

## PM MODI MEETS BANGLADESH PM

## "ANY RHETORIC...": PM'S MESSAGE TO BANGLADESH LEADER AFTER NORTHEAST REMARK

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Muhammad Yunus, chief advisor of Bangladesh's interim government, met on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok today. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval were also present. The Prime Minister raised with the Bangladesh leader India's concerns on the safety of minorities in the neighbouring country. He also suggested Dhaka to avoid "rhetoric that vitiates the environment", weeks after Mr Yunus' remarks on the Northeast drew sharp responses from Indian leaders.

"The Prime Minister reiterated India's support for a democratic, stable peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. He underlined that India believed in a people-centric approach to the relationship and highlighted the cooperation between the two countries over a long period of time that has delivered tangible benefits to people in both countries. In this spirit, he once again underlined to Professor Yunus India's desire to forge a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh based on pragmatism," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told the media later.

"The PM also urged in this regard that any rhetoric that vitiates the environment is best avoided. On the border, strict enforcement of the law and prevention of illegal border crossing, especially at night, is necessary for maintaining border stability and security," Mr Misri said. The Foreign Secretary said that PM Modi underlined India's concerns related to the safety and security of minorities in Bangladesh, including Hindus, and expressed his expectations that the government of Bangladesh would ensure.



## WEST BENGAL

## "EVERYTHING WILL BE FINISHED": SACKED TEACHERS TARGET BENGAL GOVERNMENT



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court judgment cancelling the appointment of more than 25,000 teachers and other school staff in West Bengal has sparked a massive political row, with the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Opposition BJP and CPM trading barbs. But away from this din is the silence of uncertainty that faces 25,753 sacked employees, who are wondering how to pay bills and put food on the table.

NDTV spoke to two teachers whose appointments have been cancelled. They spoke of the EMI burden, ailing parents, schoolgoing children and how the Supreme Court judgment had turned their world upside down.

Pratap Roychowdhury taught in a school in South 24 Parganas near Kolkata, till yesterday. "If a man loses his job, you can imagine how it impacts his family. There are home loans, EMIs and many people are dependent on him. Everything will be finished," he said.

The bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar yesterday cancelled the appointments of all 25,753 teachers and other staff appointed by the West Bengal School Service Commission in 2016 for massive irregularities. "In our opinion, this is a case wherein the entire selection process has been vitiated and tainted beyond resolution. Manipulations and frauds on a large scale, coupled with the attempted cover-up, have dented the selection process beyond repair and partial redemption. The credibility and legitimacy of the selection are denuded," the court said.

The court said that while the untainted candidates, whose names did not come up during the investigation, need not return the salaries they received in the last eight years, they would no longer have their jobs. The court has asked the state government to repeat the selection process within 3 months.



## CONGRESS, AIMIM LEADERS MOVE SUPREME COURT AGAINST WAQF (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Diary Times Desk :** Hours after Parliament passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday separately moved the Supreme Court challenging its validity on the grounds that it violated constitutional provisions. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in the wee hours of Friday with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. Under the amended law only self-owned resources can be declared as Waqf after ensuring the inheritance rights of women and children and the DC will determine that land being donated by a Muslim is actually in his ownership. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill a day before with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it. Now, it awaits President Droupadi Murmu's assent to become an Act. However, Jawed -- a Lok Sabha MP from Kishanganj, Bihar -- alleged that the amended law imposed "arbitrary restrictions" on Waqf properties and their management, undermining the religious autonomy of the Muslim community.



## HEATWAVE LIKELY IN NORTHWEST INDIA OVER NEXT 6 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** Northwest India is likely to witness heatwave conditions over the next six days, with temperatures in Delhi expected to reach up to 42 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday. Regions likely to be impacted include south Haryana, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan and west Madhya Pradesh. The IMD said maximum temperatures in many parts of central and northwest India are expected to rise by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius during this period. In Delhi, daytime temperatures could reach around 42 degrees Celsius at some places by April 6 or 7. Earlier this week, the department said India is expected to see higher-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains. Normally, India records four to seven heatwave days between April and June. States likely to experience more heatwave days than usual include Rajasthan, Gujarat.

## PM MODI TO ARRIVE IN SRI LANKA TODAY, FIRST VISIT AFTER 2019 EASTER ATTACKS



**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Sri Lanka on Friday evening for his two-day visit to the island nation. The PM's visit to Sri Lanka will likely witness bilateral agreements in sectors, including defence, energy and infrastructure. The visit to the island nation comes after Sri Lankan President Dissanayake had visited India last year. Before empanelling on a visit to the island nation, the PM in his departure statement had said, "...We will have the opportunity to review progress made on the joint vision of fostering partnerships for a shared future and provide further guidance to realise our shared objectives. I am confident that these visits will build on the foundations of the past and contribute to strengthening our close relationships for the benefit of our people and the wider region." The PM had last visited Sri Lanka in 2019 to express solidarity after Easter Sunday attacks. Since 2014, the PM has been to the island nation thrice.

## PM MODI, BANGLADESH'S YUNUS HOLD FIRST TALKS AFTER HASINA'S OUSTER

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh's interim government head Muhammad Yunus met in Bangkok on Friday, their first talks amid tensions since the ouster of long-time Bangladeshi premier Sheikh Hasina in August last year. PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh Chief Adviser on the sidelines of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The backdrop of this diplomatic engagement includes Yunus's recent remarks on India's northeast and Bangladesh's overtures to China for potential investments, raising concerns in India about the security of the strategically vital Siliguri Corridor, commonly known as the "Chicken's Neck." The high-profile meeting between the two leaders is likely to ease the prevailing tensions between the two neighbours. The meeting in Bangkok between the two leaders has taken place after the regime changeover in Bangladesh last year, following the unprecedented student protests over the reservation.



