

'OPERATION SINDOOR'

"IF THERE'S ANOTHER TERROR ATTACK, INDIA WILL RESPOND EMPHATICALLY": PM TO FORCES

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday morning put Pakistan and Pak-supported terrorists on notice and underscored the paradigm shift in India's doctrine on terrorism that he announced late last night.

Mr Modi warned terror groups and terrorists India's armed forces would launch formidable counterattacks if faced with a repeat of the attack in Pahalgam, in which 26 people, mostly civilians, were killed by gunmen from a proxy of the Pak-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group. Operation Sindoor - precision strikes targeting nine terrorist bases in Pak and Pak-occupied Kashmir - was India's military response, which extended to efficiently neutralising retaliatory missiles fired by Pak.

And Sindoor - India's first tri-service military mission since the 1971 war with Pak - will remain an active operation to combat terrorists attacks for as long as required, the PM thundered. "Our intent is clear... if there is another attack India will respond. We saw this after the terror attack on an Army base in J&K's Uri in 2016 and Balakot airstrikes (after the 2019 Pulwama attack)..."

"Operation Sindoor is the new normal," the PM said, emphasising it will become a policy of Indian governments to take "decisive action against state-sponsored terror attacks on its citizens". The Prime Minister's forceful message was delivered from the tarmac at the Adampur Air Force base in Punjab. Adampur played a key role in repelling the missiles and drones fired by Pakistan last week.



'OPERATION SINDOOR'

'PARAST HO JAO LEKIN DHOL BAJAO': MEA'S SWIPE AT PAKISTAN'S 'VICTORY' CLAIMS



Diary Times Desk : Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a press briefing on Tuesday stated that Pakistan has a habit of claiming victory even after a defeat, in reference to the two countries reaching a ceasefire understanding.

Randhir Jaiswal said in response to a question, about who had reached out for a peace agreement between India and Pakistan, that Pakistan had reached out due to the devastation inflicted by the Indian military's Operation Sindoor.

He stated, "Claiming victory is an old habit. They did the same in 1971, 1975 and 1999 Kargil War as well. Dhol bajane ka Pakistan ka purana ravaiyya hai. Parast ho jaye lekin dhol bajao [This attitude of sounding the drums of victory is an old tactic used by Pakistan. Get defeated but keep on beating the drums]."

Jaiswal also asked people to look at the satellite images of sites Pakistan had claimed to destroy in India and those that had been destroyed in Pakistan to get a clear answer on who needed the ceasefire more. He stated that this was a new normal for India and they would not let any terrorist action go unanswered.

He stated that in earlier press briefings as well defence spokespersons had made it clear that Pakistan's DGMO had reached out to his Indian counterpart on the morning of May 10 to request the two countries to come to an understanding after Indian strikes had caused several Pakistani targets to fall out of action. During the press briefing, Jaiswal stated that India would not respond to any nuclear blackmail when it came to dealing with cross-border terrorism due to their 'zero-tolerance' policy.

INDIA REBUFFS TRUMP’S CLAIMS OF AVERTING NUCLEAR WAR WITH PAKISTAN

Diary Times Desk : India refuted US President Donald Trump’s claims of averting a ‘nuclear war’ between India and Pakistan, stating that it was never a viable option. The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, also rejected Trump’s claims of using trade as leverage to broker peace between the two nations. According to Jaiswal, India and Pakistan have a longstanding position that all issues related to Jammu and Kashmir should be addressed bilaterally, and this policy remains unchanged. The only outstanding issue between the two countries is the vacating of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan. Jaiswal clarified that there were conversations between Indian and US leaders regarding the evolving military situation from the launch of Operation Sindoor on May 7 to the ceasefire agreement on May 10. However, trade was not discussed in these conversations. This contradicts Trump’s claim that he told India and Pakistan, “Let’s stop it. If you stop it, we’re doing trade. If you don’t stop it, we’re not going to do any trade.”



NIA ARRESTS 2 ACCUSED IN INFAMOUS MANIPUR VILLAGE MURDER AND ARSON CASE

Diary Times Desk : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two persons belonging to banned militant groups for their involvement in the brutal killing of a woman and burning and looting of houses by armed militants at Zairawn village in Jiribam district of Manipur in November last year. Accused Nongthombam Meiraba, hailing from Bishnupur district and belonging to the proscribed insurgent group - United National Liberation Front, was involved in the actual shooting of the woman, identified as Zosangkim. The other accused, Sagolsem Sanatomba of Thoubal district, was a member of the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup, another insurgent outfit in Manipur, and was part of the team involved. The two accused are in NIA custody till May 17 in the case in which investigations are continuing. The incident had grabbed national headlines last year after Zosangkim, a schoolteacher, was shot dead.

‘CONCERNING’: INDIA OVER BAN ON SHEIKH HASINA’S AWAMI LEAGUE IN BANGLADESH



Diary Times Desk : India on Tuesday expressed concern over the interim Bangladeshi government’s decision to ban the Awami League, the political party led by ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, “The ban on the Awami League without due process is a concerning development. As a democracy, India is naturally concerned at the curtailment of democratic freedoms and the shrinking of political space. We strongly support the early holding of free, fair, and inclusive elections in Bangladesh.” The interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, slapped a ban on “all activities of Awami League”, including in cyberspace, under the provisions of an anti-terrorism law. The ban was reportedly enforced by the Council of Advisers or the Cabinet. In response, the Awami League took to social media platform X, saying, “We are rejecting and protesting the fascist autocrat Yunus government’s decision with disgust...Awami League will carry on its activities in an appropriate course, defying the decision of the fascist Yunus government.”

CONGRESS QUESTIONS TRUMP’S AUTHORITY: ‘WHO IS TRUMP TO ANNOUNCE CEASEFIRE?’

