

ANURAG THAKUR

NATIONAL HERALD ‘SCAM’ IS A NEW CHAPTER OF CONGRESS ‘MODEL OF CORRUPTION’: ANURAG THAKUR

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Union Minister and BJP MP Anurag Thakur said on Friday (April 18, 2025) that the National Herald case, in which the Enforcement Directorate recently filed a charge sheet making accusations of money laundering against senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, was “another chapter in the Congress model of corruption”.

At a press conference, Mr. Thakur alleged that the Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States had funnelled money to the National Herald through advertisements.

“On what grounds are these advertisements being given? Instead of waiving the loans of 1,000 shareholders of AJL, the Congress formed a new company whose shareholders were two former presidents of the Congress, and that company waived off the loan of ₹90 crore by paying only ₹50 lakh, so that property worth ₹2,000 crore could be grabbed,” he alleged.

“Is a political party permitted to extend loans to a company? And if so, was any interest charged on the amount? Moreover, the National Herald is no longer a daily newspaper, it currently functions as a weekly publication,” he said. Asking whether the National Herald was even being printed or if any journalist was actively working with it currently, he wondered why the Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States were providing funds to it in the form of government advertisements. “Prominent daily newspapers with multiple editions across various districts receive barely any funding, while this weekly paper, National Herald, is handed a fortune.



CONGRESS

CONGRESS LAUNCHES SAMVIDHAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME AHEAD OF BIHAR ELECTION TO CONNECT WITH OPPRESSED



**Diary Times Desk :** Ahead of the Bihar Assembly election slated later this year, the Congress on Friday launched ‘Samvidhan Leadership Programme’, with party leader Rahul Gandhi urging people to unite and participate in it to ensure social justice and equal participation of the deprived sections.

Gandhi said justice will remain incomplete unless the real share and participation of the deprived classes is ensured. “If you are a woman, Dalit, Mahadalit, OBC, EWS, Pasmanda, Minority community, or lead any of these communities, join our ‘Samvidhan Leadership Programme’,” he said in a post on X.

“Come together to strengthen your fight to protect your rights, social justice through caste census, and your participation.

“It is time to unite and raise our voice strongly,” Gandhi said while using the hashtag “WhiteTshirtMovement”.

According to the programme’s website, individuals will work as community organisers and mobilisers in their respective areas and districts of Bihar.

“They will proudly wear white T-shirts and be at the forefront – organising, educating and leading the movement. They will ensure that the dignity, rights and voices of the oppressed communities are not just heard – they are voiced loud and clear,” the programme says.

This programme is a platform to organise and develop leadership capacity of people committed to social justice and constitutional values, according to the party. “Our aim is to bring forth a new generation of leadership from women, Mahadalit, OBC, Pasmanda, Dalit, OBC, minority and EWS communities.



## VICE-PRESIDENT DHARKHAR'S HARSH STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT DIVIDES LEGAL LUMINARIES

**Diary Times Desk :** A day after Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar severely criticised the Supreme Court's recent verdict that set a three-month deadline for the President to decide on Bills reserved by Governors for her assent, legal luminaries were divided on his remarks. Raising serious concern over the Supreme Court ruling, Dhankhar had on Thursday said, "We cannot have a situation where you (the SC) issue directives to the President and on what basis? However, former Union Law Minister and Rajya Sabha Kapil Sibal joined the issue, terming the Vice-President remarks as "unconstitutional". "I have never seen any Rajya Sabha Chairman make political statements of this nature," Sibal said. "Everyone knows that the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair is in between. He or she is the Speaker of the House, not the Speaker of one party. They also don't vote, they only vote when there is a tie. The same is with the Upper House. You are equidistant between the Opposition and the ruling party," Sibal said. "Everything you say must be equidistant. No Speaker can be the spokesperson of a party. I don't say that he (Dhankhar) is, but no Speaker in principle can be the spokesperson of any party. If it appears so, then the dignity of the Chair is lowered," Sibal added.



## AMIT SHAH ASKS HIDING NAXALS TO SURRENDER, JOIN MAINSTREAM

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asked all underground Naxals to surrender as soon as possible and join the mainstream, saying the government is determined to free the country from the scourge of Naxalism before March 31, 2026. Shah also said that CoBRA commandos and Chhattisgarh Police have arrested 22 notorious Naxals with modern weapons and explosive materials in different operations in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. He said that 11 Naxals have also surrendered in the Badesetti panchayat of Sukma due to which the area has become completely Naxal-free. "I appeal to the hiding Naxal to lay down their arms as soon as possible and join the mainstream by adopting the surrender policy of the Modi government. We are determined to free the country from the scourge of Naxalism before March 31, 2026," Shah wrote on X. In another post, the Home Minister said 22 Naxals have surrendered in Sukma, taking the total number of surrendered Maoists to 33

## FOUR DECADES AFTER RAKESH SHARMA, INDIAN ASTRONAUT SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA SET FOR SPACE TRAVEL IN MAY



**Diary Times Desk :** Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is set to travel to the International Space Station next month as part of an Axiom-4 mission, four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic spaceflight on-board Russia's Soyuz spacecraft, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Friday. Singh made the remarks after reviewing the work of the Department of Space and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) here. "Group Captain Shukla's journey is more than just a flight – it's a signal that India is stepping boldly into a new era of space exploration," Singh said. ISRO Chairman V Narayanan made a presentation on various upcoming space missions. ISRO is set to launch the NISAR satellite – developed jointly with NASA – in June on board the GSLV-Mark 2 rocket, Singh said, adding that in July the space agency will put in orbit BlueBird Block-2 satellites of US-based AST SpaceMobile Inc. using the heavy-lift LVM-3 rocket. Singh said Group Captain Shukla's mission, scheduled for May, marks a milestone in India's expanding international space collaborations.

