

## PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

## MY RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE BEFITTING REPLY TO THOSE WHO CAST EVIL EYE ON INDIA: RAJNATH SINGH

**Diary Times Desk :** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said it is his responsibility to work with the armed forces and give a “befitting reply” to those who cast an evil eye on India, his remarks coming in the backdrop of the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

Addressing an event in Delhi, Singh said people know Prime Minister Narendra Modi very well and are quite familiar with his working style, his determination and the way he has learned to “take risks” in his life. “I want to assure you that under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership, what you desire will certainly happen,” the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

His assertion came as India is mulling retaliatory measures against Pakistan in view of the cross-border linkages to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. “As the defence minister, it is my responsibility to work with my soldiers and ensure the protection of the country’s borders. And it is my responsibility to give a befitting reply, by working with the armed forces, to those who cast an evil eye on our country,” Singh said.



## S. JAISHANKAR

## INDIA LOOKING FOR PARTNERS, NOT PREACHERS: JAISHANKAR TAKES A DIG AT EUROPE



**Diary Times Desk :** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took a swipe at Europe, asserting that India seeks equal partners, not “preachers” — especially those who fail to practice what they preach at home. He added that some European nations are still grappling with this mindset.

The minister, while speaking at the ‘Arctic Circle India Forum’ on Sunday, said Europe must display some sensitivity and mutuality of interest for deeper ties with India. While answering a question about India’s expectations from Europe, Jaishankar said it has to get beyond preaching and start acting based on a framework of mutuality.

When we look out at the world, we look for partners; we do not look for preachers, particularly preachers who do not practice at home and preach abroad. I think some of Europe is still struggling with that problem. Some of it has changed,” the External Affairs Minister said, adding, Europe has “entered a certain zone of reality check”.

“Now whether they are able to step up to it or not, it is something we will have to see,” he said. “But from our point of view, if we are to develop a partnership, there has to be some understanding, there has to be some sensitivity, there has to be a mutuality of interest and there has to be a realisation of how the world works. And I think these are all work in progress to differing degrees with different parts of Europe. So some have moved further, some a little bit less,” Jaishankar said. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasised India’s consistent advocacy of “Russia realism,” highlighting the strong “fit” and “complementarity” between India and Russia — with one serving as a resource provider and the other as a consumer. He also criticised previous Western efforts to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict without Russia’s participation, arguing that such approaches “challenged the fundamentals.”

AIR INDIA SUSPENDS TEL AVIV FLIGHTS TILL MAY 6 AFTER  
MISSILE ATTACK NEAR ISRAELI AIRPORT

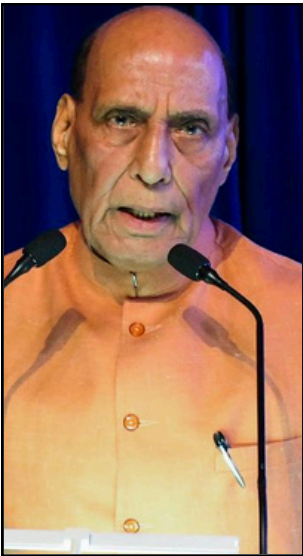
**Diary Times Desk :** An Air India flight from the national capital to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday as there was a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city, according to sources. The airline has also suspended the Tel Aviv flights till May 6. The attack happened less than an hour before the Air India flight AI139, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said. "Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. "The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi," the airline said in a statement. The airline said its operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect till May 6 to ensure the safety of its customers and staff. As per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com, the flight was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to divert the flight to Abu Dhabi. Air India's flight from Tel Aviv to Delhi has been cancelled for Sunday. Air traffic to the Tel Aviv airport was briefly suspended after a missile launched from Yemen landed near the Tel Aviv airport.



SC TO TAKE UP PETITIONS  
CHALLENGING WAQF  
(AMENDMENT) ACT ON MONDAY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court will take up on Monday petitions challenging the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 that abolished the concept of 'waqf by user' and allowed it only through declaration or endowment for all future Waqf properties. 'Waqf by user' was a practice where a property was recognised as a Muslim endowment (waqf) based on its long-term, uninterrupted use for such purposes, even if there wasn't a formal, written declaration of waqf by the owner. Under the amended law notified on April 8, only self-owned resources can be declared as Waqf after ensuring the inheritance rights of women and children and the DC will determine that land being donated by a Muslim is actually in his ownership. It also empowers state governments to nominate members, including representatives from backward classes and both Shia and Sunni communities to Waqf boards.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE BEFITTING REPLY TO THOSE  
WHO CAST EVIL EYE ON INDIA: RAJNATH SINGH



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AMID HEIGHTENED TENSIONS OVER PAHALGAM ATTACK,  
IAF CHIEF A P SINGH MEETS PM MODI

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Sunday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the backdrop of increasing tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack. This comes just a day after PM Modi met with Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi. The Navy Chief briefed the PM on the overall situation in the critical sea lanes in the Arabian Sea. The meetings assume significance as the last major terror attack at Pulwama in February 2019 was responded to by the Indian Air Force, with jets bombing Balakot in Pakistan. Since then, the prowess of the IAF—both in terms of long-range missiles and air defence—has grown significantly. The Rafale jets inducted after Balakot are equipped with missiles capable of hitting targets with pin-point accuracy. Additionally, the Russian-made S-400 air defence system can track and target multiple threats. The Prime Minister, at the meeting with the Chief of the IAF, and also at Saturday's meeting with the Navy Chief, would be reviewing various options that India can exercise in response to the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam.



