

SOFIYA QURESHI  
REMARK

"GO AND APOLOGISE": TOP COURT TO MINISTER  
OVER COLONEL SOFIYA QURESHI REMARK

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court today sharply rebuked Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah over his controversial remarks directed at Indian Army officer Colonel Sofiya Qureshi. The Chief Justice of India, BR Gavai, described the minister's comments as unacceptable and insensitive, stating that individuals occupying constitutional positions should exercise restraint in speech.

Chief Justice Gavai questioned the conduct of Mr Shah by asking, "What sort of comments are you making? You should show some sense of sensibility. Go and apologise in High Court."

The remarks, which have drawn widespread criticism from the Opposition, military veterans, and even some members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led to an FIR against the minister. The court refused to stay the High Court's directive to initiate criminal proceedings against him. "Nothing will happen to you in a day. You know who you are," the Supreme Court said, rejecting a plea for interim protection from arrest. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the plea on Friday. The controversy stems from a public address delivered by Mr Shah, Tribal Welfare Minister of Madhya Pradesh, on May 12 in Raikunda village in Indore. Speaking at a local event, Mr Shah made comments that were widely perceived as communal, gendered, and derogatory toward Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, a senior Indian Army officer who has become a mainstay in national press briefings on Operation Sindoor, often appearing alongside Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh.



'OPERATION  
SINDOOR'

AFTER PAK 'PLEADS' ON INDUS TREATY, S  
JAISHANKAR'S "TO STAY PAUSED" REMARK



**Diary Times Desk :** Foreign minister S Jaishankar, speaking of Operation Sindoor and cessation of hostilities with Pakistan, said today that it was clear that who had called for a ceasefire. His comments came amid a huge controversy over US President Donald Trump's claims that US had brokered peace between the two countries. He also said the Indus water treaty has been "kept in abeyance and will continue to be kept in abeyance until cross-border terrorism by Pakistan is credibly and irrevocably stopped".

Pakistan, vast swathes of which are dependent on the waters of Indus both for agriculture and drinking, has written to the Jal Shakti ministry asking that India reconsider the matter. India had cut off the water supply after the horrific attack on tourists in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. Invoking its national security prerogative, India said the treaty would be on freeze until Islamabad ends its support for terrorism.

Interacting with reporters on the sidelines of an event, Mr Jaishankar said the precision strikes on terror bases on May 7 – a retaliation for the Pahalgam attack – was directed only at terrorists and not the Pakistan military. "We were not striking at the Pakistani military so the military had an option of standing out and not interfering. But they chose not to take good advice," Mr Jaishankar said.

"Satellite pictures brought out graphically how much damage we did... and how little damage they did. The same people who were not willing to stand down on May 7, were willing to stand down and talk on May 10. So it was clear who wanted the cessation of firing," he said. Then, without mentioning President Trump's claim that ceasefire between India and Pakistan was achieved with the promise of trade, Mr Jaishankar said, "Between India and the US, trade talks have been going on".

## INDIA, PAKISTAN AGREE TO CONTINUE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

**Diary Times Desk :** India and Pakistan have agreed to continue with 'confidence-building measures' that include reducing the alertness level of the respective militaries. The Indian Army said on Thursday that as per the understanding between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) on both sides arrived on May 10, "it has been decided to continue with the confidence-building measures so as to reduce the alertness level". On May 10, Pakistani DGMO Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah had called up Indian DGMO Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and proposed "a pause to the hostilities". On Thursday, Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said their military had agreed to extend the ceasefire with India until Sunday. He told Parliament that both sides had a "military-to-military communication". Meanwhile, the DGMOs had also spoken on May 12 and talked about "continuing with the commitment" that both sides "must not fire a single shot". They had decided not to initiate any aggressive action.



## GOVT APPOINTS TUSHAR MEHTA-HEADED TEAM OF LAWYERS FOR TRIAL AGAINST TAHAWWUR RANA

**Diary Times Desk :** The government has appointed a team of lawyers headed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to conduct the trial against Pakistani-Canadian terrorist Tahawwur Hussain Rana in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case. In a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said the appointment has been made exercising the powers conferred under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. The central government hereby appoints a team of Special Public Prosecutors headed by Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, with SV Raju, Additional Solicitor General, along with Dayan Krishnan, senior advocate, and Narender Mann, advocate, for conducting trial and other matters related to the case RC-04/2009/NIA/DLI on behalf of the NIA before the NIA Special Courts at Delhi, High Court of Delhi and Supreme Court of India for three years or till the completion of trial.

## KANGANA RANAUT DELETES POST ABOUT TRUMP, REGRETS SHARING 'VERY PERSONAL OPINION'



**Diary Times Desk :** Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut on Thursday said she has deleted her post about US President Donald Trump and regrets sharing her "very personal opinion" on social media. Ranaut said she deleted the post after she received a call from BJP national president JP Nadda. "Respected national president Shri @JPNadda ji called and asked me to delete the tweet I had posted regarding Trump asking Apple CEO Tim Cook not to manufacture in India. "I regret posting that very personal opinion of mine, as per instructions I immediately deleted it from Instagram as well," Ranaut, who is BJP's from Mandi, wrote on X. Trump, who is in Qatar as part of his four-day visit to the Gulf region, on Thursday said he had told Apple CEO Tim Cook that he does not want him to build iPhones in India.

## INDIA TO CONDUCT FIRST-EVER BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced on Thursday that India is set to conduct its first-ever biological experiments aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to study the sustainability of human life in space. This initiative is part of the BioE3 biotechnology policy launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year. These unique experiments, spearheaded by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with Department of Biotechnology (DBT), will be carried out as part of the upcoming ISS mission AXIOM-4, with Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as a crew member. Singh stated that the first experiment at the ISS will examine the impact of microgravity and space radiation on the growth of edible microalgae, a nutrient-rich potential food source for long-duration space missions. Rich in proteins, lipids, and bioactive compounds, microalgae are promising for safe and sustainable space-based nutrition. This project is a joint initiative of ISRO, NASA, and DBT, aiming to analyse key growth parameters and changes in transcriptomes.



