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NEET SCAM NEWS

BIHAR POLICE ARREST 2024 NEET-UG EXAM LEAK MASTERMIND, PROBE UNDERWAY

Diary Times Desk: Bihar police's Economic Offence Unit (EOU) has arrested the alleged mastermind in the 2024 The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) UG paper leak case. Sanjeev Mukhia, the alleged mastermind, is also suspected of involvement in multiple exam leak cases, news agency ANI reported.

Mukhiya's arrest was confirmed by Nayyar Husnain Khan, additional director general of the EOU, who was arrested on Thursday night. Earlier on April 9, Bihar police announced cash rewards between ₹1 lakh and ₹3 lakh for those assisting in arresting the accused Mukhia and his associates, Shubham Kumar and Rajkishore Kumar Shah. The investigation revealed that on May 5, 2024, the NEET UG question paper was stolen from the control room of the OASIS School in Hazaribagh.

According to a Hindustan Times report, the officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) were also present during the interrogation to question the accused. Citing officials, the report said that the accused was hiding in an apartment at Sarguna More near Danapur police station. The report mentions probing agencies, including EOU and CBI, were unable to track Mukhia, months after filing a case against him. Agencies involved in the investigation have found that Mukhia's gang operates across multiple states, including Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab. Mukhia's gang is also suspected of involvement in leaking question papers for multiple recruitment examinations, such as those for veterinary doctors and English teachers in Haryana, along with other tests held in Uttar Pradesh.



SIKKIM NEWS

OVER 1,100 TOURISTS RESCUED IN LANDSLIDE-HIT SIKKIM, 1,800 STRANDED



Diary Times Desk: Around 1,100 tourists stranded in north Sikkkm's Chungthang town following landslides were evacuated by the authorities on Friday, while 1,800 others are awaiting rescue from two other popular hill stations in Mangan district, officials said.

The administration is bringing the evacuated travellers to the state capital Gangtok, around 100 km from Chungthang. Those tourists, who spent Thursday night in a gurdwara, left in about 200 vehicles, officials said. From Chungthang, the vehicles reached Mangan, the district headquarters, via a reconstructed bailey bridge at Sangkalang which was opened for traffic movement.

Officials said that efforts were also on to clear the roads as fast as possible to evacuate around 1,800 other tourists stuck in Lachung and Lachen. Roads to Lachen and Lachung remained closed due to mudslides caused by heavy rainfall on Thursday evening. Tourists need to travel via Chungthang to reach Lachung and Lachen, hill stations known for their natural beauty and proximity to popular tourist destinations like Gurudongmar Lake and Yumthang Valley.

The district administration has made all necessary arrangements to ensure the well-being of the tourists stranded in Lachung and Lachen. Meanwhile, Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur said that all tourists are safe in various places in north Sikkim. Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has been personally supervising the rescue operations of the stranded tourists, he said. In a related development, the Mangan district administration has announced suspension of all tourist permits for the time being. Permits already issued for travel have been declared invalid, officials said, adding the tour operators have been instructed not to send any tourists northward until further notice.

CENTRE DEFENDS WAQF ACT IN SUPREME COURT; SAYS IT WAS NEEDED TO CURB LAND GRAB

Diary Times Desk: The Centre on Friday defended the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, before the Supreme Court, saying it was needed to curb the misuse of Waqf law provisions to encroach private and government land. In an affidavit filed in response to petitions challenging the amendment, the Centre defended abolition of 'waqf by user' and inclusion of non-Muslims in the Central Wagf Council and State Waqf Boards. Regarding abolition of 'waqf by user', it said despite there being a regime of mandatory registration for all kinds of waqf since 1923, individuals or organisations used to claim private lands and government lands as wagf. Such claims "not only lead to deprivation of valuable property rights of individual citizens but similarly unauthorised claims over public properties," it contended. "Waqf by user does not deprive a person of the Muslim community to create a waqf. It impinges on the form by which such a dedication is to be made, which is the secular dimension of the dedication, and not the right of an individual to dedicate his or her property to God," it contended



IDENTIFY PAKISTANIS IN YOUR STATES AND SEND THEM **BACK: AMIT SHAH TO CMS**

Diary Times Desk: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday dialled the chief ministers of all the states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country, sources said. India on Thursday announced revoking all visas issued to Pakistani nationals from April 27 and advised Indian nationals residing in Pakistan to return home at the earliest, as tensions between the two countries escalated over the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, on Tuesday. The Home Minister personally called up the chief ministers of all the states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline, sources said. The chief ministers were also told to identify the Pakistani nationals staying in their respective areas and ensure their deportation, the sources said. India on Thursday announced revoking all visas issued to Pakistani nationals

GOVT REVOKES 14 CATEGORIES OF VISAS GIVEN TO PAKISTANI NATIONALS



Diary Times Desk: The government revoked 14 categories of visas, including those of business, conference, visitor and pilgrim, given to Pakistani nationals following the terror attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 people were killed, the Union Home Ministry said on Friday. Following the Cabinet Committee on Security's decision, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday called up the chief ministers of all the states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country. After Shah's telephonic conversations with the chief ministers, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan also held a video-conference with the chief secretaries of all the states and asked them to ensure that all Pakistani nationals whose visas were revoked must leave India by the fixed deadline. In a communication to all state governments, the home ministry said the order will not apply to Long Term Visas and diplomatic and official visas issued to Pakistani nationals. According to the Home Ministry order, those holding SAARC visas must leave India by April 26 and those having visas on arrival, business, film, journalist, transit, conference, mountaineering, student, visitor, group tourist and pilgrim visas must leave India by April 27.

