

## PM MODI

## PM MODI TO EMBARK ON 2-DAY SAUDI ARABIA VISIT

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid volatile global economic and security situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a key two-day visit to Saudi Arabia — the nation which is a leading voice in the Islamic world. With this visit, the two countries are likely to boost ties in several sectors, including energy, defence and regional security.

In a press conference on the Prime Minister's visit, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was reflective of the substantive relationship between the two countries. The PM will be travelling to Saudi Arabia from April 22 to 23. The PM's engagements in the kingdom will be in Jeddah, where Misri said he will have a bilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman. The two leaders will also co-chair the second meeting of the strategic partnership council.

The two countries are also expected to sign several MoUs in sectors, including energy, with FS Misri saying that there could be a possible agreement on green hydrogen between the two countries. The PM will also visit a factory in Jeddah which employs Indians. The Indian community in Saudi Arabia is numbered at 2.7 million. Misri also pointed to trade and diaspora ties with Saudi Arabia, while also referring to strong India-Saudi Arabia energy partnership. The kingdom is India's fifth largest trade partner and India is Saudi Arabia's second largest trade partner. During FY 2023-24, India's imports from Saudi Arabia reached US \$31.42 billion and exports to Saudi Arabia were worth US \$11.56 billion. Major commodities of export from India to Saudi Arabia include engineering goods, rice, petroleum products.



## INDIA TO BRING CHEETAHS

## INDIA TO BRING 8 CHEETAHS FROM BOTSWANA, 4 OF THEM ARRIVING NEXT MONTH



**Diary Times Desk :** Eight cheetahs will be brought to India from Botswana in southern Africa in two phases, including four by May, officials have said. A release from the Madhya Pradesh government said this information was given by officials of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), who took part in a review meeting of the cheetah project in Bhopal on Friday in the presence of Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhopender Yadav and MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

"Efforts are underway to bring more cheetahs from South Africa, Botswana, and Kenya to India. Eight cheetahs will be brought to India in two phases. There is a plan to bring four cheetahs from Botswana to India by May. After this, four more cheetahs will be brought. At present, consent is being developed on an agreement between India and Kenya," the release quoted NTCA officials as saying.

In the meeting, NTCA officials informed that more than Rs 112 crore has been spent on the cheetah project in the country so far, of which 67 per cent has gone into cheetah rehabilitation in Madhya Pradesh, the release stated.

"Under Project Cheetah, cheetahs will now be relocated in a phased manner in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary. The sanctuary is adjacent to the border of Rajasthan, so an in-principle agreement has been reached between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to establish an inter-state cheetah conservation area," the release said. Special training is being given to "cheetah mitras" in Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary to enhance their capacity, it added.

In the meeting, forest officials informed that there are 26 cheetahs at Kuno National Park, including 16 in the open forest and 10 in the rehabilitation centre (enclosures).

11 KILLED, 11 INJURED AS FOUR-STOREY BUILDING COLLAPSES IN DELHI'S MUSTAFABAD

**Diary Times Desk :** Eleven persons, including three children, were killed and 11 others were injured after a four-storey building collapsed in northeast Delhi's Mustafabad area in the early hours of Saturday, officials said. According to a fire department official, a call regarding the building collapse was received at 2.50 am following which nine fire tenders-cum-rescue vehicles were rushed to Gali No. 1, Shakti Vihar in Dayalpur. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire services, Delhi Police and other volunteers carried out rescue efforts for over 12 hours at the site of the 20-year-old four-storey structure that collapsed in the Mustafabad area of the National Capital around 3 am. A senior police officer said the police received information about the building collapse around 3.02 am at Dayalpur police station. "Upon reaching the location, it was found that a four-storey building belonging to Tehsin had collapsed, reportedly trapping 22 individuals," he said. Fourteen persons were rescued and shifted to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, where doctors declared four of them brought dead, the police officer said. A police source said construction work in "two-three shops" on the ground floor could have led to the collapse.



SC TAKES EXCEPTION TO DUBAI COURT'S ORDER RESTRICTING TRAVEL OF MINOR CHILD IN MARITAL DISPUTE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has taken exception to a Dubai court's order restricting the travel of a minor child in a matrimonial dispute; calling it "atrocious" and "violative of human rights" Issuing notice on a habeas corpus plea filed by the child's father—a citizen of Ghana and living in Dubai, UAE—on the limited issue of visitation rights, a Bench led by Justice Surya Kant posted the matter for hearing on April 28. The Bench – which also included Justice N Kotiswar Singh – noted that imposing a travel ban by a court in a matrimonial dispute would virtually amount to "house arrest". "It was alleged that she (wife) was virtually being held in confinement. You secured an 'atrocious' order which was in complete violation of human rights. How can a court issue a travel ban on a child in a matrimonial dispute," the Bench told the petitioner's counsel on Thursday. The father alleged that his estranged wife.

NCW TEAM MEETS RIOT-HIT PEOPLE IN WEST BENGAL'S MURSHIDABAD



**Diary Times Desk :** A delegation of the National Commission for Women (NCW), led by its chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, on Saturday met riot-hit people in West Bengal's Murshidabad district and assured them that the Centre would take necessary steps to ensure their safety. The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), however, questioned the NCW's neutrality, accusing it of functioning as a "political wing of the BJP." During the visit, affected women shared their harrowing experiences from the recent communal violence, which claimed three lives. They demanded the establishment of permanent BSF camps in select areas and called for an NIA probe into the clashes. Rahatkar said, "I am dumbfounded by the agony these women are having to suffer. What they went through during the violence is beyond imagination." The NCW chief assured the victims that there was "no cause for worry" as the Centre is with you. "We have come here to see your plight. Please don't worry. The country and the commission are with you. Don't think that you are alone," Rahatkar told the victims at Betbona village.

