

'OPERATION SINDOOR'

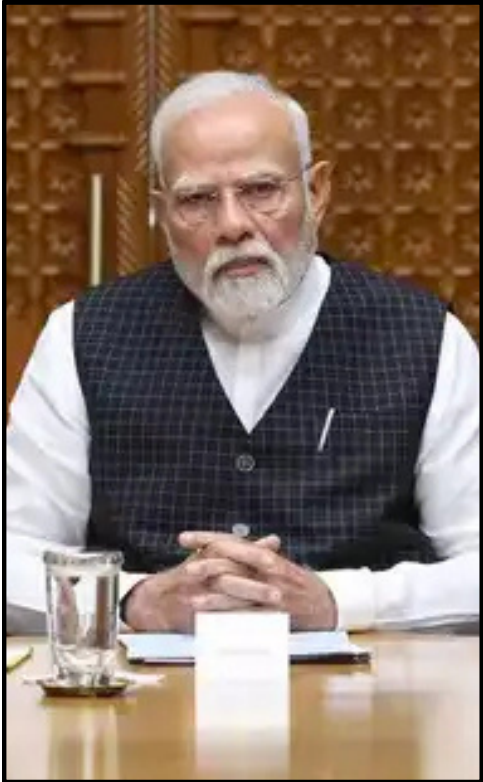
MODI CALLS FOR READINESS AMID HEIGHTENED TENSIONS AFTER CROSS-BORDER STRIKES

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday instructed all ministries to ensure seamless coordination to uphold “operational continuity and institutional resilience” and ensure fool-proof functioning of essential systems, with special focus on readiness, people aware of the matter said.

The comments at a meeting of secretaries to assess the preparedness, emergency response, and internal communication protocols came against the backdrop of heightened tensions following air strikes under Operation Sindoor on targets in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistani Punjab province on Wednesday. On Thursday, defence ministry said the armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems in Pakistan, even as Pakistani troops increased the intensity of firing across the Line of Control, the de facto India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

The people cited above said Modi called for continued alertness, institutional synergy, and clear communication as the nation navigates a sensitive period. Modi reaffirmed the government’s commitment to national security, operational preparedness, and citizen safety.

The meeting was called to review national preparedness and inter-ministerial coordination following strikes on terror camps. “Secretaries have been directed to undertake a comprehensive review of their respective ministries’ operations and to ensure fool-proof functioning of essential systems, with special focus on readiness, emergency response, and internal communication protocols,” said one of the people cited above.



'OPERATION SINDOOR'

IPL 2025: PBKS-DC GAME CALLED OFF AMID ESCALATING BORDER TENSIONS



**Diary Times Desk :** The IPL 2025 fixture between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was called off after 10.1 overs amid escalating tensions on the India-Pakistan border. Just past the midway point of the first innings, at 21:29 IST, three light towers at the stadium went off, forcing a stoppage in play and then subsequently forcing the players off the field.

According to an official BCCI statement, the abandonment was due to a “significant technical failure” at the HPCA Stadium. “Due to a power outage in the area, one of the light towers at the HPCA stadium malfunctioned. BCCI regrets the inconvenience caused to in-stadium attendees,” the board’s release stated.

Both teams and spectators were evacuated from the HPCA Stadium. At the time of writing, Cricbuzz has learnt that the players and coaches had boarded buses to the team hotel, shortly after their families had been ferried out around 10 minutes earlier.

Cricbuzz understands that the HPCA was asked by the Himachal Pradesh state government to order the evacuation as a precautionary measure. According to sources at the venue, there was no announcement over the PA system but the local police and the venue operations team requested for a slow evacuation of the stadium. “There is no rush or panic... the cops came and asked everyone to move slowly towards the exits,” a team source at the venue told Cricbuzz.

The development followed news reports of military escalation in Jammu, about 200 kilometres away from Dharamsala. There has been no blackout enforced in the Himachal hill town at the time of writing. Cricbuzz understands that BCCI officials are huddled in a meeting.

PAKISTAN ATTEMPTS HITTING JAMMU AIRPORT, CITY;  
BLACKOUT INITIATED

**Diary Times Desk :** Civil defence drill was activated in Jammu city on Thursday evening after loud bangs were heard at least thrice at a close interval of about 15 minutes. A complete blackout ensued as counter-measures were initiated. Residents across Greater Kailash, RS Pora, Chhani Himmat reported hearing massive bangs in and around the city areas quickly followed by a spotting of several red balls in the air. Akhil Razdan, a resident of Greater Kailash, Jammu, said it looked like a drone or a missile attack “very close to where he lived in Greater Kailash but it was intercepted very quickly.” Razdan said he lived very close to the airport at a distance of around 7 km. “I heard a loud bang and thought these were firecrackers. So I went to the terrace to look things up and spotted at least eight red balls in the direction of the bang. It looked like a drone attack from across the border which our air defence systems intercepted. As soon as the red balls were seen, the air sirens went off and there was a complete blackout,” Razdan said. Vijay Kumar, an RS Pora resident, reported the same sequence of events thrice and said it was still continuing.



FOREIGN SECRETARY VIKRAM  
MISRI’S STATEMENT ON  
‘OPERATION SINDOOR’

**Diary Times Desk :** The choice of de-escalation is with Pakistan as it escalated the situation with the Pahalgam terror attack and India only responded to it through ‘Operation Sindoore’, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Thursday. His comments at a media briefing came amid heightened tensions between the two countries. Misri said escalation started from that side (Pakistan) with the April 22 Pahalgam attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. “Our approach is not to escalate the situation, we only responded to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack,” he said. On de-escalation of the situation, Misri said, “Pakistan escalated the situation, we only responded. Choice is with Pakistan.” He said at the UNSC meeting, Pakistan opposed mention of the role of terror group The Resistance Force (TRF) when it had already claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack. The foreign secretary also said the retaliatory actions of Pakistan are impacting civilians.