'WE'VE BEEN DOING WEST'S DIRTY WORK FOR DECADES': MINISTER ADMITS PAKISTAN FUNDED, TRAINED TERRORISTS

Diary Times Desk: Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has admitted the country's history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations as "dirty work" for the West, a mistake for which he said Pakistan had suffered. In an interview with Sky News aired overnight, news presenter Yalda Hakim questioned Asif on Pakistan's response and stance on terrorism in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people earlier this week. "You do admit, sir, that Pakistan has had a long history of backing and supporting and training and funding these terrorist organisations," asked Hakim. "Well, we have been doing this dirty work for the United States for about three decades, you know, and the West, including Britain," replied Asif.





YOUR HOROSCOPE

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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.

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.

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.

Today is aoina 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

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 pain and headache may bother you.

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.

Today, you will meet old friends, which Today you will get success as your long 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.

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 increased difficulties ue to arguments v business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a

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

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.

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 face difficulties in repaying ess loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

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.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK: CONGRESS TOOK OUT A CANDLE MARCH IN SHIMLA, PAID TRIBUTE TO THOSE KILLED IN PAHALGAM

Diary Times Desk: Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh has said that asking about religion and killing unarmed people is nothing less than war. Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh said that the Central Government and the Prime Minister should give a befitting reply to Pakistan. We are together in this matter. Meanwhile, the All Himachal Hotel and Restaurant Association has strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam. Association President Gaiendra Chand Thakur has expressed condolences on behalf of Himachal tourism businessmen to the families of those killed in the terrorist attack. Sarv Devta Seva Samiti Mandi has strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The committee says that the way bullets were fired on the tourists who had come to visit is condemnable. Dev Samaj strongly opposes this. Devta Samiti has appealed to the central government to take the strictest action against the terrorists so that such incidents do not happen in future.



PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK: MANY MARKETS REMAINED CLOSED FOR THE SECOND DAY IN PROTEST AGAINST THE TERRORIST ATTACK

Diary Times Desk: Many markets remained closed till 11:00 am on Friday for the second consecutive day in Himachal Pradesh in protest against the killing of innocents in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Traders of Solan kept the market closed till 11:00 am. During this time, many shops including hotels, dhabas, milk, bread also remained closed. Earlier on Thursday, demonstrations were held across the district. Late in the evening, traders took out a torch procession in Baddi. Arki market remained closed. At the same time, traders and Hindu organizations in Solan and Nalagarh burnt the effiay of Pakistan, Market Committee Thural. Ex-Serviceman Welfare Committee and local Hindu organizations kept the entire market closed till 11:00 am on Friday in protest against the terrorist attack on Hindus in Pahalgam hill station of Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.

HIMACHAL: PANDOH BYPASS WILL BE THREE AND A HALF KM LONG, TUNNEL WILL BE 900 METERS LONG

Diary Times Desk: Under the Pandoh-Takoli bypass project, the Pandoh bypass will be about three and a half kilometers long. A 900 meter long tunnel will also be built in this bypass. Its proposal has been made by NHAI and sent to the ministry. Work will be done here after alignment approval. According to this alianment, tourists will not be able to see the Pandoh Dam. All major cities and towns are bypasses in the Kiratpur-Manali four lane. At present, traffic is passing through Pandoh Bazaar only. Traffic is reaching the Kanchi Mor ropeway via Pandoh Bazaar via Pandoh Dam. In the proposed alignment, this bypass will pass through Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) and a 900 meter long tunnel will be built from the hill in front. Apart from two major bridges, there will also be other small bridges on this project. After alignment approval from the ministry, this work will start on the ground. In view of the safety of the Pandoh Dam, BBMB had objected to the previously made alignment.

SHIMLA AGREEMENT: PAKISTAN'S COMMEMORATIVE FLAG PLACED ON THE HISTORIC TABLE OF SHIMLA AGREEMENT REMOVED FROM HIMACHAL RAJ BHAVAN

Diary Times Desk: The Pakistan commemorative flag placed on the historic table of Shimla Agreement has been removed from Himachal Pradesh Raj Bhavan. An agreement was signed in Shimla on 2 July 1972 to build better relations between India and Pakistan. The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed the agreement in Barnes Court (now Raj Bhavan). Memories were preserved by placing old photographs along with the flags of India and Pakistan on the table of Shimla Agreement. After Pakistan's statement of cancelling the agreement, the Raj Bhavan has removed the Pakistan flag which was mocking the table. After the Pahalgam terrorist attack, now only the tricolor has been placed on the table in memory of the Shimla Agreement. The Shimla Agreement was signed between India and Pakistan on 2 July 1972. The table used to sign this agreement has been kept as a heritage in the Raj Bhavan. Every person who comes to the Raj Bhavan involuntarily looks at the table. Everyone who comes here also takes photos with the table. The flags of India and Pakistan were placed on the table.

IPL 2025: TICKET SALES RESUME FOR MAY 4 MATCH AT DHARAMSHALA CRICKET STADIUM

Diary Times Desk: The online ticket sale for the match between Punjab and Lucknow to be held on May 4 at the International Cricket Stadium, Dharamshala, has started again. The franchise started the online ticket sale at 6:00 pm on Thursday evening but the ticket prices have been increased from Rs 250 to Rs 1000. Now cricket lovers will have to book tickets by paving a little more. The franchise has started the ticket sale of eight stands. In this, the ticket of East Stand-2, which was earlier available for Rs 1500, is now available for Rs 1750. The ticket of West Stand-2 is available for Rs 2500 instead of Rs 1500. The tickets for North-1 Stand and North-2 Stand, which were available for Rs 1500, are now available for Rs 2000, while the ticket of Rs 6000 is now available for Rs 7000. The booking of Pavilion Terrace Stand has also opened. Cricket lovers can book tickets for Rs 7500. With the demand for tickets for Dharamshala matches increasing, the franchise can increase the prices of tickets for other matches in the future. HPCA secretary Avnish Parmar said that increasing or decreasing the price of tickets is the franchise's prerogative. HPCA has no interference in this.

