## DIARYTIMES



Saturday 03 May 2025 | Shimla | Vol: 05 | Issue: 436 | Pages: 08 | Price: 3

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## **PM MODI**

## VIJAYAN, THAROOR PRESENT AT KERALA PORT EVENT: PM MODI SAYS IT WILL GIVE 'SLEEPLESS NIGHTS' TO MANY

**Diary Times Desk:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took a swipe at the Congress, saying the presence of its MP Shashi Tharoor at the commissioning of the Vizhinjam International Seaport here will give "sleepless nights" to many.

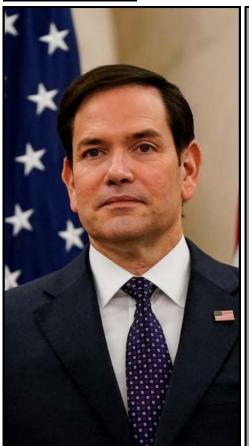
Modi's direct mention of Tharoor's presence at the event comes at a time when the Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram is being accused by his own party colleagues of going soft on the BJP after the Pahalgam terror attack. Tharoor has also been criticised by some Congress leaders for praising India's deft diplomacy on the Russia-Ukraine conflict under Modi's leadership.

The Prime Minister also described Kerala Chief Minister Vijayan, who was also present at the inauguration, as a "pillar" of the opposition INDIA bloc. "I would like to say to our chief minister, you are a big and strong pillar of the INDI Alliance. Shashi Tharoor is also sitting here, and I would like to say that today's event will take away the sleep of many," Modi said. However, the person translating his speech did not translate it properly, and it prompted Modi to say: "The message has gone across for whom it was meant". Tharoor, who received Modi on his arrival on Thursday, posted on X:" Despite delays at the dysfunctional Delhi airport, managed to land in Thiruvananthapuram in time to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his arrival in my constituency. Looking forward to his officially commissioning Vizhinjam port, a project I have been proud to have been involved with since its inception."



## PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

## US STANDS STRONG WITH INDIA AGAINST TERRORISM, PM MODI HAS OUR FULL SUPPORT: STATE DEPARTMENT



**Diary Times Desk:** The United States stands strong with India against terrorism and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "has our full support", the State Department said underlining that Secretary of State Marco Rubio has urged India and Pakistan to work towards a responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace and regional stability in South Asia.

State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at a press briefing on Thursday that Washington is "monitoring closely" the situation between India and Pakistan amid rising tensions. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke separately with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.

"As the President articulated to Prime Minister Modi last week, the United States stands strong with India against terrorism, and Prime Minister Modi has our full support," Bruce said.

Rubio "encouraged both countries to work towards a responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace and regional stability in South Asia. We continue to be in touch with the governments of both countries, as I mentioned, at multiple levels," Bruce added. "This government is in constant communication. We are asking for a responsible resolution from both parties. And beyond that, there's nothing I can give you, any other details," she said.

## **JOURNALIST MOVES SC TO CHALLENGE BAN ON YOUTUBE** CHANNEL '4PM'

Diary Times Desk: A journalist has moved Supreme Court against the blocking of his YouTube news channel '4PM', saying the "arbitrary" action violated his fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Petitioner Sanjay Sharma, the Editor-in-Chief of '4PM' YouTube channel, contended that the blocking of his channel by YouTube on purported grounds of "national security" and "public order" was without any prior notice or hearing following an "undisclosed" order issued by the Centre under IT Blocking Rules. "The purported reasoning of national security cannot be invoked as a blanket excuse to shut out independent journalistic voices," Sharma said, adding restrictions must be justified and proportionate. "The principle of proportionality requires that only the offending post is dealt with in accordance with law after engaging with the publisher of the post and not the whole channel," he said, contending that the ban was inconsistent with the Supreme Court's rulings in Shreya Singhal and other cases. Sharma has also challenged the validity of the IT Blocking Rules, 2009, on the ground that they infringed upon fundamental rights to freedom of speech and expression, right to equality and the right to life and personal liberty.



## **'VERY SERIOUS': NEW DELHI ON** DEATH OF NEPALESE STUDENT AT **ODISHA'S KIIT**

Diary Times Desk: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said thorough enquiry will be conducted into the death of a Nepalese student, who was found dead in her hostel room at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneshwar, saying that India takes the safety and security of all international students "very seriously". The student, Prisa Sah, 18, was studying in first year B. Tech (Computer Science). Officials said an alleged suicide was reported around 8 pm on Thursday. In a statement, the MEA said, "We are deeply saddened by the tragic demise of a Nepali student of KIIT University, Bhubaneshwar. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family during this difficult time." The ministry added that it has been in constant touch with the Odisha government since the incident was reported. "The state Government of Odisha has extended full support to the family of the deceased

## **'TIME TO TEACH PAKISTAN A LESSON': CONGRESS** ADOPTS PAHALGAM ATTACK RESOLUTION



Diary Times Desk: The Congress on Friday urged the Centre to act with firmness in the wake of the Pahalgam attack to "penalise" Pakistan for its continued export of terror and asserted this is a time for demonstrating our collective will as a nation to "teach Pakistan a lesson". Calling for national unity and resolve, the Congress also pressed for "time-bound accountability" into the "serious lapses" in security and intelligence in one of the most heavily-guarded regions of the country. The opposition party made the assertions in a resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee (CWC) at its meeting which was chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge. Former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Jairam Ramesh, KC Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra among others attended the meeting. "This is a time for demonstrating our collective will as a nation to teach Pakistan a lesson and curb terrorism decisively. The masterminds and perpetrators of this cowardly attack must face full consequences for their actions," the resolution