## YOUR HOROSCOPE 05-04-2025

### Aries

Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.

### Gemini

Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

### Leo

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

### Libra

Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

### Sagittarius

Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

### Aquarius

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

### Taurus

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

### Cancer

Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

### Virgo

Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

### Scorpio

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

### Capricorn

Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

### Pisces

Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.



## HP CABINET MEETING: PROPOSAL FOR BUS FARE HIKE IN CABINET MEETING, PRIVATE OPERATORS SAID THIS

**Diary Times Desk :** A decision on bus fare hike can also be taken in the proposed meeting of Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Saturday. However, just before the meeting, Himachal Private Bus Operators Association has raised the demand of not increasing the normal fare of buses. Private bus operators are demanding to increase the minimum bus fare from Rs 5 to Rs 15. Bus operators argue that the normal fare in Himachal is the highest in the whole country and the minimum fare is the lowest in the country. Association General Secretary Ramesh Kamal said that like private bus operators, HRTC is also a bus operator. The government should apply the same rules for private operators and HRTC. Private bus operators are not in favor of increasing the normal fare. The government should end the concessions that it is giving in HRTC buses. Private bus operators are incurring losses due to the 50 percent discount being given to women in fares. The government should either end this concession or private bus operators should also be given an annual grant of Rs 170 crore on the lines of HRTC. Kamal has said that the minimum fare of buses in the whole country is between Rs 15 to Rs 20.



## HIMACHAL: CRORES OF RUPEES REMAINED UNSPENT IN POSHAN ABHIYAAN, REPORT REVEALS

**Diary Times Desk :** A lot of money remained unspent in the Poshan Abhiyan in Himachal Pradesh. Rs 83.39 lakh was not spent in the financial year 2022-23 and Rs 11.37 crore in 2023-24. The Welfare Committee of the State Assembly has shown its displeasure over this. The Welfare Committee has mentioned this in its report. Abhiyan Poshan-2.0 aims to solve the problem of malnutrition among small children below 6 years of age, adolescents 14-18 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The chairman of this committee is MLA Mohan Lal Brakta, while it has 11 assembly members. A budget provision of Rs 9.47 crore in the financial year 2022-23 and Rs 34.10 crore in 2023-24 was made for the operation of the scheme. Rs 8.64 crore was spent in the year 2022-23 and Rs 22.72 crore in 2023-24. On this, the committee wanted to know the reasons for not spending the budget completely in the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. The committee also wanted to know where the remaining amount of Rs 83.39 lakh and Rs 11.37 crore of the mentioned financial years was spent and if this amount was surrendered, then give the reasons. The committee also asked to be informed about the reasons for making more than three times the budget provision in the financial year 2023-24 as compared to the financial year 2022-23.

## HIMACHAL: BHAGWANT MANN SAID- PUNJAB AND HIMACHAL ARE BROTHERS, CORDIAL RELATIONS WILL REMAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Relations between Himachal and Punjab have always been cordial and will remain so in future too. No matter what the dispute is, both states will remain like brothers. We have no dispute of water or any other kind with Himachal. We live together. I go to Gurudwara Sahib and temples and wish that this brotherhood remains like this. On Friday, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who went to pay obeisance at Shri Naina Devi Ji Shaktipeeth with his wife, performed puja. After that he offered sacrifice in the havan kund. The priests honoured him by giving a memento and Mata's chunari. After the darshan, the CM met the journalists. On the question of the recent dispute between Himachal and Punjab, he said that one or two buses of Himachal were vandalized in Punjab. But later the matter was resolved after talking to the CM of Himachal. The people of Himachal are completely safe in Punjab and it is my responsibility to keep them safe. He said that as an artist, he has given performances in various places of Himachal.

## HIMACHAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY: REVALUATION FEE DOUBLED, RE-INSPECTION FEE INCREASED BY RS 400, STUDENTS EXPRESSED THEIR ANGER

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Technical University Hamirpur has given shock to the students. The university has increased the fee for re-evaluation and re-inspection of answer sheets. Now students will have to pay almost double the fee for re-evaluation and re-inspection of answer sheets of various subjects. The university has issued a notification in this regard. According to the notification, students of B.Tech, BHMCT, B.Sc. HMCT, BBA, BCA, MBA, MCA and other courses who want to get re-evaluation and re-inspection done can apply online for getting photo copies of answer sheets till April 10. The fee for re-evaluation of one answer sheet will be one thousand rupees, whereas earlier this fee was 500 rupees. Apart from this, the re-inspection fee of one answer sheet will be 500 rupees. This fee used to be 100 rupees earlier. On the other hand, to get the photo copy of the answer sheet, now 1,500 rupees will have to be paid, which was 1,000 rupees earlier. Vice Chancellor of Technical University Prof. Shashi Kumar Dhiman said that the fee revision has happened after 11 years. The last fee revision was done in 2014. He said that a demand letter has been received to reduce the fee. Efforts will be made to reduce the fee a bit. The administration keeps the interests of the students.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: DESIGNS OF THREE TUNNELS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RENUKA DAM FINALIZED, CWC APPROVES, TENDERS WILL BE ISSUED SOON

**Diary Times Desk :** The designs of three tunnels (diversion tunnels) have been finalized for the construction of multi-dimensional Renuka Dam project of national importance. Central Water Commission (CWC) has finalized the design and approved it. Tenders for construction of tunnels will be invited soon. In fact, CWC has been appointed as the Chief Consultant of Renuka Dam. The project is to be constructed on their instructions. Before the construction of the project, construction of three diversion tunnels of about one and a half kilometer (1,500 meters) each is proposed. In this regard, a team of experts from about half a dozen institutions including CWC has visited the Renuka Dam site in Dadahu on January 23. During this, the possibilities of construction.

