

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

ARMED FORCES HAVE COMPLETE OPERATIONAL FREEDOM ON INDIA'S RESPONSE TO PAHALGAM ATTACK: PM

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the armed forces have the complete operational freedom to decide the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

At a high-level security meeting here, the PM affirmed that "it is our national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism", officials said.

Ahead of the crucial meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday, Modi chaired the meeting to decide the next course of action after the terror attack.

The meetiter Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and the three service chiefs.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi said, "We have very little time and very big goals." Wednesday's meeting will be the second meeting of the CCS within a week.

The meeting will be attended by Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Principal Secretaries to the PM and the Cabinet Secretary.



CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

JUSTICE BR GAVAI APPOINTED 52ND CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA



Diary Times Desk : The Centre on Tuesday notified the appointment of Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai—the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court—as the next Chief Justice of India.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 14th May, 2025," a Department of Justice notification read.

President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of office to Justice Gavai as the 52nd CJI on May 14 after the retirement of incumbent CJI Sanjiv Khanna on May 13. Elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, Justice Gavai will have an over-six-month tenure as the CJI. He is due to retire on November 23, 2025.

CJI Khanna had on April 16 recommended to the Centre to appoint Justice BR Gavai as his successor. There has been a convention of the CJI recommending the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court as his successor. Only twice, it was not followed – Justice AN Ray was appointed the CJI on April 25, 1973 superseding three senior-most judges and Justice MH Beg was appointed the CJI on January 29, 1977 superseding Justice HR Khanna. Born on November 24, 1960 at Amravati, he joined the Bar on March 16, 1985 and was the standing counsel for the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University. He worked as an assistant government pleader and additional public prosecutor in the Bombay High Court's Nagpur Bench from August 1992 to July 1993. He was appointed as a government pleader and public prosecutor for the Nagpur Bench on January 17, 2000.

CONGRESS DELETES ‘GAYAB’ POST TARGETING PM MODI FOLLOWING OUTRAGE

Diary Times Desk : The Congress on Tuesday deleted its post on X targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he was missing in action during the all-party meet to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack. The post put up on Monday night led to a row, with the BJP countering it with a 'backstabber' post that accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of colluding with Pakistan. The Congress's post with the caption, 'Zimmedari ke samay gayab (Missing at the time of taking responsibility)' was also shared by former Pakistan minister Fawad Chaudhry. BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya hit out at the Congress, calling it a "headless hydra, flailing without direction". "The Congress leaves little doubt with its use of 'Sar Tan Se Juda' imagery. This is not merely a political statement; it is a dog whistle aimed at its Muslim vote bank and a veiled incitement against the Prime Minister. It is not the first time the Congress has resorted to such tactics," Malviya wrote on X. "Rahul Gandhi, on multiple occasions, has both instigated and justified violence towards the Prime Minister. Yet the Congress will never succeed, for the Prime Minister enjoys the love and blessings of millions of Indians. On the contrary, proverbially speaking, if anyone's neck has been slashed, it is the Congress.



PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK: CONGRESS CITES 1994 RESOLUTION TO PRESS FOR SPECIAL PARLIAMENT SESSION



Diary Times Desk : The calls for a special Parliament session on Pahalgam terror attack have gone louder after the Opposition on Tuesday cited the 1994 resolution passed in the Parliament against Pakistan during the heydays of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, to press Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government to convene the session at an earliest. The resolution passed on February 22, 1994, states, "The state of Jammu and Kashmir has been, is and shall be an integral part of India and any attempts to separate it from the rest of the country will be resisted by all necessary means...Pakistan must vacate the areas of J&K, which they have occupied through aggression; and resolves all attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India will be met resolutely." The Congress MP and leader Jairam Ramesh informed on X about the 1994 resolution, stating, "The time has come to reiterate, renew, and refresh it - and more." He added the government should heed the call of the Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and convene a special session of the Parliament at the earliest.

CHINA REITERATES CALL FOR INDIA, PAKISTAN TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT

Diary Times Desk : China on Tuesday reiterated its call for India and Pakistan to exercise restraint, saying their harmonious coexistence is vital to the peace, stability and development of the region. Both India and Pakistan are important countries in South Asia, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here. Guo made the remarks in response to a question on the exchange of gunfire by the troops of the two countries following the Pahalgam terror attack. Their harmonious coexistence is vital to the peace, stability and development of the region," Guo said. As the neighbour of the two countries, China calls on the two sides to exercise restraint, properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation, and jointly keep the region peaceful and stable, he said. Guo on Monday made a similar remark on the tensions between India and Pakistan and said it welcomed all measures to "cool down" the current situation between the two neighbours. "As a common neighbour of India and Pakistan, China hopes that both sides will exercise restraint, meet each other halfway.



SUPREME COURT QUESTIONS BCI OVER ALLEGED INTERFERENCE IN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Diary Times Desk : Questioning the Bar Council of India (BCI) over alleged interference in academic affairs of law colleges, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said it should be left to academicians. "Why are you interfering in academic affairs? Why should the BCI decide the curriculum, etc., of law colleges? Some academic experts should take up these things. In this country there is a very big class of lawyers. You have an onerous statutory responsibility of updating their knowledge and organising training programmes for them," a bench led by Justice Surya Kant told the BCI, which regulates the legal profession and legal education in India. "You can have training on art of drafting, understanding case laws, etc., and it should be part of your statutory responsibility. The curriculum has to be entrusted to the academicians," the bench - which also included Justice N Kotiswar Singh - said while hearing petitions challenging the BCI.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

30-04-2025

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



ANURAG THAKUR: MP ANURAG SINGH THAKUR SAID- WHY IS CONGRESS SPEAKING PAKISTAN'S WORDS

Diary Times Desk : MP Anurag Singh Thakur said what is the compulsion of Congress and its leaders that it is necessary to speak the language of Pakistan. Why does Congress not get angry when Indians bleed? In a press statement, Anurag said that Pakistan is the only country in the world whose state policy is terrorist funding. Anurag said what is the compulsion of Congress and its leaders that they have to speak the language of Pakistan? Can't they see the blood of innocent citizens in the terrorist attacks against India? Why is Congress repeatedly defending Pakistan? Saifuddin Soz is supporting Pakistan's statement in which it is saying that it has no hand in the attack. Should we now believe Pakistan's clarification? Has Congress now started speaking the language of Islamabad? Anurag said that Pakistan's minister has admitted and their Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has openly threatened that they can carry out terrorist attacks in different cities of India. When our army did the surgical strike, even then Congress had raised questions. Now the country is facing another terrorist attack, Congress is doing the same thing again.



