

## LPG PRICE UP

## LPG PRICE UP RS 50, CNG BY RE 1; EXCISE DUTY HIKED ON PETROL, DIESEL

**Diary Times Desk :** The domestic cooking gas LPG price on Monday was hiked by a steep Rs 50 per cylinder across India and CNG by Re 1 per kg, while the government raised taxes on petrol and diesel to shore up its revenues.

The increase in cooking gas price will be for the Ujjawala – poor beneficiaries who got LPG connection free of cost – and general users, and will be effective from April 8 and has been necessitated due to the rise in input cost, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said. Cooking gas for Ujjawala users will cost Rs 553 per 14.2-kg cylinder from the current Rs 503 in the national capital. The same for general users will now cost Rs 853.

The rates, which vary from state to state depending on local incidence of taxes, were last revised in March last year when they were cut by Rs 100. Also, CNG prices were hiked by Re 1 per kg in the national capital and adjoining cities after the government last week raised input natural gas prices by almost 4 per cent. CNG in the national capital will cost Rs 75.09 per kg, Indraprastha Gas Ltd – the city gas retailer – said in a post on X.

This follows the price of input natural gas being hiked from USD 6.50 per million British thermal units to USD 6.75 from April 1. Alongside, the government hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 per litre each to raise about Rs 32,000 crore additional tax revenue. However, there will be no change in retail prices as the increase will be adjusted against the price cut that was warranted because of falling international oil prices. Puri said prices of crude oil, which is turned into petrol and diesel in refineries, have fallen to about USD 60 per barrel from USD 70-75, and a reduction in the retail selling price of petrol and diesel is possible if the international oil prices stay.



## MARKET CRASH

## MARKET CRASH MATTER OF CONCERN, INDIA SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH US: SHASHI THAROOR



**Diary Times Desk :** Expressing concern over Monday's stock market crash following the US government's decision to impose reciprocal tariff on Indian imports, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor urged the Centre to start negotiations with that nation on bilateral trade.

Amid fears of a global trade war after US President Donald Trump's decision to impose reciprocal tariff on Indian imports, the Sensex crashed over 2,200 points during the day. Mr Tharoor, while talking to reporters at the Ahmedabad Airport, said the Indian economy will survive and won't go into recession because of its 5.4 per cent growth. The Thiruvananthapuram MP is here to take part in the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Tuesday and the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session on April 9.

"It (today's market crash) is indeed a matter of great concern. We hope India might get some relief (in tariff) during our future negotiations with the US. But, as of now, this is certainly negative news. Global markets, not just Indian, are severely affected. It seems no one understood Trump's logic behind tariffs because the US stock market has also crashed badly," said the Congress leader.

When asked if such a situation would lead to recession, Mr Tharoor said, "Some countries may go into recession but we are better off because we have 5.4 per cent growth. Therefore it (economy) may come down but it will not go into recession." He said Trump's decision to impose higher tariffs on other countries exporting similar goods to the US can benefit India but "at this stage it is impossible to tell". We have to ensure we can quickly start negotiations on bilateral trade agreements, which might reduce the effect of this on our economy and exports. But it depends on how successful those negotiations are," said the former diplomat.



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## WILL FIGHT TILL MY LAST BREATH: MAMATA VOWS TO PROTECT SACKED BENGAL TEACHERS

**Diary Times Desk :** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday pledged to protect the rights of “eligible candidates” who lost their jobs after the Supreme Court verdict, and asserted that she would continue fighting for them as long as she is alive and even if it meant going to jail. Speaking at a meeting with those who lost their jobs after the apex court verdict, Banerjee urged the affected teachers and staff to return to their respective schools and “voluntarily” resume duties. “Even if I have to go to jail, I will keep fighting to ensure no deserving candidate is deprived of job – this is my promise, as long as I am alive,” she said in an emotionally charged message at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here. Speaking at a packed gathering of affected teaching and non-teaching staffers, Banerjee said, “No one has received any termination letter yet. So continue with your work. You are free to offer voluntary service in the meantime.” The Supreme Court on April 3 upheld a 2024 Calcutta High Court judgment annulling the recruitment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staffers appointed through the 2016 School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment drive, terming the entire selection process “vitiating and tainted”.



## SUPREME COURT AGREES TO CONSIDER LISTING WAQF PLEAS FOR URGENT HEARING

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider listing for urgent hearing petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act- 2025. President Droupadi Murmu had given the assent to Waqf Bill on April 5. “All the matters (against the Waqf Amendment Act) will be placed before me in the afternoon. Why are you mentioning it when we have a system in place,” the CJI told senior counsel Kapil Sibal after he mentioned Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind’s petition against the amendment for urgent listing. As some other lawyers also submitted that they had filed petitions against the Act, CJI Khanna told them to wait for him to take a call on listing of these petitions as per the norms. Almost a dozen petitions have already been filed in the top court against the amendment and the matter was likely to be taken up for hearing during this week. The Waqf Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha during the wee hours of Friday.

## SC DISMISSES PLEA FOR 100% MANUAL COUNTING OF VVPAT SLIPS DURING POLLS



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a direction to the Election Commission for a 100 per cent manual counting of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in addition to electronic counting, saying the issue couldn’t be agitated again and again. “We do not find any good ground to interfere with the impugned judgment (of the Delhi High Court). The special leave petition is dismissed,” a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna told petitioner Hans Raj Jain. Jain had challenged the August 12, 2024 judgment of the Delhi High Court which had dismissed his plea, citing the top court’s verdict on the issue. Giving the thumbs up to the EVM system in the midst of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Bench had in its April 26, 2024 verdict said, “EVMs offer significant advantages. They have effectively eliminated booth capturing by restricting the rate of vote casting to 4 votes per minute, thereby prolonging the time needed and thus check insertion of bogus votes.”