PRESIDENT GRANTS SANCTION TO PROSECUTE LALU IN  
LAND-FOR-JOB PMLA CASE



**Diary Times Desk :** President Droupadi Murmu has granted sanction to prosecute RJD chief and former Union Minister Lalu Prasad in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged Railways land-for-job scam, official sources said on Thursday. Murmu has accorded the permission as mandated under Section 197(1) of the CrPC (Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023), they said. The case has been investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the federal probe agency chargesheeted the 76-year-old former Bihar Chief Minister, his son and former Deputy CM of the state Tejashwi Yadav and other family members in August last year. Before this, in January 2024, the ED had filed its first chargesheet against an alleged associate of the Prasad family, Amit Katyal, and other family members of Prasad, including his wife and former Bihar CM Rabri Devi, MP daughter Misa Bharti, another daughter Hema Yadav and two associated companies.

CASH AT JUDGE’S HOUSE: CJI KHANNA RECOMMENDS  
REMOVAL OF JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA

**Diary Times Desk :** Days after a three-judge inquiry panel indicted Allahabad High Court’s Justice Yashwant Varma for recovery of unaccounted cash during a fire incident at his residence here on March 14 — when he was a judge of the Delhi High Court, CJI Sanjiv Khanna is reliably learnt to have recommended his removal to the government. “Chief Justice of India, in terms of the in-house procedure, has written to President of India and the Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith a copy of the three-member committee report dated May 3 along with the letter/response dated May 6 received from Justice Yashwant Varma,” a Supreme Court statement read. In its report submitted to the CJI on May 4, the three-member committee comprising Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court found clear evidence to confirm recovery of a huge stash of cash in the storeroom of Justice Varma’s official residence in New Delhi at the time of the fire incident, sources said. After the indictment, the CJI — who is due to retire on May 13 — had sought Justice Varma’s response to the panel’s report and had also advised him to step down.



**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
09-05-2025

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

**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.

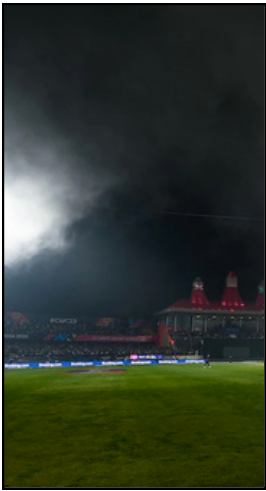
**Pisces**  
Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on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





## MATCH BEING PLAYED IN DHARAMSHALA CANCELLED: STADIUM LIGHTS SWITCHED OFF, PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS TAKEN OUT OF THE FIELD

**Diary Times Desk :** The IPL match going on in Dharamsala was stopped midway and cancelled amid the audacity of attacks from Pakistan from Kashmir to Rajasthan. This match was going on between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals. Due to security reasons, the match was stopped and the flood lights were switched off, after which the spectators were safely evacuated from the stadium. In a short time, the stadium was completely evacuated. Batting first, the Punjab team scored 122 runs in 10.1 overs after losing one wicket. Due to security reasons, the match was stopped and the flood lights were switched off, after which the spectators were safely evacuated from the stadium. In a short time, the stadium was completely evacuated. Batting first, the Punjab team scored 122 runs in 10.1 overs after losing one wicket. Security arrangements have been increased in Himachal Pradesh after Pakistan's attempt to attack 15 cities of the country. Especially the tourist places, Shaktipeeths, hydropower projects and border areas of the state have been put on alert. The state government and security agencies are fully alert. The government has cancelled the long leave of the employees of the health department. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu also took feedback from the officials on Thursday regarding the security arrangements and gave instructions to strengthen the security arrangements.



## WEATHER: CLOUDS RAINED 27 PERCENT MORE THAN NORMAL IN A WEEK, THE PERIOD OF RAIN WILL CONTINUE FOR THIS MANY DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** In the first week of May itself, 27% more rain than normal has been recorded in Himachal Pradesh. According to the Meteorological Department, the rain is forecast to continue for a week in many parts. A yellow alert for thunderstorms has also been issued at some places. On the other hand, heavy rain and hailstorm occurred in Raghupur valley and Jalori area of Kullu district on Wednesday. This has caused heavy damage to the crops of the gardeners. Farmers said that the grains of apples have become stained due to hailstorm. The barley and wheat crops ready in the fields have been ruined. They have demanded from the government, administration and horticulture department that the damage caused to the crops due to rain and hailstorm should be assessed and compensation should be given. Hailstorm occurred in Khanag, Luhul, Kanda and Khaner of Jalori, Fanauti, Juhad, Dapanda, Jhakdupani village of Raghupur.

## INDIA-PAK TENSION: SECURITY BEEFED UP IN HIMACHAL FROM TIBET BORDER TO PUNJAB AND JAMMU-KASHMIR BORDER

**Diary Times Desk :** After the air strike on terrorist hideouts, security has been beefed up on the state borders from the Tibet border adjoining Himachal Pradesh to Jammu-Kashmir-Punjab. Security has also been tightened at the state's major power projects, dams, tourist places, crowded areas, especially major temples. A mock drill was also conducted in Shimla to deal with any situation. On Wednesday, CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu cancelled his Banjar tour and held an emergency meeting with officials at the Secretariat. The CM directed all the district deputy commissioners to make tight security arrangements. At the same time, the deputy commissioners in the border areas have been asked to take a decision according to the situation regarding holidays in schools. Food supply, communication, transport, power supply, disaster management and health services were also reviewed.

## AAP PROTESTS OUTSIDE SUTLEJ SADAN AFTER TAKING BBMB CHAIRMAN HOSTAGE, KNOW THE WHOLE MATTER

**Diary Times Desk :** The matter of giving 8500 cusecs of additional water to Haryana is not coming to an end. Aam Aadmi Party workers are engaged day and night in monitoring the Nangal Dam here. At the same time, as soon as BBMB Chairman Manoj Tripathi reached Nangal and Punjab Education Minister Advocate Harjot Singh Bains got the news of water being released from Nangal Dam to Haryana, a large number of AAP workers, Panchs and Sarpanchs reached BBMB's rest house Sutlej Sadan. During this, as soon as BBMB Chairman entered Sutlej Sadan, the main gate of Sutlej Sadan was locked and he was held hostage under the leadership of Education Minister Advocate Harjot Singh Bains. A large number of workers raised slogans against BBMB and the Central Government in front of the gate. Seeing this demonstration, Irrigation Minister Virendra Goyal, Chamkaur Sahib MLA Charanjit Singh Channi also reached the spot. Punjab Education Minister said that BBMB management is pushing at the behest of the Central Government, which will never be tolerated. He said that we do not have even a single drop of extra water for Haryana, but despite this we are giving four thousand cusecs of water on humanitarian grounds.