HIMACHAL NEWS: HIMACHAL HIGH COURT SAID- DGP'S TENURE SHOULD BE FIXED, THE BOARD SHOULD APPOINT AND PROMOTE OFFICERS

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HIMACHAL PRADESH: WATER IN WATER SOURCES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH DECREASED BY TEN PERCENT

Diary Times Desk: In Himachal Pradesh, water in water sources has decreased by an average of 10 percent. The drinking water crisis may worsen as the summer progresses. Despite light rainfall in the state, water shortage has started to be seen in water sources. The effect of less snowfall and less rainfall in winter is being seen on these sources, while the Jal Shakti Department is again calling for a report in this regard, so that the problem of drinking water crisis can be dealt with in the coming time. While water was being released daily in the rural areas of the state, in many places it is now being sent on alternate days. In many areas, the water in drinking water sources has decreased by up to 30 percent, while in many areas it has decreased by 5 to 20 percent. At the same time, Anju Sharma, Chief Engineer of the State Government's Jal Shakti Department, said that it is true that due to less snowfall and less rainfall in Himachal Pradesh.

"WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO...": TOP COURT WARNS RAHUL GANDHI FOR SAVARKAR REMARKS

Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court on Friday warned Rahul Gandhi against making adverse remarks about freedom fighters as it stayed a trial court summons over remarks about VD Savarkar. A bench of Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Manmohan warned the Congress leader from making further derogatory remarks against Savarkar, noting he is "worshipped" in Maharashtra. Mr Gandhi will face consequences if he persists, the court said, "We won't allow any statements against our freedom fighters. Next, someone will say Mahatma Gandhi was a 'servant to the British'." "Does your client know Gandhi also used 'your faithful servant' while addressing the Viceroy? Does your client know his grandmother, when she was Prime Minister, sent a letter praising the gentleman?" In further strong comments, the court also said, "They gave us freedom and you treat them like this..." and labelled Mr Gandhi's earlier comment on Sayarkar "irresponsible".

'DOING DIRTY WORK FOR US, WEST...': PAK MINISTER ADMITS TO FUNDING TERRORISM

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's defence minister admitted to doing "dirty work" for the US and the West when asked whether Islamabad has a history of funding and backing terror groups. Khwaja M Asif was speaking to British news network Sky News. During the interview, the minister was asked, "Do you admit, sir, that Pakistan has had a long history of backing and supporting and training and funding these terrorist organizations?" To which the Pakistani minister said, "We have been doing this dirty work for the US for the past three decades, including the West and the United Kinadom." However, he was quick to call it a "mistake" and said Pakistan "suffered because of that." He added that Pakistan's track record would have "unimpeachable" had Islamabad not joined the West during the Soviet-Afghan war and the US-led war against the Taliban after 9/11. The Pakistan minister's admission of doing "dirty work" by backing terrorists for the US and West comes in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 innocent civilians were shot dead at a picnic spot in Baisaran valley. Pakistan supported the United States in the Soviet-Afghan war by training and harbouring armed militants to fight the Soviets. The proxy war between the US and the Soviets gave Pakistan an important role.

'IN HA***ZAADO NE ...': OWAISI ABUSES TERRORISTS, PAKISTAN IN HARSH REACTION AFTER PAHALGAM ATTACK



Diary Times Desk: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday used harsh words and expletives to lash out at the terrorists who carried out the deadly Pahalgam attack and blamed Pakistan for the dastardly incident. "Inn ka***no, ha***zaado ne jo harkat ki, wahan par naam pooch kar goli maare, samudaaya pooch kar marein, iski accountability toh honi chaiye. Aur yakeenan ye dehshatgar humare padosi mulk Pakistan se aaye, Pakistan ke ISI, Pakistan ka establishment, unka poora support inko haasil hai," the Lok Sabha MP said in Hyderabad. The statement translated to: "The terrorists, what they did, asking people their names and then killing them, there must be accountability. They came from Pakistan and are backed by Pakistan's ISI and establishment." Owaisi's remarks earned him praise from netizens, including even those who often target him for his stance on various issues. Social media users said that Owaisi was "far better" than other opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav in condemning the attack.

"DOCUMENTS MISSING IN CHARGESHEET": COURT TO PROBE AGENCY ED IN HERALD CASE

Diary Times Desk: A Delhi court on Friday refused to issue notice to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and others in the National Herald money laundering case for now. Special judge Vishal Gogne was acting on a plea of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which claimed cognisance of the complaint (ED's equivalent to a chargesheet) cannot be taken without hearing the accused according to the new provisions of law. "Don't want this order to be prolonged. Let notice be issued," ED told the court. The judge, however, said before the court is satisfied that notice is required, it couldn't "pass such an order". Before court passes any order, it has to see if there is any deficiency, the judge added. "There are certain documents missing in the chargesheet as highlighted by the Ahlmad. ED is directed to file those documents. After that the court will decide the issue of notice," the court said. The ED said it was "very transparent". "Not hiding anything. Giving chance to them to come

MUSLIM MEMBERS WILL FORM OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN WAQF BODIES: CENTRE

Diary Times Desk: The Centre on Friday in the Supreme Court denied the claim that Muslims will be in the minority in waqf bodies under the amended law and said they will comprise an "overwhelming majority". In a 1,332-page preliminary counter affidavit, the Centre's Ministry of Minority Affairs referred to the provisions relating to the constitution of the Central Wagf Council and the State Waqf Boards and justified the inclusion of non-Muslims saying unlike other religious boards, they also performed secular activities such as running hospitals and schools. "Muslim members will form an overwhelming majority of the board," its affidavit said. The affidavit said in the amended act the CWC comprises a total of 22 members of which a maximum of four can be non-Muslims. "The non-Muslim members are clearly, therefore, in minority," it argued. SWBs, on the other hand, comprises a total of 11 members of which a maximum of three can be non-Muslims.

