

## VICE PRESIDENT

## "NUCLEAR MISSILE AGAINST...": VICE-PRESIDENT'S ALL-OUT ATTACK ON TOP COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** Days after a landmark Supreme Court judgment that effectively set a deadline for the President and Governors to clear Bills, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has used strong words for the judiciary, saying that we cannot have a situation where courts direct the President. He also said that Article 142 of the Constitution, which gives the Supreme Court special powers, "has become a nuclear missile against democratic forces, available to the judiciary 24x7".

Addressing the 6th batch of Rajya Sabha interns, the Vice-President spoke about the massive cash haul from the home of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma. "An event happened on the night of 14th and 15th of March in New Delhi, at the residence of a judge. For seven days, no one knew about it. We have to ask questions to ourselves. Is the delay explainable? Condonable? Does it not raise certain fundamental questions? In any ordinary situation, and ordinary situations define rule of law - things would have been different. It was only on 21st March, disclosed by a newspaper, that people of the country were shocked as never before.

"Thereafter, fortunately, in public domain, we had input from authoritative source, the Supreme Court of India. And the input indicated culpability. Input did not lead to doubt that something was amiss. Something required to be investigated. Now the nation waits with bated breath. The nation is restive because one of our institutions, to which people have looked up always with highest respect and deference, was put in the dock," he said. The Vice-President said no FIR has been filed against the judge after the cash haul.



## SUPREME COURT

## NO WAQF APPOINTMENTS, CHANGES TO WAQF BY USER TILL NEXT HEARING: SUPREME COURT



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the operation of certain parts of the contentious Waqf law, including the inclusion of non-Muslims in the Waqf boards and council, till the next date of hearing on May 5. The Chief Justice-led bench also said that the 'waqf by user' provision should not be denotified till then.

The Centre assured the Supreme Court that no appointments would be made to Waqf boards. The new law tweaks the composition of Waqf boards, making it compulsory to include non-Muslims as its members."SG (Tushar) Mehta assured that till the next date, no appointment shall take place to board and councils under the 2025 Act. He also assures that the status of waqfs, including waqf by user, already declared by notification or gazetted, shall not be changed," the court said in its order.

In effect, the Supreme Court's interim order means that the character of Waqf properties cannot be changed for now. The law, which came into effect on April 8, removes the 'waqf by user' provision, which allows a property to be treated as Waqf based on its long-term use for religious or charitable purposes, even without formal documentation.

The Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, sought 7-days' time to file a response. The court allowed the petitioners to file their rejoinder within five days after that. At the outset, SG Mehta said staying the Waqf law, whether directly or indirectly, was an extraordinary measure, and cannot be done based on a mere reading of the provisions. "We received lakhs and lakhs of representations before the amendments were made. Villages were taken as waqfs. Private properties were taken as waqfs... Your lordships are taking a serious and harsh step by staying directly or indirectly statutory provisions," SG Mehta said.



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## JUDICIARY CANNOT DIRECT PRESIDENT, ACT AS 'SUPER PARLIAMENT': DHANKHAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday questioned the judiciary setting a timeline for the President to take decisions and act as a "super Parliament", saying the Supreme Court cannot fire a "nuclear missile" at democratic forces. Dhankhar's strong words to the judiciary came during his speech to Rajya Sabha interns, days after the Supreme Court sought to fix a timeline for the President to grant assent to the Bills reserved for her consideration by the Governor. "So, we have judges who will legislate, who will perform executive functions, who will act as super Parliament and absolutely have no accountability because the law of the land does not apply to them," Dhankhar said. The Vice President also described Article 142, which grants plenary powers to the Supreme Court, as a "nuclear missile against democratic forces available to the judiciary 24x7". "Article 142 has become a nuclear missile against democratic forces (and) available to (the) judiciary 24x7," he said. Article 142 of the Constitution gives the Supreme Court the power to issue orders that ensure "complete justice" in any matter before it.



## WEST BENGAL POLICE ARREST KEY PLANNER OF MURSHIDABAD FATHER-SON MURDER

**Diary Times Desk :** The West Bengal Police has arrested one of the masterminds behind the brutal murder of a father and son at Jaffarabad in Murshidabad district during violent anti-Waqf Act protests, taking the total number of arrests to three, a senior officer said on Thursday. Inzamul Haque, a resident of the neighbourhood where the killings took place, was apprehended from Suti area of the district late on Wednesday after night-long raids, Additional Director General (South Bengal) Supratim Sarkar said. "He was not only involved in planning the gruesome crime, but also played a key role in tampering with evidence by snapping power supply and destroying CCTV cameras in the area," Sarkar said. The double murder of Haragobindo Das (72) and his son Chandan (40), who were hacked to death in front of their house by a mob on Friday as protests in the state against the Waqf (Amendment) Act turned violent.

## WILL NOT DE-NOTIFY REGISTERED WAQF, CENTRE TELLS SC; INTERIM ORDER DEFERRED TILL NEXT HEARING



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Thursday deferred passing any interim orders on petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 after the Centre undertook not to make any appointments to waqf councils and waqf boards or de-notify existing waqf properties -- including waqf-by-user or waqf-by-deed already declared by notification or gazetted. A three-judge Bench led by CJI Sanjiv Khanna issued notice to the Centre asking it to respond to the petitions challenging the amendment within a week and gave five days to the petitioners to file their rejoinders to the Centre's reply. The order came after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted at the very outset of the hearing that the top court should not take the harsh measure of staying a law passed by the Parliament without proper hearing. "Your Lordship is taking a harsh step...allow me to place within a week my preliminary reply with documents to show how this (law) came into picture," Mehta said, adding that staying the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 on prima facie reading of some provisions may not be appropriate and the court will have to consider the history of the legislation.