INDIA, US TRADE TALKS FROM APRIL 23; PACT'S TERMS OF REFERENCE INCLUDE ABOUT 19 CHAPTERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Indian and US officials will hold three-day talks from April 23 in Washington for a proposed trade pact with terms of references (ToRs) covering around 19 chapters such as tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and customs facilitation, official sources said. The Indian official team is visiting the US to give further impetus to the negotiations in the 90-day tariff pause window and discuss these ToRs to iron out differences on certain issues before formally launching talks for the bilateral trade agreement (BTA). India's chief negotiator, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal, will lead the team for the first in-person talks between the two countries. Agrawal was appointed as the next commerce secretary on April 18. He will assume office from October 1. "Both sides will discuss the level of ambition. The ToRs will be further developed and discussed. What will be the pathway for talks?"



YOUR HOROSCOPE 20-04-2025

**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.





HP MINIMUM BUS FARE: MINIMUM BUS FARE IN HIMACHAL IS NOW RS 10, GOVERNMENT ISSUED NOTIFICATION

**Diary Times Desk :** The minimum bus fare in Himachal Pradesh has now become Rs 10. Despite opposition from all sides, the government has implemented the Cabinet's decision to increase the minimum fare. On Saturday, a notification was issued in this regard by Additional Chief Secretary Transport Kamlesh Kumar Pant. According to the notification, the State Transport Authority and all the Regional Transport Authorities of Himachal Pradesh will charge a minimum fare of Rs 10 for the first four kilometers instead of the earlier fixed Rs 5 for the first three kilometers in all stage carriage bus services in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The minimum fare of Rs 10 will be applicable for the first four kilometers. That means after boarding the bus, one will have to pay a fare of Rs 10 for traveling 4 kilometers. Earlier, the government had fixed a minimum fare of Rs 5 for a distance of 3 kilometers. The state government had decided to implement a minimum bus fare of Rs 10 in the cabinet meeting on April 5. This decision of the cabinet was strongly opposed by the opposition parties BJP and CPI(M) as well as the common people of the state. Due to which the government had put the notification of fare hike on hold. After 14 days, on Saturday, the government has issued its notification.



HP POLITICS: YOUTH CONGRESS PROTESTS OUTSIDE ED OFFICE, BJYM WORKERS ROAR AT CTO CHOWK

**Diary Times Desk :** The state Youth Congress on Saturday staged a sit-in protest in front of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in Chhota Shimla against filing of a false chargesheet in the National Herald case against senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Angry workers raised slogans and burnt an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Youth Congress also hung a banner of the BJP office on the gate of the Enforcement Directorate, Chhota Shimla. State President Chhatar Singh Thakur, while criticizing the ED, said that the case in which they have filed the chargesheet is beyond comprehension. National Herald is a newspaper owned by the Congress and no corruption of any kind has taken place in it. He alleged that the ED has become a puppet of the BJP government. The BJP is targeting the opposition, which is very unfortunate for democracy. The BJP is taking action against them with a feeling of revenge. The Congress is not going to be afraid of this and the people of the country are watching everything.

HIMACHAL: CM SUKHU SAID- WILL REQUEST THE CENTER TO START KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA VIA SHIPKI LA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal government will put up the matter of starting the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Shipki Pass in Kinnaur district before the central government. This was stated by Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu while chairing a meeting with Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, Lucknow at the Secretariat on Saturday. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has religious significance for people of Hindu, Jain, Buddhist religions. Thousands of pilgrims visit Kailash every year discharging the spiritual heritage. The CM said that pilgrims can enter Tibet through Shipki Pass, as it is a viable route. In the meeting, the CM said that the state government will urge the Center to establish Himachal Scout Battalion on the lines of Sikkim, Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, which will have a special quota for the local people of the border areas of the state.

HIMACHAL: PENDING BILLS OF CONTRACTORS AND HIMCARE SCHEME WILL BE PAID BY APRIL 30

**Diary Times Desk :** In Himachal, pending bills of contractors and Himcare scheme will be paid by April 30. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has given these instructions to the departments in a meeting with the officials of the Finance Department on Friday. Bills of contractors of Public Works, Jal Shakti and other departments have not been paid for about four months. While chairing a meeting with the Finance Department, the Chief Minister also directed to pay the pending bills of Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) Shimla, PGI Chandigarh, Tanda Medical College under Himcare scheme soon. He also asked the department to release the installment of the beneficiaries of Sahara Yojana. The Chief Minister said that the financial condition of the state is getting stronger due to the effective steps taken by the state government from time to time. Principal Secretary Finance Divesh Kumar, Special Secretary Finance Saurabh Jassal were also present in the meeting. It is worth mentioning that the contractors in the Public Works Department have liabilities of about 300 crores. Similarly, bills of 200 crores are pending in the Jal Shakti Department. Under the Himcare scheme, an amount of more than Rs 100 crore is to be paid.

HIMACHAL TOURISM: TOURISTS FLOCKED TO HIMACHAL ON WEEKENDS, OCCUPANCY IN SHIMLA CROSSED 70 PERCENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Due to increasing heat in the plains and weekend holidays, a large number of tourists are turning to Himachal to get some coolness. The cold valleys of the state have become crowded with tourists. On Friday, a large number of tourists from outside states turned to Himachal. This trend continued on Saturday as well. People from outside states are coming to Himachal to roam during the holidays. Let us tell you that due to three-day holiday in schools in other states, a large number of tourists are turning to Himachal by road. The occupancy in the hotels of the capital Shimla has reached more than 70 percent. Along with this, many hotels in the tourist places adjoining the city are also running packed. According to tourism businessmen, occupancy in the city is continuously increasing due to advance booking in hotels. The occupancy in hotels was up to 80 percent last weekend. Occupancy has also increased in the tourist places Kasauli and Chail of Solan district. While the occupancy in Kasauli is being reported to be up to 90 percent, this figure has reached more than 70 percent in Chail. The nearest and favourite places for tourists are Kasauli, Shimla, Manali.