## HP BUS FARE: BUS FARE INCREASED IN HIMACHAL, GOVERNMENT ISSUED NOTIFICATION, NOW IT WILL COST THIS MUCH PER KILOMETER

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid Indo-Pak tension, Himachal Pradesh government has increased bus fares. On Thursday, the state government has issued a notification fixing new fare rates for stage carriage bus services. The fare has been increased by about 15 percent. According to the notification, there will be separate fares for plain and hilly roads. The new fare will be applicable with immediate effect. Earlier, the ordinary bus fare in plain areas was Rs 1.40 per passenger, now it has been increased to Rs 1.60 per kilometer. Similarly, in hilly areas, it was earlier Rs 2.19 and now it has been increased to Rs 2.50 per kilometer. Earlier, the government had increased the minimum fare from five to 10 rupees. The government has also clarified that in future, the proposal for fare hike can be submitted by the Transport Department from time to time according to the official rate of inflation. The minister in charge is authorized to take a decision in this regard. The government has already increased the minimum bus fare from five to 10 rupees. Now the general fare of buses has also been increased.

## HIMACHAL: NEW PENSION SCHEME EMPLOYEES CAME IN SUPPORT OF PRIMARY TEACHERS, HUNGER STRIKE CONTINUED ON 13TH DAY

**Diary Times Desk :** The New Pension Scheme Employees Federation has supported the primary teachers protesting in the premises of the Directorate of School Education. The officials of the Federation said that the Education Department should adopt a positive attitude towards the demands of the teachers. The demands should be resolved by holding a meeting as soon as possible. On the other hand, the gradual hunger strike of primary teachers entered the 13th day on Thursday. Six primary teachers of Bilaspur district, Babulal, Sushil Kumar, Balveer Thakur, Sanjeev Sharma, Keshav Chand and Joginder Singh are on hunger strike till Friday afternoon. State Vice President of New Pension Scheme Employees Union, Sanjeev Sharma said that the Himachal Government and the Education Department should take positive action on the demands of the Primary Teachers Union and hold detailed talks. The suspension and police FIR taken after the dharna organized on 26 April 2025 against the primary teachers should be withdrawn. He said that it is unfortunate to suppress those who protest.

## ALL 3 AIRPORTS IN HIMACHAL CLOSED, FLIGHTS CANCELLED, SECURITY INCREASED AT TIBET BORDER, DAMS AND TEMPLES

**Diary Times Desk :** After the air strike on Pakistan, all flights have been cancelled along with the closure of all three airports in Himachal. Shimla, Kangra and Kullu airports will remain closed for civilian flights till May 9. All flights have been cancelled with immediate effect. On Wednesday, no flights took place from the three airports of the state and tourists had to return by road. Apart from the Tibet border adjoining Himachal, security has been increased at the borders adjoining Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab, major power projects of the state, dams, crowded areas and major temples. A mock drill was also conducted in Shimla to deal with any situation. On Wednesday, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu cancelled his Banjar tour and held an emergency meeting with officials at the Secretariat. The CM has directed all the district deputy commissioners to make foolproof security arrangements.

## GOVERNMENT DEBUNKS REPORTS OF PAKISTANI STRIKES ON AMRITSAR MILITARY BASE

**Diary Times Desk :** Hours after India's Operation Sindoor, a targeted military strike on nine terror camps across the border to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, a flood of disinformation has emerged from Pakistani media and government-linked social media handles. Many of these platforms circulated baseless narratives alleging retaliatory attacks by Pakistan on Indian soil – one such claim that Pakistan attacked the military base in Amritsar. However, the Indian government's official fact-checking agency has debunked the claim, calling it 'false'. A fake video of the claim was also circulated on social media, with the Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check division noting that the footage is from a wildfire in 2024. "Pakistan-based handles are spreading old videos falsely alleging strikes on a military base in Amritsar. The video being shared is from a wildfire from 2024. Avoid sharing unverified information and rely only on official sources from the Government of India for accurate information," the PIB wrote in a post on X.

## CHIEF JUSTICE RECOMMENDS INITIATING PROCEDURE TO REMOVE CASH ROW JUDGE: SOURCES

**Diary Times Desk :** After receiving a report from the three-member panel looking into allegations of a huge pile of burnt cash being found in a storeroom attached to the bungalow of Delhi High Court Justice Yashwant Verma, the Chief Justice of India has written to the President and Prime Minister and recommended that proceedings be initiated to remove him, sources said. In a statement on Thursday, the Supreme Court said, "Chief Justice of India, in terms of the In-House Procedure, has written to Hon'ble the President of India and Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith copy of the 3-Member Committee report dated 03.05.2025 along with the letter/response dated 06.05.2025 received from Mr Justice Yashwant Varma." While the details of the panel's report are not yet known, the sources said that Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna has recommended that a motion for the removal of Justice Verma be initiated. A large pile of cash had allegedly been recovered from a storeroom attached to Justice Verma's house in Lutyens' Delhi following a fire call on March 14, which was Holi. The judge had said that the storeroom is used by several people and he was not aware of any cash being kept there.

## ABDUL RAUF AZHAR, IC-814 HIJACKING MASTERMIND, KILLED IN OP SINDOOR: BJP



**Diary Times Desk :** The BJP has claimed that Abdul Rauf Azhar, the younger brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, was among the terrorists killed as India struck terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor yesterday. India yesterday launched precision airstrikes at nine locations in Pakistan and PoK in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 innocents were murdered in cold blood. One of these locations was the Jaish headquarters in Bahawalpur. The BJP put out a social media post with Abdul Rauf Azhar's photo and "eliminated" written on it. Abdul Rauf Azhar, a most-wanted terrorist, was the mastermind of the hijack of Indian Airlines IC 814 in Kandahar in 1999. He was involved in the Pathankot terror attack and the 2001 attack on Parliament. In the IC 814 hijack, an India Airlines plane flying from Kathmandu to Delhi with 190 people on board, was diverted to Kandahar and the Indian government was forced to release three terrorists.