## HIMACHAL: 60 TEACHERS AND NON-TEACHERS OF THE STATE WILL LEARN GUJARAT MODEL OF EDUCATION

**Diary Times Desk :** To promote early childhood education in Himachal Pradesh, 60 teachers and non-teachers will go on an educational tour to Gujarat from April 18. Educational administrators have been selected for the exposure tour under the STAR scheme. Rajesh Sharma, Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, said that the purpose of this visit is to familiarize with the innovative ECCE practices of Gujarat, promote knowledge exchange and skill enhancement. This initiative is expected to make a significant contribution in strengthening early education policies and implementation in various districts. As per the approval of the Project Approval Board 2024-25, this team consisting of 60 educational administrators, state coordinators, early childhood care, education coordinators and pre-primary/master trainer.

## HPBOSE: EVALUATION OF CLASS 10TH AND 12TH ANSWER SHEETS WILL START FROM APRIL 7

**Diary Times Desk :** The evaluation of answer sheets of class 10th and 12th conducted by Himachal Pradesh School Education Board in March will start from 7th April. In the first phase, five subjects of both the classes will be evaluated. The appointment letters of the examiners who have given their consent will be made available on the login ID of the schools on 4th April. Himachal Pradesh School Education Board Secretary Dr. Major Vishal Sharma said that the evaluation of answer sheets of class 10th and 12th will start from 7th April. For this, the appointment letters of the examiners who have given their consent for appointment will be made available on the school's user ID on 4th April. In the first phase, the evaluation of answer sheets of English, Hindi, Science, Mathematics and Computer Science of class 10th and Hindi, Mathematics, Physics, Social Science and Economics subjects of class 12th will be started. He has informed all the school heads of the state to relieve their subordinate teachers from the evaluation work for the answer sheets on 7th April. At the same time, he has instructed the teachers appointed for evaluation.

## K ANNAMALAI TO STEP DOWN AS TAMIL NADU BJP CHIEF? HE SAYS...

**Diary Times Desk :** Adding fuel to speculation that he may be replaced as the president of the Tamil Nadu BJP, K Annamalai has said that he is not in the running to be the next state chief of the party. BJP sources said AIADMK chief Edapaddi K Palaniswami has made Mr Annamalai's removal a precondition for allying with the party again ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections next year. Mr Annamalai's criticism of AIADMK leaders was also seen as a key reason for the party snapping ties with the BJP in 2023. Replying to a question in Coimbatore on Friday, Mr Annamalai said, "I am not in the race to become the next president of the Tamil Nadu BJP". While the BJP hasn't made significant electoral gains in Tamil Nadu since Mr Annamalai was appointed the chief of the state unit in 2021, the 40-year-old is credited with giving it much more visibility, which is very important in a state that has proven to be nearly impenetrable for the party. Known for pulling no punches, the former IPS officer, engineer and MBA is one of the fiercest critics of the ruling DMK. He had captured the national spotlight when he flogged himself six times in December last year to mark the beginning of a mega protest against the DMK after a student of Chennai's Anna University was raped.

## PM MODI TO INAUGURATE INDIA'S FIRST VERTICAL LIFT SEA BRIDGE IN TAMIL NADU

**Diary Times Desk :** The new Pamban Rail Bridge, India's first vertical lift sea bridge, is all set to be inaugurated in Tamil Nadu on April 6, on the occasion of Ram Navami, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at about noon. He will flag off a train and a ship from the road bridge and witness the operation of the Bridge, according to a PMO statement. After the inauguration, he will perform darshan and pooja at Ramanathaswamy temple in Rameswaram. "The Bridge carries a deep cultural significance. According to the Ramayana, the construction of Ram Setu was initiated from Dhanushkodi near Rameswaram," it added. The Bridge, built at a cost of over Rs 550 crore and linking Rameswaram to the mainland, is 2.08 km in length, features 99 spans and a 72.5-metre vertical lift span that rises up to a height of 17 metres, facilitating smooth movement of ships while ensuring seamless train operations. Constructed with stainless steel reinforcement, high-grade protective paint and fully welded.

## "USING PARLIAMENT MAJORITY TO TAKE AWAY MUSLIMS' RIGHTS": ASADUDDIN OWAIISI TO NDTV ON WAQF BILL



**Diary Times Desk :** AIMIM chief and MP Asaduddin Owaisi filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the Rajya Sabha last night. One of the main contentions of Mr Owaisi was the inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf councils and state boards. In an interview to NDTV, the chief of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) also said the BJP government is using their majority in parliament not to reform, but to destroy and take away the rights of Muslims. "... If you see the central Waqf council, out of the 22 members, 11 can be and will be non-Muslims; 10 have to be Muslims. That is what the bill says. You come to the state Waqf board formation - out of 11, compulsory four have to be Muslims. The remaining can and will be non-Muslims," Mr Owaisi said. "So basically, you will be managing the affairs of the Waqf Board, which is not possible in the Hindu Endowment Board, the Jain Endowment Board, or the Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. That in itself is a grave violation of the Constitution... Unfortunately, the Home Minister was misleading deliberately," he said.

## PM GIFTS SARNATH BUDDHA STATUE, BROCADE SILK SHAWL TO THAILAND'S ROYAL FAMILY

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday gifted the brass statue of Sarnath Buddha in Dhyana Mudra to Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and a brocade silk shawl from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi to Thailand's Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana. PM Modi held a meeting with Thailand's King Vajiraklaochaoyuhua and Queen Bajrasudhabimalalakshana at Dusit Palace in Bangkok on Friday. The brass statue is a stunning representation of Buddhist spirituality and Indian craftsmanship, inspired by the Sarnath style. Originating from Bihar, the statue reflects the Gupta and Pala art traditions with its serene expression, intricately detailed robe, and iconic lotus pedestal. While the brocade silk shawl is a masterpiece of India's rich weaving tradition, crafted from the finest silk, it features intricate motifs depicting village life, divine celebrations, and nature, inspired by Indian miniature and Pichwai art.