## YOUR HOROSCOPE 08-04-2025

<p><b>Aries</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b>          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.</p>
<p><b>Gemini</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Cancer</b>          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.</p>
<p><b>Leo</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Virgo</b>          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.</p>
<p><b>Libra</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio</b>          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.</p>
<p><b>Sagittarius</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b>          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.</p>
<p><b>Aquarius</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b>          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.</p>

## “EITHER DON’T DELIST OR GIVE AUDIENCE’S CONTACT INFO”: KUNAL KAMRA TO BOOKMYSHOW

**Diary Times Desk :** Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra on Monday wrote an open letter to BookMyShow requesting the online ticketing platform to either not delist him or to hand over the contact information of audience members he has earned through his solo shows over the years. Later in the day, BookMyShow in an official statement said facts on its role have been “misrepresented in the public domain”. The letter, which Kamra shared on his X page, comes days after Shiv Sena claimed BookMyShow had taken the comedian off the sale and artists list from its platform amid ongoing controversy around his ‘traitor’ jibe against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. “Dear BookMyShow, I understand that you need to maintain a cordial relationship with the state, and I know that Mumbai is a major hub for live entertainment. Without the state’s cooperation, iconic shows like Coldplay and Guns N’ Roses wouldn’t be possible... “I request one of the following: Do not delist me, or provide me with the data (contact information) I’ve generated through your platform from my audience,” Kamra said in his two-page letter.





## HIMACHAL NEWS: HIMACHAL HEALTH MINISTER SAID- PEOPLE DO NOT KEEP THE FREE SLIP SAFELY, SO RS 10 WILL BE CHARGED

**Diary Times Desk :** People will now have to pay a user charge of Rs 10 for making a prescription in hospitals. Health Minister Dr Dhaniram Shandil, while talking to journalists at the Secretariat on Monday, said that prescription fee has not been started in any hospital yet, but soon a prescription fee of Rs 10 may be started. Dr Shandil argued that people do not keep the free prescription safely, due to which doctors also face problems. If Rs 10 is charged for making a prescription, then people will keep the prescription safely. Dr Dhaniram Shandil said that the patient welfare committees of hospitals can charge a user charge of Rs 10 for making a prescription. Even in PGI Chandigarh, Rs 10 is charged for making a prescription. If RKS imposes prescription fee in Himachal also, then it will be a right decision. This will generate some income for the patient welfare committees, this money will not go into anyone's pocket. Many a times there is a crowd of nursing staff at the prescription counters of hospitals to make prescriptions for free, prescriptions of many people are made in this manner, after the prescription fee is fixed no one will make prescriptions in this manner.



## AIIMS BILASPUR: THERE WILL BE A HOLIDAY IN AIIMS BILASPUR ON APRIL 14, EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL REMAIN SMOOTH

**Diary Times Desk :** All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bilaspur will observe a holiday on 14 April on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti. Registrar and Assistant Public Relations Officer Dr. Rakesh Kumar Singh said that all outpatient department (OPD) services will remain closed on this day, but emergency services will continue as before. This includes emergency, trauma, emergency surgery and round the clock laboratory services. Dr. Rakesh has appealed to the patients and their attendants to ensure their medical needs, travel plans and medicines in advance, so that any kind of inconvenience can be avoided. He assured that the AIIMS administration will ensure that even during holidays, patients get quick and quality medical facilities in case of emergency.

## HIMACHAL: CM SUKHU SAID- FIELD STAFF WILL BE RECRUITED ON A LARGE SCALE IN THE STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that recruitments will soon be made on other posts including field staff in the State Electricity Board. In the review meeting of the Energy Department in the Secretariat on Monday, the Chief Minister gave the option of adjustment to the officers and employees who went on deputation from the Electricity Board to be adjusted there itself. He said that the officers and employees who went on deputation should tell by April 30 whether they want to return to the Board or serve in the Energy Directorate and Corporations. The Chief Minister said that field staff will be recruited on a large scale for the smooth functioning of the work of the Electricity Board. Officers and employees of the Power Transmission Corporation are also playing an important role in ensuring uninterrupted power supply in the state. At present, many officers of the Electricity Board are working on deputation in the Energy Directorate, HPPTCL and Power Corporation. He directed that the officers should be given.

## CHIEF ENGINEER VIMAL NEGI DEATH CASE: CM SUKHU SAID- IF BJP IS SUCH A WELL-WISHER THEN WHO STOPPED IT FROM GETTING A CBI INQUIRY DONE

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said in clear words that in the case of the death of Chief Engineer Vimal Negi, the innocent will not be harassed and the guilty will not be spared. Two types of investigations are being conducted in this case. The government is showing sensitivity in this matter that it should be taken seriously. They will move forward on the basis of the report. If BJP is so well-wisher of them, then since they have a government at the center, they can call the CBI. If BJP is so concerned, who has stopped them from getting a CBI investigation done. On Monday, CM Sukhu, while talking to journalists at the state secretariat, said that BJP is trying to bake political breads. He said that he has sensitivity towards the family of Vimal Negi. He said that the BJP people who are taking out candle marches are doing it to bake political breads. He said that the previous Jairam Thakur government has ruined Himachal Pradesh. He said that despite receiving one lakh crore rupees, they were not able to pay the arrears of government employees. He has changed the system. On the agitation of the visually impaired, Chief Minister Sukhu said that it is from the time of BJP. Where we have posts, we will fill them. Where there are no posts, we will bring them by some other.

## CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU SAID- HIMACHAL TURMERIC WILL BE THE BRAND NAME OF TURMERIC GROWN NATURALLY

**Diary Times Desk :** Turmeric grown through natural farming in Himachal Pradesh will now be sold in the market under the brand name of Himachal Turmeric. On Monday, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu gave this information while issuing registration forms for the purchase of turmeric from the farmers of the state. He said that farmers will also be given training to grow turmeric through natural farming method. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the state government has made a provision to buy turmeric grown through natural method at the minimum support price of Rs 90 per kg. The Chief Minister said that while providing guarantee of minimum support price, efforts have been made to promote natural farming along with strengthening the economy of farmers and rural economy. The Chief Minister directed the Agriculture Department to register farmers and train them in natural farming for this. Said that the raw turmeric purchased from registered farmers will be processed at Spice Park Hamirpur. This is the first time that the government will buy raw turmeric directly from the farmers. The Chief Minister said that the government is buying wheat grown through natural method from farmers at the support price of Rs 60 per kg and maize at Rs 40 per kg.

## SUKHU LEFT FOR AHMEDABAD WITH MINISTERS FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CONGRESS

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu along with his ministers left Shimla on Monday afternoon to attend the Congress National Convention to be held in Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat. The Chief Minister will attend the Congress Working Committee on April 8 and the National Convention on April 9. State Congress President Pratibha Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, National Spokesperson Kuldeep Singh Rathore and Secretary Surendra Sharma will also attend the meetings. The meeting of the CWC, the highest decision-making body of the Congress, will be held on April 8 at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Memorial, while the AICC session will be held on April 9 at the Sabarmati Riverfront. 262 leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge will participate in the CWC meeting.

## HIMACHAL: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- WILL TALK TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING VOCATIONAL TRAINERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the matter of vocational trainers will be discussed with the central government. Talking to the striking vocational trainers who came to meet him at the secretariat on Monday, the Chief Minister said that vocational education is a project of the central government. Its funding comes from the center. Appointments in the project are also made by the center. The companies are also selected by the central government. Himachal has nothing in its hands. Despite this, talks will be held with the central government on this matter. The Chief Minister assured the trainers that talks will be held on how work can be done in the policy of the central government. Whatever is possible with the state government will be done. Vocational Trainers Association President Ashwini Dadhwalia said that their agitation will continue till the government does not fulfill their demands.

## 'HAPPENS IN BIG CITY...': KARNATAKA MINISTER'S SHOCKER ON SEX ASSAULT VIDEO

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid outrage over a video in which a man is seen groping a woman on a Bengaluru street before running away, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara's comment will likely add to the public anger. Responding to questions over the shocking video, the minister in charge of law and order has said such incidents can occur in a big city like Bengaluru. The minister has said he has been pressing the city police to improve patrolling. "I keep telling the police commissioner daily to be careful, to monitor all areas through patrolling. This is something I say almost every day. When some incidents happen here and there, of course people's attention will be drawn towards them. The cops are working 24X7. Some incidents happen here and there. In such a big city, such incidents will happen. We will take necessary action according to the law. I have spoken to the commissioner this morning too," he said. In a CCTV video that has now gone viral, a man is seen following two women in an alley at the BTM Layout neighbourhood. Suddenly, he gropes one of the women while another tries to defend her. The man then flees the spot. The women, terrified by the incident, are seen walking away.

## INDIA TO REFRAIN FROM COUNTER-TARIFFS ON US DESPITE MARKET MELTDOWN: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** India is unlikely to impose counter-tariffs on the US and focus on finalising the bilateral trade agreement as quickly as possible after the Donald Trump administration slapped a 26% duty on exports from the country, a government official told Reuters. Trump's move has shaken global markets as well as Dalal Street, with the Sensex losing 1.6% since Wednesday. The government is banking on a key clause in the executive order signed by Trump last week that offers respite to nations who take "significant steps to remedy non-reciprocal trade arrangements", the official said. Another government official pointed out that India was taking comfort in the fact that it was one of the first nations to have started talks on a trade deal with the US. Its Asian peers, like China (34%), Vietnam (46%), and Indonesia (32%), have been hit by higher tariffs. While China said it would impose reciprocal 34% tariffs on all imports from the US from April 10, Indonesia said it would not retaliate.

## RAHUL GANDHI TAKES POTSHOTS AT PM MODI AFTER MARKET CRASH: 'TRUMP HAS BLOWN LID OFF ILLUSION'



**Diary Times Desk :** Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday took potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the stock markets crashed over the tariff war initiated by Donald Trump, saying the US President had "blown the lid of the illusion". Claiming the Prime Minister was "nowhere to be seen", Gandhi argued that India would have to accept the reality that it had no choice but to build a production-based economy. "Trump has blown the lid off the illusion. Reality is biting back. PM Modi is nowhere to be seen," Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X. "India has to accept reality. We have no choice but to build a resilient, production-based economy that works for all Indians," he added. Donald Trump has upended all major and emerging markets after he imposed tariffs against China, the biggest manufacturing powerhouse of the world. He has also imposed reciprocal tariffs against other nations, including India. The repercussions of Donald Trump's tariff war were felt in India as stock markets crumbled on Monday with benchmark Sensex sinking by 2,226.79 points.

## MAMATA BANERJEE MEETS BENGAL TEACHERS WHO LOST JOBS: 'READY TO EVEN GO TO JAIL IF...'

**Diary Times Desk :** West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday met thousands of teaching and non-teaching staffers who lost their jobs in government-run and aided schools following a recent Supreme Court verdict that scrapped over 25,000 appointments, calling the recruitment process "vitiated". Hundreds of affected individuals gathered at Netaji Indoor Stadium for the meeting in Kolkata, where Mamata Banerjee assured them of her support, stating, "I stand by those who lost their jobs in schools in Bengal. I will do everything to restore their dignity." She added that the state government is bound by the Supreme Court's order, but "will take proactive steps to ensure the situation is handled with utmost care and fairness." "I will not allow eligible candidates to lose school jobs... I am ready to even go to jail if anyone wants to penalise me for standing with those who lost school jobs," Mamata Banerjee said.