### YOUR HOROSCOPE

16-05-2025

**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.

**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.

**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.





### HPBOSE 10TH RESULT 2025: 10TH CLASS EXAM RESULT DECLARED, SAINA OF KANGRA TOPPER; RESULT WAS 79.80 PERCENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh School Education Board declared the result of the annual examination of class 10th on Thursday. In the result of 79.80 percent, 117 students made it to the top-10 of the merit list, in which girls showed amazing performance and occupied 88 places. Boys got 29 places in the top ten. Saina Thakur of Newgal Model Public Senior Secondary School, Bhavarna, Kangra topped the state by securing 696 (99.43%) marks out of 700. Ridhima Sharma of RK Senior Secondary Public School Ghandalvi, Bilaspur, with 695 marks, secured second place, Mudita Sharma of Modern Public Senior Secondary School Swarghat and Parnika Sharma of Minerva Senior Secondary School Ghumarvi jointly secured third place with 694-694 marks. Last year the result of the examination was 74.61 percent. Board Chairman and Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa said that this time also private schools dominated the merit list. Students of 97 private and 20 government schools have managed to make it to the top-10. 95,495 students had registered for the exam held in March. Out of these, 427 students were absent. 95,068 appeared for the exam, while 75,862 students passed. 5,563 students have got compartment and 13,574 students have been declared failed.



### HIMACHAL: 6 ACCUSED WHO FLED AFTER KILLING A SUDANESE STUDENT IN PUNJAB WERE ARRESTED AT MANDI BUS STAND

**Diary Times Desk :** Mandi police arrested six absconding accused in the murder case of a Sudanese student in a quarrel over alleged molestation of a girl in village Mahedu of Phagwara from the bus stand after an alert from Punjab police. They have been identified as Ajit Rajput UP, Mohammad Soyeb Jammu and Kashmir, Kunwar Amar Pratap UP, Abhay Pal Champaran Bihar, Aditya Garg Unnao UP and Vikas Kumar Bihar Bhojpur. The accused fled towards Himachal after killing the student in Phagwara. During this, Mandi district police had issued an alert at all bus stands. As soon as the accused reached the bus stand, Mandi police identified them with the help of photos and arrested them. After this, they were handed over to Punjab police. According to information, Phagwara police had registered a case against 6 students under murder and other sections in connection with this incident. Mohammad Noor Ahmed Hussain son of Mohammad Noor resident of Sudan, presently resident of Star Homes, village Mahedu told the police that when he went out.

### HIMACHAL WEATHER: HOTTEST DAY OF THE SEASON, HEAT WAVE IN PLAINS, HEAVY RAIN IN SHIMLA AND UNA AT NIGHT

**Diary Times Desk :** The rising temperature in Himachal Pradesh has started making people sweat. The maximum temperature in Una was recorded at 41.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday. Thursday was the hottest day in the state in the current season. Dharamshala, Shimla, Kasauli, Dhaula Kuan, Kangra including Una recorded the highest temperature of this season. Hot winds have started troubling people in the plain districts since 9 am. Due to the rise in temperature in many areas of Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Kangra, heatwaves have also started blowing in some places during the afternoon. On the other hand, heavy rain started in Shimla at 7:30 pm with lightning. This brought some relief from the heat. Clouds also rained in Mandi. Along with this, after a hot day, the weather suddenly changed in Una and heavy rain started. The maximum temperature was recorded above 30 degrees in 15 areas of the state on Thursday. Western disturbance is forecast to become active from May 18. During this time, chances of rain have been expressed in many areas of the state. Along with the plains of the state, now the mountains have also started getting hot. The weather was clear on Thursday in all the regions of the state including the capital Shimla. Clouds gathered in Shimla in the evening and it started raining. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla.

### JAIRAM THAKUR: LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- BAN SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON APPLES IMPORTED FROM TURKEY

**Diary Times Desk :** Under the banner of Citizens for National Security, BJP took out a Tiranga Yatra from Cheelgadi Road of Kotwali to Kachhari Chowk on Thursday on the occasion of the success of Operation Sindoor. Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur, State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal, State General Secretary Trilok Kapoor and Kangra-Chamba in-charge Vipin Parmar were specially present in the Tiranga Yatra. During this, the people participating in the Yatra raised a lot of slogans to boost the morale of the Indian Army. In a press conference organized after the Tiranga Yatra, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the Himachal government should take strict action against Turkey, which helps Pakistan, a country that spreads terrorism, and ban imported apples. While this will give a befitting reply to Turkey, the gardeners of Himachal will also benefit from it. Attacking the Congress and other opposition parties, Jairam Thakur said that Operation Sindoor is not over yet. It has been stopped only temporarily. Therefore, do not raise unnecessary and inappropriate questions on it. The Leader of Opposition said Operation Sindoor was a war against terrorism and India not only achieved all its goals in this fight but also proved that now India will not just react but will act decisively.



### CHAMBA NEWS: CASE FILED AGAINST YOUTH FOR OBJECTIONABLE COMMENT ON PM MODI'S PHOTO

**Diary Times Desk :** A youth of Churah subdivision has been accused of posting an objectionable comment on the Prime Minister's picture on social media. The language of this post was considered anti-national and harmful to social harmony. As soon as the information about the case was received, the police immediately swung into action and summoned the accused to the police station for questioning. In the preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the post was put on social media but was probably deleted later. Due to this, the police have seized the mobile phone of the accused and started the process of sending it to the lab for technical investigation. The police say that such posts can promote tension and hatred among different communities in the society. On this basis, the case has been registered and investigation is being carried forward. The police administration has appealed to the general public to use social media responsibly and not do any such activity that harms peace and unity. Superintendent of Police Chamba Abhishek Yadav has confirmed the case. He said that the process of sending the lab for technical investigation has been started by seizing the mobile phone of the youth.