**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

05-05-2025





## HAVOC IN HIMACHAL: CLOUD BURST IN CHAMBA, OLD MAN DIED AFTER BEING SWEEPED AWAY IN A DRAIN; 150 SHEEP AND GOATS ALSO GOT SWEEPED AWAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Amidst the orange alert, there was heavy rain and hailstorm along with thunderstorm at many places in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. A 65-year-old elderly man died after being swept away in a drain due to cloudburst in Dondra Nala of Chelli village in Chamba district on Saturday night. 150 sheep and goats also got swept away in the drain in the flood. On the other hand, darkness fell in the capital Shimla at around 1:30 in the afternoon. Meanwhile, there was heavy rain and hailstorm accompanied by thunder. There has been snowfall on the peaks in Lahaul and rain in many areas. The rain that started in Kullu on Saturday night continued till Sunday morning. Waterlogging occurred at many places due to 9 hours of rain. Apart from this, there was rain, thunderstorm and hailstorm in Rampur, Solan, Kangra, Bilaspur, Sirmaur Mandi. Fruit plants and wheat crop have been damaged due to hailstorm. Due to rain, a drop in maximum temperature has been recorded in many areas of the state. The maximum temperature in Manali fell to 6.5 degrees Celsius and in Dharamsala to 4.0 degrees Celsius. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, a yellow alert has been issued for thunderstorms and rain on May 5 and an orange alert for strong winds on May 6 and 7 in Himachal.



## HIMACHAL PRADESH: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU SAID- NO FEES WILL BE CHARGED FROM HIMACHALIS VISITING CHUDHAR TEMPLE

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that no fee will be charged from the people of Himachal visiting Chudhar temple. Guidelines have been given in this regard. People who come from other states take water bottles, packets of chips etc. Therefore, a fee has been charged for them. On Saturday, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has suggested several names to the party's state in-charge Rajni Patil for the expansion of the Congress state executive in Delhi. CM Sukhu discussed with Rajni Patil on Saturday and informed her about several names for the Congress executive. Earlier, Congress state president Pratibha Singh also met Rajni. She also discussed with her about the executive expansion. According to sources, the Congress state executive can be expanded anytime in the coming days. In this regard, these two leaders have also talked to the high command on Friday. At the same time, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri is also giving his feedback to the high command in this regard. At the same time, the Chief Minister will return to Shimla on Sunday in a new helicopter. CM Sukhu will attend the proposed cabinet meetings for two days on Monday and Tuesday. These meetings will be held at 12 noon.

## HIMACHAL TOURISM: TWO AND A HALF THOUSAND TOURIST VEHICLES REACHED THE TOURIST CITY OF MANALI IN TWO DAYS, CROWD IN KOKSAR TOO

**Diary Times Desk :** The summer season has started gaining momentum in the tourist city of Manali. The crowd of tourists has increased on weekends. More than two and a half thousand tourist vehicles have reached Manali from outside states in two days. More than 500 vehicles are coming every day from different districts of the state. The number of tourist vehicles going towards Rohtang Pass has also doubled. Tourists are being sent to Madhi on this route. Tourists coming to Manali are knocking at Deepak Tal, Jingjingbar and Koksar in large numbers. According to the data of Green Tax Barrier, about 1400 tourist vehicles reached Manali on Thursday and 1300 on Friday. Tourists have also come in more than a hundred Volvo buses. 500 to 600 tourist vehicles are also going on Rohtang route every day.

## AFTER STEALING, SOLD AN IPHONE WORTH RS. 70,000 FOR RS. 5,000, THE BUYER WAS ALSO MADE AN ACCUSED BY THE POLICE

**Diary Times Desk :** Police have arrested the accused in the case of stealing a caretaker's iPhone at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC). The accused Vishal is a resident of Tarahal area of Shimla. Police investigation has revealed that the accused had sold an iPhone worth Rs 70,000 to a person for just five thousand rupees. Police have also made the buyer an accused in the case and started investigating the matter. In a complaint to the police, Devansh, a resident of Chidgaon, Rohru, said that his father is admitted in the male surgical ward of IGMC. On the night of March 28, he and his sister stayed in the hospital. During this time, both of them slept in an empty space outside the ward, but when he woke up at night, the iPhone was missing. After this, he lodged a complaint about the matter at the Lakkar Bazaar police station the next day. When the police started investigating the case, they interrogated suspicious people in the area. In this, they got some evidence against the accused Vishal, but the accused had gone to Chandigarh.

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## HIMACHAL: AFTER DEPUTY CM'S POST, NOW VIKRAMADITYA'S COMMENT HEATS UP POLITICS, WROTE 'JAI SHRI RAM' ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**Diary Times Desk :** On the second day of political heat rising due to Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri's post, State Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh also heated up the politics by commenting on social media on Sunday. Along with this post, Vikramaditya Singh has also written 'Jai Shri Ram'. This has led to speculations that some other political conspiracy is brewing. Sharing a photo of Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri with him, Vikramaditya Singh wrote in the post, 'When people start conspiring instead of trying to defeat you, then understand that your ability is top class. You are a disciple of Virbhadr Singh School of Thought, never be afraid nor scare anyone unnecessarily.' Below this, Vikramaditya Singh has written the slogan of Jai Shri Ram. It is noteworthy that on Saturday, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri had posted, 'It is the era of conspiracies, lies have no legs.' He had posted this on his Facebook account. On Sunday, Vikramaditya Singh also posted this on Facebook linking it to this. What are these two leaders hinting at? Puzzles are being solved on this. Mukesh Agnihotri has been a leader of Virbhadr Singh's camp. Vikramaditya Singh has been writing Jai Shri Ram repeatedly with his posts, which is also considered a kind of political signal.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH: SIX DAUGHTERS OF HIMACHAL WILL SERVE IN BSF, ALL PLAYERS OF HANDBALL NURSERY MORSINGHI