HIMACHAL WEATHER: THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF RAIN IN HIMACHAL FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, THUNDERSTORMS WILL BLOW AT A SPEED OF 40-50 KM PER HOUR

Diary Times Desk : The weather is likely to deteriorate due to the activity of western disturbance in Himachal Pradesh. Rain is forecast for five consecutive days in many parts of the state. Also, a yellow alert has been issued for thunderstorms in many parts. On the other hand, hot winds blew in Una and Bhuntar yesterday. The maximum temperature in Una was recorded at 41.6 and in Bhuntar at 34.5 degree Celsius. There is a yellow alert for hot winds in some districts of the plains today and tomorrow as well. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, dry weather is likely in the state during the next two days. There is a possibility of rain in the state from 1 to 5 May. During this time, light snowfall may occur on high peaks. At the same time, there is a yellow alert for thunderstorms at a speed of 40 to 50 kilometers per hour in many parts. According to the department, there is a possibility of light rain at some places in the state during 1, 2 and 5 May. Whereas light to moderate rain is expected at many places in the state during 3 and 4 May. The minimum temperature is likely to gradually increase by 2-3 degree Celsius during the next 48 hours, after which the minimum temperature will gradually fall by 2-5 degree Celsius in many parts of the state during the next 4-5 days.

HIMACHAL: NEWLY APPOINTED FOREST FRIENDS WILL UNDERGO TRAINING IN THE RANGE FROM 1 TO 5 MAY, CM RELEASES MANUAL

Diary Times Desk : The file has reached Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu for final decision on the report of the Cabinet Sub Committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri. Now the Chief Minister will decide whether the government employees and officers retiring in the month of April will get the benefit of commutation or not. The sub-committee has recommended to stop the commutation given to the employees after retirement. Now the Chief Minister has to decide whether to give commutation to the employees retiring in April or not. Many government employees are retiring on 30 April. In such a situation, whether they will get the facility of commutation or not, it will now be decided by the Chief Minister. An officer of the CM office said that the Chief Minister has been a well-wisher of the employees and has been continuously taking decisions in the interest of the employees.

HIMACHAL : 'PRIMARY TEACHERS WILL NOT BE AFRAID OF SUSPENSION AND FIR, THE HUNGER STRIKE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE DEMANDS ARE MET'

Diary Times Desk : The Primary Teachers' Union said that 25,000 primary teachers are not going to be afraid of suspension and false FIRs. Democratic rights are being snatched away to crush the movement. The striking teachers have urged the government to call them for talks and have also warned of going to the High Court. On the other hand, six primary teachers of Solan district, Amit, Naseeb Chand, Gurmel Singh, Jagdish Chand, Kamal Kumar and Daulat Ram sat on a relay hunger strike at the Directorate of School Education. These teachers will sit on hunger strike at noon on Wednesday. Pramod Chauhan, District Shimla President of the Primary Teachers' Union, said that false cases have been made against the teachers. Suspension is being done to crush the movement. We did not ask for dearness allowance as the financial condition of the government is not good. During the natural disaster, one day's salary was given to the government account. When we raised our voice against the reorganization of the Directorate of Education, the bureaucracy has started adopting new tactics.

JAIRAM THAKUR: LEADER OF OPPOSITION SAID- SUKHU GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-HINDU ACT, IMPOSED FEE ON RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the Sukhu government is not giving up its anti-Hindu attitude. The Chief Minister sometimes makes anti-Hindu statements and sometimes brings some scheme against Hindus. Now the Sukhu government has imposed a fee on the religious pilgrimage of Hindus. The government is charging fees from the Hindu devotees who visit Chudhar. Now the government is charging money from people even for paying obeisance at Shrigul Maharaj's place. This is being strongly opposed by the local people. Charging fees from people on religious pilgrimage within its own state clearly shows the intention of the Congress government. Jairam Thakur said that Sukh's government has become addicted to charging fees. Sukh's government has become a 'government of fees' in just two years. Now the government is charging five times the money even for making corrections.

HIMACHAL: NEWLY APPOINTED FOREST FRIENDS WILL UNDERGO TRAINING IN THE RANGE FROM 1 TO 5 MAY, CM RELEASES MANUAL

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Monday released the training manual for the newly appointed Van Mitras. This manual will be used to train Van Mitras about forest fire management, departmental functioning, nursery management, various plantation programmes and overall forest management. Van Mitras will undergo training in their respective ranges from May 1 to 5. All Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) have been appointed as nodal officers for the training and they will monitor it. 1,896 Van Mitras have already taken charge at their respective places. Chief Minister Sukhu, while directing to distribute the manual to the training centres and trainers soon, stressed on the need to provide high quality training so that Van Mitras can discharge their duties effectively by knowing the functioning of the department well. He also directed to upload the training manual on the departmental website. The Chief Minister said that he would communicate with the newly appointed Van Mitras after May 15. He said that the state government is giving special emphasis on recruitment of employees and providing modern technology to strengthen.

