

'OPERATION SINDOOR'

"INDIRECT FUNDING TO TERROR": RAJNATH SINGH'S MESSAGE TO IMF OVER PAK AID

Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reconsider its \$2.1 billion bailout to debt-ridden Pakistan as it allows terrorists to use its soil for launching state-sponsored attacks against Indian citizens.

The IMF announced the funding while the Indian military as part of Operation Sindoor launched strikes at terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). At that time, Pakistan was busy launching drone and missile strikes on civilian and military areas in northern India.

"The IMF's aid to Pakistan is a form of indirect funding to terror," the Defence Minister said today while addressing Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in Gujarat's Bhuj IAF station.

This military installation was also targeted by Pakistani missiles and drones, all of which were intercepted by India's robust air defence network.

"Any financial assistance to Pakistan is actually terror funding. The IMF should reconsider its decision," Mr Singh said. Pakistan has for a long time allowed terror groups to use its territory as a safe haven. Even Osama bin Laden was found hiding in Pakistan in 2011. Mr Singh gave the speech standing in front of a Jaguar deep-penetration strike fighter jet and an S-125 Pechora surface-to-air missile system. The Bhuj IAF station was said to be one of the main air bases from where a large number of long-range strike missions against Pakistan took off.



'OPERATION SINDOOR'

AMID 'LAXMAN REKHA' ROW, MODI GOVERNMENT NAMES SHASHI THAROOR IN DELEGATION TO EXPOSE PAKISTAN ON TERRORISM



Diary Times Desk : Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, a day after responding to his party's "Lakshman Rekha" warning has been named as a member of the all-party delegation visiting different countries next week to expose Pakistan-sponsored terrorism on the global stage.

The all-party delegation being sent by the Centre is part of a major diplomatic offensive to expose Pakistan-sponsored terrorism globally, following Operation Sindoor, which was launched in retaliation to the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

The government has reached out to MPs from multiple political parties, including opposition members, seeking their participation in the diplomatic mission. Several parties have already approved sending their representatives for this initiative, reported PTI.

The report added that while the exact number of delegations and participants is still unclear, some leaders estimate that more than 30 MPs could take part.

The delegations are scheduled to visit various countries over a 10-day period. MPs will be assigned to different regional blocs as designated by the government. Before their departure, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) will provide the MPs with a detailed briefing for their diplomatic mission.

MPs from parties including the BJP, Congress, TMC, DMK, NCP (SP), JDU, BJD, CPI(M), and others will be part of the delegation, according to sources quoted by PTI. A leader of a party that has been sounded out for the exercise said they were told to be ready to leave by May 22-23 for a period of 10 days and that the MEA would be in touch with them to provide the necessary details.

CELEBI'S STOCK CRASHES, TURKISH EMBASSY FACES
PROTEST AS INDIA-TURKIYE TIES SOUR

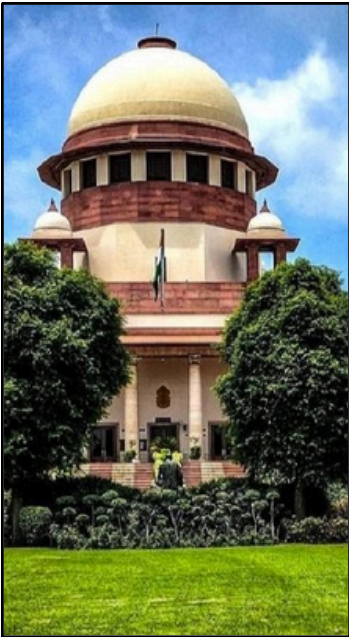
Diary Times Desk : Shares of Turkiye-based Çelebi Aviation Holding plunged nearly 20 per cent over Thursday and Friday following the Indian government's abrupt decision to revoke security clearance for the company's operations in the country. In a statement to investors, the Istanbul-headquartered ground handling giant said it would "pursue all administrative and legal remedies" to challenge the Indian government's action. Earlier in the day, hundreds of protesters gathered in Delhi's high-security Chanakyapuri area, attempting to march towards the Embassy of Turkiye. The Delhi Police, however, stopped the demonstrators and detained several individuals to prevent escalation. The protest was sparked by Turkiye's recent support for Pakistan during its hostilities with India. Demonstrators accused Turkiye of betraying India, citing its supply of drones to Pakistan—reportedly used in recent attacks against Indian forces. "Turkiye has backstabbed India. When they were in need after the earthquake, we stood by them and sent aid. But what did they do? They supplied drones to Pakistan which were used to attack us," said a protester affiliated with the Swadeshi Jagran Manch.