ACTIVIST MEDHA PATKAR RELEASED HOURS AFTER ARREST IN DEFAMATION CASE

Diary Times Desk: Social activist Medha Patkar was released on Friday after directions from a Delhi court. She was released at 4:30 pm, just hours after her arrest in connection with a defamation case filed by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena. Additional Sessions Judge Vipin Kharb directed her release after she deposited the bail bond as directed by the court. Saxena's counsel, however, opposed the acceptance of her bail bond by the Court, stating that it was due to coercive action that she was furnishing the bail bond rather than voluntarily and therefore it should not be accepted. Patkar was taken into custody for failing to comply with a earlier court order to furnish a probation bond and pay a ₹1 lakh fine in the case. Earlier this month, Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Singh had convicted the 70-year-old activist and granted her probation on the condition of good conduct, paired with a 🕏 lakh fine. However, her absence from the hearing on April 23 and failure to meet the court's directives led to the issuance.

"SHOT MY FATHER, POINTED GUN AT ME, LEFT": WOMAN RECOUNTS PAHALGAM HORROR

Diary Times Desk: A Kerala woman, her father and twin sons were enjoying a horse ride in the scenic Baisaran meadow on the second day of their Jammu and Kashmir trip, when gunshots rang through the Valley. People ran towards possible safe locations and screams echoed as a horrific terror attack unfolded in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. Amid the chaos, Arathi and her family jumped off the horses and crawled through a fence, relieved to be in a safe spot. She looked sideways to see an armed man approaching groups of people, asking them a question and then shooting at them. As the Kochi native looked for another spot where they could hide from the terrorists, her father N Ramachandram remained calm and asked her to stay put. "The man came towards us and said 'Kalima' (an Islamic verse). When we said we didn't understand what he was saying, he shot my father," she told reporters.



SENIOR RUSSIAN MILITARY OFFICER KILLED IN CAR EXPLOSION: REPORT

Diary Times Desk: A senior Russian military officer was killed on Friday after a car exploded in the town of Balashikha in the Moscow region, Russian news outlets Mash and Shot reported. Mash named the officer as Yaroslav Moskalik, deputy head of the Main Operations Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. Reuters could not verify Mash's assertion. There was no immediate official confirmation from the authorities of what happened or details about the identity of the officer targeted. Russian media outlet Baza, which has sources in Russia's law enforcement agencies, said a bomb in a parked car had been detonated remotely when the officer who lived locally - walked past.

'REWRITE THE RULES': TRUMP STORE SELLS 2028 HATS, TEASING THIRD PRESIDENTIAL TERM

Diary Times Desk: The Trump Organization's online store has launched a new \$50 red cap boldly embroidered with "Trump 2028", fueling speculation — and controversy — over Trump's repeated hints at seeking a third term in office. "The future looks bright! Rewrite the rules with the Trump 2028 high crown hat," read the initial product description on the website before it was later toned down. The revised listing now calls it: "A statement piece... made in America... your new go-to hat," reports New York Post. The hats are not being sold by Trump's official campaign but through the Trump Organization, his family-run business. A photo posted by the Trump campaign's Trump War Room account showed Eric Trump proudly sporting the cap. The message behind the merchandise appears to riff on the 22nd Amendment of the US Constitution, which states unequivocally: "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice." However, in a March interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" Trump said that he's "not joking" about a possible third term. "A lot of people want me to do it," he told the interviewer. "We have a long way to go it's very early in the administration." That statement came shortly after he returned to the White House for a second term following his 2024 election win. From "Make Greenland Great Again" tees to Trump-branded Bibles.

POPE FRANCIS'S FUNERAL TO BE LESS COSTLY THAN HIS PREDECESSORS'



Diary Times Desk: As hundreds of millions of people around the world mourn the passing of Pope Francis, the Roman Catholic Church is preparing to lay him to rest - an event expected to draw hundreds of thousands of mourners even as costs are likely to be significantly less than those of his predecessors. Francis's body has been lying in state since Wednesday at St Peter's Basilica, allowing the faithful to pay their respects. World leaders, including United States President Donald Trump, are also expected at the Vatican to attend his funeral, which is slated for Saturday morning. Unlike his predecessors, Francis requested a more modest burial. In 2024, he changed the longstanding burial rules that required three coffins - two made of cypress and oak, and one of lead, one inside the other. Under the new rules, popes can now be buried in a single coffin made of wood and lined with zinc. The rule change also allows for burial outside the Vatican, per Francis's wishes.