## TO KUNAL KAMRA'S OPEN LETTER, BOOKMYSHOW'S "NEUTRALITY" REPLY

**Diary Times Desk :** Days after ticketing portal BookMyShow removed Kunal Kamra's content and nixed his name from its list of artistes, the stand-up comedian has written an open letter, asking the portal to hand over contact information of the audiences it collected from his shows. In the letter posted on X, Kunal Kamra said he understands that BookMyShow needs to "maintain a cordial relationship with the state, and I know that Mumbai is a major hub for live entertainment". "Without the state's cooperation, iconic shows like Coldplay and Guns N' Roses wouldn't be possible," he said. "However, the issue at hand isn't about whether you can or will delist me - it's about your exclusive right on listing our shows. By not allowing artists to list their shows through their own websites, you've effectively prevented me from accessing the audience I've performed for from 2017 to 2025," he said. BookMyShow responded to the controversy and said, It is a "platform to facilitate the sale of tickets and operates the business with neutrality and in compliance with the applicable laws of India. Facts on our role have been misrepresented in the public domain. Our role is to provide a platform for ticket sales of live shows it is the decision of the organiser or the venue to list or delist their shows."



## RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT EXTENDS RAPE CONVICT ASARAM'S INTERIM BAIL BY NEARLY 2 MONTHS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Rajasthan High Court on Monday extended the interim bail by nearly two months on medical grounds granted to self-styled 'godman' Asaram, who is serving life imprisonment in a rape case. The bail period will now run till July 1. A lower court had sentenced the 83-year-old to life imprisonment in April 2018 for raping a minor at his ashram in 2013. A division bench comprising Justices Dinesh Mehta and Vineet Kumar allowed Asaram's plea on the same conditions as laid down by the Supreme Court, which included prohibition on any sermon or gathering with his devotees. Asaram's plea was heard on April 2, in which the respondent's counsel PC Solanki objected to the reprieve and argued he had violated the bail conditions by holding sermons for the devotees at his Indore ashram. Asaram's lawyer Nishant Bora said the affidavit was submitted in the court on Monday, adding, "The court accepted the affidavit and granted our prayer for extension of interim bail till July 1."

## TELANGANA MAY ACT AGAINST DIA MIRZA, OTHERS FOR 'AI CLIPS' OF TREE FELLING: SOURCES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Telangana government is likely to take action against actor Dia Mirza and YouTuber Dhruv Rathee for allegedly circulating AI-generated content related to the Kancharla Gachibowli forest controversy, sources in the Chief Minister's office told India Today. On Monday, the state government filed a petition in the High Court seeking action against individuals allegedly using AI content to spread "false narratives" about the development of 400 acres of land in Kancharla Gachibowli, which has been at the centre of a land debate, which the state claimed legally belongs to it. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who took serious note of the "misleading AI visuals," directed officials on April 5 to approach the courts. The alleged misinformation, the government claims, is hampering its efforts to develop IT infrastructure on the land parcel adjacent to UoH. While the government asserts the land belongs to it, UoH students say it is part of university territory.

## TRUMP'S "MEDICINE" REPLY TO TARIFF QUESTION AS BLACK MONDAY FEAR LOOMS

**Diary Times Desk :** Asian stock markets opened in a bloodbath on Monday as US futures pointed to significant losses on Wall Street over US President Donald Trump's punishing tariffs, even as countries sought compromise with the defiant president. The carnage came as the American President defended his tariffs, saying a lot of countries are 'dying to make a deal' and any adjustment in the stock market would be temporary. On Sunday, Trump denied that he was intentionally engineering a selloff and insisted he could not foresee market reactions, saying he would not make a deal with other countries unless trade deficits were solved. Speaking about the falling markets, he said the "medicine" can be necessary at times. "Sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something," he said of the market pain that has seen trillions of dollars wiped off the value of US companies since the beginning of his tariff rampage. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, he added that he had engaged with world leaders on the issue to seek resolution over the weekend, claiming "they're dying to make a deal."

## GAZA AIR STRIKES FOLLOW HEAVIEST ROCKET FIRE BY HAMAS IN MONTHS

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel has carried out fresh air strikes on Gaza after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered retaliation for one of the heaviest barrages of rocket-fire by Hamas in months. The Israeli military said about half of the 10 rockets which were fired from Gaza late on Sunday landed inside Israel, while the remainder were shot down. One person was wounded by falling debris, Israeli medics said. Netanyahu issued the instruction for a "strong response" while on his way to Washington, where he is due to hold talks with US President Donald Trump. The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza said on Monday morning that at least 56 Palestinians had killed there by Israel over the previous 24 hours. A Palestinian journalist was killed and nine others wounded when an air strike hit a tent used by local media in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, the Hamas Government Media Office and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) said. Reuters news agency said footage showed people trying to put out a blaze in the tent which it said was inside the compound.

## S&P 500 REBOUNDS AFTER EARLY TRADE FALL IN VOLATILE US MARKET SESSION

**Diary Times Desk :** Wall Street saw a sharp decline at the opening bell on Monday, with major indexes tumbling as investor concerns grew over the potential economic impact of President Donald Trump's broad tariff measures. Many traders turned to government bonds as a safer option amid the growing uncertainty. The Dow Jones Industrial Average had dropped 1,212.98 points, or 3.17%, to 37,101.88. The S&P 500 was down 181.37 points, or 3.57%, at 4,892.71, while the Nasdaq Composite slid 623.23 points, or 4.00%, to 14,964.56 at the opening bell. The S&P 500 continued its downward trend on Monday, dropping over 20% from its record peak, a level that typically signals the start of a bear market for the leading US stock index. The US indices recovered after report of Trump considering a 90-day pause in tariffs in all countries except China. However, the White House denied reports of a pause on tariffs for countries except China, calling it fake news. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has also fallen, now more than 17% below its highest-ever level.