MAN WHO STABBED AUTHOR
SALMAN RUSHDIE ON STAGE
SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN JAIL

Diary Times Desk : The man convicted of stabbing Salman Rushdie on a New York lecture stage in 2022, leaving the prizewinning author blind in one eye, was sentenced on Friday to serve 25 years in prison. A jury found Hadi Matar, 27, guilty of attempted murder and assault in February. Rushdie did not return to court to the western New York courtroom for his assailant's sentencing but submitted a victim impact statement. During the trial, the 77-year-old author was the key witness, describing how he believed he was dying when a masked attacker plunged a knife into his head and body more than a dozen times as he was being introduced at the Chautauqua Institution to speak about writer safety. Before being sentenced, Matar stood and made a statement about freedom of speech in which he called Rushdie a hypocrite. "Salman Rushdie wants to disrespect other people," said Matar, clad in white-striped jail clothing and wearing handcuffs.

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO STAY DEPORTATION OF
ROHINGYAS ILLEGALLY STAYING IN INDIA



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the deportation of illegal Rohingyas living in India and pulled up the petitioners for claiming that 43 of them, including women and children, were dropped in the Andaman Sea for deportation to Myanmar. "When the country is passing through a difficult time, you come up with such fanciful ideas... Where is the material substantiating the allegations?" a Bench led by Justice Surya Kant told senior advocate Colin Gonsalves who represented the petitioners. The Bench, which also included Justice N Kotiswar Singh, questioned the authenticity of materials placed before it by petitioner Mohd Ismail and others and denied them relief on the ground that similar relief was earlier denied by the court. "Every day you (petitioners) come with a new story. What is the basis of this story? Where is the material to substantiate your allegations? Did anyone verify these phone calls that they originated from Myanmar? Earlier, we heard a case where calls were made from Jamtara in Jharkhand from phone numbers of US, UK and Canada," Justice Kant pointed out.

AHEAD OF 2026 BENGAL ELECTION, TMC STRIKES
BALANCE BETWEEN OLD GUARDS AND NEW LEADERS

Diary Times Desk : The Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Friday announced its much-anticipated organisational reshuffle, revamping district-level leadership across West Bengal in a calibrated effort to strike a balance between trusted old guards and emerging next-generation leaders ahead of the 2026 Assembly election. Pending for over a year, the reshuffle aims to impose greater discipline, curb factionalism and prepare for the high-stakes Assembly poll next year, as TMC eyes a straight fourth term in power. The most telling move came in Birbhum, where TMC dropped controversial strongman Anubrata Mondal from the post of district president, a position he has held unchallenged for years. In a significant structural shift, the party abolished the post altogether in the district, opting instead for a nine-member core committee, handpicked by TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, to oversee the organisation, party sources said.



YOUR HOROSCOPE
17-05-2025

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.



HPBOSE 12TH RESULT 2025: 12TH CLASS RESULT WILL BE DECLARED ON SATURDAY, SO MANY CANDIDATES HAD GIVEN THE EXAM

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will declare the result of class 12th examination on Saturday. Along with the declaration of the result, the provisional merit list will be released, while the certificates of the candidates will be uploaded on DG Locker. During the examination held in March, 93,494 regular and SOS candidates appeared for the examination at 2,300 centers across the state. The examination was conducted from March 4 in other districts except Lahaul-Spiti and Pangi area. In a school in Chamba, the question paper of English subject of class 12 was opened during the English subject examination of class 10th. Due to this, the board postponed the English subject examination of 12th, which was conducted in April. Board Secretary Dr. Major Vishal Sharma says that if everything goes well, the result of class 12th will be declared on Saturday afternoon.