SIRMAUR: ASTROTURF GROUND CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF RS. 7.50 CRORE IN PAONTA; FOUNTAINS INSTALLED, YET THE GROUND IS DRY

Diary Times Desk : Hockey Astroturf ground has been prepared in Women's Hockey Hostel Majra for Rs 7.50 crore, but the transformer has not been installed yet. Due to this, water is not being sprinkled on the ground. Players have to practice on dry ground. Former Union Sports and Information Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had gifted an Astroturf hockey ground to Majra. Even after a year of laying the Astroturf, the transformer has not been installed. During the recently held North India Hockey Competition, water had to be sprinkled from the generator. On 8 May 2022, the then Sports Minister Anurag Thakur had announced to give Rs 7.50 crore to the Astroturf ground. The ground was virtually inaugurated on 11 March 2024. Fountains have been installed in the ground for sprinkling water. The fountains are not working.

"WHAT IS OUR FAULT?"
PAKISTANIS QUESTION AS
MEDICAL VISA DEADLINE ENDS

Diary Times Desk : The departure of Pakistani citizens from India through the Attari Border saw a significant rise on Tuesday, coinciding with the last day of validity for medical visas issued to Pakistani nationals as per the Union Government's decision in wake of the terror attack in Pahalgam. Several Pakistani nationals returning to Pakistan shared their concerns and appealed to the Indian government for reconsideration of the decision, particularly in cases involving families and long-term residents. Meanwhile, the validity of short-term visas for Pakistani nationals had already expired on Sunday, as per a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs. Samreen, a Pakistani national at the Attari Border, stated that she got married in India after coming here in September with a 45-day visa, but now she has to leave the country as she hasn't been issued her long-term visa. "I came here in September with a 45-day visa. After that, I got married here. I have not got my long-term visa yet, and now suddenly I have been asked to leave the country. The terrorists should be questioned. What is our fault? Why are we being punished? The people who have relatives in the country should be allowed to stay," Samreen said.

SUPREME COURT ORDERS CBI
PROBE INTO SUPERTECH
PROJECTS, CITES 'BUILDER-
BANK NEXUS'

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register seven preliminary enquiries to probe the nexus between builders and banks under subvention schemes. The federal agency will investigate several Supertech projects and the roles of banks which have provided loans for these housing projects in the national capital region (NCR) and other states. One of the preliminary enquiry is to probe Supertech projects and the role of banks that have loaned over ₹5,000 crore under the subvention scheme for its multiple housing projects. Meanwhile, another enquiry will be registered to look into the projects of builders that fall outside of the NCR range. The remaining five preliminary enquiries will investigate the role five government authorities namely Noida, Greater Noida, Yamuna Expressway Industrial authority, Gurugram authority, and Ghaziabad development authority. For carrying out the investigation, the CBI will form special investigation team, consisting of personnel from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana state police.

'TERROR WILL NEVER DEFEAT INDIA'S SPIRIT':
TOURISTS DEFY FEAR, RETURN TO PAHALGAM



Diary Times Desk : Kashmir, which fell silent a week ago after the deadly Pahalgam terror attacks, is seeing fleeting signs of life again. Tourists are trickling back to the "Paradise on Earth" as Bollywood stars and ministers lead the appeal to urge citizens not to abandon Kashmir and refuse to let terror dictate their decisions. The Pahalgam carnage, which left 25 tourists and a Kashmiri dead, wasn't just an attack on civilians but a strike at an industry that is the lifeline of Kashmir. Tourism accounts for nearly 7-8 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir's GDP. It is even more for the Valley. Thus, visuals of tourists leaving Pahalgam in droves after the attack raised fears of people shunning Kashmir altogether. In fact, the Kashmir Hotel Association said 80% of the bookings were cancelled immediately. However, a week on, the beginning of the return to normalcy in Kashmir seems to be well on track.

KARNATAKA: MANGALURU MAN KILLED IN
MOB LYNCHING OVER 'PAKISTAN
ZINDABAD' SLOGAN, 10 HELD

Diary Times Desk : A man died after being lynched by a mob allegedly over chanting "Pakistan Zindabad" during a local cricket match in Karnataka's Mangaluru on Sunday, following which over 10 individuals were arrested. Karnataka home minister G Parameashwara confirmed the incident, stating that the victim did not die immediately but succumbed to his injuries later. He added that a detailed report is awaited and that arrests have been made. "An incident of mob lynching has been reported involving an unidentified individual. I was informed that there are reports he was shouting 'Pakistan Zindabad' during a local cricket match, which led some people to beat him. He didn't die on the spot but passed away later. I'm yet to receive the full report. Around 10 to 12 people have been arrested and further investigation is underway," the state minister told news agency PTI. The incident occurred around 3 pm on Sunday near the Bhatra Kallurti temple in Kudupu village.

RAJNATH SINGH, NSA DOVAL, CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF ATTEND KEY MEET AT PM HOME

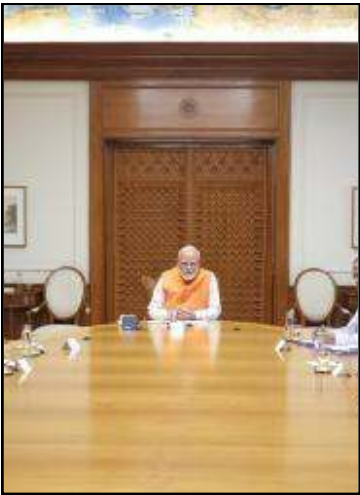
Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a high-level meet at his Delhi residence - to review the ongoing fallout of last week's Pahalgam terror attack and the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting lasted for over 90 minutes. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - who last week vowed a "strong response" to the attack and repeated the PM's assurance, that India will punish the terrorists and their handlers - was present, as were National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan. The meeting comes a day before the PM-led Cabinet Committee on Security, the government's highest decision-making body on national security, is to meet for a second time in seven days. Sources said that meet will be followed by a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, which is also led by the Prime Minister and includes the Road Transport Minister, the Health Minister, the Agriculture Minister, and the Railways Minister, among others, in addition to the five-member CCS. The CCS consists of Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in addition to the Prime Minister and Defence Minister.