Diary Times Desk : Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent speech, calling it “disappointing” and “damage control”. Gehlot questioned US President Donald Trump’s authority to announce a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, saying, “Who is Trump to announce a ceasefire? Why has he taken on a contractor’s role? Has the government given him a mandate?” Gehlot also expressed concerns about Trump’s claim to resolve the Kashmir issue, terming it “dangerous”. “He’s also claiming he’ll resolve the Kashmir issue, which he’s described as being 1,000 years old. That’s concerning. He’s put India and Pakistan on the same footing. How can he do that?” Gehlot praised the armed forces’ actions against terrorism following the Pahalgam terror attack but found the sudden ceasefire announcement perplexing. “It’s perplexing to understand why the ceasefire was announced so suddenly. The armed forces’ actions were being appreciated,” he said. Gehlot demanded clarity on the government’s stance regarding Trump’s announcement, stating, “The nation wants to know what pressure Modi is under that he’s unable to counter Trump.”



YOUR HOROSCOPE

14-05-2025

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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: PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER VIKRAMADITYA SINGH SAID- KASHMIR IS AN INTERNAL ISSUE OF TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH WILL SOLVE IT

Diary Times Desk : Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh said that the entire country has appreciated the action taken by the Indian Army against Pakistan. Today, the entire country is standing like a rock with the Indian Army. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He has talked about calling a special session on this issue. Pakistan is a stronghold of terrorists. This has happened after 1971. Terrorists attacked the Parliament. They also carried out blasts in Pathankot and Mumbai. They attacked inside Kashmir. Vikramaditya Singh said that the opposition wants that this entire issue should be discussed in the House. On the way the US President spoke in his tweet on the India-Pak war issue, he said that Kashmir is an internal issue of the two countries. India and Pakistan have to resolve it. Complete clarity will come out in this matter when the matter is discussed in the House between the opposition and the opposition leaders.



HIMACHAL: AFTER 46 DAYS, TOURIST VEHICLES RAN THROUGH SEVERAL FEET HIGH WALLS OF SNOW ON MANALI-LEH ROAD

Diary Times Desk : On the very first day of opening of the strategic Manali-Leh route, 291 vehicles left for Leh. While about 90 small vehicles have also left for Ladakh via Shinkula Pass. Deepak and Himank Project of Border Roads Organisation have restored the Manali-Leh road route for small vehicles on Tuesday. The movement of vehicles has started on this route from Tuesday. However, there has been fresh snowfall around Baralacha Pass in the afternoon. Despite this, the movement of vehicles continued. It is being told that the tourists stranded in Ladakh region for the last few days were brought to Manali via Shinkula Pass by taxis there. Those vehicles are now returning to Ladakh via Sarchu and Shinkula. DSP Keylong Raj Kumar said that on Wednesday, 291 vehicles left for Leh via Sarchu and about 90 vehicles left for Ladakh via Shinkula Pass. BRO has not yet issued NOC for the movement of big vehicles. Therefore, the movement of small vehicles has started on this route for the time being. There is a problem in the movement of big vehicles due to high walls of snow.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: BJP WILL TAKE OUT TIRANGA YATRA ACROSS THE STATE, WILL TELL PEOPLE ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OPERATION SINDOOR

Diary Times Desk : BJP State General Secretary Bihari Lal Sharma released the schedule of the Tiranga Yatra to be held in the state. This yatra is going to be held in the entire state. He said that the Tiranga Yatra will be a social program. In which all sections of the society are going to participate enthusiastically and through this yatra, the service of India, which fought the war against Pakistan with bravery and forced Pakistan to kneel, will be saluted. All these programs will be run by the Citizen for National Security Institute. Bihari Lal Sharma said that the Tiranga Yatra will run in the entire state from May 14 to May 23. There will be 4 big programs which will be organized at the district level, under this 35 Mandals will work and 33 Mandals will take out Tiranga Yatra separately. The 4 big programs of Tiranga Yatra will be Shimla Administrative District at CTO on May 14, Administrative District Kangra in Dharamshala on May 15, Administrative District Mandi on May 16 and Administrative District Hamirpur on May 17. Bihari Lal Sharma said that Arki, Paonta Sahib, Una, Dalhousie and Manali will be organised on 18 May. Solan, Kullu, Kulehad, Jaswan Paragpur, Pachhad and Chamba will be organised on 19 May. Doon, Nahan, Dehra, Bilaspur and Banjar will be organised on 20 May. Nalagarh, Haroli, Ghumarwin, Jawalamukhi, Churha.

HPBOSE: QUESTION PAPERS OF FIVE YEARS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE OF THE SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD, CANDIDATES WILL BE ABLE TO EVALUATE

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will make available the question papers of the last five years on its website. For this, the education board has started the exercise. This will benefit the candidates appearing for the 10th-12th board examinations as well as non-board classes. Till now the education board has been uploading only model question papers on its website. There was a meeting of the Government Teachers Association with the education board in February, in which the association had demanded from the board management to make the question papers of the last five years available on the website. On this, the board management had agreed to provide them the question papers of the last five years on the website. Due to this, now the education board management has started the exercise on this. Board Secretary Dr. Major Vishal Sharma said that the board management will upload the question papers of the examination in the last five years on the website. During this time the question papers will be scanned and uploaded on the board's website. The education board is also preparing a question paper bank, which will also help the board examinees in evaluating themselves.



