India, the mantra Vande Mataram." Why was this mantra the secret to Bharat's revival? Because it would be chanted across the length and breadth of the country to consecrate Ma Bharati or Mother India. "The mantra had been given and in a single day a whole people had been converted to the religion of patriotism. The Mother had revealed herself," wrote Sri Aurobindo.

By 1905, when the country's youth rose up against the unjust proposal to partition Bengal, Vande Mataram took on a life of its own. On August 7, 1905, a huge anti-partition agitation was held at the Town Hall in Kolkata, and it was here that Vande Mataram was sung as an opening invocation. Very quickly, the song and the phrase became a byword for a nation waking up to its destiny. The Vande Mataram Sampraday (community) was set up, and they took out processions every Sunday where the song was sung with great gusto. Both Rabindranath Tagore and fellow poet-musician Dwijendralal Roy joined these outings multiple times. Soon, every Swadeshi gathering would begin with a rendition of the song, and all the leaders of the movement would be greeted with lusty cheers of 'Vande Mataram'. Very soon, common everyday folk replaced their usual greetings with 'Vande Mataram'. Children in school followed suit, as did the students in colleges and the workmen in factories. India was speaking defiance in one voice. As the power of the chant grew, so did the brutality of the reprisals. The colonial administration cracked down on any rendition of the song and famously flogged 15-year-old student Sushil Sen, who had come to the courthouse to offer support during the trial of Sri Aurobindo on charges of writing treasonous editorials. British magistrate Douglas Kingsford mercilessly flogged him every time he shouted 'Vande Mataram', but the young man would not stop.

MAS RURAL HOUSING & MORTGAGE FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: 4th Floor, Narayan Chambers, Behind Patang Hotel, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad - 380 009

BRANCH CLOSURE NOTICE

The borrowers in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that the branch office of the Company at A-101, Marutinandan Complex, Near Valari Hospital, Dist. Valsad - 396050, Dharampur is going to be closed after 3 months and the new branch address shall be 46, First Floor, Maharshi Complex, Goharbaug, Navjivan Colony, Bilimora, Dist. Navsari, Gujarat – 396 321.

If the same are not closed after 3 months, a separate intimation shall be made. For more details kindly connect at 079 69274100 / manish_dave@mas.co.in

For, MAS RURAL HOUSING & MORTGAGE FINANCE LIMITED
SD/-
AUTHORISED OFFICER
Date : 15.05.2026

TRUHOME FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Ltd.)
Head Office: Level -3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051; **Tel:** 1800 102 4345 ; **Website:** http://www. truhomefinance.in
Reg.Off.: Srinivasa Tower, 1st Floor, Door No.5, Old No.11, 2nd Lane, Cenatoph Road, Alwarpet, Teynampet, Chennai-600018

APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to Truhome Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited), the Physical Possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Truhome Finance Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of the balance due to Truhome Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the immovable property, reserve price and earnest money deposit and date of Inspection are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagers	Amount of Recovery and date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person Details – (AO and Disposal team)
PRAGATI COMPUTER CLASSES & JOBWORK, MR MEHTA VIREN PRAFULCHANDRA, Yashikaben Virenbhai Mehta, Amit Prafulchandra Mehta, Mehta Prafulchandra Labhshankar **Present & Permanent Address:-** **Prop. MR MEHTA VIREN PRAFULCHANDRA, Plot No. 18/A Lalwadi,Sitalvan soc., Vrajbhumi 2, Hapa Road,Jamnagar,** **Occupation;-** **2.2). MR MEHTA VIREN PRAFULCHANDRA** **Prop.PRAGATI COMPUTER CLASSES & JOBWORK** **444 INDRAPRASTH COMPLEX, PANCHESHWAR TOWER ROAD JAMNAGAR, Gujarat-361001,** **Property Address;- 443 INDRAPRASTH COMPLEX, PANCHESHWAR TOWER ROAD JAMNAGAR, Gujarat-361001** **Present Address: Amit Prafulchandra Mehta, Mehta Prafulchandra Labhshankar, JMV aavas, Nr. Patel Samaj, EWS 2, FP88, A606, Jamnagar - 361001** **Permanent Address: Amit Prafulchandra Mehta, Mehta Prafulchandra Labhshankar, Pipla Street, Satyanarayan Temple road, Jala ni Jar, Dhokad kado, Jamnagar – 361001.** **Date of Possession & Type** 15-03-2026 & Physical Possession **Encumbranches known** Not Known	13(2) Notice date 15.09.2025 Rs. 1029754/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Twenty nine thousand seven hundred fifty four only) as on dated. 09/09/2025 under reference of Loan Account No. SLPHJMNG0000205	Rs.5,25,000/- (Rs. five lakh twenty five thousand only) **Bid Increment:** Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)(Rs.)** Rs.52,500/- (Rs. fifty two thousand five hundred only) **Last date for submission of EMD : 05/06/2026 Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m.**	**06-JUNE-2026 & Auction Time: 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM**	**Ashfaq Patka 9819415477** **Dharmendrasinh Chauhan- 76007 62777** **Inspection Date: 05/06/2026 Time 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.**