## BENGAL GOVERNOR DEFIES MAMATA, MEETS RIOT VICTIMS; NHRC, NCW TEAMS VISIT MALDA RELIEF CAMPS

**Diary Times Desk :** Teams from the NHRC and the NCW on Friday visited Malda relief camps to meet Murshidabad riot victims, even as West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose defied Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's appeal to defer his visit and interacted with the displaced, prompting the TMC to allege political provocation. During the Governor's visit, inmates of the Parlapur High School relief camp in Baishnabnagar, Malda, where few hundreds have taken shelter since the April 11-12 clashes, staged protests alleging "police-imposed censorship, denial of access to visitors and inhumane living conditions". "This camp feels worse than a prison. Police are not allowing us to meet anyone and narrate our ordeal," a camp resident told reporters. Bose, who left for Malda this morning despite a request from the CM to postpone his trip "in the interest of maintaining calm," said he wanted to independently verify ground reports.



**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
19-04-2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





## HIMACHAL NEWS: LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FIND A WAY TO WITHDRAW SHANAN PROJECT

**Diary Times Desk :** Former CM and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the current government of Punjab is a part of the India Alliance. Therefore, the state government should find a way to take back the Shanana Project from Punjab. Jairam said in Mandi that the lease period of the Shanana Power Project has been completed in the year 2024. After this, the Punjab government has no right over the project. If this project is returned to the state, it will increase the income of the state. He said that the people of the state are in favor of this project being withdrawn with immediate effect. The previous BJP government was also continuously trying for this, but at that time its lease period was not completed. Deputy CM of the state government Mukesh Agnihotri has roared from an open stage in Mandi that this project will not be given to Punjab under any circumstances. It is built on the land of Himachal. It will be taken back at all costs. The Shanana Power Project in Jogindernagar of Mandi district was built during the British rule. At the time of Punjab reorganization, this project was given to the Punjab government on a lease of 99 years. This lease period has been completed in the year 2024. Now the state government is going to start efforts to take back this project from Punjab. The matter has reached the Supreme Court.



## HIMACHAL: DUMMY ADMISSION GAME GOING ON IN MANY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, EDUCATION BOARD WILL INSPECT

**Diary Times Desk :** The game of taking dummy admission is going on in many schools of Himachal Pradesh. The admission of the child is being shown in the school, while he is taking coaching in coaching centers. The board management is receiving complaints of this dummy admission, after which the board management also became alert. It is planning to cancel the recognition of schools giving dummy admission. At the same time, CBSE is also investigating the schools regarding this dummy admission. According to the information, the Himachal Pradesh School Education Board management is receiving complaints in the board office through phone and other means that dummy admissions are being done for students in some institutions of the state. The student has taken admission in an educational institution, while at the same time he is taking coaching in a coaching center at another place. In such cases, the CBSE board is investigating the educational institutions affiliated to them in this regard. If it was found in the investigation that dummy admission has been done by the institutions, then the affiliation of the institutions will be canceled.

## HIMACHAL: CM SUKHU SAID- SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH LESS NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN URBAN AREAS WILL BE MERGED

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that senior secondary schools in urban areas of Himachal Pradesh with low number of students will be merged. While reviewing the functioning of the education department in the secretariat, the Chief Minister also directed for rationalization of other schools. In the state cabinet meeting held recently, the Chief Minister and Education Minister have been authorized to take a decision to merge schools and colleges. While chairing the review meeting, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that senior secondary classes running in government schools under urban local bodies will be made co-educational. Such separate schools with boys and girls will be merged. He said that the state government will rationalize those schools where enrollment is low and another school of similar level is functioning nearby. Education Minister Rohit Thakur, Education Secretary Rakesh Kanwar.

## HIMACHAL: RS 193.75 CRORE ALLOCATED FOR TWO CRITICAL CARE BLOCKS, FIVE DISTRICT INTEGRATED PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh government is strengthening the health infrastructure to provide accessible and quality health services to the people. In this direction, the government has allocated Rs 193.75 crore for the establishment of two Critical Care Blocks (CCB) and five District Integrated Public Health Laboratories (DIPHL) in the state. This information was given by the spokesperson of the state government. Recently, the State Cabinet has approved the establishment of a 50-bed Critical Care Block (CCB) at Primary Health Center (PHC) Swahan under Regional Hospital Bilaspur and a 50-bed CCB at Civil Hospital Rohru in Shimla district. It will have advanced medical infrastructure including emergency services, Intensive Care Units (ICU), High Dependency Unit (HDU), isolation beds, dialysis units, labor rooms, operation theaters and point-of-care laboratories. Each CCB will be attached to the existing district hospital and will function as a regular facility under normal circumstances.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: DAMAGE TO APPLE CROP DUE TO STORM AND HAILSTORM WILL BE ASSESSED, PRODUCTION MAY DECREASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The apple crop in Himachal has suffered heavy losses due to storm and hailstorm. The state government has directed the Revenue Department to assess the damage to the apple crop. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi has issued instructions to the Revenue Department in this regard. The apple crop has suffered heavy damage in four districts of the state, Shimla, Kinnaur, Mandi and Kullu. Within a month, the District Deputy Commissioner will assess the damage to the apple crop and submit a report to the government. The government has directed to assess the damage to the plants and the damage to flowering separately. The damage will be assessed by classifying it into three categories, partial, moderate and severe. During the assessment of damage, the damage to apple plants, breaking of branches, falling of trees, damage to flowering will be assessed. Different assessments will be done on the basis of the variety of apple. The damage will be assessed on the basis of the total number of plants in the orchard and the number of affected plants. Along with the assessment of damage, the decline in apple yield will also be estimated. The amount of estimated loss will be decided on the basis of the assessment report.