## MANIPUR VIOLENCE: REPORT ON AUTHENTICITY OF AUDIO CLIPS ON BIREN SINGH'S ROLE READY, GOVT TELLS SC

**Diary Times Desk :** A forensic report on the authenticity of leaked audio clips alleging the role of former Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in the ethnic violence in the state was ready and would be filed soon in a sealed cover, the Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court. Taking note of the submissions of a counsel appearing for the Centre and the state government to this effect, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna deferred the hearing on the Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust's (KOHUR) petition to the week commencing May 5. Stating that the report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) will be filed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, the counsel sought an adjournment, saying the law officer was unavailable at the moment. More than 260 people have been killed and thousands displaced since the ethnic violence broke out between the Imphal valley-based Meitei and neighbouring hills-based Kuki communities in May 2023. The clashes began after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against an order of the Manipur High Court.



## YOUR HOROSCOPE 18-04-2025

<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>





## HIMACHAL NEWS: REVENUE MINISTER JAGAT SINGH NEGI SAID- IF NAUTOD IS NOT FOUND, CHINA WILL ENTER KINNAUR LIKE ARUNACHAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi has said that if the Nautod land is not given to the people of Kinnaur by giving relief in FCA, then like Arunachal and Ladakh, China will encroach and enter Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti. He said this while talking to journalists in the Secretariat before leaving to meet the Governor on Thursday. Negi said that people in tribal areas have very little land, due to which there is a lot of unemployment and people are being forced to migrate. If the border areas become empty, it will be easy for China to encroach. Under the Nautod rule, land has been given to thousands of farmers in the state. After the Forest Conservation Act came in 1980, the rights of common people on forest land were abolished. Now the permission of the Center has been made mandatory for doing any work on forest land.



## HIMACHAL NEWS: DECISION IN THE MEETING, 20 ROUTES OF HRTC WITH NIGHT HALT IN PUNJAB WILL BE RESTORED FROM FRIDAY

**Diary Times Desk :** 20 routes of HRTC with night halts in Punjab which were closed for the last 27 days will be restored today. On the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, a review meeting was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Corporation Managing Director Dr. Nipun Jindal regarding the restoration of routes in which it was decided to restore the routes. Punjab Police has assured HRTC of the safety of buses. On the night of 21 March, buses parked for night halt in Amritsar were vandalized and Khalistan was written with spray paint. After this, the corporation stopped bus service on all 20 routes with night halts in Punjab. About 200 buses of HRTC operate daily through Punjab, after the Amritsar incident, there has been no incident of vandalism of HRTC buses in Punjab. The corporation management has decided to start the operation of buses after ensuring the safety of the buses and the drivers-conductors.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: CHIEF SECRETARY PRABODH SAXENA HOSTED A PARTY ON HOLI, NOW THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PAY THE BILL OF RS 1 LAKH 22 THOUSAND 20

**Diary Times Desk :** After the extension of service, CS (Chief Secretary) Prabodh Saxena had given a party for the officers on Holi and its expenses were borne from the government account. About 75 IAS officers were invited with their families. The total bill including children and drivers came to Rs. 1.25 lakh. The bill has now been given to the government. Now the bill of this party has been sent to the General Administration Department of the state government. The hotel management has sent its bill to the secretary for payment. Now the process of paying the bill is being completed at the government level. According to this bill sent to the General Administration Department, lunch and snacks were served to 75 officers, their wives and children. The bill comes to Rs. 1000 per plate. Similarly, adding the lunch.

## JAIRAM THAKUR: LEADER OF OPPOSITION SAID- THE NEWSPAPER WHOSE COPIES ARE NOT SOLD IN HIMACHAL, WAS GIVEN ADVERTISEMENTS WORTH CRORES

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that Congress and corruption are synonymous with each other. Whenever the National Investigation Agencies start uncovering the layers of scams committed by them, Congress tries to scare and intimidate these agencies by doing politics of pressure. During a press conference in Mandi, Jairam Thakur said that Congress had laid the foundation of National Herald newspaper in the year 1938 itself before independence. Its first editor was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. After this, apart from National Herald, newspapers named Navjeevan in Hindi and Qaumi Awaz in Urdu were published by the publishing group of Associate General Limited. He said that this newspaper, which was considered to be the pioneer of India, turned out to be the pioneer of corruption under the leadership of Nehru family and Congress. He said that after Nehru, Indira and Feroze Gandhi took over the command of National Herald newspaper. Thereafter, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi acquired this property worth about two thousand crores. Regarding which a case was filed in Patiala House Court in 2012 by Subramanian Swamy during the UPA government.

## HIMACHAL: HIMACHAL GETS NATIONAL AWARD FOR AADHAAR ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN, CM GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE MORE SERVICES ONLINE

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal was awarded for being the leader in the country in promoting technical expertise for the highest Aadhaar enrolment and authentication of children. The state has received two awards at the national level from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) in New Delhi. Director of Digital Technology and Governance Department Dr. Nipun Jindal received these during the Aadhaar Samvad program organized by UIDAI. Chief Minister's Principal Advisor (Innovation, Digital Technology and Governance) Gokul Butel handed over both the awards to Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday. On this occasion, the CM appreciated the excellent performance of the Digital Technology and Governance Department and directed to increase facilities for the people by making more and more services online. He said that these efforts of the government indicate the commitment to the highest use of information technology to provide better facilities to the people.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: FOR NORTH INDIA'S BIGGEST WRESTLING COMPETITION, THE ARENA WILL SMELL OF SANDALWOOD POWDER AND DESI GHEE