## "STATE FUNERAL FOR TERRORISTS": INDIA BLASTS PAK CLAIM OF CIVILIANS KILLED

**Diary Times Desk :** India has ripped into Pakistan for its continued support of cross-border terrorism, pointing to 'state funerals' for three individuals – whom Indian intel had identified as terrorists but the Pak government has insisted were civilians – among the over 100 terrorists killed in Operation Sindoor. In an extensive briefing Thursday evening, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri remarked that if Islamabad's statements were, indeed, true, "it is odd that funerals of civilians are being carried out by coffins wrapped in their national flag... and state honours are being awarded". "As far as we are concerned... the individuals eliminated at these facilities were terrorists. Giving terrorists 'state funerals' may be a practice in Pakistan. But it doesn't make much sense to us." A report by news agency PTI said three men – Qari Abdul Malik, Khalid, and Mudassar – had been awarded 'state funerals' that were attended by members of the Pakistan Army. All three were part of a banned group.

## MULTIPLE LOUD EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN JAMMU, PANIC AMONG RESIDENTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Multiple loud explosions were heard in Jammu on Thursday evening, creating panic among residents. The explosion comes a day after India carried out strikes on nine terror camps within Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. It is still unclear what caused the explosion. There are panic among locals after the explosions which were preceded by air raid sirens and blackouts. "Complete blackout in Jammu. Loud explosions—bombing, shelling, or missile strikes suspected. Fret not—Mata Vaishno Devi is with us, and so are the valiant Indian Armed Forces," former DGP of Jammu and Kashmir, Shesh Paul Vaid, posted on X (formerly Twitter). Soon after the blasts were heard, shopkeepers were seen rushing to their homes. According to Reuters, some residents even saw red flashes and projectiles in the sky before the explosions. One X user, sharing photos and videos of the blackout in Jammu wrote, "Missiles are flying over our houses in Jammu RIGHT NOW."

## PM MODI MEETS ARMY CHIEF AFTER PAKISTAN'S MISSILE ATTACK, INDIA'S RESPONSE

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. The crucial meeting comes hours after India announced that it thwarted Pakistan's missile attack on Indian military installations in the north and western parts of the country. The Army Chief arrived at the PM's residence for the meeting. Last night, Pakistan attempted to attack military targets in Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles. India said it thwarted Pakistan's attempt to attack sites, using the Unmanned Aircraft System Grid (UAS Grid) and air defence system. India used the potent S-400 missile defence system to shoot down Pakistani missiles that attempted to attack India. "The debris of these attacks is now being recovered from a number of locations that prove."

## BORDERS SEALED, MISSILES READY: RAJASTHAN, PUNJAB ALERT AFTER OP SINDOOR

**Diary Times Desk :** A day after India's precision missile strikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, border states Rajasthan and Punjab are in alert mode. Leaves of all police personnel have been cancelled and public gatherings restricted as local authorities gear up for any escalation from the Pakistan side. Rajasthan, which shares a 1,037-km border with Pakistan, is on high alert. The border has been completely sealed and Border Security Force personnel have been given shoot-on-sight orders if they spot any suspicious activity. Authorities in Rajasthan have also restricted movement near the border for those who don't live there. The Indian Air Force is on high alert. Flight movement from Jodhpur, Kishangarh and Bikaner airports has been suspended till May 9 as fighter jets patrol the skies in the western sector. Missile defence systems are activated, it is learnt. Sukhoi-30 MKI jets are conducting air patrols from Ganganagar to the Rann of Kutch. Schools in Bikaner, Sri Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, and Barmer districts have been shut and ongoing exams have been postponed. Leaves of cops and Railways staff have been cancelled.





## INDIA REPELS PAK ATTACK ON TARGETS IN 15 CITIES, NEUTRALISES LAHORE'S AIR DEFENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** The armed forces targeted air defence radars at a number of locations in Pakistan and destroyed the system in Lahore on Thursday after Islamabad attempted to strike 15 military targets in India in response to Operation Sindoor. Sources said Pakistan's HQ-9 missile defence system units, developed by China, were hit by Israeli-made HARPY kamikaze drones, effectively rendering the Pakistani army defenceless in Lahore. The government's statement came shortly after Pakistan claimed one drone crashed near Lahore, while 12 others were taken down close to Gujranwala, Chakwal, Bahawalpur, Miano, Karachi, Chhor, Rawalpindi, and Attock. Pakistan claimed that four army personnel sustained injuries in Lahore while one civilian was killed in Miano, Sindh. The incident comes a day after India struck terror camps in Pakistan, in an operation named 'Sindoor', in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives.

## CHINA'S XI VOWS TO STAND WITH FRIEND PUTIN AGAINST 'HEGEMONIC BULLYING'

**Diary Times Desk :** Chinese President Xi Jinping has told Russian leader Vladimir Putin that his country will stand with Moscow against "unilateralism and hegemonic bullying" during a visit to the country to commemorate the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. Arriving in Moscow on Thursday at the start of a four-day visit, Xi hailed the "deeper" trust developing between the two countries, appearing to take a swipe at Western critics of Russia's continuing offensive in Ukraine, which Putin has characterised as a war against latter-day Nazis. "In the face of the international counter-current of unilateralism and hegemonic bullying behaviour, China will work with Russia to shoulder the special responsibilities of major world powers," Xi told Putin. Greeting Xi as a "dear friend" in the Kremlin, Putin took the opportunity to underline Moscow's role in WWII, which he has long accused the West of minimising, and to reinforce his narrative of the Ukraine war as a new battle against Nazis. "Together with our Chinese friends, we firmly stand guard over historical truth, protect the memory of the events of the war years.

