

**RAHUL
GANDHI**

RAHUL GANDHI WRITES TO PM, SEEKS CANCELLATION OF TENDERS FOR OFFSHORE MINING

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking cancellation of tenders permitting offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Flagging the threat to marine life, the Congress leader said opening up offshore mining blocks to private players without any rigorous assessment of its impact was concerning.

"I write to you to strongly condemn the central government's decision to permit offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman & Nicobar," he said in his letter to the prime minister. Mr Gandhi said coastal communities have been protesting against the manner in which tenders for offshore mining have been floated without evaluating its environmental impact.

Millions of fisherfolk have expressed grave concerns about its impact on their livelihood and way of life, he said. "I wrote to PM Modi to condemn the permission granted for offshore mining in Kerala, Gujarat, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands without consulting local stakeholders or conducting environmental studies. "Offshore mining will impact the livelihoods of millions of fisherfolk and irreversibly damage our diverse marine life. The government must immediately revoke this decision," Mr Gandhi said on his WhatsApp channel. The Congress leader said the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 was met with strong objections.



**DEVENDRA
FADNAVIS**

"OUR FATHER...": D FADNAVIS SNAPS AT SANJAY RAUT FOR PM MODI 'RETIREMENT' TALK

Diary Times Desk : Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi stand down, retire, in September?

No, not a chance, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said Monday. "There is no need to search for his successor. He is our leader and will continue," he declared in Nagpur.

Mr Fadnavis was snapping back at claims by Shiv Sena strongman Sanjay Raut that the Prime Minister - who will turn 75 on September 17 - will resign this year in accordance with the ruling party's unspoken rule - that party leaders older than that cannot hold ministerial berths.

The party has said no such rule exists and there is at least one member of the union cabinet who is over that 'age limit' - 80-year-old Bihar leader Jitan Ram Manjhi, who is the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Minister. Others, including Mr Modi are within a year or two.

Nevertheless, the buzz about Mr Modi's 'future' - flagged by the AAP's Arvind Kejriwal during last year's election, when he claimed Home Minister Amit Shah was being groomed to take over - broke after the PM's visit to Nagpur and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh head office.

The RSS is widely seen as the ruling party's ideological mentor. Mr Modi's visit Sunday was his first since becoming Prime Minister 11 years ago. The visit has been picked up, and played up, by the opposition Shiv Sena (the faction led by ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray) in Maharashtra, with Sanjay Raut declaring the RSS had summoned the Prime Minister to discuss the question of his successor. "He (Mr Modi) probably went to the RSS headquarters to write his retirement application in September," Mr Raut declared, claiming also his successor would be from Maharashtra.





EID CELEBRATED ACROSS INDIA WITH PRAYERS, FEASTS MARKING END OF RAMZAN

Diary Times Desk : Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great enthusiasm across India on Monday with lakhs of faithful offering prayers at eidgahs and mosques, embracing each other and exchanging greetings to mark the festival of peace and brotherhood. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of the fasting month of Ramzan, culminating in an occasion for festivities, joy and togetherness, which was held peacefully amid tight security on Monday, barring a few incidents of skirmishes reported from different parts of the country. In Delhi, a sea of devotees, including children and the elderly, offered prayers at the iconic Jama Masjid with four police teams along with paramilitary forces manning the 17th-century grand mosque. After the month-long dawn-to-dusk fasts, people made a beeline for eateries and restaurants selling lip-smacking dishes and also visited their neighbours, friends and relatives and shared sweet milk-based desserts like 'sewai' and 'kheer'. Greeting people on Eid, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X, "May this festival enhance the spirit of hope, harmony and kindness in our society. May there be joy and success in all your endeavours. Eid Mubarak!" Eid prayers were held peacefully across Uttar Pradesh, including in Sambhal, Lucknow, Aligarh, Varanasi and Rampur, under heightened security.



BJP-RULED UTTARAKHAND RENAMES 17 LOCATIONS WITH MUGHAL REFERENCES

Diary Times Desk : Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the height of the controversy over the tomb of Aurangzeb in Maharashtra, BJP-ruled Uttarakhand on Monday renamed 17 locations across the state's four districts to wipe out all Mughal era references from them. Among locations which have undergone a name change are ten in Haridwar district, four in Dehradun, two in Nainital and one in Udham Singh Nagar. Aurangzebpur in Haridwar has been renamed Shivaji Nagar, Ghaziwali as Arya Nagar, Khanpur as Shri Krishnapur and Khanpur Kursali as Ambedkar Nagar. Likewise, Miyawala in Dehradun will now be called Ramjiwala and Chandpur Khurd as Prithviraj Nagar. The Nawabi Road in Nainital has a new name, the Atal Road, and Panchukki Marg has been renamed Guru Golwalkar Marg after the second RSS chief. The BJP officially lauded the state government for changing the names as part of the campaign.

NO NEED TO DISCUSS PM MODI'S SUCCESSOR: FADNAVIS TO RAUT



Diary Times Desk : Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday dismissed speculation about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's successor, asserting that Modi would continue to lead the country for many more years. Responding to Shiv Sena UBT leader Sanjay Raut's claim that Modi went to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur on Sunday to convey the message to Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat that he is retiring, Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur, "In 2029, we will see Modi as the prime minister again." Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, senior RSS leader Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi said he is not aware of any talk of (PM's) replacement. "There is no need to search for his successor. He (Modi) is our leader and will continue," Fadnavis said. Discussing succession while the leader is active is inappropriate in Indian culture, the CM added. "In our culture, when the father is alive, it is inappropriate to talk about succession. That is Mughal culture. The time has not come to discuss it," he said, referring to Raut's claim that Modi's successor would come from Maharashtra.