TRUMP CLAIMS XI CALLED HIM, HINTS AT 'TOTAL VICTORY' IN TARIFF TALKS

Diary Times Desk: US President Donald Trump said his administration is in talks with China to strike a tariff deal and that Chinese President Xi Jinping has called him recently, according to a Time magazine interview published Friday. "He's called. And I don't think that's a sign of weakness on his behalf," Trump told Time, though he did not specify when the call occurred or what was discussed. China on Friday denied Trump's claim saying, "US should stop creating confusion." "China and the US are NOT having any consultation or negotiation on #tariffs. The US should stop creating confusion," according to a foreign ministry statement posted on X. Earlier in the day, Beijing's Foreign Ministry had urged the Washington to stop "misleading the public" regarding the nature of the trade discussions, signaling frustration over US' portrayal of the talks. Trump in the interview also told that he expects to wrap up US tariff deals within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

US UNIVERSITIES HELP FOREIGN STUDENTS WEATHER TRUMP DEPORTATIONS

Diary Times Desk: From warnings not to leave the country to guidance on how to complete degrees, U.S. universities are advising foreign students how to withstand President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. First immigration agents arrested students involved in pro-Palestinian protests. Then thousands of foreign students were targeted for deportation over minor offenses and arrests. Now, some university advisors are quietly telling students from abroad to hire a lawyer and keep attending classes while legal appeals play out, according to over two dozen students, immigration attorneys and university officials Reuters spoke to. University faculty have gone to court to question the constitutionality of arrests. With a record 1.1 million foreign students in the country, at stake is the \$44 billion they contributed to the U.S. economy last year, according to the Association of American Universities, a higher education advocacy group. It's not just the money. MIT President Sally Kornbluth pointed to global talent, saying hers "is an American university, proudly so but we would be gravely diminished without the students and scholars who join us from other nations."



PENTAGON FACES \$200 MILLION LOSS AS HOUTHIS SHOOT DOWN 7 US REAPER DRONES

Diary Times Desk: Houthi rebels in Yemen have shot down seven US Reaper drones in less than six weeks, a loss of aircraft worth more than USD 200 million in what is becoming the most dramatic cost to the Pentagon of the military campaign against the Iran-backed militants. According to defence officials, three of the drones were shot down in the past week - suggesting the militants' targeting of the unmanned aircraft flying over Yemen has improved. The drones were doing conducting attack runs or surveillance, and they crashed both into the water and onto land, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations. The US has increased its attacks on the Houthis, launching daily strikes since March 15, when President Donald Trump ordered a new, expanded campaign. He promised to use "overwhelming lethal force" until the Houthis cease their attacks on shipping along a vital maritime corridor. The US has done more than 750 strikes on the Houthis since that new effort began. Another defence official said that although hostile fire is likely the cause of the drone losses, the incidents are still under investigation.

US TO OFFER SAUDI ARABIA \$100BN WEAPONS DEAL AS TRUMP VISIT PLANNED: REPORT

Diary Times Desk: The United States is poised to offer Saudi Arabia an arms package worth more than \$100bn, the Reuters news agency reports, citing six sources familiar with the matter. The deal is reportedly in the works in advance of a planned trip by US President Donald Trump to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates next month Reuters reported on Thursday. Top defence contractors such as Lockheed Martin, RTX Corp, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and General Atomics are reported to be involved in the supply of advanced weapons systems, according to Reuters, and several executives from the companies are expected to join Trump's delegation for the visit. The sources cited by Reuters say the contractor could see Riyadh supplied with a range of weapons including C-130 transport aircraft, missiles and radar systems. It is unlikely, however, that Saudi Arabia will gain access to Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighter jet. Only a select number of countries can buy F-35s from the US, such as NATO allies, Japan, South Korea and Australia. Trump's predecessor, President Joe Biden, tried unsuccessfully to sign.

INDIA-PAKISTAN TENSIONS PUT KARTARPUR CORRIDOR'S FUTURE IN DOUBT

Diary Times Desk: The Kartarpur corridor project's future hangs in the balance amid escalating India-Pakistan tensions following the Pahalgam terror ambush. Despite the uncertainty, the corridor remained open today, with pilgrims visiting as usual. However, the Indian government has yet to clarify whether the project will continue or be suspended. Sources indicate that the BJP-led Union Government faces a tough decision regarding the project's future. The party is keen to strengthen its presence in Punjab, where Sikh support is crucial. Given the Kartarpur corridor's significance to Sikhs and Sikhism, altering its status could impact the party's relationship with the Sikh community. Meanwhile, Pakistan stands to lose substantial revenue if the corridor is closed. The country charges a USD 20 fee per pilgrim at Pakistani Integrated Check Post (ICP), generating significant income from the 200-400 daily visitors, particularly on weekends. Despite India's repeated requests to waive this fee, Pakistan remains resolute.



PUNJAB TO BRING ALL OFFLINE SERVICES ON UNIFIED ONLINE PORTAL

Diary Times Desk: Taking a major leap to ensure efficient and seamless delivery of citizen-centric services in a transparent manner, the Punjab Government has decided to establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) to provide all services related to various government departments through a unified online portal. Aman Arora, Minister of Good Governance and Information Technology, after chairing the 21st meeting of the Board of Governors (BoGs) of Punjab State e-Governance Society (PSeGS) here on Friday, said that the main objective of the PMU is to bring all the offline services onto a unified online portal, enabling citizens to apply anytime, from anywhere. The portal will also empower applicants to track the status of their applications, besides facilitating monitoring of service pendency at the head office level to ensure a greater accountability and timely resolution. Notably, the PMU would play a pivotal role in driving end-to-end digitisation and implementation of all the services of various government departments notified under the Punjab Transparency and Accountability in Public Service Delivery Act. The PMU will help in integration of departmental services with the Punjab e-Sewa portal, said Arora, while adding that a total of 846 services are notified.