HIMACHAL : LESS HELP WILL COME FROM THE CENTER, HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT IS BUSY IN ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Diary Times Desk : Amid the situation of less financial help coming from the central government, the Sukhu government is engaged in economic management with its own measures. Due to the revenue deficit grant being halved from last year, the Himachal government will face financial crisis in the last months of this financial year. Efforts are being made to ensure that the immediate liabilities of employees and pensioners are not affected by this. Bringing back the interest on the pending budget in the departments is also a part of this campaign. The 15th Finance Commission had fixed a revenue deficit grant of Rs 37,199 crore between the years 2021 to 2026 to meet the difference between income and expenditure. In the financial year 2022-23, this grant was Rs 9,377 crore. In the year 2023-24, Rs 8058 crore was released. In 2024-25, it was Rs 6258 crore. In the current financial year 2025-26, only Rs 3257 crore is being received. The fiscal deficit in the current financial year is Rs 10,338 crore. This means that there will not be as much budget in the treasury as desired. Only 3 percent of the gross domestic product can be taken as loan. The gross domestic product is Rs 2,32,185 crore. 3 percent of this is Rs 6,965.65 crore. This means that only this much loan will be valid. Measures are being taken to find out where the remaining Rs 3373.04 will come from.

HIMACHAL PRADESH CRICKET ASSOCIATION POSTPONED THREE INTER-DISTRICT CRICKET TOURNAMENTS

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association has postponed three inter-district cricket tournaments amid increased tension between India and Pakistan. A new schedule of the competitions will also be issued by the HPCA. Along with the IPL matches in Dharamshala, the HPCA had started the Inter-district Senior Women's One Day Cricket Tournament and Inter-district Senior Men's T-20 Tournament from May 2. The women's cricket tournament was being held at two places in Chandigarh. The men's tournament was being held at Santoshgarh and Pekshvela grounds in Una. In this, all the matches of Pool One of the Inter-district Senior Men's T-20.

BAN ON 4PM YOUTUBE
CHANNEL LIFTED, SUPREME
COURT TOLD

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court was apprised on Tuesday that the Union government has withdrawn its directive to block the YouTube channel 4PM News Network. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and AG Masih was hearing a plea filed by journalist Sanjay Sharma challenging the Centre's directive to block his news channel on YouTube on the grounds of "national security" and "public order". Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing on the petitioner's behalf, submitted that since the blocking order has been withdrawn by the authorities, the prayer for interim relief has turned infructuous. However, Mr Sibal pressed the prayer contained in the petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Information Technology (IT) Blocking Rules, 2009. In view of the submission, the top court ordered tagging the instant petition with the pending batch of pleas raising similar issues. Last week, the Justice Gavai-led Bench issued notice on the plea filed by the editor of the digital news platform and sought responses from the Union government, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, and YouTube.

'PARAST HO JAO LEKIN DHOL
BAJAO': MEA'S SWIPE AT
PAKISTAN'S 'VICTORY'
CLAIMS

Diary Times Desk : Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a press briefing on Tuesday stated that Pakistan has a habit of claiming victory even after a defeat, in reference to the two countries reaching a ceasefire understanding. Randhir Jaiswal said in response to a question, about who had reached out for a peace agreement between India and Pakistan, that Pakistan had reached out due to the devastation inflicted by the Indian military's Operation Sindoor. He stated, "Claiming victory is an old habit. They did the same in 1971, 1975 and 1999 Kargil War as well. Dhol bajane ka Pakistan ka purana ravaiyya hai. Parast ho jaye lekin dhol bajao [This attitude of sounding the drums of victory is an old tactic used by Pakistan. Get defeated but keep on beating the drums]." Jaiswal also asked people to look at the satellite images of sites Pakistan had claimed to destroy in India and those that had been destroyed in Pakistan to get a clear answer on who needed the ceasefire more. He stated that this was a new normal for India and they would not let any terrorist action go unanswered. He stated that in earlier press briefings as well defence spokespersons had made it.

IN PM'S PIC IN FRONT OF S-400 SYSTEM AT
ADAMPUR BASE, A MESSAGE TO PAKISTAN



Diary Times Desk : Pakistan claimed its missiles hit the runway at the Air Force base in Adampur in Punjab and put the base out of action for a year. Pakistan claimed its China-made JF-17 fighters destroyed the Russian-made S-400 missile defence system stationed there. Pakistan claimed it had destroyed fighter jets and radar stations. Pakistan also claimed it had killed 60 Indian soldiers in its assault. Pakistan, government sources told NDTV Tuesday, was lying. Sources said the Pak Army used morphed satellite images of the Adampur base - which played a key role in repelling waves of missiles and drones fired last week - to make ludicrous claims. But the best counter is, perhaps, to point to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph from the base this morning; the PM interacted with soldiers stationed there and saluted their courage. The salute was also a potent message to Pak - the S-400's missile stack was in the background. This is possibly the first publicly released image of an S-400 missile defence system, which is hailed as one of the best in the world.

EPS ATTACKS MK STALIN OVER LAW AND
ORDER, KANIMOZHI RESPONDS ON
POLLACHI CASE

Diary Times Desk : Following the verdict in the 2019 Pollachi sexual abuse case, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Opposition leader Edappadi K Palanisamy clashed on social media. In a post on X, Stalin expressed his satisfaction with the verdict but also took a jibe at certain individuals allegedly attempting to protect the culprits. "Justice has been served for the atrocities committed by criminals, including the evil AIADMK office bearer. Those 'sirs' who tried to protect the tent, which also included an AIADMK culprit, should hang their heads in shame," he wrote. On Tuesday, Coimbatore Mahila Court sentenced nine accused in the case to life imprisonment after the CBI led the investigation. The case, which involved eight victims, was widely discussed as the accused, including an AIADMK office bearer, were found guilty of heinous crimes. The case came to light when AIADMK was in power in the state. The verdict was celebrated by DMK supporters in Pollachi, who burst crackers, distributed sweets.

KOLKATA AIRPORT ON HIGH ALERT AFTER CALLER CLAIMS BOMB THREAT TO
INDIGO FLIGHT

Diary Times Desk : The Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata was put on high alert on Tuesday afternoon, and passengers who had boarded the Kolkata-Mumbai IndiGo flight No 6E5227 were taken to safety, after an unidentified person called the airport claiming there was a bomb on the plane, officials said. "The call came after the passengers had checked in. The flight was scheduled to take off at 1.30pm and land in Mumbai at 4.20pm. All 195 passengers were asked to deplane following emergency protocol and the aircraft was taken to the isolation bay," an airport official said requesting anonymity. "Luggages have been unloaded from the aircraft. Bomb squad personnel are on board. They are scanning the aircraft. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel have tightened security all over the airport," the official added.