HIMACHAL NEWS: EDUCATION MINISTER ROHIT THAKUR SAID- THE BOARD WILL TEACH THE HISTORY OF HIMACHAL TO THE STUDENTS

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will make the students of the state aware about the history of Himachal. For this, the curriculum will be amended and subjects depicting history will be included. Education Minister Rohit Thakur said this during a press conference after the review meeting of Himachal Pradesh School Education Board in Dharamshala. He said that the state government has taken many important decisions regarding education. Schools with less number of students are being merged and facilities are being provided in other schools. He said that the Education Board has done something different in the last two-and-a-half years, which is commendable. He said that the Education Board has made many changes in its functioning in the interest of students. He said that if power can be assumed only by opening institutions, then the Congress government had also opened.

HIMACHAL NEWS: REGISTRATION FOR GOVERNMENT JOBS FROM SATURDAY, STATE SELECTION COMMISSION OPENS PORTAL

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh State Selection Commission Hamirpur will start the process of One Time Registration (OTR) and Requisition (Demand for Recruitment) from Saturday through Single Window System. The portal of the Selection Commission has been opened for registration at 12 o'clock on Friday night. Under this new system, all the recruitment processes will now be completely online. Now the candidates will not need to register again and again. Once the OTR is done, the candidates will be able to use the same registration for all the future recruitments. While registering, the candidates will have to upload the required documents on the portal. Once the data is uploaded, it will be safe in the ID issued by the Commission. The examinations will be conducted through Computer Based Test (CBT). The Commission has also provided a demo video to explain the process of registration on the portal, so that the candidates do not face any difficulty. Under the single window system, now the Commission will receive the recruitment requisition from all departments, boards and corporations through a unified system. This process will also be implemented from Saturday. This will bring transparency and speed in the recruitment process. This is a big relief for thousands of unemployed youth who have been waiting for new recruitments in the state.

HIMACHAL: ENTRANCE EXAM FOR ADMISSION IN 9 SUBJECTS OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY TODAY, SO MANY CENTERS FOR COMMON ENTRANCE TEST

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Technical University Hamirpur will conduct entrance exam on Saturday for admission in nine subjects. The university has set up 16 centers for the Common Entrance Test, where 10,517 candidates will take the exam. The entrance exam will be held in two sessions - morning and evening. In the morning, the entrance exam will be for B.Tech (Direct Entry), B.Pharmacy (Direct Entry), MSc Physics and Environmental Science, and in the evening session, the entrance exam will be for MBA, MBA Tourism, MCA, B.Sc (HM & CT) and BHMCT. In the morning session, 376 candidates will appear in Nalagarh, 889 in Bilaspur, 200 in Chamba, 1900 in Gautam College Hamirpur, 620 in Technical University Campus, 180 in Kullu, 1341 in Mandi, 1000 in DAV Kangra, 653 in Nagrota Bagwan, 778 in Palampur, 634 in RKMV Shimla, 107 in Sirmaur, 223 in Solan, 818 candidates will appear in Una. While in the evening, 260 candidates will appear in DAV Kangra, 62 in Mandi, 56 in Solan and 397 will appear in Technical University Campus Hamirpur. The university had earlier scheduled the entrance exam on May 10 and 11, but due to increasing tension between India and Pakistan, it had to be postponed and the new date was fixed as May 17. Kamal Dev Singh Kanwar, the university's examination controller, said that preparations for the Common Entrance Test have been completed.