## **AIR MARSHAL NARMDESHWAR TIWARI TAKES** CHARGE AS IAF VICE CHIEF

Diary Times Desk: Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari has taken charge as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force, succeeding Air Marshal SP Dharkar, who superannuated on April 30. Prior to this appointment, Air Marshal Tiwari commanded the IAF's South Western Air Command at Gandhinagar. The new Vice Chief of the IAF carries an interesting war-time legacy. He played a key role in operationalising the 'Litening' laser designation pod during the Kargil Operations in 1999. The pod, sourced from Israel and installed on IAF jets, marked an invisible beam that served as the path for laser-quided bombs to follow upon launch. This technology significantly enhanced the IAF's precision targeting capabilities against Pakistani troops occupying mountain heights during the conflict. Air Marshal Tiwari was also actively involved in the flight testing of the Tejas fighter jet from 2006 to 2009 and again in 2018-19 as Project Director (Flight Test) at National Flight Test Centre. He contributed to the final operational clearance of the Tejas.



## YOUR HOROSCOPE 03-05-2025



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

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.

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.

## THREE DRUG SMUGGLERS FROM TARN TARAN CAUGHT IN GAGRET WITH 121 GRAMS OF CHITTA, USED A VEHICLE WITH HIMACHAL NUMBER

Diary Times Desk: Tightening its grip on the drug mafia, the Anti Narcotics Task Force nabbed three drug smugglers from Tarn Taran district of Punjab, which borders Pakistan, with a large consignment of heroin (chitta) in Gagret area. It is suspected that this consignment of drugs came from across the border. To transport it to Himachal, the drug smugglers were using a car with Himachal number plate. The quantity of heroin seized is 121.80 grams. Its market price is said to be around six lakh rupees. On the complaint of ANTF, a case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in Gagret police station and all the three accused have been arrested. According to the information, the Northern Range of the Anti Narcotics Task Force received intelligence information that the smugglers living in the border areas of Punjab are secretly transporting the consignment of heroin coming through Pakistan to Himachal Pradesh. Based on this information, ASP Rajinder Jaswal of ANTF Northern Range Kangra asked the team comprising of ANTF ASI Suresh Kumar, ASI Vikas Arora, Head Constable Deepak, Head Constable Hemraj, Constable Sumit Kumar and Constable Amit Kashyap to increase surveillance on the Himachal-Punjab border.



### HIMACHAL BOMB THREAT: AFTER MANDI, HAMIRPUR, CHAMBA, NOW MAIL OF BOMB BLAST IN KULLU, ADMINISTRATION ISSUED ALERT

Diary Times Desk: After Mandi, Hamirpur, Chamba of Himachal Pradesh, now there is a threat of bomb blast in Kullu. The mail came on Thursday night at 1:44 pm, but it was seen in the afternoon as the mail did not open in the computer. After this, the private secretary of the Deputy Commissioner informed DC Kullu and as a precaution, the office was evacuated and now the employees gathered in the campus. In view of this, Kullu College has also been closed. At the same time, the team of Cyber Cell of Kullu Police is investigating the matter. Deputy Commissioner Kullu is issuing an order that all concerned are informed that various places in District Kullu, including government offices and public places, have received bomb threats through email within 24 hours. In view of the seriousness of the threat, all the department heads and in-charges of essential public institutions are directed to take the following immediate action.

that the government should tell when the new orders will be issued. He said that the government has issued a letter on April 25 and banned all types of contractual recruitments in the state, but even after a week has passed, neither new orders have been issued for recruitment nor has it been clarified how recruitments will be done in future. He asked whether the government wants to spend the remaining tenure without providing employment like the last two years. Jairam Thakur said that the government has completely forgotten its guarantees. Now no minister of the government talks about the guarantees like one lakh government jobs in the first cabinet, giving Rs 1500 every month to women of the state between 18 and 59 years, startup fund.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR

SAID- BY BANNING CONTRACTUAL

**RECRUITMENTS, THE YOUTH HAVE BEEN** 

MADE UNEMPLOYED

Diary Times Desk: Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur

said that by banning contractual recruitments by the

state government, not only the way for future

recruitments has been closed but the recruitments

which were going on routinely have also stopped. The

youth of the state are waiting for the government to

issue new orders so that recruitments can start. In a

press statement issued on Friday, Jairam Thakur said

#### HIMACHAL: STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO DO MANY COURSES INCLUDING MBA IN AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, ADMISSION PROCESS STARTED

Diary Times Desk: Nauni University has started the admission process for its undergraduate and postgraduate programs for the academic session 2025-26. Students interested in studying in various fields such as horticulture, forestry, natural farming, biotechnology, food technology and agribusiness can apply. The application process is completely online through the university website www.yspuniversity.ac.in. undergraduate programs, the university offers courses in BSc (Hons) Horticulture and BSc (Hons) Forestry at its main campus as well as Horticulture and Forestry Colleges at Neri and Thunag. Students at the main campus also have the option to take admission in BSc Agriculture (Hons) Natural Farming and BTech Food Technology (self-financing). One can also apply for BTech Biotechnology at the university's Neri College. The university has also started the application process for MSc.