### HIMACHAL: TRANSFER OF TEACHERS IN HIMACHAL WILL BE BANNED FROM THIS DAY, EDUCATION MINISTER ANNOUNCED

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that in an important meeting of the Education Department held on Wednesday, many important decisions were taken to strengthen the department. He said that work is being done to strengthen the department since the year 2023 and reports have been taken from the officials of every district. The Education Minister said that the officials have been asked to resolve the problems being faced. In the coming days, decisions are also to be taken to merge schools as per the need. The Education Minister said that about 1,200 schools have been closed in two and a half years. Among these, there are 450 schools where the number of students is zero. The Education Minister said that by the end of this month, transfers of teachers in the Education Department will also be stopped. The government is also considering a new transfer policy.

AFTER PAK 'PLEADS' ON INDUS  
TREATY, S JAISHANKAR'S "TO  
STAY PAUSED" REMARK

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'EXPLAIN DELAY IN FILING  
CASE AFTER STUDENT  
SUICIDE': COURT TO IIT  
KHARAGPUR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has taken a serious note of delay in filing a first information report (FIR) into the death by suicide case of a student in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. IIT officials should appear before the Supreme Court in the next hearing, a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said. The Supreme Court said it found an unexplained delay of four days in filing the FIR by the authorities in IIT-Kharagpur. The FIR was also filed only after the court ordered it, the bench said. "We are informed that the FIR was filed after four days from the date of suicide. The student died by suicide on May 4, whereas the FIR was filed on May 8, that too only when this court on May 6 enquired whether the FIR had been filed or not," the Supreme Court said, and summoned IIT-Kharagpur officials to appear before it in the next hearing. The Supreme Court also ordered the officer in charge of the police station in Kharagpur that handled the suicide case to be present in the next hearing.

DRONE FOOTAGE SHOWS TERRORISTS HIDING IN  
SHED BEFORE FIERCE J&K ENCOUNTER



**Diary Times Desk :** Dramatic footage has emerged of the three terrorists killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Awantipora that began early Thursday morning. In one video one of the terrorists can be seen crouched behind a concrete pillar, with what appears to be an assault rifle in his hand. In another, filmed from further away, the terrorists can be seen huddled inside what seems to be a broke-down shed. All three, who earlier sought refuge in a house, were killed after a joint op by the police and Army that began in the Tral region of Awantipora, which is a sub-district of Pulwama in south Kashmir. This was the second encounter in Kashmir in the previous 48 hours. On Tuesday (i.e., May 13), three more terrorists were killed in J&K's Shopian. That encounter initially began in Kulgam and then shifted to a forested area in Shopian. Security forces had intercepted the terrorists following confidential information. The Army Chinara Corps said, "The terrorists have been identified as Asif Ahmed Sheikh, Amir Nazir Wani and Yawar Ahmed Bhat, from whom three AK-series rifles, twelve magazines.

TURKISH FIRM OPERATING AT INDIAN  
AIRPORTS LOSES SECURITY CLEARANCE  
AFTER OP SINDOOR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Turkish firm that handles the lion's share of services at nine major airports in India, has lost its security clearance following Turkey's support of Pakistan over Operation Sindoor. This evening, an order from the Civil Aviation Ministry said the security clearance for Celebi Ground Handling India Private Limited "is hereby revoked with immediate effect in the interest of national security". The Delhi airport has also severed ties with Celebi, which under a separate entity of Celebi Aviation -- Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India -- oversees cargo services at Delhi International Airport. This is India's first overt move against a Turkish firm, though for the last few years, the government has ramped up its engagement with the traditional opponents and antagonists of Turkey -- Greece, Armenia, Cyprus and Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates in the Arab bloc. In its response, Celebi Aviation said it is a "global company with a legacy of over 65 years in aviation services, delivering ground handling and cargo operations.

RAHUL GANDHI'S DICTATOR DIG AT NDA AFTER BEING STOPPED FROM BIHAR  
HOSTEL VISIT

**Diary Times Desk :** "India is a democracy, it is run by the Constitution, not by dictatorship," said Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after he was stopped by Bihar Police en route to Darbhanga's Ambedkar hostel, where he was slated to interact with students from the Dalit and other backward communities. Following the incident, the Congress MP left for Patna in his chopper. "No one can stop us from raising our voice for social justice and education," he added. The senior Congress leader said that his party would continue its fight to secure reservations in private institutions across the country. "Bihar Police tried to stop me but couldn't as youth of country is behind me," Rahul Gandhi further said. Rahul Gandhi said that he would launch 'Shiksha Nyay Samvad' in Darbhanga on Thursday as Bihar goes to polls later this year. The Raebareli MP's convoy was stopped as his car was about to enter Ambedkar hostel to interact with the students at the party's state-wide public outreach event.



"LINE OF BEGGARS BEGINS  
WHERE PAKISTAN STANDS":  
RAJNATH SINGH IN KASHMIR

**Diary Times Desk :** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during a speech in Jammu and Kashmir today, sharply criticised Pakistan's economic condition and its continued dependence on external financial assistance, particularly from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Mr Singh's visit marked his first trip to the region following Operation Sindoor, and featured strategic military briefings and morale-boosting interactions with frontline troops. "What can I say about Pakistan," Mr Singh said. "After begging and begging, that country is in such a position that you can say that the line of beggars begins wherever Pakistan stands." His remarks followed a fresh disbursement of \$1.023 billion to Pakistan by the IMF under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), raising the total disbursed amount under the current programme to approximately \$2.1 billion. "You must have heard, they once again went to the International Monetary Fund to ask for money, while India is among those countries.

INDIA, PAK AGREE TO CONTINUE  
REDUCING ALERT LEVELS DAYS AFTER  
FIGHTING PAUSE

**Diary Times Desk :** India and Pakistan have agreed to extend the pause on all cross-border military actions as decided by both countries on May 10. Amid ongoing tensions, the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both countries have decided to continue "confidence-building measures". "Further to the understanding between the two DGMOs on 10th of May 2025, it has been decided to continue the confidence-building measures so as to reduce the alertness level," officials said on Thursday. According to an AFP report, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said in the parliament that the military has agreed to extend the ceasefire until May 18. India launched Operation Sindoor on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after midnight on May 7, in response to the deadly Pahalgam terror attack. Tensions between the countries intensified a day later, after Pakistan launched a drone and missile attack on military bases near the border, which India thwarted. After three days of intense military hostilities, both countries agreed to a cessation.



**"YOUNG, ATTRACTIVE GUY": TRUMP'S BIG PRAISE FOR TERRORIST-TURNED-PRESIDENT**

**Diary Times Desk :** Dismantling years of US government policy of treating Syria like a pariah, President Donald Trump on Wednesday met Syria's interim president, Ahmad al-Sharaa-- former leader of a rebel group Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which was an offshoot of al-Qaeda and designated as a terrorist organisation by the American government. The meeting was held in Riyadh at the request of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a day after President Trump lifted sweeping sanctions against Syria, which the US began imposing in 1979. After the meeting, Trump, who often judges people based on how they look, suggested that al-Sharaa has a "real shot at doing a good job" with war-torn Syria. He also called the former terrorist a "young, attractive, tough guy" with a "very strong" past. Speaking to reporters on Air Force One, he said al-Sharaa is a "young, attractive guy. Tough guy. Strong past. Very strong past. Fighter." "He's got a real shot at holding it together." Trump said he spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, "who is very friendly with him. He feels he's got a shot of doing a good job. It's a torn-up country."

**TRUMP SAYS US CLOSE TO NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN, BUT KEY GAPS REMAIN**

**Diary Times Desk :** United States President Donald Trump has claimed Washington is nearing an agreement with Iran to resolve a long-running nuclear dispute, despite ongoing diplomatic hurdles. "We're in very serious negotiations with Iran for long-term peace," Trump said in Qatar during the second leg of his Gulf tour on Thursday, before heading to the United Arab Emirates. "We're not going to be making any nuclear deal in Iran," he said. "I think we're getting close to maybe doing a deal without having to do this." Trump said he was basing his optimism on new statements by Iran. "You probably read today the story about Iran. It's sort of agreed to the terms," he said. The president did not specify which remarks he was referring to, but an adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Ali Shamkhani, said in a US media interview this week that Tehran was willing to accept far-reaching curbs on its nuclear programme. "I want them [Iran] to succeed."

**RUSSIA GRABS A BIT MORE OF UKRAINE AS IT HEADS INTO PEACE TALKS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian forces made creeping advances through Ukraine's east this week, as the two countries prepared to hold their first direct talks in three years on Thursday. Russian forces captured the settlement of Kotlyarivka, southwest of the embattled area of Pokrovsk, on Monday, Russia's Ministry of Defence said. The seizure brought Russian forces to within 3.7km (2.3 miles) of the regional border between Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk in Ukraine. Russian forces also forced their way into the village of Myrolyubivka, east of Pokrovsk, and claimed to have taken the entire settlement. On Wednesday, Russia's Defence Ministry claimed its forces took the community of Mykhailovka, also in Donetsk. These were minor advances, but showed there was no letup in Russia's effort to take all of Donetsk and other regions it partly occupies, even as it prepared to go into peace talks.

**NOTHING WILL HAPPEN UNTIL I MEET PUTIN: TRUMP ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE PEACE TALKS**

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has stated that no real progress will be made in resolving the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict until he holds direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. His remarks come amid growing scepticism over the peace negotiations planned in Turkey. "Nothing's going to happen until Putin and I get together," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to the United Arab Emirates. "And obviously he (Putin) wasn't going to go (to Turkey). He was going to go, but he thought I was going to go. He wasn't going if I wasn't there." Trump said he never expected Putin to attend the Istanbul peace summit. On Wednesday night (May 14), Putin appointed a lower-level delegation led by his aide Vladimir Medinsky, who had previously led Russia's delegation in Istanbul during failed peace efforts in early 2022, to represent Moscow at the talks. There was no indication that Putin intended to participate personally.

**ISRAEL KILLS OVER 100 IN GAZA AS PALESTINIANS MARK 77 YEARS SINCE THE NAKBA**

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 115 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in a wave of Israeli attacks across the Gaza Strip, as indirect ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas continue. At least 61 people were killed overnight and early on Thursday in a barrage of attacks on the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, according to local health officials. In Jabalia in northern Gaza, an Israeli strike on Al-Tawba medical clinic killed at least 15 people and wounded several others, the health ministry said. Israel's army also attacked three hospitals in north and south Gaza: Al Awda hospital in Jabalia, the Indonesian Hospital in Khan Younis, and the European hospital, which Gaza's health ministry says is now out of service. Al Jazeera's Tareq Abu Azzoum, reporting from Deir el-Balah, described "another bloody day" in Gaza, as Israel intensified its air attacks on residential areas. "Israeli warplanes directly targeted nine houses without any warning in the city of Khan Younis," he said.