**Diary Times Desk :** Six daughters of Himachal Pradesh have been selected in BSF. The daughters who have made the state proud in sports at home and abroad will now contribute to the security of the borders. Among the daughters who have been selected, four are from Morsinghi Handball Academy of Bilaspur district. Two are from Giripar area of Sirmaur district. Anjali, Payal, Kanika Kumari and Khushi from Bilaspur have been selected in the Border Security Force. All these players have already represented the state and the country in handball at national and international level. Coach and international player Snehlata expressed pride in the academy's spectacular achievement. She said that the players are given an environment of better training, discipline and sportsmanship in the academy, as a result of which the players are constantly getting selected at a higher level.

"NO HATE AGAINST MUSLIMS":  
A OWAISI RECOUNTS NAVY  
OFFICER'S WIFE'S APPEAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Her husband, a Navy officer, was shot dead by terrorists in the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, and she, mourning by his side, became the face of the tragedy. Asaduddin Owaisi harnessed the woman's message at a poll rally in Bihar to drive home the point: do not spread hatred against Muslims and Kashmiris. "There is no need to do politics. Himanshi (wife of deceased Indian Navy Lieutenant Vinay Narwal)'s husband was shot dead. They were there six days after their wedding. The terrorists killed him. Himanshi gives a message to those people who live in our country and spread Hindu-Muslim poison. She says that she lost her husband but she doesn't want hatred against Muslims and Kashmiris," Mr Owaisi said, stressing upon the need for unity. Himanshi's husband, Naval officer Lt Vinay Narwal, was gunned down by terrorists who specifically targeted Hindu men, sparking an outpouring of anger and grief across the country. The two were married just six days before the attack on April 22.

OUTRAGE IN ODISHA OVER  
'JAGANNATH DHAM' LABEL  
FOR DIGHA TEMPLE

**Diary Times Desk :** A controversy has erupted in Odisha after the West Bengal government's portrayal of the newly inaugurated Digha temple as 'Jagannath Dham', with devotees and priests contending that it is a "self-styled" title, PTI reported. Devotees and servitors in Odisha have taken strong exception, arguing that the term 'Dham' is reserved solely for Puri, home to the original shrine of Lord Jagannath. Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, who was the chief priest during the inauguration ceremony at Digha temple on 30 April, expressed his disapproval. "I, too, request West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, to remove the word 'Dham' from the Digha Jagannath Temple," he stated on Friday (2 May). He added, "As per my understanding, Puri is the only place referred to as 'Jagannath Dham'." Dasmohapatra said he would write to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in this regard and urged both the Odisha government and the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to initiate talk over the matter. Odisha Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo stated that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi was aware of the issue, and urged everyone to "not jump the gun". Renowned sand artist and Padma Shri awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik added weight to the dissent.

"IF MISSILES ARE GOING TO RAIN...": EXPERTS  
ON "COST" OF INDIA-PAK WAR



**Diary Times Desk :** As emotions run high in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, a former diplomat has warned that public mood should not dictate a war with Pakistan. Ajay Bisaria, former high commissioner to Pakistan, highlighted the key aspects of such an action and said its timing should not be based on what the people feel. "For any operation to succeed, you need three elements: speed, surprise, and secrecy. There is an issue of choosing our timing, and that should not be dictated by the public mood," said the former diplomat on an ANI podcast. Mr Bisaria, who has headed the Indian mission in Pakistan during 2017-2020, stressed the need to be able to fight the battle on its own if the situation escalates. "We have to fight this battle on our own. When you escalate, you have to be prepared for the worst-case scenario, which is an uncontrolled escalation where you could even be fighting a full-scale war."

INDIA LOOKING FOR PARTNERS, NOT  
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3 SOLDIERS KILLED AFTER ARMY VEHICLE PLUNGES INTO 700-FOOT-DEEP  
GORGE IN J&K'S RAMBAN

**Diary Times Desk :** Three Army personnel died after their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 700-foot-deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Sunday, officials said. The accident took place around 11.30 am near Battery Chashma when the Army truck, part of a convoy heading from Jammu to Srinagar along National Highway 44, lost control. A joint rescue effort involving the Army, police, SDRF, and local volunteers was launched immediately. All three soldiers inside the vehicle were found dead at the scene. The deceased have been identified as Sepoys Amit Kumar, Sujeet Kumar, and Man Bahadur, according to PTI. Their bodies are being recovered from the gorge. Officials added that the impact of the crash left the vehicle completely mangled. In a similar incident reported in March, two people were killed after a load carrier transporting fresh vegetables skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Ramban district, according to a police officer quoted by PTI.