FAITH: DEVOTEE OFFERED 40 LAKH RUPEES IN CHINTAPURNI TEMPLE, RECORD OF OFFERINGS IN THE COURT OF MOTHER BROKEN

**Diary Times Desk :** World famous Shaktipeeth Maa Chintapurni temple has received a cash offering of 48 lakh 33 thousand 294 rupees in one day. It is being claimed that this is the highest offering made in one day in the history of the temple. Out of this, only one devotee has offered an offering of 40 lakh rupees at the feet of Maa Chintapurni. According to the information, in the counting done on Friday, 500 rupee notes were taken out in 87 packets. Out of these, 80 packets were almost identical. It is being told that in the offering, a devotee put about 40 lakh rupees in the donation box of the temple. Everyone was surprised to see the devotee's immense devotion towards Maa Chintapurni. Acting temple officer and Tehsildar Premlal Dhiman said that in Thursday's offering, the temple trust has received an offering of 48 lakh 33 thousand 294 rupees. He told that this offering is spent on the facilities of the devotees. Even before this, many devotees have given big offerings in the temple, which include gold, silver and other precious items. Senior inspector Jeevan Kumar was also present during this time. He took stock of the counting of offerings and security. Earlier, the offerings in one day were around 25 lakhs.

HIMACHAL: HIMACHAL MAY GET MORE NH, MEETING IN DELHI ON 22ND; PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE PRESENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal may get approval for more new national highways. The state government has sent proposals to the central ministry to declare new national highways. To speed up the construction of roads in the state, a high-level meeting of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) is going to be held in Delhi on April 22. In this meeting, the Union Ministry of Surface Transport can make budget provision for Himachal. 238 km of roads are being constructed in different parts of the state. Top officials of the Public Works Department will attend this meeting. There are different criteria for construction of roads for hilly states. In such a situation, the Himachal government is expecting the release of budget from the Center. The state government is engaged in developing Himachal from the tourism point of view. The length of roads in the state is 2593 km.

"WE SHOULD SHUT  
PARLIAMENT IF...": BJP MP'S  
BIG REMARK ON SUPREME  
COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** The remarks against the Supreme Court just got a lot more edgier, angrier. First, it was Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. Now, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey. Mr Dubey, an MP from Godda in Jharkhand, launched a broadside against the Supreme Court. Words like "anarchy", "inciting religious wars" were thrown at the highest court of the land in the country by the BJP MP. Opposition Congress said attempts are being made to "weaken the Supreme Court". The comments follow Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's "Article 142 has become a nuclear missile against democratic forces, available to judiciary 24x7". The Vice President made the remarks after a Supreme Court judgment effectively laid down a deadline for the President and Governors to clear Bills. How can you give direction to the appointing authority? The President appoints the Chief Justice of India. The Parliament makes the law of this country. You will dictate that Parliament?... How did you make a new law? In which law is it written that the President has to take a decision within three months? This means that you want to take this country towards anarchy. When the Parliament sits, there will be a detailed discussion on this..." said Mr Dubey, appearing to raise questions of propriety and limits on judiciary's power.

MCD COMMISSIONER VISITS  
NORTHEAST DELHI BUILDING  
COLLAPSE SITE, STRUCTURAL  
SURVEY UNDERWAY

**Diary Times Desk :** The MCD has launched a structural survey of nearby buildings after a multi-storey residential building collapsed in northeast Delhi's Shakti Vihar area in the early hours of Saturday, leaving 11 people dead and 11 injured, according to a statement. MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar visited the site along with the deputy commissioner of the zone and other senior officials. The property, built on a plot of around 60 square yards, consisted of a ground floor and three additional storeys. "Prima facie, it was found that the structural design of the building did not adhere to the required load-bearing capacity," MCD said in a statement. The civic body said other buildings in the area could also be structurally unsafe. "It appears that other buildings in the area may also have structural issues and may not possess adequate load-bearing elements. In view of this, the MCD will carry out a survey in the area to identify such buildings and will take necessary action to seal them accordingly.

INDIA TEARS INTO YUNUS REGIME OVER HINDU  
LEADER'S KILLING IN BANGLADESH



**Diary Times Desk :** India has issued a strong diplomatic rebuke to Bangladesh following the kidnapping and killing of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a prominent Hindu minority leader in northern Bangladesh. In a sharply worded statement, New Delhi condemned the incident and accused the Muhammad Yunus-led Bangladeshi interim government of failing to protect its minority communities. "We have noted with distress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. "This killing follows a pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government even as the perpetrators of previous such events roam with impunity." The statement continued: "We condemn this incident and once again remind the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing excuses or making distinctions."

"BARBARIC, SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN  
AGAIN": GOVERNOR ON BENGAL  
WAQF VIOLENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Saturday condemned the violence in Murshidabad, calling it "barbaric," and said that such incidents should never happen again. Earlier today, he visited Dhuliyan to meet victims of the Murshidabad violence. "What we saw in the field is an ugly demonstration of degenerate human nature. What happened was barbaric, just vandalism. This should never happen again. People are in a state of panic... We should reestablish normalcy there, give people the confidence that there is somebody to protect them, and also take all steps to see that such things are warded off in future," Governor Bose told news agency ANI. He met the family members of a man and his son, who were killed after violence broke out during the protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act protests in Murshidabad. The bodies of the man and his son - Harogobindo Das and Chandan Das - were found in their house with multiple stab wounds.

CPI(M) WRITES TO  
JAISHANKAR, URGES HIM TO  
RAISE STUDENT VISA  
REVOCATION ISSUE WITH US

**Diary Times Desk :** Communist Party of India MP John Brittas on Saturday wrote to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, urging him to raise the issue of revocation of visas of Indian students with the US government at the "highest appropriate levels". In a letter addressed to the minister, Brittas also urged him to ensure that legal and consular assistance is provided to the affected by Indian Missions there. Brittas claimed a deeply distressing and increasingly alarming situation was being faced by hundreds of Indian students in the United States, whose visas have been revoked without prior notice or sufficient explanation. "What deepens the distress is the nature of the reasons cited for these visa revocations - many of which are astonishingly petty, disproportionate, and wholly incongruous with the gravity of the action taken," he alleged. He said students have reportedly faced cancellations for minor traffic violations such as speeding or misdemeanours.