## CONCLAVE MOVIE SERVES AS GUIDANCE FOR CARDINALS VOTING FOR NEXT POPE



**Diary Times Desk :** Before entering the papal elections to pick the next pope, several Catholic cardinals reportedly watched the film Conclave, starring Ralph Fiennes, to get a sense of the traditions and political undercurrents of the process. The film, directed by Edward Berger and based on Robert Harris's novel, unexpectedly became a guide for many of the 133 cardinal-electors who entered the Sistine Chapel on Wednesday. Released four months before Pope Francis' death on April 21, the movie served as an unintended primer for those less familiar with the inner workings of the Vatican. A majority of the cardinals participating in this conclave were appointed by Pope Francis himself and have never experienced the intricate ceremony of papal election. Many also come from smaller, historically overlooked dioceses, mirroring the background of characters portrayed in the film. One cleric, speaking to Politico, confirmed that several participants "watched it in the cinema" as part of their informal preparation.

## GERMAN SPY AGENCY PAUSES 'EXTREMIST' CLASSIFICATION FOR AfD PARTY

**Diary Times Desk :** Germany's domestic spy agency BfV has paused its classification of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) as an extremist organisation in what the AfD on Thursday called a partial victory for its challenge against the decision. The agency would not publicly refer to the AfD as a "confirmed right-wing extremist movement" until an administrative court in the western city of Cologne has ruled on an AfD bid for an injunction, a court statement said. The BfV's move last week to classify the far-right AfD as extremist produced sharp reactions along the fault lines of German politics, with some lawmakers calling for the AfD to be banned and the AfD casting it as an attack on democracy. It also sparked strong criticism from U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio calling on the German authorities to reverse their decision. The extremist classification allows the Cologne-based spy agency to step up monitoring of the AfD.

## TRUMP SAYS CHINA WON'T LOWER TARIFFS AHEAD OF US-CHINA TRADE TALKS

**Diary Times Desk :** Following requests from Beijing, President Trump has denied to lower tariffs despite of persistent requests. He gave monosyllabic reply "No" when questioned by reporters at the White House about Chinese exports. Now at a minimum 145%, Trump denied his interest in lowering them just to initiate trade-talks. The US President implied that Chinese were the ones to initiate and request talks. Contradicting the statement made by the other side, Trump said, "I think they ought to go back and study their files". The meeting with their Chinese counterparts is set to take place to discuss the de-escalation of the tariff wars. The Treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, and Jamieson Greer, the United States trade representative aim to meet with Chinese officials on Saturday and Sunday in Geneva. Following the high-tariff standoff, both countries have hurting business however, a common ground is yet to be found. Chinese officials have claimed previously that they are unclear whether US and China will even strike a deal since they have little clarity regarding policy changes. China's Ministry of Commerce announced on Wednesday that Vice Premier He Lifeng will participate in the upcoming talks in Geneva.



## CHINESE WARSHIPS ARRIVE IN SINGAPORE FOR MARITIME DEFENSE EXHIBITION

**Diary Times Desk :** Two warships independently developed by China have arrived at the Changi Naval Base in Singapore and will be open to the public at the ongoing International Maritime Defense Exhibition (IMDEX) Asia 2025. IMDEX Asia 2025, which opened on Tuesday at the Changi Exhibition Center, is one of the most influential defense events in Asia. China has participated in the exhibition for many consecutive sessions. This edition of the exhibition has attracted more than 100 companies from countries and regions around the world, focusing on displaying the latest maritime sci-tech achievements in the fields including artificial intelligence technology, and ship power systems. The two warships of the Chinese Navy participating in the event are Xuchang Ship and Chishui Ship. Xuchang Ship is a Type 054A missile frigate with a full load displacement of over 4,000 tons. It is capable of carrying out sea assault, air defense and anti-missile missions. Since it was commissioned in 2017, the ship has participated in a number of major training and exercise missions and maritime escort operations.

## QUAD INITIATIVE SEEKS TO BOLSTER CIVILIAN DISASTER RESPONSE IN INDO-PACIFIC

**Diary Times Desk :** Quad partners Australia, India, Japan and the US took part in a "tabletop exercise" in Hawaii recently to take forward the grouping's vision of leveraging shared logistics capabilities aimed at strengthening civilian disaster response in the Indo-Pacific. From April 28 to May 2, the Quad partners convened at the "Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii for a Tabletop Exercise, a simulation to launch the Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network ," the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. "The IPLN is an initiative that enables Quad partners to leverage shared logistics capabilities in the Indo-Pacific to support civilian response to natural disasters more rapidly and efficiently across the region," it said in a statement. Together with the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness, the IPLN reflects the Quad's commitment to ensuring a "free and open Indo-Pacific" and highlights the value of strengthening practical cooperation to address regional challenges, the MEA said. MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in a post on X on Thursday, also shared about the recent exercise. "To take forward the Quad's vision of leveraging shared logistics capabilities to strengthen civilian.

## BBMB CHAIRMAN ILLEGALLY RELEASED 200 CUSECS OF WATER TO HARYANA, ALLEGES PUNJAB CM MANN

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who visited Nangal on Thursday, accused the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) chairman of illegally releasing 200 cusecs of water to Haryana, despite heightened national tensions and emergency-like conditions following recent India-Pakistan developments. Addressing AAP workers outside the BBMB's Sutej Sadan rest house, Mann alleged that the BBMB Chairman Manoj Tripathi personally supervised the release of water at the Nangal Dam earlier in the day. "This is an irresponsible act at a time when the country is on high alert. If unrest breaks out in Punjab over this issue, the BBMB chairman will be held accountable," the Chief Minister said. Mann asserted that Haryana had already consumed its allocated water share from Bhakra up to March 31, 2025, for the current quarter. As per schedule, Haryana is entitled to additional water only after May 20, he said. "Neither the Central Government, Punjab Government, nor the High Court has directed BBMB to release extra water to Haryana. The advisory issued during the May 2 meeting only suggested release of 4,500 cusecs," he added. He further stated that Punjab does not have surplus water and cannot afford to release more when several of its villages.