## HIMACHAL: BUILDING OWNERS WITHOUT MAP PASS WILL HAVE TO RETURN ELECTRICITY SUBSIDY, BOARD TAKES STRICT ACTION

**Diary Times Desk :** In Himachal Pradesh, the owners of buildings constructed without getting the map passed will now have to pay the arrears of electricity bills at the highest slab (fixed rate) of domestic rates. The Electricity Board has tightened the noose on such consumers who have not submitted the NOC (No Objection Certificate) of the map of the buildings from the city and urban bodies for electricity connection for the last three years. According to the new tariff of the board, now the subsidy amount received by these consumers till April 1, 2024 will be taken back. The amount of subsidy arrears will be recovered from them. In fact, before the year 2022, to get electricity connection, it was necessary for the consumers to get the NOC of the map from the municipal bodies. In this, the consumers who did not have the NOC of the buildings. They did not get domestic connections, they used to get connections.

## HPBOSE: PASS PERCENTAGE LIKELY TO INCREASE IN CLASS 10TH AND 12TH THIS TIME, THERE WILL BE STEPWISE MARKING

**Diary Times Desk :** The pass percentage in the results of the 10th and 12th class annual examinations conducted by the Himachal Pradesh School Education Board in March is expected to be higher this time. The reason for this is the stepwise marking introduced in the board from this time. In this system, candidates get some marks for writing even a little bit of the answer to the question correctly. Due to this, it is expected that the pass percentage will be higher in the results to be declared next month. Stepwise marking has been introduced for the first time in the evaluation work. Due to stepwise marking, candidates will be given marks for writing even a few lines of the answer to any question correctly, whereas before, unless the answer to the question was completely correct, it was not considered correct. Due to this, the marking of the answer to that question was also zero sometimes, but during the evaluation of the answer sheets of this year's examination, this system has been abolished and stepwise marking has been started. It is expected that this time the pass percentage of the candidates will also be higher than in previous years.

BENGAL BJP EX-PRESIDENT  
DILIP GHOSH MARRIES PARTY  
COLLEAGUE RINKU  
MAJUMDAR AT 60

**Diary Times Desk :** Former West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh tied the knot with party colleague Rinku Majumdar in an intimate ceremony on Friday. Dressed in traditional Bengali wedding attire with a 'topor' on his head, Dilip Ghosh, along with his wife, appeared before the press following the rituals and sought people's blessings. "I thank everyone for their good wishes. I also thank Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has wished me. My personal life will have no bearing on my political career," he told reporters waiting outside his residence in New Town near Kolkata. Dilip Ghosh, 60, said that he decided to get married to fulfil his mother's wish. While he has been a bachelor till now, this is Majumdar's second marriage, and she has a son from the earlier one. Dilip Ghosh, known for his one-liners and quirky takes, has been a member of the RSS since his youth, and has served it in various roles across the country before becoming the state BJP president in 2015.

KEY GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENTS GET NEW  
HEADS IN BUREAUCRATIC  
RESHUFFLE

**Diary Times Desk :** Senior bureaucrat Arvind Shrivastava has been appointed as the new Revenue Secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Friday. Arvind Shrivastava, a 1994 batch Karnataka cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is currently working as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Arvind Shrivastava's appointment as Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, a Personnel Ministry order said. Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam has been named as Secretary, Department of Expenditure, it said. He succeeds Manoj Govil, who has been appointed as Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat. Vivek Aggarwal, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Culture. Aggarwal is currently Additional Secretary in the Department of Revenue. He is also holding the charge of Director, Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND). Other senior officers have been appointed to key central government departments as part of the bureaucratic rejig. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved.

KAPIL SIBAL'S "INDIRA GANDHI" REPLY TO  
JAGDEEP DHANKHAR'S PRESIDENT REMARK



**Diary Times Desk :** A series of pointed remarks by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar concerning the judiciary has prompted an equally sharp response from senior advocate and Rajya Sabha MP, Kapil Sibal. Last week, for the first time, the Supreme Court ordered that the President should decide on the bills reserved for her consideration by the governor within a period of three months from the date on which such reference is received. Mr Dhankhar claimed that the judiciary was overstepping its bounds by invoking Article 142 - a provision that empowers the Supreme Court to issue orders necessary to do "complete justice" in any matter before it. The Vice President described Article 142 as a "nuclear missile against democratic forces available to the judiciary 24x7". "We cannot have a situation where you direct the President of India and on what basis? The only right you have under the Constitution is to interpret the Constitution under Article 145(3).

RAIN BRINGS RELIEF FOR DELHI AMID  
SCORCHING HEAT

**Diary Times Desk :** Rain, accompanied by gusty winds, lashed parts of Delhi on Friday evening, bringing relief from the heat. Parts of the city, including central, south and west Delhi, witnessed rainfall in the evening. In its latest nowcast, the weather department said light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph), is very likely in several areas, including Burari, Rohini, Badli, Model Town, Karawal Nagar, Azadpur, Pitampura, Delhi University, Civil Lines, Dilshad Garden, Seemapuri, Mundka, Paschim Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Kashmere Gate, Seelampur, Shahdara, Vivek Vihar, Rajouri Garden, Patel Nagar, Red Fort, Preet Vihar, Buddha Jayanti Park, President House, Rajiv Chowk and ITO, as well as in certain parts of the National Capital Region (NCR). The city recorded a maximum temperature of 41 degrees Celsius, 4.2 notches above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The minimum temperature was recorded at 25.6 degrees Celsius, four notches above the season's average.