TRAITOR JIBE AT SHINDE: MUMBAI COPS REACH COMEDIAN KAMRA'S MAHIM HOME AS HE FAILS TO APPEAR

Diary Times Desk : Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on Monday failed to appear before Khar police in connection with the case registered for his "traitor" jibe at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, while a team went to his Mahim home to "check" his availability. He was supposed to appear before Khar police during the day, an official said, adding it was the second time he was summoned. "A Khar police team went to his house in Mahim, where his family stays, to check whether he would appear in connection with the case or not. Since he did not, further course of action will be decided soon," the official said. The first notice seeking his appearance was issued last week, and the comedian's request for seven days' time was denied by police. The Madras High Court on March 28 granted interim anticipatory bail to Kamra on the condition that he execute a bond to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 01-04-2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

Libra
 Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Scorpio
 Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

Sagittarius
 Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

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

Aquarius
 Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

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



CHAITRA NAVRATRI 2025: THOUSANDS OF DEVOTEES PAID OBEISANCE AT THE SHAKTIPEETHS OF HIMACHAL ON THE SECOND DAY

Diary Times Desk : Thousands of devotees paid obeisance on Monday on the second Navratri at Shaktipeeths of Himachal Pradesh. 15 thousand devotees paid obeisance at Mata Chintapurni temple on the second Navratri. During Chaitra Navratri, the doors of the temple are being opened daily at 4:00 pm, so that the devotees can have darshan of Mata Rani in a convenient way. Nearly 46 thousand devotees paid obeisance on the second day of Chaitra Navratri at the famous Shaktipeeths of Kangra district. Long queues of devotees started forming in the temples since morning. The doors of the temples also opened at four in the morning. On the second day of Navratri, Maa Brahmacharini was duly worshipped in Jwalamukhi. During this, 22 thousand devotees visited Jwalamukhi, 10 thousand in Chamunda and nearly 14 thousand in Kangra. On the first day of Navratri, devotees offered 10 lakh rupees in Jwalamukhi temple and 6,60,644 rupees in Kangra Bajreshwari temple. On the second Navratri, about 35 thousand devotees reached Shri Naina Devi Ji temple for darshan. A large number of devotees from Punjab, Himachal, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other states reached for darshan. On the other hand, about five thousand devotees paid obeisance at Shahtalai, the place of penance of Baba Balak Nath Ji on Monday.



HIMACHAL BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION: APPLICATION FOR LEET, PAT IS FREE, FACILITATION CENTERS HAVE ALSO BEEN STARTED ACROSS THE STATE

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Board of Technical Education, Dharamshala has provided the facility to fill the applications for Polytechnic Entrance Test (PAT) and Lateral Entry Entrance Test (LEET)-2025 free of cost in Industrial Training Institutes across the state. Candidates applying for this can fill the form free of cost by visiting Polytechnic Institutes and ITI Institutes. Candidates will also be given guidance regarding choosing the trade while applying. The Polytechnic Entrance Examination of the State Board of Technical Education will be held on 18 May and Lateral Entry Entrance Test on 25 May. Applications are being filled by the candidates for this. To ensure that the candidates do not face any problem while filling the application, the Board of Technical Education has made the facility of filling the application available in Industrial Training Institutes and Polytechnic Institutes across the state. In this regard, Secretary of the Board of Technical Education, Ashok Pathak said that the candidates can apply for PAT till 5 May and for LEET till 7 May. Himachal Pradesh Board of Technical Education has also given exemption in application to those candidates who have currently given the examinations of class 10th and 12th.

EID: MUSLIM COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACROSS THE STATE INCLUDING SHIMLA OFFERED NAMAZ AND PRAYED FOR PEACE

Diary Times Desk : The festival of Eid was celebrated with great pomp and show on Monday in the entire state including Himachal Pradesh's capital Shimla. People of the Muslim community prayed for peace and prosperity by offering prayers in mosques. People of the Muslim community started arriving in Shimla city's Eidgah, Jama Masjid Sanjauli, Jama Masjid Baluganj and Jama Masjid Middle Bazaar since morning. Everyone was hugging each other and wishing each other. After this, prayers were offered in all the mosques at different times around 9:30 and 10:00 am. People of the Muslim community offered prayers on the occasion of Eid at Eidgah located at Ramkundi in Nahan. Maulana Mumtaz Ahmed Qasmi of Baluganj Mosque gave this information. He told that Eid festival gives the message of love and affection. After offering prayers, people of the community went to the houses of their relatives and friends and wished them Eid Mubarak and enjoyed delicious dishes.

HIMACHAL NEWS: MASSIVE FIRE IN BHATOLI KALAN, 18 HUTS BURNT TO ASHES, THREE AND A HALF YEAR OLD GIRL BURNT TO DEATH

Diary Times Desk : One and a half dozen huts were burnt to ashes in a fire in Bhatoli Kalan of Baddi. A three and a half year old girl died in the fire. The girl was playing with her elder brother outside the house, as soon as she heard the noise of fire, she ran inside the hut. By the time the family reached, she was burnt. The fire brigade team came to the spot and extinguished the fire by pouring water and a dozen huts and the adjoining company were saved. Two bikes, three bicycles, a hawker, five coolers and three LEDs were also burnt in the fire. The reason for the fire could not be ascertained. The huts of Pramod, Purna Singh, Hetram, Deepak, Lalitesh, Sarvesh, Yashpal, Ratiram, Girvar, Omkar, Jaspal, Satya Prakash, Om Sharan, Avnish, Tejbir, Mukesh, Surajpal, Prahlad were burnt. On Monday afternoon at 12:15, a fire suddenly broke out in the huts built in Bhatoli Kalan village opposite Birla Company. The fire started spreading rapidly with the wind. A fire hydrant was sent from the adjoining Birla company to the spot and efforts were made to douse the fire by pouring water. There were 30 huts here, out of which 18 huts were burnt to ashes. Meanwhile, two vehicles of the fire department Baddi also reached the spot.