'LADY DON' ZIQRA SENT TO 2-DAY  
POLICE CUSTODY IN DELHI TEEN  
MURDER CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** 'Lady don' Zikra, who was arrested by Delhi Police in connection with the murder of a 17-year-old boy in Delhi's Seelampur area, was sent to two days' police custody on Saturday. The Delhi Police told the court they needed her custody to arrest the other accused and to recover the weapon used in the crime. According to the police, Zikra's cousins, Sahil and Dilshad, attacked the boy, Kunal, with knives. Both accused are still on the run, and the police are searching for them. During questioning, Zikra told the police that her cousin Sahil was attacked in November last year by two boys, Lala and Shambhu, who were friends of Kunal. Kunal was also present at the time, but since he was a minor, his name was not mentioned in the FIR. Zikra and Sahil believed that Kunal was responsible for the attack, so they decided to take revenge. The Delhi Police have formed ten teams to trace and arrest the other accused. Officers are scanning CCTV footage to track their escape routes and are conducting raids in different parts of Delhi.

TOP COURT GUARDIAN OF CONSTITUTION: EX-JUDGE ON VICE  
PRESIDENT'S JUDICIARY REMARK

**Diary Times Desk :** Former judge Justice Kurian Joseph backed the verdict of the Supreme Court, as the guardian of the Constitution, on bills, while rejecting the Vice President's claim that the top court was acting like the "super parliament". In an exclusive interview with India Today, Justice Joseph asserted that the Supreme Court was correct to invoke Article 142 of the Constitution to pass the Tamil Nadu bills that were hanging fire with the governor for several months. "Article 142 gives powers to the Supreme Court to do complete justice. In this case, the top court was correct to invoke 142," the former Supreme Court judge said. Article 142, a rarely used provision, gives the Supreme Court extraordinary powers to issue orders to ensure "complete justice" in any matter.





**KFC OUTLETS ATTACKED IN PAK OVER  
US BACKING ISRAEL IN GAZA WAR, 160  
ARRESTED**

**Diary Times Desk :** Around 160 people have been arrested after mobs carried out 20 separate attacks on KFC restaurants, with one employee shot dead, the government said on Saturday. The American-founded fast food chain has become a target of protest and boycott calls by Islamist parties since the start of the war in Gaza, linking the brand to US support for Israel. Crowds have protested outside KFC repeatedly this month, breaking windows, setting fires and threatening staff. "A total of 20 incidents occurred across Pakistan with one fatality reported. The man was a staff member at KFC," deputy interior minister Talal Chaudhry told a news conference on Saturday, describing KFC as "under attack". The KFC employee was shot dead at a branch on the outskirts of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, on Sunday. A police official told AFP that it was unclear what the motive for the shooting was or whether it was linked to the recent protests. Chaudhry said that 145 people were arrested in Punjab province and 15 in the national capital Islamabad over the spate of attacks.

**OVER 140 KILLED, MANY MISSING  
AFTER BOAT CARRYING FUEL CATCHES  
FIRE IN CONGO**

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 143 people died and dozens more went missing after a boat carrying fuel caught fire and capsized in the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials said Friday. Hundreds of passengers were crowded onto a wooden boat on the Congo River in northwest DRC on Tuesday when the blaze broke out, according to Josephine-Pacifique Lokumu, head of a delegation of national deputies from the region. The disaster occurred near Mbandaka, capital of Equateur Province, at the confluence of the Ruki and the vast Congo river -- the world's deepest. "A first group of 131 bodies were found on Wednesday, with a further 12 fished out on Thursday and Friday. Several of them are charred," Lokumu told AFP. Joseph Lokondo, a local civil society leader who said he helped bury the bodies, put the "provisional death count at 145: some burned, others drowned". Lokumu said the blaze was caused by a fuel explosion ignited by an onboard cooking fire. "A woman lit the embers for cooking."

**US SUPREME COURT HALTS DEPORTATION OF DETAINED VENEZUELAN**

**Diary Times Desk :** The US Supreme Court has ordered the Trump administration to pause the deportation of a group of alleged Venezuelan gang members. The men are being held in detention in north Texas under an 18th-Century wartime law, and a civil liberties group has sued the government saying they have not had a chance to contest their case in court. Donald Trump has sent accused Venezuelan gang members to a notorious mega-jail in El Salvador, invoking the 1798 Alien Enemies Act which gives the president power to order the detention and deportation of natives or citizens of "enemy" nations without usual processes. The act had previously been used only three times, all during war. It was last invoked in World War Two, when people of Japanese descent were imprisoned without trial and thousands sent to internment camps. Since taking office in January, Trump's hard-line immigration policies have encountered a number of legal hurdles. Trump had accused Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua of "perpetrating, attempting, and threatening an invasion or predatory incursion" on US territory.

**RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN DECLARES  
TEMPORARY EASTER CEASEFIRE IN UKRAINE**

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a temporary Easter ceasefire in Ukraine, citing humanitarian reasons during a meeting with Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov on Saturday. The Kremlin stated that the truce would begin at 6 PM Moscow time on Saturday and continue until midnight following Easter Sunday. The announcement coincided with a statement from Russia's Defense Ministry, which said its forces had driven Ukrainian troops out of one of their last remaining footholds in the Kursk region, an area where Ukraine had launched a surprise incursion last year. "We assume that the Ukrainian side will follow our example. At the same time, our troops must be ready to repel possible violations of the truce and provocations from the enemy, any of its aggressive actions," Putin added.