NEW DELHI REJECTS TRUMP'S
CLAIM ON INDIA-PAK
CEASEFIRE, SAYS TRADE NEVER
CAME UP

Diary Times Desk : The Indian government on Tuesday rejected US President Donald Trump's claim that he helped broker a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in exchange for trade concessions, stating unequivocally that the "issue of trade did not come up" in any discussions between the two nations during the recent military escalation. In response to media queries about Trump's comments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that the Indian and US leadership were in touch during the tense standoff with Pakistan, but there was no conversation on trade. "From the time Operation Sindoor commenced on May 7 till the understanding on cessation of firing and military action on May 10, there were conversations between Indian and US leaders on the evolving military situation. The issue of trade did not come up in any of the discussions," the MEA said in a statement. The remark came after Trump took credit.

"LOOKING SQUARE IN THE EYE...": SHASHI
THAROOR ON PM MODI'S PAK CONFLICT
SPEECH

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi handled the conflict between India and Pakistan "extremely well", Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said on Tuesday, praising him for Operation Sindoor and for sending a clear message to the neighbouring country through his first public address on the strikes a day earlier. "It is certainly always needed (PM address). It is the duty of our Prime Minister to speak to his people from time to time. He does his monthly broadcast, Mann Ki Baat, which is not urgent and critical stuff. It's more selective in general," Mr Tharoor told NDTV. "I think coming on television, looking the nation square in the eye and talking about big issues on top of their minds is always important, whether it was Covid or whether it is war. We needed him to do that. So I am glad he did it," he added. On Monday, PM Modi addressed the nation for the first time since the conflict with the neighbouring country erupted last week. He said operations against Pakistan have only been kept in abeyance and the future will depend.

**XI JINPING'S DEFIANCE AGAINST
DONALD TRUMP PAID OFF FOR CHINA:
REPORT**

Diary Times Desk : The US and China announced their decision to lower tariffs on each other's products for a period of 90 days, proving that Xi Jinping's firm stance against Donald Trump turned out to be beneficial for the former's country. Following two days of high-level talks in Switzerland's Geneva, a joint statement said that the combined US levies of 145 per cent on most Chinese imports will be reduced by 30 per cent while China's duties on American goods will drop to 10 per cent. During the discussions, the United States ended up meeting all of China's core demands. The elevated "reciprocal" tariff, which Trump set up for China at 34 per cent on April 2, has been suspended, leaving Beijing with the same 10 per cent levy that applies to the UK, reported Bloomberg. The deal provided some much-needed relief for American markets as well as for Trump as the dollar and stocks went soaring, while Chinese equities also saw an uptick. At the talks in Geneva, the two sides agreed to take "aggressive actions" to curb the flow of fentanyl, which could subsequently result in the elimination of the extra 20 per cent tariff.

**RUSSIA DOWNED MALAYSIAN AIRLINE
MH17 IN UKRAINE, RULES UN AVIATION
BODY**

Diary Times Desk : The UN aviation council on Monday ruled that Russia was responsible for the downing of a Malaysian airliner over Ukraine in 2014 with the deaths of 298 passengers and crew, the Dutch government said. In a statement, it said the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization would in the coming weeks consider what form of reparation was in order. Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 departed from Amsterdam for Kuala Lumpur on July 17, 2014, and was shot down over eastern Ukraine as fighting raged between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces. In November 2022, Dutch judges convicted two Russian men and a Ukrainian man in absentia of murder for their role in the attack. Moscow called the ruling "scandalous" and said it would not extradite its citizens. The ICAO, which is based in Montreal, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The case was launched in 2022 by Australia and the Netherlands.

**INDIAN GENERICS LIKELY INSULATED FROM
TRUMP'S DRUG PRICING ORDER, BUT SUN
PHARMA FACES PRESSURE**

Diary Times Desk : India's pharmaceutical majors could see a mixed impact of US President Trump's executive order to lower domestic drug prices, as most Indian drug exporters are in the generic space, though Sun Pharma could be hit due to its presence in the specialty segment. Analysts also told Moneycontrol that Trump's decision could indirectly discourage Indian drug makers from pursuing specialty business in America. Among these, Sun Pharma has the largest exposure in the branded and specialty drug segment in the US. In its latest note, Nomura pointed out that Sun Pharma's specialty sales to the US are estimated at around \$1.04 billion in FY25, potentially at risk of being impacted by Trump's latest decision. "In our coverage universe, Sun Pharma has the largest exposure to branded sales in the US. We estimate that US specialty sales are at ~\$1036 mn (FY25F)... The largest product Ilumya (FY25F US sales of ~\$570mn) is largely supported through Medicare Part B, which possibly accounts for 50%+ of the sales of the company, in our assessment," Nomura note said.

**STORM IN BANGLADESH AS EX-PRESIDENT
LEAVES FOR THAILAND IN LUNGI ON 3 AM
FLIGHT**

Diary Times Desk : Bangladesh's former President Mohammad Abdul Hamid boarded a Thai Airways flight from the Dhaka international airport at 3am and left the country as most Bangladeshis were in a deep sleep. As the interim government woke up and found what had happened, it suspended and transferred officials and constituted a high-level probe. Former president Hamid was among those being probed for the measures taken against protesters during the anti-Sheikh Hasina agitation last year. Abdul Hamid served as the President of Bangladesh for two terms -- from 2013 to 2023. He is also a co-accused in at least one case of murder filed against ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her aides from the agitation period in 2024. The Hasina regime was accused of opening fire and killing protesters who were out to oust her.