"SITUATION WE'RE FACING..." :
A PAHALGAM HINT IN TOP
COURT'S PEGASUS REMARKS

Diary Times Desk : The central government using spyware for national security is not wrong unless it targets civil society, the Supreme Court today, while hearing petitions linked to the Pegasus case. The court also said details of an investigation report by its committee into the snooping allegations cannot be made public because it concerns the security and sovereignty of the country. The court also mentioned that there is a need for caution due to the "kind of situation we are facing", hinting at the Pahalgam terror attack. The court said anyone who suspects that he was snooped upon using Pegasus -- spyware developed by the Israeli cyber-arms company NSO Group -- can approach the court and would get a response on whether he was targeted. When Senior Advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for a petitioner, said that the entire report must be publicly available, Justice Surya Kant replied, "Any report which touches security and sovereignty of the country it will not be touched."

3 MAOISTS KILLED IN BIJAPUR IDENTIFIED
AS CADRES OF PLGA BATTALION NUMBER
01

Diary Times Desk : Three Maoists, including two women cadres, who were allegedly killed during an encounter on April 24 at Koraguttam hill area of Bijapur district were active cadres of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion Number 01, one of the most elite combat units of the banned CPI (Maoist) organisation, police officials said on Tuesday. Police said the dead Maoists have been identified as Hungi , Sintu and Shanti - all three were Member of PLGA Battalion Number 01 and all were carrying a reward of ₹8 lakh. The bodies of the deceased are in Bijapur and are yet to be claimed by the family members. "These high-value Maoist operatives were believed to be involved in several past incidents of violence against security forces and civilians in the region," a statement issued by police said. Officials said that after the encounter, the bodies were recovered and taken for post-mortem and all necessary legal formalities have been completed.



SPAIN'S GRID OPERATOR RULES OUT CYBERATTACK AS CAUSE OF SWEEPING BLACKOUT

Diary Times Desk : Spain's grid operator on Tuesday ruled out a cyberattack as the cause of a sweeping blackout that sparked chaos for millions of people across the Iberian Peninsula the previous day. Authorities were still trying to establish the cause of the crisis, with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez pleading with people "not to speculate" and avoid spreading "misinformation". "With the analysis that we have been able to carry out up to now, we can rule out a cybersecurity incident in the facilities" of national grid operator Red Elctrica, its director of operations Eduardo Prieto told a news conference. "There was no type of intrusion in Red Elctrica's control systems that may have caused the incident," he added. After the authorities worked tirelessly during the night to restore power progressively across Spain, Prieto said the electric system had been "normalised" and "working in a stable and correct way". Portuguese grid operator REN denied on Tuesday it was behind a message circulated on social media attributing the blackout to a rare atmospheric event.

TRUMP 100 DAYS REPORT CARD: POLL OF POLLS SHOWS 42% APPROVAL AMID TARIFF, IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump completes 100 days of his second term on Tuesday, April 29. Since taking office in January, the 78-year-old has made several key decisions on the economy, policy, and diplomacy. To mark the first big milestone of his second presidency, he will visit the site of one of his last campaign events, in the battleground state of Michigan. "The first time, I had two things to do -- run the country and survive; I had all these crooked guys," he said in an interview with The Atlantic magazine. He was referring to cabinet members from his first term. "And the second time, I run the country and the world. I'm having a lot of fun." However, the latest opinion polls show a troubled picture for President Trump. Recent polls from The New York Times, ABC News/The Washington Post, and Fox News showed his approval ratings at 42%, 39%, and 44%, respectively.

FORGET INDUS WATERS, PAKISTAN ARMY AND GOVT HAVE HUGE CANAL CRISIS AT HOME

Diary Times Desk : The Indus and its waters have been making headlines after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), a move that rattled Pakistan, which relies on the river basin to irrigate 80% of its farmland and support 90% of its food production. But, it's not the river Indus or India's actions that's causing Pakistan its latest headache. The crisis is homegrown. A controversial army-backed canal project, which would tap into the Indus River System, has resulted in massive protests across Sindh, crippling vehicular movement to Punjab. Even though PM Shahbaz Sharif's government has shelved the canal project, the blockade has continued for 12 days now. It looks far from over, and Islamabad's troubles are only piling up. The economic toll is huge too. Attempts to disperse the protesters have failed, and the blockades continue to choke the flow of goods to and from Karachi Port. Nearly a lakh truck drivers and helpers remain stranded and starved, with no end to the stalemate in sight, according to a report in the Dawn. The Sindh Police also used violence while trying to evict the demonstrators, and detained several individuals, reported The Balochistan Post.

**"IT'S OVER": CANADA PM MARK CARNEY CLOSES DOOR ON DONALD TRUMP'S TAKEOVER PLAN**

Diary Times Desk : In his victory speech after winning a stupendous electoral battle, where his Liberal Party came from behind to win the parliamentary election in Canada for a third consecutive time, Mark Carney, set to continue as prime minister, flayed US President Donald Trump. The era of integration between Canada and the United States of America is over, Mr Carney said, as supporters cheered in encouragement of their new prime minister. "Our old relationship with the United States, which had brought prosperity to Canada, is over," he added, cautioning Washington and President Trump that Canada has many other options and will explore it, cutting down dependency on America drastically. President Trump, who was the primary reason why snap polls were called by its northern neighbour, has been in relentless pursuit to make Canada the "51st state of the United States of America". So determined was he, that he repeatedly disregarded Canada's sovereignty and disrespected its prime minister by addressing him as "Governor" on several occasions.

JAGMEET SINGH'S BIG DEFEAT IN CANADA ELECTION IS GOOD NEWS FOR INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Jagmeet Singh, the leader of Canada's New Democratic Party and a known pro-Khalistan figure, has lost the 2025 Canadian federal election. His defeat has been seen as a welcome chance for India and Canada to reset diplomatic and trade relations left frozen by allegations - from Mr Singh and former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau - that "agents" of the former were involved in the killing of Hardeep Nijjar. Mr Singh - who had repeatedly, and without proof, made such claims - failed to defend his Burnaby Central Seat in British Columbia. He lost to the Liberal Party's Wade Chang. Mr Singh's NDP - tipped as a 'kingmaker' in this closely-fought poll - has also been beaten. Canadian media has predicted it will finish a distant fourth; its seven seats placing it well behind the Yves-Francois Blanchet-led Bloc Québécois' 23.