"DARKEST HOUR BEFORE DAWN": BENGAL GOVERNOR HEADS TO VIOLENCE-  
HIT MURSHIDABAD

**Diary Times Desk :** West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose has announced an official visit to violence-hit Murshidabad, declaring his intent to "impose peace at any cost." The Governor is set to begin a two-day ground-level assessment today, despite strong reservations from the state leadership, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "I want to go to Murshidabad," Mr Bose said in an interview with NDTV. "What transpired there is shocking. Such instances should never have happened. I want a reality check on the field. Peace must be restored - and it will be, at any cost." Mr Bose's statement, which comes just ahead of a National Commission for Women (NCW) fact-finding mission to the district, comes amid heightened tension and scrutiny. On Thursday, the Calcutta High Court heard a petition seeking an extension of the central forces' deployment in Murshidabad and the transfer of the probe to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The state submitted a report outlining an escalation of violence during anti-Waqf Act protests, stating that both civilians and police were attacked by mobs wielding deadly weapons.

UPI REMAINS GST-FREE:  
CENTRE CLARIFIES NO TAX  
ON DIGITAL PAYMENTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid circulating claims on social media, the Centre has firmly denied reports that it is planning to impose GST on UPI transactions over Rs 2,000. The Ministry has clarified that such claims are completely false, misleading, and baseless. There is currently a lot of discussion surrounding the imposition of GST on UPI transactions exceeding Rs 2,000. This news has captured the attention of various UPI user groups, including individual users and small business owners, causing significant speculation within the community. Following the buzz on social media, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs took to the social media platform X explaining the government's stand on charging GST on digital payments. It said UPI has revolutionised the way people in rural communities can make payments and receive funds, eliminating the need for physical cash. "The claims that the Government is considering levying GST on UPI transactions over ₹2,000.

TENSIONS FLARE AT MUMBAI HOUSING  
SOCIETY OVER FOOD, MARATHI-  
GUJARATI DISPUTE ERUPTS

**Diary Times Desk :** A heated dispute broke out between members of the Marathi and Gujarati communities at a residential complex in Mumbai over non-vegetarian food consumption, as per reports. The incident took place at the Sambhav Darshan Cooperative Housing Society in Ghatkopar. Ram Ringe, a resident of the society, alleged that his neighbour insulted him by calling him 'dirty' for consuming fish and meat. Following the altercation, Ringe approached the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) to report the alleged mistreatment. The situation escalated, and the Mumbai Police had to intervene on Thursday to prevent further tensions between the two communities. In response, an MNS leader who visited the housing society on Wednesday night issued a warning to members of the Gujarati community, stating that if they mistreat Marathi residents, there would be consequences. A viral video from the scene shows the MNS leader saying, "He thinks Marathi is dirty?"





**TRANS WOMEN TO BE SEARCHED BY  
MALE OFFICERS IN UK: REPORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** A police force in the UK has decided that male officers will now conduct searches of trans women in custody. This change follows a recent Supreme Court ruling regarding the definition of sex. The British Transport Police (BTP) announced this new "interim position", stating that trans individuals in custody will be searched according to their birth sex. As a result, trans women will be searched by male officers, and trans women officers will no longer be allowed to search female detainees. According to The Guardian, under the force's previous policy, officers had been told that anyone in custody with a gender recognition certificate would be searched by an officer matching a detainee's acquired gender. Judges in the UK's most senior court ruled unanimously on Wednesday that the legal definition of a woman in the Equality Act 2010 did not include transgender women who hold gender recognition certificates. A spokesperson for BTP said, "Under previous policy, we had advised that someone with a gender recognition certificate may be searched in accordance with their acquired sex."

**DEMOCRAT SENATOR UNDER FIRE FOR  
MEETING WRONGLY DEPORTED MAN IN  
EL SALVADOR**

**Diary Times Desk :** Democrat Senator Chris Van Hollen has come under the ire of the White House after the President of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, posted pictures on X of him meeting and shaking hands with an alleged MS-13 gang member, Kilmar Abrego Garcia. Mara Salvatrucha, also known as MS-13, is an international criminal gang that was formed in the 1980s in Los Angeles, California and is designated as a foreign terrorist outfit by the US. Garcia was deported to El Salvador last month but the US Supreme Court has held his deportation to be an "error". Yet, the Trump administration has refused to facilitate his return to the US. President Bukele shared three pictures where Garcia and Hollen can be seen talking, drinking and shaking hands in a restaurant. In the post, President Bukele has called the unidentified place a 'tropical paradise' of El Salvador where they can be seen "sipping margaritas". Senator Hollen is being heavily criticised by the Trump administration.

**TRUMP SOFTENS STANCE ON EU AFTER GIORGIA MELONI MEET: TRADE  
DEAL 100% POSSIBLE**

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump expressed confidence that a trade deal with the European Union is "100 per cent" possible following a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni at the White House on Thursday. Trump's bold declaration came amid ongoing tensions over trade tariffs, including a 20 per cent tariff he initially imposed on EU imports and later paused for 90 days. Despite his hardline rhetoric, Trump signalled a willingness to compromise. "There will be a trade deal, 100%," he insisted. "But it will be a fair deal." He also suggested that multiple trade agreements with other countries could follow soon, saying, "Everybody wants to make a deal. And if they don't want to make a deal, we'll make the deal for them." In remarks during their Oval Office meeting, Trump warmly welcomed Meloni and praised her leadership. "I do like her very much," he said, calling her "one of the real leaders of the world". He added, "We have a good relationship-together and as countries." The Italian prime minister echoed the sentiment, saying she was "sure" the two sides could reach an agreement and emphasising her broader vision: "The goal for me is to make the West great again, and I think we can do it together."