## TRUMP ANNOUNCES "ADDITIONAL 50% TARIFF" ON CHINA AS TRADE WAR ESCALATES



**Diary Times Desk :** Donald Trump has announced an additional 50 per cent tariff on China less than 48 hours after Beijing announced a tit-for-tat 34 per cent tariff on the United States, which Trump had declared a day earlier as part of his reciprocal tariff order. This now takes US' tariff on all Chinese goods to an all-time high of 84 per cent as the US-China trade war escalates. This is over and above a 10 per cent global tariff, which the White House has said, applies to all nations worldwide, taking China's tally of Trump's tariffs to a staggering 94 per cent. Though President Trump gave China's Xi Jinping a 24-hour window of opportunity to roll-back or "withdraw" the additional tariff he has imposed against the US, failing which, Chinese goods will face this revised 94 per cent tariff in total. President Trump made the announcement at around 11:30 am (US time - 9 pm India time). Citing his earlier "warning" to "tariff abuser" China, he shared a post on his social media platform Truth Social.

## "BE STRONG, COURAGEOUS": TRUMP TO AMERICANS AS US STOCKS JOIN GLOBAL SELLOFF

**Diary Times Desk :** Stock markets across Asia and Europe crashed, recalling the mayhem markets witnessed in the past. This time, the trigger was Trump's trade tariffs, which were announced last week. The US President assured Americans and doubled down on his stance, saying, "Oil prices are down...there is no inflation" as experts have warned of a high risk of recession. Mr Trump posted on his social media platform, Truth Social and said, "Oil prices are down, interest rates are down (the slow moving Fed should cut rates!), food prices are down, there is NO INFLATION, and the long time abused USA is bringing in Billions of Dollars a week from the abusing countries on Tariffs that are already in place." He also called China the "biggest abuser of them all" on tariffs after Beijing retaliated with counter tariffs. The US President said, "This is despite the fact that the biggest abuser of them all, China, whose markets are crashing, just raised its Tariffs by 34%, on top of its long-term ridiculously high Tariffs (Plus!), not acknowledging my warning."

## AID CUTS COULD LEAVE MORE WOMEN DYING IN PREGNANCY, BIRTH: UN

**Diary Times Desk :** Cuts to aid budgets are threatening to undermine years of progress in reducing the number of women dying during pregnancy and childbirth, and could lead to a rise in deaths, the United Nations has warned. Globally, there was a 40 per cent decline in maternal deaths between 2000 and 2023, a report by UN agencies including the World Health Organization (WHO) showed on Monday, largely due to better access to essential health services. That could now go into reverse, the WHO said in a statement accompanying the report which did not mention specific cuts but came in the wake of a foreign aid freeze by the US government and the ending of funding through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for many programs. Other donor countries including Britain have also announced plans to cut aid budgets. "One of the headline messages is that the funding cuts risk not only that progress, but we could have a shift backward," said Dr Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage at the WHO.

## "IF I GAVE A LITTLE CUT IN TARIFFS...": DONALD TRUMP ON TIKTOK DEAL

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump said Sunday that China would have agreed to a deal on the sale of TikTok if it were not for the tariffs imposed by Washington on Beijing last week. Trump on Friday extended the deadline for TikTok to find a non-Chinese buyer or face a ban in the United States, allowing 75 more days to find a solution -- a day after imposing additional 34 percent duties on all Chinese imports. "The report is that we had a deal, pretty much for TikTok, not a deal, but pretty close, and then China changed the deal because of tariffs. If I gave a little cut in tariffs, they'd approve that deal in 15 minutes, which shows you the power of tariffs," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. The hugely popular video-sharing app, which has more than 170 million American users, is under threat from a US law passed last year that orders TikTok to split from its Chinese owner ByteDance or get shut down in the United States. Trump had insisted his administration was near a deal to find a buyer for TikTok and keep it from shutting down that would involve multiple investors, but gave few details. ByteDance, while confirming that it was in talks with the US government towards finding a solution.

## FORMER PUNJAB SSP, SP SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN 2007 MOGA SEX SCANDAL CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** A CBI court here on Monday sentenced former Moga SSP Devinder Singh Garcha and SP (Headquarters) Paramdip Singh Sandhu to five years of rigorous imprisonment, along with a fine of Rs 2 lakh each, under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) in connection with the 2007 Moga sex scandal case. Inspector Amarjit Singh was sentenced to six-and-a-half years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 2.5 lakh, while Sub-Inspector Raman Kumar was sentenced to eight years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 3 lakh. Besides their involvement in corruption, Raman Kumar was also convicted for extortion, while Amarjit Singh was convicted for attempting extortion in the 18-year-old case. Barjinder Singh, alias Makhan, son of former SAD minister, and Sukhraj Singh were acquitted of all the charges in the case on March 29. It is worth noting that Garcha and Sandhu later held the position of AIG before retiring from the force, while Inspector Amarjit Singh and Sub-Inspector Raman Kumar were dismissed from service. The scandal, which made national headlines, involved high-profile politicians and senior police officials extorting rich youths by trapping them in flesh trade case.