ACCIDENT-PRONE AREA,  
CONGESTED LANES: OFFICIAL ON  
STAMPEDE IN GOA TEMPLE

**Diary Times Desk :** The sloping ground near the temple in Goa where a deadly stampede claimed six lives was accident-prone with a similar but minor incident reported in the past, an official said on Sunday as the condition of the critically injured victims remained stable. Rituals continued at the Sree Lairai Devi temple at Shirgaon in North Goa district with hundreds of devotees arriving on foot despite the temple committee appealing to people to stay away. A stampede broke out in the early hours of Saturday as thousands of devotees thronged the narrow lanes leading up to the temple. While six persons died, about 70 were injured. The fact-finding committee constituted by the Goa government is recording the statements of senior officials in charge of crowd management at the event. The committee is headed by Sandeep Jacques, commissioner and secretary (revenue), with deputy inspector general Varsha Sharma, Director of Transport Pravimal Abhishek.



## "SUICIDAL CONCEPT": BANGLADESHI ISLAMISTS PROTEST WOMEN'S RIGHTS REFORMS

**Diary Times Desk :** Thousands of Bangladeshis took to the streets of Dhaka on Saturday to oppose the government's proposed recommendations for ensuring equal rights, including ones related to property, for mainly Muslim women. The protest was called by Hefazat-e-Islam-- an influential Bangladeshi Islamist group-- claiming that some of the proposed recommendations hurt "the sentiments of the majority of the people of this country". Leaders of the Hefazat-e-Islam group claimed that draft recommendations of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission instituted by the Muhammad Yunus' interim government are contradictory to Sharia law. The group threatened a nationwide protest on May 23 if the government didn't meet their demands. Over 20,000 followers of the group rallied near the Dhaka University, some carrying banners and placards reading "Say no to Western laws on our women, rise up Bangladesh", in one of their biggest public shows of strength in years as religious activism surged in Bangladesh following the ouster of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime last year. Protestors mostly included teachers and students of non-government or "kawmi" madrassas.

## JD VANCE BLASTED FOR HIS SHOCKING REACTION TO TRUMP'S AI PHOTO AS POPE; 'FINE WITH PEOPLE...'

**Diary Times Desk :** Vice President JD Vance responded to the shocking AI picture of President Donald Trump disguised as the Pope. Bill Kristol, the former chief of staff of former vice president Dan Quayle during the George W. Bush administration, urged Vance to weigh in on the "disrespect and mockery" of the Pope. "As a general rule, I'm fine with people telling jokes and not fine with people starting stupid wars that kill thousands of my countrymen," Vance stated in a stunning response. The remark was a jab at Kristol for his involvement in the 2003 invasion of Iraq during the Bush-led government. Vance's response prompted a barrage of criticism due to his attempt to convey a point and for his apparent disregard for the picture. Meanwhile, Kristol slammed Vance and Trump administration.

## STARBASE IN TEXAS IS A 'REAL CITY', SAYS ELON MUSK AFTER WINNING KEY VOTE

**Diary Times Desk :** Elon Musk's dream of getting city status for his SpaceX spaceport in the United States' South Texas became a reality on Saturday, with 97.7 percent of voters backing the project of turning Starbase into a new municipality. The Tesla CEO rejoiced with the news and posted on X, "Starbase, Texas is now a real city!" Starbase is the facility and launch site for Musk's rocket program, which is under contract with the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It hopes to send astronauts back to the moon and, one day, to Mars as well. The Texas base was launched in 2019, and the idea of Starbase was floated by Elon Musk in 2021, a report from The Associated Press said. Of the 283 eligible voters at the ballot were SpaceX employees at the Boca Chica Bay site bordering Mexico, or those who had connections to the company. Musk confirmed the news of Starbase becoming a real city after polls closed and Cameron County published unofficial results. Remi Garza, Cameron County election coordinator, told AFP that Elon Musk registered himself to vote as well.



## 25-METRE-DEEP CRATER AT ISRAEL'S BIGGEST AIRPORT AFTER HOUTH MISSILE STRIKE



**Diary Times Desk :** A ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels towards Israel on Sunday landed just 75 meters from Terminal 3 of Ben Gurion Airport outside Tel Aviv-- the country's biggest international airport. The missile reportedly bypassed four layers of air defence and hit a grove adjacent to an access road within the airport's perimeter--one of the country's most sensitive zones-- creating a 25-metre deep crater. Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said their several attempts to intercept the missile failed before it landed near the airport, sending a plume of smoke into the air. However, a direct hit on terminal infrastructure was averted, yet it caused panic among passengers in the terminal building. At least eight people were injured in the attack, Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's national emergency service, said. The military released a video of the aftermath of the strike showing officers standing at the edge of a crater in an orchard, with the airport's control tower visible in the distance.

## XI JINPING TO VISIT RUSSIA FOR VICTORY DAY, DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES WITH PUTIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Chinese President Xi Jinping will make an official visit to Russia from May 7-10, where he will participate in celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, the Kremlin said on Sunday. In a statement on Telegram, the Kremlin said that Xi will discuss with Russian President Vladimir Putin the development of the two countries' strategic partnership, as well as signing a number of documents. "During the talks, the main issues of further development of relations of comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction, as well as current issues on the international and regional agenda will be discussed," the Kremlin said. The Soviet Union lost 27 million people in World War Two but pushed Nazi forces back to Berlin, where Hitler committed suicide and the red Soviet Victory Banner was raised over the Reichstag in 1945.