HIMACHAL NEWS: HIMACHAL PRADESH TOPS THE COUNTRY IN IMPLEMENTING PM SHRI SCHEME, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PRAISES IT

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh has topped the country in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri School for Rising India (PM Shri) scheme. The Education Ministry of the Central Government has praised Himachal for the excellent and timely implementation of this scheme. In the review meeting of all the states and union territories held in New Delhi on Friday, the Education Ministry described the efforts of Himachal as commendable. Himachal Pradesh not only succeeded in getting all the four installments sanctioned under the PM Shri scheme, but also ensured timely expenditure of 100 percent of the funds. This is the highest in the country. Himachal Pradesh Education Secretary Rakesh Kanwar and State Project Director Samagra Shiksha Rajesh Sharma participated in the meeting. The Union Education Ministry especially praised PM Shri Vidyalaya located at Tutu in Shimla district, which has earned recognition as a role model school under the scheme.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- BAN SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON IMPORT OF APPLES FROM TURKEY AND TOURISTS SHOULD ALSO NOT GO THERE

Diary Times Desk : In response to a question asked by journalists during a press conference held in Mandi, former Himachal Chief Minister Jairam Thakur said that India should cancel all trade agreements with Turkey, the country that stood with Pakistan in Operation Sindoor. If the import of apples from there is banned and Indian tourists are also not allowed to go there, then this will be the biggest diplomatic strike on it. Not only this, the famous film producers and directors should also refrain from going there for film shooting. He said that after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, the Indian Army destroyed terrorist bases, airbases and military bases in Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, while Pakistan, enraged by this, targeted India's border areas and many cities with missiles and drones, but the Indian Air Defense System destroyed them in the air itself. Amidst all this, news came that Turkey helped Pakistan against India by giving drones, after which there is a demand to boycott Turkey's goods and trade across the country. The Indian government has also started this. Two days ago, the security clearance.

"FANCIFUL IDEAS": TOP COURT ON PLEA CLAIMING ROHINGYAS DROPPED IN ANDAMAN SEA

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday rapped petitioners who claimed 43 Rohingya refugees including women and children were dropped in the Andaman sea for deportation to Myanmar and said "when the country is passing through a difficult time, you come out with fanciful ideas". A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh also questioned the authenticity of materials placed before it by petitioner Mohd Ismail and others and refused to stay any further deportation of Rohingyas, saying similar relief was denied by the court. "When the country is passing through a difficult time, you come out with such fanciful ideas," the bench told senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners. It said the materials placed by petitioners appeared to be taken from social media and termed the averments of torture and deportation of Rohingyas by throwing them into the sea as "mere allegations". "Where is the material substantiating the allegations?" Justice Kant asked. The bench said the recording of the alleged phone call conversation between those who were deported and the Delhi-based petitioner was not verified.

"CONGRESS TWISTED MY COMMENTS": MADHYA PRADESH DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

Diary Times Desk : Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda has slammed the opposition Congress for twisting his words from an address that he gave to volunteers who came for training in civil defence. Mr Devda, referring to the Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent strikes in Pakistan under Operation Sindoor, told the gathering that the people of India "bow with the highest respect at the feet of the armed forces", and also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving a decisive response to Pakistan. "We have seen [in Pahalgam] tourists were singled out, their religion were identified, the women were taken aside and the men were shot dead in front of their family members, in front of their children. Ever since then, the people of this country will not rest till we take revenge against the terrorists and those who support them," the Deputy Chief Minister said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's response is commendable. The entire country today bows at the feet of the military. Please give them a big hand," Mr Devda said, and gestured to the audience to clap, which they did.

