

'OPERATION  
SINDOOR'

HIGH COURT ORDERS FIR AGAINST MP MINISTER FOR  
CONTROVERSIAL REMARKS AGAINST COL SOFIA QURESHI

**Diary Times Desk :** The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Wednesday castigated state minister Vijay Shah for passing "scurrilous" remarks and using "language of the gutters" against Colonel Sofia Qureshi, and ordered the police to file an FIR against him on the charge of promoting enmity and hatred.

It also said the armed forces were "perhaps the last institution in this country" that reflect integrity, discipline, sacrifice, selflessness, character, honour and indomitable courage.

Colonel Qureshi came into the spotlight for holding regular press briefings along with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh about 'Operation Sindoor' conducted last week by Indian armed forces to strike terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Shah, the tribal affairs minister and BJP leader, sparked a major controversy with objectionable comments against Colonel Qureshi, whom he tried to project as a "sister of terrorists". He made the remarks while addressing a gathering at Ramkunda village near Indore on Monday.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the controversial statements, the high court's division bench of Justices Atul Shridharan and Anuradha Shukla ordered the police to register a first information report (FIR) against the minister. The court directed the police department to register the FIR by 6 pm on Wednesday, and also directed it to inform them about it.



CHIEF JUSTICE  
OF INDIA

JUSTICE BR GAVAI SWORN IN AS 52ND CHIEF  
JUSTICE OF INDIA



**Diary Times Desk :** Justice BR Gavai – the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court – was on Wednesday sworn-in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India. President Draupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice Gavai in Hindi at a brief ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan at 10 am.

Justice Gavai is only the second individual from the Dalit community to become the CJI, the first being Justice KG Balakrishnan – the 37th CJI from January 14, 2007 to May 12, 2010. Justice Gavai succeeds Justice Sanjiv Khanna who retired on April 13 after a six-month stint. Justice Khanna had on April 16 recommended Justice Gavai's name as his successor last month. The Centre had notified his appointment on April 29.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union ministers, outgoing CJI Khanna, senior-most Supreme Court Judge – Justice Surya Kant, sitting and former judges of the Supreme Court and various other dignitaries from the fields of law and politics.

After taking the oath, CJI Gavai was seen touching the feet of his mother Kamaltai Gavai, who was present at the ceremony along with other members of his family. After the ceremony, Justice Gavai paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi by garlanding his statue in the Supreme Court premises before occupying the chair of the CJI in Court No. 1 of the Supreme Court. Elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, Justice Gavai will have an over-six-month tenure as the CJI. He is due to retire on November 23, 2025. There has been a convention of the CJI recommending the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court as his successor. Only twice, it was not followed – Justice AN Ray was appointed the CJI on April 25.

INDIA APPEARS TO HAVE HAD 'CLEAR EDGE' IN TARGETING  
PAK'S MILITARY FACILITIES: NYT REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** India appears to have had a "clear edge" in targeting Pakistan's military facilities and airfields during the recent four-day confrontation, the New York Times reported, citing satellite images. High-resolution satellite imagery, from before and after the strikes, shows "clear damage" to Pakistan's facilities by Indian attacks, according to the report. "The four-day military clash between India and Pakistan was the most expansive fighting in half a century between the two nuclear-armed countries. As both sides used drones and missiles to test each other's air defences and hit military facilities, they claimed to inflict severe damage," the report said. It added that satellite imagery indicates that while the attacks were widespread, the damage was far more contained than claimed – "and appeared mostly inflicted by India on Pakistani facilities". In the new age of high-tech warfare, the report said that strikes by both sides, verified by the imagery, appeared to be precisely targeted.



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CONGRESS QUESTIONS GOVT'S STILLNESS ON TRUMP-  
BROKERED CEASEFIRE



**Diary Times Desk :** Questioning the alleged stillness of the Centre over US President Donald Trump's surprise announcement of a ceasefire understanding brokered by his administration, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) in its resolution on Wednesday regarded the government's silence as "inexplicable and unacceptable". "Equally surprising was the abrupt end to India's retaliatory action against Pakistan, which has left behind a trail of unanswered questions. The sudden halt, without clarity or communication, has led to speculation and concern across the country. Adding to this is the deeply problematic statement by the US President Donald Trump, who was the first to claim that a ceasefire was brokered with the use of trade threats and pressure on India. The Government of India's silence on this matter is inexplicable and unacceptable." The Congress also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government of "internalising" Kashmir saying, "successive Indian governments, cutting across party lines, have firmly maintained that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan."

SHASHI THAROOR CROSSES 'LAKSHMAN REKHA' WITH  
COMMENTS ON INDIA-PAK CONFLICT: CONGRESS SOURCES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Congress on Wednesday took note of its leader Shashi Tharoor's repeated comments on the India-Pakistan conflict after the Pahalgam terror attack, with sources saying that he has crossed a red line. The sources said the Congress is a democratic party in which leaders express their views freely, but Tharoor has crossed the 'lakshman rekha' with his repeated comments on the India-Pakistan conflict. They made the assertion after a meeting of senior leaders, including Tharoor, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretaries KC Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Sachin Pilot, among others, at its 24, Akbar Road office. The sources said, without naming anyone, the party leadership sent a "clear message" during the meeting that this is not the time of airing individual views but for amplifying the party's stand. Asked about Tharoor's comments being at odds with the party's stand, Ramesh said at a media briefing, "That is his opinion. When Mr Tharoor speaks, it does not reflect the views of the party."