### HIMACHAL: NOW YOU CAN APPLY IN SPU TILL 9TH MAY, THE UNIVERSITY HAS EXTENDED THE DATE FOR APPLICATION FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM

Diary Times Desk: There is a relief news for the students who missed taking admission in Sardar Patel University and its affiliated colleges. Now students can apply till May 9. This includes various courses along with B.Ed. Other courses are also included. SPU conducts entrance examination for admission in some courses. SPU had fixed May 3 as the date for online application to participate in the examination before admission in these courses. Due to less applications, SPU has extended the application date. These courses include MSc Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Mathematics, MA English, Hindi, Political Science, and History subjects. Apart from this, the university also offers MCom, MCA, MBA, BBA, BCA and B.Ed. SPU Vice Chancellor Prof. Lalit Kumar Awasthi said that the last date for filling online application forms for entrance examinations of undergraduate and postgraduate courses has been extended till May 9 in view of the demand of the students. This decision has been taken to ensure maximum participation and convenience of students.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: YOU CAN APPLY TILL 17TH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BPL LIST IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Diary Times Desk: People in Himachal Pradesh will now be able to apply for selection in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list till May 17. Till now the government had fixed the last date as April 30. The state government has amended the notification of March 21, 2025 for this. For BPL selection, a threemember verification committee (based on Panchayat Secretary, Patwari and Anganwadi worker) will have to be constituted by the SDM by May 8. The list decided by the verification committee will be pasted on the notice board of Gram Panchayats for public scrutiny by June 25. The government has given instructions to complete the process of BPL selection by October 15. On the other hand, Director of Rural Development Department Raghav Sharma said that eligible people of the state can apply till May 17 to be included in the BPL list. Some people were not able to apply by the pre-determined 30 April, the last date has been extended for the convenience of such people.

# MANDI: THE UNDER CONSTRUCTION NERCHOWK TO PANDOH FOUR LANE WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR TWO HOURS NEAR CHAR MILE TILL MAY 31

Diary Times Desk : District Magistrate and Chairman District Disaster Management Authority Mandi Apurv Devgan has issued an order that keeping in view the ongoing construction work on the Nerchowk to Pandoh four-lane, this route near Char Mile will remain closed for two hours a day from May 2 to May 31, 2025. Under the orders issued, this route will remain closed from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm for removing debris and from 5:00 am to 7:00 am for cutting the hill. The Deputy Commissioner said that this decision has been taken keeping in mind the urgency of the work, the safety requirements of construction activities and the safety of the common citizens passing through the road. He has appealed to the general public for cooperation and requested them to use alternative routes during this period. Keeping in mind the ongoing construction work on the Nerchowk to Pandoh four-lane, this route near Char Mile will remain closed for two hours a day from May 2 to May 31, 2025. District Magistrate and Chairman District Disaster Management Authority Mandi Apoorv Devgan has issued an order.

#### MANGALURU ON HIGH ALERT, GATHERINGS BANNED AFTER MURDER-ACCUSED KILLED

Diary Times Desk: The police in Karnataka's Mangaluru have enforced prohibitory orders across the city till May 6 after a man, a prime accused in a murder case, was murdered on Thursday. Suhas Shetty, who was in his early thirties, was killed by at least five men using machetes and swords on a busy road. The incident was caught on CCTV. He was reportedly associated with various local Hindutva outfits and had several cases registered against him, including for assault and unlawful assembly. Shetty was also the key accused in the 2022 murder case of a 23-year-old man. Mohammed Fazil, in Mangaluru. Fazil's murder was widely believed to be a retaliatory killing following the assassination of BJP youth worker Praveen Nettaru. Following Shetty's murder, police enforced prohibitory orders under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita across the Mangaluru City Police limits. The order prohibits public gatherings, meetings, processions, sloganeering, and the carrying of objects that could be used as weapons.

### AMID PAHALGAM TENSION, SUPREME COURT RELIEF FOR ACCENTURE STAFFER TOLD TO GO TO PAK

Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court has stayed the deportation of an Accenture employee from Bengaluru and his family as ordered by the government, which is cancelling visas and ejecting Pakistan nationals as part of a flurry of diplomatic restrictions after the Pahalgam terror attack. The man -Ahmed Tariq Butt - had approached the court claiming his six-member family and he had been ordered to leave the country despite holding Indian passports and an Aadhaar card. The court directed verification of the documents and directed that no coercive action be taken against Mr Butt, who has an MBA from the IIM in Kerala's Kozhikode, till then. Mr Butt was also asked to approach the high court for further relief; this order was contested by the government, represented bv Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, but the Supreme Court acknowledged "some human element" in this matter. Finally, the Supreme Court also clarified that its orders in this case could not be used as precedent in others, a significant statement given the number of reports about Indian nationals many with Muslim names - being asked to leave the country after visas were cancelled. During the hearing Friday morning.

## AAP SLAMS DELHI BJP'S "4-ENGINE" FOR "UNPREPAREDNESS", REKHA GUPTA HITS BACK



Diary Times Desk: A political slugfest erupted between the ruling BJP and the AAP on Friday after the season's first rainfall battered Delhi, leading to widespread waterlogging, traffic jams, flight delays, and a tragic house collapse that claimed four lives. While the AAP slammed the BJP's "4-engine" for "unpreparedness", Chief Minister Rekha Gupta hit back, saying the previous Arvind Kejriwal-led party regime left behind a broken system. "I want to thank god for this untimely rain today, which is an alarm for the whole system. This is not a one-day problem but an issue of backlog of development, system breakdowns, and apathy of administration in Delhi in the past 10-15 years," CM Gupta said. She took a pointed dig at former chief minister Kejriwal, saying, "These matters would not have reached Kejriwal's ears as he used to enjoy soundproof sleep in his 'Sheesh Mahal,' oblivious of thunderstorms, broken trees and waterlogging."

## A 6-YEAR HIATUS, THEN A CHANDRABABU NAIDU RETURN TO RELAUNCH AMRAVATI

Diary Times Desk: Amravati was once the thriving capital of the ancient Satavahana dynasty and renowned for its Buddhist heritage. Nearly 1,800 years later, moves to revive it as a capital are in full swing with PM Narendra Modi laying the foundation stone for projects worth thousands of crores. A decade ago, in the wake of Andhra Pradesh's bifurcation, which resulted in the formation of Telangana and the loss of Hyderabad, the idea of reviving Amaravati as the new capital emerged. Today, after years of delay and political turmoil, the project is being rekindled with renewed central and state backing. PM Modi will lay the foundation stone for projects worth Rs 58,000 crore. Of this, Rs 49,000 crore is earmarked for 74 major infrastructure projects in Amaravati, including the construction of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Secretariat, High Court, and residences for judicial officers. Amaravati's re-imagining as Andhra Pradesh's greenfield capital was first spearheaded by CM N Chandrababu.