SC JUNKS PUNJAB GOVT'S PLEA AGAINST BAIL TO SAD LEADER BIKRAM MAJITHIA IN DRUG CASE

Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the Punjab Government's petition challenging the bail granted to Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on August 10, 2022, in a drugs case. "The respondent (Majithia) was participating in the process of further investigation. In view of the said facts and also taking note that the liberty was granted on August 10, 2022, more than two-and-a-half-year ago, at present we are not inclined to interfere with the impugned order. Accordingly, the SLP stands dismissed," a Bench led by Justice JK Maheswari said, rejecting the Punjab Government's petition. The top court asked Majithia and the anti-drug Special Task Force (STF) not to make any statement about the probe into the case to the media. It asked Majithia to file an affidavit within a week undertaking not to make any statement to the media about the case. It also asked the STF to seek its prior approval before making any public statement on the case. The Bench granted liberty to the STF to seek cancellation of Majithia's bail if he attempted to influence witnesses or the trial in the case. Majithia, the brother-in-law of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and brother of former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

CHANDIGARH MAYOR REQUESTS HALF OF RS 350 CR EARNED THROUGH VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS FOR MC

Diary Times Desk: Facing acute financial crisis, Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla has requested the UT Administration to release 50 per cent of the revenue collected through tax/receipts from Registration and Licencing Authority (RLA) towards maintaining roads and parking lots in the city. In letters written to Chief Secretary Rajiv Verma and Home Secretary-cum-Secretary Local Government Mandip Singh Brar, she said it was learnt that total revenue receipt of RLA of financial year is approximately Rs 350 crore and requested half of it to maintain roads and parkings in the city. The Mayor rued that the civic body does not receive a specific share from the RLA receipts for registration or transfer of various types of vehicles despite being responsible for maintaining a significant number of roads in the city. "The MC is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,860 km of roads, equivalent of 12' single lane width, which is approximately 60 per cent of the total road length of Chandigarh. Additionally, the civic body is also maintaining roads and streets in 22 villages in the UT," she added.



HARYANA DCS, SPS DIRECTED TO MAINTAIN STRICT VIGIL AFTER PAHALGAM ATTACK

Diary Times Desk: Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi reaffirmed the state government's commitment to maintaining peace, harmony, and brotherhood across the state during a video conference with Deputy (DCs) Commissioners Superintendents of Police (SPs). He emphasised the importance of upholding law and order, particularly in light of the recent incident in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Rastogi directed district officials to remain vigilant and take prompt action against anyone attempting to disrupt public order or social unity. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sumita Misra issued a series of instructions to strengthen the security apparatus. She directed district administrations to intensify patrolling, enhance intelligence-gathering mechanisms, and maintain constant surveillance on potentially sensitive areas. Misra emphasised the need to monitor social media platforms and take strict legal action against individuals misinformation spreading attempting to vitiate the communal atmosphere online. "Any attempt to disturb social harmony will be dealt with a firm hand," she asserted.

GETTING HATE AND ABUSE FOR INVITING PAKISTAN'S ARSHAD NADEEM TO NC CLASSIC: NEERAJ CHOPRA

Diary Times Desk: Indian javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra on Friday said he has been bombarded with "hate and abuse" for invitina Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem to next month's NC Classic in Bengaluru, clarifying that the Olympic champion's presence "completely out of question" in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. The Tokyo Olympics goldmedallist and Paris Games silverwinning star from Haryana said he was deeply hurt to see his and his family's integrity being questioned in abusive social media posts. Chopra invited Nadeem, who defeated the Indian in Paris last year to win gold, for the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic to be held in Bengaluru on May 24. "After all that has taken place over the last 48 hours, Arshad's presence at the NC Classic was completely out of the question. My country and its interests will always come first," Chopra, who is a Subedar Major in the Indian Army, said in a lengthy post on X. To those that are going through the loss of their people, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Along with the entire nation, I am both hurt and angry at what has taken place," said Chopra.

AGNIHOTRI: CONG WILL BACK CENTRE ON ANY DECISION TO CURB TERRORISM

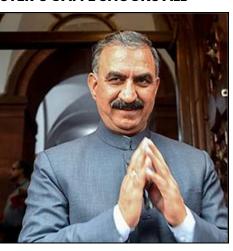
Diary Times Desk: Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today said that the Congress government condemned the dastardly terrorist attack and killing of innocent tourists in Pahalgam of Jammu Kashmir two days ago. Agnihotri, while addressing mediapersons here, said that "the Congress stands with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on any decision that the Centre takes to curb terrorism". He said that the Congress stood by the nation with its role of a responsible political party. He added that the Congress had always made clear its stance against cross-border terrorism. The role of Pakistan's Army in the incident could not be ruled out. Agnihotri said that the Union Government should take strong steps to ensure such incidents did not repeat for which it would have the full support of the Congress. He said that the attack revealed gaps in the intelligence network of our agencies, but instead of levelling accusations, the Congress gave the top priority national security and demands a decisive action by the Central Government.

ART COLLECTION DOCUMENTING THE 14TH DALAI LAMA'S ENTHRONEMENT TO BE AUCTIONED

Diary Times Desk: A collection of articles, photos and paintings documenting enthronement of the 14th Dalai Lama will be put to auction at Bonhams auction house in London on June 4. The collection belongs to Basil Gould – the British diplomat who represented the British government at the ceremony and is expected to draw attention from around the world. The auction includes 40 watercolours by Indian artist Krishna Kanwal. These works capture Basil's mission to Lhasa and provide a record of the enthronement proceedings. The items include two portraits by Kanwal, one showing the Dalai Lama as a boy before his enthronement estimated to be priced between £70,000-100,000 and another displaying the ceremony estimated to fetch a price of £150,000-200,000, the sources here said. The sources added that the collection features Basil Gould's archive.