TURKISH AVIATION FIRM CELEBI GOES TO COURT AFTER CENTRE REVOKES CLEARANCE



Diary Times Desk : A day after its security clearance was revoked by the Centre citing national security reasons, Turkey-based aviation firm Celebi has approached the Delhi High Court and challenged the decision. The Centre's move had come in the wake of Turkey's support for Pakistan during hostilities with India after Operation Sindoor. On Thursday, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security had revoked the security clearance for the ground handling and cargo services provider, which serves nine major airports in India. The order had said that the security clearance was being cancelled "in the interest of national security". "Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd is a Turkey-based company that provides ground services at many airports in the country. Turkey had openly supported Pakistan. In view of the current situation, this has become an issue of national security. Keeping security in mind, Celebi has been banned in the country," Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol had said. On Friday, Celebi Airport Services India approached the Delhi High Court and challenged the Centre's decision.

"BLIND LUST TO...": OMAR ABDULLAH, MEHBOOBA MUFTI'S SPAT OVER PAK WATER PACT

Diary Times Desk : A public spat broke out between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his predecessor Mehbooba Mufti on social media on Friday over calls for revival of the Tulbul Navigation project after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty. Ms Mufti accused Mr Abdullah of adopting "provocative" measures amid ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan. Mr Abdullah, however, alleged that the former Chief Minister was trying to score "cheap publicity points" and "please some people" in Pakistan by opposing the idea. The Tulbul Navigation project - that seeks to rejuvenate the Jhelum-fed Wular lake in Bandipora district - was launched in 1987 but paused in 2007 amid objections from Pakistan that it violated the Indus Waters Treaty. With India suspending the Treaty on April 23, a day after the Pahalgam terror attack, Mr Abdullah on Thursday called for resumption of work in the project on Wular Lake. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said that since the water pact with Pakistan has been kept in abeyance, "I wonder if we will be able to resume the project".

"INDIRECT FUNDING TO TERROR": RAJNATH SINGH'S MESSAGE TO IMF OVER PAK AID

Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reconsider its \$2.1 billion bailout to debt-ridden Pakistan as it allows terrorists to use its soil for launching state-sponsored attacks against Indian citizens. The IMF announced the funding while the Indian military as part of Operation Sindoor launched strikes at terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). At that time, Pakistan was busy launching drone and missile strikes on civilian and military areas in northern India. "The IMF's aid to Pakistan is a form of indirect funding to terror," the Defence Minister said today while addressing Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in Gujarat's Bhuj IAF station. This military installation was also targeted by Pakistani missiles and drones, all of which were intercepted by India's robust air defence network. "Any financial assistance to Pakistan is actually terror funding. The IMF should reconsider its decision," Mr Singh said. Pakistan has for a long time allowed terror groups to use its territory as a safe haven. Even Osama bin Laden was found hiding in Pakistan in 2011.

2 STATES ON HEAT WAVE WARNING, RAIN ALERT IN SEVERAL OTHERS TILL MAY 18

Diary Times Desk : Over 20 states are on alert for rain and thunderstorms on Friday, while parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are likely to see heat wave conditions. As of 2.30 pm, Delhi witnessed a temperature of 39.4 degrees Celsius. By Saturday, heat wave conditions will be restricted to parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, extending to parts of Madhya Pradesh by Sunday. On these two days, parts of many states will continue to be on alert for rain and thunderstorms, per the India Meteorological Department (IMD). They include Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram, among others. Delhi, though on no alert for heat or rain, is recovering from dust storms that brought on a significant drop in air quality and visibility. Dust from northern Pakistan had advected towards Delhi-NCR across Punjab and Haryana late on Wednesday, driven by strong westerly winds over the two states, the weather department said.

HYDERABAD'S MANUU CANCELS MOU WITH TURKEY'S NGO OVER SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN

Diary Times Desk : Hyderabad's Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) administration announced that they were suspending all ongoing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with educational institutions in Turkey on Thursday, May 15. A visiting professor hired to teach a diploma course at the university has gone back to Turkey as a result, MANUU's Registrar Ishtiaque Ahmed said. The MANUU administration issued the statement with the hashtag #NationFirst, indicating that the move was a reaction to Turkey's support for Pakistan during the recent military stand-off with India. MANUU is the third public university after the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi to have suspended ties with Turkish educational institutions. JNU had announced the suspension of its MoU with Inonu University in Turkey, saying the university "stands with the nation." A few months ago, in January 2024, MANUU had signed an MoU with Yunus Emre Institute, a non-profit organisation created by the Turkish government, aimed at promoting Turkish language and culture.