### YOUR HOROSCOPE

15-05-2025

**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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





## HIMACHAL NEWS: SUSPICIOUS DRONES WERE SEEN VERY CLOSE TO CM SUKHU'S HOUSE, CAUSING PANIC

**Diary Times Desk :** There was a stir late in the evening due to the information of drones being seen in Gauna, Sera, Majhiyar and adjoining areas under Police Station Naidun. After receiving information from local people and Panchayat representatives, the police has left for investigation. Four drones were seen flying in the sky in the area. A drone was also seen flying for a long time at a very sensitive place very close to the ancestral residence of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, where his elderly mother and other family members are also living in the house. Local people immediately switched off the lights of the houses etc. Former Deputy Pradhan Sanjeev Kumar of Karaur Panchayat and Pradhan Sonia Thakur of Chief Minister's home Panchayat Amlehad said that first these drones were seen flying over Sera village. Of which one was seen going towards Gauna, one towards Majhiyar and one towards Kohla village at a very high speed. According to local people, one drone has crashed. However, it has not been confirmed by the police yet.



## HPU: THERE WILL BE NO ENTRANCE EXAM FOR FIVE-YEAR TOURISM AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT COURSE, BBA/BCA ENTRANCE ON 17TH

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) will no longer conduct entrance exam for admission in the five-year integrated tourism and travel management course. Admission will be given on merit basis for 35 seats of the course. About 20 applications have been received for the course. Dean of Studies Prof. BK Shrivam and Director of IVS Prof. Sonia Khan said that entrance exam is not being conducted due to less applications. The institute and DS office had already decided that there will be no entrance exam in case of less applications, so the entrance exam of the course scheduled earlier on 24 May will no longer be conducted. Merit will be prepared on the marks obtained in class 10th and 12th. A separate schedule of counseling will be released for admission. Entrance exam for admission in BBA and BCA in HPU UCBS will be held on 17 May. The university has released the admit cards for the exam. Students can download the admit card from the website. Students can download the admit card by entering their login ID in the link given on the website.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- NO LIVELIHOOD SHOULD BE LOST UNJUSTLY

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that no person's livelihood should be lost in an unjust manner. The state government will continue to provide relief, assistance and opportunities to the needy people. CM Sukhu said on Wednesday that the present state government is working with commitment for the welfare of the people of the state and ensuring their inclusive development. The government stands firmly with the deprived and marginalized sections of the society. The Chief Minister said this while interacting with the delegation of Hamirpur Street Vendors Union at his official residence 'Oak Over' on Wednesday. The delegation expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for his cooperation and intervention in resolving their long-standing issues. The delegation informed that their kiosks were earlier arbitrarily demolished, depriving them of their source of livelihood and shelter. Despite repeated requests, no action was taken in their favor. He said that after coming to power, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu provided all possible assistance to these families to provide them justice and means of livelihood. He said that the Chief Minister sympathetically worked towards their rehabilitation, which has resolved their livelihood problem. Sunil Sharma, political advisor to Chief Minister Sukhu, said that as a result of the continuous efforts of the CM.

## KULLU: A SHEPHERD WAS CRUSHED BY A SPEEDING VEHICLE IN 18 MILES, 10 SHEEP AND GOATS ALSO DIED

**Diary Times Desk :** A driver ran over a shepherd and his sheep and goats near 18 mile on Chandigarh-Manali National Highway 3. The shepherd died in the accident. Ten sheep and goats also died, while two sheep were injured. This accident happened near Bindu Dhank. It is being told that the driver was driving the vehicle at a high speed. In such a situation, the shepherd and the sheep and goats came under its grip. The police was informed about the incident. The police have registered a case and started investigation. The police have registered a case on the complaint of Narottam Ram, resident of village and post office Tehri, district Mandi, regarding the incident. In the complaint given to the police, Narottam told that he had come from Kandi to Kanyal three days ago with the sheep and goats of Jagat Ram, Hirdu Ram and Mahendra Singh. Last night, all of them stayed in Patlikahal with the sheep and goats. He left for Manali from Patlikahal at around 2 o'clock in the night. On Wednesday morning around 4.30 am, near Bindu Dhank, a vehicle HP-01B-5001 came at a high speed from Kullu towards Manali. During this, the driver hit the goats. He also trampled Mahendra Singh who was walking ahead. In this accident, 37-year-old Mahendra Singh, resident of Kaldi, Tehsil Sadar District Mandi, died on the spot.

## HIMACHAL: HEAD OFFICE OF WILD LIFE WING OF FOREST DEPARTMENT SHIFTED TO DHARAMSHALA, GOVERNMENT ISSUED NOTIFICATION

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh government has issued a notification on Wednesday to shift the head office of the forest department's wildlife wing from Shimla to Dharamshala. This was approved in the cabinet meeting held recently. According to the notification issued by the government, the office of PCCF (Wildlife) has been shifted from the office of PCCF (HOFF) Talland Shimla to the building of CPD KFW Project Office Dharamshala. It has been decided to shift the office of CPD, KFW to the vacant office of CF Wildlife Dharamshala. Let us tell you, the government has declared Dharamshala as the tourism capital. In such a situation, the government is engaged in developing this district in terms of tourism. In this episode, the country's largest zoo is also being built in Bankhandi of Kangra.