**HOW FLORIDA STUDENTS SURVIVED MASS  
SHOOTING USING CHEWING GUM**

**Diary Times Desk :** A Florida State University student used chewing gum to cover their classroom windows with paper during a mass shooting on Thursday. One of the students, Jeffrey LaFray, recalled the moment and said that while gunshots were being fired nearby, he and his classmates were inside it trying to hide and stay safe. He told Good Morning America that their teacher wanted to cover the windows with paper so that the shooter couldn't see inside, but they didn't have tape to stick the paper. So, the students started chewing gum and then used it to stick the paper to the windows. Remembering a terrifying moment, he said, "The teacher was asking if any of us had tape to tape up some paper. And no one had tape, and so some of us, we just got out our gum and started chewing so we could stick some paper to the windows." A mass shooting happened near the university's campus, which was allegedly carried out by the stepson of a local deputy sheriff. 20-year-old Phoenix Ikner used her stepmother's former service weapon to carry out the alleged attack.

**WILL AIM TO COMPLETELY FREE  
IRAN OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS:  
OMAN ON US-IRAN TALKS**

**Diary Times Desk :** The foreign ministry of Oman, which is mediating the nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran, said the two sides were seeking an agreement that guarantees the Islamic republic does not possess nuclear weapons. The two sides "have agreed to enter into the next phase of their discussions that aim to seal a fair, enduring and binding deal which will ensure Iran completely free of nuclear weapons and sanctions, and maintaining its ability to develop peaceful nuclear energy", Oman's foreign ministry said on X.

**PAKISTAN DEPUTY PM IN  
KABUL FOR TALKS AS  
TALIBAN TIES WORSEN**

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar is in Afghanistan for a day-long visit to hold talks with the country's Taliban leaders amid a recent deterioration in ties. Dar, who's also foreign minister, will have meetings with high-ranking Taliban officials including Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan, Pakistan's foreign affairs ministry said in a post on X. It's the first such high-level visit from Pakistan since the Taliban seized power in 2021. The two sides will discuss "relations in the political, economic, trade and cultural fields, especially the issue of forced deportation of Afghan refugees from that country," Taliban's deputy spokesman in Afghanistan, Hamdullah Fitrat, said on X. Dar's visit takes place at a time when ties between the two nations are at a low over accusations by Islamabad that the Afghan Taliban have given refuge to the Pakistani militants.

**"SCARED TO BE OUT": HOW  
FOREIGN STUDENTS NAVIGATE US  
VISA REVOCATION ANXIETY**

**Diary Times Desk :** About 1,024 international students at US colleges and universities have had their visas revoked or have had their legal status terminated since late March, according to school officials, university statements and correspondence, as reported by The Associated Press. Foreign students living in the US constantly see agents in plain clothes out of the blue and taking students to detention centres, on social media and that is causing a lot of anxiety for them. Several students have sued the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) arguing that the DHS has failed to justify why they are terminating their legal status. Moreover, the Trump administration has said frequently that visas are a "privilege" and can be revoked any time for a lot of.

**BEHBAL KALAN FIRING CASE: VICTIM'S KIN SLAM STATE GOVT AFTER SC REJECTS PLEA TO SHIFT TRIAL BACK TO FARIDKOT**

**Diary Times Desk :** Sukhraj Singh Niamiwala, a prominent leader of Behbal Kalan Insaf Morcha and family member of one of the victims of the 2015 Behbal Kalan police firing incident, has strongly criticised the Punjab Government for its mishandling of the case. Addressing a press conference in Faridkot on Saturday, Niamiwala expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court's recent rejection of the state government's plea to shift the trial from Chandigarh back to Faridkot. He alleged that the AAP government failed to pursue the case effectively in the apex court. "The government had already failed earlier when the case was transferred from Faridkot to Chandigarh. Now, their plea to bring it back has also been dismissed due to poor legal representation," Niamiwala said. Criticising both the current and previous governments, he stated that despite forming governments on the promise of justice in the sacrilege and subsequent police firing cases, no serious action has been taken. "Two governments came to power by raising the issues of Bargari sacrilege and the Behbal Kalan firing, yet the victims are still waiting for justice," he added.

**'STILL A THREAT', PUNJAB EXTENDS MP AMRITPAL'S NSA DETENTION BY YEAR**

**Diary Times Desk :** Citing security concerns, the Punjab Government has extended by one year the detention of pro-Khalistan activist and Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh, who is lodged in the high-security Dibrugarh jail of Assam after his arrest in 2023, under the stringent National Security Act (NSA). The development has come as a surprise for many as the Punjab Police didn't earlier extend the NSA detention of Amritpal's nine co-accused, who have 12 FIRs lodged against them. Arrested in connection with the 2023 Ajnala police station attack, the nine aides were brought back to Punjab in batches from the Dibrugarh jail after their NSA detention ended. Senior police officials said Amritpal's case was an exception as they had "additional evidence hinting at the MP continuing to be a threat to the law and order situation in Punjab". The one-year extension was ordered by the Punjab Home Department on the recommendation of the Amritsar District Magistrate. The recommendation was based on inputs from the police and intelligence departments, said an official. One of the new cases against Amritpal was registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in Faridkot. It accuses Amritpal of joining hands with designated terrorist Arshdeep Datta to plan murder.

