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## OPERATION SINDOOR

## OPERATION SINDOOR NOT JUST MILITARY MISSION, BUT REFLECTION OF CHANGING INDIA: MODI

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that Operation Sindoor was not just a military mission, but "the face of a changing India" that reflects the country's resolve, courage and growing strength on the global stage.

Addressing the nation through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister said, "Today the entire country is united against terrorism, filled with anger and determination." Modi hailed Operation Sindoor as a turning point in the global fight against terror, describing it as a symbol of India's growing strength and clarity of purpose.

"Operation Sindoor has infused new confidence and energy into the global fight against terrorism," he said. He lauded as "extraordinary" the precision with which Indian forces attacked the terrorist infrastructure across the border. Modi emphasised that the operation was not a one-off military action, but a reflection of a changing and resolute India.

"Operation Sindoor is the picture of our resolve, courage, and a changing India," he said, and delved on the impact of the operation that resonated deeply across the country. The operation's success was followed by a series of gestures in tribute to the armed forces, ranging from patriotic poems on social media to paintings by children and massive Tiranga Yatras. "In many cities, youth volunteered for civil defence, wrote poems, sang songs of resolve, and children made paintings carrying powerful messages," Modi said.



## OPERATION PAKISTAN WILL PAY INCREASINGLY HIGHER PRICE SINDOOR FOR BACKING TERROR: SHASHI THAROOR



**Diary Times Desk :** India has demonstrated that Pakistan will have to pay an increasingly higher price for backing terror attacks against the country because Islamabad has failed to display any seriousness about tackling terrorism, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, the leader of an allparty delegation visiting the US, said on Sunday. Pakistan is a "revisionist power" that is willing to use terror to gain control of Indian territory and the Pahalgam attack of April 22 was aimed at undermining normalisation in Jammu and Kashmir and provoking a backlash in the rest of India since the terrorists targeted only Hindus, Tharoor said during an interaction with think tanks and the media at the Indian consulate in New York.

The delegation led by Tharoor is one of seven teams of parliamentarians, political leaders and former diplomats that the Indian government has sent to different parts of the world to inform key partners of New Delhi's new approach to combating cross-border terrorism and to explain the rationale behind Opeartion Sindoor, launched on May 7 to target terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan.

"No one sitting in Pakistan is going to be allowed to believe that they can just walk across the border and kill our citizens with impunity. There will be a price to pay and that price has been going up systematically," Tharoor said. He noted that India responded to the Uri attack of 2016 with surgical strikes across the Line of Control (LoC) and the Pulwama suicide bombing of 2019 with an air strike on a terrorist camp across the international border. "Now, we have not just crossed the LoC, we have also crossed the international border.



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#### INDIA VIEWS CHINA, NOT PAKISTAN, AS PRIMARY ADVERSARY: US REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Despite the India-Pak skirmish earlier this month, New Delhi views China as it 'primary adversary' and sees Pakistan as an 'ancillary' security problem, says the latest assessment report of the US Defense Intelligence Agency. The report called 'worldwide threat assessment', released today, takes into account all global developments till May 11. It says Pakistan regards India as an 'existential threat' and will continue development of battlefield nuclear weapons, to offset India's conventional military advantage. It states that Pakistan's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes are likely acquired primarily from suppliers in China, and sometimes are trans-shipped through Hong Kong, Singapore, Turkey and the UAE. On the India-China relations, the US report says, "Prime Minister Narenda Modi's priorities will probably focus on demonstrating global leadership, countering China and enhancing New Dehli's military power. India views China as its primary adversary and Pakistan more an ancillary security problem to be managed, despite cross-border attacks in mid-May by both India's and Pakistan's militaries, it added. It goes on to warn that the ongoing tensions along the India-China's Line of Actual Control (LAC) border demarcation are capable of escalating quickly.



#### CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF GEN CHAUHAN CONDUCTS STRATEGIC REVIEW OF NORTHERN, WESTERN THEATRES

Diary Times Desk: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan visited the Indian Army's Northern and Western Commands on Sunday to conduct a strategic review and operational assessment post-'Operation Sindoor'. During his interaction with the senior officers of these two commands, who were actively involved in the planning and execution of the operation, the CDS stressed on continued vigil and jointness across the Services to address the evolving threats. At the Headquarters Western Command in Chandimandir, he was given a comprehensive brief on the kinetic and nonkinetic punitive response during Operation Sindoor by the General Officer Commandingin-Chief, Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar. A detailed overview of the operational environment, defence preparedness and key outcomes of the operation were provided, while underscoring the prevailing security situation along the Western borders.

### PM MODI MEETS NDA CHIEF MINISTERS; RESOLUTION PRAISING ARMED FORCES PASSED



Diary Times Desk : Prime minister Narendra Modi today chaired the meeting of chief ministers and deputy chief ministers of BJP-led NDA dispensations. Twenty chief ministers and 18 deputy CMs of 20 states where NDA governments rule are attending the meeting, where Operation Sindoor and caste census are on the table, apart from major governance issues. Senior leaders of NDA – Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Maharashtra deputy CMs Shrikant Shinde and Ajit Pawar - are all in attendance. A resolution praising the valour of the armed forces and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Operation Sindoor, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, was passed at the meeting. Caste enumeration, good governance issues, best practices of states and the first anniversary of the Modi government in its third term are also part of the agenda, besides political plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the imposition of the Emergency. Ten years of observance of International Yoga Day will also be discussed.

## **MONSOON REACHES MAHARASHTRA, EARLIEST ONSET IN 35 YEARS**

Diary Times Desk : The southwest monsoon arrived in Maharashtra on Sunday, making it the earliest onset of the annual rainfall season over the state in 35 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The southwest monsoon is expected to advance to Mumbai and some other parts over the next three days, the IMD added. In 1990, southwest monsoon made onset over Maharashtra on May 20. IMD scientist Sushma Nair said. The monsoon advanced into some more parts of the Arabian Sea, Karnataka, entire Goa, parts of Maharashtra, north Bay of Bengal, and parts of Mizoram, parts of Manipur and Nagaland on Sunday, the IMD said. The northern limit of monsoon passes through Devgad, Belagavi, Haveri, Mandya, Dharmapuri, Chennai, Aizawl and Kohima, it said. In Maharashtra, the coastal Konkan stretch and Mumbai have been witnessing heavy pre-monsoon rains for the past two days. The southwest monsoon hit Kerala on Saturday, marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009 when it had reached the southern state on May 23

## **YOUR HOROSCOPE** 26-05-2025

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

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

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business.Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to 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.

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 iob 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.

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.

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.

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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 face . due in the workplace. People doing business increased difficulties ue to arguments business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

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.

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. expansio **Diabetic patients should get themselves** checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business face difficulties in repaying ess loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

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



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### CORONA VIRUS JN-1 VARIANT: ALERT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH REGARDING CORONA AND INFLUENZA, NHM ISSUED ADVISORY

Diary Times Desk : After the cases of corona were reported across the country, the state government has also issued an alert in Himachal. District hospitals including medical colleges have been instructed to keep strict vigil and make proper arrangements to prevent the cases of COVID-19 and influenza in the near future. Instructions have also been given to strengthen the hospital infrastructure including beds, oxygen supply, ventilators, BiPAP machines, oxygen concentrators, PSA plants, antibiotics, essential medicines in hospitals. According to the guidelines issued by Himachal National Health Mission (NHM), reporting of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) cases in OPD and IPD has been asked to be ensured through IHIP - IDSP portal. Confirmed cases of influenza and corona will also have to be reported using L form.

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH SECRETARIAT AGAIN RECEIVED A BOMB THREAT, INTENSIVE SEARCH OPERATION CONTINUES IN THE PREMISES

Diary Times Desk : The State Secretariat of Himachal Pradesh has once again received a bomb threat. The Chief Secretary's Office received this threatening message through email. As soon as the information was received, the administration immediately started taking action. After receiving the threat, the bomb disposal squad and the dog squad were called to the spot. Both the teams are conducting an intensive search operation in the secretariat premises. Due to Sunday holiday, there were no employees in the secretariat, yet heavy police force has been deployed in the premises in view of security. Strict surveillance is going on in the entire area. The administration has taken the threatening email seriously and tightened the security arrangements. The investigating agencies are trying to find out the source of the threatening email. Let us tell you that this is not the first time that the State Secretariat has received such a threat. Earlier also in the month of April, the secretariat had received a bomb threat. At that time also the bomb squad and dog squad had searched.



#### JAIRAM THAKUR: 'VIMAL NEGI WAS UNDER PRESSURE TO ISSUE THE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE OF PEKHUBELA SOLAR POWER PROJECT'

**Diary Times Desk :** In the case of death of Chief Engineer of Power Corporation Vimal Negi, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur has made serious allegations against Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and the officials. He said that Vimal Negi was under pressure to issue the completion certificate of Pekhubela Solar Power Project. According to the rules, 10 percent liquidation charges were to be levied due to delay in Pekhubela Solar Power Plant. This amounted to Rs 22 crore for the damage. Instead of not doing so, the government paid Rs 13 crore to the company. Jairam Thakur said in a press conference held in Shimla that the internal conflict of the police officers has come out in the open. The officer was made the medium due to the protection of corrupt Congress leaders. Everyone has seen the drama that happened in the High Court. The Superintendent of Police is speaking against the DGP. The High Court has also reprimanded him due to indiscipline. When the DGP asked for the investigation report of Vimal Negi case from SP Shimla, it was not given. The DGP had to give an affidavit in the High Court. ACS Home Omkar Sharma also submitted the investigation report in the High Court. The facts that have come to light in this report have become a matter of concern for them. The drive was not in the records earlier.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH: UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH INAUGURATED THE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION UNIT IN PALAMPUR

Diary Times Desk : On Sunday, Union Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the biochar and fertilizer production unit at the Himalavan Bioresource Technology Institute in Palampur. During this, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said that our ministry is connected to the states. Handicrafts are our ancient art and are related to textiles. It is also a means of employment. 40 lakh artisans work in the field of handicrafts. He said that IHBT is contributing to the rural economy of Himachal Pradesh in a big way. I asked them to contact the state government and entrepreneurs. If they connect Kangra with flower cultivation, then flower cultivation will become a new dimension of tourism. The income of farmers will also increase four times.



#### HIMACHAL TOURISM: TOURISM BUSINESS PICKS UP PACE, TOURISTS HAVING FUN ON THE RIDGE, 60% OCCUPANCY IN HOTELS

Diary Times Desk : After the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, the affected tourism business in the capital has started to gain momentum. In the summer season, the occupancy in private hotels including Himachal Tourism Development Corporation has increased now in the end as compared to the beginning of May. On the other hand, people were troubled throughout the day due to traffic jams in the city. The occupancy in the hotels of the city is up to 60 percent. In the beginning of May, the occupancy in the hotels was up to 30 percent. But now due to the situation becoming normal in Jammu and the increasing heat in the plains, tourists are again turning to Hillsqueen. This has excited the tourism businessmen as well as guides and taxi drivers. On Saturday, the Ridge ground was bustling with tourists on the weekend. Tourists were seen strolling on the Mall Road in large numbers. In the afternoon, in the pleasant weather and bright sunshine, tourists enjoyed the valleys by visiting the Mall Road. Many tourists also paid obeisance at the famous Hanuman temple of Jakhu. In comparison to the past days, the number of tourists in the corporation's lift connecting the Mall Road to the Circular Road has also increased. On Friday and Saturday, more than 22,000 tourists including locals reached Mall Road through the lift.

#### HIMACHAL: BAGS CLAIMING I AM NOT PLASTIC WILL ALSO BE BANNED, THIS IS THE REASON; ORDERS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM JUNE 1

Diary Times Desk : In such a situation, the government has decided to ban these bags as well. The government has issued orders regarding this. This decision has been taken to save the environment. After the use of plastic envelopes was stopped, now most shopkeepers are using this type of envelope. It is also written that it is environment friendly. While it is not easily disposed. It is worth noting that most shopkeepers in the state are using one-time use carry bags to deliver goods. These envelopes or bags are also dangerous for the environment. A temperature of more than 35 degrees Celsius is required to destroy it. Shopkeepers have a large stock of it but it can be used only till 31 May. If it is used after this, strict action will be taken

# NATIONAL

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#### POLL BODY ANNOUNCES DATE FOR ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS TO 5 SEATS IN FOUR STATES

Diary Times Desk : Bypolls to five assembly seats in four states will be held on June 19, the Election Commission said on Sunday. While two assembly bypolls will be held in Gujarat, one each will take place in Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab. The counting of votes will take place on June 23, the poll authority said. In Gujarat, the bypoll to the Kadi seat was necessitated following the death of sitting MLA Karsanbhai Punjabhai Solanki. Another bypoll to the Visavadar seat in the state is taking place due to the resignation of sitting member Bhayani In Bhupendrabhai Gandubhai. Kerala, the Nilambur seat will go to bypoll since P V Anvar has resigned, while byposs are to be held in Punjab's Ludhiana seat due to the death of sitting member Gurpreet Bassi Gogi. Byelection to the Kaliganj Assembly seat in West Bengal has been necessitated due to the death of sitting assembly member Nasiruddin Ahamed

#### SHASHI THAROOR SLAMS KERALA'S "MISPLACED GENEROSITY" FOR TURKEY, CPM REACTS

Diary Times Desk : Congress's Shashi Tharoor, who is also part of the Centre's international outreach on Operation Sindoor, has slammed the Kerala aovernment over its help to Turkey during the 2023 earthquake, pointing to Ankara's support to Islamabad in the standoff against India. Posting a news item about Kerala's Rs 10 crore aid to Turkey on X, Mr Tharoor said the Left Democratic Front government should "reflect on its misplaced generosity". "I hope the Govt of Kerala reflects on its misplaced generosity, after seeing Turkey's behaviour two years later! Not to mention that the people of Wayanad (just to take one Kerala example) could have used those ten crores far better," his post read. CPM's John Brittas responded immediately, saying why Mr Tharoor was questioning Kerala when the Central government had extended a helping hand to Turkey and attributed it to "selective amnesia".

"Hve great regards for Shashi Tharoor. But these comments are symptoms of selective amnesia," his post read. "It is as amusing n puzzling why he had to belittle Kerala when he knows very well the Modi govt itself had launched Operation Dost to help Turkey. Kerala bashing is unwarranted," his post read. Turkey's aid to Pakistan in the four-day armed conflict with India has been followed by a string public sentiment against the Mediterranean nation.

#### PM MODI SHOWS DAMAGED TERROR CAMPS IN 1ST MANN KI BAAT ADDRESS AFTER OPERATION SINDOOR



Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the nation through his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat" for the first time since "Operation Sindoor" and showed the pictures of the terror sites that were destroyed by the Indian armed forces in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). India, after finding cross-border links to the deadly April 22 Pahalgam attack, launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 and destroyed multiple camps of terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen. "Sindoor", a Hindi word for vermilion, is a red powder that Hindu women put on the forehead as a sign of marriage. In the overnight attack, the Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on four terrorist camps in Pakistan and five in PoK. Praising the "extraordinary" precision with which Indian forces attacked the terrorist infrastructure across the border, PM Modi showed the sites that were destroyed in PoK - the Gulpur and Abbas camps in Kotli and the Barnala camp in Bhimber.

#### "WE HAVE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BUT...": A OWAISI ON INDIAN MPS IN BAHRAIN

Diary Times Desk : All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Asaduddin Owaisi, part of the all-party delegation led by BJP MP Baijayant Panda, referred to Pakistan as a "failed state" during an interaction with prominent figures in Bahrain. During the interaction, Mr Owaisi said, "Our government has sent us over here ... so that the world knows the threat India has been facing since last so many years. Unfortunately, we have lost so many innocent lives. This problem emanates from Pakistan only. Unless and until Pakistan stops promoting, aiding and sponsoring these terrorist groups, this problem won't go away." He further added, "Our government has taken all the steps to protect the lives of every Indian. This government has made very clear next time you (Pakistan) take up this misadventure, it will be beyond what they are expecting..." Mr Owaisi noted that India has repeatedly exercised maximum restraint despite grave provocations. Recalling the Pahalgam attack in which 26 tourists were killed, he emphasised the human cost of terrorism. "Please reflect on the human tragedy of this massacre.

#### SHASHI THAROOR ON WHY OP SINDOOR DELEGATION TO US VISITED 9/11 MEMORIAL

Diary Times Desk: The Shashi Tharoorled Indian delegation, which is visiting the US to expose Pakistan's role in terrorist acts on Indian soil, visited the memorial for the 9/11 attacks in 2001 that had shaken the world. Nearly 3,000 people had died and thousands of others were injured when three planes hijacked by terrorists crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The delegation led by Mr Tharoor comprises BJP MPs Bhubaneswar Kalita, Shashank Mani Tripathi, Shiv Sena's Milind Deora, TDP's GM Harish Balayogi and former diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu. The delegation visited the 9/11 memorial and paid their respects to the victims. Speaking to the media later, Mr Tharoor said it was a "very moving moment", but it was also meant to "send a message". "It was obviously a very moving moment for us, but it was also meant to send a very strong message that we are here in a city which is bearing still the scars of that savage terrorist attack in the wake of vet another terrorist attack.

#### "THOSE WHO ABANDON WISDOM...": LALU YADAV'S DAUGHTER ON BROTHER TEJ PRATAP'S EXPULSION

Diary Times Desk : Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Rohini Acharya has come out in strong support of her father and party supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav's decision to expel his elder son Tej Pratap Yaday from both the Rashtriva Janata Dal and the family, citing repeated violations of family values and public conduct. "Those who take care of the dignity of the environment, tradition, family and upbringing are never questioned. Those who abandon their wisdom and repeatedly commit the mistake of crossing the limits of decent conduct and family prestige, they make themselves the subject of criticism," Ms Acharya posted on X. Reaffirming her loyalty to Lalu Prasad Yadav and the values he represents, she added, "For us, Papa is like God, family is our temple and pride and the party built by Papa's tireless efforts and struggles, and the concept of social justice is our worship. We will never accept that the reputation of these three is tarnished due to anvone." The controversy erupted after Lalu Yaday took the significant step of expelling Tej Pratap from both the party and the family.

#### PROTESTERS CLASH WITH SECURITY FORCES NEAR MANIPUR GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, 7 INJURED

**Diary Times Desk :** At least seven women were injured on Sunday when security forces fired tear gas shells and used mock bombs to disperse protesters marching towards Raj Bhavan in Imphal. The situation, say sources, is under control. The protesters were responding to a call by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a civil society group, against the alleged removal of the state's name from a government bus on May 20. Condemning the reported removal of the word "Manipur" from a state transport bus by the security personnel, COCOMI Convenor Khuraijam Athouba had demanded a formal apology from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. A row erupted after a media team, en route to cover the opening ceremony of the five-day-long Shirui Lily Festival in Ukhrul district on May 20, was forced to return to Imphal, allegedly after some security personnel blocked their bus at Gwaltabi in Imphal East district.



# INTERNATIONAL



#### PAK'S MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS MENTION IN US THREAT REPORT - AND CHINA LINK

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan regards India as an "existential threat", but India considers China its "primary adversary," and Pakistan more of an "ancillary security problem", the US Defence Intelligence Agency has said in its worldwide threat assessment report for 2025. The report forecasts that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's defence priorities will probably focus on demonstrating global leadership, countering China, and enhancing New Delhi's military power. "India views China as its primary adversary and Pakistan more an ancillary security problem to be managed, despite cross-border attacks in mid-May by both India's and Pakistan's militaries," the report says. The reference was to the India-Pakistan conflict earlier in this month after Indian airstrikes targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. "Following a late April terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi conducted missile strikes on terrorism-related infrastructure facilities in Pakistan. The missile strike provoked multiple rounds of missile, drone, and loitering munition attacks, and heavy artillery fire, by both militaries from 7 to 10 May. As of 10 May, both militaries had agreed to a full ceasefire, the report says.

#### PRISONER SWAPS COMPLETED AS RUSSIA FIRES DEADLY BARRAGE AT KYIV

Diary Times Desk : The third day of prisoner exchanges between Russia and Ukraine went ahead as planned on Sunday, wrapping up a program agreed to earlier this month, hours after a second night of deadly missile and drone strikes across much of Ukraine. Ukrainian authorities said at least 12 people were killed in heavy Russian airstrikes, prompting President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to renew his call for more sanctions. "Russia is dragging out this war and continues to kill every day," Zelenskiy said on the social media platform X. "Silence of America, silence of others around the world only encourage Putin." Russian attacks on Ukraine have intensified in recent days despite the two sides holding their first direct talks since 2022, in Istanbul on May 16. That meeting was followed by a high-profile phone call between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on May 19.

#### 'HARVARD HAS \$52,000,000, USE IT': DONALD TRUMP DEFENDS BLOCK ON FOREIGN STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY



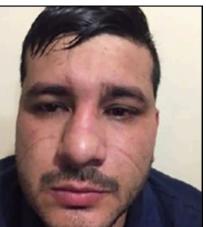
**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump took to the social media platform TRUTH on Sunday to defend his administration's move to block the prestigious university from enrolling international students. Trump asked, "Why isn't Harvard saying that almost 31% of their students are from FOREIGN LANDS. and yet those countries, some not at all friendly to the United States, pay NOTHING toward their student's education, nor do they ever intend to. Nobody told us that!" Trump said his administration's request to demand specific details about "violent activities by non-immigrant students" from Harvard is "reasonable". He said, "We want to know who those foreign students are, a reasonable request since we give Harvard BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, but Harvard isn't exactly forthcoming." "We want those names and countries. Harvard has \$52,000,000, use it, and stop asking for the Federal Government to continue GRANTING money to you!," Trump said.

### ZELENSKY AFTER 12 KILLED IN RUSSIAN STRIKES: 'AMERICA'S SILENCE ONLY ENCOURAGES PUTIN

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has issued a stark warning to the international community following one of the largest aerial assaults on Ukraine since the war began in 2022. "America's silence, and the silence of others in the world, only encourages Putin," Zelensky said in a social media post after the overnight attacks. Zelensky urged tougher sanctions against Russia and emphasised the importance of decisive leadership from the West. "Each such terrorist attack by Russia is a sufficient reason for new sanctions," he said. "Determination matters now - the determination of the United States, the determination of European countries, and all those in the world who want peace." Ukraine came under heavy fire overnight, with Russia reportedly launching 298 drones and 69 missiles in a coordinated aerial strike. According to Ukrainian officials, 12 civilians were killed, including three children, and 38 were injured. The previous night's attack involved 250 drones.

#### CARTEL LEADER WITH \$1 MILLION US BOUNTY ON HIS HEAD KILLED IN MEXICO

Diary Times Desk : Jorge Humberto "El Perris" Figueroa, a Sinaloa Cartel member loyal to El Chapo's son Ovidio Guzman in the cartel's internal conflict, was killed in a shootout with Mexican authorities during an arrest attempt, New York Post reported. Figueroa, part of the "El Chapitos" faction, fired on Mexican military personnel on Friday, prompting the fatal response, according to the government. The operation targeting Figueroa occurred in Navolato, 32 kilometres (19 miles) from Culiacán, Sinaloa's capital, local media reported, as per CNN. Notably, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) had offered a \$1 million reward for Figueroa, wanted for alleged federal crimes including fentanyl trafficking conspiracy, possession of machine guns and destructive devices, and money laundering conspiracy. "As part of the strategy to build peace in Sinaloa, an operation was carried out to arrest Jorge Humberto, alias El Perris," Mexico's Secretary of State Omar Garcia Harfuch wrote on X.



#### HAMAS IS RUNNING OUT OF MONEY AMID WAR WITH ISRAEL: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Hamas sources have revealed that the terrorist group is teetering on the brink of financial collapse, Al-Shara Al-Awsat newspaper reported, as the ongoing conflict with Israel inflicts severe damage not only on its military capabilities but also on its wallet. The London-based newspaper reported that Hamas is having difficulty paying salaries to employees and operatives due to the unprecedented financial crisis According to the reported sources, the Palestine-based militant group has paid only 900 shekels (about \$240 USD) for four months, causing widespread anger among members of the organisation. The financial woes come as the group also grapples with significant leadership losses due to the IDF's ongoing elimination of Hamas' leadership; there is a 'vacuum' within the terror group's so-called government. Meanwhile, Gaza's civil defence agency said Saturday that an Israeli strike in the southern city of Khan Yunis killed nine children of a pair of married doctors, with the Israeli army saying it was reviewing the reports

#### "SELLING NATION TO US": SHEIKH HASINA'S BIG CHARGE AGAINST MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Diarv Times Desk : Banaladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has accused the South Asian country's interim government head Muhammad Yunus of "selling the nation to the United States." She also condemned the recent ban on her Awami League party, calling it unconstitutional. In an audio message posted on her party's Facebook account, Bangladesh's ousted leader reiterated that Yunus seized control of the Bangladesh government with the help of extremist groups. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was appointed as the transitional leader of the interim government on 7 August 2024, days after student-led protests against the government forced the then-premier Hasina to resign and flee Bangladesh. Hasina's latest attack came amid reports claiming Yunus has threatened to resign following the military's call for general elections to be held in Bangladesh in December. She claimed Yunus, who gained international recognition under her government, has given the reins of the government to "terrorists", against whom her government fought. "My father did not agree to America's demands for St. Martin's Island. He had to give his life for that. And that was my destiny as I never thought of selling the country.

## NEWS

## MALOUT MAN WINS RS 2.5 CRORE LOTTERY JUST 90 MINUTES AFTER BUYING TICKET

Diary Times Desk : In a stroke of luck, Dipty Bansal, a resident of Green Valley in Malout town, won Rs 2.5 crore in the Nagaland State Dear 500 Super Monthly Lottery, just about 1.5 hours after purchasing the ticket on Saturday evening. Dipty, who runs a car bazaar in Malout, had no plans to try his luck until a chance interaction with a lottery agent changed everything. "It was a lucky day yesterday. My business partner wanted to buy a lottery ticket, and we called an agent to our shop who was roaming in the market. The agent then asked me too to buy a ticket, saying that the draw would take place the same night. I told him to give me a random ticket, and that was it. Almost 1.5 hours later, I received a call from the same agent saying I had won the top prize of Rs 2.5 crore," said an elated Dipty, while talking to The Tribune today. As for what he plans to do with the prize money, Dipty said, "I am still trying to absorb the news. My family and I will decide later what to do with the prize money."



### CM MANN, KEJRIWAL OFFER PRAYERS AT KALI MATA TEMPLE IN PATIALA

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal Sunday paid obeisance at Kali Mata Mandir here. Both the leaders announced a facelift of the temple, said an official release. They said that the 'saroyar' of the temple that remained dry for the last 30 years will be rejuvenated. They said that the back gate which serves as a primary access point during high traffic periods is proposed to be reopened and renovated. Mann and Kejriwal said that all temple entrances will also be aesthetically restored to maintain architectural symmetry and improve crowd management. Keeping with Sikh and Hindu traditions of community service, daily 'langar' service for devotees, particularly those visiting from remote areas or from economically weaker backgrounds, will be started, they said. A comprehensive master plan with future construction, heritage preservation, pilgrim services, sanitation, parking and traffic flow in consultation with urban and religious planning experts is being prepared, they said.

#### DOORS OF HEMKUND SAHIB GURDWARA OPEN FOR DEVOTEES

Diary Times Desk : The doors of Hemkund Sahib Gurdwara, a famous Sikh pilgrimage site in the upper Garhwal Himalayan region in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, opened for devotees on Sunday. After the arrival of 'Pani Pyare' in the morning, the doors were opened for the devotees amidst 'ardas'. Shabad Kirtan and Gurbani. With this, the pilarimage to the Hemkund Sahib has commenced. The gurdwara, situated at an altitude of 15,000 feet, was decorated with flowers and colorful flags. President of Hemkund Gurdwara Trust Narendrajit Singh Bindra and other officials were also present. With snow still covering the area around the gurdwara, a path has been cleared for devotees. On Saturday, the first batch of Sikh devotees led by 'Panj Pyare' from Govindghat Gurdwara left for Hemkund Sahib with the holy 'Nishan Sahib'. The group stayed the night at Ghangaria Gurdwara. In the morning.

### JANDIALA GURU MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR SHOT DEAD IN AMRITSAR'S CHHEHARTA

Diary Times Desk : Jandiala Guru Municipal Councilor Harjinder Singh, alias Baman, a member of the Shiromani Akali Dal, was shot dead by bike-borne armed assailants in the Chheharta area of Amritsar on Sunday. Harpal Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP), said that the police have named several individuals in the case and launched a manhunt to apprehend them. It was apparently a targeted killing carried out by Kishan, a Dubai-based notorious criminal and gangster with over 15 criminal cases against him, he said. An old enmity is believed to be the motive behind the incident. The victim, along with his family, had come to Chheharta to attend a function. He was on his way to a nearby eatery with his relatives when unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants with covered faces arrived and shot him, leaving him critically injured. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital. He had been receiving threats from several individuals, and on May 12, unknown persons had also fired gunshots outside his residence in Jandiala. However, he was not at home when that incident occurred. Harpal Singh said that, based on the statements of the family members, the police have named Kishan, Karan, Ghuddu, Goldy, and Raju as suspects. Kishan, who is currently based in Dubai, has several criminal cases registered against him."

#### BBMB PLANS TO BRING UP MICRO-HYDEL PROJECTS WITH PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Diary Times Desk : As tiff with the Punjab government goes on, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) is planning to outsource micro-hydel projects on its water sources to private players. However, the AAP leader from Nangal who spearheaded the party's dharna against BBMB, Sanjeev Gautam, the chairman of Guru Ravi Dass Ayurvedic Medical University, has opposed BBMB's decision to outsource the project to private players. He said that the Punjab government would oppose outsourcing of the project to private players. These projects require small investment and the government would invest in them, he said. The sources here told The Tribune that BBMB has planned a micro-hydel project of 1.79 MW on Nangal dam. The BBMB has planned to outsource the project to a private party. The technical bid for the project has already been done now the tenders would be floated for executing the project. The project has been planned on the two plugged gates of the Nangal dam. As per the project proposal, the microhydel project would be brought up by drilling a pen stock inside the plugged gates and harness hydropower from the environment flow of Sutlej being released from Nanaal

## MP JANGRA'S REMARK IS PERSONAL, NOT PARTY'S STANCE: UNION MINISTER MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR

Diary Times Desk : Amid controversy surrounding BJP Rajya Sabha MP Ram Chander Jangra's recent remarks on women who lost their husband or family members in the Pahalgam terror attack, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that the comments reflected personal opinion and should not be interpreted as the party's stance. Urging closure of the matter, the minister emphasised that Jangra has already issued a clarification and expressed regret for any hurt caused. In a day-long visit to his constituency, , Khattar, while interacting with media persons, said, "Jangra expressed а sentiment, but it was presented in the wrong context. Making comments about women who have lost their husbands is not appropriate. It was indeed a mistake, and he has expressed regret. I, too, believe this issue should now be considered closed." Earlier, Khattar tuned in to PM Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme with party leaders and workers at the party's district office 'Karna Kamal'

### OVER 100 ELECTRIC POLES DAMAGED AS STORM HITS SIRSA; POWER OUTAGE CONTINUES

Diary Times Desk : Sirsa was hit by a powerful storm on Saturday night, accompanied by strong winds and varying intensities of rain across the region. The storm caused widespread damage, especially to the environment and power infrastructure. Trees were uprooted, roads were blocked, and power outages plunged many areas into darkness. According to officials, over 100 electricity poles were damaged across the district, with some hightension lines also destroyed. The force of the storm brought down 33kV hotlines in some areas, while snapped wires and fallen poles added to the hazards. Fortunately, no loss of life or serious injuries have been reported so far. Heavy rain also led to waterlogging in fields and residential colonies, significantly hindering restoration efforts. The risk of electric shock in flooded areas has delayed repair work. In one instance, a video went viral showing a local man carrying a lineman on his back through a waterlogged field to help him reach a damaged pole safely. The situation is particularly severe in sandy rural areas and farm settlements (dhanis), where poles and wires are more vulnerable.

# **STATE**

#### **HIMACHAL NEWS: UNION** MINISTER SUKANT **MAJUMDAR ARRIVES TO** VISIT MANALI, WILL STAY **HERE FOR TWO DAYS**

Diary Times Desk : The tourist city of Manali is ready to welcome tourists. Along with tourists, VIP movement has also started in Manali. On Sunday, Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar reached Manali. He is scheduled to stay in Manali for two days. On reaching Manali, former minister Govind Thakur and Municipal Council Manali President Manoj Larje welcomed him. The tourist season of Manali has now started gaining momentum. The number of tourists is increasing twofold on weekends. More than five thousand tourist vehicles have reached Manali in three days. VIPs have also started coming. On Sunday, Union Minister of State for Education and Bharatiya Janata Party West Bengal President Sukanta Majumdar reached Manali. He has been given the status of state guest. The local administration welcomed him. Former minister Govind Thakur, Municipal Council President Manoj Larje and many other leaders and workers reached to welcome him at the Circuit House. Govind Thakur said that the Union Minister of State was given a warm welcome in Manali. A discussion was also held with him about the education system in Himachal.

#### **HIMACHAL NEWS: HPCU** WILL OFFER MA IN 31 SUBJECTS, PG DIPLOMA IN **16 AND CERTIFICATE COURSES IN EIGHT SUBJECTS**

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Central Universitv (HPCU) will offer post graduation in 31 subjects, post graduation diploma in 16 subjects and certificate courses in eight subjects. For this, candidates appearing in CUET-2025 can register on the Samarth portal till 5 pm on June 3. The registration fee for postgraduate, PG diploma and certificate courses will be Rs 500 from all categories, while the registration fee for all categories of students applying for admission in selffinancing courses and programs will be Rs 1000, which will not be refunded. A notification has also been issued by the Controller of Examinations, Himachal Pradesh Central University regarding admission.

### SUKHU PITCHES FOR GREEN BONUS, HIGHER ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AT NITI AAYOG MEET

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today reiterated that Himachal should be given a Green Bonus for protecting forests and higher allocation of funds in the wake of rising cost of development works. Sukhu, who attended the 10th Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, sought a ban on the import of Turkish apple and the expansion of the Kangra airport. "Himachal Pradesh is the lungs of North India. It has contributed a lot to preserve the green cover for which it must be compensated by way of a Green Bonus," he said. "We have set a target to make Himachal Pradesh a green energy state by March 31, 2026. Special needs of the hill states should be taken into account and considered for a higher allocation of funds, thereby relaxing the eligibility criteria of various schemes," he added. Sukhu said, "In the coming years, Himachal will become a pioneering state in green hydrogen production in the country. A 1 MW green hydrogen plant is being set up in Solan district in collaboration with Oil India Limited." The Chief Minister raised the matter of royalty aligned with the state government's Energy Policy.

#### HIMACHAL POLICE TUSSLE: DGP **RECOMMENDS SP'S SUSPENSION, SAYS HE** MADE 'UNSUBSTANTIATED' ALLEGATIONS **AGAINST OFFICERS**

Diary Times Desk : Taking strong exception to allegations levelled by Superintendent of Police of Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi against him and other senior officers, Director General of Police Atul Verma has recommended immediate suspension of the SP to the Himachal Pradesh government, officials said on Sunday. In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), the DGP said that Gandhi had made "unsubstantiated and inappropriate allegations against senior government functionaries and constitutional authorities", and he should be suspended, "pending the outcome of a departmental inquiry and the CBI investigation" into the death of HPPCL engineer Vimal Negi. The DGP cited instances of "misconduct and insubordination" by the Shimla SP. Similar letters along with a video of the SP's media interaction on Saturday in which he made serious allegations were also sent to the chief secretary and private secretary to the chief minister, sources in the police headquarters told PTI. SP Gandhi had on Saturday publicly hit out at the DGP alleging that he filed a misleading status report questioning the SIT probe in the Vimal Negi death case due to ulterior motives and there were attempts at obstructing investigations in several cases.

#### **VIMAL NEGI DEATH CASE: ENSURE THE** SAFETY OF ASI PANKAJ, KEEP THE **RECORDS SAFE**

Diary Times Desk : After the High Court ordered a CBI inquiry into the mysterious death of Vimal Negi, Chief Engineer of Power Corporation, the Director General of Police has directed the IG South Range and SP Shimla to ensure the safety of ASI Pankai. The Director General of Police has also informed the Director CBI Delhi and ACB Unit Shimla about these instructions. After the embarrassment of Himachal Police in the Gudiya case, the police is taking every step cautiously in the Vimal Negi case. In a letter written to IG South Range and SP Shimla, instructions have been given to ensure round the clock (24 hours) security of ASI Pankaj Kumar to avoid any kind of unpleasant situation. ASI Pankaj is allegedly accused of hiding and formatting a pen drive. After this, Shimla Police has suspended him and also started a departmental inquiry. During the hearing in the Himachal Pradesh High Court, questions have also been raised on the role of ASI in the affidavit filed by the Director General of Police in the High Court. Following the High Court orders, the Police Headquarters has issued instructions to maintain status quo on the Vimal Negi case with immediate effect. The instructions state that no further action or investigation should be taken by the police.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: NO MEMBER OF A FAMILY ENCROACHING ON GOVERNMENT LAND CAN CONTEST PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Himachal High Court, giving an important decision, said that any member of the family encroaching on government land cannot contest Panchayat elections as per the rules. The court of Justice Ajay Mohan Goyal has said that under Section 122 (1) (C) of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, if a person or any member of his family encroaches on government land, then he will be ineligible to be elected as an officer of the Panchayat. He cannot contest the election until a period of 6 years has passed from the date of encroachment or he is no longer an encroacher. The High Court gave this decision while dismissing the petition filed on behalf of the petitioner. The advocate of the petitioner argued in the court that the petitioner lives separately from his father. Why should he suffer the mistake committed by his father. He argued that the right to contest elections is a legal right and it cannot be violated by the conditions mentioned in the law. It was told on behalf of the government that there is no error in the orders given by the authorized officer. It is on record that the father of the petitioner had encroached upon Government land and he himself had admitted the fact while applying for regularisation of the same.





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# SPORTS

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### **GT FALTER IN TOP-TWO PUSH AS CSK SIGN OFF WITH BIG WIN**

Diary Times Desk : A thumping 83-run victory for Chennai Super Kings scuppered Gujarat Titans' chances of securing a spot in the top two, which they could have had with a win today at the Narendra Modi Stadium. After a powerful batting performance that saw them amass 230 after winning the toss, CSK put in a clinical show with the ball to end their otherwise sorry season with a sweet win. The victory was as comprehensive as they come with CSK outplaying GT in every phase of the game. Helping them go decisively ahead was the back-end of CSK's batting innings where Dewald Brevis plundered five sixes and four fours to hit 57 and take CSK to 230. In the mid-innings break he also pre-empted that hitting the deck could be the way for his team's bowlers. Anshul Kamboj answered that call in the Powerplay where he picked up the important wickets of Shubman Gill and Sherfane Rutherford with Khaleel Ahmed nabbing Jos Buttler. GT found no way back with the momentum having decisively shifted. Ayush Mhatre scored half of CSK's total inside the PowerPlay but his stay lasted all of 22 balls in the innings. He managed to face 17 of those and produced a boundary-fest hitting three fours and as many sixes. The bulk of that came in just one over where Mhatre tore into Arshad Khan for 28 runs. He lofted Khan down the ground for a six and followed it up with a pulled one and when Khan went outside.

#### MS DHONI TO TAKE TIME TO DECIDE ON HIS FUTURE

Diary Times Desk : MS Dhoni has said that he will take time before making a decision on his future. The 43-year old led CSK to victory in their last outing in IPL 2025 in Ahmedabad but did not give a definitive answer to a question about what the future holds for him as a player. "It depends, you know. Again, I would say the same thing. I have 4-5 months to decide. There is no hurry to decide," said Dhoni in the post-match presentation ceremony. "Every year, it's 15% more effort. To keep the body fit. Not to forget this is top level cricket. It's professional cricket. You have to be at your best," he added. "It's not always performance that you can count. Because if cricketers start retiring because of performances, few of them will retire when they are 22. So what is important is to see how much hunger you have. What kind of fitness you have. And how much you can contribute to the team. Whether the team needs you or not." "So [I] have enough time and go back to Ranchi. I haven't been home for a long time...enjoy a few bike rides... [take a] couple of months then decide," guipped Dhoni. When asked further on the decision, Dhoni re-iterated that he hadn't made a decision one way or another. "I am not saying I am done. I am not saying I am coming back here at the same time," he said. "As I said, I have the luxury of timing. When you have the luxury, why not?

#### SHUBMAN GILL RELISHING 'ULTIMATE HONOUR' OF TEST CAPTAINCY

Diary Times Desk : Shubman Gill has said being appointed India's Test captain is the "ultimate honour" and that he aims to lead by example through performances on the field and through his "discipline and hard work" off it. Gill, 25, will begin his tenure as captain with a five-Test series in England starting on June 20, also the beginning of the new World Test Championship cycle. As he leads a team going through a transition, Gill underlined the importance of understanding his team-mates to get the best out of them. "As a captain, a leader should be able to know when to step in but also when to give space to the players, because everyone has kind of had a different life and grown up differently," Gill told BCCI.tv. "Everyone has a different personality, so a good leader should always be able to know what makes his players to be able to have the best performance or the best outcome. "That is always exciting to be able to have those conversations with the players, to be able to know them on a deeper level than just cricket, because then you're really able to know what can get the best out of them." Gill, who captained India during a T201 series in Zimbabwe last year, emphasised the importance of compartmentalising his roles as a batter and a leader. "One of the things that I learned was if I'm a batsman, I'm batting out there.

## ANUSHKA SHARMA, VIRAT KOHLI VISIT AYODHYA'S RAM MANDIR AND HANUMAN GARHI

Diary Times Desk : Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli visited Ram Mandir and Hanuman Garhi in Ayodhya with their family. Photos and videos of the couple offering prayers have surfaced online. During their visit, the couple also met Sanjay Dutt, the successor of Mahant Gyan Das of Hanuman Garhi and the national president of the Sankat Mochan Sena. Senior priest Hemant Das of Hanuman Garhi facilitated the couple's darshan and rituals. Their visit comes after Anushka accompanied her cricketer husband to Lucknow for the RCB vs SRH match on May 23. Anushka Sharma is frequently seen cheering for her Virat Kohli from the stands during his matches. Recently, the couple visited the Premanand Maharaj in Vrindavan following Virat Kohli's retirement from Test cricket after 14 years. Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli, who got married in 2017, are parents to two children, a daughter named Vamika and a son named Akaay.



## KIDAMBI SRIKANTH RELISHING TOURNAMENT-MODE DESPITE MALAYSIA OPEN SILVER FINISH

Diary Times Desk : Kidambi Srikanth emphasised that he is simply happy to be back in tournament modecompeting again after a prolonged injury phase-even though his return culminated in a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Open 2025. The 32vear-old went down 11-21, 9-21 to China's Li Shi Feng in the men's singles final on Sunday, bringing a gritty week to a close. Despite the straight-game defeat, Srikanth's run to the final was filled with encouraging signs. Starting from the qualifying rounds, he steadily built momentum through the tournament. A key highlight came in the semifinal, where he secured a clinical win over Japan's Yushi Tanaka in straight games, displaying sharp control and court awareness. "I didn't know people really missed me! But I'm very happy to be back. I fell during the Singapore Open last year and had to take a break. It ended up being longer than I expected. And then I got married in November last year, so that was another break. I started playing again in January this year," Srikanth said. "Coming back from injury and a long break is always tough. You haven't played many matches, so it's not easy to directly get into tournament mode. But I think the biggest positive is that I'm feeling much better physically now, and I just want to continue from here," he added.

#### PBKS, MI GEAR UP FOR HIGH-STAKES CLASH

Diary Times Desk : Heading into their respective last games of the season, it's a must-win scenario for both Puniab Kinas and Mumbai Indians to secure a place in Qualifier 1. And to settle matters, they meet at a neutral ground, the benign surface of the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, now the adopted home of the Shreyas lyer-led side. At a venue where pitches have historically been slow and massive scores have been challenging to attain, the template has been different this season with teams batting first having an average score of 200-plus. Punjab Kings have taken little time to warm up to the conditions. Combining the depth and explosiveness, they have breached that mark in their last two outings at the venue, and even with the loss against Delhi Capitals less than 48 hours earlier, they would be placed to have gotten well accustomed to the demands of the conditions ahead of the allimportant clash. Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians meet at a time when both can stake a claim to be among the most well-rounded units in the competition.