## PUNJAB EDUCATION FESTIVAL: 'PETTY THEATRICS', SAYS OPPOSITION; AAP HITS BACK

**Diary Times Desk :** The opposition parties in Punjab on Monday slammed the AAP government for its 'Sikhya Kranti' programme, calling it "petty theatrics to gain publicity" and asked the Bhagwant Mann dispensation to improve the basic infrastructure in schools instead. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on Monday launched the 'Sikhya Kranti', a 54-day "education festival", under which newly developed infrastructure projects worth Rs 2,000 crore in 12,000 government schools will be inaugurated. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann hit back at the rival political leaders for criticising the state government's initiative, asking what can he do if the opposition leaders are "allergic" to the "education revolution". Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains also chided the leaders of the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the BJP, calling their criticism of the state government's education reforms "hypocritical and self-serving". Mann along with former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated a new block in the 'School of Eminence' in Nawanshahr in SBS Nagar district. Similarly, several ministers also inaugurated government schools' infrastructure in several places.

## PUNJAB LAUNCHES 'SIKHIYA KRANTI' DRIVE TO COMBAT DRUGS AND REVAMP EDUCATION

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, along with AAP Punjab in-charge and former Deputy CM and Education Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, unveiled an inaugural plaque at School of Eminence in Nawanshahr. This event marked the beginning of the 54-day Punjab Sikhya Kranti drive. AAP emphasised a two-fold policy under Kejriwal-Mann's vision to ensure a drug-free Punjab: combating drugs and reforming education. The 'Sikhya Kranti' project involves upgrading infrastructure in 12,000 state government schools, with an investment of Rs 2,000 crore over 54 days. The inaugural plaque, worth Rs 5.68 crore, was unveiled at the School of Eminence, bearing the names of both CM Mann and Sisodia. Manish Sisodia stated, "The future of a drug-free Punjab lies in providing great education to children." He highlighted the mission of Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann to tackle the drug menace through a dual approach: strict action against drug smugglers and exceptional education to deter children from drugs. CM Bhagwant Mann said, "In the past, high fees forced people to abandon their dreams of private schooling. We vowed to change this three years ago."

## SOLAR ENERGY NOW POWERS ALL 6,624 GOVT BUILDINGS IN CHANDIGARH

**Diary Times Desk :** All 6,624 government buildings in the UT have now been made net-zero in energy consumption with the installation of rooftop solar panels. These buildings have a combined potential capacity of generating 52.85 MWp of solar power. With the Union Ministry of Power including Chandigarh in the list of 34 cities to be developed as Solar Cities by 2030, the UT Administration has decided to achieve 100% rooftop solar panel saturation on all private buildings by December this year, amending building bylaws to mandate rooftop solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems on houses measuring more than 250 square yards. The UT Administration has planned to generate 224 MW of solar energy by the target year. According to officials of the Chandigarh Renewable Energy and Science & Technology Promotion Society (CREST), under the National Solar Mission, the city has implemented a wide range of renewable energy projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions, cutting electricity costs, and expanding the use of clean energy.



## 'BLAST' ROCKS POLICE POST AT KAITHAL, BKI CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY

**Diary Times Desk :** An explosion reportedly took place near the Azimgarh naka of the Mahmoodpur police post in Kaithal on the Punjab border early this morning. The Kaithal police, along with their Punjab counterparts, have started an investigation into it. The police, along with FSL teams, are determining the explosives used in the incident, said Rajesh Kalia, Superintendent of Police, Kaithal. However, no loss of life and damage to property has been reported. "We found some traces which revealed a mid-air explosion. We are registering a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the BNS and the Arms Act," the SP said. Earlier, the police took it to be a hoax grenade attack. Following a message that went viral, police officials rushed to the spot. In a post, banned terror group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) claimed responsibility for the "grenade attack" on the police naka that took place around 5 am. Officials said the viral message could be part of a larger conspiracy to disrupt peace. Security agencies had been placed on high alert to monitor the online activities of the banned group, said the SP.

## UNHAPPY WITH AMENDMENTS TO SEED ACT, PRODUCERS CALL FOR 7-DAY STRIKE IN HARYANA

**Diary Times Desk :** Unhappy with the amendments made to the Seeds and Insecticides Acts by the Haryana Government, seeds and insecticide producers and dealers have given a call for a seven-day strike in the state. In a state-level meeting, seeds and pesticide producers and dealers expressed concerns over the new provisions and said the amendments were unacceptable and these would promote corrupt practices. Haryana Seeds Producers' Association state president Pal Singh Dhaliwal said: "The amendments were against the producers and dealers, and we are in no position to work under such circumstances. The new provisions make offences under the Act non-bailable and cognisable. Earlier, there was a fine of Rs 500 for the first offence and Rs 1,000 fine, and 1-year imprisonment for the second offence. However, now there will be a fine of Rs 1 lakh to 5 lakh, and one to three years of imprisonment." "There are over 500 big seed producers, around 10,000 big seed dealers and nearly 5,000 small-time dealers in Haryana. The seed production is a highly regulated process in which the principal seed is procured from the government agencies, including Punjab Agriculture University.

## BJP POLITICISING HPPC CHIEF ENGINEER'S DEATH: SUKHU

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today accused the BJP of politicising the death of Vimal Negi, a Chief Engineer with Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPC). He said that BJP's demand for a CBI inquiry into the matter was politically driven. "If the Enforcement Directorate (ED) can conduct raids in Nadaun, then who is stopping the CBI from carrying out an investigation," he said. The CM further said the government was treating the matter with utmost sensitivity and seriousness. "Everyone wants to know the truth behind Vimal Negi's death. His wife has met me and we stand in solidarity with the bereaved family," the Chief Minister said while laying the foundation stone of Phase-II of the historic Ellerslie Building in Shimla. The project, estimated to cost Rs 19.72 crore, is expected to be over by April 2026. The upcoming six-storeyed structure will include three floors for parking, two floors designated for Secretariat offices and other amenities.