**EARTHQUAKE OF 5.1 MAGNITUDE STRIKES TURKEY**

**Diary Times Desk :** An earthquake of 5.1 magnitude on the Richter scale hit Turkey on Thursday around 3.46 pm, independent scientific organisation EMSC reported. The tremor was felt at 14km northeast of Kulu. The impact of the tremor was strongly felt across Turkey's capital, Ankara, but there are no immediate reports of casualties or injuries, according to Iran's state-backed Mehr news agency. This comes after a 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck the area near Fry, Greece, early Wednesday morning. According to the United States Geological Survey, the quake occurred at 1:51 a.m. local time at a depth of 78 kilometres. Tremors were felt as far away as Cairo, Egypt, as well as in Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan. In February 2023, Turkey and Syria experienced powerful earthquakes. The initial quake measured at 7.8 magnitude, followed by a second one of 7.5 magnitude. This was accompanied by numerous strong aftershocks that led to building collapses. The devastating impact resulted in a death toll of 59,000 in Turkey and 8,000 in Syria.

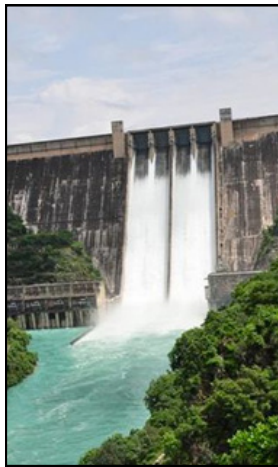
**US APPROVES \$304 MILLION MISSILE SALE TO TURKEY AS TIES WARM UP**

**Diary Times Desk :** The US approved the sale of \$304 million-worth of missiles to Turkey as the NATO allies work to strengthen trade and defense ties. The deal, which still needs Congressional sign-off, came as Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Turkey to attend a meeting of NATO foreign ministers on Thursday. Rubio is expected to travel on to Istanbul the following day for potential talks between Russian and Ukrainian officials about a ceasefire. Turkey has requested 53 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles at an estimated cost of \$225 million and 60 Block II missiles at \$79.1 million, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said. The RTX Corporation will be the principal contractor for the sales. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been looking for a tentative meeting with US President Donald Trump to reset strained relations stemming from Ankara's purchase of a Russian missile-defense system and Washington's support for a Syrian Kurdish militia that Turkey views as a threat to the country, among other disputes. Turkey and the US have been holding talks over the integration of the US-backed Kurdish forces, who have links to a separatist Turkish group, the PKK, into a new Syrian army. Earlier this week, the PKK announced it would lay down its arms to end a 40-year war for autonomy against Turkey.



## AAP PROTESTS NANGAL LAND DISPUTES WITH BBMB AS LEASEHOLDERS FACE EVICTION

**Diary Times Desk** : The AAP dharna against BBMB continues at the Nangal dam, with party leaders from the area raising the issue of land disputes with the Board. Sanjeev Gautam, chairman of Guru Ravidas Ayurvedic University, led a delegation of AAP leaders to meet Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann during his recent visit to Nangal. Gautam stated that many Bhakra dam oustees and traders were settled in the Nangal town by BBMB in the 1960s and were given plots and shops on lease. Despite being settled there for over 60 years, many face eviction cases due to minor offenses, such as alterations to their 60-year-old buildings. The residents have requested BBMB to settle their leases or transfer the lands to their names at commercial rates, but no policy has been framed. Gautam added that the CM was urged to regularise the land in the names of leaseholders, allowing them reprieve from BBMB's cases. Additionally, Nangal residents on BBMB-leased properties aren't benefiting from the Punjab Government's schemes, including 300 units of free power. BBMB provides its own power connections, but doesn't offer the same benefits. Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal said the matter has been brought to the CM's notice and is being looked into.



## DAMAGED RECONNAISSANCE DRONE FOUND NEAR INTERNATIONAL BORDER IN SRI GANGANAGAR

**Diary Times Desk** : A reconnaissance drone was found in a damaged condition on Thursday at a government nursery near the International Border (IB) in the Sri Ganganagar district. The police immediately reached the spot after receiving information about a suspicious object reported by a shepherd. Soon, officials from the Border Security Force and intelligence agencies also arrived at the scene. According to reports, a 7-ft-tall drone was discovered in the Forest Department's nursery in Chak 12-A (B) village. The drone reportedly had 7-8 cameras and sensors, with one or two cameras damaged. The location is approximately 15 km from the IB. Police sources said that the bomb disposal unit was called to the scene, and the damaged drone was examined and later removed. Police officials had not made any official statements by the evening. Locals recalled that on the night of May 8-9, suspected drone movements were spotted near the international border in the Sri Ganganagar district, but no official information was available about any action taken.

## PUNJABI BIZMAN SHOT DEAD IN CANADA'S MISSISSAUGA, ASSAILANTS FIRE 15 ROUNDS

**Diary Times Desk** : A 50-year-old Punjabi businessman was shot dead outside his office in Mississauga, Canada, officials said on Thursday. According to sources, Harjit Singh Dhadda was shot dead near the intersection of Telford Way and Derry Road. The incident has sent shockwaves through the local community, marking the sixth murder in the city since the beginning of the year. The Peel Regional Police have yet to officially confirm the victim's identity. According to eyewitness accounts, Dhadda was near his car when unidentified assailants, believed to have been lying in wait, approached and fired 15-16 rounds before fleeing the scene. People in the parking lot ran for cover during the gunfire. An eyewitness said the gunmen exited a parked car, fired several shots.

## HC DIRECTS PUNJAB DGP TO PROBE JAIL OFFICIALS' ROLE IN DRUG SMUGGLING

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asked Punjab DGP to depute a "very senior officer" to examine all drug cases "where there are allegations of smuggling from various jails of the state". The direction came after Justice NS Shekhawat rapped the SSP concerned for apparently adopting "a very casual approach" in interrogating the jail officials promoting smuggling from Amritsar Central Jail. "It is expected that in all such cases, appropriate legal action shall be taken against the senior-most jail officials as well, who are normally spared by the police without any justification," Justice Shekhawat asserted while directing Amritsar (Rural) SSP to remain present in the court along with the complete investigation record on May 16 — the next date of hearing in the matter. The admonition came during the hearing of petitions filed in three connected cases, where the accused were allegedly indulging in smuggling while confined in Central Jail. The bench had earlier noted that such activities could not have been possible without the "active collusion" of senior jail officers and local police.