**Diary Times Desk :** The thrill of the wrestling competition to be held on Friday at Chahad Arena in Ghumarvi, which is counted among the biggest wrestling competitions of North India, will be at its peak. Famous wrestlers of the country will participate in this wrestling competition. Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani will felicitate the winner and runner-up wrestlers at the closing ceremony, while District BJP Secretary Rajesh Singh Thakur will inaugurate the wrestling competition. Preparations are in full swing for organizing the wrestling competition. The biggest fight in this wrestling competition will be in the name of Bharat Samrat. A prize of Rs 2 lakh has been kept for this. Apart from this, more than two dozen direct wrestling matches will be held. Big prizes have also been kept for these wrestling matches by the committee. Maratha wrestlers will be the center of attraction. Every wrestler will be brought to the arena with drums and nagadas. To prevent any kind of infection due to injury to any wrestler during wrestling, sandalwood powder and desi ghee will be mixed in the arena on Thursday. To keep the wrestlers cool during wrestling, ghee, oil, lemon juice, walnut oil will be mixed in the arena.

## SHIMLA: SPRAY FUNGICIDES IN APPLE ORCHARDS, EXPERTS OF HORTICULTURE UNIVERSITY RELEASED THE SPRAY SCHEDULE

**Diary Times Desk :** The hailstorm in the upper areas of Shimla district has caused heavy damage to apple orchards. In view of this, Dr. YS Parmar Horticulture and Forestry University Nauni and the Horticulture Department have instructed to spray fungicides in time. Almost all the orchardists of the district have installed anti hail nets in their orchards, but due to hail, the hail nets have also broken in some orchards. This has affected the apple crop. Apple trees have also been wounded due to hail. In such a situation, the risk of infection in the trees increases. Horticulture experts have advised that orchardists should make a solution of 100 grams of carbendazim or 600 grams of mancozeb in 200 liters of water and spray it on apple plants immediately after the hailstorm. This can reduce the damage caused to apple fruits and leaves due to hailstorm. The wounds on the tree due to hail also heal quickly.

## AAP'S DURGESH PATHAK ON CBI SEARCH: 'THEY TURNED EACH PAGE OF BOOKS'

**Diary Times Desk :** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Durgesh Pathak claimed on Thursday that the BJP-led Central government sent a CBI team for searches at his house to scare him. He claimed the team stayed for four hours but found nothing. Durgesh Pathak claimed the Central Bureau of Investigation officials, who came to his residence with a search warrant, didn't find anything and failed to inform him about the matter at hand. "The CBI team thoroughly investigated my two-room house for three to four hours. They searched every corner (in the house). If they found a book, they turned each page. They checked everything but didn't find anything. While going back, they took photocopies of the Aadhaar cards of people who used to come for assistance regarding their work when I was an MLA. There were nearly five to six people," Pathak was quoted as saying by the news agency ANI. "I have no idea why they came, and in connection with what case...they didn't tell me either. They showed me a search warrant, and I invited them in. Since the party has made me co-in-charge in Gujarat, I think they came to scare me because of that."

## GRAHAM STAINES MURDER CONVICT RELEASED FROM JAIL AFTER 25 YEARS

**Diary Times Desk :** Mahendra Hembram, one of the convicts in the 1999 high-profile triple murder case of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two minor sons, was released from Keonjhar jail in Odisha on Wednesday after serving 25 years. Now 50 years old, Hembram was released from the prison on grounds of good behaviour during his incarceration. "Hembram has been released following a decision by the State Sentence Review Board. The prison directorate informed about it in a letter on Tuesday. He has been released after 25 years because of good behaviour in accordance with the rules," said Jailer Manaswini Naik. Jail authorities gave Hembram a cordial farewell, garlanding him as a mark of recognition for his good conduct during his prison term. An official said Hembram was handed over a bank passbook, where his earnings from prison labour had been deposited. "I spent 25 years in jail after being falsely implicated in an incident related to religious conversion. Today, I have been released," Hembram told reporters outside the jail. Hembram and Dara Singh, alias Rabintra Pal Singh, were convicted of the brutal murders of Mr Staines and his sons.

## "LIKE A CHILD...": A OWAISI ON JUDICIAL OVERREACH ALLEGATIONS OVER WAQF



**Diary Times Desk :** The judiciary is independent and has a duty to check whether a law confirms to the Constitution, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said today when asked about allegations of judicial over-reach after the Supreme Court decided to hear the petitions challenging the amended Waqf law. In an exclusive interview to NDTV, Mr Owaisi said the top court has to see whether a law is violating freedoms and fundamental rights, or even the basic structure of the constitution. "One has to accept.. The government is behaving like a small child. Oh, if I don't get my toy, I'll cry. That is not the case," said the AIMIM chief who has filed one of the petitions challenging the amended Waqf law in the Supreme Court. As the top court gave an interim order today, putting on hold two key provisions of the law, the Centre got a week's time to file a response to the petitions that contend the law is unconstitutional. The petitioners have claimed the law upends multiple rights granted by the Constitution.

## 10,000 GATHERED, COP'S PISTOL SNATCHED: BENGAL'S WAQF VIOLENCE REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** The West Bengal police were up against a crowd of around 10,000 people as violence broke out in the state last week over the amended Waqf law, the West Bengal government has told the High Court. A copy of the report accessed by NDTV, said the police had to rescue its officers from the mob, which was carrying lethal weapons. Three persons have died in the violence that followed over three days. The protests against the Waqf Amendment Act had started on April 4. The 34-page report details out the scale of violence that ripped through Jangipur in Murshidabad district last week, starting on April 11. The report highlighted that an unruly mob of 4000-5000 people had attacked the police and even snatched away the service revolver of a senior officer. The report said a huge crowd -- approximately 8000-10000 people -- had started assembling at the PWD ground of Murshidabad. A chunk of the crowd then broke away and around 5000 people proceeded towards Umarpur.