#### 12TH CENTURY SHRINE, AN ANCIENT LABEL: ROW ERUPTS OVER 'JAGANNATH DHAM' TAG

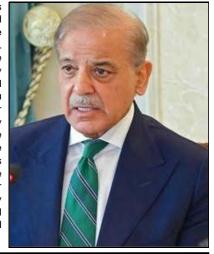
Diary Times Desk: The inauguration of a new Jagannath temple in Digha has become the centre of a controversy between eastern neighbours Odisha and West Bengal. At the core of the dispute is the West Bengal government's reference to the temple as "Jagannath Dham," a term historically and scripturally reserved for the 12th-century Puri temple, considered one of the four primary pilgrimage sites of Hinduism. The naming has been met with strong objections from religious scholars, priests and servitors in Odisha, who argue that the use of the title "Dham" implies a status and sanctity that can neither be replicated nor claimed without distorting centuries of tradition. Built over an area of 22 acres and at an estimated cost of Rs 250 crore, the Digha temple is being projected as both a religious and tourist destination. Slogans such as "No need to go to Puri to see Jagannath Dham and the sea" have also surfaced, triggering sharp responses.

#### KHARGE URGES CENTRE TO RAISE QUOTA CEILING FOR BACKWARD COMMUNITIES FROM 50% TO 68%

Diary Times Desk: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday asked the central government to raise the ceiling on reservations for backward communities from the current 50% to 68%, aligning it with the model adopted by Tamil Nadu. Speaking at a public meeting in Hubballi organised under the banner "Save Constitution, Save the Country," Kharae also accused the BJP-led government of hesitating to conduct a caste-based census until pressured by the Congress. "I demand that the Centre remove the 50% cap on reservations and increase it to 67 to 68%," he said, alleging that the Union government was obstructing efforts to raise the quota limits. He maintained that the reservation ceiling must reflect the population realities to ensure equitable opportunities for backward classes. Kharge said the Modi government failed to curb inflation and suggested that economic indicators such as income levels, employment data.

#### PAKISTAN PM SHEHBAZ SHARIF'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL BLOCKED IN INDIA

Diary Times Desk: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's YouTube channel was blocked in India on Friday amid ongoing tension between the two countries following the deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. "The content is currently unavailable in this country because of an order from the government related to national security or public order. For more details about government removal requests, please visit the Google Transparency Report," read a message on the blocked channel. The government had earlier this week blocked 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for allegedly disseminating "false, provocative and communally sensitive content" about India and has also strongly objected to the BBC's reportage on the Pahalgam attack. The government's move follows recommendations from the Ministry of Home Affairs in the wake of the April 22 terror attack in the upper reaches of the Kashmir resort town in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. Besides, the Ministry of External Affairs will be monitoring the reporting of the BBC, which termed terrorists as militants, officials had said.



## CHINA 'EVALUATING' US OFFER TO NEGOTIATE TARIFFS; BEIJING'S DOOR IS 'OPEN'

Diary Times Desk: The U.S. should be prepared to take action in "correcting erroneous practices" and cancel unilateral tariffs, the commerce ministry said in a statement, adding that Washington needed to show "sincerity" in negotiations. "The U.S. has recently taken the initiative on many occasions to convey information to China through relevant parties, saying it hopes to talk with China," the statement said, adding that Beijing was "evaluating this". "Attempting to use talks as a pretext to engage in coercion and extortion would not work," it added. China has repeatedly denied it is seeking to negotiate a way out of the tariffs with the United States, appearing instead to be betting that Washington makes the first move. Trump's decision to single Beijing out for import duties of 145% comes at a particularly difficult time for China, which is struggling with deflation due to sluggish economic growth and a prolonged property

## ISRAELI STRIKES NEAR SYRIAN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN DAMASCUS, SAYS NETANYAHU

Diary Times Desk: Israel attacked a target near the presidential palace in the Svrian capital Damascus, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said early on Friday, reiterating his vow to protect members of the Druze community. It marks the second time Israel has struck Syria in as many days, following through on a promise to defend the minority group. The strikes reflect Israel's deep mistrust of the Sunni Islamists who toppled Bashar al-Assad in December, posing a further challenge to interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa's efforts to establish control over the fractured nation. Israel struck last night near the presidential palace in Damascus," Netanyahu said in a joint statement with Defense Minister Israel Katz. This is a clear message to the Syrian regime: We will not allow (Syrian) forces to deploy south of Damascus or any threat to the Druze community." The attack marks the second time Israel has struck Syria in as many days, following through on a promise to defend the minority group.

#### MIKE WALTZ NOW SEEN USING LESS-SECURE COPY OF SIGNAL APP AT WHITE HOUSE



Diary Times Desk: Newly surfaced photographs from a recent Donald Trump cabinet meeting have raised eyebrows, revealing top White House officials using a modified, less secure version of the Signal messaging app, per a report by the Guardian. The images, captured by Reuters, show Mike Waltz, the former national security adviser, using the TM SGNL app, which allows message retention and archiving. This development comes on the heels of a national security scandal last month, where Waltz accidentally included a journalist in a sensitive group chat discussing operational plans to bomb Yemen, which were then carried out the same way as described. The TM SGNL app, created by TeleMessage, clones popular messaging apps with added archiving capabilities.