## 1,200 LITRES OF HOOCH SEIZED FROM DRAIN IN PATIALA'S HAJIPUR VILLAGE

**Diary Times Desk** : Hidden in a sewage drain on the banks of a village pond and stored in jars buried in five-ft-deep pits, over 1,200 litres of 'lahan', distilled and almost ready for sale, were recovered by excise officials. The officials informed the local police, and over 50 personnel cordoned off the village while conducting raids to make further recoveries. Following intense pressure from the state government after the hooch tragedy in Amritsar's Majitsa, excise and police teams confiscated over 1,200 litres of illegally brewed hooch from drains and abandoned fields in village Hajipur. "The raid is ongoing, and our teams are searching the entire village and nearby water bodies since the hooch smugglers had stored the liquor in jars and thrown them into drains or deep pits," said Patiala Assistant Excise and Taxation Officer (Excise) Rajesh Aery. By the time the report was filed, around 35 sealed plastic jars had been recovered from the drain and abandoned fields. "I have sought an explanation from the concerned SHO, who is accompanying the raiding party," said Patiala SSP Varun Sharma. "No laxity will be tolerated in cases involving drugs and illicit liquor, and strict action will be taken," he added. Local villagers claimed that the village has many smugglers involved in selling spurious liquor in Sanaur, and there are few complaints against them because they are "connected". "This recovery is just the tip of the iceberg, as these smugglers continue to sell illicit liquor daily, with a pint costing only Rs 50," they said.

## EXTORTION GANG BUSTED IN DELHI, 8 MEMBERS LINKED TO PRO-KHALISTANI GANG HELD

**Diary Times Desk** : The Delhi Police have busted a Haryana-based gang and arrested eight of its members who were allegedly involved in a firing incident outside a businessman's house in Anand Vihar, an official said on Thursday. The said gang was working with notorious gangster Gurjant Singh alias Janta, brother of slain gangster Jaspreet Jassi, who is said to be associated with a pro-Khalistani gang abroad. The Haryana-based gang was allegedly involved in a recent firing incident at a businessman's house in Delhi's Anand Vihar area demanding Rs 5 crore extortion. A total of eight people were arrested. The police recovered arms and ammunition from them. According to police, those arrested include shooters, logistics handlers, facilitators and arms suppliers. They were identified as Sumit Ghangas, Rahul Ghangas, Saurav, Ashish, Rohit Kumar, Rahul Kashyap, Preetpal and Deepak alias Gola, all residents of various districts of Haryana. "The crackdown followed an extortion attempt in March when a Delhi-based businessman received calls from an international number linked to Gurjant Singh demanding Rs 5 crore. On April 8, two gang members opened fire at the victim's residence in Anand Vihar to press him into paying up," Additional CP (Crime Branch) Sanjay Kumar Sain said in a statement.

## LITIGANT SHOULD NOT SUFFER FOR COURT'S LAPSE; HC REGULARISES BDS STUDENT'S ADMISSION, DEGREE

**Diary Times Desk** : Making it clear that litigants should not suffer merely because judicial proceedings were delayed for reasons beyond their control, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the judiciary must adopt a corrective, rather than punitive, stance in matters where such delay was occasioned not by a party's negligence but by institutional constraints. Invoking the enduring principle of "actus curiae neminem gravabit" indicating that no one should be prejudiced by an act of the court, the Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel held that justice must not only be done, but manifestly seen to be done, particularly when court-ordered interim relief has been enjoyed by a litigant for an extended period due to systemic delay in final adjudication. The Bench asserted that the court had a solemn duty to ensure that interim protections — granted to preserve the substratum of justice — did not become illusory following judicial delay. The judgment came in an appeal filed by a student whose admission.



## VIGILANCE BUREAU ARRESTS OFFICIAL FOR TAKING RS 40,000 BRIBE

**Diary Times Desk :** The state Vigilance Bureau today caught Tilak Raj, a resident of Nagrota Bagwan, Kangra, red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 for giving a favourable inspection report with regard to a lease hold land of the industry department. He is currently working as Economic Investigator, Single Window Clearance Agency (SWCA) Department of Industry at Sansarpur Terrace (Kangra). The complainant, Prabhakaran, resident of Barwara, Kangra, in a complaint to the Vigilance Bureau alleged that Tilak Raj demanded Rs 40,000 from him for a favourable inspection report. The officials laid a trap and caught Tilak Raj red-handed while accepting the bribe. As per the standard procedure, the VB took two witnesses (gazetted officers) who also testified that Raj took the bribe. A criminal case under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (Amended in 2018), has been registered against him at the police station of the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kangra, Dharamsala, on Thursday. The officials of the VB revealed that the alleged accused official will be produced before a judicial court tomorrow. Further, investigations were in progress.

## HP HIGH COURT: IS DRUG CONSUMPTION INCREASING OR DECREASING, STATE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE DATA OF FIVE YEARS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh High Court has sought a record of cases registered under the NDPS Act in the last five years from the state government. So that it can be known whether the consumption of drugs in the state is decreasing or increasing. The division bench has also asked to tell whether the draft of the state policy on drug rehabilitation was under consideration, notified or not. The division bench of Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma has also asked to file an affidavit regarding the facilities like drug rehabilitation being made available at the district level. The number of doctors, supporting staff and rooms working in the rehabilitation institutes will also have to be told to the court in the next hearing on May 27. The court has given these orders on the various PILs filed in the High Court regarding illegal opium cultivation.