**UK POLICE INVESTIGATE AFTER
FIRE ERUPTS AT KEIR
STARMER'S LONDON HOUSE**

Diary Times Desk : UK Police have been carrying out an investigation after a small fire erupted at UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's north London home in the early hours of Monday morning. The London Fire Brigade was called at 1 Nobody was hurt in the incident, though the front door was damaged and a cordon remains in place on the street and police is present at the site. A resident of the street said he heard a loud, one-off bang, that sounded like a "firebomb" and possibly shattered glasses. Counterterror police were involved in the investigation, and the fire is being treated as suspicious. While Starmer as the UK's PM resides in Downing Street, however, he still retains his north London residence. A London Fire Brigade spokesperson said: "Firefighters were called to a small fire outside a property" in Kentish Town Monday morning." The spokesperson further stated, "Two fire engines from Kentish Town Fire Station attended the scene." Metropolitan Police said that police were alerted by the London Fire Brigade regarding reports of fire at a residential address, Politico reported.

**ZELENSKY SAYS ONLY
MEETING PUTIN FACE-TO-
FACE CAN DELIVER PEACE**

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Tuesday he wanted to negotiate an unconditional 30-day ceasefire face-to-face with Vladimir Putin at this week's talks in Istanbul because only the Russian leader could enact such a pause. Accusing Putin of being "scared" of meeting him, Zelensky said he expected "strong sanctions" from the United States and European Union if the talks did not take place, adding a failed meeting would show that Russia was not ready for diplomacy. Zelensky told reporters that because "absolutely everything in Russia" depends on Putin, the only way to secure a ceasefire and an end to the war was through direct talks with him. If he takes the step to say he is ready for a ceasefire then it opens the way to discussing all the elements to end the war," he said. "I'm not even mentioning that he is scared of direct talks with me," Zelensky said, adding he would first meet Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara for talks and would head to Istanbul if Putin arrived there. Zelensky said Ukraine had invited U.S. President Donald Trump to Thursday's meeting but had yet to confirm his attendance. Trump offered on Monday to join the prospective talks while he was travelling in the region.

NEW POPE LEO TELLS JEWS HE WANTS TO STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE

Diary Times Desk : Pope Leo XIV has told the world's Jewish communities he wants to strengthen the Roman Catholic Church's dialogue with them, in a message coming after a souring of relations between the Vatican and Israel over the war in Gaza. The first U.S.-born pope sent a letter to Rabbi Noam Marans, the Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, who posted the letter on the social platform X late on Monday. "Trusting in the assistance of the almighty, I pledge to continue and strengthen the Church's dialogue and cooperation with the Jewish people in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council's declaration Nostra Aetate," Leo said in the letter. Nostra Aetate was a landmark document in the 1962-1965 Council that repudiated the concept of collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus and urged dialogue with non-Christian religions. The brief document revolutionized Catholic relations with Jews after centuries of persecution and mistrust. Dialogue that ensued over the following two decades made it possible for Pope John Paul II to become the first pontiff to visit a synagogue, giving a speech in Rome's main temple in 1986, where he called Jews "our beloved elder brothers". After years of often tense relations, the Vatican and Israel signed a "fundamental agreement" in 1993 and exchanged full ambassadors the next year.



PUNJAB HOCH TRAGEDY: 10 INCLUDING KINGPIN ARRESTED; MAJITHA DSP, SHO SUSPENDED

Diary Times Desk : Ten individuals were arrested in connection with the death of at least 21 people who consumed spurious alcohol in the Majitha area of Punjab's Amritsar, a top police officer said on Tuesday. Deputy Superintendent of Police (Majitha) Amolak Singh and Majitha Station House Officer Sub-Inspector Avtar Singh were suspended for "gross negligence" in discharging their official duties, which resulted in the tragic incident, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav told reporters here. He said departmental inquiries have been initiated against the delinquents. As many as 21 people have died in Bhangali Kalan, Patalpuri, Marari Kalan, Threawal, Talwandi Khumman and Karnala villages after consuming the toxic liquor, officials said. Six people have been hospitalised after developing health complications. DGP Yadav said police have arrested 10 persons in connection with the illicit liquor trade. This includes the kingpin of the racket, local distributors and sellers, and the main suppliers of methanol, a fatal chemical used in industrial products. The arrested kingpin of the racket has been identified as Sahib Singh. The methanol suppliers were identified as Pankaj Kumar alias Sahil and Arvind Kumar, owners of Sahil Chemicals at Sukh Enclave in Ludhiana.



PAKISTAN WILL NOT GET ANY SLEEP FOR A LONG TIME, SAYS PM MODI AT ADAMPUR AIRBASE

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday saluted Indian Armed Forces, BSF and paramilitary for conducting an "exceptional, unimaginable and majestic" Operation Sindoor, which achieved its goals of hitting Pakistan-based terror hubs and said action against the neighbour had only been paused with any future terror activity to be met with decisive force on India's India terms and chosen time. Addressing soldiers from the grounds of Indian Air Force's Adampur base, which the Pakistan military claimed to have destroyed in the recent conflict, Prime Minister said Pakistan can never face India's high tech defence capabilities and Indian forces had punctured its nuclear bubble. Repeatedly chanting "Bharat Mata ki Jai slogans" with the personnel at the Adampur base that he visited early Tuesday morning, the Prime Minister lauded Forces for an "exceptionally well-coordinated campaign that razed nine terror camps in Pakistan to the ground and killed over 100 terrorists."