## BSF NEUTRALISES PAKISTANI INTRUDER IN PUNJAB'S FEROZEPUR SECTOR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Border Security Force (BSF) neutralised a Pakistani intruder in Punjab's Ferozepur sector during the intervening night of May 7-8, official sources confirmed on Thursday. The Pakistani intruder was spotted crossing the International Border (IB) and moving toward the border security fence, taking advantage of the darkness. He was fired upon by vigilant BSF troops after being challenged in the Ferozepur sector. Following daybreak, the body was handed over to local police, sources added. The incident occurred within 24 hours of Operation Sindoor, during which Indian forces conducted punitive strikes, destroying nine terrorist bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Meanwhile, the BSF has bolstered security along the Pakistan border across the Western Front. It has cancelled all personnel leaves and heightened surveillance along the border.

## OPERATION SINDOOR: BJP HAILS PM MODI, ARMED FORCES

**Diary Times Desk :** Chandigarh BJP president Jatinder Pal Malhotra and Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian armed forces for the precision strikes at the basis of terrorists in Pakistan and Pak-occupied-Kashmir. Malhotra said the strikes were not just a response but also a declaration that India would no longer stay silent to any Pak-sponsored act of terrorism. Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla said "Those who dare disturb India's peace will be crushed at every front. Neither Pakistan nor terrorists supported by it will be spared." Chandigarh Congress president HS Lucky appealed to people to stand unflinchingly with the defence forces, who are showcasing unmatched bravery and shrewd execution of their plans to eliminate enemies of our country without any collateral damage to civilian population. He emphasised that each and every worker of the Congress stood in complete solidarity with the government in its efforts to wipe out terror from the face of India. Pawan Kumar Bansal, former Union Minister and Chandigarh MP.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS 8-HOUR COMPLETE BLACKOUT IN GURDASPUR

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who visited Nangal on Thursday, accused the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) chairman of illegally releasing 200 cusecs of water to Haryana, despite heightened national tensions and emergency-like conditions following recent India-Pakistan developments. Addressing AAP workers outside the BBMB's Sutej Sadan rest house, Mann alleged that the BBMB Chairman Manoj Tripathi personally supervised the release of water at the Nangal Dam earlier in the day. "This is an irresponsible act at a time when the country is on high alert. If unrest breaks out in Punjab over this issue, the BBMB chairman will be held accountable," the Chief Minister said. Mann asserted that Haryana had already consumed its allocated water share from Bhakra up to March 31, 2025, for the current quarter. As per schedule, Haryana is entitled to additional water only after May 20, he said. "Neither the Central Government, Punjab Government, nor the High Court has directed BBMB to release extra water to Haryana. The advisory issued during the May 2 meeting only suggested release of 4,500 cusecs," he added. He further stated that Punjab does not have surplus water and cannot afford to release more when several of its villages.

## PUNJAB-HARYANA WATER ROW: HIGH COURT ASKS BBMB CHAIRMAN TO FILE AFFIDAVIT

**Diary Times Desk :** Just about two days after the State of Punjab was directed to abide by the decision to release 4500 cusecs of extra water to Haryana and not to interfere in the functioning of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday asked Chairman Manoj Tripathi to file an affidavit on his claim that the Punjab Police stopped him from releasing water to Haryana. Appearing through videoconferencing before the high court Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel, BBMB Chairman Tripathi apprised the court that two BBMB officers directed to release 200 cusecs water to Haryana were restrained by the police agency. The chairman also claimed he was "gheraoed" at the guest house by some civilians, when the Punjab Police rescued him. Taking a note of his submissions, the Bench asked Tripathi to file his statement on an affidavit. Additional Solicitor-General of India Satya Pal Jain was also asked to produce minutes of May 2 meeting held under Union Home Secretary's chairmanship, where it was decided to release 4500 cusecs of extra water to Haryana over a period of eight days to meet its urgent requirement. The matter will now come up for further hearing on May 9. The Bench was hearing an application for directing the State of Punjab.

## LANCE NAIK FROM PALWAL MARTYRED IN PAK SHELLING IN KASHMIR

**Diary Times Desk :** Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar (32) from Haryana's Palwal district was martyred in the intense cross-border artillery and mortar shelling by the Pakistan Army in Kashmir. The shelling was a response to the Indian Armed forces' successful execution of 'Operation Sindoor'. Dinesh hailed from Mohammadpur village in the Palwal district. "He was recruited in 2014 and was recently promoted to Lance Naik. He was posted at Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. We were informed that Dinesh, along with four other soldiers, was patrolling along the Line of Control (LOC) and died in the mortar shelling. We, our village and our country are proud of him. He was a brave soldier and we will send him off with hearts filled with pride," said Dinesh's father Daya Ram Sharma. Sharma said that Dinesh was the eldest of the five brothers and his two other sons are also serving in the Army as 'agniveers'. He said that if Dinesh's son wanted to carry forward his father's legacy, he would support him.

## 40% HIKE IN LICENCE FEE TO SERVE LIQUOR AT RESTAURANTS

**Diary Times Desk :** There will be few takers for liquor licence, with the state hiking the fee to serve liquor at a restaurant by almost 40%. The hike in excise policy for 2025-26 is expected to impact the night life of Gurugram, which has the highest number of restaurants and pubs serving liquor. The Pub Association owners claim that they are already seeing a dip in patrons due to 'bring your own booze' (BYOB) outlets. And now, with a hike in licence fee, they will have to hike liquor charges, which will drive away customers, they said. Restaurant owners say the cost of L4/L5 (restaurant) licence has increased from Rs 18 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, and they are being asked to pay Rs 45 lakh for a 21-month term. There is an additional Rs 20 lakh annual fee to operate between midnight and 2 am, and restaurants must now pay 20% of Rs 45 lakh (about Rs 9 lakh) if they wish to add extra counters or bars. Restaurateurs warned that though the new policy intended to bring about parity and structure, it could adversely affect the hospitality sector. Several bar owners have demanded phased implementation, or a more flexible assessment model. "The steep rise, coupled with increased procurement and compliance costs, will push up the prices of alcohol. Not many of us can afford it. People are already choosing BYOBs, and now with this hike, they will stop coming here."