HIMACHAL NEWS: CONSUMERS WILL GET CHEAP REFINED AND MUSTARD OIL IN RATION DEPOTS IN APRIL

Diary Times Desk : Ration card consumers of Himachal Pradesh will get one liter refined and one liter mustard oil in the depots from next month. Food Supply Corporation has finalized the tender for refined oil and sent it to the government for approval. Five companies had participated in the tender. Now after getting the approval of the government, Food Supply Corporation will issue the supply order. Food Supply Corporation has also issued the supply order for dal chana. This order has been given to the central agency NCCF. The supply of dal chana will start within the next week. This order has been made for three months. There are 19.5 lakh ration card consumers in Himachal. The state government is providing three pulses (Malka, Mash and Dal Chana), two liters of oil (mustard), sugar and salt to the consumers on subsidy.

HIMACHAL: GOVERNMENT TAKES STRICT ACTION AGAINST DRUG SMUGGLING, EIGHT CRIMINALS ARRESTED IN A WEEK

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Police Department has intensified the campaign against drug trafficking. To root out drug addiction, eight habitual offenders have been detained in PIT, NDPS within a week. These criminals belong to Nurpur, Sirmaur, Chamba, Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (Solan) and Kangra. They have been found involved in drug trafficking repeatedly. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has adopted a zero tolerance policy towards drug-related crimes. The police department has been directed to take decisive action against those involved in it. He has also held several high-level meetings with the police and other related departments to ensure strict enforcement of laws against this social evil. The present state government is effectively implementing the PIT-NDPS Act. An advisory board headed by a judge.

HIMACHAL NEWS: HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT GAVE THESE ORPHAN CHILDREN THE RIGHT TO BONAFIDE HIMACHALI CERTIFICATE

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has taken another important step in the interest of orphan children and has given them the right to obtain Bonafide Himachali Certificate. The state government has taken this decision for those orphan children who have been living in child care institutions of Himachal Pradesh for the last 15 years. Earlier, due to the absence of any such provision in the existing guidelines, these children were deprived of welfare schemes and employment opportunities. The Chief Minister understood this problem during his visit to Bal Ashram Tutikandi in Shimla on October 30, 2024 and promptly directed the Deputy Commissioner, Shimla to review it and present a solution. After a thorough review of the report, the state government decided to issue this certificate to the orphan children so that they can also avail the benefits of the state's facilities and schemes like other citizens. Chief Minister Sukhu has always been personally sensitive towards the welfare of orphan.

POLITICAL SHOWDOWN IN BENGAL OVER RAM NAVAMI AHEAD OF 2026 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Diary Times Desk : Incidents of violence against Hindus in adjoining Bangladesh and the 2026 assembly elections in West Bengal have significantly amplified the scale and political significance of Ram Navami celebrations in the state this year. What has traditionally been a religious occasion has morphed into a political battleground, as the ruling TMC and opposition BJP have engaged in a fierce contest over polarisation and counter-polarisation. The BJP, looking to consolidate Hindu votes ahead of next year's polls, has made Ram Navami a focal point of its campaign. Hindutva groups, including the VHP and the RSS, have set a target of mobilising over three crore people and taking out rallies in every block in West Bengal during the week-long celebrations starting on April 6. According to BJP leaders, these processions will serve as a symbolic protest against the alleged attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh and what they described as the TMC's "appeasement politics." "The attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh are an eye-opener for those on this side of the border.

IMD WARNS OF EXTREME HEAT BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE; PEAK POWER DEMAND LIKELY TO RISE

Diary Times Desk : India is set to face hotter-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with central, eastern, and northwestern plains expected to witness more heatwave days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday. Rising temperatures may increase the risk of water shortages and strain the power grid as air conditioner usage surges. IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that several areas could experience more heatwave days than usual during this period. "From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central India, and the plains of northwest India are expected to experience two to four more heatwave days than normal," he said. Most regions will likely see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures in April, except for some parts of western and eastern India, where temperatures are expected to remain normal. Minimum temperatures will also be above normal in most areas. Typically, India records four to seven heatwave days between April and June. An IMD official said earlier that northwest India could experience twice the usual number of heatwave days this summer compared to the normal five to six days.

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS DIDN'T TRANSFER SENSITIVE TECH TO RUSSIA: SOURCES ON NYT REPORT



Diary Times Desk : A New York Times report wrongly claimed that Hindustan Aeronautics Limited - a government-owned aerospace and defence company - sold sensitive technology, with potential military use, to a blacklisted agency supplying Russia with weapons, sources have said. They slammed the "factually incorrect and misleading" report and accused it of trying to "frame issues and distort facts to suit a political narrative". "The Indian entity mentioned in the report has scrupulously followed all international obligations on strategic trade controls and end-user commitments," sources said. "India's robust legal and regulatory framework on strategic trade continues to guide overseas commercial ventures by its companies," they said, urging "reputed media outlets to undertake basic due diligence while publishing such reports, which was overlooked in this case". Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, or HAL, has not yet responded. The row broke after the New York Times published an article - 'Major Donor to Reform U.K. Party Sold Parts Used In Weapons to Russian Supplier' - on March 28. The Reform UK party is led by Nigel Farage.

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Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking cancellation of tenders permitting offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Flagging the threat to marine life, the Congress leader said opening up offshore mining blocks to private players without any rigorous assessment of its impact was concerning. "I write to you to strongly condemn the central government's decision to permit offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman & Nicobar," he said in his letter to the prime minister. Mr Gandhi said coastal communities have been protesting against the manner in which tenders for offshore mining have been floated without evaluating its environmental impact. Millions of fisherfolk have expressed grave concerns about its impact on their livelihood and way of life, he said. "I wrote to PM Modi to condemn the permission granted for offshore mining.