## HP BJP: BJP WILL TELL THE VICTORY STORY OF OPERATION SINDOOR TILL THE DIVISIONAL LEVEL, TIRANGA YATRA STARTS FROM SHIMLA

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal BJP will tell the victory story of Operation Sindoor at the mandal level. For this, a Tiranga Yatra was organized by Citizens for National Security from CTO to Sher-e-Punjab and Ridge on Wednesday. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur and BJP State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal were specially present in the Yatra. Vyapar Mandal, Rotary Club, Singh Sabha and a large number of social organizations participated in this Yatra. Program coordinator Bihari Lal Sharma was also present in the Yatra. Slogans were raised during the Tiranga Yatra to boost the morale of the army. This Yatra became a symbol of patriotism and unwavering resolve towards national security among the countrymen. Addressing the media on this occasion, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that today's India has changed. This new India wants peace, but is ready to go to any extent for the complete destruction of terrorism. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has made it clear that now India will not tolerate any kind of nuclear threat. He said that terror and talk cannot go together. The hypocrisy of terror and trade will not work now. Whenever there will be bloodshed, the water route will be blocked. Operation Sindoor has been postponed, but it is not over. If there will be talks with Pakistan, it will now be only on Pakistan occupied Kashmir or on total destruction of terrorism.



INDIA BLOCKS X  
ACCOUNTS OF CHINESE,  
TURKISH STATE MEDIA

**Diary Times Desk :** India has blocked access to several X (formerly Twitter) accounts affiliated with state-run media outlets of China and Turkey, accusing them of spreading misinformation and propaganda against India's national interests. Among those affected are TRT World, a Turkish government-funded international news outlet, and Global Times and Xinhua, two of the most prominent Chinese state-controlled news agencies. The move followed a public rebuke issued by the Indian Embassy in Beijing earlier this week, warning Global Times over its coverage of the military operation. In a direct post on X, the Embassy stated: "Dear @globaltimesnews, we would recommend you verify your facts and cross-examine your sources before pushing out this kind of disinformation." In a follow-up message, the Embassy elaborated that multiple social media accounts sympathetic to Pakistan had been circulating unsubstantiated claims related to the alleged losses suffered by the Indian armed forces.

"PERSONA NON GRATA": PAK  
ASKS INDIAN DIPLOMAT TO  
LEAVE COUNTRY WITHIN 24  
HOURS

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan on Tuesday declared a staff member of the Indian High Commission here "persona non grata" for engaging in activities what it called "incompatible" with his privileged status. A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said that the concerned official has been directed to leave Pakistan within 24 hours. "The Government of Pakistan has declared a staff member of the Indian High Commission, Islamabad, as persona non grata for engaging in activities incompatible with his privileged status," it said. It added that the Indian Charge d'Affaires was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday for a démarche, conveying this decision.

Earlier, India expelled a Pakistani official working at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi for allegedly indulging in espionage. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the official was indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status in India and that he had been given 24 hours to leave the country. The move comes amid tensions between the two neighbours following a four-day military confrontation.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said that the concerned official has been directed to leave Pakistan within 24 hours.

COURT ORDERS CASE AGAINST MADHYA PRADESH  
MINISTER FOR REMARKS ON COLONEL SOFIYA  
QURESHI



**Diary Times Desk :** A police case will be filed against Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah over his derogatory, communal and sexist comments on Colonel Sophia Qureshi, the state High Court has ordered. Taking suo motu cognizance of the matter, which has sparked a wave of condemnation, the court directed the state police chief today to file a First Information Report against Vijay Shah. The court said this must be completed by this evening, failing which the court may consider initiating contempt proceedings against the police chief. Colonel Sofia Qureshi and another officer, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, have been the face of the army during the media conferences on Operation Sindoor. Both have frequently joined Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during the briefings. The Jabalpur High Court bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Anuradha Shukla lashed out at Mr Shah for using "language of the gutters" against a senior Indian Army officer. Terming the comments "dangerous" and "disparaging", the judges said they were also prima facie offences under two stringent sections of Indian law.

AFTER BIGGEST OP AGAINST  
MAOISTS, TRICOLOUR AT 'RED  
TERROR' HILL: AMIT SHAH

**Diary Times Desk :** The killing of 31 Maoists at Karregutta Hill on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border this week - the result of 'India's largest anti-Maoist operation', which sources said also recovered 450 IEDs and 40 weapons - has been hailed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as an "historic" achievement. Source said a large quantity of ammunition, detonators, and explosive devices, besides 12,000kg of other materials, such as medicine and electric equipment was also seized. And, in addition, four factories producing weapons, motors, and cutters were found. On Wednesday, Mr Shah said, "The hill, once ruled by red terror, now proudly waves the tricolour", and underlined the government's resolve to "eradicate Maoism" by March 2026. Karregutta Hill, he declared, was once the 'unified headquarters' of major Maoist groups, and where battle strategies were drawn up, weapons developed, and fighters trained. "This largest operation was completed by our security forces in just 21 days.

US OFFICIAL SILENCES REPORTER WHO ACCUSED INDIA OF BLOCKING CEASEFIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** A journalist was silenced by a United States official when he sought to ask whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi had opposed de-escalation talks between Delhi and Islamabad. At a US State Department briefing on Tuesday, the reporter projected President Donald Trump as a peace messiah who had brokered the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, and claimed the so-called efforts were not welcomed by India. "Pakistan welcomed President Trump's efforts for bringing the ceasefire between Pakistan and India, and they believe that President Trump could win a Nobel Peace Prize if he were to bring peace between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue. But Prime Minister Modi did not welcome this effort... Does that disappoint this building at all, the attitude of Narendra Modi of not welcoming this peace deal," the reporter asked US Department of State Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott.