RECORD 22 PUNJABIS ELECTED TO HOUSE OF COMMONS IN CANADA

Diary Times Desk : A record 22 of the 65 Punjabis in the federal poll fray have been elected to the House of Commons in Canada on Tuesday as Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party pulled off an extraordinary comeback. The Punjabi-Canadian community, a key part of Canada's South Asian population, played a particularly prominent role in this election. In 2021, 18 Punjabis had won, while in the 2019 federal polls, 20 of Punjab-origin were elected. This time, 16 sitting Punjab-origin MPs were seeking re-election, with many ridings seeing a direct contest between Punjabi candidates. Liberal Party's Ruby Sahota defeated Conservative Party's Amandeep Judge from Brampton North, while Liberal candidate Maninder Sidhu defeated Conservative Party's Bob Dosanjh from Brampton East and Amandeep Sohi of the Liberal Party defeated Conservative Taran Chahal from Brampton Centre. Sukhdeep Kang of the Conservative Party defeated Liberal candidate Sonia Sidhu from Brampton South and Amarjeet Gill of the Conservative Party defeated sitting minister Kamal Khara from Brampton West.

ISRAELI STRIKES ON GAZA KILL AT LEAST 27 PALESTINIANS

Diary Times Desk : Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight into Monday killed at least 27 Palestinians, according to local health officials. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Israel has carried out daily strikes on Gaza since ending its ceasefire with Hamas last month. It has cut off the territory's 2 million Palestinians from all imports, including food and medicine, since the beginning of March in what it says is an attempt to pressure the militant group to release hostages. The daily bombardment and widespread hunger is taking a heavy toll on Gaza's most vulnerable residents, including pregnant women and children. The United Nations' highest court began holding hearings on Monday into Israel's obligation to facilitate humanitarian aid to the territories it occupies. Israel says the International Court of Justice is biased against it. It says enough aid entered during the ceasefire to sustain the population and accuses Hamas of siphoning it off. Humanitarian workers say supplies are running desperately low, with most people eating one meal or less a day. They say the U.N. closely monitors aid distribution and deny any significant diversion. An airstrike hit a home in Beit Lahiya.

VERKA MILK PRICE HIKE BY RS 2/LITRE FROM APRIL 30

Diary Times Desk : State-owned milk brand Verka has announced a Rs 2 per litre hike in the maximum retail price of its pouch milk variants in Punjab and adjoining areas, along with Delhi and NCR, with effect from April 30. However, prices of other milk-based products will remain unchanged for the summer. The price of full cream milk (500ml) pouch has now been revised from Rs 34 to Rs 35, standardised (STD) milk (500ml) pouch from Rs 31 to Rs 32, toned milk (500ml) pouch from Rs 28 to Rs 29, double toned milk (500ml) from Rs 25 to Rs 26, and cow milk (500ml) from Rs 29 to Rs 30. There has been no change in the price of skimmed milk (500ml) at Rs 23. Similarly, prices for 1-litre and 1.5-litre pouches have been hiked by Rs 2 and Rs 3, respectively. Officials said the price hike was necessitated after the increase of rates by other dominant dairy players in Punjab and adjoining areas. "The revision is an annual exercise during summers to compensate dairy farmers as the production of milk decreases and input cost goes up," officials said. The Punjab State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited arrived at a decision to hike the prices after a meeting of the members on April 28 and an approval by the Milkfed Managing Director. General managers of Amritsar, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali, Patiala, Sangrur, and Bassi Pathana have been informed in this regard.

**TESTING OVER, PUNJAB TO SOON
DEPLOY ANTI-DRONE SYSTEM ALONG
PAK BORDER**

Diary Times Desk : Amidst heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, Punjab Police chief Gaurav Yadav on Monday said testing of the anti-drone system had been completed and the technology would soon be installed along the second line of defence in the state. Addressing the media, Yadav said the anti-drone systems would be deployed in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Border Security Force (BSF). "We have started preparations and by September, we will counter drones bringing drugs and weapons from Pakistan. We have held several meetings with the MHA and the BSF," he said. The DGP has called a review meeting of all Commissioners of Police and SSPs on Tuesday where the police officers will present their plan to eradicate drugs from their respective districts by May 31. Explaining the May 31 deadline (announced in a statement on Sunday) to make Punjab drugs-free, the DGP clarified that the timeframe signified cutting off all supply chains by that date. "The state will be drug-free in a way that no drugs will be available on the streets.... No specific targets, such as arrests or drug recoveries, have been given to district police heads," he said. Yadav said they would conduct a field survey after May 31.

**GANGSTER-TURNED-SOCIAL
WORKER SHOT DEAD NEAR GOLDEN
TEMPLE IN AMRITSAR**

Diary Times Desk : A gangster-turned-social worker, Ravneet Singh alias Sonu Mota, was shot dead in a brazen attack near the Golden Temple's Kathian Wala Bazaar on Tuesday evening. The incident occurred in the congested market area behind Akal Takhat. According to the police, Sonu Mota was intercepted by assailants led by gangster Abhiraj Singh alias Abhi Pehalwan while heading towards Gurudwara Guru Ka Mahal. The attackers, who had been surveilling Sonu for several days, blocked his path with their scooters and opened fire. Sonu Mota was hit by five bullets and collapsed. Sonu's associate attempted to retaliate, chasing the fleeing attackers and firing at them. However, the assailants turned around and shot back, causing panic in the busy commercial area. Shopkeepers immediately contacted the police and called for medical help, but Sonu was pronounced dead by the time the ambulance arrived. ADCP Vishaljit Singh confirmed the incident, identifying Abhiraj Singh as the main accused. The police have registered a murder case and are conducting raids to apprehend the accused and his accomplices. According to Singh, the police are actively pursuing leads and will arrest all involved individuals soon.