## 'OPERATION SINDOOR' MATTER OF PRIDE: GOVERNOR

**Diary Times Desk :** Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said at Bilaspur today that 'Operation Sindoore' launched by Indian armed forces was a matter of pride for the nation. He added that the Indian Army had given a befitting reply to the terrorists responsible for the recent brutal killing of innocent civilians at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. The Governor said, "We are proud of our armed forces. It is commendable that the Indian Army executed this operation successfully by targeting terror launchpads across the border without causing harm to any innocent civilians." The Governor said that 'Operation Sindoore' was not just a military response, but a symbol of India's sovereignty, growing strength and unwavering commitment to fighting terrorism. He added that it was a proud moment for the entire country. Earlier, Shukla participated in the virtual inauguration of Bhim Setu constructed in Lahaul and Spiti district by the Border Roads Organisation. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the bridge.

## INDIAN FORCES GAVE STRONG REPLY TO PAKISTAN: JAI RAM

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a befitting reply to the terror attack on tourists at Pahalgam on April 22, as he had promised to the nation. Thakur, in an informal interaction with mediapersons here, said, "India has taken revenge for the April 22 attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam for which Modi should be praised. Indian armed forces have taken revenge for the Pahalgam killings by destroying targets 100 km into Pakistan and attacked nine terror training centres accurately and by ensuring that civilian population was not harmed," he added. He said that Pakistan was shell shocked and bewildered as how to retaliate to the strikes by Indian forces against terror training centres. "The entire nation stands united against terrorism sponsored by Pakistan," he added. Thakur said that the state would act on the guidelines of the Central Government for civil safety and ensuring supply of essential supplies. He added that holding mock drills anywhere.

## SHIMLA ROPEWAY PROJECT WORK MAY BE AWARDED BY JUNE END

**Diary Times Desk :** The Ropeway and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation (RTDC) is hoping to complete all formalities for the Shimla ropeway project by June end and award the work. "Two companies have bid for the project. At present, technical scrutiny of the bids is underway. Once it is done, financial bids will be opened and the work will be awarded to a company," said an RTDC official. The RTDC had to extend the date of opening the bids several times on the request of the interested companies. "Now, two big Indian companies have made the bids. They have joint ventures with international players," the official added. He said that apart from the scrutiny of the bids, the RTDC was meeting other formalities related to the project simultaneously. "Efforts are being made to get the remaining clearances under the Forest Conservation Act by June 15. There's continual correspondence with New Development Bank regarding funding. We are hopeful that we will be able to award the work by June end," he added. The official said that the deadline for making the bid for the Narkanda-Hatoo ropeway had been extended up to May 20. "A few companies are showing interest in the project, but they have raised some queries and hence the date has been extended," he added.



## NO ORDER FROM CENTRE TO CLOSE SCHOOLS IN BORDER DISTRICTS: SUKHU

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today cancelled his tour of Kullu district and chaired high-level meeting in the wake of 'Operation Sindoore'. "So far no directions have been received from the Union Home Ministry on the closure of educational institutions in border districts. I have directed the district administration to assess the situation in schools in the border districts and take a decision accordingly," said Sukhu in an informal interaction with mediapersons after the meeting with the Home and Police departments here. He said, "I chaired a high-level meeting as we need to remain vigilant to avert any untoward incident in the border areas. There is no need to panic but at the same time, we need to be prepared for any eventuality." He added that they would try to gather all possible information through the use of technology and counter any false propaganda by the enemies through social media. The Chief Minister congratulated the security forces after the success of 'Operation Sindoore' launched by the Indian armed forces. He praised the courage and professionalism exhibited by the forces in safeguarding the nation. "The entire country is proud of the brave hearts and their unwavering dedication to protecting the nation and its citizens. We are proud of the manner in which all three wings of the armed forces have executed the operation," he said.

## CONGRESS CANCELS MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS NAMES FOR HPCC TOP POST

**Diary Times Desk :** The appointment of a new president of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) will take a little longer. The Congress high command had called Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, his ministers, former party presidents and other eminent leaders to New Delhi tomorrow to discuss the potential candidates for the top post of the HPCC but the meeting was postponed following the strikes by Indian armed forces in Pakistan. The three-year tenure of incumbent president Pratibha Singh has expired and the names of a few leaders for the post are doing the rounds. The names of a few ministers are being proposed for the post but they are reportedly not interested. At least one minister is said to have agreed to take up the responsibility on the condition that he will be allowed to continue as minister as well. Factors like regional balance and caste are also being considered to decide the next president. "The name of the president should be declared at the earliest. Resentment among party workers and even ministers is growing, which is not good for the party," said a senior Congress leader. With no clear name emerging for the post of the HPCC president, the reconstitution of the dissolved party body will also be delayed further.

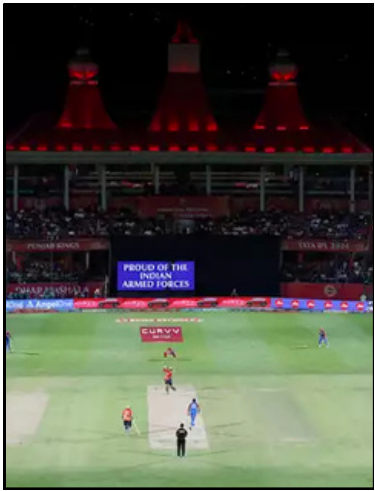
## SECURITY BEEFED UP IN CHAMBA'S BORDER AREAS ALONG J&K, PUNJAB

**Diary Times Desk :** The district authorities have tightened security along Chamba's borders with Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab after India's retaliatory strikes against terror outfits in Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam attack. Chamba shares border with both Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, making several areas in the district vulnerable. To strengthen security, the police have completely sealed the 220-km-long border starting from the Khairi sector to Churah and Pangi subdivisions. Enhanced surveillance is also being done on the border with Punjab. Police personnel are patrolling sensitive areas day and night and all vehicles entering Chamba from neighbouring states are being checked thoroughly. Military forces stationed in the Khairi sector are working alongside the police to monitor and secure strategic locations. Additionally, intelligence inputs are being actively gathered using technical surveillance resources. Chamba is not immune to terror incidents. One of the most horrifying incidents had occurred in Kalaban and Satrundi of Churah in 1998 when terrorists from Jammu and Kashmir brutally killed 35 labourers. Smaller incidents had also taken place in 1993, 1995 and 1996.