## 2 DEAD AFTER PLANE CRASHES INTO NEIGHBORHOOD IN US' CALIFORNIA

**Diary Times Desk :** A small plane has crashed into a backyard of a residential neighborhood in southern California, killing two people onboard and damaging homes, local authorities said. The Ventura County Fire Department said firefighters received reports Saturday afternoon of a single-engine aircraft that had crashed into two houses in Simi Valley, northwest of Los Angeles. Police and the medical examiner's office "verified there were two passengers in the aircraft, both of whom were fatally injured in the accident," the county fire department wrote on X. The two homes were occupied at the time of the crash but no injuries to residents were reported, the fire department said. Photo and video images posted by the department showed firefighters on top of a house with holes in the roof, a fence and brick wall between residences knocked down, and the tops of trees sheared off. The Simi Valley Police Department said officers had located the plane "in the backyard of a residence." Police told CBS News that the pilot, a passenger and a dog were aboard when the plane crashed at around 2:00 pm.

## PAKISTANI PM SAYS RESPONSE TO INDIAN ACTION WAS 'RESPONSIBLE, MEASURED'

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday stated that Pakistan's response to actions by India were "responsible and measured," in the wake of the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, reported PTI. Sharif, in conversation with Turkey's ambassador Dr Irfan Neziroglu, said, "despite India's provocative actions following the Pahalgam incident, Pakistan's response was responsible and measured". He added that Pakistan had always condemned terrorism in every shape and form. However, he claimed that India had falsely linked the country to the Pahalgam terror attack and had presented no evidence to support this theory. Shehbaz Sharif further alleged that India has "yet to respond to Pakistan's offer to have a credible, transparent and neutral international investigation to ascertain the facts behind the Pahalgam incident". During his conversation with Turkey's ambassador to Pakistan, he stated that the country would fully cooperate with an international investigation and would like Turkey to join it. He also welcomed Turkey's support to Pakistan and underlined the historic, deep-rooted, and time-tested brotherly relations.

## PUNJAB CANTONMENT CONDUCTS 30-MINUTE BLACKOUT DRILL AMID ESCALATING INDIA-PAKISTAN TENSIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** An uneasy calm prevails in Ferozepur after security agencies conducted a 30-minute blackout drill in the border town on Sunday amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following the April 22 terror attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam. At the sound of a siren, all lights were turned off as per the advisory issued by the Ferozepur Cantonment Board. Residents were told about the drill through a letter issued by the Board. It had advised residents to remain indoors and switch off the lights from 9 pm to 9.30 pm. In a press release, Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma had assured residents that there was no need to panic as today's blackout was a routine drill in such conditions. But everyone here is in "panic" mode, keeping themselves glued to the media channels and social media to get the latest updates, though outwardly things appear "normal". Earlier also, as it happened during the Kargil War and after the attack on Parliament, the contours of a "war-like" scenario can already be felt here.



## NGT DISPOSES OF PLEA SEEKING STAY ON STATE GOVT 'ORDER' ON PADDY TRANSPLANTATION

**Diary Times Desk :** The National Green Tribunal (NGT), while declining to interfere, has disposed of a plea seeking a stay on the Punjab Government's "order to advance the date of paddy transplantation to June 1". Generally, paddy transplantation takes place in the middle of June as a measure to conserve excessive ground water extraction. While disposing of the petition filed before it by advocate HC Arora, the Tribunal has ruled that the petition did not have enough material and was not backed by scientific facts. As a result, there was no need to review the state's policy. In the original application, the applicant had raised the plea that in terms of Section 3 of the Punjab Preservation of Sub-Soil Water Act, 2009, no farmer was permitted to sow nursery of paddy before May 10 of the agricultural year or such other date as may be notified by the state government by notification in the official gazette of any local area.

## CHANDIGARH: DOCTOR, WIFE DUPED OF RS 1.4 CR IN ONLINE FRAUD

**Diary Times Desk :** A doctor and his wife have reportedly lost nearly Rs 1.4 crore in an online scam involving fake stock-trading platforms. In his complaint to the police, Dr Anupam Lal, a resident of Sector 24-B, has alleged that a group of cyber fraudsters posing as employees of JM Financial persuaded him to deposit large sums in the several bank accounts of fictitious portfolio management services. They operated through a WhatsApp group titled "W6 Stock Uptrend Club", the victim alleged. Police investigations revealed that many of the recipient accounts were linked to shell companies, indicating a complex money-laundering operation. Between August and September 2024, the couple made at least 18 transfers, with individual payments ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 24.5 lakh. Initially, the fraudsters paid modest profits, a tactic commonly used to build trust. Once a substantial amount had been invested, the couple found themselves locked out of withdrawal options.

## WATER ISSUE: WHY CENTRE NOT GIVING CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO MANN GOVT, ASKS SURJEWALA

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the stand-off between Punjab and Haryana over water sharing, Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday questioned the silence of the Centre over the issue and asked it to instruct the Bhagwant Mann government not to create any obstructions in allocation of Haryana's water. Surjewala, at a news conference here, also referred to alleged deployment of Punjab Police personnel at the Bhakra headworks, claiming it was obstructing the release of water to Haryana and demanded that the Centre should get it freed from the "illegal occupation". What is the reason that the Narendra Modi government is not issuing written orders to the Mann government under Article 257 of the Constitution (dealing with control of the Union over states in certain cases). Why does it not give direction not to stop Haryana's water, Surjewala, a Rajya Sabha MP, asked. He demanded that the Modi government should hand over the security of the Bhakra-Nangal Dam project to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