TRUMP CALLS ON IRAN TO 'MOVE QUICKLY' ON NUCLEAR PROPOSAL

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump says that Iran has his administration's proposal regarding its rapidly advancing nuclear programme as negotiations between the two countries continue. Trump made the remarks on Friday on board Air Force One as he ended his trip to the United Arab Emirates. It is the first time he has acknowledged sending a proposal to Tehran after multiple rounds of negotiations between US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. We're in very serious negotiations with Iran for long-term peace," Trump told a journalist when asked about the proposal. "We're not going to be making any nuclear dust in Iran. I think we're getting close to maybe doing a deal without having to do this," he said. "But most importantly, they know they have to move quickly, or something bad is going to happen." On Thursday, Araghchi spoke to journalists at the Tehran International Book Fair and said that Iran had not received any proposal from the US yet.

COVID CASES SPIKE IN HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AS NEW WAVE SPREADS

Diary Times Desk : Health authorities in densely-populated Hong Kong and Singapore have warned that Covid-19 cases are spiking, as a resurgent wave spreads through Asia. The virus' activity in Hong Kong is now "quite high," Albert Au, head of the Communicable Disease Branch of the city's Center for Health Protection, told local media this week. The percentage of respiratory samples testing Covid-positive in Hong Kong recently reached its highest in a year. Severe cases - including deaths - also reached its highest level in about a year to 31 in the week through May 3, the center's data shows. While the resurgence is yet to match the infection peaks seen in the past two years, rising viral load found in sewage water and Covid-related medical consultations and hospitalizations suggest the virus is actively spreading in the city of over 7 million people. Rival financial hub Singapore is also on Covid alert. The city-state's health ministry released its first update on infection numbers in almost a year this month, as the estimated number of cases jumped 28% to 14,200 in the week through May 3 from the previous seven days while daily hospitalization rose around 30%.

US SENATORS SEEK TO BLOCK TRUMP'S UAE, QATAR DEFENCE DEALS

Diary Times Desk : A group of United States senators is trying to halt \$3.5bn in weapons sales to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar over concerns that the deals will personally benefit the family of US President Donald Trump. Two "resolutions of disapproval" were submitted on Thursday in the US by Democratic Senators Chris Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Brian Schatz and Tim Kaine, along with Senator Bernie Sanders, an independent who often votes with Democrats. The legislators also issued statements accusing President Trump, who is concluding a trip to the Middle East, of actively engaging in the "corruption of US foreign policy" over the timing of the sales and recent investment deals. The Department of State this week approved the \$1.6bn sale to the UAE of Chinook helicopters and equipment, F-16 aircraft components, and spare and repair parts to support Apache, Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters. Initial reporting cited the figure as close to \$1.3bn, but the \$1.6bn figure was used in a statement from the legislators.

WHAT DOES "8647", EX-FBI DIRECTOR'S POST HINTING TRUMP ASSASSINATION, MEAN

Diary Times Desk : James Comey, former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director, is under scrutiny for sharing a picture of "86 47" spelled out in seashells. This has been interpreted as an assassination threat to US President Donald Trump. Mr Comey, who was fired by Mr Trump in 2017, has taken down the post, stating he was unaware of the numbers being associated with "violence". 86 is an American slang term meaning "to throw out," "to get rid of," or "to refuse service to." And 47 is code for Trump, the 47th US President. In a now-deleted Instagram post, Mr Comey wrote, "cool shell formation on my beach walk". Congressman Andy Ogles called Mr Comey's May 15th post "a coded suggestion to 'eliminate 47'-that is, assassinate the President." In his letter, the Congressman urged both agencies to investigate potential violations of federal law.