PACKET OF 'PROCESSED' HUMAN BONES FOUND NEAR MANGALURU RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND

Diary Times Desk : A packet of processed human bones was discovered on Saturday night near a residential compound in Kumpala area of Karnataka's Mangaluru. The discovery has prompted swift action from the police. The bones were recovered following a tip-off from a local resident, PTI reported. It all came to light when a young man, searching the area for a rented costume he had lost after a performance at a local organisation's event, stumbled upon a packet of processed human bones and alerted police. His unexpected find also drew the attention of curious residents. The lab-processed nature of the bones has raised questions regarding their origin and intended use. Police have launched an investigation to gather further details and determine whether any legal violations are involved. According to the PTI report, preliminary inquiries revealed that the bones were inadvertently discarded by a woman employed at the residence of a retired doctor in Mangaluru.



NIDHI TEWARI, IFS OFFICER FROM PM MODI'S CONSTITUENCY, HIS NEW PRIVATE SECRETARY

Diary Times Desk : Nidhi Tewari, a 2014-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, will take over as the next private secretary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She is currently serving as the Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office or PMO. Her new role is set at Level 12 of the pay matrix and will be co-terminus with her current position or until further orders are issued, read the note from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), which announced her appointment today. "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ms Nidhi Tewari, IFS (2014), currently serving as Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, as Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, in Level 12 of the pay matrix with immediate effect, on a co-terminus basis or until further orders, whichever is earlier," read the order issued by the Ministry of Personnel on March 29. Ms Tewari, who could be one of the youngest officers.

'GOING TO AN ADDRESS WHERE...': KUNAL KAMRA'S SWIPE AS COPS VISIT HIS MUMBAI HOME

Diary Times Desk : Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on Monday took a swipe at the Mumbai Police, asking them not to "waste time" and "public resources", as a team of personnel visited his parent's house in connection with a case pertaining to his remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. "Going to an address where I haven't lived for the last 10 Years is a waste of your time & public resources..." Mr Kamra said on X, as he shared a photograph of him standing at the balcony of an accommodation he is currently residing in. The developments came as a police team visited Mr Kamra's parents residence in Kataria Colony in Mumbai, after the 36-year-old comedian failed to respond to two consecutive summons for a probe. He was supposed to respond to the second summon and appear for questioning at 11am on Monday. On Friday, the Madras High Court granted Mr Kamra interim pre-arrest bail till April 7 in the case. He had told court that he hails from Tamil Nadu's.

'WILL BACKFIRE': ELON MUSK AFTER MARINE LE PEN GETS BARRED FROM FRENCH POLLS

Diary Times Desk : Elon Musk, the billionaire top adviser to US President Donald Trump, called a French court ruling Monday barring far-right leader Marine Le Pen from running for election in 2027 "abuse" and said it would "backfire." "This will backfire, like the legal attacks against President Trump," Elon Musk wrote on X. Marine Le Pen's presidential aspirations were thrown into doubt when a French court convicted her over a fake jobs scheme. She was given a four-year sentence, with two years suspended and two years under electronic monitoring. Elon Musk, the South African-born chief of Tesla and SpaceX, also accused ideological opponents on "the radical left" of abusing the legal system to "jail their opponents." Donald Trump is the first convicted felon to serve in the White House, having been found guilty in May 2024 of 34 counts of falsifying business records. He also faced years of federal and state investigations over his refusal to accept his 2020 presidential election loss and his storing of top-secret documents at his homes after leaving the White House.

JAPAN'S NEW REPORT WARNS 'MEGAQUAKE', TSUNAMI ALONG NANKAI TROUGH COULD KILL 298,000 PEOPLE

Diary Times Desk : A "megaquake" and the resulting tsunami could cause 298,000 deaths in Japan and damages worth up to \$2 trillion, according to a new government estimate quoted by AFP on Monday. The updated figures revise a 2014 estimate that assessed the potential impact of a massive earthquake along the Nankai Trough, an 800-kilometer (500-mile) undersea trench stretching from Shizuoka, west of Tokyo, to the southern tip of Kyushu. This trench is where the Philippine Sea tectonic plate is gradually subducting beneath the continental plate that Japan rests on. Over time, the plates become locked, accumulating energy that is eventually released in the form of major earthquakes. According to the Cabinet Office's disaster management working group, up to 215,000 people could die in a tsunami, 73,000 due to collapsing buildings, and 9,000 in fires. However, the new projection is lower than the 2014 estimate, which had predicted up to 323,000 deaths. A "megaquake" refers to an extremely powerful earthquake.

VISAS OF 300 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS REVOKED, MORE EXPECTED: TRUMP ADMIN

Diary Times Desk : The Donald Trump administration recently revoked the visas of over 300 students, creating panic among several Indian, and other international students living in the US. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has added to the fears hinting that more student deportations are on the horizon. The crackdown is allegedly aimed at students involved in campus activism. It has now expanded to include not just those who physically participated in protests, but also students who liked, shared, or commented on "anti-national" posts on social media. "We're looking every day for these lunatics that are tearing things up." Marco Rubio, known for his hardline stance on national security, implied that the students in question were taking part in disruptive activities, though he did not specify the exact actions that led to their visa cancellations. Rubio recently announced that the State Department may have revoked more than 300 visas of international students and warned that the Trump administration was looking every day for "these lunatics".



MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE DEATH TOLL CROSSES 2,000: 'SITUATION IS DIRE'



Diary Times Desk : The death toll from a major earthquake in Myanmar has risen to 2,056, the junta said on Monday. More than 3,900 people were injured. A statement from a junta spokesperson said that 270 more people were still missing. It has also declared a week of national mourning and directed that national flags will fly at half-mast until April 6 "in sympathy for the loss of life and damages." The announcement came as the tempo and urgency of rescue efforts wound down in Mandalay, one of the worst-affected cities and the country's second-largest, with more than 1.7 million inhabitants. The situation is so dire that it's hard to express what is happening," said Aung Myint Hussein, chief administrator of Mandalay's Sajja North mosque, AFP reported. According to AFP, people camped out in the streets across Mandalay for a third successive night because they were either unable to return to their ruined homes or were nervous about the repeated aftershocks that rattled the city over the weekend.

MISSILES: IRAN'S RESPONSE TO DONALD TRUMP'S "BOMBING" THREAT

Diary Times Desk : Hours after US President Donald Trump threatened Iran with "bombing" over nuclear negotiations, the country has responded by "readying missiles". According to the state-owned Tehran Times, Iran's armed forces have readied missiles that have the operational capability to hit US-linked positions around the world. "A significant number of these launch-ready missiles are located in underground facilities scattered across the country, designed to withstand airstrikes," the report claimed. On Sunday, Mr Trump told a journalist from the US network NBC News that Iran would face unprecedented bombing if it refused to comply with US demands. "If they don't make a deal, there will be bombing," Trump said. "It will be bombing the likes of which they have never seen before." In addition to military threats, Mr Trump floated the possibility of reintroducing secondary tariffs on Iran and its trade partners. He suggested that a final decision on these tariffs would be made in the coming weeks, depending on Tehran's response.

'THIS IS OUR HOME': D-DAY FOR AFGHANS FACING PAKISTAN DEPORTATION

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan is the only home Mohammad Laal Khan has known. He was born here. He married here. His children were born here. He buried his eldest brother here. But a late-night police raid in November last year shattered his sense of belonging. Khan was born in South Waziristan, a tribal district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a few years after his parents fled the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Since the 1990s, the family — including Khan's mother, four brothers, their families, and other relatives — has lived in the suburbs of Pakistan's capital Islamabad in mud-plastered houses without electricity or other basic utilities. Now he is on Pakistan's list for deportation. "It is as if being an Afghan is a curse upon our existence," Khan, 36, told Al Jazeera on a recent March afternoon in the same room where dozens of police officers had stormed in, threatening to take away all the men. Khan says, despite much pleading, four of his brothers were taken away and charged with living in the country "illegally". Their ordeal ended after two weeks when a court granted them bail.

BANGLADESH ASKS FOR CHINA'S "EXTENSION" IN VEILED THREAT TO NORTHEAST INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Bangladesh's interim government adviser Muhammad Yunus has tried to jab New Delhi by issuing a veiled threat to India's northeastern states while appealing to China to "extend" in the region. Mr Yunus, who was on a four-day visit to Beijing last week, asked Beijing to make an "extension", saying that the "seven sister states are landlocked" by Bangladesh to its west. The tongue-in-cheek remark, which defence analysts have called distasteful, surfaced on social media upon Muhammad Yunus's return to Bangladesh. In the video, he is seen urging the Chinese government to "extend" in the region by establishing a base in Bangladesh and indirectly stifling India's northeastern states since they are "landlocked". "The seven states of India, in the eastern part of India - called the seven sister states are completely landlocked. They have no way to reach the ocean. We (Bangladesh) are the only guardian of the ocean for the entire region (northeast India)," Mr Yunus is seen saying in the video. He adds that "So, this opens up a huge possibility for China - this could become an extension of the Chinese economy. Build things, market them, take them back to China, or export to the rest of the world."

PUNJAB FARMERS PROTEST OUTSIDE HOMES OF AAP MINISTERS, MLAS

Diary Times Desk : Punjab farmers on Monday staged protests outside the residences of AAP ministers and MLAs against police crackdown, in which protesters were evicted from the Shambhu and Khanauri border points. The call for the protest was given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha. They were condemning the March 19 Punjab Police action in which it detained several farmer leaders as they were returning after a meeting with a Central delegation led by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Chandigarh. The meeting was organised to discuss the farmers' demands, especially the MSP guarantee. As the departing farmers entered Mohali, they were met with heavy barricading and some of their leaders were detained. Police had evicted farmers and dismantled temporary structures from the border points. Vehicular traffic had resumed on the Shambhu-Ambala and Sangrur-Jind highways. Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee state president Satnam Singh Pannu on Monday said the protests were held outside the houses of seven ministers and 21 MLAs in 17 districts.



PANJAB UNIVERSITY PHD STUDENT AMONG 3 DEAD IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN MOHALI

Diary Times Desk : Three people died and one was injured in a road accident between a car and an unidentified vehicle at Boothgarh lightpoint in the wee hours of Monday. The deceased have been identified as Shubham Jattwal, a PhD student in Forensic Science at Panjab University (PU) and a resident of Boys' Hostel 3; Saurabh Panday, a former PU student from the Human Genome department; and one Rubina. The injured was identified as Manvendra, a research scholar in Forensic Science at PU. Locals said a damaged car was found at the spot while the other vehicle involved in the accident was missing. Police are scanning the CCTV footage. The bodies have been sent to the Phase 6 hospital and the families sounded.

HIGH COURT FLAGS DECLINE IN FAMILY VALUES AMID RISING LAND DISPUTES

Diary Times Desk : Observing that property disputes among blood relatives have surged alarmingly over the past quarter-century, the Punjab and Haryana High Court lamented the erosion of familial bonds in the face of material greed. In a strongly worded order, Justice Vikram Aggarwal of the High Court asserted that family disputes over property were in existence for centuries, but their frequency and intensity had escalated significantly with the rise in land prices. "No doubt, such litigation and disputes have existed since times immemorial but over the last quarter of a century, such disputes have witnessed a sharp increase," the Bench observed. The court added familial bonds were strong in the "good old times". The young members of the family had enormous respect for the elders and they, too, were fair and caring. "In most families, proper property disputes were looked down upon especially when disputes erupted between blood relations and close family members," Justice Aggarwal asserted. The Bench added the values declined as property prices rose over a period of time and disputes turned murkier and violent.

PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT MANN ASSURES JUSTICE TO ASSAULTED ARMY COLONEL BATH

Diary Times Desk : The family of Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath on Monday said Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has assured them that justice will be delivered in the case of "assault" on the Army officer. After meeting Mann here, Colonel Bath's wife Jasvinder Kaur also said the Chief Minister will be holding a meeting with officials in this regard. The CM had recently given the family time to meet him on Monday in connection with the incident. The Army officer has accused 12 Punjab Police personnel of assaulting him and his son over a parking dispute in Patiala recently. Bath's family has demanded a CBI inquiry in the matter, arrest of the accused policemen and transfer of SSP of Patiala. "I thank the Chief Minister for promising to take appropriate action in the matter...I salute him. He said justice will be delivered in the case. He said he will be holding meeting with officials," Jasvinder Kaur told reporters after meeting the CM. "He (CM Mann) kept his hand on my head and said I am Punjab's daughter. He listened to us patiently," she said. "I have been given assurance that justice will be delivered," Kaur said.

BHAGWANT MANN PART OF BJP TROLL ARMY, SAY PUNJAB CONGRESS LEADERS AFTER CM TARGETS RAHUL

Diary Times Desk : A day after CM Bhagwant Mann said that Rahul Gandhi was not cut out to be a leader, Congress leaders Partap Bajwa and Amarinder Raja warring on Monday accused the CM of toeing the BJP line. Taking to X, Bajwa said, "Rahul Gandhi walked 4,080 km in Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite India and fight for the poor and minorities, while Punjab drowns in drugs and despair under your #6pmNoCM watch—unfulfilled promises and skipped Budget Sessions. @RahulGandhi robustly defends the constitution in Parliament; you hide from questions, echoing @BJP4India lines. Chandrayaan soared, but your booze-fueled leadership stays grounded. Look at your dawn-to-dusk failures before mocking @INCIndia's LoP." Warring said it is sad that the CM had enrolled himself in the BJPs "troll army" as another foot soldier. He said it is an acknowledged fact that "Mann sahab takes orders from union home minister Amit Shah". "After unleashing ruthless reign of terror on farmers, now our CM Sahab has gone a step further by trying to be 'more loyal than the King'. He's not only doing what he is being asked to do, he seems to have volunteered himself for going an extra mile to please and appease the BJP. As @AamAadmiParty and its Punjab offshoot @AAPunjab turn to be the BJP's B-team.

CLASH BETWEEN TWO GROUPS IN NUH AFTER EID PRAYERS, 5 INJURED

Diary Times Desk : A clash between two groups from the same community after Eid prayers in a village in Nuh left more than five injured on Monday. According to police, the incident, which occurred at 9 am, was a fallout of an old rivalry between groups led by individuals Rashid and Sajid in Tirwada village. After getting information, teams from several police stations reached the village and restored order. A police team has been deployed in the village to ensure peace, officials said. The violence started after members of one group, who were going home after offering Namaz at an Idgah, had an altercation with some people from the other side. The two groups then attacked each other with sticks. After police reached the spot, the violence stopped and the injured were rushed to a hospital. The police said there is an old dispute between Rashid and Sajid groups in which cases had been filed against both parties earlier. "In the old rivalry, there was a clash between the groups of Rashid and Sajid in village Tirwada in which Meeru and Hafiz from Rashid's party and Khurshid, Ashmin and Noor Mohammad from Sajid's party got injured and are being treated in hospital," said Krishan Kumar, the spokesperson of Nuh police.

RENU BALA GUPTA TAKES CHARGE AS KARNAL MAYOR, ASSURES PEOPLE TO ADDRESS CIVIC ISSUES

Diary Times Desk : Newly elected Mayor Renu Bala Gupta officially took charge of the office in the Karnal Municipal Corporation (KMC) on Monday, marking her third consecutive term – a record in itself. She took the oath in a state-level function in Panchkula on March 25 with other mayors, councillors and chairpersons of various civic bodies. Gupta won the seat by a margin of 25,359 votes, defeating Congress candidate Manoj Wadhwa. She secured 83,630 votes, while Wadhwa received 58,271 votes. She was first elected in 2013, when city councillors voted for her. In 2018, she won through a direct election, and in 2025, she has once again emerged victorious through direct voting. Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand, Indri MLA Ram Kumar Kashyap, Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana, Nilokheri MLA Bhagwan Das Kabirpanthi, district president Parveen Lather, former officiating district president Brij Gupta and other prominent party leaders, councillors and local residents congratulated her.

NHPC BEGINS 600 MW COMMERCIAL SUPPLY FROM 3 UNITS OF PARBATI-II

Diary Times Desk : State-owned NHPC on Monday announced starting commercial supply of 600 MW of electricity from three units of Parbati-II hydro project in Himachal Pradesh from April 1. Parbati-II hydro project has four units of 200MW each and the trial run and COD (commercial date of operation) of balance Unit-4 (of 200 MW) will be intimated in due course, a regulatory filing stated. According to the filing, after successful completion of trial runs, NHPC declared commercial operation of Unit-1, Unit-2 & Unit-3 (of 200 MW each) of Parbati-II hydro project (4x200 MW), Himachal Pradesh from 00:00 hours on April 1, 2025. The Parbati Hydroelectric Project (Stage-II) is a run-of-the-river scheme proposed to harness hydro potential of the lower reaches of the river Parbati, as per the information available on NHPC's official web portal. The river is proposed to be diverted with a Concrete Gravity Dam at Pulga village in Parbati valley through 31.52 Km long Head Race Tunnel and the Power House shall be located at Suind village in Sainj valley.