**CHINA'S WARNING TO US OVER PORT FEES  
MOVE: 'STOP WRONGFUL PRACTICES'**

**Diary Times Desk :** China on Friday hit out at the United States over the Donald Trump administration's plan to impose massive fees on China-linked ship visits to American ports, calling it "detrimental to all parties". "They drive up global shipping costs (and) disrupt the stability of global production and supply chains. They will not succeed in revitalising the US shipbuilding industry," foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said. The Chinese foreign ministry said, "Urge the United States to respect facts and multilateral rules and immediately stop wrongful practices." "China will take necessary measures to defend lawful rights and interests," Reuters quoted the statement as saying. Earlier, the Donald Trump administration said it was taking steps to impose levies on Chinese vessels docking at US ports, threatening to shake up global shipping routes and escalate the trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

**DEADLIEST US STRIKE IN YEMEN KILLS 74 AT  
OIL TERMINAL, HOUTHI SAY**

**Diary Times Desk :** U.S. strikes on Yemen's Ras Isa fuel terminal on the Red Sea coast have killed at least 74 people in the deadliest attack since the U.S. started its bombing campaign against the Houthis last year, according to the Houthi-run health ministry. U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the intensification of strikes last month in the biggest U.S. military operation in the Middle East since he took office in January. Washington has vowed to keep attacking the Iran-aligned Houthis until the group halts attacks on Red Sea shipping. Health ministry spokesperson Anees al-Asbahi said 171 people were injured in Thursday's strikes, according to preliminary figures, with rescue teams continuing efforts to search for victims. The U.S. military said the strikes aimed to cut off a source of fuel for the Houthi militant group. The port has a heavy military presence in addition to being a primary hub for fuel imports, Yemeni sources said. Among the dead were employees of Safer Oil Company, which operates the port, and the Yemen Petroleum Company.

**PORTRAIT OF A WOUNDED  
PALESTINIAN BOY WINS PRESS  
PHOTO OF THE YEAR**

**Diary Times Desk :** A striking portrait of a young Palestinian boy who lost both arms in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City has been named Press Photo of the Year. Photographer Samar Abu Elouf, who is also from Gaza, met nine-year-old Mahmoud Ajjour three months after an explosion severed one of his arms and mutilated the other. Ajjour and his family were evacuated to Doha, Qatar, where Abu Elouf is based, to receive medical treatment. "One of the most difficult things Mahmoud's mother explained to me was how, when Mahmoud first came to the realization that his arms were amputated, the first sentence he said to her was, 'How will I be able to hug you?'" Abu Elouf wrote in her accompanying notes on the image, which was taken for and published in The New York Times. The photo is a stark reminder of the long-term costs of the war in Gaza, which has killed tens of thousands and led to widespread destruction and displacement of its residents. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates about half of those killed are women and children. Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza was triggered by the deadly October 7 rampage by Hamas militants.

**READY TO FREE ALL  
REMAINING HOSTAGES IN  
RETURN FOR END TO GAZA  
WAR: HAMAS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Hamas wants a comprehensive deal to end the war in Gaza and swap all Israeli hostages for Palestinians jailed in Israel, a senior official from the Palestinian militant group said, rejecting Israel's offer of an interim truce. In a televised speech, Khalil Al-Hayya, the group's Gaza chief who leads its negotiating team, said the group would no longer agree to interim deals, adopting a position that Israel is unlikely to accept and potentially further delaying an end to the devastating attacks that restarted in recent weeks. Instead, Hayya said Hamas was ready to immediately engage in "comprehensive package negotiations" to release all remaining hostages in its custody in return for an end to the Gaza war, the release of Palestinians jailed by Israel, and the reconstruction of Gaza. "Netanyahu and his government use partial agreements as a cover for their political agenda, which is based on continuing the war of extermination and starvation, even if the price is sacrificing all his prisoners (hostages)," said Hayya, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We will not be part of passing this policy."



## WHY AMRITPAL SINGH'S DETENTION EXTENDED BY ANOTHER YEAR?

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab government has extended by one-year detention of pro-Khalistan activist and Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh under the National Security Act (NSA) in Dibrugarh Jail, Assam. This development has come as a surprise as the police did not extend the detention of his nine other co-accused in 12 FIRs lodged against them. Senior police officials said Amritpal was an exception because of some additional evidence that he continued to be a threat to the law and order of the state. The extension in one-year detention was made by the state home department on the recommendation of the Amritsar District Magistrate about the need to keep Amritpal under detention. The Magistrate's recommendation is based on the police and intelligence department's report. The decision was taken after careful deliberation by the state's Home Affairs and Justice Department, with the advisory board's recommendation. Amritpal Singh, the leader of the "Waris Punjab De" organisation, has been in custody since April 2023, following a high-profile manhunt. He, along with his associates, has been lodged in Dibrugarh Jail, Assam. The extension order, issued on June 3, 2024, ensures their continued detention until April 2025.



## ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S DAUGHTER TIES THE KNOT WITH IIT MATE SAMBHAV JAIN



**Diary Times Desk :** Lutyens Delhi on Friday hosted a VVIP wedding, with the daughter of Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal tying the knot with her college friend Sambhav Jain. Harshita Kejriwal and Sambhav met each other in the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, where both studied at the same time. Their families decided to keep the wedding and the pre-wedding celebrations a low-key affair. The wedding and the reception both took place today at Kapurthala House, which serves as the official residence of Punjab Chief Minister when he is in the National Capital. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann was among a select group of guests invited for the wedding which was mostly a private affair, though top AAP leaders were in attendance. Mann entered the venue with Kejriwal, signalling the intimacy between the two leaders. Jaimala in the evening was followed by an evening reception when guests were still pouring in.