GAVAI TO BE CJI FOR 6  
MONTHS, FIRST WOMAN CJI  
MIGHT SERVE JUST 36 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, who was sworn in on Wednesday as the 52nd Chief Justice of India, will serve as the CJI till November 23. If Gavai's six-month tenure looks short, one needs to consider that the probable first woman CJI would have a term of just 36 days. It has been 75 years since the Supreme Court of India was established and yet, no woman has been appointed as the CJI. Justice Gavai's name was recommended by the collegium as the next CJI and the President granted her approval. Justice Gavai will be serving as the top judicial officer for six months, the same as the current CJI, Sanjiv Khanna. Until now, all 51 Chief Justices of India have been men and only 11 women have served as judges on the Supreme Court. As per the seniority rule, Justice BV Nagarathna will become the first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027. Even though her tenure will last for a mere 36 days, it will not be the shortest. The shortest serving CJI was Justice Kamal Narain Singh.

JNU SUSPENDS AGREEMENT WITH  
TURKEY UNIVERSITY OVER "NATIONAL  
SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS"

**Diary Times Desk :** The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has cancelled an agreement with Turkey's Inonu University citing "national security", against the backdrop of India-Pakistan tensions and anger over Turkey's support to Pakistan. In a post on X, the premier university said it had suspended its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Turkish university "due to national security considerations". "JNU stands with the nation," the university's X post further said. According to the JNU website, the agreement was signed on February 3, 2025, for three years. It was scheduled to continue till February 2, 2028. JNU's action came on a day the government briefly blocked the Twitter accounts of Turkish news broadcaster, TRT World, for peddling propaganda and misinformation against India. The action coincides with a growing sentiment in India favouring a boycott of Turkish products and services. Turkey has been facing anger over its support to Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, launched by India in response to the Pahalagam.



**KREMLIN DECLINES TO SAY IF PUTIN  
WILL MEET UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY IN  
ISTANBUL**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Kremlin has again declined to say whether President Vladimir Putin will travel to Turkiye for planned negotiations with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy, amid growing international pressure on Moscow to hold direct talks and end its three-year war. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Wednesday that Moscow would disclose the makeup of its delegation to Turkiye once Putin gave the order. "The Russian delegation will be waiting for the Ukrainian delegation in Istanbul on May 15," he said. Peskov said he would provide an update "when we get the relevant instructions from the president". "No such instructions have been received yet." The planned negotiations, expected to take place on Thursday in Istanbul, Turkiye's commercial hub, would be the first direct talks between Kyiv and Moscow since 2022, shortly after Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

**TRUMP ASKS SAUDI CROWN PRINCE,  
"HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT?" HIS  
RESPONSE**

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump had an unusual question for Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as he praised him for making Riyadh a major world business center. Addressing a gathering of the world's business elite in Riyadh, Trump asked Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler if he slept at night, praising him for overcoming criticism and building his country into a powerful business hub. "Mohammed, do you sleep at night? How do you sleep? What a job. He tosses and turns like some of us, tosses and turns all night...How do I make it better? It's the ones who don't toss and turn, they're the ones who will never take you to the promised land," Trump said as he kicked off the first major overseas trip of his second term. The glowing praise earned Trump a laugh from bin Salman and a standing ovation from the audience. Further expressing his admiration for Saudi Arabia's transformation under MBS's leadership, 78-year-old American leader said, "Critics doubted it (Saudi's rise) was possible, what you've done, but over the past eight years. Saudi Arabia has proved the critics totally wrong...I like him a lot. I like him too much," Marking his commitment.

**"CANNOT DO EVERYTHING": WHO HALVES MANAGEMENT TEAM AFTER  
US FUNDING CUTS**

**Diary Times Desk :** The World Health Organization has reduced its management team by half and will have to scale back operations, its director-general said on Wednesday, four months after the United States announced it was leaving the agency and cutting funding. "To be blunt, we cannot do everything," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a budget committee meeting ahead of the body's annual meeting next week. President Donald Trump said the US was leaving the agency on the first day of his return to office in January. Under US law, a one-year notice period is required before the country, the biggest financial backer of the WHO, can leave, as well as the payment of all fees. That money is outstanding. Tedros said the body and its member states must make difficult choices about what to prioritise, given a proposed 21% cut in the budget for 2026-2027 to \$4.2 billion.

**GLOBAL TERRORIST TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT:  
TRUMP-AL-SHARAA MEET SCRIPTS  
HISTORY**

**Diary Times Desk :** Donald Trump, who is on a whirlwind visit to the Middle East, has scripted history when he met Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia today. Of all his meetings and interactions, this meeting by President Trump was arguably the most significant and has reshaped the geopolitical landscape in central and west Asia. The first reason why heads turned when President Trump met President al-Sharaa is because of the latter's questionable background. Till very recently Ahmad al-Sharaa was known by his nom de guerre Abu Mohammad al-Jawlani (also spelt al-Golani or al-Joulani) - a UN-proscribed and US-designated terrorist. Over the last two decades Al-Jawlani held key positions in global terror organisations like Al Qaeda and ISIS. According to the United Nations Security Council's 'ISIS and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee', in July 2013, Abu Mohammed al-Jawlani was declared a global terrorist for "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating acts of terror".

**SUSPENSE OVER HAMAS LEADER  
MUHAMMAD SINWAR'S FATE AFTER ISRAEL  
AIRSTRIKE: REPORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli fighter jets launched a powerful airstrike on the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis on Tuesday evening, targeting a senior Hamas leader, Muhammad Sinwar, according to Israeli security sources. The strike reportedly hit an area near the European Hospital, where the Israeli military claimed a Hamas command center was located underground. He is the younger brother of Yahya Sinwar, the former Hamas leader who was killed by Israeli forces in 2023. Yahya Sinwar was widely seen as the mastermind behind the October 7, 2023, attacks that triggered the ongoing war. Though officials would not confirm whether Muhammad Sinwar was present at the site, all three Israeli sources—speaking anonymously—indicated the operation aimed to eliminate one of Hamas's last remaining top leaders in Gaza. The Gaza health ministry reported that at least six people were killed.