## UNIDENTIFIED PERSON BOOKED FOR TRYING TO DUPE PWD MINISTER

**Diary Times Desk :** An unidentified person has been booked for allegedly trying to dupe Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh by trying to make bank officials transfer money from his bank account by posing as a government official. As per the police complaint filed by Priya Chhabra, Chief Manager, UCO Bank, the branch received a call in which a person claiming to be calling from Himachal Pradesh Secretariat tried to inquire about the bank details of the minister. The caller also requested the bank for an RTGS transfer of Rs 7,85,521. The Branch Manager, upon becoming suspicious of the caller, proceeded to contact the personal secretary of the minister who clarified that no such call has been made. Chhabra then approached the police to register a complaint after which the police registered a case under Section 319 (cheating by personation) and 62 (punishment for attempts to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and initiated the investigation.

## LEGAL BATTLE LOOMS AS GOVT DECIDES TO TAKE OVER 3 SJVN HYDEL PROJECTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) is bracing up for a long legal battle following the state government's decision to take over three hydel power projects it is constructing. "The possibility of any mutual understanding has ended with the government's decision to take over the projects. Now, the matter will be decided in court," said SJVN Director (Personnel) Ajay Sharma. On Saturday, the Cabinet had approved the takeover of the 382 MW Sunni, 210 MW Luhri Stage-I and 66 MW Dhaulasidh hydroelectric projects, which had been allotted to SJVN by the previous BJP government in the state. The government has also decided to take back 500 MW Dugar and 180 MW Baira Suil hydroelectric projects allotted to NHPC. The government took the deal-breaking decision following unsuccessful deliberations between the stakeholders to sign terms and conditions afresh for implementing these projects. The Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government is demanding free power share at the rate of 12, 18 and 30 per cent and return of the project after 40 years. SJVN, however, wants to implement the project on the terms and conditions agreed upon with the Jai Ram Thakur government.



## DY CM LAYS STONE OF RS 1.14-CRORE COMMUNITY COMPLEX IN HAROLI

**Diary Times Desk :** Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today laid the foundation stone of a community complex in Gondpur Jaichand village of Haroli Assembly segment on which a sum of Rs 1.14 crore will be spent. The first instalment of Rs 35 lakh has already been released to the implementing agency. Speaking on the occasion, Agnihotri said the building would be used for conducting panchayat-level meetings and cultural, social and religious events. He said the government is working to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions besides creating sources of income for panchayats and boosting the rural economy. The Deputy CM later inspected the ongoing beautification work of the village pond on which a sum of Rs 1 crore is being spent on creating peripheral walking tracks, installing solar lighting and putting up benches. He said traditional water bodies are being rejuvenated in Haroli segment to conserve water, help in increasing the green cover and boost local flora and fauna. Agnihotri, who also holds charge of the Transport Department, said 1,000 old buses in the HRTC fleet are being replaced, adding that 350 electric and 250 new diesel buses are being procured. He said on routes with less number of passenger.

## GHUMARWIN SUMMER FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

**Diary Times Desk :** The five-day state-level summer festival was inaugurated by Rajesh Dharmani, the Technical Education Minister, at Ghumarwin in Bilaspur district yesterday. Dharmani stated the Congress government is committed to the uniform development of the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The minister announced the Chief Minister had green-lit the establishment of a "University of Digital Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Skill and Vocational Studies" in the Ghumarwin area. He said it would be the first digital university in the state, aimed at equipping the youth with modern technology, innovative practices, start-up culture and industry-relevant skills. Over Rs 500 crore would be allocated for the university's establishment. Earlier, Dharmani honoured three local freedom fighters — Sahaj Ram Sharma, Shankar Das Verma and Bhag Singh. He highlighted the Ghumarwin Summer Festival, now in its 40th year, has grown in prominence over time. He expressed gratitude to CM Sukhu for upgrading the event to a state-level festival. As part of ongoing improvements, Dharmani announced a beautification project for the festival.

## HEAD CONSTABLE AMONG 2 ARRESTED WITH 157 GM HEROIN IN SOLAN

**Diary Times Desk :** Two, including a Haryana police personnel have been arrested with 157 grams of chitta (heroin) in Solan, police said here today. The accused have been identified as Pradeep Kumar (40) and Mohit (21), both residents of Kalayat tehsil in Kaithal district, Haryana. Investigation revealed that Pradeep Kumar has been employed as a head constable in Haryana police and posted in Kaithal district. They had come to Himachal Pradesh to sell chitta. According to reports, on April 4 a team of Sadar Police Station was on patrol. The team received a tip that two persons were roaming near Dohri Dawal locality in Solan to sell chitta. Taking prompt action on the tip, the team apprehended the two accused with the contraband. Solan Superintendent of Police (SP) Gaurav Singh confirmed the report and said a case under Section 21 and 29 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985 has been registered against the accused and further investigation is going on. He said both the accused were presented in the court, from where they were granted a five-day police remand. The SP said that initially the accused had gone to Narkanda in Shimla to sell the contraband. However, when the high price of the drug could not be agreed upon, they decided to sell it in Solan.



## VIRAT KOHLI, KRUNAL PANDYA SHINE AS RCB REGISTER STUNNING WIN IN LAST-OVER THRILLER

**Diary Times Desk** : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) beat Mumbai Indians (MI) by 12 runs in a last-over nail-biter in IPL 2025. This is RCB's third win in four games, and featured star performances with the bat from Virat Kohli (67) and captain Rajat Patidar (64) to take them to 221/5 in 20 overs. MI had a topsy-turvy run chase, and a late flourish from Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya brought MI close. However, their departures and three wickets in the final over by Hardik's brother Krunal Pandya swung the game in RCB's favour.