**AMRITSAR POLICE BUST HAWALA RACKET, ARREST FIVE INCLUDING LUDHIANA COP**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Amritsar city police commissionerate has busted a hawala racket being operated from a USA-based drug peddler and gangster through a Haryana-based dry fruit trader, who was among the five persons, including a Ludhiana cop, arrested in this connection. They have also confiscated Rs 46.91 lakh hawala money from their possession. Those arrested include Rajanjot Singh alias Rajan of Kamla Avenue on Fatehgarh Churian Road, Gurpreet Singh alias Gora of Mahawa border village, Harmeet Singh of Sadar quarters in Amritsar, Navjot Singh of Max City on Ram Tirath Road, a constable posted at Ludhiana, and Anil Saini, a dry fruit trader from Bhawani, Haryana. Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said that the racket was busted following investigations into the seizure of 1 kg of heroin from a smuggler, Satnam Singh, 10 days ago. According to the probe, the accused were transferring drug money through a hawala network in exchange for heroin consignments being supplied from Pakistan via drones. "Satnam (26), a resident of Chhina village under the Lopoke police station, was arrested on April 9 with 1 kg heroin. Based on his disclosure, the police arrested Rajanjot Singh, Gurpreet Singh, and Anil Saini, who was running a hawala racket under the guise.

**MEDANTA RAPE CASE: ACCUSED WATCHED PORN VIDEOS BEFORE AND AFTER ASSAULT, SAY POLICE**

**Diary Times Desk :** The accused technician in the air hostess sexual assault case at Medanta Hospital here had watched porn videos before and after committing the crime. This is confirmed by the search history of the accused's mobile phone. The accused was produced in a city court today and later sent to judicial custody. The police confirm that the accused was in a habit of watching porn videos, and the accused confessed to the crime. According to the police, the accused, 25-year-old Deepak, a native of Badhauri village in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, and presently living in Gurugram, was an average student. After completing his BSc OTT (Bachelor of Science in Operation Theatre Technology) from a private institution between 2019 and 2022, he had been working as a treatment machine technician in the ICU of the hospital for the past five months. The victim, 46-year-old air hostess, claimed that two nurses were present in the room during the incident but did nothing to stop it.

**STRONG WINDS STOKED MASSIVE FIRE IN KURUKSHETRA, SIRSA VILLAGES**

**Diary Times Desk :** Massive fire incidents were reported from various villages of Kurukshetra after strong winds on late Friday evening. As per information, fire broke out in fields and spread quickly to other fields, and even towards residential areas of the villages, including Diwana, Chaderbhan Pura, and Jyotisar. Residents rushed out of their houses and started dousing the fire, but to no avail as the winds were very strong. Standing crops, trees, fodder, machines and other stuff were gutted. Pehowa SDM Kapil Sharma said fire tenders were pressed into service and no injuries were reported. The exact loss was yet to be ascertained. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sonu Bhatt said there were initial reports of fire in around six villages and the situation was under control. Due to the falling of a huge tree, traffic in Kurukshetra was disrupted, but the municipal council was on the job to remove the tree. The power department was also making efforts to restore electricity. Meanwhile, a major fire broke out on Friday evening in the fields of Nathusari Chopta area in Sirsa district. The fire started near a small settlement at Rupana Khurd village around 5.30 PM and quickly spread to the nearby villages of Ludesar, Rupawas, and Nirban.

**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION HIKED PROPERTY TAX ILLEGALLY, CLAIMS MP TEWARI**

**Diary Times Desk :** Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari has termed the way the UT Administration enhanced the property tax as illegal. He was speaking after inaugurating a CCTV camera project being executed under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development fund in Sector 45 here on Friday. Ward No. 34 councillor Gurpreet Singh Gabi and Chandigarh Pradesh Congress Committee president HS Lucky were also present at the event. Tewari said the agenda for increasing property tax was not put up before the House Tax Committee and was withdrawn without discussion in the MC House. No resolution was passed either. He said Section 423 of the MC Act talks about the government's power to annul or modify illegal proceedings of the House. It also says the government may by written order annul or omit from the records any proceedings of the corporation, which, it considers not conforming with this Act, or any rules or bylaws made thereunder. The government may do all things necessary to secure such conformity, he said. Unless the government believes the immediate making of such an order is necessary, it shall, before making an order under this Section, give the corporation an opportunity of explaining why such an order should not be made, said Tewari, while shedding light on the Act.





PUNJAB RESIDENT AMONG  
TWO KILLED IN ACCIDENT  
NEAR SHIMLA

**Diary Times Desk :** Two persons, including a Punjab resident, have been killed and two others sustained injuries when a JCB Backhoe Loader plunged into a deep gorge near Dhalli, around 8 km from Shimla. The deceased have been identified as Sukhdev Rana, the JCB operator and a resident of Ropar district in Punjab, and Harinam Negi, a resident of Kinnaur district. The injured have been identified as Charanjeet Singh, also from Ropar district, and Neeraj, a resident of Bihar. According to reports, the accident took place on Friday night near Jwala Mata Mandir when the JCB operator lost control of the vehicle, causing it to veer off the road and plunge into a gorge. All four passengers sustained injuries. Police reached the spot upon receiving information and rescued the injured. They were rushed to Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC), where Harinam and Sukhdev were declared brought dead. The other two victims are currently undergoing treatment. A case has been registered under Sections 125, 125A, and 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, at the Dhalli Police Station. Police are investigating the incident.

WORK TO WIDEN BADDI-  
NALAGARH HIGHWAY  
GOES ON AT SNAIL’S PACE

**Diary Times Desk :** Commuters travelling on the Pinjore-Baddi-Nalagarh national highway are a harried lot as the four-laning work is going on at a snail’s pace. The issue came up for discussion at a meeting convened by Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD), Dr Abhishek Jain at Nalagarh where the officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Gujarat-based Patel Infrastructure Limited, which was executing the four-laning work, and SDM Nalagarh were present. With barely 42 per cent work having been completed till March-end after the expiry of the 30-month deadline, the NHAI has directed Gujarat-based Patel Infrastructure Limited to speed up the work and complete it by the year end. The contractor, however, is seeking six more months as he pleaded that there has been a delay in getting encumbrance-free land. Frequent traffic jams on the highway are inconveniencing commuters as they have to painstakingly wait for the traffic.