## BJP CARRIES OUT 'TIRANGA YATRA' IN DHARAMSALA TO HONOUR ARMED FORCES

**Diary Times Desk :** Following the success of Operation Sindoor carried out against Pakistan by the Indian Army, BJP workers organised a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Dharamsala on Thursday in honour of the Armed forces. The 'Tiranga Yatra', which commenced from Kotwali Bazaar was led by senior BJP leader, Leader of the Opposition in Vidhan Sabha and former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur who commended the Indian Armed Forces over the success of Operation Sindoor and emphasised that all Indian citizens are proud of the Armed forces. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomatic strategy has also isolated Pakistan in the world community," he said. He dedicated 'Tiranga Yatra' to the unity and pride of the country and said that the power shown by Indian forces and the success of indigenous weapons developed by the Indian scientists has given Pakistan a big blow. President of BJP's state unit Dr Rajiv Bindal while praising the Armed forces said that the 'non-contact war' of attacking precise targets without entering Pakistani territory has shocked the whole world. Even the most powerful countries look at India's might – gained with the help of indigenously developed weapons. "The vision and strong will power of PM Narendra Modi has taken the country to new heights," he said.



## CRISIS AT TANDA: STAFF SHORTAGE CRIPPLES EMERGENCY SERVICES AT STATE'S KEY HOSPITAL

**Diary Times Desk :** The emergency and trauma care services at Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College (RPGMC), Tanda, are under severe strain due to an acute shortage of medical officers. Of the 14 sanctioned posts, only seven are currently filled – crippling the hospital's ability to manage critical cases effectively. RPGMC, the second-largest hospital in Himachal Pradesh, plays a vital role in serving nearly half the state, receiving emergency referrals from six districts – Kangra, Chamba, Mandi, Una, Hamirpur and Kullu. The shortage is particularly alarming given the volume and severity of emergency cases it handles. The Level Two Trauma Centre, inaugurated by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on October 28 last year, was sanctioned eight posts for the trauma wing and six for emergency. However, only three medical officers are posted in the trauma centre and four in the emergency wing. "The situation is dire, especially during night-time emergencies when barely half the already-limited staff is on duty," said Raghur, a relative of a patient from Tissa (Chamba), expressing deep frustration with the system. Patients and their families frequently encounter long wait times and overcrowded conditions, further compounding their distress. Despite repeated concerns, there appears to be little urgency in addressing the staffing crisis.

## HPBOSE 10TH RESULT 2025: 20 BRIGHT STUDENTS OF EDUCATION HUB HAMIRPUR ARE IN MERIT, GIRLS DOMINATE; GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ARE LAGGING BEHIND

**Diary Times Desk :** The result of 10th examination has been declared by Himachal Pradesh School Education Board. If we talk about Hamirpur district, then a total of 22 children have got place in the top 10 in Hamirpur district, out of which 17 merits are from private schools and 5 merits are from government schools. In the 10th examination result of Himachal Pradesh School Education Board Dharamshala, two students of Him Academy Public School Hiranagar have made it to the top 10. In the examination result, Gargi Thakur of Him Academy School has secured the fifth position by scoring 692 marks, while Impashti Bhardwaj has also secured a place in the merit by scoring 690 marks at the seventh position. Him Academy School's manager Himanshu Lakhnapal, principal Shashi Bala and teachers congratulated both the students by feeding them sweets on getting a place in the merit list. Gargi Thakur, daughter of Pankaj Thakur, expressed happiness on securing the fifth position in the merit list and said that she used to study every subject for half an hour after school.

## HIMACHAL: ALL CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WILL BE CONVERTED INTO TRAINEES IN HIMACHAL, THEY CAN BECOME REGULAR AFTER TWO YEARS AS BEFORE

**Diary Times Desk :** By ending the contract system in Himachal Pradesh, now new recruitments will be done as trainees. Employees will be regularized after being trainees for two years. Under the new system, the employees who have been appointed on contract will also be converted into trainees. Implementing the decision taken by the cabinet recently, the Personnel Department has issued instructions to all administrative secretaries, department heads and managing directors regarding new recruitment. The Employees Service Conditions Act 2024 will be applicable on all recruitments in the state. Under the new recruitments, as before, only 60 per cent of the first cell of the pay matrix level applicable to the respective post will be paid per month. Trainees will not be given the benefits of pension, GPF and leave like regular employees. They will also not be paid medical bills and will not get LTC. After implementing the Recruitment and Service Conditions of Government Employees Act 2024, the government has officially ended the system of appointments on contract basis. The law, which came into effect on February 20, also incorporates provisions from December 12, 2003, which replace contractual appointments with appointments by regularisation. All future recruitments, including those already underway, will be under the trainee-based appointment model. An agreement will be signed between the trainee and the government.



## NEERAJ CHOPRA BLUNT ABOUT RELATIONSHIP WITH ARSHAD NADEEM AMID INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER TENSION: "NOT..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Neeraj Chopra and Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem are two of the brightest javelin throwers in the world. Both are Olympic gold medallists and their duel at the Paris Olympics was widely followed across the world. On the eve of the Diamond League in Doha, the two-time Olympic medallist, and reigning world champion, sought to set the record straight when asked about his equation with Arshad, who won the gold medal in the Paris Games last year after the Indian finished at the top of the podium in the Tokyo edition in 2021. Neeraj also cleared the air over his relationship stance with Nadeem after the after recent border tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22. Ahead of the Doha League on Friday, a reporter asked Neeraj: "You both (him and Arshad) are close friends on and off the field, you have shown athletes can bring the world together. Will the recent happening affect your relationship?" "First of all, I really want to clear that I don't have a very strong relationship. I mean we have to talk...I have good friends in the athletics community all around the world."