## CENTRE FOR STRAY DOGS LAUNCHED IN MOGA VILLAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** Taking a bold step toward animal welfare and public safety, the foundation stone for a Veterinary Surgery Centre for stray dogs was laid in Chuhar Chak, Moga, under the "Barking for a Better Punjab" initiative. The centre will focus on the humane treatment of stray dogs through sterilization and vaccination, alongside community education on responsible pet care. Plans are underway to establish an adoption centre to rehabilitate and rehome ill or abandoned animals as well. This development comes amid increasing reports of stray dog attacks across Punjab, including incidents where children were mauled and elderly persons injured by packs of dogs, sparking public concern and the need for urgent intervention. The project's success is credited to Surinder Pal Sharma, an NRI who, with the support of local leaders has been working for two years to modernize his native village. The initiative has received strong backing from NRIs and locals alike. The event of laying the foundation stone was led by Dr JPS Gill, Vice Chancellor of Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, and attended by Dr Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University. Shri Bal Mukund Sharma, Chairman of the Punjab State Food Commission, moderated the ceremony. Other key attendees included senior civil and police officials such as Amardeep Singh Rai (ADGP, Traffic) and Kahan Singh Pannu (former IAS).

## DEPT SEEKS DATA ON TEACHERS, STUDENTS IN GOVT MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Education Department has directed the District Elementary Education Officers (DEEOs) to obtain information regarding the teaching staff and student strength in Government Middle Schools of Haryana. As per information, the Director-General (DG) of the Elementary Education Department, in a letter, has directed the DEEOs to provide the details by May 6. The department has sought class-wise enrolment in classes VI to VIII, as on March 18, and the working staff position in the schools, as on May 2. The DEEOs have been asked to send the actual position of TGTs, classical and vernacular, and elementary school headmasters (guest, regular and engaged through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited). The DG has further directed the DEEOs not to take data from the Management Information System (MIS) portal of the department, and only send the actual data from schools. In case of any error in data, disciplinary action will be taken against officials. An official in the Education Department said a general transfer drive was expected soon, and before that, the department was obtaining information regarding the actual staff and student strength in the middle schools. Though the data was available on the portal, sometimes due to offline admissions in some government schools, there can be a difference in data.

## HC STRIKES DOWN STATE'S FORFEITURE CLAUSE IN LAND SURRENDER CASES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the State of Haryana cannot ask real estate developers to give up land and forfeit large amounts of money when they surrender their development licences. The court said these actions – allowed under a 2020 policy change – were unfair, went beyond the law and violated the developers' basic rights. The assertion came as the Bench of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Vikas Suri struck down the key portions of Haryana State's 2020 policy mandating forfeiture of charges and land transfers. The Bench ruled re-demands under Rule 17-B of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Rules, 1976, were arbitrary, unjustified and ultra vires. Allowing a petition, the court held that the State's insistence on a developer transferring 4.4 acres of land without compensation and forfeiting Rs 31.76 crore in various charges, despite no construction.



**NERCHOWK-PANDOH  
ROAD TO REMAIN  
CLOSED FOR 2 HOURS  
TWICE NEAR 4 MILE**

**Diary Times Desk :** In view of ongoing construction work on the Nerchowk-Pandoh four-lane highway, the road stretch near 4 Mile in Mandi district will remain closed for two hours twice every day from May 2 to 31, said Apoorv Devgan, Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, in an order issued here. According to the order, the highway will remain closed between 12.30 am and 2.30 am for debris removal and from 5 am to 7 am for hill-cutting work. The decision has been taken keeping in mind the urgency of the construction work, safety protocols required and the safety of commuters using the highway. The Deputy Commissioner said that the road closure was necessary to ensure that the ongoing work could progress unhindered. The construction work involved the use of heavy machinery, blasting and large-scale excavation, which pose potential hazards to vehicular movement during active hours, he added.

**NGT NOTICE TO CENTRE,  
FIRM FOR STARTING WORK  
ON BULK DRUG PARK  
WITHOUT ENVIRONMENT  
CLEARANCE**

**Diary Times Desk :** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a notice to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Himachal Pradesh Bulk Drug Park Infrastructure Ltd, directing them to file their replies to the allegation that the construction of the drug park in Una district has been started before securing the environment clearance for the project. The notice has been issued on a petition filed by Rohit. The petitioner alleged before the NGT that M/s Himachal Pradesh Bulk Drug Park Infrastructure Ltd (HPBDPIL) had proposed to set up a drug park on 1405 acres at Polian Beet in Haroli tehsil of Una district. He stated that the HPBDPIL had started construction work on the site even before receiving the environment clearance for it. He submitted before the NGT that for the project in question, the environmental clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006, was required. Though a public hearing had been held, the environment clearance.

**BOTTLING PLANT FOUND ILLEGALLY MANUFACTURING LIQUOR FOR  
UTTARAKHAND**

**Diary Times Desk :** A huge cache of liquor and labels meant for sale in Uttarakhand was found at a bottling plant in Kala Amb during a raid by the enforcement wing of the Himachal Pradesh Excise and Taxation Department late Saturday night. A seven-member team, led by Additional Commissioner (Enforcement) Ujjal Singh Rana, raided Tiolksons Brewery and Distillery around 2 am following a tip-off. Officials were shocked to find liquor being manufactured by 20 unauthorised persons for illicit distribution in neighbouring Uttarakhand. In a bid to conceal the operation, the plant had been locked from the outside. During the raid, the team found a substantial stock of liquor, Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)—a key ingredient used in liquor production—and lakhs of labels for various brands, suggesting that the illegal activity had been assumingly underway for several days. Preliminary reports indicate the seizure of 230 cases of Royal Blue Whiskey, meant for sale in Uttarakhand.