HIMACHAL WEATHER: ALERT FOR HEAVY RAIN, HAIL, GUSTY WINDS TILL APRIL 21

**Diary Times Desk :** The weather department has issued an alert for light to moderate precipitation in most parts of the state, coupled with isolated heavy rainfall along with thunderstorm/lightning, gusty winds and hail from tonight till April 21 morning. There’s a forecast of an isolated event of heavy rainfall from midnight today till tomorrow midnight in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu and Mandi districts. Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Solan, Sirmaur, Mandi and Shimla districts are expected to witness hailstorm from tonight till midnight tomorrow. There’s also a forecast of light to moderate precipitation at most places, with a few intense spells in Lahaul and Spiti and Kinnaur districts and in the higher reaches of Chamba and Kullu from tonight till the noon of April 21. There’s a forecast of light to moderate rainfall at some places, with a few moderate spells in Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Solan and Sirmaur districts from tonight till the evening/night of April 20. Besides, spells of light and moderate precipitation are likely in most of the tourist destinations from tonight till the morning of April 21.



DRESS CODE IS OUT: WOMEN TEACHERS IN  
HIMACHAL CAN WEAR PANTS, SHIRTS,  
SAREES IN SCHOOL

**Diary Times Desk :** Women teachers can now wear salwar-kameez, straight palazzos, pant-kameez, sarees and churidaar suits in schools. They can also show up in formal trousers and shirts if they want to. For male teachers, formal trousers and shirts will be the preferred outfits. The government has issued a detailed advisory on what will constitute a decent dress code for teachers, removing all ambiguity around the issue. The government had asked the Education Department to ensure a decent dress code for teachers on a voluntary basis in schools. As the order did not specify what constitutes a decent dress code, it was interpreted differently by the authorities concerned in various districts and schools. In some districts, the Deputy Directors have reduced the choice of clothing under the dress code for women teachers to just salwar-kameez and saree, which The Tribune had highlighted a few days ago. While agreeing that teachers should dress up decently, some women teachers argued that limiting the choice of clothing to just salwar-kameez was neither fair nor practical. “We are wearing straight palazzos and pants in school for many years and we have never felt these dresses are inappropriate,” said a teacher. “It’s good that the government has now issued detailed guidelines.

GOVT ALLOCATES RS193.75 CRORE FOR  
SETTING UP TWO CRITICAL CARE BLOCKS,  
FIVE LABS

**Diary Times Desk :** To strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve access to quality and affordable medical services, the state government has allocated Rs 193.75 crore for setting up two critical care blocks and five district integrated public health laboratories. A government spokesperson said that the Cabinet had approved the setting up of a 50-bed critical care block at the Primary Health Centre at Swahan village in Bilaspur and another 50-bed block at the Civil Hospital at Rohru in Shimla district. These facilities would be equipped with advanced medical infrastructure, including emergency services, intensive care units (ICUs), high dependency units, isolation beds, dialysis units, labour rooms, operating theatres and point-of-care laboratories, he added. Each critical care block would be integrated with the existing district hospital and would function as a regular facility under normal conditions. However, during health emergencies or disease outbreak such as Covid-19, they could be physically isolated to ensure strict infection control. Each block would be constructed at a cost of Rs 16.63 crore and equipment worth Rs 27.12 crore would be provided there, he added.

HIMACHAL TO URGE CENTRE TO COMMENCE KAILASH  
MANSAROVAR YATRA VIA SHIPKI-LA IN KINNAUR

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh will soon take up the issue of commencing Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Shipki-La in Kinnaur district with the Union Government, along with abolition of inner-line posts to promote tourism. This was stated by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at a meeting with General Officer Commanding in Chief, Central Command, Lucknow, and Lt General Anindya Sengupta here today. “Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has religious significance for Hindus, Jains and Buddhists. Every year thousands of pilgrims visit Kailash Mansarovar — a tradition rooted in centuries of spiritual heritage. The pilgrims can enter Tibet through Shipki-La as it offers a viable route for them,” he said. The CM said the state government would also urge the Central Government to establish Himachal Scouts Battalion, with a special quota for local persons from the bordering areas of the state. He said that this was a long-pending demand of the people of the border areas. The CM also sought cooperation and collaboration with the Indian Army and other para military forces for promoting tourism up to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Sino-Indian border. “The state government would also urge the Centre for abolition of inner-line checkpoints of various military and para military forces that currently pose permit related hurdles for tourists. The travel related procedures must also be relaxed to promote tourism,” he said.



## VAIBHAV SURYAVANSHI, 14, BECOMES IPL'S YOUNGEST EVER PLAYER; HITS SIX ON FIRST BALL FOR RR VS LSG

**Diary Times Desk** : Vaibhav Suryavanshi, all of 14 years and 23 days, became the youngest ever player to compete in the IPL when he came on to bat for Rajasthan Royals against Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL 2025 match in Jaipur on Saturday. The left-handed batter even smashed a six off the first delivery that he faced from Shardul Thakur. He went on to hit a six and four off Avesh Khan in the second over as well. Suryavanshi, the youngest player to register, was sold to Rajasthan Royals for Rs 1.10 crore on Day 2 of the IPL 2025 Mega Auction in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. RR were involved in a bidding war for the player with Delhi Capitals, who pulled out after the former bid Rs 1.10 crore for the teenager. The 2011-born started to show his cricketing talent at the tender age of 4. Vaibhav's father Sanjeev noticed his passion and decided to build a small playing area for him in the backyard of the house.



## PBKS LOOK TO DO THE DOUBLE OVER RCB IN NEW CHANDIGARH

**Diary Times Desk** : For the second time in three days, Punjab Kings will take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru with the hope of completing a double over their opponents. The match in Bengaluru, a rain-marred fixture, was won by the Kings who took advantage of a sticky surface to prevail in a 14-over clash. Given the conditions in New Chandigarh, this could be another surface where the batters may have to use their smarts rather than the long handle. Punjab Kings have ticked most boxes this season, and with five wins in seven games, they seem well on track to get into the playoffs at this point. What works in their favour is their high-flying intent at the start along with immense batting depth, coupled with an efficient bowling unit which makes them a side with most bases covered. In the initial games, their premier spinner Yuzvendra Chahal had a quiet time but the seasoned leggie has roared back in style over the last two games, including the historic defence of 111 here in New Chandigarh against KKR. As head coach Ricky Ponting mentioned after that win against the defending champions, PBKS are a side brimming with confidence.