## DRIED-UP TREES POSE THREAT TO STUDENTS ON PANJAB UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

**Diary Times Desk :** Dried-up trees tilting dangerously over benches at the Student Centre on Panjab University campus are posing threat to students and staff. Students fear that these trees may fall anytime in heavy rain and can be life threatening, like the mishap in 2022, when a 250-year-old tree fell on students, leaving one dead and many injured. The area comes under Panjab University construction office (horticulture division) and demands immediate action. "A proper audit should have been conducted by the authorities before the start of every new season. These dried-up trees are posing direct threat to those who sit beneath it to get some relief from the scorching sun," said Aditya, a student. Another student added, "A branch of this tree fell recently during light showers, but luckily no one was injured. Besides conducting a proper audit, demarcation of such trees should be conducted or some efforts to preserve or prune these should be initiated," said Aadil, another student.



## HAPPY PASSIA, THE MAN WHO TERRORISED PUNJAB FROM ABROAD, DETAINED IN US

**Diary Times Desk :** Happy Passia-- reportedly detained by the US security agencies on Thursday--has been the biggest headache for the Punjab Police in recent months as he was the alleged mastermind behind 16 targeted grenade attacks in the state. Originally known as Harpreet Singh from Passia village in Ajnala, he has emerged as a formidable challenge for the Punjab Police due to his extensive involvement in criminal and terrorist activities. A police official confirmed that he illegally entered US via-Mexico, the illegal human trafficking route in 2021. Earlier, he had escaped to the UK with the help of a fake identity in 2020. He stayed there for several months before he entered the US. A matriculate, Passia belonged an agriculturalist family, while his father had expired. His mother Bhopinder Kaur and a younger sister Kirandeep Kaur were arrested by police for allegedly sheltering criminals. In January, National Investigation agency (NIA) had announced Rs 5 lakh reward on him. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had also chargesheeted Passia along with his partner Harvinder Singh Rinda in a number of terror incidents, including the 2024 Chandigarh grenade attack case. Passia has been linked to at least 16 grenade attacks in Punjab, targeting police posts.

## FAILURE OF VASECTOMY DOES NOT IMPLY NEGLIGENCE: HIGH COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** Making it clear that the failure of sterilisation procedure cannot be presumed as medical negligence, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has set aside a Rs 1 lakh award granted by a lower appellate court to a couple whose fifth child was born nearly two years after a vasectomy. Reversing the findings of Kurukshetra Additional District Judge, Justice Nidhi Gupta of the High Court observed that the lower court had failed to consider crucial facts, including the doctor's express instructions to the man to abstain for three months post-operation, use protection, and undergo a semen analysis. "There is no proof brought on record that the plaintiff had complied with these directions," the court noted, while holding that the plaintiffs were unable to establish that there was no carelessness on their part. Justice Gupta observed: "A perusal of the record reveals that in a move to control the fast-rising fast rising population of India, vasectomy operations were incentivised by the government by offering payment". The Bench also took into account a pre-operative certificate that clearly stated there would be no liability in case of procedure failure. Referring to medical data, the court reiterated that vasectomy failure, though rare—with a rate ranging from 0.3 per cent to 9 per cent—did not automatically amount to medical negligence.

## ANOTHER DERA FOLLOWERS' RIOTING CASE FALLS FLAT, 19 ACQUITTED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** In yet another blow to the prosecution, a Panchkula court has acquitted 19 alleged Dera Sacha Sauda followers accused of rioting and attacking police after the conviction of Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh on August 25, 2017. The case is among several related to the Panchkula violence that have failed to yield convictions. Chief Judicial Magistrate Ajay Kumar acquitted the accused, citing lack of identification, insufficient evidence, and no corroboration of injuries or property damage. "When there is no proof available on the record regarding the alleged assault by the followers of Gurmeet Ram Rahim against the police party, then the story to the effect that some of the accused persons were carrying dandas and stones becomes doubtful," the judgment stated. The case was registered following a complaint by DSP Anil Kumar, who was deployed at the Sector 8 red light chowk in Panchkula along with DIG Sangeeta Kalia and Duty Magistrate Dr Sarita Malik.



## SCHOOLS WITH LOW ENROLMENT IN URBAN BODY AREA TO BE RATIONALISED: CM

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that senior secondary sections in government schools of the state located within the jurisdiction of urban local bodies would be made co-educational. The Chief Minister, while presiding over a meeting of the Education Department here, said that the state government would rationalise schools with low enrolment of students and where another similar level school within a manageable distance was available. Education Minister Rohit Thakur, Secretary (Education) Rakesh Kanwar and other senior officers of the Education Department attended the meeting.

## SUKHU MISUSED PUBLIC FUNDS TO GIVE ADVERTISEMENT IN NATIONAL HERALD, SAYS JAI RAM

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today criticised Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu over the alleged blatant misuse of public funds to promote the Congress-affiliated newspaper, National Herald. Thakur, while addressing mediapersons here, claimed that advertisements costing over Rs 2 crore given to National Herald and its sister publications by the state government were in violation of the established norms. Thakur alleged that the Chief Minister had approved advertisements to National Herald despite the financial distress in the state, where citizens were reportedly selling their belongings to afford medical treatment due to the ineffective implementation of schemes like Himcare. "While the people of Himachal struggle for basic healthcare, the state government is gifting crores of rupees to a Congress mouthpiece," he added. He said that the advertisements were not only excessive but also irregular. "In some cases, payments were made twice in one day. This was done in violation of the DAVP (Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity) norms through the Information and Public Relations Department," he alleged. Thakur called National Herald the "torchbearer of the Congress' corruption" and detailed the publication's historical association.