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## "STUDENTS SHOULD NOT SUFFER": TOP COURT RELIEF FOR SACKED BENGAL TEACHERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Stressing that students must not suffer, the Supreme Court today said West Bengal teachers whose appointments were cancelled earlier this month due to irregularities in recruitment can continue to teach till the fresh selection process is completed. This relief, however, is only for 'untainted' teachers -- those whose names were not linked to any irregularity during the investigation into the 2016 appointments. Also, the relief is for teachers of Class 9, 10, 11 and 12. The Supreme Court, however, set a deadline for the Bengal School Service Commission (SSC). Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna said the SSC must release advertisements for the fresh recruitment drive by May 31 and the selection process must conclude by December 31. "We are inclined to accept the prayer made in the application in so far as it relates to the assistant teachers of classes 9 and 10 and classes 11 and 12. Subject to following conditions that the ad for fresh recruitment shall be out by May 31 and the exam."

## 'THEY MAY TRY HARD BUT...': INDIA ON PAKISTAN DISTANCING ITSELF FROM TAHAWWUR RANA

**Diary Times Desk :** On 26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana's extradition to India, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday that, "Pakistan may try very hard, but its reputation as the epicentre of global terrorism will not diminish. The extradition of Rana is a reminder yet again to Pakistan that it needs to act to bring to justice other perpetrators of Mumbai terror attacks, whom it continues to shield." Rana, the 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman and a close associate of 26/11 attacks main conspirator David Coleman Headley, a US citizen, was brought to India on April 10th, after the US Supreme Court on April 4 dismissed his review plea against his extradition. On November 26, 2008, a group of 10 Pakistani terrorists went on a rampage in Mumbai, carrying out coordinated attacks on a railway station, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre, after they sneaked into India's financial capital using the sea route through the Arabian Sea.





## PUTIN HEAPS PRAISE ON MUSK, COMPARES HIM TO SOVIET UNION SPACE HERO

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin has lauded SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, likening him to Sergei Korolev, a pioneering Soviet engineer who kick-started Soviet Union's early space adventure. The Russian leader was speaking to university students about the country's space policy when he mentioned the American billionaire and his achievements in the field of space. "You know, there's a man, he lives in the States, Musk, who, one might say, raves about Mars. It is not often that such people, charged with a certain idea, appear in the human population," said Mr Putin, according to state-owned news agency TASS. "If even it seems incredible to me today, after a while, such ideas often materialise. Just like in their time the ideas of Korolev, our other pioneers, got to materialise. They seemed incredible - some of the plans they made. But they all materialised," he added. Mr Korolev, who died in 1966, was the lead rocket engineer and designer for USSR's satellites and rockets during the space race with the US in the 1950s and 1960s. He was also responsible for the first human spaceflight when the Soviet Union sent cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin into space in 1961.

## CRUDE OIL FUTURES SURGE AS US SANCTIONS ON IRAN LEAD TO OPEC CUTS

**Diary Times Desk :** crude oil futures experienced a notable surge amid escalating US sanctions on Iran and coordinated production cuts by OPEC+. The geopolitical tensions and supply constraints have reignited concerns over global oil availability, driving prices higher. Meanwhile, Indian energy major ONGC's shares reflected the bullish sentiment, gaining approximately 0.92% to ₹243.45 on the BSE, supported by the positive outlook in the oil sector. The US administration intensified sanctions targeting Iran's oil exports, including measures against a China-based refinery sourcing Iranian crude. These sanctions aim to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero, significantly tightening global supply. The move comes amid ongoing nuclear negotiations but signals a firm US stance on curtailing Iranian oil shipments. This development has injected fresh supply fears into the market, prompting a rally in crude prices.

## CALIFORNIA TO SUE US GOVERNMENT OVER TRUMP'S ON-AGAIN-OFF-AGAIN TARIFFS

**Diary Times Desk :** California is set to sue the federal government on Wednesday over Donald Trump's on-again-off-again tariffs, claiming the US president does not have the right to enact such damaging policies. As the richest state in the union, and one of the country's largest importers and exporters, California looks set to bear the brunt of the economic damage forecasters expect from recent gyrations. Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom -- a long-time foe of Trump's and widely expected to be considering a 2028 presidential bid -- will announce a lawsuit against the Republican administration, a statement said. The legal action will argue that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which Trump has used to impose tariffs as high as 145 percent, does not grant him the authority to impose tariffs on goods coming into the United States. "President Trump's unlawful tariffs are wreaking chaos on California families, businesses, and our economy - driving up prices and threatening jobs," Newsom said in a statement. "We're standing up for American families who can't afford to let the chaos continue." The case is the latest of more than a dozen lawsuits that California has filed against the Trump administration.