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## RAJYA SABHA PASSES STATUTORY RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PRESIDENT'S RULE IN MANIPUR

**Diary Times Desk :** On Friday morning, Rajya Sabha passed a statutory resolution on the proclamation of the President's Rule in Manipur. At 2.36 am, after over 12 hours of discussion on The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, Union home minister Amit Shah moved the statutory resolution in the Rajya Sabha. It was approved by the House at 3.58 am after a discussion that saw the participation of 11 speakers, including Shah, who responded to the debate. The resolution was passed in the Upper House, a day after the Lok Sabha approved it at 2.40 am on Thursday. In the Lok Sabha, Shah had moved the resolution at 2 am. On Thursday evening, amid discussion of the Waqf Amendment bill 2025, the leader of the opposition in the house Mallikarjun Kharge requested the Chair to schedule the Manipur discussion for the following day as the Waqf Bill discussion would continue till late at night leaving little time for Manipur. The request was not heeded. The Chair informed the house that the matter was listed in the agenda for Thursday.

## "PLEASE STOP...": JOHN ABRAHAM LENDS MUSCLE TO HYDERABAD TREE-FELLING PROTESTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Throwing his weight behind the protests against the alleged cutting of trees in 400 acres of land in Kancha Gachibowli near the Hyderabad Central University, actor John Abraham has urged Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to "scrap the plan". The forest, the actor said, serves as a green lung for the city and clearing it would leave wildlife without a home. "Hon'ble CM @revanth\_anumula Garu, request you to scrap the plan of clearing 400 acres of trees/forest in Kancha Gachibowli which serve as a green lung for the city & also habitat for numerous species of protected wildlife thriving inside it for decades. Clearing the trees will leave wildlife without a home and exacerbate man-wildlife conflict. Please stop this," the actor posted on X on Friday with a folded hands emoji.



## QUAD MEMBERS PLEDGE AID WORTH \$20 MILLION FOR MYANMAR IN FACE OF CHINESE PRESENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Quad member states on Friday called for the expansion of a temporary ceasefire in Myanmar to facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to victims of last week's devastating earthquake, and said they had committed assistance with a combined value of more than \$20 million. A joint statement issued by the Quad, which groups India, Australia, Japan and the US, welcomed "recent commitments to temporary, partial ceasefires" and said the grouping is delivering relief supplies and deploying emergency medical teams in Myanmar. The joint statement was issued in the aftermath of reports that China has pledged to deliver supplies worth \$13.76 million at a time when the US has been largely absent in relief efforts following the gutting of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) by the Donald Trump administration. Of the Quad members, India has been at the forefront of relief efforts in Myanmar – it has despatched more than 600 tonnes of relief materials, including food items and medical supplies, and deployed a military field hospital and an 80-member search and rescue team.

## "HEARTBROKEN, WAS UNABLE TO MEET EXPECTATIONS": SOUTH KOREA'S YOON APOLOGIES



**Diary Times Desk :** South Korea's ousted president Yoon Suk Yeol apologised Friday after the country's Constitutional Court upheld his impeachment over a botched martial law declaration, immediately stripping him of office. "I am truly sorry and heartbroken that I was unable to meet your expectations," he said in a short statement released after the court announced its unanimous verdict.

## "MURDERER": PROTEST AS QUAKE-HIT MYANMAR JUNTA CHIEF JOINS BANGKOK SUMMIT

**Diary Times Desk :** Protesters displayed a banner calling Myanmar's junta chief a "murderer" as he joined a regional summit in Bangkok on Friday, a week after a huge earthquake killed thousands, leaving desperate survivors pleading for food and shelter. More than 3,000 people are confirmed dead after the 7.7-magnitude quake, and the United Nations estimates that up to three million may have been affected in some way -- many left without shelter after their homes were destroyed. Many nations have sent aid and rescue teams, but on the ground in some of the worst-hit areas there is little sign of Myanmar's ruling military helping survivors. Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing will hold talks with leaders from Bay of Bengal littoral nations at a plush Bangkok hotel on Friday. The decision to invite him has drawn criticism, and outside the venue protesters hung a banner from a bridge reading: "We do not welcome murderer Min Aung Hlaing." In Sagaing, the Myanmar city close to the epicentre of last week's quake and where an estimated 80 percent of buildings have been damaged.



## "THEY PLAYED IT WRONG, PANICKED": TRUMP ON CHINA'S TARIFF RETALIATION



**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump goaded a "panicked" China on Friday after the chief US economic rival retaliated against his tariffs and he dismissed stock market panic over the growing global trade war, touting the chance to "get rich." "China played it wrong, they panicked -- the one thing they cannot afford to do!" Trump posted on Truth Social, writing the message in his trademark all-caps. For a second day, markets plunged, wiping vast sums off investment and retirement portfolios alike. Wall Street opened with steep selloffs, both the Dow Jones and S&P 500 losing close to three percent. Frankfurt and London sank more than four percent, while Tokyo's Nikkei closed 2.8 percent down. Trump, who unveiled his barrage of import duties against countries all over the world on Wednesday, was unrepentant, posting that "my policies will never change." "This is a great time to get rich, richer than ever before," he wrote.