**QATAR AIRWAYS SIGNS DEAL  
FOR 160 BOEING JETS DURING  
TRUMP VISIT**

**Diary Times Desk :** State carrier Qatar Airways signed a deal on Wednesday to purchase jets from U.S. manufacturer Boeing during President Donald Trump's visit to the Gulf Arab country. Trump said the deal was worth \$200 billion and included 160 jets. Trump and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani witnessed the signing ceremony in Doha. The deal was signed during Trump's second stop on a tour of Gulf states after he struck a string of deals with Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. Trump said Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg, who signed the deal with Qatar Airways CEO Badr Mohammed Al-Meer next to Trump and the Qatari emir, told him "it's the largest order of jets in the history of Boeing, that's good". Trump added: "It's over \$200 billion but 160 in terms of the jets, that's fantastic. So that's a record, Kelly, and congratulations to Boeing. Get those planes out there, get them out there." It's not clear which Boeing aircraft models would be part of the deal and whether the orders from Qatar are firm, which require a deposit and several contractual obligations, or are options.

**PAK HIGH COMMISSIONER TO  
BANGLADESH HONEY-  
TRAPPED, UNTRACEABLE  
AFTER MMS GOES VIRAL**

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major embarrassment for Pakistan, its top diplomat in Bangladesh has unexpectedly proceeded on leave after videos ostensibly showing him in a compromising position with a Bangladeshi woman went viral on social media, reports local media. Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Syed Ahmed Maroof remains untraceable after his 'honey-trap' videos emerged online, reports Bangladesh daily Prothomalo. The development has created significant buzz online with speculations suggesting that Maroof fled to a third country after the videos emerged online. Photographs, apparently showing Maroof with a woman, emerged online with users suggesting that the two were in a relationship. The Pakistani Ambassador to Bangladesh, Syed Ahmed Maroof, was in a relationship with a Bangladeshi Muslim girl. After some intimate details became public, he was sent on leave. There was a time when Pakistanis used to rape Bangladeshi Muslim women nowadays, some Bangladeshi Muslim girls are willingly giving themselves to Pakistanis," a post from Voice of Bangladeshi Hindus on X read. Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, Muhammad Asif, has been serving.



**BBMB ROW: PUNJAB SEEKS MODIFICATION OF HC ORDER;  
CENTRE, HARYANA TO RESPOND**

**Diary Times Desk** : Just about two days after the state of Punjab moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court for recalling or modifying May 6 order in the BBMB case, a division bench today called for a reply from the Board, Haryana and the Centre. "Let reply to this application preferred by the state of Punjab be filed by the non-applicant/petitioner Board as well as the state of Haryana and Union of India, before the date fixed," the bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel asserted before fixing the case for May 20 — virtually advancing the date of hearing in the main case from May 28. The state was seeking the modification of the May 6 order, vide which the bench — among other things — had directed Punjab to abide by a decision taken in the matter during a meeting chaired by the Union Home Secretary. Punjab, through senior advocate and former advocate-general Gurminder Singh, had contended that the Union of India submitted before the bench on a previous date of hearing that the meeting was convened on May 2 under Union Home Secretary on release of extra 4,500 cusec to Haryana. A press note in this regard was also placed on record. The court, on May 6, was given the impression that the meeting was held on the issue of extra water release.

**AMRITSAR HOOCH TRAGEDY: 2  
DELHI TRADERS AMONG 4 MORE  
NABBED**

**Diary Times Desk** : Two more traders from Delhi have been arrested by the Amritsar rural police in connection with the Amritsar hooch tragedy. Till now, a total of 15 persons have been arrested. The Delhi-based traders had supplied methanol that was seized at Patiala. Around 600 litres of methanol was recovered by the police. Yesterday, 11 suspects were nabbed. Meanwhile, the condition of 10 persons admitted in the hospital continued to be critical. As many as 21 persons, all of whom were labourers, had lost their lives after consuming spurious liquor in five villages of Majitha subdivision on Tuesday. These included Maradi Kalan, Bhangali Kalan, Thariyewal, Patalpuri and Talwandi Ghuman villages. The police registered two separate FIRs on charges of murder, culpable homicide and under the Excise Act against suspects.

**WARRING CONDEMNS MP  
MINISTER'S REMARKS ON COL  
SOPHIA QURESHI**

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring on Wednesday condemned the Madhya Pradesh BJP leader and Minister Vijay Shah's remarks about Col Sofia Qureshi, seeking to link her religious identity with Pakistanis and terrorists. Warring, in a statement issued on Wednesday, alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party was not only trying to claim credit for the victory, which was delivered to the nation by our defence forces, but its leaders were also trying to communally poison the atmosphere of unity and harmony, as it does not suit the BJP's politics. The PCC president observed that the BJP has been taken aback by the unity and integrity shown by the people of the country irrespective of their religious faith or political ideology. "Such an atmosphere is an anathema for a party that feeds on communal poison," he observed, while alleging that the outrageous and blasphemous statement by the BJP leader was well thought out and done on the instructions of his party. While asserting that the entire country was proud of Col Sofia Qureshi.