## INDIAN-DESCENT DOCTOR CONVICTED IN \$2.3 MILLION CONSPIRACY TO ILLEGALLY DISTRIBUTE CONTROLLED DRUG



**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian-descent doctor has been convicted of participating in a \$2.3 million conspiracy to illegally distribute controlled substances and of healthcare fraud, according to the US Justice Department. Neil Anand, 48, was also convicted of money laundering on Tuesday in a federal court in Pennsylvania, the department said on Wednesday. In the conspiracy to illegally distribute drugs, he issued pre-signed medical prescriptions for oxycodone that were used by interns to enable just nine patients collect 20,850 tablets, it said. Oxycodone is an opioid painkiller that can be highly addictive and is one of the substances behind the drug epidemic sweeping the US. Anand also issued "medically unnecessary prescription medications" in what prosecutors called "Goody Bags" through pharmacies he owned if they wanted to get the controlled drugs, and billed health insurance companies and government insurance plans for the unneeded medicines. The insurance companies and plans paid \$2.3 million for the medicines in the "Goody Bags", the prosecutors said.

## RUSSIA REMOVES TALIBAN'S 'TERRORIST GROUP' LABEL TO BUILD FRIENDLY TIES

**Diary Times Desk :** Russia's Supreme Court on Thursday removed the Taliban's designation as a "terrorist organisation", a symbolic gesture aimed at building friendly ties with Afghanistan's de facto rulers. The Islamist group seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, when American forces supporting the country's internationally recognised government pulled out. Moscow, which called the US withdrawal a "failure", has taken steps to normalise relations with the Taliban authorities since then, seeing them as a potential economic partner and ally in fighting terrorism. "The previously established ban on the activities of the Taliban -- included on the unified federal list of organisations recognised as terrorist -- has been suspended," Supreme Court Judge Oleg Nefedov said in a ruling, according to the TASS state news agency.

## PUTIN MET IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER AHEAD OF TEHRAN'S NEXT TALKS WITH US

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin met Iran's top diplomat ahead of a second round of talks between the US and the Islamic Republic aimed at resolving the standoff over Tehran's nuclear program. Putin received Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Moscow, the Kremlin said in a statement on Thursday. After a first meeting in Oman last Saturday that both described as constructive, the US and Iran are due to hold fresh talks in Rome on April 19. US President Donald Trump is trying to secure a deal that guarantees Iran won't develop nuclear weapons in exchange for sanctions relief. He's warned of military action against Iran in coordination with Israel if diplomacy fails. The talks hit what may be their first stumbling block after Iran accused Trump's envoy leading the US delegation, Steve Witkoff, of sending mixed signals about Washington's goals. Witkoff demanded Iran stop its enrichment program after earlier saying it shouldn't be allowed to enrich beyond a purity of 3.67%, a concentration suitable for power reactors but far below the level needed for bombs.

## CHINA IGNORES US TARIFF THREATS, SAYS "NUMBERS GAME" WON'T WORK

**Diary Times Desk :** China will pay no attention if the United States continues to play the "tariff numbers game", China's foreign ministry said on Thursday, after the White House outline how China faces tariffs of up to 245% due to its retaliatory actions. In a fact sheet released on Tuesday, the White House said China's total duties include the latest reciprocal tariff of 125%, a 20% tariff to address the fentanyl crisis, and tariffs of between 7.5% and 100% on specific goods to address unfair trade practices. U.S. President Donald Trump announced additional tariffs on all countries two weeks ago, before suddenly rolling back higher "reciprocal tariffs" for dozens of countries while keeping punishing duties on China. Beijing raised its own levies on U.S. goods in response and has not sought talks, which it says can only be conducted on the basis of mutual respect and equality. Meanwhile, many other nations have begun looking at bilateral deals with Washington. Last week, China also filed a new complaint with the World Trade Organization expressing "grave concern" over U.S. tariffs, accusing Washington of violating the global trade body's rules. China this week unexpectedly appointed a new trade negotiator who would be key in any talks to resolve the escalating tariff war.



## NO COERCIVE ACTION AGAINST PUNJAB LOP PARTAP BAJWA TILL APRIL 22, HC TELLS PUNJAB

**Diary Times Desk :** In a relief to Leader of Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday directed the Punjab Government not to initiate any coercive action against him till April 22 in connection with an FIR lodged over his "50 bombs have reached Punjab" remarks. Justice Deepak Gupta's Bench issued a notice to the state government on Bajwa's plea seeking quashing of the FIR, while directing the Congress leader to cooperate with the investigation. The case will next be heard on April 22. The controversy stems from Bajwa's TV interview where he claimed "50 bombs have reached Punjab, out of which 18 were used". Following a complaint by a cybercell constable alleging the statement aimed at disturbing peace, an FIR was registered against the Congress leader. The court specifically barred Bajwa from making any press statements about the case until the next hearing. Bajwa's counsel, APS Deol pointed out that the FIR was politically motivated and violated free speech rights, noting no preliminary inquiry was conducted as required. "My client was merely highlighting Punjab's law and order situation. This is a political vendetta by the AAP government," he contended.



## GRENADE HURLING AT JALANDHAR YOUTUBER'S HOME: ARMY JAWAN HELD

**Diary Times Desk :** An Army jawan posted in Jammu and Kashmir has been arrested for allegedly imparting online training to the man who hurled a grenade at the residence of a Jalandhar-based YouTuber last month, Punjab Police said on Thursday. A court in Jalandhar sent the jawan, Sukhcharan Singh, to five-day police remand, police officials said. The main accused, Hardik Kamboj, hurled the hand grenade at the house of YouTuber Rozer Sandhu on the intervening night of March 15 and 16. However, the grenade did not explode. During the course of investigation, it came to light that Singh provided online training to Kamboj on throwing the grenade at the residence of the YouTuber, said Senior Superintendent of Police (Jalandhar Rural) Harvinder Singh Virk. Singh came in contact with Kamboj through social media platform Instagram, police said. Singh, who hails from Muktsar district, was named in the FIR and an arrest warrant was secured from a court, the SSP said. Police said they apprised the Army authorities about Singh's role in the matter. A court in Jalandhar sent Singh to five-day police remand. Further investigation in the matter is under way, they said.