## "WHAT THEY DESERVE": TRUMP TO STRIP HARVARD OF ITS TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Diary Times Desk: US President Donald Trump said on Friday that the administration will strip Harvard University of its tax exempt status. "We are going to be taking away Harvard's Tax Exempt Status. It's what they deserve!" Trump said in a post on his social media platform. On Tuesday, the Ivy League University released its long awaited internal probe report on campus antisemitism, which showed that latter harboured a hostile environment towards Jews, Israelis and Muslims. "I am sorry for the moments when we failed to meet the high expectations we rightfully set for our community," Harvard's interim president Alan Garbar said in a statement. This move comes amid Trump administration freezina \$2.2 billion in multiyear federal grants over Harvard's refusal to help stamp out alleged antisemitism and hate in the university campus. Harvard had responded by earlier by saying that the removal of its tax exempt status would jeopardise critical research, its educational mission and reduce financial aid for students. US President Donald Trump said on Friday that the administration will strip Harvard University of its tax exempt status.

## JD VANCE PRAISES 'TOUGH NEGOTIATOR' PM MODI, SHARES UPDATE ON INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

Diary Times Desk: US Vice-President JD Vance on Thursday termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "tough negotiator" and said that 'good negotiations' were going on with India on the tariff issue. In an interview with Fox News, Vance also predicted that India could be among the first countries to strike a trade deal to avert reciprocal tariffs set by US President Donald Trump last month. "Modi, the Prime Minister, is a tough negotiator, but we're going to rebalance that relationship, and that's why the president's doing what he's doing," Vance said during the interview. Vance was asked if a deal with India would be the first to come through as negotiations go on to avoid the high import taxes. Most of the tariffs imposed by Trump in his 'Liberation Day' declaration are on pause right now. I don't know if it'll be your first deal, but I think it would be among the first deals for sure. We've got negotiations with Japan, with Korea, we've got negotiations going on with some folks in Europe, and obviously, we've got a good negotiation going on in India," Vance replied.



### "ECONOMIC TERRORISM": IRAN SLAMS FRESH US SANCTIONS

Diary Times Desk: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei has strongly condemned fresh US sanctions on individuals and entities in Iran and other countries on the pretext of cooperating with Tehran in different areas, calling them a clear sign of US attempts at "economic terrorism". The sanctions imposed over the past few days were a clear sign of US policymakers' insistence on law-breaking and violation of other countries' rights and interests, as well as their bids to disrupt friendly and legal relations among developing states through economic terrorism, Baghaei said on Thursday in a statement. They are "another conspicuous proof of the US decision makers' contradictory approach and lack of goodwill and seriousness in advancing the path of diplomacy," he added. Baghaei was reacting to sanctions imposed by the US Treasury Department and State Department on Tuesday Wednesday respectively, on six Iranbased individuals and 13 entities in

## DEPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WILL END US EDGE IN STEM SECTORS

Diary Times Desk: In early April 2025, the Trump administration terminated the immigration statuses of thousands of international students listed in a government database, meaning they no longer had legal permission to be in the country. Some students self-deported instead of facing deportation. The US Department of Security recently Homeland announced that it would reverse the terminations after courts across the country determined they did not have merit. These moves come as the White House seeks to enhance vetting and screening of all foreign nationals. The State Department in March announced plans to use artificial intelligence to review international students' social media accounts. As an administrator and scholar who specialises in international higher education, I know that international students in the United States have long been subjected to a high level of vetting, screening and monitoring. Inserting additional bureaucracy into current processes could make the US a less attractive study destination. I believe this would ultimately hamper the Trump administration's ability to achieve its "America First" priorities related to the economy, science and technology, and national security. The US has long been the global leader in attracting international.

## CENTRE DIRECTS PUNJAB TO RELEASE 4,500 CUSECS OF WATER TO HARYANA FOR NEXT 8 DAYS

Diary Times Desk: The Centre directed the Punjab Government to implement the Bhakra Beas Management Board's (BBMB) decision to release an additional 4,500 cusecs of water from Bhakra dam to Haryana for the next eight days to meet its urgent water requirements. This decision was made during a high-level meeting led by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, attended by top officials from the four partner states of BBMB - Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan — as well as BBMB representatives. It was also agreed that during the dam-filling period, BBMB would provide excess water to Punjab to fulfil any additional requirements, according to official sources. The meeting was necessitated after Punjab had consistently refused to release water to prompting the Centre's Harvana, intervention



## PUNJAB POLITICAL PARTIES UNANIMOUS ON NOT GIVING EXTRA WATER FROM BHAKRA TO HARYANA

Diary Times Desk: All political parties of Punjab have unanimously decided that not a single drop of extra water will be given to Haryana from the Bhakra dam. The representatives of all political parties, who had come here for an all-party meeting, convened by the Punjab government on Friday morning, backed the state government to decide the next course of action for "safeauardina" the rights of Punjab on its waters". The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, lasted two hours. Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar, who, along with senior BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia, was present in the meeting, said the state unit of the party rallied behind the state government on the issue of release of additional water to Harvana. after the neighbouring state had exhausted its allocated share for the September 21-May 20 depletion period. Jakhar reiterated that Punjab had no water to spare for Haryana, and this injustice to Punjab will not be tolerated, though he said the confrontation should have been avoided. All eyes are now on the Special Session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha convened on May 5. CM Mann said that after hearing the views of all political parties.