## TIM SOUTHEE JOINS ENGLAND SET-UP AS 'SPECIAL SKILLS CONSULTANT'

**Diary Times Desk :** Tim Southee will link up with his former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum in time for England's first Test of the summer, against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge next week, after being confirmed on a short-term deal as James Anderson's replacement in their coaching staff across formats. Southee, 36, retired from Test cricket at the conclusion of England's 2-1 series win in New Zealand in December, after a 16-year career that included a national-record 776 wickets across international formats. In that period, he played alongside McCullum on 170 occasions, including 78 under his leadership - while also sharing the field at Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL and Middlesex in the T20 Blast. McCullum presented Southee with a bottle of red wine signed by the England team at the conclusion of Southee's 107th and final Test in Hamilton. His official title in the England set-up will be "Specialist Skills Consultant", but his appointment is in effect a like-for-like replacement for Anderson, who took his own vast international experience straight into the back-room staff after his own 21-year Test career came to an end at Lord's last July. This summer, however, Anderson is prioritising a season-long deal to play for Lancashire, for whom he could make a first appearance of the season later this month after recuperating from a calf injury.

## GT BRING IN KUSAL MENDIS; MAYANK YADAV OUT WITH INJURY

**Diary Times Desk :** Gujarat Titans have decided to rope in Sri Lanka batter Kusal Mendis as a temporary replacement for Jos Buttler in the playoffs of IPL 2025, should they get there. Buttler is available for three remaining league stage games - the last one at home against CSK on May 25 - before heading back the next day for England duty. Buttler is part of both squads for the white-ball series against West Indies at home, starting on May 29. Mendis arrives having never played in the IPL before, with a T20 strike rate of 137.43 in 167 innings. He joins for INR 75 Lakh. In a frustrating development for the Lucknow Super Giants, who still cling on to slim hopes of playoffs qualification, their pace sensation Mayank Yadav, retained for INR 11 Crore before this season, will once again serve time on the sidelines with a back injury. The fast bowler, who made a return from injury midway through the 2025 season, featured only in two fixtures, finishing with figures of 2-40 and 0-60 against MI and PBKS. LSG have decided to replace him with the tall and strapping quick from New Zealand - William O'Rourke, who comes in for a price of INR 3 crore. Punjab Kings finally named a replacement for Lockie Ferguson, who suffered a hamstring injury more than a month ago in the defeat to SRH in Hyderabad. PBKS have roped in Kyle Jamieson to fill Ferguson's shoes for the rest of the season at a price of INR 2 Crore.

## "VERY UPSET THAT HE WILL NOT GET CAPTAINCY": R ASHWIN'S BOMBHELL ABOUT STAR AHEAD OF INDIA TEAM SELECTION

**Diary Times Desk :** As debate and discussion over the choice of India's next Test captain continues, legendary former India spinner R Ashwin has made his feelings clear about the matter. Ashwin, who retired from all forms of cricket at the end of 2024, has spoken about the captaincy race, which has opened up following the retirement of Rohit Sharma from Test cricket. As per sources, 25-year-old batter Shubman Gill is set to be made captain for India's upcoming tour of England, ahead of experienced pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was vice-captain during Rohit's time as captain. As per reports, Gill is set to be chosen ahead of Bumrah due to the former having age on his side and the latter's fitness concerns. However, Ashwin, who has been a teammate of both players for many matches, has expressed his disappointment at the fact that Bumrah won't be handed the captaincy. I am very, very upset and disappointed that Jasprit Bumrah will not get the captaincy (of India). I think he is a national treasure," said Ashwin, speaking on his YouTube channel 'Ash ki Baat'. "I was so happy when he became the captain, but I think it's out of the window," Ashwin further said.

## WTC FINAL-BOUND SOUTH AFRICA PLAYERS TO MISS IPL 2025 PLAYOFFS

**Diary Times Desk :** The eight South African players who are part of the World Test Championship (WTC) final squad will return to home by May 27 and, as a result, miss the IPL 2025 playoffs. The eight players, Kagiso Rabada (Gujarat Titans), Aiden Markram (Lucknow Super Giants), Marco Jansen (Punjab Kings), Tristan Stubbs (Delhi Capitals), Lungi Ngidi (Royal Challengers Bengaluru), Wiaan Mulder (Sunrisers Hyderabad), Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch (both Mumbai Indians) will leave for the United Kingdom with the rest of South Africa's WTC final squad on May 30, to prepare for a warm-up game against Zimbabwe from June 3 at Arundel. ESPNcricinfo has confirmed that Cricket South Africa (CSA) has concluded negotiations with the IPL about the early release of these players, given the importance of the WTC final, which will be played on June 11 at Lord's against Australia. All other South African players not part of the WTC final will remain at the IPL until its conclusion. The IPL resumes on May 17 after it was suspended for just over a week in the wake of the India-Pakistan cross-border tensions. RCB will take on Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

## WINNER OF WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL TO RECEIVE RS 30.79 CRORE PRIZE MONEY. INDIA TO GET...

**Diary Times Desk :** With less than a month to go for the 2025 World Test Championship (WTC) final to happen between Australia and South Africa at Lord's, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that the winners of the one-off game will earn double the prize money than previous two editions. From the total prize money pool for the WTC 2023-25 cycle of USD 5.76 million, which already is more than double that of the previous two editions, the winners will walk away with USD 3.6 million (approximately standing at 30,79,48,931 Indian rupees), a significant jump from the USD 1.6 million awarded to winners of both 2021 and 2023 editions. The runners-up, meanwhile, will earn USD 2.16 million (approximately 18,47,96,390 Indian rupees), which is also up from USD 800,000. India, the two-time WTC runners-up who finished at third place, will get 12,31,98,048 rupees. "We have witnessed a very interesting third cycle of the ICC World Test Championship, where the finalists were decided only towards the end of the competition."