**ANOTHER YOUTH'S BODY RETRIEVED  
FROM KULLU'S MALANA NULLAH**

**Diary Times Desk :** The police and rescue teams recovered the body of 21-year-old Ram Chander, who had drowned along with another youth in the Malana nullah on the night of April 30. The duo was returning from Bhuntar when they were swept away by the strong currents of the nullah after they fell into it while crossing a makeshift footbridge. To aid the rescue operations, the authorities had temporarily stopped the water flow upstream from the Malana dam. The rescue teams had recovered the body of 19-year-old Inderjeet on Thursday. Ram Chander's body was briefly spotted before it vanished again due to the powerful flow of the nullah. Kullu SP Karthikeyan Gokulachandran said that divers and police personnel found Ram Chander's body around 1 km downstream. He added that the body had been sent for a postmortem. The previous metal footbridge was destroyed in flash floods triggered by a cloudburst on the night of July 31, 2024, when water breached the Malana Hydroelectric Project-I dam. Villagers installed a wooden bridge within five days, enabling a passage over the nullah. However, the road connecting Jari village to the nearest motorable point in Malana that was severely damaged in flash floods was yet to be repaired. As a result, villagers have to trek around 12 km to reach Jari. In the absence of safer routes, villagers are using makeshift paths.

**HIMACHAL DY CM'S FACEBOOK POST  
LEADS TO SPECULATION OF REJIG IN  
CONG**

**Diary Times Desk :** A social media post by Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri about the possibility of a 'conspiracy' has caused ripples in the political circles of the state and people are expecting a 'rejig' in the Congress. Agnihotri's Facebook post this afternoon stating that "in this time of conspiracies, the truth will eventually prevail" (Sazeeshon ka daur hai, jhooth ke pavn nahin hote) caused a flutter in the political circles of the state and led to speculation that a major rejig in the Congress was in the offing. Agnihotri's post comes on a day when Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president Pratibha Singh and the Deputy Chief Minister himself met State Congress in-charge Rajni Patil in New Delhi. Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh had met with AICC general secretary KC Venugopal in New Delhi yesterday. Though Agnihotri has not named anyone or elucidated the conspiracy, his post has gone viral and people are speculating what he is hinting at. The post is also being linked to the appointment of a new state Congress president though it is not clear whether the party high command will give Pratibha a second term as the state party chief or not.

**CHAMBA'S SACRED 'LANGUR' FACES EXTINCTION THREAT**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himalayan grey 'langur', also known as Chamba's sacred 'langur', is losing its habitat and is at present classified as a critically endangered species, as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list. The Himalayan grey 'langur' is endemic to the Chamba valley where its population is now estimated at around 250, raising serious concerns among environmentalists. According to sources, Forest Department officials have launched a campaign to raise awareness among the local population about the dangers faced by this rare species. The Himalayan grey 'langur' inhabits sub-alpine moist deciduous forests and is confined to an estimated area of less than 500 sq km in the Chamba region. Adult male 'langurs' are characterised by a distinctive mane around their shoulders. Primarily folivores, they feed on leaves, buds, flowers, fruits and other plant materials, though they may also consume insects. Habitat loss due to deforestation and land degradation, along with increasing human-'langur' conflict, particularly due to crop raiding pose significant threats to the survival of this species. Ongoing conservation efforts, such as the Himalayan Langur Project, aim at mitigating conflicts, monitoring their population and promoting long-term conservation strategies. NGO Zoo Outreach is also actively working on habitat conservation for this species in the district.



IPL 2025: PUNJAB KINGS MAKE QUICK WORK OF LUCKNOW  
SUPER GIANTS, REGISTER COMFORTABLE WIN BY 37 RUNS

**Diary Times Desk :** Game 54 of the ongoing IPL (Indian Premier League) 2025 saw Punjab Kings taking on Lucknow Super Giants. Both sides faced off at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala on May 4. The clash began with Punjab Kings coming in to bat first after losing the toss. The side got off to a subpar start as in-form opener Priyansh Arya departed on a score of one run. However, after the early wicket, Josh Inglis and Prabhsimran Singh put in a good showing for the hosts. Both batters scored 30 and 91 runs, respectively. Furthermore, skipper Shreyas Iyer added 45 runs on the board alongside Nehal Wadhwa, who scored 16 runs. Additionally, Shashank Singh's late push of 33 runs saw Punjab Kings posting a total of 236 runs in the first innings of the game. As for LSG, Digvesh Rath and Avesh Khan took two wickets each, with Prince Yadav striking once as well. With a massive total of 236 runs on the board, Punjab Kings hoped for a similar showing with the ball, and the side did just that.



PUNJAB KINGS SIGN BABAR AZAM'S  
PSL TEAMMATE AS GLENN MAXWELL  
GETS RULED OUT

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Kings (PBKS) have signed Australian Mitchell Owen as the injury replacement for star all-rounder Glenn Maxwell, who was ruled out for the remainder of IPL 2025 due to a broken fracture earlier this week. Owen, who is currently playing for Peshawar Zalmi in Pakistan Super League, will join PBKS for Rs 3 crore. Owen was the leading run-scorer of Big Bash League (BBL) 2024-25, smashing 452 runs at a strike-rate of over 200 to help Hobart Hurricanes lift their first title. "Punjab Kings (PBKS) have picked all-rounder Mitch Owen as a replacement for Glenn Maxwell, who has been ruled out of the remainder of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 due to a broken finger," an official IPL statement read. Mitch Owen, from Tasmania, Australia, has played 34 T20s and scored 646 runs, including two centuries and a highest score of 108. The Australian all-rounder also has 10 T20 wickets to his name," the statement added. Owen had joined Peshwar Zalmi as a supplementary player after South Africa's Corbin Bosch decided to breach his PSL contract in favour of a move to Mumbai Indians in the IPL. According to ESPNcricinfo, Owen is expected to join the PBKS after completing his PSL commitments.