## HC QUASHES GMADA'S NON-CONSTRUCTION CHARGE DEMAND, CALLS IT ARBITRARY, MISAPPLIED

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has quashed GMADA's demand for non-construction charges, holding that the authority arbitrarily applied a three-year construction condition to a plot governed by a five-year timeline under the Land Pooling Scheme. The court ruled that the retrospective demand from the subsequent purchaser — who had acquired the plot from the original buyer with departmental permission — was legally unsustainable. The Bench of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Vikas Suri observed the issue concerned a plot allotted under the Land Pooling Scheme, which required the initial allottee to raise construction within five years. The condition, however, was misapplied, suggesting that construction must be completed within three years of the initial allotment. This was incorrect both for the initial allottee and the current allottee — the petitioner. Elaborating, the Bench observed the policy stipulated that the three-year period for construction was to be applied if the plot was transferred to a new owner. But the interpretation was irrational and created an unfair situation where the new allottee was left without shelter. The initial allottee failed to build within five years.

## CHANDIGARH COURT RESTRAINS PUNJAB KINGS OWNERS FROM ALTERING BOARD COMPOSITION AMID DISPUTE

**Diary Times Desk :** A fresh controversy has emerged in KPH Dream Cricket Private Limited, as the Chandigarh court has restrained Mohit Burman, Ness Wadia, and Preity Zinta from altering the composition of Board of Directors until April 19. The court has passed an interim order in a petition filed by another director, Karan Paul, while issuing notices to the respondents to file a reply on the next date. Karan Paul holds a 6 per cent shareholding in the company and has been a director on Board of Directors since January 16, 2009. The other directors include Mohit Burman, who holds 48 per cent, Ness Wadia with 23 per cent, and Preity Zinta with 23 per cent shares in the company. Karan Paul stated that all directors are bound by Articles of Association (AOA) of the company. He expressed concerns about a grave and imminent threat that Mohit Burman, Ness Wadia, and Preity Zinta are trying to take control of the company. Given the circumstances, he requested that pending arbitration proceedings, the respondents be restrained from appointing any person as an Additional, Non-Executive, or Independent Director of the company.



## HARYANA SLAPS 'NO WORK, NO PAY' ON CONTRACTUAL STAFF FOR STRIKE IN 2024

**Diary Times Desk :** The Nayab Singh Saini government today cracked the whip on contractual employees, who had gone on strike seeking the regularisation of their services from July 20 to August 3, 2024, by invoking the principle of "no work, no pay" against them. An order of the Human Resources Department, issued on behalf of the Chief Secretary, said the striking contractual employees would not be paid any remuneration for the strike days. However, taking a liberal view, the government has decided not to effect any break in their service. Thousands of contractual employees had gone on strike demanding the regularisation of their services last year. The employee organisations' sustained campaign resulted in relief for the contractual staff with the Haryana Assembly passing the Haryana Contractual Employees (Security of Service) Bill, 2024, late last year allowing the contractual staff, engaged on a contract, ad hoc or outsourced basis through the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam, to work till the age of superannuation.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT: AIR HOSTESS WANTS STRICT ACTION AGAINST MEDANTA STAFF

**Diary Times Desk :** The FIR lodged in the case of sexual assault of an air hostess at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram states that nurses noted blood right after the victim was assaulted, but passed it off as menstruation. 'The Diary Times' has a copy of the FIR. The air hostess, belonging to Kolkata, stated that she was admitted to the hospital around 10 pm on April 5 by her husband. She was kept on a ventilator in the ICU on the second floor. On April 6, around 9 pm, two nurses changed her clothes and bed sheet, when she heard a man's voice. The victim, who was in a semi-conscious state, said the man asked for inventory from the nurses and they started giving details. "I heard that the man asked the sister about the size of my waistband and said he will check it himself. A ventilator pipe was inserted in my mouth and my hands and legs were tied at the time," she stated, giving details of the assault. The man probed her private parts under the sheet. The nurses told her that he had taken the measurements and went away. "Soon after, a sister came and asked why there was blood on the sheet since it had just been changed. The other sister said maybe my periods had started but was probably afraid and did not tell anyone anything," she said in her complaint.



## CHARGESHEETING RAHUL GANDHI, SONIA PLOY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM REAL ISSUES: HIMACHAL CONGRESS

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and state Congress president Pratibha Singh today alleged that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi had been named in the chargesheet in the National Herald case merely to divert the attention of people from real issues like inflation, unemployment and social unrest in the country. Sukhu led the Congress' protest outside the Enforcement Directorate's office against the inclusion of the names of Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi in the chargesheet. He said that it was an attempt to gag Rahul Gandhi who speaks for the poor and deprived. "Rahul Gandhi speaks for the poor and deprived. He speaks fearlessly against Narendra Modi. That's the reason why the central agencies are trying to suppress his voice," the Chief Minister said amidst sloganeering against the Central Government. Sukhu questioned the functioning of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and said that there was nothing against the Gandhis in the case and it would eventually be proved in the court of law. "The Gandhi family lives in an honest and transparent manner. The state government and the party are firmly behind the family," he added.