## "YOU DON'T WIN THE IPL WITH...": EX-INDIA STAR'S BLUNT WARNING TO SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

**Diary Times Desk** : Former India batter Ambati Rayudu believes the reason for Sunrisers Hyderabad's struggle doesn't stem from their flop batting shows but from their bowling woes in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. He made the comments on ESPNcricinfo's TimeOut show Sunrisers Hyderabad, who stormed into last season's final, have struggled to find their groove in the 18th edition of the cash-rich league. The Sunrisers fell to their fourth successive defeat in IPL 2025, with their latest one against the Gujarat Titans in their home den. After folding their innings on a sub-par 152/8, Mohammed Shami and skipper Pat Cummins rattled GT's top order, but the rest of the bowling unit failed to keep the pressure up in the middle overs. Titans skipper Shubman Gill, who brushed away the early threat, stayed unbeaten on 62 to steer his side to a comfortable seven-wicket triumph. Rayudu traced down the reason behind the ongoing woes behind the Sunrisers' recent downfall and pointed out their lacklustre display with the ball, especially in the middle overs.

## ASHWIN'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL 'TO STEP AWAY FROM COVERING CSK GAMES'

**Diary Times Desk** : Chennai Super Kings (CSK) games will not be previewed or reviewed on R Ashwin's YouTube channel for the remainder of IPL 2025. "Given the nature of the discussions on this forum over the last week, we want to be mindful of how things can be interpreted and have chosen to step away from covering CSK games, both previews and reviews, for the rest of this season," read a note from the admin of Ashwin's channel. "We value the diversity of perspectives that come through on our shows and remain committed to ensuring the conversation stays true to the integrity and purpose of the platform we've established. The views expressed by our guests do not reflect Ashwin's personal opinions." A controversy arose last week when Prasanna Agoram, a former data analyst for South Africa and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).

## BCCI TAKES STRICT ACTION AGAINST ISHANT SHARMA FOR BREACHING IPL CODE OF CONDUCT DURING GT VS SRH GAME

**Diary Times Desk** : Ishant Sharma incurred a difficult start to his campaign for Gujarat Titans in the ongoing IPL 2025. In three appearances thus far, he went wicketless for 97 runs. Of those, 53 runs were conceded in the match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad. Adding to his woes, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), on Monday, took strict action against the veteran India pacer after he breached the IPL code of conduct during the game against SRH. Ishant was fined 25 per cent of his match fees and handed one demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's match against Sunrisers Hyderabad. "Ishant admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 and accepted the Match Referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," the IPL media release read. Article 2.2 of BCCI's Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials pertains to "Abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a Match."

## VIRAT KOHLI SCRIPTS HISTORY, ACHIEVES NEVER-DONE-BEFORE FEAT IN T20 CRICKET

**Diary Times Desk** : Virat Kohli scripted history by becoming the fastest Indian batter to score 13000 T20 runs. Virat achieved the feat during the IPL 2025 encounter between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday. The star batter also become the first Indian cricketer to score 13000 runs in the shortest format of the sport. Virat looked in good form during the match against MI and he slammed a stunning six off Jasprit Bumrah to leave the fans as well as experts thrilled. He went on to slam a brilliant half-century in just 29 deliveries. Overall, Chris Gayle was the fastest to reach the feat (381 innings) while Virat did it in 386 innings. Bumrah returned from a long injury-enforced layoff as Mumbai Indians won the toss and elected to bowl first against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in an Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 clash at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday. Bumrah has undergone treatment and rehabilitation since pulling up short with a lower back injury during the fifth and final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Sydney. Rohit has missed their last match against Lucknow Super Giants because of a knee injury. Their return definitely provides the adrenaline boost that MI needs after losing three matches in four games. Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya said he opted to bowl first because the track looks good and dew might come into play later.

## HARRY BROOK NAMED ENGLAND'S WHITE-BALL CAPTAIN

**Diary Times Desk** : Harry Brook has been appointed England's new white-ball captain, the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed on Monday (April 7). The 26-year-old succeeds Jos Buttler, who stepped down following England's campaign at the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan. "It's a real honour to be named England's white-ball captain. Ever since I was a kid playing cricket at Burley in Wharfedale, I dreamed of representing Yorkshire, playing for England, and maybe one day leading the team. To now be given that chance means a great deal to me," Brook said in a statement. "I want to thank my family and coaches who've supported me every step of the way. Their belief in me has made all the difference and I wouldn't be in this position without them. There's so much talent in this country, and I'm looking forward to getting started, moving us forward, and working towards winning series, World Cups and major events. I'm excited to get going and give it everything I've got." Brook, an all-format regular for England, was named vice-captain of both the ODI and T20I sides last year and even captain in Buttler's absence during the home ODIs against Australia in 2024.

## KLAASEN NOT IN SA CENTRAL CONTRACTS LIST; MILLER, VANDER DUSSEN ACCEPT HYBRID DEALS

**Diary Times Desk** : Heinrich Klaasen's international playing future could be over after he was not named in Cricket South Africa's 18-player central contract list. Klaasen, who retired from Test cricket in January 2024, was on a white-ball only contract in the previous cycle and is understood to be prioritising his T20 league future. CSA said in a statement that "discussions regarding his future are ongoing and a final decision will be made in due course." David Miller, who was also on a white-ball only deal last year and Rassie van der Dussen accepted hybrid contracts which will allow them to "participate in specific agreed-upon bilateral tours and ICC events." Both Klaasen and Miller are contracted to teams in the Hundred which will clash with South Africa's white-ball tour to Australia that runs from August 10 to 24. The 18-player contract list included Lizaad Williams, who has been out of action after undergoing knee surgery this year, allrounder Senuran Muthusamy and 18-year-old left-arm quick Kwena Maphaka for the first time. David Bedingham, Wiaan Mulder and Kyle Verreynne.