**CHANDIGARH STARTUPS OF WOMEN, TRANSGENDERS TO GET RS 2L
ADDITIONAL GRANT**

Diary Times Desk : The UT Administration has decided to give an additional grant of Rs 2 lakh to the startups led by women or transgenders. The special grant will be provided under the Chandigarh Startup Policy to be unveiled by Punjab Governor-cum-UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria tomorrow. According to the policy, for seed-stage and early-growth startups, a Rs 4.6-crore corpus has been set aside. Under the seed stage, 20 eligible startups will receive Rs 7 lakh each, with an additional Rs 2 lakh for ventures led by women or transgenders. In the early-growth category, 20 eligible ventures will get Rs 12 lakh each to support commercialisation with an additional Rs 2 lakh for startups led by women or transgenders. To ignite the young minds, the Administration has earmarked Rs 90 lakh for a grand startup competition. Each year, the top 20 winners will receive an idea grant of Rs 2 lakh, along with incubation support for one year, while the next 50 runners-up will be awarded Rs 1 lakh each with incubation support for one year. The policy also includes reimbursement-based fiscal incentives, such as subsidised rent of Rs 5,000 for office space per month for 50 startups, Rs 1-lakh support for IT and quality certifications to 20 startups and Rs 10,000 for filing patent to 40 startups.

**"UNHOLY NEXUS BETWEEN
BANKS, BUILDERS": SC ORDERS
CBI PROBE INTO 'FRAUD'
PLAYED ON HOMEBUYERS**

Diary Times Desk : Taking note of an "unholy nexus" between banks and builders resulting in duping of thousands of unsuspecting homebuyers in the Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the CBI to register seven preliminary enquiries (PEs) against builders, including Supertech Ltd. "We deem it appropriate to direct the CBI to register seven preliminary enquiries in the manner as suggested in the affidavit filed on its behalf...the first preliminary inquiry shall pertain to the projects of M/s Supertech Ltd...one preliminary inquiry for the projects of builders other than Supertech Ltd falling outside the NCR (namely Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mohali and Allahabad)...Five preliminary enquiries (one each) for the projects only under one development authority - Noida, Greater Noida, Yamuna Expressway, Gurugram and Ghaziabad," a bench led by Justice Surya Kant said. The CBI conducting a preliminary inquiry was a sufficient safeguard as "the CBI is never in a tearing hurry to register an FIR, unless it's satisfied that there is something (to investigate)".

**MC COMMISSIONER MANESAR
TRANSFERRED AMIDST
CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS BY
CONTRACTOR**

Diary Times Desk : Days after Municipal Commissioner Manesar, IAS Renu Sogan, penalised a local sweeping contractor, Shishpal Singh Rana of Akanksha Enterprises, for non-performance, he moved to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) Haryana, accusing her of corruption. A day after the complaint, Sogan was unceremoniously transferred out in a late evening order. The dispute between the officer and the contractor started when Sogan imposed a penalty of Rs 4.50 crore on Rana for failing to provide sufficient manpower and equipment to sweep Manesar streets. Sogan claimed that she received numerous complaints from residents, including the local mayor and MLA Bimla Chowdhary. "The sweeping was not up to the mark. He was not providing enough manpower, and after repeated warnings, he was fined," said Sogan. However, Rana moved a complaint to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday, accusing senior civic body officials, including the Municipal Commissioner, of deliberately withholding payments, imposing unfair penalties, and demanding bribes to process bills. Rana alleged that despite executing municipal services for four months, payments amounting.

FOREST FIRE RAGES IN KANGRA'S NAGROTA BAGWAN

Diary Times Desk : A forest fire broke out in the pine forests near Rajjana village close to Nagrota Bagwan town in Kangra district, causing panic among people living in nearby areas. The fire started on Monday night and turned into a major blaze by Tuesday morning. The district administration and forest department have deployed personnel to control the fire. Trenches have been dug and fire tenders are being used. However, the large buildup of pine leaves on the forest floor is making it difficult for the authorities to control the fire. Pine forests are known to be a major cause of forest fires in the Dharamsala region. Over the past few decades, the forest department has planted pine trees widely due to their high survival rate. Today, pine forests cover around 27,910 hectares, or about 20 per cent of the total forest area in the Dharamsala forest circle. Forest officials believe that most fires in pine forests are man-made, either started deliberately or by accident — often due to people throwing burning objects into the forest. The dry pine leaves make it easy for such fires to spread rapidly.

HEAT WAVE WARNING ISSUED FOR THREE DISTRICTS

Diary Times Desk : As hill stations of the state heat up, the state's meteorological department has issued a yellow warning of severe heat wave conditions in isolated areas of Una, Kullu and Mandi districts for the next two days. During these days, minimum temperatures are likely to surge by 3°C to 4°C while maximum temperatures are very likely to surge by 2°C to 3°C across the state. The department has also issued a yellow weather warning for all the 12 districts of the state for May 1 and 2, resulting in rain across the state. As per the state's meteorological department, dry weather conditions will continue till April 30 after which the state will experience light rainfall from May 1 onwards due to a fresh Western Disturbance that is very likely to affect the Western Himalayan Region from May 2 onwards. Meanwhile, weather was mostly dry across the state during the last 24 hours with no large changes recorded.