## SJVNL PAYS RS121- CR INTERIM DIVIDEND TO GOVT

**Diary Times Desk :** Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVNL) has paid an interim dividend of Rs 121.33 crore to the Himachal Pradesh Government for financial year 2024-25. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Director (Personnel), SJVNL, handed over the dividend cheque to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in Shimla today. Sharma said that for the 2024-25 fiscal year, the company had declared an interim dividend of Rs 451.93 crore. "The Central Government and public shareholders have been paid Rs 248.55 crore and Rs 82.05 crore, respectively," he added. The state government holds 26.85 per cent share in the firm, while the Central Government has 55 per cent share. The remaining 18.15 per cent share is with the public. Sharma said that the SJVNL was implementing 95 power projects in the country and Nepal.

## HEAVY RAIN, THUNDERSTORM IN PARTS OF HIMACHAL; CHILD DIES AS TREE FALLS ON HUT

**Diary Times Desk :** Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and hailstorms lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh, uprooting trees and disrupting power supply as several areas in Shimla remained without electricity for hours. Several trees fell on huts of the migrants due to heavy storm at night in Hamirpur's Barsar. An eight-year-old child, identified as Abhishek Kumar, died after a tree fell on a hut while he was sleeping inside. The child was taken to Barsar Civil Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. Gondla in Lahaul and Spiti received 1 cm of snow since Wednesday evening. Seobagh in Kullu district recorded the highest rainfall of 28.8 mm, followed by Lahaul-Spiti's Kukumseri 23.8 mm and Narkanda 18 mm, the MeT office reported on Thursday. Horticulture and Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi said hailstorms were witnessed in several areas, causing damage to crops like apple and other fruits, which were in flowering stage. The loss is being estimated, he added.



## GOVERNMENT BOARDS, CORPORATIONS TO RUN 240 UNSOLD LIQUOR VENDS: MINISTER

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Government has decided to run 240 un-allotted liquor vendts in five districts through its boards and corporations to avoid revenue loss to the public exchequer. "The state government has decided to run 240 liquor vendts that could not be allotted during an open auction to prevent losses to the exchequer. Despite repeated efforts, the prices being offered at the auction were 20 per cent to 30 per cent less than the base price," said Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan here today. He chaired a meeting of the Board of Directors of the General Industries Corporation (GIC) and the Himachal Pradesh Small Industries Development Corporation (HPSIDC) to give approval to the two public sector undertakings to run these vendts after the completion of formalities. He said that these vendts, some of these in rural areas, could not be sold in the open auction as the contractors felt that they were economically unviable. The contractors quoted prices that were 20 per cent to 30 per cent less than the base price, he added. "The Cabinet has decided that the boards and corporations of the state government will run the 240 liquor vendts that could not be sold in the auction in five districts.

## GOVT TO SEEK HIGHER ALLOCATION FROM FINANCE COMMISSION

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Government will seek the allocation of additional funds from the Finance Commission for preserving its forest wealth, which is providing invaluable ecological services worth Rs 90,000 crore to the country. An additional memorandum to be submitted to the Finance Commission will be based on a report of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Hyderabad, which is likely to be received next week. The state government had submitted a memorandum to the 16th Finance Commission when it visited Himachal on June 25, 2024, but Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was keen to personally meet the Chairman of the NITI Aayog to submit the additional memorandum to seek enhanced Central assistance. The report of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Hyderabad, has assessed the value of ecological services that the entire country gets from forests in Himachal. There is a complete ban on the felling of trees in Himachal and the thrust is on enhancing the forest cover, which prevents floods and soil erosion and gives many other benefits. The state government has already urged the Central Government to remove the cap on the loan.

## MANDI DC OFFICE BUILDING VACATED AFTER BOMB THREAT

**Diary Times Desk :** Panic gripped Mandi city today after a threat to blow up the Deputy Commissioner's office was received via an email. The alarming message, sent on the official email of the Deputy Commissioner, Mandi, claimed that the office premises would be blown up with a bomb. The local administration and the police immediately swung into action. The Deputy Commissioner's office complex was swiftly evacuated and a high-security cordon was put in place. Bomb disposal squads from Mandi as well as teams summoned from nearby districts of Hamirpur, Kullu and Bilaspur conducted an extensive search of the area. Sniffer dogs, SDRF teams and other security forces were deployed there throughout the day and they thoroughly checked every corner of the sprawling complex, including the SP office, court buildings and the district library. As a precautionary measure, the police sealed the area and prohibited public movement. Staff and visitors were moved out of the premises, bringing daily operations to a standstill. Legal proceedings were also affected as judges and lawyers were barred from entering the court complex.



## IPL 2025: WILL JACKS JACKS' ALL-ROUND SHOW POWERS MI TO CRUCIAL WIN OVER SRH

**Diary Times Desk** : An all-round show from Will Jacks powered MI to a four-wicket win over SRH in their IPL 2025 match. Jacks took 2/14 as MI restricted SRH to 162/5 in 20 overs, before top-scoring with a 26-ball 36. Earlier, a late blitz from Heinrich Klaasen and Aniket Verma powered SRH to 162/5. SRH were struggling at 115/4 at the end of the 17 over before Klaasen shifted the momentum, slamming Deepak Chahar for 21 in the 18th over. Jasprit Bumrah dismissed Klaasen to pull SRH back slightly, but Aniket and SRH captain Pat Cummins combined to collect 22 runs off the final over from Hardik Pandya. For SRH, Abhishek Sharma top-scored with a 40.