HIMACHAL CM SUKHU SHOULD RESIGN OVER PAHALGAM ATTACK: CONGRESS-RULED JHARKHAND MINISTER'S GAFFE SHOCKS ALL

Diary Times Desk: Jharkhand minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu, part of the Congress alliance-led state government, has demanded the resignation of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu over Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 persons, mostly tourists, were gunned down on Tuesday. For his his poor knowledge, Sudivya Kumar Sonu has been brutally trolled. His remarks triggered widespread amusement and criticism with many saying how was it possible the minister was not aware of where the attack took place and who Sukhu is? Addressing media in Lohardaga, Sonu condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam. But what shocked all was when he said, "This is an extremely unfortunate incident. Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu must take responsibility and resign. He has failed to protect citizens." Social media users were flooded with funny replies that even Google Maps might be second-guessing itself after Sonu's comments. Memes circulated wildly, with many tagging his brand of politics as "sensation over sense."



PAKISTAN FLAG MISSING FROM HIMACHAL RAJ BHAWAN'S HISTORIC TABLE ON WHICH SIMLA ACCORD WAS SIGNED

Diary Times Desk: The Pakistani flag on the historic table at Raj Bhawan here, on which the Simla Accord was signed, was conspicuous by its absence on Friday morning, a day after Pakistan suspended the agreement signed in 1972. The suspension of the Simla Accord by Pakistan was in response to retaliatory actions taken by India in the aftermath of the massacre of 26 tourists in Pahalgam in a brutal terrorist attack on Tuesday. The pact was signed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on the intervening night of July 2 and 3. The glossy wooden table on which the agreement was signed is kept in the Kirti Hall of the Himachal Pradesh Raj Bhavan on an elevated redcoloured platform cordoned off with brass railings with a plate which reads -- "Simla Agreement was signed here on 3-7-1972". A photograph of Bhutto signing the agreement and Indira Gandhi sitting beside him is kept on the table, while several other photographs of the India-Pakistan Summit of 1972 hang on the wall in the background. While it is not clear when the Pakistan flag was removed, Raj Bhavan officials confirmed that the flag of the neighbouring country "is not on the table" for quite some time now.

SUKHU DISCUSSES SUPPLY OF LOCAL PRODUCE TO ITBP, SECURITY ISSUES

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today held detailed discussions regarding the role of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the border districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti and security issues along the China border. The Chief Minister held a meeting with Sanjay Guniyal, Frontier Commander of the Northern Frontier Headquarters of the ITBP, Dehradun. Issues like tourism promotion in the frontier regions of the state, procurement of local produce for ITBP supplies and the provision of medical services to local communities through ITBP's healthcare facilities were discussed. Sukhu said that to strengthen its disaster management capabilities, the state government would establish better coordination with the ITBP's regional response centre. He added that helipads located in the ITBP-controlled zones could be utilised to promote tourism in remote areas. All formalities in this regard would be completed in consultation with the force, which would also help enhance connectivity. Sukhu said that the state government was taking several steps to strengthen the rural economy. "If the ITBP procures food products directly from local residents.

INFANT AMONG FIVE KILLED AFTER CAR FALLS IN DEEP GORGE IN MANDI

Diary Times Desk: Five persons, including an 8-month-old baby, lost their lives in a tragic road accident near Pandoh Dam in Mandi today. The accident occurred on the Bakhli road when a car veered off the road and rolled down in a deep gorge in the area. All five occupants of the vehicle died on the spot. The victims have been identified as Duni Chand (35), his wife Kanta Devi (30), their 8-month-old daughter Kinjal, of Taraur village; Dahlu Ram of Naun village in Mandi; and Meena Kumari from Nepal. According to preliminary information from the police, the crash took place as they were on their way back from a wedding. Upon receiving the alert, a police team from the Pandoh police post rushed to the scene and, with the help of locals, recovered the bodies from the gorge. Mandi SP Sakshi Verma confirmed the incident and stated that an investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the accident.



KAMINDU MENDIS, NITISH REDDY TAKE HYDERABAD TO A 5-WICKET WIN OVER CHENNAI

Diary Times Desk : A threepronged performance from Kamindu Mendis and Harshal Patel's use of the middle of the pitch led Sunrisers Hyderabad to win their first-ever match against Chennai Super Kings in Chennai, a win SRH will hope revives a faltering campaign. Dewald Brevis, on his CSK debut, and Ayush Mhatre, the youngest CSK player ever in only his second life, threatened to inject some freshness into a stale CSK campaign, but the 154 they took CSK to was not enough in the heavy dew even though they did give SRH a scare on the dry pitch.



BATTING AROUND VIRAT KOHLI: AARON FINCH LAUDS RCB'S IPL 2025 STRATEGY

Diary Times Desk: Aaron Finch has praised RCB's strategy of batting around Virat Kohli in IPL 2025 as the Bengaluru franchise continues their fine run of form. It is no surprise that RCB's impressive run this season has coincided with Kohli's form as the star batter has led from the front. Kohli has scored 392 runs in 9 matches and has five fifties to his name. The latest one came in the win over RR as Kohli's 70 off 46 balls helped RCB secure an 11-run victory. Speaking to Cricinfo, Finch said that when a batter like Kohli in the top three is offering the team 650-700 runs every season, the rest of the team can build around it and excel. "Yes, I mean, if you are offered 650, 700 runs at the start of the year, from one of your top-three batters. No matter whether your strike rate is 150 or 200, you would take that every single day because that just allows your team the platform to play around," said Finch.