## "WE'LL FIERCELY PROTECT OUR LIFELINE": HARJOT BAINS, PUNJAB DEPUTY SPEAKER VISIT NANGAL DAM

Diary Times Desk: Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains and Punjab Vidhan Sabha Deputy Speaker Jai Krishan Singh Rouri, visited the Nangal dam on Friday evening to ensure that Punjab's water would not be released to Haryana. During their visit, they also met AAP workers who have been safeguarding the dam around the clock. The officials provided updates on the current situation. Bains praised the workers, stating, "AAP workers are safeguarding Punjab's interests like soldiers." He further informed that officials at the Nangal dam under Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) have been instructed to prevent any excess water from being released to other states. Bains emphasised the importance of water for Punjab, saying, "Water is our lifeline, and we'll fiercely protect it. Despite the Bhakra dam being in our region and canals originating from here, our villages lack access to water. With the paddy season approaching, sharing our water with other states is unthinkable." Deputy Speaker Jai Krishan Singh Rouri asserted that Punjabis, having made significant sacrifices for the country, will now stand firm in fighting for their rights. In a separate incident.

#### **ENCROACHMENTS BY VENDORS GALORE IN CITY PARKING LOTS**

Diary Times Desk: Even as the Municipal Corporation (MC) House approved up to 40 per cent increase in the parking rates at its meeting held yesterday, the lack of facilities in the parking lots continue to inconvenience residents. The residents said the MC was not taking any action against the encroachments. The parking lots in many sectors have become mini-markets being run by illegal vendors. These encroachments not only present an ugly look but also cause a lot of problems to visitors. Sanjiv Chadha, president, Chandigarh Beopar Mandal, said the increasing encroachments by vendors in the parking areas had become a major problem in the city. The MC should have ensured proper facilities before increasing the parking fee. He said the Market Welfare Associations were ready to manage their respective parking areas. The visitors are happy wherever the market associations are managing the parking lots free of cost. If the MC properly develops the area behind the markets. then it can be used for the parking of traders' vehicles



### RAIN, THUNDERSTORM IN PUNJAB, HARYANA; FLIGHTS AFFECTED IN DELHI

Diary Times Desk: Widespread rain in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh on early Friday morning has considerably brought down the temperatures. Thunderstorms and gusty winds at many places on Thursday night led to uprooting of trees and damage to property. Hisar, Faridabad and Gurdaspur received the maximum rainfall, the local Met department said. At 8.30 am, Chandigarh received 12.9 mm of rainfall, Ambala 4.2 mm, Hisar 40.6 mm, Karnal 9 mm, Rohtak 16. 2 mm, Bhiwani 10.8 mm, Faridabad 29 mm and Gurugram 26.5 mm. Amritsar recorded 24.8 mm of rainfall, Ludhiana 1 mm, Patiala 13 mm, Bathinda 29 mm, Faridkot 14.6 mm, Gurdaspur 44.2 mm, Ferozepur 13.5 mm and Pathankot 3.5 mm. Heavy rain lashed Delhi on Friday mornina as flight operations at the Indira Gandhi International Airport were affected due to thunderstorms and gusty winds, officials said. Three flights were diverted and over 200 flights delayed. An official said the two flights that were to land at the Delhi airport were diverted to Jaipur and one to Ahmedabad.

## DIRTY POLITICS WON'T QUENCH THIRST, SAINI SLAMS PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday accused the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab Government of playing "dirty politics" over watersharing amid a deepening dispute between the two states. Speaking at the Waqf Reform Public Awareness Campaign Conference in Panchkula, Saini invoked history, shared culture, and compassion to appeal for unity. "Elections are approaching, and the people of Punjab are beginning to see through AAP's brand of politics it's nothing but dirty politics," said Saini, responding to the Bhakra Beas Management Board's (BBMB) recent delay in releasing 4,000 cusecs of drinking water to Haryana. Citing historical precedents, Saini reminded Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of Bhai Kanhaiya Ji, who served water to all wounded soldiers during war, regardless of sides. "Punjab is a sacred land blessed by Sikh Gurus. Drinking water is not a political commodity but a gift of nature for all humanity. In May and June, Punjab has historically released 9,000 cusecs of water due to peak demand. Stopping even drinking water is deeply irresponsible," he said. "Punjab humara bada bhai hai... humari rishtedari hai. If Punjab is facing scarcity, we will compromise and distribute it equally. That's our culture," Saini said.

### DALAI LAMA BLESSES MEDAL WINNER OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Diary Times Desk: Akriti, Special Olympics bronze medal winner, received the blessings of the Dalai Lama at his residence at McLeodganj in Dharamsala today. Akriti described the meeting as a moment of profound inspiration. The Dalai Lama blessed the young athlete, who had won two bronze medals at the Special Olympics World Winter Games held at (Italy). She accompanied by Anuradha Sharma Chettri and Sachin Sharma, founders of Surya Uday School and Vocational Centre for Special Needs. They have been instrumental in nurturing the potential of children with special needs in the region. Akriti earned a bronze medal in the Cross Country Skiing (50 metre and 100 metre) event at the Special Olympics representing India. Her journey from a small hill town to the international sporting stage has inspired many, particularly those within the special needs community.

## CRICKET FEVER CATCHES UP IN DHARAMSALA AS TEAMS ARRIVE FOR MAY 4 IPL MATCH

Diary Times Desk: Excitement is in the air in the hill town of Dharamsala as the Punjab Kings and Lucknow Super Giants gear up for a high-stakes IPL clash at the picturesque HPCA Cricket Stadium here on May 4. Both teams arrived here today and will begin their preparations with evening practice sessions on May 2 and 3 between 6 pm and 9 pm. The match is crucial for both the teams, currently placed fifth and sixth, respectively, on the IPL points table. With playoff qualification hanging in the balance, the encounter promises to be thrilling. Punjab Kings, coached by Ricky Ponting and led by in-form Shreyas Iyer, arrived at Gaggal Airport alongside the Lucknow Super Giants players, who are being coached by Zaheer Lucknow skipper Rishabh Pant has already arrived in the town, having landed on April 29. Several foreign players from the Lucknow camp arrived a day earlier and have been spotted enjoying the scenic Dhauladhar ranges. To ensure a smooth and safe experience for fans and players, district the administration has put comprehensive arrangements which include multiple.