**ARREST WITHOUT DISCLOSURE OF  
GROUNDS IS ILLEGAL: PUNJAB AND  
HARYANA HIGH COURT**

**Diary Times Desk** : In a significant ruling with wide ramifications, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that it is imperative for the investigating agency to supply the grounds of arrest to an accused. Failure on the investigating agency's part to do so would render the arrest illegal following the negation of the mandatory provisions of law and breach the safeguards guaranteed under of the Constitution. The ruling came as Justice Mahabir Singh Sindhu declared illegal the arrest of an accused in a drug-linked case involving alleged recovery of foreign currency from his residence and another establishment. An FIR in the matter was registered under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and NDPS Act at the Anti-Narcotics Task Force police station in Mohali. The accused was represented by senior advocate Bipan Ghai with counsel Nikhil Ghai and Akhil Godara. The court also declared the search and seizure operation carried out at the petitioner's locked residence in Phagwara was illegal after noting that the police had broken open the lock without recording reasons or informing the Magistrate as mandated under Section 185 of the BNSS.

**HIGH COURT SEEKS AFFIDAVIT ON LACK OF  
SPECIALIST DOCTORS IN MALERKOTLA**

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has called for an affidavit from the Principal Secretary, Health, on the deficiencies in the healthcare sector, including the absence of specialised doctors, and the progress in the recruitment process. The bench also observed that things did not appear to be improving in Malerkotla district as far as the medical infrastructure was concerned. The admonition came even as the state of Punjab informed the court that fresh recruitment against 1,000 posts of Medical Officers (General) had commenced through an advertisement issued last month. At the onset, the division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel took note of the petitioner's contention regarding the absence of specialist doctors in gynaecology, ophthalmology, blood transfusion, radiology and dermatology. The bench observed certain vacancies of doctors at Malerkotla had been filled up as referred to an affidavit placed before the bench. But it was unclear whether the doctors had been freshly recruited or transferred from other locations to fill up the vacancies. Referring to the petitioner's submissions regarding the absence of specialists, the bench asserted: "The state counsel is directed to file an affidavit of the Principal Secretary, Department of Health, in this regard, specially addressing the deficiencies pointed out by the learned counsel for the petitioner.

**BRIDE 12, GROOM 17:  
HARYANA FAMILIES TIED IN  
LEGAL KNOTS AFTER  
WEDDING OFF MINORS**

**Diary Times Desk** : She dropped out of Class VI a week back to become a child bride at 12 years. Her marriage was solemnised late last night by her father, a migrant from Bihar living in Kaithal's Dhand village for the past 15 years and working as a labourer to make ends meet. She was married to a 17-year-old boy (his father claims he is a minor and no age proof is available yet) from Kurukshetra because he was "a match the family could not refuse". Fifteen hours later, an FIR has been registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, against the two fathers — of the boy and the girl — who fixed the marriage of the minors which was organised at Dhand under the cover of the night. The two men have been booked for performing, abetting and solemnising a child marriage under Section 9, 10 and 11 of the Act and the marriage has become null and void in keeping with the provisions of the Act. The girl, back from her in-laws' home in Kurukshetra, has been sent to the one-stop centre — intended to support women — where she will stay for the next few days. The Child Welfare Committee began her counselling in the evening today. The hunt for the priest who solemnised the "illegal" marriage is underway.

**THREE COW SMUGGLERS  
NABBED AFTER GUNFIGHT  
IN NUH'S TAURU**

**Diary Times Desk** : In a dramatic turn of events, Nuh police apprehended three cow smugglers after a brief encounter in the Pachgaon area of Tauru on Monday. The gunfight left three accused and one police constable injured, while three other suspects managed to flee. According to Nuh police spokesman, a CIA team was patrolling the area when they received a tip-off about an active cattle smuggling gang. The team, led by CIA incharge Mahendra Singh, conducted a raid based on the information. The suspects — identified as Tahir, Rahil, Shahzad, Bilal, Shoaib, and Tasleem alias Bhengu — were reportedly preparing to slaughter a cow at the time of the raid. "On seeing the police, the accused opened fire. The police initially resorted to aerial firing but then fired back in self-defence," said the spokesperson. During the crossfire, accused Tahir, Rahil, and Shahzad sustained bullet injuries. They were admitted to Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Government Medical College in Nuh. In a violent scuffle, one of the accused also attacked Constable Ajay with a knife.



## PHARMA UNIT CATCHES FIRE IN BADDI, NO CASUALTIES REPORTED

**Diary Times Desk :** A massive fire broke out at Alliance Biotech, a pharmaceutical unit at Katha village in Baddi on Wednesday morning, causing significant damage to property. No loss of life was reported as workers managed to leave the unit unhurt. According to an employee, the fire initiated from a store room and spread to other sections within no time. Firemen from Baddi rushed to the spot after receiving information around 11:14 am with two fire tenders. "Given the gravity of the blaze, fire tenders were also requisitioned from Nalagarh as well as other firms like Birla and Vardhman textiles," a fireman on site said, adding that the actual cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. The firemen faced several challenges in dousing the fire. The unit's layout, with little open space around the structures, restricted access for letting in the fire-fighting paraphernalia. The fire was eventually brought under control after several hours of sustained effort. Speaking to media, unit owner Shishir Gupta said that efforts would be made to rectify the shortcomings observed during the fire-fighting operation.