MUMBAI INDIANS TO HOST 19,000 UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN AT WANKHEDE STADIUM FOR SPECIAL ESA MATCH AGAINST LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Diary Times Desk: Mumbai Indians' (MI) upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) clash against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday - April 27 will serve a greater purpose beyond the competitive rivalry of the game. The MI vs LSG match will be dedicated to the Education and Sports for All (ESA) initiative, championed by Nita M. Ambani, as thousands of children from NGOs across Mumbai will have the time of their life enjoying a swashbuckling game. Talking abut numbers, around 19,000 children from various NGOs supported by Reliance Foundation across Mumbai – which includes 200 children with special needs, will fill the stands in Mumbai Indians' blue and gold colours. For most of these children, this will be their first-ever live cricket experience. Speaking to the Mumbai Indians team led by all-rounder Hardik Pandya ahead of this special game, Nita M. Ambani said, "People who have been with Mumbai Indians.

SUNIL GAVASKAR NAMEDROPS RAHUL DRAVID IN BRUTAL VERDICT ON RAJASTHAN ROYALS: "UNTHINKABLE CRICKET..."

Diary Times Desk: Rajasthan Royals slumped to their fifth straight loss as they were beaten by Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday. RR found themselves in a good position with solid knocks from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel but with 18 runs needed to win from 12 balls, the team completely lost the plot. RR ended up scoring just one run from the penultimate over bowled by Josh Hazlewood and were beaten by 11 runs. This was vet another narrow loss for RR after similar results against Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants. Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar was not happy with the team's performance and he namedropped head coach Rahul Dravid in his brutal verdict. "With Rajasthan Royals, I'm actually talking about the earlier matches where I wasn't at the ground-I just saw them. So, you're not always able to get the feeling of what's really happening. But here, I was at the ground, and you could actually see the kind of cricket that was being played. And with someone like Rahul Dravid as the coach, it was quite baffling-it was unthinking cricket. Dravid was always so precise in his thinking, and I would've thought that kind of approach would've seeped into some of the Rajasthan batters," Gavaskar said on Star Sports.

EX-PAKISTAN STAR HINTS AT MATCH FIXING IN IPL 2025. SHARES CLIP OF THIS DISMISSAL

Diary Times Desk: Former Pakistan pacer Junaid Khan grabbed the limelight once again on Thursday after he hinted at possible match-fixing in the ongoing IPL 2025. Junaid's remarks came after Sunrisers Hyderabad batter Ishan Kishan was controversially dismissed against Mumbai Indians during the IPL 2025 match on Wednesday. In the third over by pacer Deepak Chahar, Kishan tried to play a shot towards the leg side but ended up missing it. Wicket-keeper Ryan Rickelton collected it behind the stumps and Kishan decided to walk back to the dugout despite no appeals from the MI players. Onfield umpire Vinod Seshan was going to signal wide but decided to raise his finger in an instant as Kishan walked back. Later in the replay, it was shown that Kishan was actually not out as the ball did not make any connection with the bat. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Junaid posted a video of Ishan's dismissal and captioned it, "Daal mein kuch kaala hai (Something is suspicious)." However, this is not the first time that IPL 2025 came under the accusations of match-fixing. Last week, ad-hoc committee convener Jaydeep Bihani had accused Rajasthan Royals for the same after their loss against Lucknow Super Giants. Following two successive narrow defeats from winning positions, RCA convener Bihani had alleged that Rajasthan Royals were involved.

SANJU SAMSON'S ABSENCE COSTING RR: SANDEEP SHARMA AFTER FIFTH STRAIGHT DEFEAT

Diary Times Desk: Rajasthan Royals pacer Sandeep Sharma discussed how the absence of their regular skipper Sanju Samson due to injuryalong with recurring batting and fielding mishaps-has cost the side dearly in IPL 2025. After RR were handed their fifth straight defeat of the season by Royal Challengers Bengaluru on April 24, Sandeep Sharma rued missed catches and the batting unit's failure to click, adding that the absence of Samson's experience has only worsened their forgettable season. RCB handed an 11-run defeat to RR on Thursday in a match that did not feature regular skipper Samson, who is nursing a side tear. The absence of the captain added to the pressure on a team already under the pump this season. Speaking at the postmatch press conference, Sandeep explained how the team has been missing Samson's captaincy and experienced batting, which could have helped settle the side amidst ongoing struggles.

JOSH HAZLEWOOD PRAISES 'GENIUS' JITESH SHARMA FOR GAME-CHANGING DRS CALL VS RR

Diary Times Desk : Royal Bengaluru Challengers (RCB) seamer Josh Hazlewood has praised wicketkeeper batter Jitesh Sharma for his game-changing DRS call against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in Match 43 of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). Jitesh asked captain Rajat Patidar to opt for DRS in the penultimate over as he sensed that Dhruv Jurel edged the ball on the third delivery. After collecting the ball, Sharma immediately went to his captain asking for a review and the decision was vindicated as ultra edge confirmed that Jurel edged the ball. As a result, Jurel had to walk back to the pavilion for 47 (34). The moment turned out to be the deciding factor in the game as RCB managed to win by 11 runs. Following his team's victory, Hazlewood praised Sharma for going for DRS, calling him a genius. Earlier, he helped him dismiss Ryan Rickelton against Mumbai Indians (MI) with the DRS call. "Jitesh is a genius. He has done a few for me throughout the tournament. One with MI with the lbw, and that one tonight. The first win here is massive for the crowd. the home fans. To hit 200 on that wicket as a batting unit was phenomenal. I mixed it up with yorkers here and there, but we took wickets throughout, which was important as well," said Hazlewood in a video shared by IPL.