## NURPUR DISTRICT POLICE BUST DUBAI-BASED INTERNATIONAL DRUG RACKET, SIX ARRESTED

**Diary Times Desk :** The Nurpur district police have busted a Dubai-based drug racket with the arrest of six persons and seizure of Rs 1.2 crore cash, 1.93-kg gold and 99.45-gm silver jewellery. They have frozen five bank accounts with Rs 52.52 lakh that were opened by the main accused in the names of his relatives. As per the Nurpur district police, the main kingpins of this drug racket are Lakhvinder Singh and his son Vishal, alias Shallu, of Bhadroya that falls under the Damtal police's jurisdiction. Vishal had been arrested by the Nurpur police on February 1, 2023, with over 1 kg heroin and Rs 1.04 crore earned from drug trade. During trial, he was given bail by the state high court. Once out, he went absconding and allegedly flew to Dubai from where he has been allegedly coordinating with his father Lakhvinder Singh, who has established an international drug supply network. Initially, the Damtal police on October 27 last year had arrested Kanwal Jeet of Chheharta in Amritsar district with a commercial quantity of 262 gm heroin.



## FORECAST FAILURE: WEATHER DEPARTMENT CAUGHT OFF GUARD AS SQUALL LASHES HIMACHAL PRADESH

**Diary Times Desk :** A strong squall, with a wind speed of over 100 km per hour at some places, lashed Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday night, causing significant damage to property and crops in several areas. The squall was intense but the weather department had not issued a forecast about it. The department though issued an alert a couple of hours before the squall occurred. A senior MeT department official admitted that they could not issue an alert a day before the squall hit the state, as it happened due to an unforeseen weather event in and around Mandi district. "An unexpected formation of convection clouds in and around Mandi district and its merger with the cloud system coming from the Pakistan-Jammu-Chamba-Kangra side resulted into the formation of a squall line of 209 km. When the squall line is formed, the speed of winds rise significantly and the area falling in its way is affected," the official added. He said that the cloud movement from Pakistan to Jammu, Chamba and Kangra was on the expected lines and the department had already issued a yellow alert for thunderstorms in Chamba, Kangra and Kullu. "We had expected a light weather activity in these districts. As we had expected, the activity was dissipating as the clouds left Kangra," he added.

## 5,500 TRANSFORMERS DAMAGED IN KANGRA, CHAMBA, PEOPLE GO WITHOUT ELECTRICITY

**Diary Times Desk :** The storm that hit the Kangra region yesterday may have caused huge losses to government departments such as Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd (HPSEBL) and Jal Shakti. Lakhs of people went without power and water supply as electricity lines were damaged due to the high-velocity winds. Life was thrown out of gear in the district today, as most of offices were without power and water supply. Ajay Gautam, Chief Engineer, HPSEBL, Dharamsala, said that about 5,500 transformers in Kangra and Chamba districts were damaged due to the storm last night. Lakhs of people were without power due to the damage caused to transformers or transmission lines. The storm was so severe that 220 KVA lines were damaged. "We are trying to restore power as early as possible. The employees of the HPSEBL are working relentlessly to restore power supply. We hope that most of the transformers will be restored by tomorrow," he added. Sources said that the HPSEBL had suffered damage to its infrastructure to the tune of about Rs 2 crore due to the storm last night.



## TWO MINORS STAB HP NATIVE TO DEATH OVER RS 180, MOBILE PHONE IN CHANDIGARH

**Diary Times Desk :** A 35-year-old man from Himachal Pradesh was stabbed to death by two juveniles during a robbery attempt near a bus stop in Sector 43. His body was found around 7 pm on Wednesday. The police claimed to have cracked the case with the arrest of two juveniles within 12 hours after the murder. The victim, identified as Kaku, a resident of Kog village in Theog tehsil of Shimla district, had come to Chandigarh to visit his sister who lives in Sector 44. He was attacked while he was on his way to meet a friend. Kaku was found unconscious on the road behind the bus stop and rushed to the Government Medical Super-Speciality Hospital in Sector 16, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival. A murder case was registered at the Sector 36 police station. UT SSP Kanwardeep Kaur supervised the investigation conducted by SP (City) Geetanjali Khandelwal and ASP (South-West) Anurag Daru. The police detained two minors and recovered the victim's mobile phone and the knife used in the crime from them. The police said CCTV footage and technical surveillance helped them crack the case within 12 hours. Detained from the forest area in Sector 53, the juveniles said they had cornered.

RCB STAR SLAMS 3 SIXES IN A ROW AGAINST PUNJAB  
KINGS, LEAVES EVERYONE STUNNED

**Diary Times Desk :** Pressure to score quick runs and clever bowling by Punjab Kings restricted Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a disappointing 95 for nine despite Tim David's rollicking fifty in their IPL match that was pruned to 14 overs per side due to rain on Friday. The match started at 9.45 pm after a steady drizzle refused to fade away for a good part of the evening, and Kings' skipper Shreyas Iyer did not hesitate to bowl first. The decision proved right as Punjab bowlers plucked three wickets in the power play segment, which was curtailed to four overs because of the delayed start. Phil Salt started the proceedings with a crisp boundary but perished in the first over itself, trying to hammer Arshdeep Singh (2/23) out of the park and stumper Josh Inglis completed a good catch. Virat Kohli did not last long either, as Marco Jansen peddled 20 metres back to pull off a terrific catch off Arshdeep.