## RS 200 CRORE TO BE SPENT ON PROVIDING LATEST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN HOSPITALS: CM

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today inaugurated six indoor patient departments (IPDs) at the Atal Institute of Medical Super Specialties at Chamiyana in Shimla district. He said that his government would spend at least Rs 200 crore this year on the installation of the latest medical equipment and technology in the health institutions of the state. He said, "This hospital will have high-end medical technology. We will shortly start robotic surgery at this hospital, which will be the first such facility in the state. The facility will be started at Tanda medical college as well." He added that the latest MRI machine had been approved for the hospital. Sukhu said, "We have approved high-end MRI machines for the medical colleges in Tanda, Hamirpur and Nerchowk. As the Chamiyana hospital has been under construction for quite some time, my government has decided to complete the work on its own and sanctioned Rs 23 crore for it." he added, "The hospital has a capacity of 337 beds and is equipped with high-end operating theatres and a cath lab. While it has just started operations, it will become fully functional within the next six months." Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh, Secretary (Health) M Sudha Devi and AIMSS Principal Dr Brij Sharma were present on the occasion.



## BLACK MARKET TICKET SALES ON SOCIAL MEDIA SUSPECTED FOR IPL MATCH IN DHARAMSALA

Diary Times Desk: Tickets for the IPL match between Punjab Kings XI and Lucknow Super Giants scheduled for May 4 at Dharamsala international cricket stadium are currently unavailable online or offline. However, tickets for the match are being offered on social media, raising suspicions that some individuals may be trying to sell them on the black market. Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) director Sanjay Sharma stated that tickets were sold transparently on both online and offline platforms. He added that if some people have exploited the system to sell tickets at a premium on social media, it is up to the police to investigate. Dharamsala, being a tourist spot, attracts large numbers of cricket spectators for IPL matches. According to sources, about 20 per cent of the tickets are distributed as passes to the local administration and other pressure groups, including political leaders and their followers. Hoteliers have alleged that the distribution of free passes often prevents tourists from getting tickets. They have appealed to the IPL organisers to sell more tickets to spectators to boost tourism in the area. The Dharamsala stadium has a seating capacity of 22,000 and is generally packed during IPL matches. The police and local administration have to make special arrangements.

## NOW, TOURISTS CAN TRAVEL UP TO ZINGZINGBAR BEYOND DARCHA

Diary Times Desk: The Lahaul and Spiti district administration has allowed tourists access up to Zinazinabar on the Manali-Leh national highway. The decision was taken after the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) cleared snow from the highway, which has now been made motorable up to Zingzingbar beyond Darcha. Until recently, tourist movement along the Manali-Leh highway was restricted up to Dipak Taal beyond Darcha due to heavy snow accumulation and the ongoing clearing operation in the region. The newly opened highway stretch is expected to promote tourism, especially when the extended May holiday season and pleasant weather are drawing visitors to the scenic Lahaul valley. The decision to open the road up to Zingzingbar was taken on the direction of Lahaul and Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana, who had urged the district administration to allow tourists access to more areas in the light of their increasing footfall. The district authorities reviewed the road condition and approved vehicular movement up to Zingzingbar, enhancing travel options for tourists visiting the high-altitude district. Meanwhile, the BRO continued with its strenuous efforts to fully restore the Manali-Leh.

#### VIKRAMADITYA SEEKS MORE FUNDS FOR MAINTENANCE OF RURAL ROADS

**Diary Times Desk:** Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh today urged the Central Government to grant speedy approval to 637 habitations awaiting verification for inclusion under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana-4. Vikramaditya called on Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan in New Delhi. Paswan assured him of all possible assistance to the state. He informed the Union Minister that 57 per cent roads in the state had been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). "Though Rs 250 crore is spent every year on the maintenance of these roads, the state needs more funds keeping in view tough terrains and difficult areas where these roads are located," he added. He urged the Union Minister for additional funds for the current financial year for the maintenance of roads. He also apprised Paswan that three roads constructed under the PMGSY-1 need to be upgraded and hence should be brought under the PMGSY-4. He thanked the Union Minister for approving road projects under the PMGSY-3 along with the extension of four works in Dodra Kwar and Bara Bhangal till March 31, 2026, under the PMGSY-1.



## IPL 2025: GT VS SRH: GUJARAT HAMMER HYDERABAD BY 38 RUNS

Diary Times Desk: Another Gujarat Titans match, and we are again left wondering how they will go if their top three fall early with Rashid Khan at no. 7. Once again, Shubman Gill, Jos Buttler and B Sai Sudharsan dominated a bowling attack, albeit the listless Sunrisers Hyderabad one, to post 224 on a black-soil pitch that was slow to begin with. All three of them were now in the top four run-getters this IPL with Sudharsan reclaiming the orange cap with his 23-ball 48. GT failed to defend 209 in the last game, which did raise the question, but that was a par score. Here, SRH's ordinary start with the all – arguably the worst all year - set them the platform for a clearly above-par total. The GT bowlers then bashed the hard lengths to stifle the SRH batters despite a 74 for Abhishek Sharma. Prasidh Krishna bowled four overs for just 19 and two wickets to bring the purple cap as well to GT. GT were now the joint leaders on the points table, but with a game in hand on Mumbai Indians. SRH were left on the brink, each of their remaining games a must-win affair but still no guarantee to take them through to the playoffs.