BATHINDA POLICE ARREST ANOTHER SUSPECTED SPY BATHINDA ARMY CANTONMENT

Diary Times Desk : Bathinda Police on Tuesday arrested another suspected spy allegedly working for Pakistan from the Bathinda Army Cantonment (Cantt). The accused, identified as Raqeeb, is a resident of Roorkee in Uttarakhand. He was working as a tailor inside the Cantonment area. Officials at the Bathinda Army Cantt grew suspicious of Raqeeb's suspicious activities and reported the matter to the local police. Acting swiftly on the complaint, the police arrested him. An FIR has been registered against him at the Bathinda Cantt police station. SP City Narinder Singh stated that Raqeeb had been working as a tailor at the Bathinda Cantt for the past two years. He lived and slept inside his shop within the Cantt area. "We received a complaint from the Army Cantt regarding his suspicious activities. Following this, we registered a case and arrested him," Singh said. Authorities have seized Raqeeb's mobile phone and sent it for forensic examination.

PATIALA POLICE FOIL ILLICIT LIQUOR PLOT, SEIZE 600 LITRES OF METHANOL MEANT FOR AMRITSAR

Diary Times Desk : The Patiala police, led by SSP Varun Sharma, have recovered over 600 litres of methanol, suspected to be used for manufacturing illicit liquor, en route to Amritsar. Acting on a specific tip, the police conducted a raid and confiscated the chemical mix. The Banur and Rajpura areas have long been known for chemical smuggling, particularly methanol, pilfered by truck drivers and dhaba owners and then used to make illegal hooch. According to SSP Varun Sharma, preliminary investigations suggest the chemical was ordered by the same accused individuals arrested in connection with the Majitha hooch tragedy. SP (Investigation) Gurbans Singh Bains stated that the police received specific information about the chemical transportation, leading to its confiscation. The seized methanol is believed to be sufficient for producing hundreds of litres of illicit liquor. "This seizure likely saved many innocent lives," said the SSP. One accused has been apprehended, and the raid is ongoing.

PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT RESTRAINS HARASSMENT OF LOP PARTAP SINGH BAJWA

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the state and its functionaries to ensure Punjab Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa was not unnecessarily harassed "in the name of the investigation" in a case registered by the police following his remarks on untraced grenades allegedly smuggled into the state. Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya's bench also made it clear that the investigation would be carried out strictly as per the laid down procedure. The direction came as the court fixed May 22 as the next date of hearing for the state to file its detailed reply. At the onset, the bench took note of Bajwa's submissions that he was being subjected to harassment under the garb of investigation. It was contended before the high court through senior advocate APS Deol and counsel Himmat Singh Deol, Arshdeep Singh Cheema and Vishal Lamba that notices under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were being issued to him for disclosing "irrelevant" information. He referred to, in particular, a May 10 notice directing him to furnish details of all mobile phones and SIM cards used by him over the past two years. He was asked to submit the information by noon on May 11. His counsel submitted the time allowed was unreasonably short and the information sought was extraneous to the allegations in the FIR. Opposing the plea, the state argued that the information was necessary for the investigation.

NGO TIP-OFF LEADS TO PREVENTION OF CHILD MARRIAGE IN JIND

Diary Times Desk : A child marriage was successfully prevented in Kharak Gadia village, Jind district, last night after authorities discovered both the bride and groom were underage. The 13-year-old bride and 19-year-old groom, both school dropouts, were set to be married at the bride's uncle's house. The groom's father, Rajesh Kumar from Niyat village, Sonapat district, had arrived with a 60-member wedding procession, while the bride's father, Vakil from Mohammad Khera village, Jind, had travelled from Mumbai for the ceremony. The NGO, Mission to the Desperate and Destitute of India (MDD of India), received a tip-off and alerted Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO) Sunita. A joint team of CMPO, police, and NGO officials intervened, verifying the ages through birth certificates, which confirmed both the bride and groom were minors under the Child Marriage Act, 2006. After warning the families of legal consequences, the officials successfully halted the ceremony, and the groom's procession returned without completing the marriage. Both families were summoned to the local women's police station, where they provided written statements claiming ignorance of the law. They were later presented before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

CAN'T DENY BAIL FOR REFUSING TO CONFESS: PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has condemned the growing police practice of opposing bail on the ground that the accused is "uncooperative" merely because he refuses to confess. Calling it a coercive and constitutionally impermissible tactic, the court asserted that such conduct violated the right against self-incrimination and undermined the very foundations of a fair investigation. "Opposing the release of an accused on bail solely because he refuses to testify against himself is a draconian practice that, in good conscience, cannot be allowed to continue unchecked by this court," Justice Harpreet Singh Brar asserted. The ruling came in a theft case registered under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on November 25, 2024, at the Bajghera police station in Gurugram district. The prosecution, in a voluminous 402-page status report, sought custodial interrogation of the accused on the ground that he had not answered the questions put to him and had, thereby.

HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY GETS PERMANENT REGISTRAR, RECRUITMENT PROCESS MAY MOVE FORWARD

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh government on Sunday issued orders for the appointment of a permanent registrar in Himachal Pradesh University. This is likely to move forward the stuck recruitment process for the posts of non-teachers advertised in 2020 and 21 in the university. Earlier, Dr. Virendra Kumar Sharma, who was the registrar of the university, was fulfilling the additional responsibilities of the registrar with the new post. In the latest orders, senior HAS officer Gyan Sagar Negi has been appointed as the registrar of the university. Like the post of Vice Chancellor, which has been vacant for three years, routine work was being done by giving additional workload to the post of registrar. The university administration has sought approval from the government to fill very important posts by rationalizing. As soon as it comes, now the process of permanent registrar recruitment can be taken forward. At the same time, there is hardly any difficulty in completing the recruitment process of the recently advertised posts of teachers within the stipulated time period.

CBSE RESULT 2025: GIRLS AHEAD IN 10TH-12TH CLASS RESULTS, HIMACHAL LEFT NEIGHBOURING STATES BEHIND

Diary Times Desk : In the results of class 10th and 12th declared by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday, girls in Himachal Pradesh were ahead of boys in pass percentage. In Himachal, 97.26 percent students passed in class 10th and 92.76 percent in class 12th. In the results of both the classes, the performance of Himachal students was better than the neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh except Jammu and Kashmir. The results of both the exams in Himachal are higher than the national average. 10th is 93.66 percent and 12th is 88.39 percent. A total of 17,204 students had registered for the 10th exams in the state. Among them, 9,530 were boys and 7,674 were girls. A total of 17,177 students appeared in the exam.