IPL 2025: PBKS-DC GAME CALLED OFF AMID  
ESCALATING BORDER TENSIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** The IPL 2025 fixture between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was called off after 10.1 overs amid escalating tensions on the India-Pakistan border. Just past the midway point of the first innings, at 21:29 IST, three light towers at the stadium went off, forcing a stoppage in play and then subsequently forcing the players off the field. According to an official BCCI statement, the abandonment was due to a "significant technical failure" at the HPCA Stadium. "Due to a power outage in the area, one of the light towers at the HPCA stadium malfunctioned. BCCI regrets the inconvenience caused to in-stadium attendees," the board's release stated. Both teams and spectators were evacuated from the HPCA Stadium. At the time of writing, Cricbuzz has learnt that the players and coaches had boarded buses to the team hotel, shortly after their families had been ferried out around 10 minutes earlier. Cricbuzz understands that the HPCA was asked by the Himachal Pradesh state government to order the evacuation as a precautionary measure. According to sources at the venue, there was no announcement over the PA system but the local police



PCB POSTPONES PSL 2025 MATCHES  
AMID INDIA-PAKISTAN CROSS-  
BORDER TENSION

**Diary Times Desk :** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has officially deferred the scheduled Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2025 match between Karachi Kings and Peshawar Zalmi, originally set to be played in Rawalpindi on Wednesday. The postponement follows escalating military tensions between India and Pakistan. In a brief announcement, the PCB said it is coordinating with relevant stakeholders and will announce a rescheduled date in due course. While only one fixture has been officially postponed so far, reports suggest that the remainder of the tournament may also be subject to rescheduling or relocation depending on how the situation unfolds. As of Thursday, eight matches remain this season—four in Rawalpindi, one in Multan, and three in Lahore. Tensions flared following India's military response to the 22 April terror attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 people dead. The counter-operation, dubbed 'Operation Sindoor', reportedly targeted militant strongholds across the border. With Lahore—set to host the PSL final on 18 May—also affected, the tournament's future now hangs in the balance. The mounting tension has triggered concern among overseas players, with many reconsidering their participation.

AFTER ROHIT SHARMA'S SUDDEN  
TEST RETIREMENT, SOURAV  
GANGULY SAYS: "BCCI'S WORK IS  
TO SUPPORT..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Rohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket, bringing an end to a celebrated chapter in his international career. The 38-year-old batter took to Instagram on Wednesday to share the news, expressing gratitude to fans and reflecting on his journey in the longest format of the game. Former India captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly made an interesting observation after Rohit's retirement from the longest format. "He is a great player for India, but someone has to leave the game. My best wishes to him. He had a good career, he will play One Day for India and IPL... BCCI's work is to support the player. When I was part of BCCI, we thought he would be a great captain for India and so he was. We won World Cup, Champion's trophy, Test Cricket under him," Ganguly told ANI. Rohit made his Test debut against the West Indies in November 2013 and went on to represent India in 67 Tests. He amassed 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57, with 12 centuries and 18 fifties. His highest score of 212 came during a memorable home series against South Africa in 2019.

'SHUBMAN GILL NOT JUST TALENTED, HE'S A SMART CRICKETER; NEHRA WILL  
NEVER LET ANYONE BE COMPLACENT': GT'S SAI KISHORE

**Diary Times Desk :** Tamil Nadu spinner Sai Kishore has emerged as a workhorse in domestic cricket and his first-class record speaks for itself. In 46 matches, the left-arm orthodox has scalped 192 wickets at an average of 23.51. However, the 28-year-old was not getting consistent chances to show how good he is in the Indian Premier League (IPL). He warmed the bench for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) when he was a part of their squad in the 2020 and 2021 editions. He also didn't get many matches after joining Gujarat Titans in 2022. However, the traditional spinner's story has turned around completely in the ongoing IPL 2025. Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill and head coach Ashish Nehra have given him all the games this season, and on most occasions, he has played ahead of Washington Sundar as a frontline spinner. Sai Kishore has repaid the management's faith by taking 14 wickets in 11 matches. His numbers are all the more impressive considering he did not bowl more than 2 overs in many matches this season, as Shubman Gill did not call him into the attack when left-handers were batting at the crease.



"IT'S NOT OVER YET":  
FORMER CRICKETER DROPS  
BIG STATEMENT ABOUT  
KKR'S BLEAK PLAYOFFS  
CHANCES

**Diary Times Desk :** Former cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra believes, even though a challenging route to the playoffs lies ahead of Kolkata Knight Riders, it is not over yet for the defending champions in the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League. Kolkata suffered a massive setback in their attempts to defend the crown after they succumbed to a two-wicket defeat against a beleaguered Chennai Super Kings in their home den, Eden Gardens. With the Knight Riders dwindling in the sixth spot with 11 points and two fixtures left, their hopes for a spot in the playoffs appear bleak. With seven teams still fighting for a place and KKR standing on the verge of elimination despite their persistent slim hopes, Aakash isn't willing to rule the Knight Riders just yet. "Never say never. Even with a 0.1 per cent chance, it's not over yet. As improbable as it seems, if there's still a chance, you keep fighting. Sport teaches you to never give up. By the next game, others might be out of contention, but while hope remains, KKR will push for it," Aakash told JioHotstar.

ROHIT SHARMA BLASTS  
INDIAN COMMENTATORS,  
CALLS THEM 'AGENDA-  
DRIVEN'

**Diary Times Desk :** One of the most likeable cricketers in the game, yet Rohit Sharma hasn't been immune to criticism by pundits, former cricketers, or journalists. The India ODI captain has even been a part of some fiery press conferences, especially since taking over the role of a skipper in the national team. In the final phase of his career, Rohit pointed out a big change that he has seen in the way the business of cricket is being run. In an interview, the 38-year-old highlighted how the 'masala' has taken over 'pure cricket' in modern times. During an interview with Vimal Kumar, Rohit highlighted how big a difference there is between the kind of commentary he sees in India in comparison to what he sees in Australia, calling the former highly 'disappointing'. "We see everything, we talk to each other. Sometimes when we are watching the match on TV, the kind of things commentators talk about is much different from the kind of commentary you see in Australia. Here, it is so disappointing. I am being very honest. It seems like they just want to target a player and speak about him. This is very disappointing," Rohit said.