## RAVI SHASTRI URGES BCCI SELECTORS TO CONSIDER IN-FORM IPL STAR FOR ENGLAND TESTS

Diary Times Desk: Former head coach Ravi Shastri sees young Sai Sudharsan an allformat batter, who deserves to be in the India side for the Test series against England later this year. India will start the new World Test Championship cycle (2025-2027) with an away five-Test series in England with all eyes on the squad selection following their 0-3 loss to New Zealand at home and a 1-3 defeat against Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Tests. Shastri says Sudharsan, currently second on the list of highest IPL run-getters so far this season with 456 runs for Gujarat Titans, is a classy left-hander who will do well in English conditions given his technique and his county stint. India will commence their England series with the Headingley Test, scheduled to begin on June 20. "I see this young man, Sai Sudharsan, for all formats of the game," Shastri told The ICC Review. "He seems like a class player and my eves would be on him certainly. Being a lefthander in England, knowing English conditions, and just his technique, the way he plays, I think he'll be top of the list for me from the outsiders wanting to get into this side "Shastri said

### VIRAT KOHLI ISSUES CLARIFICATION AFTER "MISTAKENLY" LIKING AVNEET KAUR'S PICTURE: "ABSOLUTELY NO INTENT BEHIND IT"

Diary Times Desk: While Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma are one of the most loved celebrity couples out there, a recent social media activity of Virat Kohli has sparked a row of debate. On April 30, Avneet Kaur shared a series of bold pictures on Instagram. In these pictures, she is seen wearing a green crop top with a printed wrap skirt. However, what caught the attention of internet users was that Virat liked the post and then disliked it too. The activity was shared on his fan pages, where people started commenting with, "Kohli saab what is this behaviour?" While someone else said, "Akaay beta papa ko phone do." Virat has now reacted to the ongoing rumours, as he put up a story on his Instagram.

## S SREESANTH SUSPENDED FOR 3 YEARS OVER CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS IN SANJU SAMSON ROW

Diary Times Desk: The Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) has suspended former India pacer S Sreesanth for three years for allegedly making false and derogatory statements against it in connection with the controversy surrounding Sanju Samson's omission from the Indian team for the Champions Trophy. In a statement, the KCA said the decision was taken at its special General Body meeting held in Kochi on April 30. Sreesanth is currently a co-owner of Kollam Aeries, a franchise team in the Kerala Cricket League. Earlier, in relation to his controversial remarks, show-cause notices had been issued to Sreesanth as well as to the franchise teams Kollam Aeries, Alappuzha Team Lead, and Alappuzha Ripples. "Since the franchise teams gave satisfactory responses to the notices, no further action will be taken against them. However, the meeting decided to advise greater caution when appointing members to team management," the statement said. The General Body also resolved to file a compensation claim against Sanju Samson's father, Samson Vishwanath, and two others for making baseless allegations using Sanju Samson's name, it added.

## FROM PLAYING WOMEN'S CRICKET AT ANY LEVEL

Diary Times Desk: Transgender women will no longer be allowed to take part in women's and girls' cricket at any level in England and Wales after the ECB confirmed a change to its regulations. The decision comes in the wake of a ruling by the UK Supreme Court on the definition of a woman in equalities law, and follows similar moves in football and netball. The ECB had women previously banned transgender participating in its elite competitions, bringing it into line with the ICC's stance. "With immediate effect, only those whose biological sex is female will be eligible to play in women's cricket and girls' cricket matches," the ECB said in a statement. "Transgender women and girls can continue playing in open and mixed cricket." The governing body has not released data on how many individuals might be affected, but has pledged to work with those running the recreational game "to support people impacted by this change". The statement continued: "Our regulations for recreational cricket have always aimed at ensuring that cricket remains as inclusive a sport as possible. These included measures to manage disparities, irrespective of someone's gender, and safeguard the enjoyment of all players.

### JORDAN COX RECALLED TO ENGLAND TEST SQUAD FOR ZIMBABWE

Diary Times Desk: The uncapped duo of Sam Cook and Jordan Cox have been named\* in England men's first Test squad of the summer for their one-off fixture against Zimbabwe later this month. The Essex team-mates are part of an otherwise expected group, with England's selectors contending with injuries to key bowlers. The Trent Bridge Test, which begins on May 22, is the first step in a blockbuster nine months featuring headline series against India and the Ashes in Australia. Cook's maiden call-up was telegraphed a fortnight ago when Essex rested their premier seamer for their Division One fixture against Worcestershire, despite the fact he does not possess a central contract. His seven wickets in the opening two rounds took his overall domestic tally for the county to 302 dismissals at a remarkably low average of 18.49. The 27-year-old was a bright spot on the Lions tour of Australia earlier this year, impressing coaches with his ability to transfer his skills with the Dukes ball to the Kookaburra. That he was even on the trip at all was a further feather in his cap, as he underlined his desire to break into the Test side by spurning franchise opportunities, having made the reverse decision during the previous

### IPL 2025: FURIOUS SHUBMAN GILL CONFRONTS UMPIRE AFTER CONTROVERSIAL RUN-OUT VS SRH

Diary Times Desk : A furious Shubman Gill confronted the match official after being given run out against SunRisers Hyderabad on Friday, May 2. Gill was given out on the final ball of the 13th over in Gujarat Titans' home game against SRH at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Gill was found short of the crease on the striker's end against a sharp throw from Harshal Patel. While there was no doubt that Gill was short of the crease, confusion grose over whether wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaasen had dislodged the stumps with the ball in hand. The moment of the dismissal was repeated multiple times from multiple angles for TV umpire Michael Gough. Gough played the moment where Klaasen flicked the ball out of his hands. It was unclear from the head-on angle if the ball had hit the stumps, or if it was Klaasen's glove that had removed the wicket. Gough replayed the footage multiple times, but despite a tone of uncertainty, he gave the decision in favour of the fielding side. Gill was calm and collected while the review was going on.