## NEPAL STRUCK BY BACK-TO-BACK EARTHQUAKES, STRONGEST WAS OF 5.5 MAGNITUDE

**Diary Times Desk :** Two back-to-back earthquakes struck western Nepal on Friday evening, occurring just three minutes apart, officials here said. The first tremor of magnitude 5.2 was recorded at 8:07 pm local time at Jajarkot district, followed by a stronger 5.5 magnitude earthquake at 8:10 pm, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring Centre. Both quakes had their epicentre in the Panik area of Jajarkot district, approximately 525 km west of Kathmandu. The tremors were felt across neighbouring districts, including Surkhet, Dailekh, and Kalikot in western Nepal. Despite the intensity of the quakes, there have been no immediate reports of casualties or significant damage. Nepal, situated in a seismically active zone, frequently experiences earthquakes. The region continues to be on alert, with authorities monitoring for any aftershocks or potential structural damage in the affected areas. The first tremor of magnitude 5.2 was recorded at 8:07 pm local time at Jajarkot district, followed by a stronger 5.5 magnitude earthquake at 8:10 pm.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN CATHOLIC PRIEST SHOT DEAD IN US' KANSAS, SUSPECT ARRESTED: 'SENSELESS ACT OF VIOLENCE'

**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian-origin Catholic priest was shot dead by a man in the United States's Kansas state on Thursday. The man who killed the priest approached him at his parish rectory, the Associated Press reported, citing church officials. The incident happened in Kansas' Seneca town. Sharing the news, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Archdiocese of Kansas City said in a Facebook post, "I am heartbroken to share the tragic news of the death of Fr. Arul Carasala, who was fatally shot earlier today. This senseless act of violence has left us grieving the loss of a beloved priest, leader, and friend." According to the website of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Arul Carasala was ordained a priest in 1994 in India and became pastor of the church on July 11, 2011. He had been serving in Kansas as a priest since 2004 after an archbishop invited him to visit and possibly serve in the Archdiocese. The AP report said he got his American citizenship in 2011. An old man walked up to Carasala and shot him three times, Kris Anderson, the parish's director of religious education, told AP, however, she did not know the identity of the shooter and the reason behind the killing.

## 'JUST LIKE THAT': YEMENI FAMILIES DESTROYED BY US AIR STRIKES

**Diary Times Desk :** On the evening of March 15, Ammar Mohammed\* strolled through the vibrant streets of a modern residential neighbourhood in northern Sanaa. The tall, slim man was nattily dressed and expecting a delicious meal at a relative's home. The pleasant spring air, cooled after sunset, carried the rich aromas of home-cooked dishes as families prepared to break their fast on the last day of Ramadan. The two-storey house of his wife's relatives, the al-Zeinis\*, was lit up, as with the other tightly packed homes on that street. Even from a distance, he could see rows of windows glowing warmly and felt the hum of life radiating from behind closed doors he walked past, as people chatted, children squealed, and cutlery clattered. He was looking forward to iftar and to his wife joining him later at her relatives' home for a post-iftar gathering. The street was bustling – mosque speakers echoed Quranic recitations, children chased each other barefoot over the asphalt, and the clatter of bustling kitchens spilled from open doorways. A deafening roar shattered the calm, a blinding orange flash turning everything into a terrifying artificial dawn. The ground convulsed beneath him.

## AS SUKHBIR, MAJITHIA REGRET OVER REMARKS, SC DISPOSES OF PLEA FILED BY JUDGE WHO PROBED PUNJAB SACRILEGE INCIDENTS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has closed the proceedings on a petition filed by Justice (retd) Ranjit Singh against Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders Sukhbir Singh Badal and Bikram Singh Majithia for allegedly making certain adverse remarks against the commission headed by him to probe into the 2017 sacrilege incidents in Punjab. A Bench of Justice MM Sundresh and Justice Rajesh Bindal disposed of Justice Singh's petition challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court's 2019 order dismissing his complaint accusing Badal and Majithia of bringing him and his commission on sacrilege into disrepute after they expressed remorse over their statement. Senior counsel Puneet Bali told the Bench that the SAD leaders have decided to apologise even as senior advocate Nidhesh Gupta, representing Justice Singh, contested Bali's submission pointing out that the affidavit only said "hurt, if any, we regret that". In identical but separate affidavits submitted in the top court, Badal and Majithia said, "That I deeply regret if any statement made by me has caused any hurt to Hon'ble Mr. Justice (retd) Ranjit Singh." The SAD leaders, however, said they were "in complete disagreement with the findings of the reports submitted on June 30, 2018, and August 16, 2018."



## MYSTERY OF 15-LAKH REMAINS UNSOLVED IN CASH AT JUDGE'S DOOR CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** Though the CBI court in Chandigarh has acquitted all accused, including Justice (retired) Nirmal Yadav in the Cash at Judge's Door case, the mystery regarding the Rs 15 lakhs seized by the CBI during the investigation 17 years ago is still unsolved. The CBI registered the case after Parkash Ram, a clerk of Sanjiv Bansal, then Additional Advocate General of Haryana, arrived at the residence of a then sitting Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Nirmaljit Kaur, on August 13, 2008, with a plastic bag in his hand. When the bag was opened, it was found containing currency notes. On the direction of Justice Nirmaljit Kaur, police were called, and one Sub Inspector of Chandigarh Police took custody of Prakash Ram along with the bag brought by him. The Station House Officer of Police Sector 11, Chandigarh, Ramesh Chand Sharma seized the bag and counted the notes, which were found to be Rs. 15 lakhs in all. After registering the case on August 16, 2008, by the Chandigarh Police, the Chandigarh Administration handed over the investigation to the CBI on August 26, 2008.