Description of Property

Office no. 443 adm. Sq.mtr. 41.44 of super built up area on the fourth floor of INDRAPRASHTH BUILDING Construct over the land bearing CS no.74/1 of sheet no. No.1 of main part A situated near Pancheshvar tower in city of Jamnagar Boundaries of the property:- East : office no. 442,West : Office no.444,North : Common passage,South : O.T.S.

1) **For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer the website of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) website.**
2) **The intending bidders have to submit their EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: BANK NAME: AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH: BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI BANK ACCOUNT NO. Current Account No. 911020045677633 IFSC CODE: UTIB0000230.**
3) **The mortgagors/borrowers are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest before auction, failing which secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.**
4) **Please note that the secured creditor is going to issue the sale notice to all the Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors by speed/ registered post. In case the same is not received by any of the parties, then this publication of sale notice may be treated as a substituted mode of service.**

Place : Jamnagar
Date : 16-05-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited
(Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited)

WESTERN RAILWAY VADODARA DIVISION
PAINTING OF BG WAGONS
For and behalf of The President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Carriage & Wagon Repair Workshop, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, invites e-tender as per the details given below: **E-Tender Notice No:- M137_MECH_PRTN_TEND_26_09 Name of work:** Painting of BG Wagons at Carriage & Wagon Repair Workshop, Pratapnagar, Western Railway as per scope of work. **Proposed quantity:** 861840 Sq. Meter **Approximate Cost of Work:** ₹ 1,24,68,066.61/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty-Four Lakh Sixty-Eight Thousand and Sixty-Six and Sixty-One Paise Only) inclusive of 18 % GST. **Bid Security (EMD):** ₹ 2,49,400/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty-Nine Thousand And Four Hundred Only) **Tender Document Cost (TDC):** NIL **Completion Period:** 24 (Twenty-Four) Months. **Validity of offer:** 60 days. **Closing Date & Time for submission of tender:** 10-06-2026/15:30 hrs. **Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen:** Website: www.ireps.gov.in Office of Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Repair Workshop, Pratapnagar, Western Railway - 390004
BRC-046
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY VADODARA DIVISION
HIRING OF DIESEL PUMP AND ELECTRICAL SUBMERSIBLE PUMP
Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works. **E-Tender Notice No:. DRM BRC 037 of 2026-27. Name of Work:** Vadodara Division:- Hiring of Diesel pump and Electrical submersible pump to drain out rainwater/ sludge/ mud from surrounding areas of various locations of limited Height subway/ level crossing/ Road under bridge/ Railway colony/ Railway Station/ Railway Yard/ Shed, etc. under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (West) Vadodara. **Approximate Cost of the work:** ₹ 25,61,736.31 **Bid Security to be deposited:** ₹ 51,200.00 **Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** Tender is to be submitted on **05.06.2026 before 15.00 Hrs**, and is to be opened on same date at **15.30 Hrs**. Web side particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Website @www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390 004.
BRC-048
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly