

MISS WORLD 2025

THAILAND'S OPAL SUCHATA CHUANGSRI CROWNED MISS WORLD 2025 IN HYDERABAD

Diary Times Desk : Thailand's Opal Suchata Chuangsri was crowned the 72nd Miss World after the grand finale held here on Saturday.

Ethiopia's Hasset Dereje Admassu was declared the runner-up. India's Miss World contestant Nandini Gupta was eliminated before she could reach the top eight.

According to the organisers, after a month of purpose-driven activities, cultural immersion, and inspiring challenges across Telangana, 108 contestants from around the world vied for the Miss World crown in a spectacular celebration of beauty, purpose, and unity.

The winner Opal is a student of international relations. She has an interest in psychology and anthropology, and she would one day like to be an ambassador.

She has volunteered for organisations working in the field of breast cancer. Opal has a special talent for playing the Ukelele backwards and has sixteen cats and five dogs as pets, according to the Miss World website.

Julia Morley CBE, Chairwoman of Miss World, headed the jury and announced the winner of the 72nd Miss World. Bollywood actor Sonu Sood received the prestigious Miss World Humanitarian Award.



KHARGE SAID

GOVT MISLED NATION, MUST HOLD SPECIAL PARLIAMENT SESSION: KHARGE AFTER CDS' OP SINDOOR REMARK



Diary Times Desk : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday accused the government of misleading the nation on the India-Pakistan conflict and demanded holding a special session of Parliament immediately, following Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan's acknowledgement of aircraft loss in the hostilities. Gen Chouhan, however, dismissed as "absolutely incorrect" Islamabad's claim of downing six Indian jets.

In a post on X, Kharge said his party demands a comprehensive review of India's defence preparedness by an independent expert committee, on the lines of the survey done by the Kargil Review Committee. "In the wake of the remarks made by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in Singapore in an interview, there are some very important questions that need to be asked. These can only be done if a special session of the Parliament is immediately convened," he said.

"The Modi Government has misled the nation. The fog of war is now clearing." The Congress chief said the IAF pilots risked their lives fighting the enemy, and "suffered some losses but our pilots were safe". He was referring to Gen Chauhan's interview in which the CDS said that "we made, remedy it, rectify it, and then implement it again after two days and flew all our jets again, targeting at long range".

The Congress president said his party salutes their resolute courage and bravery. However, a comprehensive strategic review is the need of the hour, he asserted. "The Congress party demands a Comprehensive Review of our Defence Preparedness by an independent expert committee, on the lines of the Kargil Review Committee," he said.

Fishes 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.



HIMACHAL: HIGH COURT UPHELD THE DECISION OF THE STATE CADRE OF THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT, DISMISSED THE PETITION

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh High Court has upheld the notification declaring the district cadre posts of the Revenue Department as state cadre. A division bench of Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Sushil Kukreja has dismissed the petition filed against the notification. The court also said that the court should exercise judicial restraint while interfering with the powers of the government. Orders for creation of posts, appointment, regularization, determination of pay scale, continuity in service, promotion, reduction in promotion opportunities, determination of various qualifications are the jurisdiction of the government. According to the notification issued on October 3, 2023, the state government had declared the posts of Superintendent Grade-II (Group-B), Senior Assistant (Group-C), Steno-Typist/Junior Scale Stenographer/Senior in the Revenue Department, Scale Stenographer (Group C)/Personal Assistant (Group-B), Clerk/JOA (IT (Group-C) as state cadre. The applicants had termed this notification as unconstitutional, illegal, arbitrary and had demanded the court to cancel this notification. Regarding this, they had filed a petition in the High Court.



HIMACHAL WEATHER: STORM IN DHARAMSHALA, MANDI, KULLU, KANGRA AND HAMIRPUR, MOTHER AND DAUGHTER DIED IN KULLU

Diary Times Desk : Amid the orange alert in Himachal, a storm hit Mandi, Kangra, Kullu and Shimla on Saturday. A mother-daughter duo from Punjab died after being hit by a tree that fell due to a strong storm in the Manikaran valley of Kullu district. When the women were having fun in the river at Sumaropa, a tree fell due to the storm, injuring both of them. They were taken to a private hospital in Bhuntar, where both of them died. The deceased women include Avinash Kaur (56) wife of Gurbachan Singh resident of House Number 170 near Chicken Corner Rishi Nagar Ludhiana and Nishu Verma wife of Rajan Kumar J-6 Dabba Colony Ludhiana. Both the women had come to visit with their family. A paraglider pilot from Bihar was seriously injured after being hit by a storm in Jogindernagar of Mandi district. The pilot took off from Bir Billing at around 9:30 am and reached Pahluan village of Joginder Nagar when the weather suddenly turned bad. A Pipal tree fell down due to the storm in the courtyard of Sadguru Kabir Mandir Tarna adjacent to the Mandi and the wires of the 440 KV transformer were damaged. The tree fell on the slab of Government Primary School Mangwai.

HIMACHAL: ATUL VERMA, WHO RETURNED FROM LEAVE, RETIRED, ASHOK TIWARI WAS GIVEN CHARGE OF DGP AS WELL AS DG JAIL

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Police Chief (DGP) Dr. Atul Verma and DG Jail SR Ojha retired together on Saturday. The state government has given additional charge of DG Jail to DG Vigilance Ashok Tiwari in addition to DGP. Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena issued a notification in this regard late on Saturday evening. At the same time, IPS Abhishek Trivedi has been given additional charge of ADGP Jail and Correctional Services. DGP Dr. Atul Verma returned from leave and reached the headquarters on Saturday. Let us tell you that the state government had sent Dr. Verma on leave in the Vimal Negi case. On reaching the headquarters, the officers welcomed him. After assuming the post, Atul Verma completed the formalities related to retirement. On the other hand, a grand farewell ceremony was organized for Jail Chief SR Ojha in Kaithu Jail. At the same time, a retirement dinner was organized at the Police Headquarters for the retirement of DGP Atul Verma but it was cancelled. At the same time, the farewell parade was also not allowed in Bharari Ground. The state government has issued a notification to assign additional responsibilities to five HAS officers and two tehsildars. Dr. Chiranji Lal has been given additional charge of District Tourism Officer Kullu, Kulveer Singh Rana has been given additional charge of SDM Bharmour, Sanjay Kumar has been given additional charge of Joint Commissioner Tax and Excise.

HIMACHAL: KALA AMB GETS 100-BED ESI HOSPITAL, UNION MINISTER INAUGURATES IT

Diary Times Desk : A 100-bed state-of-the-art ESI hospital built at a cost of Rs 100 crore was inaugurated in Kala Amb area of Sirmour district. The hospital was inaugurated in the presence of Union Minister of Labor and Employment Shri Mansukh Mandaviya. At the beginning of the program, the Union Minister, State President and MP took out a grand Tiranga Yatra with the citizens, which further strengthened the atmosphere of patriotism. On this occasion, BJP State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda and Union Minister of Labor and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya and congratulated the people of the area for this medical gift. Dr. Bindal said that this hospital has come as a new ray of hope for the poor, workers, employees and their families. Now about 1 lakh people of Kala Amb, Paonta Sahib and Sirmour district will get ESI health services in their own district. The laborers and employees who had to go to Baddi, Barotiwala or Chandigarh for treatment for years, will now get this facility in Kala Amb itself. State President Dr. Bindal said that the industrial development of Sirmour started in 1972 and after 2003, it made remarkable progress.



HIMACHAL: TEMPO TRAVELLER LOST CONTROL AND CLIMBED ON DIVIDER IN BINDRAVANI, 20 PASSENGERS NARROWLY ESCAPED

Diary Times Desk : On Saturday morning, a tempo traveller full of tourists went out of control and climbed the divider and collided with an electric pole at Bindravani near Mandi city on Kiratpur-Manali four lane. At the time of the accident, there were about 20 tourists in the traveller. After the incident, there was chaos among the tourists. Fortunately, no tourist was injured in the accident. The tourists in the tempo traveller were going from Delhi to Manali. According to driver Sanjay, this accident happened while trying to save the vehicle from a stone as soon as it came out of the tunnel. The uncontrolled traveller climbed the divider and stopped after hitting the pole. If the traveller had gone towards the other lane, it could have collided with other vehicles and caused a major accident. All the passengers in the vehicle are completely safe. On the other hand, ASP Sagar Chandra said that the police is investigating the causes of the accident.

HIMACHAL: NIPUN LAKSHYA BASELINE SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 2,638 SCHOOLS, STUDENTS' READING-WRITING AND CALCULATION LEVEL EXAMINED

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, the Nipun Lakshya Baseline Survey under Samagra Shiksha was successfully completed in 2,638 schools of the state on 30 and 31 May. The objective of this two-day survey is to assess the current learning status of students of class 1 and 2, so that the status of the level of reading, writing and calculation of the children can be clear. On the basis of this survey, 480 schools of the state will be selected as Nipun Lakshya schools, which will be developed as model institutions. Under the guidance of Samagra Shiksha Director Rajesh Sharma and under the supervision of Nipun Bharat's State Nodal Officer Dr. Manjula Sharma, the baseline survey was conducted in schools on 30 May for class 1 and on 31 May for class 2. Through the baseline survey, an attempt has been made to know where the children are facing difficulties in the area of FLN and what kind of educational support they need. This survey is not just a compilation of data, but a concrete and decisive initiative towards improving the quality of education.

SHARMISHTA PANOLI, CONTENT CREATOR HELD FOR OP SINDOOR POST, SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY TILL JUNE 13

Diary Times Desk : Sharmishta Panoli, an social media content creator arrested by the Kolkata Police for alleged communal comments in a video, has been remanded to judicial custody till June 13, her lawyer said on Saturday. Sharmishta Ponali, 22, was arrested from Haryana's Gurugram by the Kolkata Police late Friday night and was taken to the West Bengal city, where she was produced before a court. The content creator was arrested over a complaint against a now-deleted video she uploaded allegedly making communal comments and claiming Bollywood actors were silent on Operation Sindoor, reports said on Saturday. Sharmishta Panoli has been booked under relevant sections for promoting enmity between different groups, malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, apart from intentional insult, provoking breach of peace, a news agency PTI quoted a Kolkata Police officer as saying. Sharmishta Panoli's advocate, Md Samimuddin, said a bail application was moved before the court.

"GOVERNMENT WITH DOUBLE FACE": MJ AKBAR ON WHY TALKS WITH PAK ARE A "BLUFF"

Diary Times Desk : Former union minister MJ Akbar, part of the all-party delegation led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, took a "snake" jibe at Pakistan, saying the country has a government with a "forked tongue" and is "double-faced". Speaking to an Indian crowd in Copenhagen, the former minister of state for external affairs referred to the talks Pakistan has been pushing India for after New Delhi's strong measures against Islamabad in view of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people died. "Pakistan has a government with a double face, which face do we talk to? Pakistan has a government with a forked tongue, whose tongue do we address? Pakistan has talks with a poisoned tongue...Who gets hurt when a tongue is poisoned? A snake is never killed by its own poison," Mr Akbar said. He added, "And yet we have the moral courage to say that we will talk on the issues that matter. We will not waste our time on talks which have become an excuse. All talks with Pakistan are simply a period which Pakistan exploits in order to prepare itself for the next terrorist attack. The talks are nothing but a bluff." Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's actions, Mr Akbar said.

COLOMBIA'S U-TURN ON PAK DEATHS, DAY AFTER SHASHI THAROOR'S "DISAPPOINTMENT"



Diary Times Desk : Colombia is scheduled to issue a statement in strong support of India's position on terror, in a pivot from the South American country's condolences for the deaths in Pakistan after India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7. Leading an all-party delegation visit to Colombia, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said, "They have withdrawn their statement that disappointed us earlier and will issue a statement of strong support for our position." This comes a day after he raised concern over Colombia's stance and said New Delhi was disappointed by it. Former Indian Ambassador to the United States and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Taranjit Singh Sandhu said that the delegation's detailed explanation helped reverse the Colombian stance. "This morning we had a detailed interaction with the acting Foreign Minister and our leader and the entire team made specific points to them explaining to them the timeline which perhaps to an extent they might have missed out.

CDS OPENS UP ON OPERATION SINDOOR'S 'SIGNIFICANT' CHALLENGE: 'WE CHOSE NOT TO BE REACTIVE'

Diary Times Desk : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Saturday pointed out that disinformation was a significant challenge in Operation Sindoor, India's military strikes launched on May 7 against terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Speaking about Operation Sindoor at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, CDS Chauhan said that around 15 per cent of the armed forces' resources during the mission were allocated to combating fake news and misleading narratives. "Combating fake news was a constant effort. Our communication strategy was deliberate; we chose to be measured, not reactive, because misinformation can quickly distort public perception during high-stakes operations," he said, according to ANI. CDS Chauhan said that the mission was "non-contact" and "multi-domain". He added that armed forces not only relied on traditional military action but also on cyber capabilities, intelligence, disinformation management.

OUTRAGE AS KERALA COMMUNITY IN DUBAI WELCOMES PAKISTAN'S SHAHID AFRIDI AT EVENT: 'SHAMEFUL'

Diary Times Desk : A Kerala community in Dubai is facing social media backlash after warmly welcoming former Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi at a recent event. Netizens slammed the group for their hospitality, citing Shahid Afridi's remarks following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people on April 22 and escalated India-Pakistan tensions thereafter. In a widely circulated video on social media, Shahid Afridi is seen being welcomed on stage by the community amid loud cheers. He addresses the gathering and says he especially likes "the Kerala part in India and its food". As Afridi arrived, the community members paused their cultural performance and broke into chants of "Boom Boom," referring to the cricketer's famous nickname. Afridi responded by saying, "Hogaya Boom Boom"

COVID IN INDIA: ACTIVE CASES CROSS 3,000 MARK; KERALA, MAHARASHTRA TOP CHART

Diary Times Desk : The number of active Covid-19 cases in India on Saturday crossed the 3,000 mark and increased to 3,395, with Kerala accounting for the highest infections at 1,336, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi, Union health ministry data released showed. This is possibly the first time in over two years that India's active Covid case tally has breached the 3,000 mark. According to the data released on Saturday, four deaths, one each in Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, have been reported in the country in the last 24 hours. Maharashtra has recorded 467 cases, Delhi has 375, Gujarat has 265, Karnataka has 234, West Bengal has 205, Tamil Nadu has 185 and Uttar Pradesh has 117 cases currently. There were 257 active cases in the country on May 22. The figure rose to 1,010 by May 26 and reached 3,395 on Saturday. In the last 24 hours, 685 new cases have been reported and four people have died, according to the data. The last time the country crossed 3,000 active cases was on April 1, 2023.

9TH TIME IN 20 DAYS: JAIRAM RAMESH ASKS PM TO CLARIFY 'DONALDBHAI'S' PAK CLAIM

Diary Times Desk : The Congress intensified its demand for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his silence on the repeated claims by his "friend Donaldbhai" (US President Donald Trump) that his threat of cutting trade with India and Pakistan led to the ceasefire. The fresh attack by Congress's Jairam Ramesh came as Trump reiterated his claim that he avoided a potential nuclear disaster by mediating the ceasefire between India and Pakistan. In a scathing post on X, the Rajya Sabha MP pointed out that through the repeated assertions by Trump - the ninth time in 20 days across 3 countries - the equivalence of India and Pakistan gets reiterated. India has always insisted on "de-hyphenation". The reference is to the term "Indo-Pak", which is how the West saw South Asia in the 90s in an attempt to balance its relationship with both nations. "This is the 9th time in 20 days, across 3 countries and 3 cities. Donaldbhai keeps repeating the same sequence of events of how he got the 4-day India-Pakistan war to stop.



BIDEN SAYS HE'S 'OPTIMISTIC' IN FIRST PUBLIC ADDRESS AFTER PROSTATE CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Diary Times Desk : Former US President Joe Biden said he was feeling "optimistic" about the future as he delivered his first public remarks since revealing he had an aggressive form of prostate cancer. "Well, the prognosis is good. You know, we're working on everything. It's moving along. So, I feel good," Biden said after an event in Delaware belatedly marking Monday's Memorial Day federal holiday. "The expectation is, we're going to be able to beat this ... it's not in any organ. My bones are strong. It hasn't penetrated so I'm feeling good," he added. He mentioned that "one of the leading surgeons in the world" is working with him and that his family remains optimistic about the diagnosis. When asked about recent controversy related to his mental and physical capabilities while in office, Biden joked, with a smile, "You can see that - I'm mentally incompetent and I can't." "It's not in any organ, my bones are strong, it hasn't penetrated. So I'm feeling good," he added. Earlier, Biden's office announced that he is battling prostate cancer with a Gleason score of nine, placing him in the most severe category of the disease.

"THE NIGHT WE MET": DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S TONGUE-IN-CHEEK VIDEO ON ELON MUSK AND TRUMP

Diary Times Desk : In a viral twist to political commentary, the Democratic Party has released a satirical video on social media portraying the growing rift between Elon Musk and Donald Trump as a melodramatic breakup. Set to the hauntingly emotional track "The Night We Met" by Lord Huron, the video frames Musk's abrupt departure from the Trump administration as the end of a turbulent relationship, drawing laughter and headlines alike. The timing of the video aligns with recent reports confirming Musk's exit from his role as a special government employee with the Department of Government Efficiency. Musk, who spearheaded a high-profile but contentious efficiency drive aimed at slashing federal spending, failed to achieve the sweeping reforms he had promised. According to a White House official, his "offboarding" began on Wednesday night, and the decision was made "at a senior staff level," Reuters reported. Musk's departure came swiftly and without fanfare - he did not meet with former President Trump before leaving.

ISRAEL WARNS HAMAS TO ACCEPT US ENVOY'S GAZA CEASEFIRE DEAL 'OR BE DESTROYED'

Diary Times Desk : Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned Hamas to accept the Gaza ceasefire deal proposed by US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, "or be destroyed." Witkoff's proposal includes the release of 10 living Israeli hostages and 18 bodies in two phases in exchange for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza as well as the release by Israel of 1,236 Palestinian detainees and prisoners, along with the bodies of 180 Palestinians, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the media reports. In a statement issued by his office, Katz said the Israeli military continued its operations in Gaza with full force, carrying out attacks by air, land, and sea on an unprecedented scale "for maximum protection of our soldiers in preparation for the entry of the maneuvering forces in each area." In a statement issued on Friday, the Israeli military said that since Thursday, its air force, alongside ground forces, had struck dozens of targets across the Gaza Strip, which "eliminated terrorists, dismantled weapons, terrorist infrastructure, and underground infrastructure sites." It added that during the military operations, two rocket-propelled grenades were fired at Israeli troops, lightly wounding three soldiers.



CHINA 'PREPARING' TO USE MILITARY FORCE IN ASIA, WARNS US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PETE HEGSETH



Diary Times Desk : US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth issued a strong warning on Saturday, stating that China is "credibly preparing" to use military force to shift the balance of power in Asia. Beijing is "credibly preparing to potentially use military force to alter the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific", Pete Hegseth warned, reported AFP. He added that the threat China poses is "real and could be imminent." The Pentagon chief made the remarks at an annual security forum in Singapore as the administration of US President Donald Trump spars with Beijing on trade, technology, and influence over strategic corners of the globe. Hegseth urged US allies in Asia to quickly bolster their defences, saying that the US was adjusting its strategy to deter aggression from China.

IRAN HAS AMASSED NEAR WEAPONS-GRADE URANIUM, CARRIED OUT SECRET NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN PAST: UN WATCHDOG

Diary Times Desk : International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations nuclear watchdog, said on Saturday that Iran has amassed near weapons-grade uranium, calling on Tehran to change its course, urgently. Following the release of the report, Israel urged the international community to take immediate action to halt Iran's activities. The report comes at a sensitive time as Tehran and Washington have been holding several rounds of talks in the past weeks over a possible nuclear deal that US President Donald Trump is trying to reach. Iran is also suspected of conducting undeclared nuclear activities at three locations in the past. The report said, "these three locations, and other possible related locations, were part of an undeclared structured nuclear programme carried out by Iran until the early 2000s and that some activities used undeclared nuclear material." "The Agency concludes that Iran did not declare nuclear material and nuclear-related activities at three undeclared locations in Iran, specifically, Lavisan-Shian, Varamin, and Turqzabad," the report said.

"US F-1 VISA POLICIES WILL REDUCE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS": EXPERT

Diary Times Desk : The global recognition and perceived quality of international degrees have consistently motivated students to pursue education abroad. Over time, the number of Indian students studying abroad has steadily increased, with the United States alone recording a high of over 300,000 Indian students. However, the application process for studying in any foreign country involves several challenges, particularly obtaining a visa, which depends on various factors such as interviews and the justification for choosing a specific course. Recently, the U.S. has introduced changes to its visa interview process.

HUNGRY PALESTINIANS IN GAZA BLOCK AND OFFLOAD DOZENS OF UN FOOD TRUCKS

Diary Times Desk : Palestinians in the Gaza Strip blocked and offloaded dozens of food trucks, the U.N. World Food Program said Saturday, as desperation mounts following Israel's monthslong blockade and airstrikes while talks of a ceasefire inch forward. The WFP said that 77 trucks carrying aid, mostly flour, were stopped by hungry people who took the food before the trucks were able to reach their destination. A nearly three-month Israeli blockade on Gaza has pushed the population to the brink of famine. While the pressure slightly eased in recent days as Israel allowed some aid to enter, organizations say there still isn't nearly enough food getting in. Hamas on Friday said it was reviewing a U.S. proposal for a temporary ceasefire. U.S. President Donald Trump said that negotiators were nearing a deal. A ceasefire would pause the fighting for 60 days, release some of the 58 hostages still held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and much needed food aid and other assistance, according to Hamas and Egyptian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The WFP said the fear of starvation in Gaza is high despite the food aid that's entering now. "We need to flood communities with food for the next few days to calm anxieties and rebuild the trust with communities that more food is coming," said agency said in a statement. A witness in the southern city of Khan Younis told The Associated Press the U.N. convoy was stopped at a makeshift roadblock and offloaded by desperate civilians in their thousands. Most people carried bags of flour on their backs or heads.

PUNJAB POLICE PLAN GPS-ENABLED ANKLETS FOR DRUG SMUGGLERS OUT ON BAIL

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Police is planning to introduce GPS-enabled anklets for drug smugglers out on bail to track their movements, the state's top cop said on Saturday. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav cited the example of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which uses the wearable device for UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) accused to monitor them. Addressing the media here, Yadav said, "In J-K, GPS tracking anklets were started for UAPA persons who are bailed out. We are examining the proposal from a legal point of view." When an accused is released on bail, there are some conditions, Yadav said, adding that after taking orders from competent courts, GPS anklets will be put on notorious smugglers out on bail to track their movements. Yadav said it will be done on a case-by-case basis, and the right to privacy will be kept in mind. The DGP asserted that small-time drug users should not be targeted and instead be sent to drug de-addiction centres. He said the police would also focus on such drug users who have been released on bail.



CIVIL DEFENCE EXERCISE 'OPERATION SHIELD' CONDUCTED IN PUNJAB & HARYANA

Diary Times Desk : The authorities in Punjab and Haryana on Saturday conducted a major state-wide civil defence exercise named "Operation Shield" to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities. The emergency situations were simulated in all districts of the two neighbouring states during the exercise on Saturday evening. Scenes of volunteers enacting as injured being taken on stretchers to ambulances and fire being put out played out during the mock drills. The drills were aimed at evaluating and enhancing the efficacy of emergency response mechanisms in real-time situations. The mock drills saw coordinated participation from multiple agencies, including the fire and emergency services, police, health department and disaster management authorities. The trained volunteers from the Civil Defence, National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) also participated in the exercise.

STUBBLE BURNING SEES 15% DECLINE IN PUNJAB, BUT OVER 10,000 FARM FIRES STILL RECORDED

Diary Times Desk : With a 15 per cent decline from last year, a total of 10,193 farm fire incidents were reported during this wheat harvesting season, from April 1 to May 30, according to central monitoring agencies. The data reflects a downward trend in recent years: 14,511 cases in 2022, 11,355 in 2023, and 11,904 in 2024. Among the worst-affected districts, Amritsar led with 1,102 incidents, followed by Moga (863) and Gurdaspur (856). Other high-reporting districts included Ferozepur (742), Tarn Taran (700), Sangrur (654), and Bathinda (651). The peak in farm fires activity came on May 11, when 1,410 incidents were recorded in a single day. Experts continue to raise alarms over the long-term ecological and agricultural consequences of stubble burning. Dr Makhan Singh Bhullar, Director of Extension Education, noted that the beneficial microorganisms remain half a foot of soil. These free-living microorganisms help with nitrogen absorption.

1993 FAKE ENCOUNTER CASE: 3 EX- POLICE OFFICIALS SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT

Diary Times Desk : A CBI court has sentenced three former police officials to imprisonment and fines in a 1993 fake encounter case involving two Phagwara youths. Former Rawalpindi SHO Manjit Singh was sentenced to 8 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. ASI Karamjit Singh was sentenced to 3 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. Phagwara City SHO Gurmej Singh was sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. Constables Harjit Singh and Kashmir Singh were acquitted. According to the CBI chargesheet, on March 27, 1993, around 8.30 am, a police party from PS Rawalpindi, Kapurthala, headed by ASI Karamjit Singh, picked up Palwinder Singh, alias Pappu, from his house in Village Rawalpindi. On the same day, Balbir Singh of Village Dhade, Phagwara, was picked up by Manjit Singh, the then SHO PS Rawalpindi, from his village. The two men were kept in illegal detention and later shown as arrested in a theft case with a recovery of a scooter and gold ring. However, they were later shown as absconding from police custody and subsequently killed in a fake encounter with the Sultanpur Lodhi police.

WITH ASSETS WORTH RS 302 CR, AAP CANDIDATE SANJEEV ARORA IS RICHEST IN POLL FRAY SO FAR

Diary Times Desk : AAP's Ludhiana (West) candidate Sanjeev Arora is the richest in the fray so far with assets worth Rs 302.1 crore. Congress candidate Bharat Bhushan Ashu and SAD's Parupkar Singh Ghuman trail him with assets of Rs 7.52-crore and Rs 5.39 crore, respectively. While the Ludhiana-based industrialist owns assets worth Rs 2,78,57,72,462, his wife has assets to the tune of Rs 23,53,69,783. A massive roadshow was organised by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the filing of nomination by Sanjeev Arora today. National convener of the AAP, Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab president, AAP, Aman Arora, former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi Meena and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann were atop an open vehicle along with candidate Sanjeev Arora as they moved through Ghumar Mandi in Ludhiana. The rally started from Aarti Chowk and after reaching near Bhai Bala Chowk, the leaders descended from the vehicle and moved towards Mini Secretariat in cars. Slogans of "Inqlab Zindabad" were raised as the roadshow was in progress. Starting off first, CM Bhagwant Mann, while addressing the gathering, said, "In a day or two, you will know the exact placement of the AAP election symbol on the ballot. Regardless of the number, we know it will come first."

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KEY ACCUSED HELD IN GRENADE ATTACK ON MAHMOODPUR POLICE POST IN KAITHAL

Diary Times Desk : Kaithal police have arrested another person in connection with the grenade attack on the Azimgarh police 'naka' under the Mahmoodpur police post, located on the Haryana-Punjab border in the district. The explosion occurred in the wee hours of April 6. The accused, identified as Hardik, a resident of Yamunanagar, was brought to Kaithal on a production warrant from Kapurthala jail for further interrogation. A minor had already been arrested in this case, who during interrogation revealed that Hardik played a key role in planning and executing the attack, said Kuldeep Beniwal, DSP, Guhla. Hardik was in jail in connection with a separate grenade attack on a YouTuber's residence in Jalandhar, the DSP added. "We brought him on a production warrant on Saturday and produced him before the court, from where he was sent to four-day police remand," he said. As per the police, some unidentified persons hurled a grenade at the police 'naka', after which a joint team of Kaithal and Punjab police began investigating the incident. The pro-Khalistan terrorist group, Babbar Khalsa, later claimed responsibility for the incident through a post on social media. The joint investigation team found traces indicating.

HIMACHAL GOVT MOVES SUPREME COURT AGAINST HP HIGH COURT STAY ON PALAMPUR VARSITY LAND TRANSFER

Diary Times Desk : The state government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Himachal Pradesh High Court's stay on the transfer of 112 hectares belonging to Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University (HPAU), Palampur. The stay was granted after the Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University Teachers Association moved the High Court, opposing the proposed transfer of land for a tourism village project. The teachers argued that the land, which is part of the university campus, was meant solely for educational and research purposes and not for commercial use. The High Court has granted a stay on the project and the case. Meanwhile, the government approached the apex court to challenge this interim relief. A member of the teachers association said three major projects, funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Government of India, were currently being conducted on the disputed land. "Transferring this land would mean an immediate stop to critical ongoing work," he added.

DISC AWARD CONFERRED BY OUTGOING DGP ATUL VERMA WITHDRAWN

Diary Times Desk : In a shocking instance, the DGP Disc awards, that were conferred on as many as 172 police officers in recognitions of their outstanding work during 2024 by the outgoing Director-General of Police, Dr Atul Verma, were withdrawn as soon as the officer left the premises of the police headquarters on the last day of his service. Verma, the 1991-batch IPS officer, who was serving as the Director-General of Police (DGP) since May, 2024, retired today and conferred DGP Disc awards on police personnel. However, later on, an order was issued in which it was mentioned that the awards conferred by Verma had been withdrawn with immediate effect. The orders were passed by Ashok Tiwari, who has been given the additional charge of the post of DGP by the state government today. Tiwari, an IPS officer of 1993-batch, presently serving as Director-General, State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, was earlier given the additional charge of DGP during the leave period of Dr Verma. Interestingly, the police department shared the post.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES 700 HOME GUARD POSTS

Diary Times Desk : As many as 700 posts of Home Guard volunteers in the Home Guards and Civil Defence Department will be filled up. The decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here today. In another major decision, the Cabinet also decided to shift the Himachal Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) office from Shimla to Dharamsala. The Cabinet also gave its nod to regularise the services of 203 Panchayat Secretaries (Zila Parishad cadre), who completed two years of contract service on March 31. The Cabinet also approved an amendment to the Postgraduate/Specialist Services (PG/SS) Policy by withdrawing the mandatory requirement of one-year field posting prior to eligibility for Senior Residency at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), Shimla, and Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda. This decision has been taken in line with the policy followed at AIIMS, Chamiyana. The amendment is aimed at streamlining the selection process, ensuring fairness, and bringing coherence between the implementation of the Resident Doctor Policy and the PG/SS Policy.



NO NATION CONDEMNED PAKISTAN FOR PAHALGAM ATTACK; ISN'T IT FOREIGN POLICY FAILURE: AJAY MAKEN

Diary Times Desk : Congress leaders at the Jai Hind Sabha in Shimla today accused the BJP of using armed forces and their operations for petty political gains. "The Indian armed forces had carried out surgical strikes even when the Congress was in power, but unlike the current government, our party governments had never taken credit for these strikes," said Ajay Maken, AICC treasurer. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, AICC in-charge for Himachal Rajni Patil, HPCC president Pratibha Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and other ministers were present on the occasion. Maken said that all countries had condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack but no one condemned Pakistan for the heinous crime. "Is this not a failure of our foreign policy? In 1971, no country other than America had stood with Pakistan, but today no country is condemning Pakistan," he added. The Chief Minister paid heartfelt tributes to the brave soldiers of the state and the nation. "Today is a day to salute the sacrifices of our brave soldiers, who laid down their lives for the country. Our soldiers never hesitated to sacrifice their lives for the nation. Himachali soldiers have the honour of being decorated with four Param Vir Chakras, which is a testament to the state's legacy of courage and sacrifice," he added. Sukhu slammed the Central Government for declaring a ceasefire without taking the armed forces into confidence.

PARAGLIDER CRASHES ON BUILDING NEAR JOGINDER NAGAR; PILOT SERIOUSLY INJURED

Diary Times Desk : A paraglider crash-landed on a building near Joginder Nagar this morning, leaving the pilot seriously injured. The incident occurred when Vijay Kumar, a resident of Bihar, lost control of his glider due to bad weather and high-velocity winds. He had taken off from Billing this morning at 9.30 am and was supposed to land at Chogan landing site near Bir after three hours but lost the route. Soon after the crash, local residents assembled at the site and shifted him to Joginder Nagar Civil Hospital. Later, he was referred to Tanda Medical College due to multiple fractures. It is learnt that he was serving in a multinational company but was residing in Bir for the last two years. Paragliding has been banned in bad weather. However, learning no lesson from the past tragedies, which have claimed many lives, pilots continue to flout norms in Bir-Billing by undertaking flying activities in poor conditions. The Special Area Development Authority (SADA) and Tourism Department, the two state agencies that monitor the paragliding activities in Bir-Billing, have turned a blind eye to the violations. Bir-Billing is one of the best aero-sport sites in the world, drawing pilots from across the globe. But inadequate safety and rescue measures have raised a question mark over the viability.

HIMACHAL GOVT TRYING TO STALL CBI INQUIRY INTO NEGI DEATH CASE: JAI RAM THAKUR

Diary Times Desk : Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today alleged that the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government was trying to stall the CBI investigation into the Vimal Negi death case. He said that Shimla SP Sanjeev Gandhi had filed a review petition in the High Court of Himachal, which indicated that the government was reluctant to have the case investigated by the CBI. Thakur accused the government of trying to delay or obstruct the investigation despite the High Court's directive to hand over the case to the CBI. He said that on the one hand, the Chief Minister claimed that he would have handed over the case to the CBI himself had Vimal Negi's family come to him, but, on the other, the government was trying to prevent the CBI investigation. "The way efforts are being made to stall the CBI inquiry into the case, it becomes clear that the government is trying to hide something," he claimed. Thakur urged the Chief Minister to allow the CBI investigation to proceed. He demanded action against the Shimla SP and other officials who were allegedly trying to manipulate the probe.



IPL 2025: PEDIGREE MEETS PROMISE AS MI AND PBKS VIE FOR A SPOT IN THE FINAL

Diary Times Desk : For Punjab Kings, the season began at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, and whether or not they reach the final, it will end there as well. Shreyas Iyer and Ricky Ponting will be hoping for two more nights like March 25, when the Kings posted 243 for 5 and defeated Gujarat Titans by 11 runs to kickstart their season in style. However, after a bruising night at home against RCB, they run into a red-hot Mumbai Indians side. Entering Qualifier 2 with eight wins in their last 10 games, the five-time champions carry unbridled momentum, and MI with momentum are a nightmare for the opposition and as witnessed in Mullanpur on Friday night, they are a force that's hard to halt. Mumbai Indians have the stars, the experience and pedigree. Then they have Jasprit Bumrah, who brings a different kind of heft and aura to their attack. The opposition will have to deal with just 16 overs, discounting the four overs in which he gives very little away to the batters anyway. He has conceded only 276 runs in 11 games at an economy rate of just over six.

"DON'T...": SHUBMAN GILL BREAKS SILENCE ON RUMOURS OF RIFT WITH HARDIK PANDYA. POSTS INSTAGRAM STORY

Diary Times Desk : The social media was abuzz on Friday with many users claiming that there is a rift between Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill and Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya. GT were facing MI in the Eliminator game of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 and a couple of awkward moments between Hardik and Gill gave rise to the speculations. The first one was a missed handshake. Hardik had offered his hand for a handshake to Gill after the toss took place but Gill failed to notice it. Many on the internet felt that Gill had deliberately done it. The next talking point came when Gill was dismissed as LBW and Hardik's celebration was a bit unusual. He ran through the side of Gill and even stared at the batter while shouting after he was dismissed. The video of the incident went viral on social media. As rumours of rift between the two players started spreading, Gill himself took to social media to clear the air. Uploading his picture with Hardik on Instagram Story, he wrote, "Nothing but love. (Don't believe everything you see on internet)." He also tagged Hardik in the post. The mighty Mumbai Indians handled the nerves better on the big stage to outlast Gujarat Titans by 20 runs.



INDIAN JAVELIN STAR PRODUCES 85.16M THROW, LOSES GOLD TO ARSHAD NADEEM BY...

Diary Times Desk : Rising Indian javelin thrower Sachin Yadav delivered a stellar performance to clinch the silver medal, while sprinter Animesh Kujur and hurdler Vithya Ramraj added a bronze each to the country's tally at the 26th Asian Athletics Championships on Saturday. The 25-year old Yadav produced a personal best performance as he sent his spear to 85.16m to finish behind reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, who fetched the gold with a best effort of 86.40. Hailing from a farmer's family at Khekra village near Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh, Yadav had a previous personal best of 84.39m. Yashvir Singh also impressed, achieving a personal best of 82.57m to finish fifth. Earlier, Kujur opened India's account on the final day of competitions with a bronze medal in the men's 200m final. Kujur produced a standout performance, setting a new national record of 20.32 seconds. The 21-year-old bettered his previous mark of 20.40s, set earlier this year at the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition. Japan's Towa Uzawa won gold with a time of 20.12s, while Saudi Arabia's Abdulaziz Abdu I Atafi took silver in 20.31s. Asian Games medallist Vithya sailed smoothly over the 400m hurdles to finish on the podium. The 26-year-old Tamil Nadu athlete clocked 56.46s to finish on the podium.

'HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BE THE YEAR FOR RCB': AB DE VILLIERS

Diary Times Desk : The Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have secured their place in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 final following a commanding eight-wicket victory against the Punjab Kings (PBKS) in Qualifier 1. This win marks RCB's fourth appearance in an IPL final and their first in nine years, with the last time being in 2016, a season when RCB also finished in the top two during the league stage. Speaking about RCB's progress, former South African cricketer AB de Villiers expressed his happiness, "I am very happy that RCB is in the final." The RCB side, led by Rajat Patidar, put on a clinical performance to outclass the table-toppers Punjab Kings, who had finished first in the league stage. The Qualifier 2 between Mumbai Indians (MI) and Punjab Kings will be highly anticipated. Mumbai Indians clinched their spot in Qualifier 2 after beating Gujarat Titans (GT) by 20 runs. De Villiers shared his thoughts on the upcoming match and final, "Mumbai Indians won last night and it is going to be a very good qualifier 2."



SHOAIB AKHTAR IN TROUBLE, GETS LEGAL NOTICE FOR "DISCREDITING AND DEFAMING..."

Diary Times Desk : Nauman Niaz, a well-known cricket historian, writer and television personality has sent a notice to former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar for discrediting and defaming him. Dr. Niaz, a former Director of Sports at the state-owned Pakistan Television Network, has sent the notice through his lawyer after Shoaib allegedly described him as a "kit man" during his time with the Pakistan team. "Dr Nauman basically used to carry our bags luggage for us in the team," Shoaib said on a podcast. Dr Nauman served as the data analyst of the Pakistan team on a couple of tours some years back when Shoaib was playing for his country. Deriding the role of coaches, managers in the team, Shoaib went onto narrate about how Dr Niaz was in the team to carry bags of the players. "That is what he did in the team. I don't know about anything else he did," he added. In the notice, the lawyer has demanded an unconditional apology in 14-days time or face legal action and damages. The two have a history of clashes and during the time of Imran Khan's government, Dr Niaz asked Shoaib to leave a live show on PTV after a minor dispute.

ENGLAND SEEK THE SAME AGAIN AS WEST INDIES GO WEST IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS

Diary Times Desk : Edgbaston 2015 was the scene of England's original white-ball reboot, when Eoin Morgan's unfettered underachievers shed the reticence and blazed their way to a then-record total of 408 for 6 against New Zealand. Ten years later, the same venue produced a similar onslaught, an even 400 against West Indies, after a remarkable run of 30-plus scores from each of the top seven, with Jacob Bethell's 82 from 53 balls the stand-out. There, for the time being, however, the parallels end. Because, while there was plenty in this latest performance for England to take pleasure in, the standard of the challenge wasn't quite on a par with the Brendon McCullum-inspired Kiwis who had reached their first World Cup final only months earlier. West Indies have missed each of their last two ICC 50-over tournaments - the 2023 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy - and on Thursday's evidence, it's not hard to see why. A guileless bowling display bled into a batting performance that lacked body or substance, and had it not been for an unlikely top-score of 29 not out from Jayden Seales.