TRANSPORT SECTOR CAUSES 20 PER CENT AIR POLLUTION IN STATE: SUKHU

Diary Times Desk : The transport sector alone emits 16 per cent to 20 per cent of greenhouse gases in the state, thus necessitating the need to device apt policies for environmental conservation. "Besides posing a serious threat to the environment, the increasing number of petrol and diesel vehicles are becoming a major cause of pollution. Keeping this in mind, our government is promoting the use of electric vehicles." Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu stated this while presiding over the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) National Truck and Bus Meet at Gandhi Gram in the Kasauli Assembly Constituency of Solan district today. He reiterated his government's resolve of making Himachal Pradesh a green energy state by March 2026. He elaborated on various green initiatives like the Rs 680-crore Rajiv Gandhi Swarojgar Start-up Yojana, which provides 50 per cent subsidy on the purchase of e-vehicles and ensured assured employment by attaching them with government departments for four years. "Under the e-Taxi Scheme, 50 e-taxis have so far been attached to government departments and 50 more e-taxis will be approved before May 10," he added. Sukhu said, "I am myself using an e-vehicle, which is economical and causes no pollution." He added that the government was converting diesel buses into e-buses in a phased manner. "The HRTC has issued tenders for the purchase of 297 electric buses at a cost of Rs 412 crore.



NOW, APPLY TO PENSION SCHEMES ONLINE, CM SUKHU LAUNCHES E-KALYAN PORTAL

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the e-Kalyan Portal of the Department for Empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Specially Abled here today. It has been developed under the Him-Parivar portal. The e-Kalyan Portal will enable all eligible applicants of the state to apply online for getting benefits under various pension schemes being run by the Directorate of the Department of Empowerment of Scheduled Castes. The Chief Minister said that providing social security pension to the needy was one of top priorities of his government. He reiterated the government's commitment to functioning in line with the principles of a welfare state. Sukhu said that eight pension schemes were currently operational in the state for the benefit of vulnerable sections of society. "Rs 1,410 crore was spent on these schemes in the last financial year and 824,928 individuals were benefited. An additional 37,000 beneficiaries will be included under the social security pension schemes in the current financial year and additional Rs 67 crore will be spent for the purpose," he added. The Chief Minister was informed that the e-Kalyan Portal was integrated with databases such as Him Bhoomi, Him Parivar, Aadhaar and PDS ration card. Applicants could apply directly or through Lokmitra Kendras.

GOVERNOR EXHORTS PEOPLE TO FIGHT DRUG MENACE

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla yesterday called upon the people to contribute towards fighting the menace of drug abuse from the society. He was speaking at Kangar village after inaugurating the three-day State Level Haroli Festival here. Local MLA and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri accompanied the Governor. This year the festival's theme is 'Drug Free Himachal-Drug Free Una, Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life'. The Governor wished the Haroli Festival a great success, adding that fairs and festivals are not mere rituals, but help us to remain rooted to our rich traditions and culture. He offered deep condolences on the death of innocent lives in Pahalgam and said terrorism was the biggest enemy of humanity. Reiterating his commitment to the development of the state, he said as and when he receives any development proposal from the state government, he will forward it to the Central government with his recommendations. The festival began with a colourful procession from government college, Haroli, to Kangar ground. The Governor and the Deputy Chief Minister led the procession in an open jeep, while children carrying placards and raising slogans against drug abuse.

CHAMBA'S SAHO JATAR FAIR SHOWCASES RICH HERITAGE, TALENT

Diary Times Desk : The historic Saho Jatar Fair, representing brotherhood and tradition, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur in Chamba on Monday. The traditional Bhasmasur and Ghurei dance performances were the main attractions of the event. The festivities began in the morning with a vibrant procession starting from Chamaharui village of Protha. After a stop at Diyul village, the procession continued towards the Kothi Jalpa Mata Temple, and finally reached the Chandrashekhar Mahadev Temple in the afternoon. Men and women dressed in traditional "Chola Dora" attire performed the Nati together, captivating the audience. Spectators from not only the district but also from outside areas flocked to witness the event. Chamba MLA Neeraj Nayar attended the fair as the chief guest. He congratulated everyone on the successful organization of the historic Saho Jatar Fair and emphasised that fairs and festivals symbolize unity, integrity, and cultural heritage, and thus must be preserved. He also announced a contribution of Rs 11,000 to the fair committee. The fair also saw an array of performances by renowned and local artists. It began with an impressive Musadha singing performance by Roshan Lal, followed by soulful renditions by folk singers Subhash Prince and Pallavi Pathania. The Ritika Folk Dance Group, with their mesmerizing Himachali Suhala Nati, became the highlight of the fair.



NARINE KEEPS KKR ALIVE WITH STAR-TURN

Diary Times Desk : Sunil Narine's exceptional all-round effort brought down Delhi Capitals in a thrilling finish at the national capital to keep KKR alive in IPL 2025. Faf du Plessis (62 off 45), Axar Patel (43 off 23) and Vipraj Nigam (38 off 19) did their bit to keep DC afloat in chase of KKR's 204/9 but timely dents from Narine meant DC ended 14 short. Besides dismissing two of DC's three best batters on the evening as well as Tristan Stubbs, Narine was also involved in running out KL Rahul and taking a catch to dismiss Ashutosh Sharma. Very little separated the two sides in two of the three phases of the game, but DC perhaps conceded a few too many in the PowerPlay that set KKR up for a big total. They got past 200 despite tripping up at the death. DC could not enjoy such a cushion at the end. KKR's openers put on their best stand of the season - worth 48 runs - as they flew off the blocks.

SAI SUDHARSAN SAYS GT DIDN'T
'REACT WELL' TO SURYAVANSHI-
JAISWAL ONSLAUGHT

Diary Times Desk : It was the first ball of the second over in Rajasthan Royals' (RR) chase against Gujarat Titans (GT). Yashasvi Jaiswal tried to pull Ishant Sharma, top-edged it, and sent it swirling towards point. There was a fielder closer to the ball, but Jos Buttler called for it, ran after it, and spilled it. "We could have and we should have taken that catch, that would have made a big difference," B Sai Sudharsan said after the game, while adding that it was early on in the game, and "we can't be so harsh". As it turned out, Jaiswal made 31 in 16 balls in the powerplay and his 14-year-old opening partner Vaibhav Suryavanshi 52 in 20. RR got to 87 after six overs. The two ended up adding 166 in 11.5 overs, Suryavanshi breaking records on his way to a 38-ball 101 and Jaiswal, very much the support act, finishing unbeaten on 70 from 40 balls. The win came with 25 balls in hand despite the target being 210. When we finished [batting], we felt it was par or ten runs over par, is what our feeling was. But the way they started and batted showed us that we were wrong," Sai Sudharsan, who scored 39 in 30 balls to take the Orange Cap back from Virat Kohli, said.