## IPL 2025: ROHIT SHARMA DISTRAUGHT AFTER THROWING AWAY GOOD START AGAINST SRH

**Diary Times Desk** : Mumbai Indians' opening batter Rohit Sharma was seen distraught after his dismissal against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in Match 33 of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) on Thursday, April 17 at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. The MI star looked in good touch during his brief stay out in the middle as he played some gorgeous shots in the middle leaving the crowd on the edge of their seats. However, his innings came to an end on 26 (16) after he hit a low full toss straight to Travis Head at cover. Rohit hit three massive sixes during his brief knock but failed to convert his start into a big score. Following his dismissal, he looked distraught as he made his way back to the pavilion realising he missed out a golden chance to bounce back to form. During his fiery cameo, Rohit also completed 100 sixes at the Wankhede Stadium. It was the first score of over 20 runs in the ongoing season for Rohit Sharma, who started the tournament with a four-ball duck against Chennai Super Kings (CSK). The veteran opener has looked far from his best in the ongoing season, having scored 82 runs from six innings at an average of 13.66 and a strike rate of 143.85.

## SC MULLS INQUIRY PANEL FOR 'DEEPER' PROBE INTO AFFAIRS OF SPORTS BODIES

**Diary Times Desk** : The Supreme Court on Thursday hinted at appointing an inquiry commission for a "deeper probe" into the affairs of sports associations in the country and said aside from sporting activities "all kinds of things are happening" in them. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh was hearing a plea of two national Kabaddi players in which it had previously sought views for a CBI probe into the affairs of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) and the International Kabaddi Federation. "We are inclined to appoint a commission of inquiry for a deeper probe into the affairs of Kabaddi associations because other than sports activities, all kinds of things are happening in these bodies. We also intend to then expand the scope of commission of inquiry to other sports associations," the bench said. Additional solicitor general K M Nataraj, appearing for the Centre, said in pursuant to the bench's order of February 4, the players were sent for the tournament in Iran, where they emerged triumphant and won gold.

## ABHISHEK SHARMA, NITISH REDDY, HARSHIT RANA LIKELY TO GET BCCI'S CENTRAL CONTRACT

**Diary Times Desk** : The much-awaited central contracts for the Indian team will be released soon and barring a few, there are unlikely to be too many surprises in the list. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) may make some concessions for a few promising players who may not totally qualify to earn the central retainership. Top of the list could be Abhishek Sharma, the promising left-handed batter from the Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) teams. He is one of the finest cricketers in world cricket as well as the ongoing IPL currently. He is expected to be included in Grade C, that assures annual retainership of INR 1 crore. As per the BCCI standard policy, "athletes who meet the criteria of playing a minimum of three Tests or eight ODIs or 10 T20Is within the specified period will automatically be included in Grade C on a pro-rata basis." Abhishek has featured in 17 T20Is in all and has played in 12 T20Is in the specified period, which is generally from October to September.

## RCB SUES UBER OVER VIRAL 'HYDERABADDIE' AD FEATURING TRAVIS HEAD

**Diary Times Desk** : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), an IPL team, approached the Delhi High Court against Uber over an advertisement featuring Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) cricketer Travis Head that shows him pulling off pranks on rival teams. In its petition, RCB alleged that Uber disparaged its trademark in its YouTube ad, "Baddies in Bengaluru ft. Travis Head". The High Court has reserved its order on RCB's application seeking an interim injunction, meaning a restraining order. RCB has objected to the reference "Royally Challenged" Bengaluru used in the ad. The IPL team's lawyer argued that Uber Moto, being the commercial sponsor of SRH, couldn't have used RCB's trademark or a deceptively similar variant. Uber, calling the suit "preposterous", said the ad was covered by commercial free speech, and it cannot be enjoined. In the ad to promote Uber Moto, Travis Head, referred to as 'Hyderabadie'.

## ABHISHEK NAYAR, T DILIP TO EXIT AS BCCI DOWNSIZES INDIA SUPPORT STAFF FOR ENGLAND TOUR

**Diary Times Desk** : The Indian team will travel with a downsized support staff for the upcoming tour of England. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided not to renew the contracts of assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, fielding coach T Dilip, and strength and conditioning (S&C) coach Soham Desai. Their contracts were till June. There will be no new faces, barring Adrian le Roux. The South African will be the new S&C coach, as a replacement for Desai. Other members of the Gautam Gambhir-led support staff - batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, bowling coach Morne Morkel and assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate - will continue. Ten Doeschate will also assume the responsibilities of fielding coach following T Dilip's departure. The changes have largely come on expected lines. Cricbuzz has often reported previously that the positions of two coaches are in danger following Gautam Gambhir's growing influence within the Indian team setup. Initially, Gambhir aligned with the team's existing preferences, but after a couple of setbacks during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia, he adopted a more assertive and proactive approach.

## IPL UMPIRES TIGHTEN BAT CHECKS AFTER SPIKE IN DEFAULTERS

**Diary Times Desk** : During a weekly review meeting of IPL umpires held last week, it was decided that bats of all batters will undergo a gauge test before they begin their innings. The bats of the openers will be tested by the fourth umpire before they take the field, while the bats of other incoming batters will be checked by the on-field umpires. This is a significant change from the earlier practice, which involved the fourth umpire testing the bats of players inside the dressing room a day before the match. There was a loophole that could be exploited with such a check, allowing batters to bring in a different bat on match day while having the other bats checked in the gauge test. The decision mid-way through the tournament was triggered due to a sudden surge in the number of defaulters this season. It is understood that there was also rampant scepticism across teams that some of the opponent batters were using bats bigger than mandated, especially at the meat of the blade. On Tuesday, during the clash between Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders in Mullanpur, two days after the on-field gauge-test was put in to practice, the bats of Sunil Narine and Anrich Nortje were found to have failed the gauge-test. As per the existing law, the blade of the bat shall not exceed the following dimensions: width 4.25 inches, depth 2.64 inches and edges 1.56 inches.