## PAKISTAN WILL NOT TRAVEL TO INDIA FOR 2025 WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

**Diary Times Desk** : PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi has said that Pakistan will not travel to India for the Women's ODI World Cup later this year. Pakistan will play their matches at a neutral venue, following the hybrid model that was accepted earlier this year. Naqvi said that India and ICC will decide what the neutral venue will be. "Just like India didn't play in Pakistan in the Champions Trophy and were allowed to play at a neutral venue, whatever venue is decided, we will play [there]," Naqvi said. "When there is an agreement it has to be adhered to." When Pakistan hosted the ICC Champions Trophy in February-March, India did not visit Pakistan because of political tension between the two countries and played their matches in Dubai. According to the hybrid model, both India and Pakistan will play their matches at neutral venues if one of the two countries was to host an ICC event till 2027. India will host the Women's World Cup.

## BUTTLER 97\* POWERS GT IN LAST-OVER THRILLER AGAINST DC

**Diary Times Desk** : A heavily-hamstrung Jos Buttler scored a scintillating 97\* off just 54 balls as Gujarat Titans successfully chased a 200-plus total for the first time in the IPL. As it turned out, this was also the first time in 14 instances, where DC have failed to defend a total over 200. In the middle-overs, where Buttler came alive. Once again, GT enjoyed a good setup at the top from Sai Sudharsan, but after wading past the first couple of overs from Kuldeep Yadav in the post-PowerPlay period, Buttler dictated terms and GT flew. Sherfane Rutherford too shrugged off a shaky start to take on Mohit Sharma but Buttler's one-upmanship against Starc in the 15th over (more on that below) effectively tipped the scales in the home side's favour. Delhi dropped Jake Fraser-McGurk and lost Abishek Porel in just the third over after a blazing start, but were propped up by KL Rahul who arrived with the intention of hitting from the outset. He went after Mohammed Siraj, hitting him over point for a four and big six deep into the stands over long-on in the same over. But he was stopped in his tracks by his Karnataka statemate Prasidh Krishna, who mixed his lengths well to trap him leg before with a yorker. Karun Nair pierced the field behind point and followed that up with a pick-up hit over the square leg fence off Arshad Khan to close out DC's best PowerPlay performance.

## ABHISHEK NAYAR REJOINS KKR'S SUPPORT STAFF

**Diary Times Desk** : Abhishek Nayar has rejoined Kolkata Knight Riders' support staff. The development comes the day after it emerged that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided not to renew his contract as an assistant coach of the national team. "Abhishek Nayar has rejoined our support staff. He is likely to be at training at Eden today," a franchise statement said on Saturday (April 19). Curiously, his appointment - or rather, reappointment - comes even before the BCCI has formally announced his departure from the national team setup. It is, however, evident that the BCCI has chosen not to continue with several support staff members, including Nayar, who served as deputy to head coach Gautam Gambhir for nearly 10 months. Alongside him, fielding coach T Dilip and strength and conditioning trainer Soham Desai have also been relieved of their duties. It is learnt that a senior BCCI official personally called each of the three support staff members to inform them that their contracts would not be renewed. The two coaches were specifically told that while the board was satisfied with their performance, it had decided to trim the size of the support staff, making contract renewals unfeasible. Nayar's return to the KKR setup was only a matter of time.

## SHUBMAN GILL FINED FOR SLOW OVER RATE IN GT'S WIN AGAINST DC

**Diary Times Desk** : Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill has been fined after his team was found to have maintained a slow over-rate in match no. 35 of IPL 2025 against Delhi Capitals in Ahmedabad on Saturday. As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Gill was fined INR 12 lakhs," the IPL said in a statement. Gill joined Axar Patel (Delhi Capitals), Sanju Samson (Rajasthan Royals), Rajat Patidar (Royal Challengers Bengaluru), Rishabh Pant (Lucknow Super Giants), Riyan Parag (RR) and Hardik Pandya (Mumbai Indians) among the captains who have been penalised for slow over-rate offences so far this season. Unlike last year, however, the IPL has done away with player bans for repeat over-rate offences and will only levy merit points and fines, in addition to in-game penalties. Gill had chosen to bowl first in hot conditions in Ahmedabad, where the maximum temperature hit 40C. There were frequent stoppages as players struggled in the extreme weather. DC scored 203 for 8, a total that GT chased down with seven wickets in hand and four balls to spare. Jos Buttler was the Player of the Match for scoring an unbeaten 97 off 54 balls in the chase.

## HARDIK PANDYA IS ONE OF BEST ALL-ROUNDERS IN WORLD: MARK BOUCHER

**Diary Times Desk** : Former South Africa wicketkeeper-batter Mark Boucher is impressed with Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya's all-round performance, especially his bowling in the middle overs. He believes that Pandya's success in bowling is giving him confidence. "Hardik Pandya is one of the best all-rounders in the world. When he's firing, the team usually wins. I love his new role with the ball - he's not just bowling in the power play, but in the tough middle overs, the 'ugly overs'. And he's picking up wickets there too. That's giving him confidence, and it's translating into his batting, where he's going in and finishing games," Boucher, a JioStar expert, said speaking on Match Centre Live. Boucher also spoke about Will Jacks, he believed Will Jacks is a genuine all-rounder who has been under pressure but is now showing his true potential. He was impressed with Jacks' bowling performance, which he believed would boost his batting confidence and lead to more success. "Will Jacks has been under pressure and hasn't performed."