## HIT BY SPEEDING DUMPER, WOMAN KILLED IN MANDI

**Diary Times Desk :** A woman was run over by a speeding dumper and killed at Sundernagar in Mandi district yesterday. Her husband was riding the motorcycle while she was riding pillion when the speeding dumper hit them on the Kiratpur-Manali national highway near Dadour. Lata Devi (41) was killed on the spot. According to reports, the couple, residents of Bhojpur Bazaar in Sundernagar, was going towards Nerchowk when the dumper while trying to overtake their motorcycle at a high speed, hit them. Due to the impact of the hit Lata Devi to lose balance and fell onto the road and was crushed under the rear wheels of the dumper. Eyewitnesses informed the police and a team from Sundernagar police station took the body to Nerchowk medical college for a post-mortem examination. The eyewitnesses said that after the collision, the dumper driver halted the vehicle briefly before fleeing. The police impounded the dumper and launched a manhunt to nab the absconding driver.

## TWO ARMY, BSF SOLDIERS FROM HAROLI HURT DURING 'OPERATION SINDOOR'

**Diary Times Desk :** Two soldiers from Una district were injured during 'Operation Sindoor'. The two soldiers are Gurnam Singh of Kshetran village and Beas Dev, a resident of Bathu village, both in Haroli subdivision. The authorities have informed the family members of the injured soldiers that they are being treated at Army hospitals and are recuperating. Gurnam Singh is serving in Sikh Regiment while Beas Dev is a soldier in the Border Security Force (BSF). They were deployed near the Line of Control during 'Operation Sindoor' and were injured in the shelling from across the border. In a press note issued here, Haroli MLA and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri wished a speedy recovery to the two soldiers. He directed the district administration to visit the family members and assure them of all help and assistance on behalf of the state government. Agnihotri directed the district administration to get in touch with the Army and BSF authorities and seek information regarding the health of the two soldiers. He added that the Haroli Assembly segment was proud of its two soldiers for standing bravely in the line of duty when the country needed them the most.



## NATION MUST STAND UNITED BEHIND ARMED FORCES: VIKRAMADITYA

**Diary Times Desk :** Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh today supported the Central Government and the Indian armed forces in countering cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan. He urged people for national unity by rising above party lines during such crucial moments for the country's internal security and sovereignty. Vikramaditya said, "Under such situations, it becomes the duty of every citizen to stand with the armed forces. Whenever issues arise that involve national unity, integrity and internal security, it becomes the duty of every citizen, regardless of political ideology or party affiliation, to stand firmly behind our armed forces. We are Indians first and we will continue to stand united with our security forces." He said, "The way our agencies and armed forces have acted over the past few days and the way our missiles have destroyed terrorist hideouts in the PoK and Pakistan, including those of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, is commendable. The whole country is with them. This sends a strong message to the world that India will not tolerate terrorism at any cost." He praised the constructive role played by the Opposition during the time of crisis and standing united. Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh today supported the Central Government.

## DISCHARGED EFFLUENTS INTO NULLAH, STONE CRUSHER POWER SUPPLY CUT

**Diary Times Desk :** In a case of blatant disregard of the environmental norms, the State Pollution Control Board has snapped power supply to a stone crusher-cum-screening plant at Bagleha in Nalagarh in the orders issued last week. Unmindful of the environmental degradation, the plant was found discharging effluents from its sand washing section into a nearby nullah with impunity. Shubh Stone Crusher and Screening Plant was inspected by the staff of the State Pollution Control Board on January 9 after receipt of complaints. It was found indulging in this polluting activity with little regard for the environment. Water samples were subsequently collected by the staff and analysed at the board's central laboratory at Parwanoo where the results failed to comply with the norms, thus highlighting high incidence of pollution. A show cause notice was thereafter served to the unit on February 17 by the Baddi-based Regional Officer. The unit was re-inspected on March 28 where the unit continued to adopt laxity in adhering to the environmental norms by continuing to discharge effluents from the sand washing section into the nearby nullah.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: 11 MORE PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON CBI'S RADAR, HAVE GRABBED SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH LAKHS

**Diary Times Desk :** 11 more private educational institutions are on the radar of CBI in Himachal Pradesh's much talked about scholarship scam of Rs. 181 crore. CBI investigation has revealed that out of 238 private institutions, there are 20 such institutions which are accused of embezzling scholarships of more than Rs. 95 lakh. There are 6 such institutions which have embezzled between Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 94 lakh and 11 such institutions which have embezzled less than Rs. 50 lakh. These institutions are said to be from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. CBI is going to tighten its grip on them too. However, many have been given clean chit in the earlier CBI investigation. CBI is re-investigating these cases. Recently, CBI has registered a case against 6 institutions. Strong evidence of fraud and criminal conspiracy has been found against them. Earlier, CBI has filed a charge sheet in the court against 105 people in the case related to 20 institutions. These include the owners of the institutions, employees associated with the Directorate of Higher Education Shimla, bank officials. It is alleged that Himachal Pradesh Higher Education Department has misused funds on a large scale in the Central Government sponsored schemes for students of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes. CBI started the investigation under the supervision of the High Court.



## ANIL KUMBLE'S SURPRISE PICK AS VIRAT KOHLI'S REPLACEMENT AT NO. 4 SPOT IN TESTS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Indian cricket team will take on England in an upcoming five-match Test series, starting June 20. However, the team will enter unknown territory with both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli retiring from the format over the past week. Over the past 14 years, Kohli was the backbone of the Indian Test setup, but his retirement leaves the team without a designated no. 4 in the top order. With India's squad for the series likely to be announced next week, former captain Anil Kumble has vouched for Vidarbha captain Karun Nair's inclusion. Karun, who asked for a second chance with a heartfelt tweet in December 2022, made the most of the opportunity while representing Vidarbha domestically. The man who is just the second Indian to blaze his way to a triple hundred exhibited quintessential form, which has pushed a case for his return to the Indian team since his last Test in 2017. He was the fourth-highest run-scorer in last season's Ranji Trophy with a staggering tally of 863 in nine appearances at 53.93.