90% ACCUSED UNDER NDPS ACT IN KANGRA ARE HIMACHAL YOUTH

Diary Times Desk : Many local youths are taking to drug peddling in Kangra district. About 90 per cent of the drug peddlers arrested in Kangra district last year were from the state. As per the data collected from Kangra police in 2024, they registered 149 cases under the NDPS Act against drug peddlers operating in the district. In those cases, 245 people were arrested, including 235 males and 10 females. Out of them, as many as 215 were residents of Himachal and 30 were from other states, majority from the adjoining state of Punjab. In 2024, Kangra police seized 24 kg charas most of which is produced in Himachal, 194 gm of opium which comes into Himachal from other states like Punjab or Rajasthan and 873 gm heroin that comes to the state from adjoining states of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The police confiscated cash and jewellery worth Rs 43.74 lakh from the arrested drug peddlers. They also confiscated 33 vehicles — worth about Rs 81 lakh — used for peddling. Till date in 2025, 67 cases have been registered.

CENTRE'S NOD TO RS 75 CR PHASE-2 OF BEET AREA IRRIGATION SCHEME

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today said that the Beet Area Phase-2 Irrigation Scheme — estimated at Rs 74.417 crore — was approved yesterday by the Union Ministry of Water Resources to irrigate cultivated land in 22 high-altitude villages of Haroli Assembly segment called the Beet area. Addressing mediapersons here today, Agnihotri, who also holds charge of the Jal Shakti Department, said the Centre would provide 90 per cent financial assistance and the remaining 10 per cent would be borne by the state. He said the project has been sanctioned under the Surface Minor Irrigation Scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Scheme. The Deputy CM informed that under the project, 12 collection tanks would be constructed to store water drawn from near the Swan river. He added that 1,874 hectares would be brought under irrigation. He said the first phase of the Beet Area Irrigation Scheme has already been completed at a cost of Rs 42 crore to provide irrigation facilities to nine villages of Haroli segment, adding that 1,122 hectares have been brought under irrigation.



NITI ABHIYAN CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREST RIGHTS ACT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Diary Times Desk : Guman Singh, convener of the Himalayan Niti Abhiyan, emphasised the importance of implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 in Himachal Pradesh to protect farmers from eviction from forest and revenue land. In a letter addressed to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Singh urged the government to act swiftly in recognising and regularising the land rights of farmers who have been occupying forest and revenue land for decades. The letter acknowledges the efforts of the state government, particularly the Tribal and Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, in taking steps towards implementing the FRA in the state. Singh expressed gratitude for the support of social activists and organisations working to ensure that the rights of indigenous people and traditional forest dwellers are protected under the Forest Rights Act. Addressing the media persons here today, Singh said the issue of forest and revenue land occupation in Himachal Pradesh has been a longstanding one. In recent years, the Himachal Pradesh High Court has issued multiple orders for eviction of illegal land occupants, with the latest order coming in January.

SURVEY WORK FOR BILASPUR-LEH RAILWAY LINE REACHES KULLU

Diary Times Desk : The ambitious and strategically important Bilaspur-Leh railway line has taken a significant leap forward, with the survey reaching Kahudhar in the Bhunter subdivision of Kullu district. Marking this milestone, a 'burgi' (survey marker) for the central line has been installed at Kahudhar, symbolising the advancing progress of this transformative project. The railway line, designed to serve as a lifeline for development and connectivity to the remote border areas of Ladakh, is set to traverse some of India's most challenging terrains and high-altitude regions. Recently, survey activities were carried out in various parts of the neighbouring Mandi district. Spanning approximately 489 kilometres, the Bilaspur-Leh railway line will establish connectivity between Bhanupali in Punjab, Bilaspur town in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. The first phase of this grand project, the Bhanupali-Bilaspur railway line, is already under construction and progressing at a commendable pace with completion expected by 2027. The survey conducted at Kahudhar is a pivotal step in the project's journey, involving meticulous assessments of terrain, alignment and feasibility for laying railway tracks.

CHAITRA NAVRATRA FAIR BEGINS WITH FERVOUR AT MATA CHINTPURNI TEMPLE

Diary Times Desk : The Chaitra Navratra fair began at the Mata Chintpurni temple in Una district with religious fervour today. Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal, who is also the Chairman of the Chintpurni Temple Trust, said the shrine area has been divided into four sectors, each under the control of a Sector Magistrate and a Sector Police Officer to maintain law and order. The DC said CCTV cameras have been installed at various locations to monitor the crowd and keep a tab on anti-social elements. He said emergency health facilities will be provided to the needy at the Chintpurni government hospital, adding that one additional health post each has been set up by the Health Department and Ayush Department near the shrine. People or organisations wanting to put up 'langars' along the Mubarikpur to Bharwain road will have to take prior permission and will be responsible for maintaining proper sanitation at the sites, said the DC, adding that use of plastic bags will be strictly prohibited. Besides, he said offering coconut at the shrine will remain banned during the mela period in view of security reasons.



MUMBAI INDIANS VS KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS HIGHLIGHTS, IPL 2025: ASHWANI KUMAR EXCELS ON DEBUT AS MI BEAT KKR TO REGISTER FIRST WIN

Diary Times Desk : Mumbai Indians (MI) thrashed Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by eight wickets to notch up their first victory of IPL 2025. After restricting KKR to just 116, MI chased down 117 in just 12.5 overs, with Ryan Rickelton smashing a half-century and Suryakumar Yadav slamming a quickfire cameo. MI handed an IPL debut to 23-year-old pacer Ashwini Kumar, who picked up four wickets on his IPL debut, including dismissing Ajinkya Rahane on his very first ball. KKR were reduced to 45/5 after seven overs, and couldn't recover. Mumbai Indians soared up to sixth, while KKR are now rooted to the bottom of the IPL 2025 table.