INDIA STAR'S POST FOR COACH  
ABHISHEK NAYAR GOES VIRAL  
AFTER BCCI SACKING

**Diary Times Desk :** Team India spinner Varun Chakravarthi posted on social media on behalf of senior national team assistant coach Abhishek Nayar after numerous media outlets reported that the BCCI had chosen to fire him. Following the team's dismal performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 and suspected dressing room leaks, sources also state that India's strength and conditioning coach Soham Desai and fielding coach T Dilip were fired. Chakravarthi shared an Instagram Story photo of himself and Nayar. As their three-year contracts with the national team came to an end, fielding coach T Dilip and strength and conditioning coach Soham Desai were also fired. India missed the chance to advance to the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 final at Lord's after suffering a heartbreaking 1-3 defeat to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25. According to sources, Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir expressed his displeasure with the players' performance in the fourth Test after the Melbourne Test was over.

UNREAL FEELING TO HAVE A STAND  
NAMED AFTER ME AT WANKHEDE  
STADIUM: ROHIT SHARMA

**Diary Times Desk :** An emotional India captain Rohit Sharma on Friday recalled his journey from standing outside the Wankhede Stadium as a young player to catch a glimpse of Mumbai Ranji Trophy stars to having a stand named after him at the iconic venue, terming it as an "unreal feeling". The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) had recently announced naming a stand after India's Test and ODI skipper Rohit along with former captain Ajit Wadekar and former BCCI president and ICC chairman Sharad Pawar. "No one dreams of things like this when they are just starting off playing cricket," said Rohit after being announced as the brand ambassador of the third edition of the T20 Mumbai League. Then he took a trip back in time, remembering being a starry-eyed budding player jostling to watch the stars of yesteryears. "I still remember those days when I used to stand outside (the) Wankhede Stadium just to enter.

CSK SIGN DEWALD BREVIS TO  
REPLACE INJURED GURJAPNEET

**Diary Times Desk :** Chennai Super Kings have signed young South African international Dewald Brevis for the remainder of IPL 2025. Brevis has been brought in as a replacement for pacer Gurjapneet Singh. They were able to sign the South African as the replacement since there was one overseas slot left in their roster. Even though Brevis had a base price of only INR 75 Lakh in the auction at the end of last year, CSK have signed him for INR 2.2 Crore. This is a significant coup for the five-time champions having signed one of the best young prospects in world cricket. Even though he has played only a couple of matches for South Africa so far, Brevis was already in the spotlight a few years ago, drawing comparisons with the legendary AB de Villiers. He had already played 10 matches in total for Mumbai Indians in the IPL and continues to represent them in MLC and SA20. Overall, the 21-year-old has already played 81 T20s and has a strike rate close to 145. He will come into the IPL on the back of some good form for his domestic side Titans, scoring consistently in both List A and first-class matches. He was in very good form in the SA20 as well earlier this year. Among the top 10 rungetters in the tournament, Brevis finished with the highest strike rate of 184.17. He will link up with a struggling CSK side that sits at the bottom spot with just two wins so far at the halfway mark.

ON HIS BIRTHDAY, KL RAHUL REVEALS  
DAUGHTER'S NAME, EVAARAH

**Diary Times Desk :** On KL Rahul's 33rd birthday, the star cricketer and his wife Athiya Shetty have revealed their daughter's name. They have named their daughter Evaarah, which means gift of God. The star couple shared a joint post to announce the name. The picture has all our hearts. In the picture, KL Rahul is seen holding his baby daughter while Athiya leans on. The caption on the picture read, "Our baby girl, our everything. Evaarah/ इवाराह ~ Gift of God." Anushka Sharma dropped a heart emoji in the comments section. Samantha Ruth Prabhu followed the suit. Pranutan, Harrdy Sandhu also sent love to the new parents. On her Instagram Stories, Athiya Shetty mentioned her daughter's name as Evaarah Vipula Rahul. She explained the use of different names - "Evaarah - meaning Gift of God. Vipula, in honour of her great nani and protector. Rahul, her papa." Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul welcomed their first child, a baby girl, on March 24. The new parents in the town shared a joint post to announce the happy news. Athiya and KL Rahul simply dropped a baby emoji in the caption. The comments section was swamped with congratulatory messages from celebrities. KL Rahul and Athiya Shetty shared some heart-melting pictures from their new pregnancy shoot last month.

SOURAV GANGULY INVITED  
TO JOIN TEACHERS  
PROTEST OVER SSC SCAM.  
HE SAYS "DON'T..."

**Diary Times Desk :** A group of teachers, who lost their jobs after a recent Supreme Court verdict on the WBSSC recruitment scam, went to Sourav Ganguly's house on Thursday to invite him to a march to the West Bengal state secretariat. However, according to a report by ABP Ananda, the former Indian cricket team skipper has turned down their invitation. The teachers went to Ganguly's residence in Kolkata to invite him for the march that will take on place on April 21 but according to the report, Ganguly responded - "Please don't involve me in politics". 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.

BABAR AZAM WILL BECOME  
A BIGGER PLAYER THAN  
VIRAT KOHLI: KARACHI  
KINGS OWNER

**Diary Times Desk :** Karachi Kings owner Salman Iqbal said that Babar Azam will become a bigger player than Virat Kohli when he returns to form. Babar hasn't had the best of times in international and domestic cricket. Currently playing for Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2025, Babar has scored only one run from two games at an average of 0.50. Mohammad Amir and Ben Dwarshuis have dismissed him thus far. The Kings' owner said that Babar will be compared with the likes of Viv Richards and Gary Sobers when he makes his comeback. "When Babar Azam makes a comeback again, he will be a bigger player than any other player in the world, including Virat Kohli. He will be matched with names like Gary Sobers and Sir Viv Richards," Iqbal said via ARY Podcast. Babar hasn't scored a hundred since his 151-run knock against Nepal in the Asia Cup 2023 match at the Multan Cricket Stadium.