AJAY JADEJA BLASTS SHUBHMAN
GILL FOR 'NOT GIVING ENOUGH
CREDIT' TO VAIBHAV SURYAVANSHI

Diary Times Desk : Former Indian cricketer Ajay Jadeja has taken strong exception to Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill's remarks about 14-year-old Rajasthan Royals sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi. After the Royals chased down a big 210-run target with ease, thanks to Vaibhav's record-breaking century, Gill stated that it was the youngster's day, saying, "It was his day. His hitting was tremendous, and he made full use of it." Jadeja, visibly annoyed during the post-match broadcast on Star Sports, said, "A 14-year-old to have that much belief in himself... and then to say it was just a lucky day? That's not giving enough credit." He emphasised that Suryavanshi's brilliance deserved far more appreciation, especially given the age and pressure involved. Vaibhav Suryavanshi's 101 off just 38 balls lit up the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

FOR VAIBHAV SURYAVANSHI, A
WHOPPING CASH REWARD FROM
BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER NITISH KUMAR

Diary Times Desk : Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced a prize money of Rs 10 lakh for the 14-year-old rising sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi following his record-breaking ton against Gujarat Titans on Monday at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium. Suryavanshi left an everlasting impression in the history of the T20 format with his grand spectacle at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium. The 14-year-old, who has recently taken baby steps in his career, toyed with GT's bowling unit, boasting 694 international caps. At 14 years and 32 days, the boy wonder, who hails from Bihar, became the youngest player to score a century in T20 cricket and the second-fastest to hit a ton in the cash-rich league's history after Chris Gayle's 30-ball heroic effort against Pune Warriors in 2013. It took a searing yorker from Prasidh Krishna to put an end to Suryavanshi's relentless onslaught. Nitish congratulated Suryavanshi for his impeccable performance during Rajasthan's resounding 8-wicket triumph and on Tuesday announced a prize of Rs 10 lakh from the state government.

SNEH RANA PICKS FIVE AS SOUTH
AFRICA COLLAPSE IN CHASE

Diary Times Desk : In a thrilling contest in Colombo, India beat South Africa by 15 runs in the second game of the tri-series. In pursuit of 277, South Africa had a 140-run opening stand but then collapsed to 261 all-out to hand India their second win in as many games. Sneha Rana, the pick of the bowlers against Sri Lanka in the first game, was once again the star of the show with figures of 5 for 43 which turned the game on its head. Having won the toss and elected to bat, the opening pair of Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal continued to provide India with a good start. The latter was up and running in the first over but Mandhana got off the mark in the third, after a few sighters, with consecutive boundaries. South Africa with their pace bowlers of Masabata Klaas and Ayabonga Khaka kept things tight, and the two even bowled maidens in the sixth and seventh over. But once Laura Wolvaardt turned to offspinner Sune Luus, India broke free through two boundaries from Mandhana. Klaas came back from the other end but also ended up leaking 10 runs as India closed the PowerPlay at a decent score of 43 for 0. A few tight overs followed after the mandatory field restrictions were lifted, and Mandhana also survived a run-out scare which the 'keeper missed by a long margin. Despite run-scoring not being the easiest, India were 71 for 0 by the time drinks were called. Soon after the drinks break, Annerie Dercksen broke the stand as Mandhana was strangled down the legside.

SHIKHAR DHAWAN SLAMS
SHAHID AFRIDI FOR
BLAMING INDIAN ARMY
FOR PAHALGAM ATTACK

Diary Times Desk : Former India cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has lashed out at Shahid Afridi after the Pakistan cricketer blamed the Indian Army for the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that killed 26 people on April 22. In a strongly-worded post on social media, Dhawan urged Afridi to end the verbal diarrhoea and backed the Indian Army, saying that everyone in the country is proud of the efforts of the force. Dhawan's response comes days after Afridi made bizarre comments on a television channel in Pakistan, alleging that a security lapse had led to the terrorist attack. The former Pakistan cricketer also criticised the media for their coverage of the incident and urged India to provide proof of Pakistan's involvement in the terror attack. "We defeated you even in Kargil. You have already fallen so low - how much lower will you go? Instead of making pointless comments, it would be better if you used your mind for your country's progress, @SAfridiOfficial. We are extremely proud of our Indian Army. Bharat Mata Ki Jai! Jai Hind!" Dhawan said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

HISTORY MADE IN IPL AS
SHASTRI FORECASTS NEXT
CHALLENGE FOR
SURYAVANSHI

Diary Times Desk : History was made in the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Monday when 14-year-old sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi smashed a sensational century for the Rajasthan Royals. Suryavanshi became the youngest player to score a T20 century with his innings of 101 in an eight-wicket victory for the Royals against Gujarat Titans, with the left-hander eclipsing the previous record held by Maharashtra's Vijay Zol, who had scored a hundred at the age of 18 years and 118 days. The teenager smashed seven fours and 11 sixes during his 38-ball innings, with his century coming from just 35 deliveries and the second fastest in the history of the IPL, only behind Chris Gayle's 30-ball effort. It was only Suryavanshi's third innings in the IPL, with the opener having impressed earlier in the tournament and catching Ravi Shastri's eye when he hit his first ball for six and scored 34 against the Lucknow Super Giants. Shastri spoke glowingly of the bevy of young openers on display in the IPL this year on the latest episode of The ICC Review and admitted he had been in awe of how Suryavanshi had commenced his crickering career.