JASPRIT BUMRAH "ON BORDERLINE OF A FRACTURE": BCCI SENT 'YOU CAN'T DO THAT' MESSAGE AS IPL ABSENCE CONTINUES

Diary Times Desk : The IPL 2025 first two round of matches are already over, yet there is no sign of Jasprit Bumrah. The fast bowler has been missing from action from January when he suffered an issue in his back from the Australia Tour. He missed the India vs England series, the Champions Trophy and there is still no clarity on when Jasprit Bumrah will be back in IPL 2025 for Mumbai Indians. Immediately after the IPL 2025 which ends in the last week of May, Indian cricket team will fly out to England a Test series starting June third week. Former New Zealand pacer Shane Bond, who has worked with Jasprit Bumrah at Mumbai Indians and is currently with Rajasthan Royals, says that too much load must not be put on Bumrah, like it was done during the Australia Tour. While speaking on if Bumrah should "change something about his bowling", Bond opined: "I don't think so. He had the [2023] surgery, but he played all that [Australia] Test series, performed unbelievably. At the end of the day, he just bowled too much over a one-month period. And it hasn't cracked, he hasn't got a fracture, he is on the borderline of a fracture," Bond told ESPN Cricinfo.

FIRST TIME IN IPL HISTORY: MS DHONI ACHIEVES NEVER-DONE-BEFORE FEAT FOR CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Diary Times Desk : MS Dhoni scripted history by becoming the first Indian batter ever to score 200 IPL sixes after celebrating his 30th birthday. Although Chennai Super Kings slumped to a narrow loss against Rajasthan Royals in their IPL 2025 encounter, Dhoni slammed a six off Tushar Deshpande in the 19th over of the match to etch his name in history books. Overall, Dhoni is only the second player to achieve the feat after Chris Gayle who slammed 347 sixes after turning 30. Rohit Sharma (113), Ambati Rayudu (109), and Dinesh Karthik (104) are the only Indians to score more than 100 sixes after turning 30. Dhoni can't bat ten overs running full stick as his knee remains dodgy and the former captain decides on his batting position based on the match situation, revealed CSK coach Stephen Fleming. The 43-year-old Dhoni had faced criticism for batting at number 9 during CSK's 50-run loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru at Chepauk last week. On Sunday, the CSK talisman walked out at number 7 with the team needing 54 off 25 balls but could manage just 16 runs off 11 balls as they suffered a six-run loss to Rajasthan Royals. "It's a time thing. MS judges it. His body, his knees aren't what they used to be.

GREEN NEARS RETURN AHEAD OF WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL SELECTION RACE

Diary Times Desk : Cameron Green is glad he had back surgery and hopes it is the last of his career as he prepares for his playing return in county cricket, adding that he would be happy to bat anywhere for Australia as he pushes to be selected for the World Test Championship final as a batter only. Green held his first press conference since undergoing major back surgery last October, speaking in Perth as part of Cricket Australia's nation-wide fixture announcement for the 2025-26 summer. Green, 25, is set to make his playing return for Gloucestershire when he heads to England next week. But he revealed that he would have been fit for the Sheffield Shield final had Western Australia qualified. "The surgery has been incredible," Green said. "I think I was probably off [my] legs for about two weeks. And after that I've been doing gym work for the last four or five months, been running for the last two months, been batting for the last month. It's been pretty seamless. So, yeah, pretty happy I got it done.



BRATHWAITE STEPS DOWN AS WEST INDIES TEST CAPTAIN; HOPE TO LEAD IN T20IS

Diary Times Desk : West Indies will kickstart the next World Test Championship cycle under a new captain after Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced Kraigg Brathwaite's decision to step down from leadership duties. CWI revealed that Brathwaite had already indicated his intention to step down after the culmination of West Indies's Pakistan tour this year. The opener has now stepped down with three months left for his side's next assignment, at home against Australia. The series will also see Brathwaite play his 100th Test. Under his tenure, West Indies beat England at home in 2022, secured a thrilling win on Australian soil for the first time in 27 years and most recently drew level in a series in Pakistan. In all, Brathwaite led West Indies in 39 Tests, winning ten games. CWI confirmed that the new Test captain will be named in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, there has been a change in leadership in the white-ball set up as well after ODI skipper Shai Hope was also handed the reins of the T20I side. The board revealed that the decision was taken following advice from Head Coach Daren Sammy.

PATAUDI TROPHY TO BE RETIRED AHEAD OF INDIA'S FIVE-TEST TOUR OF ENGLAND: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : The Pataudi Trophy, which is competed for in Test series between India and England at the latter's home, is reportedly set to be retired. Named after legendary former India captain Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, the trophy was first awarded in 2007, and India notably marked the occasion by winning a Test series in England for the first time in over two decades. That remains the only occasion of India winning the trophy, though, with England winning the next three consecutive series. The last edition of the series was a draw and England retained the trophy. India are set to tour England for a five-match Test series starting on June 20 this year. According to Cricbuzz, the retirement of the trophy may come into effect before the series itself, with the possibility of it being replaced with a new trophy bearing the names of two other legendary former players from the country being open. The reason for the retirement is as of yet unclear, with the report further stating that a source close to the family of Pataudi stating: "Apparently trophies are retired after some time." Pataudi played 46 Tests for India between 1961 and 1975 in which he scored 2793 runs at an average of 34.91 with six centuries and 16 half-centuries.