HP SCHOLARSHIP SCAM: CBI IS INVESTIGATING THE RECORDS IN THE SCHOLARSHIP SCAM, SOME MORE ARRESTS POSSIBLE

Diary Times Desk : CBI has got important evidence in the raids conducted in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana in the scholarship scam. CBI has started scrutinizing the records brought from the search raid. Computer hard disks and other digital storage devices seized during the raid have been brought along in sealed covers. Preparations are on to send them for forensic investigation. Some arrests are likely based on the evidence found in the raid. At the same time, many people associated with the scholarship scam are on the target of CBI. A detailed list of seized items has been prepared. Signatures of independent witnesses have been taken on it. To ensure that the seized items are not tampered with, they have been kept safely under seal. Data will be extracted from computer hard disks and other digital storage devices. For this, the help of cyber forensic experts will be taken. If the seized items are found to be related to the crime, then they will be presented as evidence in the court. CBI had raided two places in Himachal Pradesh and one place each in Punjab and Haryana in this case. This action was taken on the basis of a search warrant from the court.



HIMACHAL: YOU WILL GET THE FLAVOUR OF SPICES AND MEDICINAL PROPERTIES WITH MUSHROOMS

Diary Times Desk : Now you will get the taste of spices along with mushrooms. In this, the Directorate of Mushroom Research (DMR) is doing research on growing Dhingri mushroom on the waste of spices. People will get not only protein with eating mushrooms, but also medicinal properties of cumin, fennel and coriander. DMR experts are doing research on this with NRCSS (National Seed Spice Research Center) Ajmer. After successful research, its training will also be given to mushroom producers and farmers across the country. According to the information, successful training has already been done by the scientists of the Directorate of Mushroom Research on growing Dhingri mushroom on the waste of medicinal plants. In this, there has been successful research on ginger and basil. After testing in the lab, it has medicinal properties. At the same time, research has been started on the remains of spices. DMR Solan scientist Dr. Brij Lal Atri is working on this research. Currently, Dhingri mushroom is also being prepared on wheat straw, sugarcane bagasse and straw across the country. For the first time, the Directorate of Mushrooms is conducting research on medicinal plants for mushroom production. Scientists claim that mushrooms will be full of medicinal properties.

40 NEW INDUSTRIES TO BE SET UP IN HIMACHAL, DOORS OF EMPLOYMENT WILL OPEN

Diary Times Desk : 40 more new industries will be set up in Himachal Pradesh. Many big industrial groups have expressed their desire to set up industries in Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) industrial area. The Industry Department has received 40 industrial proposals with an investment of more than 200 crores. With their implementation, about 1500 people will get direct employment. The Industry Department is preparing to bring these proposals to the Single Window Clearance Committee meeting for approval. The new proposals include industries related to tiles, raw material used in the manufacture of medicines and solar panels. According to the department, industrialists from Himachal and outside states have shown interest in setting up new industries. Himachal entrepreneurs will not need any special permission (permission of 118) to set up industries. Investors from outside states will have to take permission to take land on lease. The state government has said that it will lease land to entrepreneurs in Himachal. CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and Industry Minister Harshvardhan Chauhan are communicating with investors regarding this.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: ALL RATION DEPOTS OF HIMACHAL WILL BE CONNECTED WITH INTERNET FACILITY, THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM IN RATION DISTRIBUTION

Diary Times Desk : Internet connectivity will be provided to 5096 ration depots of Himachal Pradesh within a month. To solve the problem faced by consumers in ration distribution due to signal problem, the Food Civil Supplies Department has decided to provide internet connectivity for operating POS machines. The Food Civil Supplies Department has started contacting companies to provide the service. The department will finalize the company by short term tender so that all ration depots get internet connectivity by completing the formalities within a month. Every month, there is a problem in ration distribution in the rural areas of the state due to signal problem. People have to wait for hours due to POS machines not working. At present, depot operators are running POS machines using their mobile internet with the help of hot spot. The Depot Operators Association has raised this problem before the government many times. The department has assured to solve the problem. Harsh Oberoi, Vice President of Depot Operators Association, says that POS machines were installed in ration depots in 2016, the online system has been fully implemented from 2018. In the first one year, the company which installed the machines bore the cost of recharge, after that the depot operators are running the machines on their own. Whereas the company is taking money from the government in lieu of service. Even when there is a technical fault in the machines, the company is charging arbitrary amount from the depot operators.



'ROHIT SHOULD'VE PLAYED IN ENGLAND. KOHLI HAD...': ASHWIN CALLS IT 'START OF GAMBHIR ERA'; COUNTERS BCCI'S RUMOURED MOVE

Diary Times Desk : The world was not quite ready for Ravichandran Ashwin to announce his retirement in the middle of a Test series last December. And, he was not ready to see his two former teammates – Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli – draw curtains on their Test careers in a space of just five days, especially with the crucial tour of England set to begin in just about a month's time. Rohit announced his retirement on May 7 via social media. Kohli did the same on Monday on Instagram. The two significant developments came less than a fortnight before the scheduled selection meeting for the tour of England. Speaking on his YouTube show 'Ash Ki Baat', the former India spinner said he had no idea that two retirement announcements would come in this fashion and reckoned that Jasprit Bumrah was the solution to the sudden and significant leadership vacuum in India's Test team. "I didn't have an idea both [Rohit and Kohli] would retire together," Ashwin said. "This will be a testing time for Indian cricket, and I'll say this is truly now the beginning of the Gautam Gambhir era. "The team that will tour England will be a completely new team, a transformed team where Bumrah will probably be the senior-most player. He is obviously one of the captaincy options; I think he deserves the captaincy, but the selectors will take a decision based on his physical capacity.