## MAIN ACCUSED ARRESTED IN PU SOUTH CAMPUS STABBING CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The police arrested the main accused, a 17-year-old juvenile, in the South Campus stabbing case today. Panjab University student Aditya Thakur died after being stabbed at a musical concert on the Sector 25 campus on March 28. The police have also recovered the murder weapon from the juvenile, who is a resident of Mani Majra. Earlier, a team, led by Sector II SHO arrested Lavish (19), Uday (19), Sahil (18) and Raghav (20) from Mani Majra. On April 2, the court extended the accused's police remand for three days. Their interrogation revealed that the accused had used fake ID proof to gain entry into the concert venue. Meanwhile, one of the student groups called off their protest after the Panjab University authorities announced an ex gratia of Rs 12.5 lakh for the family of Aditya Thakur. The authorities also agreed to providing free.

## 1984 RIOTS: COURT RECORDS DELHI SIKH BODY EX-CHIEF'S STATEMENT AGAINST TYTLER

**Diary Times Desk :** A Delhi court on Friday recorded the statement of former Delhi Sikh Gurdawara Management Committee (DSGMC) president Manjit Singh GK as a prosecution witness in a 1984-anti Sikh riots case against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler. Appearing before special judge Jitendra Singh, GK said he had received a pen drive allegedly containing the voice recording of Tytler confessing his role in the riots. He claimed having received an envelope at his house in 2018, containing a letter and the pen drive, which he later handed over to the CBI, which was investigating the matter. GK said Tytler, who was present in the court, had threatened a witness in the case. GK will continue recording his statement on April 21. The case is linked to the killings of three persons at Gurdwara Pul Bangash in the national capital in 1984. The judge on November 12, 2024 concluded recording the statement of Lakhvinder Kaur, the widow of Badal Singh, who was killed by a mob at Gurdwara Pul Bangash during the riots. The court framed charges of murder and other offences against Tytler on September 13 last year.

## ED ARRESTS KINGPIN OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SYNDICATE FROM JALANDHAR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has arrested a Punjab-based kingpin of an international narcotics syndicate. The accused, Akshay Chhabra, was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on April 2 from Jalandhar, the federal probe agency said in a statement. He is currently in ED custody. As per the ED, Chhabra was the kingpin of an international drug syndicate being run from Ludhiana in Punjab. The agency had raided his residence in October last year. "He managed to import drugs from Afghanistan in the name of shell/fake entities and supplied them further," the ED said in the statement. "Huge proceeds of crime were generated out of this illegal drug trade, which were infused in immovable properties, liquor business, and transferred out of India through different hawala channels," the ED said. The money laundering case against Chhabra and his associates stems from a complaint lodged by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), alleging that 20.32 kg of heroin was seized from his possession sometime back. Chhabra and his associates were involved in the manufacturing and sale of illicit drugs; they used to process smuggled morphine/raw heroin through two Afghanistan nationals and distributed the processed.

## RAJASTHAN SHUTS SIX ILLEGAL PATHWAYS IN ARAVALLIS; CM WRITES TO HARYANA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Rajasthan Government has ordered the closure of six roads being constructed illegally by the mining mafia in the Aravallis to connect Haryana. State Chief Minister Bhajan Lal has ordered an inquiry and initiated a crackdown after reports emerged of hills being removed and trees felled illegally to carve out pathways to ferry mined resources between the two states. Bhajan Lal has further written to his Haryana counterpart Nayab Singh Saini highlighting the menace involving the mining mafia operating from Rajasthan. "We have a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal mining and undertaken several measures to counter this. There are reports of the mining mafia making illegal roads between Rajasthan and Haryana. These are being used to transport illegally mined resources. This is not possible without active connivance of local authorities. We are probing this and will take penal action against those found involved," said the Rajasthan CM and added that the authorities had been asked to shut such roads on their side. "We have alerted Haryana for proper action in this regard," said the CM, while addressing officials in Deeg district through video conferencing.

## CAR WITHOUT NUMBER PLATE, FARIDABAD MAN TRIES TO RUN OVER COP

**Diary Times Desk :** A driver allegedly attempted to run over a police constable here in Faridabad as the officer stopped his car, which had tinted glasses and no number plate, police said on Friday. The driver made three attempts to run the constable over, before he got stuck at a traffic jam and was arrested, they said. According to the complaint, Constable Sadiq said he was checking vehicles at the metro turn, along with Sub-Inspector Mahavir and home guard Gaurav. "When I saw a car without a number plate and tinted glasses coming at a high speed, I signalled it to stop. Instead of stopping, the driver tried to run over me, but I escaped narrowly," he said. He took help of a passer-by and chased the car on the latter's motorcycle. "The car driver hit me again near the roundabout and an attempt was made again on Dabua road as well but the car had to stop due to a traffic jam ahead. After this, the driver was nabbed," Sadiq said in his complaint. Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered and police arrested the driver.

## BHAGVATA PURANA TEACHES US VALUES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, SERVICE: CM

**Diary Times Desk :** The Bhagavata Purana teaches us the eternal values of righteousness, devotion and service. It reminds us that true happiness comes from surrendering to the divine and embracing a life of virtue, said Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday. He was participating in the 42nd Akhil Bharat Shrimad Bhagavata Maha Sathram at Sri Bhagavathy Temple at Alappuzha in Kerala. The Chief Minister praised the Maha Sathram as a powerful reminder of the rich spiritual heritage of India. He lauded the Gopika Sangam, which features 16,008 gopikas and children, as a remarkable initiative reflecting the essence of 'Bhakti', pure and unconditional love for the divine. Sukhu congratulated the organisers for preserving and promoting these sacred traditions, ensuring that future generations remain connected to their spiritual roots. He said, "Kerala is a beacon of spirituality, where devotion and culture are deeply intertwined. Such a gathering holds a great significance in uniting people from different states and communities through faith."