## IPL TO ALLOW TEAMS TO PICK TEMPORARY REPLACEMENTS FOR REMAINDER OF SEASON

**Diary Times Desk :** Extraordinary situation calls for extraordinary measures and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has said it is allowing temporary replacement for the IPL, a move that will not carry forward to next year. In a communication to the franchises on Wednesday (May 14), the BCCI said it is reassessing the replacement player provision. "Due to non-availability of certain players due to national commitment or personal reasons, or injury or illness, Temporary Replacement Players will be allowed until the conclusion of this tournament," IPL COO Hemang said in an email to the franchise. "This decision is subject to the condition that the Temporary Replacement taken from this point forward, will not be eligible for retention in the following year. Temporary Replacement Players will have to register for the IPL Player Auction 2026. "The replacements which were approved or taken before the suspended period will be eligible for retention ahead of 2026 player auction," Amin further wrote in his email, which has been seen by Cricbuzz. He started the communique stating, "As you are aware, the IPL Player Regulations 2025-27, under Regulations 6.1(b)(i), permit a player to be replaced if they are injured or ill, provided the injury or illness occurs during.

## 'SHAKEN' DELHI CAPITALS STAR REFUSES TO RE-JOIN IPL 2025 EVEN AFTER INDIA-PAKISTAN CEASEFIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** Around 6 pm Australia time on Wednesday, Jake Fraser-McGurk's manager told Delhi Capitals (DC) that the young right-handed opener will not be coming back to India for the franchise's remaining games in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, restarting on May 17. Subsequently, DC have now roped in Bangladesh's left-arm fast-bowler Mustafizur Rahman, who on his day can bamboozle batters with his cutters and slower balls. IANS understands that a majority of overseas cricketers from Australia, especially in DC and Punjab Kings (PBKS) set-ups, had been gripped by fear and tension for their lives after the game was called off in Dharamshala last week. "Jake was shaken more than most overseas players in Dharamshala at that time. It's not surprising (his decision to pull out of IPL 2025), given that he is the youngest of the overseas players in the DC setup. Moreover, he was quite uneasy the day before the game happened in Dharamshala, and then obviously after we were evacuated, we made the subsequent trip back to Delhi with others." "In all, he wasn't feeling things in a good way, and I am very thankful I was there to help guide him through all of that. I mean, it was hard enough for a 50-year-old, well-travelled man like me, let alone a young kid.

## SA PLAYERS' RETURN FROM IPL REMAINS OPEN-ENDED, PENDING TALKS BETWEEN BOARDS

**Diary Times Desk :** Cricket South Africa (CSA) has shown signs of retreating from its 'come back by May 26' writ to its players taking part in the Indian Premier League (IPL) Season 18. Hours after its head coach, Shukri Conrad, declared that "We want our players back on the 26th, and hopefully that comes to fruition," CSA said the negotiations are underway between higher authorities of the South African board and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "Yes, we want the Test players back on 26th, but hence I say the matter is getting finalised by higher-ups," Enoch Nkwe, the CSA Director of Cricket, clarified to Cricbuzz on Wednesday (May 14) morning. "(We) can't confirm yet until the matter is settled between the two governing bodies (CSA and BCCI)," the CSA official said, leaving the subject of South Africa players' participation in the IPL beyond May 25 open-ended. After a one-week pause due to border tensions in the country, the BCCI announced the resumption of the IPL season from May 17 and extended the window till June 3, when the final will be held. Previously, the final was scheduled for May 25.



## DON'T THRUST TEST CAPTAINCY ON SHUBMAN GILL, BUMRAH BEST OPTION: KRIS SRIKKANTH

**Diary Times Desk :** World Cup-winning former India opener Kris Srikkanth has backed Jasprit Bumrah to succeed Rohit Sharma as India's Test captain for the tour of England and beyond, saying the fast bowler deserves the honour for his contribution to the team. Speaking to IndiaToday.in, Kris Srikkanth said he wouldn't thrust the captaincy on Shubman Gill, insisting the young batter first needs to cement his place in the Test side. The former chairman of selectors was blunt in his assessment, stating that Gill, at present, is not a certainty in the playing XI in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia) conditions. Srikkanth dismissed concerns surrounding Bumrah's workload, suggesting that KL Rahul or Rishabh Pant could step in as vice-captain whenever Bumrah is unavailable for a Test or two on a tour. "Who's a ready-made captaincy candidate now? Shubman Gill? I don't think he is still a certainty in the XI," Srikkanth said. "You're not handing the captaincy to KL Rahul or Rishabh Pant. Otherwise, you give it to Jasprit Bumrah.

## SCOTLAND CAPTAIN KATHRYN BRYCE BECOMES ICC WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

**Diary Times Desk :** Scotland captain Kathryn Bryce has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2025 for her outstanding performance during the Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Pakistan, the International Cricket Council announced. The 27-year-old all-rounder beat Pakistan's Fatima Sana and West Indies' Hayley Matthews both team captains and top performers to win the monthly honour, as per ICC's official website. Bryce was named Player of the Tournament at the Qualifiers after scoring the most runs. She finished with 293 runs in five matches, with an impressive average of 73.25. Her tally included a century and two half-centuries. Her best performance came in a match against Ireland, where she scored an unbeaten 131 runs off 137 balls the highest individual score in the tournament. "It's a real honour to win this award," Bryce said. "Knowing that it's being voted for by the global cricket community makes it that extra bit special; even just to be nominated alongside two players of the stature of Fatima Sana and Hayley Matthews, who both had fantastic tournaments themselves, was amazing."