**"VIRAT KOHLI, ROHIT SHARMA WILL NOT PLAY 2027 ODI WORLD CUP": SUNIL GAVASKAR'S BLUNT VERDICT**

Diary Times Desk : Both Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma looked set to feature for India in the whites on the tour of England, probably for the last time in their careers, but a call to quit the format even before the series began stunned everyone. With the duo already retired from T20 internationals, the only format in which they will be seen wearing the India shirt is ODIs. While Virat Kohli has publicly expressed his desire to play in the 2027 World Cup, the importance Rohit gives to the 50-over World Cup is matched by none. Yet, Indian cricket great Sunil Gavaskar doesn't think playing the 2027 World Cup is practically possible for Rohit and Virat. In a chat on Sports Today, Gavaskar said that the duo's 2027 World Cup plans would depend a lot on the selectors' perception of their game. "They have been massive performers in this format of the game. Again, the selection committee will probably be looking at the 2027 World Cup. They will be looking at whether they will be able to be in the team for the 2027 World Cup? Will they be able to make the kind of contributions they have been making? That will be the thought process of the selection committee. If the selection committee thinks 'yes, they can', then both of them will be there for that," Gavaskar told Sports Today on Monday, May 12.

RABADA HEADS SIX-MAN PACE ATTACK IN SA'S WTC FINAL SQUAD

Diary Times Desk : South Africa have named a familiar-looking Test squad to take on Australia at the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord's next month, led by Temba Bavuma and headlined by pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada, who has completed a one-month ban for failing a drug test. Rabada served his sanction between April 1 and May 1 and has since been cleared to play. He was available for Gujarat Titans' match against Mumbai Indians at the IPL on May 6 but was not selected. Rabada will lead a six-man pace pack at the WTC final which includes Lungi Ngidi, who has not featured in Tests since August last year. Gerald Coetzee, who was ruled out of the home summer when he injured his groin in the Durban Test against Sri Lanka and 19 year-old left-arm seamer Kwena Maphaka, who debuted against Pakistan at Newlands, have not been selected. Neither have Anrich Nortje, who does not have a central contract but was in consideration for Tests this summer before he broke his toe, or Nandre Burger, who has recovered from a lower back stress fracture and is at the IPL. Dane Paterson, a key member of South Africa's success at home and who is currently playing at Middlesex, and Corbin Bosch, who debuted over the home summer, have been included. Shukri Conrad, South Africa's coach, explained that he made his selections with fitness and form in mind.

GAUTAM GAMBHIR TO ENJOY 'RARE' POWER AFTER VIRAT KOHLI EXIT. REPORT SAYS "HE WAS CATEGORICAL..."

Diary Times Desk : Greg Chappell's fall was spectacular when he tried to impose his authority while Anil Kumble could not deal with alpha male stardom but it seems Gautam Gambhir is on course to become that rare India head coach who will wield more power than the skipper. Indian cricket is replete with examples where powerful managers had to back out in front of player-power. Bishan Singh Bedi, Chappell and Kumble despite being champion players themselves didn't realise that they have to play the second fiddle. John Wright, Gary Kirsten and Ravi Shastri knew that and were immensely successful. With the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin, there aren't many megastars left in the Test team and it gives Gambhir time and space to manoeuvre and move his strategic pieces on the cricketing chess board. If sources in the BCCI are to be believed, Gambhir had objectives in his bucket-list and the biggest was abolition of star culture in the team. "The Gautam Gambhir era begins now. He was categorical that during the next WTC cycle, India need to have fresh faces," a BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

**PUJARA FEELS INDIA 'NEED A COUPLE OF SERIES' TO FIGURE OUT KOHLI'S REPLACEMENT**

Diary Times Desk : Virat Kohli's retirement from Tests poses an immediate question to India: who will be their next No. 4? And it's a question that might need some time to be answered, in the opinion of Cheteshwar Pujara. "We will need a couple of series to figure out who is well suited to bat at No. 4, because it's an important position," Pujara told ESPNcricinfo. "You need your best batter to bat at No. 4. And at this time, I think it's still a spot where the team management will have to figure out who is the most suited player at No. 4." It's a dilemma India haven't faced in over a decade – they have played 115 Tests since Sachin Tendulkar's retirement, and Kohli batted at No. 4 in 99 of them; Ajinkya Rahane – with nine such appearances – comes next. In the last series that Kohli missed entirely – the home Tests against England in early 2024 – India used as many as four batters at two-down: KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Rajat Patidar (in two Tests) and Devdutt Padikkal. Pujara, who slotted in at No. 4 in seven Tests between 2015 and 2023, believes it might be prudent for India to "take some time" before settling in on a candidate. "There are a lot of players who are making their way into the playing XI, no one has a secured spot at this stage. It's a process which will take some time."

ASHWIN: JASPRIT BUMRAH 'DESERVES THE CAPTAINCY'

Diary Times Desk : R Ashwin has said the sudden retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have created a significant leadership vacuum in India's Test team and that Jasprit Bumrah is a deserving candidate for the captaincy. "I didn't have an idea both [Rohit and Kohli] would retire together," Ashwin said on his Youtube show 'Ash Ki Baat'. "This will be a testing time for Indian cricket, and I'll say this is truly now the beginning of the Gautam Gambhir era. "The team that will tour England will be a completely new team, a transformed team where Bumrah will probably be the senior-most player. He is obviously one of the captaincy options; I think he deserves the captaincy, but the selectors will take a decision based on his physical capacity. "Their retirements will definitely create a leadership vacuum. You can't buy experience, especially on tours like this. Virat's energy and Rohit's composure will be missed." Shubman Gill is considered the frontrunner to succeed Rohit despite Bumrah having been vice-captain until the tour of Australia earlier this year. He was the stand-in captain during the victory.