## IIIT UNA'S TECHNOLOGICAL FEST KICKS OFF

**Diary Times Desk :** The three-day technological festival Meraki 2025 was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una, marking the third edition of the event in the past three years. Over 800 students from premier institutions, across India, are participating in the fest. During the opening ceremony, IIIT Una Director Prof Manish Gaur welcomed the guests of honour — Prof Manikant Paswan, Director of Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology, Punjab, and Prof Anil Kumar Tripathi, Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali. Prof Gaur said Meraki 2025 provides a platform for students and innovators to share their passion for tech and innovation. He noted for the first time, the festival has attracted participants from national-level institutions. The three-day technological festival Meraki 2025 was inaugurated at the (IIIT) Una.

## HIMACHAL'S GADDI SHEPHERDS FEAR LOSING LIVELIHOOD AS US IMPOSES 26% TARIFF

**Diary Times Desk :** The recent announcement by US President Donald Trump of a 26 per cent tariff on goods exported from India to the US has sparked concern among the gaddi shepherds of Himachal Pradesh. The Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) of Baijnath and Bara Bhangal, along with NGOs of farmers in the Kangra district, export approximately 2.5 lakh kg of raw organic wool to the US each year. This export enables the gaddi shepherds of the Kangra and Chamba districts to earn a decent income, supplementing their existing earnings. However, the imposition of a 26 per cent tariff on all imports from India has raised concerns about the viability of organic wool exports from Himachal Pradesh. Akshay Jasrotia, head of the FPO in Baijnath, stated that they are assessing the impact of the tariffs imposed by the US President. He noted that the 26 per cent tariff would put them at a disadvantage compared to other wool-producing countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, Peru, and Turkey, which face a lower tariff of 10 per cent. Jasrotia mentioned that they have contacted US companies that import wool from them and are also assessing the situation.



## PUNJAB AND HIMACHAL ARE LIKE BROTHERS WHO LIVE PEACEFULLY: CM BHAGWANT MANN

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann today said Punjab has no dispute with Himachal Pradesh over water, liquor, or any other issue, as the two states have very cordial relations. Mann, along with his wife and other family members, paid obeisance at the Naina Devi temple in Bilaspur district. "Punjab and Himachal are like brothers who live peacefully, and there were stray incidents of attacks on buses in Punjab and bikes in Himachal," he said. "I also spoke with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, after which the situation is absolutely normal." "The fight against drugs has to be very persistent, with cooperation from every section," he said. "In Punjab, panchayats have passed resolutions to rid their areas of drugs, so that the youth can be saved from falling prey to addiction." "It's not easy, but one step is to curtail the drugs supply chain," he said. "Along with this, we need to upgrade rehabilitation centres, identify hotspots." He said his government undertook a massive reshuffle and transferred officials who were allegedly involved in the drugs racket. Following this, heroin worth crores has been seized, and properties of those engaged in the illegal drug trade have been attached. "Himachal was once known for sending youth to the Army.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS LOOMS, HIMACHAL'S BIRTH RATE CRASHES BELOW 12

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh is undergoing a significant demographic transformation, with birth rates declining sharply over the past two decades — from 20.5 to below 12. In 2005, when the state's population stood at approximately 65 lakh, around 1.34 lakh births were registered. By 2024, despite the population rising to an estimated 80 lakh, only about 88,000 births were recorded — a drop of nearly 45,000 annual births in just 20 years. The last time the state recorded fewer than 90,000 births was in 1994, with roughly 82,000 registrations. However, at that time, the population was under 55 lakh. Births had steadily increased after 1995, peaking at 1.40 lakh in 2006 — the highest ever recorded in the state. Between 2005 and 2010, the annual birth rate remained stable, but after 2010, it started witnessing a steady decline, falling below one lakh in 2018 and dipping under 90,000 in 2024. The dwindling number of births is now reflected in school enrollments, particularly in government schools. According to Ashish Kohli, Director of the Directorate of School Education, student numbers in government schools have plummeted.

## LAND PARTITION CASES TO BE DECIDED IN SIX MONTHS: NEGI

**Diary Times Desk :** In a relief for landowners stuck in ancestral land partition cases for decades, the Himachal Government has decided to make the process of land partition in the state time-bound. The government has made provisions in the Revenue Act under which the officials concerned dealing with land partition cases will have to decide these within six months. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi told The Tribune in Dharamsala yesterday that the state government had made amendments to the Revenue Act. Under the new provisions, the revenue officials had been given powers to decide land partition cases ex-parte if one of the parties did not appear after summons were issued. Negi said that thousands of people in state were waiting to get their ancestral land partitioned as one of the parties kept on objecting to the process or did not appear in the cases. "Many such cases are lingering in revenue courts for decades. With the new amendments in the Revenue Act, the officials concerned will be directed to decide land partition cases in six months even if they have to do it ex-parte. This will help many people in the state get the possession of their ancestral lands and use it," the minister added.



## HARDIK HEROICS IN VAIN AS LSG GO 6-1 UP VS MI

**Diary Times Desk :** Tilak Varma retired out, and Hardik Pandya farmed strike. But the last-ditch effort wasn't enough for Mumbai Indians (MI) to register a come-from-behind win against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG). LSG have now won six of their seven games against the five-time champions, and the one in Lucknow on Friday was on the back of half-centuries from openers Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram. For MI, Naman Dhir made an explosive 46, and Suryakumar Yadav continued his return to form with a 43-ball 67. But LSG's death bowlers stood tall against an experienced MI batting line-up in the end. With 52 runs needed off the last four overs, ESPNcricinfo's forecaster gave MI a 36.9% chance of winning. With Suryakumar and Tilak at the crease, and Hardik to follow, the equation rather seemed closer to fifty-fifty. Avesh Khan changed that equation by dismissing Suryakumar to start the 17th over. The batter pre-meditated a sweep, and he went through with it despite the ball being well outside the off-side tramline. The catch was taken at deep-backward square leg.