RUSSELL HITS CRUCIAL FIFTY AS KKR  
SNATCH ONE RUN WIN OVER RR

**Diary Times Desk :** Two off nine balls. That's where Andre Russell was at one point but he doesn't panic or fret. In a format where every ball is an event, Russell can be amazingly convincing in the way he converts slow starts. So, where Riyan Parag and Maheesh Theekshana probably thought Russell had been checked adequately, the game had actually been set up for a sensory overload. Next 16 balls? 55 runs, a roller coaster ride that seemed to be auto-calibrating its route every ball, sending Eden Gardens into a tizzy and Rajasthan Royals scrambling for desperate changes. Russell had his way though, as did KKR ultimately, but not before they had their hearts in their mouths as Parag and Shimron Hetmyer added 92 for the sixth wicket and set up a nerve-wracking finish. Needing 22 off the last over from pacer Vaibhav Arora, Shubham Dubey hit 6, 4, 6 to bring down the equation to three from one. Arora went for a yorker, Dubey jammed it towards Rinku Singh — KKR's best fielder any day — at long-on and set off for two. Rinku charged at the ball, unleashed a flat throw at the bowler's end Jofra Archer was sprinting to, giving Arora ample time to whip off the bails and give KKR a one-run win. Nearly there has been the prefix to quite a few Rajasthan Royals matches this season.

NILAKSHI DE SILVA, HARSHITHA SAMARAWICKRAMA FIFTIES POWER SL  
IN NARROW WIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Nilakshi de Silva and Harshitha Samarawickrama scored half-centuries and Anushka Sanjeevani and Sugandika Kumari finished well as Sri Lanka recorded just their third win over India in Women's ODI in Colombo on Sunday (May 4). India put on a strong total in 275/9 with Richa Ghosh top-scoring for them, but saw it chased down in the final over. India had batting contributions all through the order after the hosts asked them to set the total, even as Smriti Mandhana exited for just 18 in the 10th over. She still partnered Pranika Rawal in a 51-run stand before Harleen Deol and Harmanpreet Kaur added 50 more. Through the middle, Jemimah Rodrigues (37 off 46) and Richa Ghosh (58 off 48) took charge to push India ahead. Chamari Athapaththu broke that alliance by trapping Rodrigues leg before, but the next batter — Deepti Sharma — arrived to keep up the forging of vital partnerships. Ghosh's exit in the 44th over was crucial — also the turning point per Harmanpreet Kaur, as India could've pushed on much further with her batting through. India still got contributions from Kashvee Gautam and Sneha Rana to take the team to a respectable 275/9. Sri Lanka's chase was powered by a 78-run partnership between Vishmi Gunaratne and Samarawickrama as they took the hosts past the 100-run mark by the 21st over.



RIYAN PARAG BECOMES  
FIRST BATTER IN IPL TO  
HIT SIX SIXES OFF  
SUCCESSIVE BALLS

**Diary Times Desk :** Riyan Parag became the first batter in the IPL to hit six sixes off successive deliveries, a feat he achieved during Rajasthan Royals' chase against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens. He went past Chris Gayle, Kieron Pollard and Rinku Singh, who all had hit five successive sixes. Coincidentally, all these instances came during the second innings of the match. Here's a look at each of them. Chasing 207, RR were 102 for 5 in 12 overs. Shimron Hetmyer took a single off the first ball of the 13th, bowled by Moeen Ali, to bring Parag on strike. Parag deposited the next four deliveries over either the long-on or square-leg boundary. Trying to get away from Parag's hitting arc, Moeen ended up bowling a wide next up. There was no respite, though, as Parag launched the next delivery over long-off. In the next over, Hetmyer once again took a single first ball, and Parag reverse-swept Varun Chakravarthy over backward point to make it six sixes in a row. RR, though, lost the match by one run.

DC LOOK TO PUSH  
UPWARDS AGAINST A  
STUTTERING SRH

**Diary Times Desk :** On the brink of elimination, Sunrisers Hyderabad return home on Monday (May 5) to face off against the stuttering Delhi Capitals in a bid to give their IPL 2025 campaign one more push. The Capitals find themselves just outside the qualification bracket with 12 points in 10 games. They have struggled to keep up the momentum gained following a record-breaking start to their season as soon as they hit the home turf. After winning five out of their first six games, Delhi's campaign lost steam midway as they went on to lose three of their last four. With only four games in hand, and the remaining three post Monday against sides all currently placed above them in the points table, the road is only going to get tougher for Axar & Co. at the business end of the competition. In all their recent defeats, the batting hasn't collectively fired for Delhi despite different individuals putting their hand up in each of those innings. Incidentally, all their remaining games are at high-scoring venues, putting the onus on the batting department to pull up their socks and put in complete performances to help DC secure a playoffs berth. While KL Rahul has shouldered the responsibility well, and is the team's leading run-getter, the return of Faf du Plessis with a half-century.