## MITCHELL MARSH RE-SIGNS FOR THREE YEARS WITH PERTH SCORCHERS IN BBL

**Diary Times Desk :** Mitchell Marsh hopes to be a one-club player in the BBL after re-signing with Perth Scorchers for the next three years. Australia's T20I captain was out of contract at the end of last season and was not part of Scorchers' ten pre-signed players prior to the player movement window, which led to some speculation as to whether he might be on the move. But Marsh was given some time by Scorchers to assess what his future looked like after losing his spot in the Test side in January. Australia's chairman of selectors George Bailey did suggest earlier this week that the door was not closed on Marsh's Test career. But Marsh has committed to Scorchers for the next three years and indicated that he expects to be playing much more BBL cricket, after playing just one game for Scorchers in the past three seasons. "I'm really proud to sign on with the Scorchers, a team that I've played with since I was a kid, and a franchise that has looked after me incredibly well," Marsh said.

## HOME CHALLENGE FOR PBKS AS ROYALS SEARCH FOR SPARK

**Diary Times Desk :** Home can either be a fortress or a formidable challenge. Even for a team like Chennai Super Kings, who have the best win record in home matches, conditions at Chepauk have proven to be tricky in recent years, with the side losing three out of their last six games there. Nevertheless, having a core group of players year after year at a familiar venue is a major advantage, something teams like CSK have relied on. In this context, the Punjab Kings present a completely different story. Since the 2023 season, PBKS have had three different venues they've called home. From the PCA stadium in Mohali, they shifted base to Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, while also playing home matches in Dharamsala. Four losses out of five games in Mullanpur (where they play four matches this season) and a winless record in Dharamsala (where they play three games in 2025) come as a stiff challenge for the new-look PBKS, who will become the last team this season to play their maiden home match. However, setting past records aside, the Kings have made a promising start this season. They are one of only two teams yet to face defeat, boasting a well-balanced squad and a wealth of leadership experience in captain Shreyas Iyer and head coach Ricky Ponting.

## CSK TO TAKE LATE CALL ON GAIKWAD'S AVAILABILITY AGAINST DC

**Diary Times Desk :** Chennai Super Kings skipper Rituraj Gaikwad isn't a certain starter for their next clash against Delhi Capitals. Gaikwad got hit on the elbow while batting in CSK's last game against Rajasthan Royals and looked in visible pain. While he did resume and even went on to even register his second fifty of the tournament, Gaikwad didn't train for a couple of days in the build up to the match with his elbow remaining sore. On the eve of the game, batting coach Michael Hussey remained optimistic of Gaikwad regaining full fitness but was quick to point out that a final call will be taken based on how he pulls up during the training session on Friday (April 4). "He's going to try and have a bat today for training. And, yeah, it's still a little bit sore, but it's improving every day. So, we're very hopeful, very confident that he'll be fine for tomorrow," Hussey said. The 28-year-old is extremely vital to CSK's fortunes given their early struggles with the bat this season, especially with the five-time champions seeking a win after back-to-back losses. In case Gaikwad isn't deemed fit for the afternoon clash on Saturday, Hussey hinted that former captain MS Dhoni could be an option to lead the side. "I'm sure Fleming and Rutu have thought about that," Hussey said.

## "BIGGEST FRAUD": RISHABH PANT ROASTED BRUTALLY AS POOR RUN CONTINUES FOR LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Rishabh Pant's poor run in IPL 2025 is turning into a terrible one. He has failed to shine in batting and has not been impressive on captaincy front too. Pant, who became the costliest player in IPL history after Lucknow Super Giants bought him for INR 27 crore at the mega auction last year, has scored only 19 runs across four matches in the ongoing season. He started IPL 2025 with a six-ball duck before scoring run-a-ball 15. Pant scored two off five balls in the following match and then got dismissed for two off six balls. His latest innings came against Mumbai Indians on Friday as Hardik Pandya sent him packing in 11th over of LSG's innings at Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. Pant's fourth failure in IPL 2025 subjected him to criticism. The social media was full with posts trolling him. Earlier, when LSG mentor Zaheer Khan was asked about Pant's form as a batter, he said that he team has to back him as he is the skipper. "We always have to find a way as he is our captain. Everyone has expectations from him and I believe the way he has done well as a captain, he will also contribute as a player," Zaheer said in the post-match press conference. While Zaheer backed the team captain, he did not hold back in his criticism of the home-ground pitch following the heavy defeat to Punjab Kings. Chasing 172 on a track that offered grip and variable bounce.

## BUMRAH CLOSER TO RETURN BUT LIKELY TO MISS AT LEAST MUMBAI INDIANS' NEXT TWO GAMES

**Diary Times Desk :** Jasprit Bumrah will not only miss Friday's IPL 2025 game for Mumbai Indians (MI) against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) but is also doubtful for MI's next game, at home against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on April 7. However, ESPNcricinfo has learned that Bumrah, who has been in rehab since January following a stress-related discomfort in his lower back, is getting closer to returning to action. He has been building his bowling workload in recent weeks at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru and is understood to be close to taking the final round of fitness tests. Only after he gets the all-clear from the BCCI medical team can Bumrah link up with MI and play in the IPL. Bumrah, it is understood, has been cautious himself and wants to ensure he is totally fit before returning to action. This is keeping in mind India's five-Test series in England, starting on June 28.