VLADIMIR PUTIN'S BANTER WITH MALAYSIAN PM OVER "SECOND WIFE" IS VIRAL

Diary Times Desk : Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim arrived in Russia on Thursday for what was the first official visit by the country's premier in nearly 20 years. Anwar met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin, where the leaders shared a light-hearted moment while touring the St Andrew's Hall. Before engaging in key discussions on bilateral relations, energy cooperation, and the MH17 tragedy, they walked through the grand ceremonial chamber where Putin pointed to the three ornate thrones and asked, "There are three thrones here, one for the Tsar, the second for his wife. Who do you think the third is for?" Without hesitation, Anwar said, "The second wife," drawing laughter from both delegations. Putin responded, "This is the answer of a true Muslim, a true representative of Islamic culture." He added, "Our traditional values may not always be the same, but the exchange of information is always useful for both parties." Anwar, laughing, clarified, "I only have one wife, Mr President." He went on to explain how he felt Putin was testing him, "He asked, 'There are three chairs in the throne room. Which one is on the right?' I said: 'Of course, the wife on the left, and the second wife...' Then I...I feel the second one on the left is for the mother."

**NATO MEMBERS WILL AGREE TO 5% DEFENCE SPENDING OVER NEXT DECADE: MARCO RUBIO**

Diary Times Desk : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Thursday that all NATO members will have agreed on a goal of spending the equivalent to 5% of GDP on defence over the next decade by the 2025 NATO Summit in June. He made the comments while appearing on Fox News' "Hannity." US President Donald Trump cut defence funding to NATO during the latter part of his first term in 2017-21, and has frequently complained that the US is paying more than its fair share. "I can tell you that we are headed for a summit in six weeks, in which virtually every member of NATO will be at or above 2% but more importantly, many of them will be over 4% and all will have agreed on the goal of reaching 5% over the next decade," said Mr Rubio. German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl said this week that Berlin backed a demand by Trump for members of the defence alliance to increase defence spending to 5% of gross domestic product (GDP). Germany in January said it met NATO's target of spending 2% of its GDP on defence in 2024. The 2025 NATO Summit will be held in the Netherlands from June 24-25.

"MADE A SUB-HUMAN OF ME": INDIAN SCHOLAR RECOUNTS TORTURE IN US DETENTION

Diary Times Desk : Badar Khan Suri, an Indian academic and visiting scholar at Georgetown University, was released from immigration detention after a court order. Suri was arrested by plainclothes federal agents outside his home in Arlington, Virginia, on March 17, 2025. He was held at the Prairieland Detention Center in Texas for nearly two months. The US Department of Homeland Security accused him of having "close connections to a known or suspected terrorist" and spreading Hamas propaganda on campus. Suri described his experience in detention as "Kafkaesque," saying he was chained everywhere - wrist, ankles, and body. "I was chained - my ankles, my wrist, my body. Everything was chained." He also mentioned that during the first seven to eight days, he didn't know where he was being taken and even missed his shadow. "For the first seven, eight days, I even missed my shadow," NBC News quoted him as saying. He also added that, "There was no charge, there was nothing." He said, "They made a sub-human out of me." Suri claimed the facilities were unhygienic and tried to raise concerns with the ombudsman, but never received a response, according to the NBC report.

NIA SEARCHES 15 LOCATIONS LINKED TO BABBAR KHALSA TERROR GROUP IN PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) searched 15 locations in Punjab on Friday, linked to the terror group Babbar Khalsa International, in connection with the grenade attack on a police station in Gurdaspur district in December last year. The searches, carried out in Gurdaspur, Batala, Amritsar, and Kapurthala districts of Punjab, resulted in the seizure of various incriminating materials, including mobile devices and documents. The premises of suspects linked to US-based BKL operative Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passian and his associates, including Shamsher Singh Shera alias Honey, were under scrutiny. Happy, a key aide of Pakistan-based BKL terrorist Harwinder Singh alias Rinda, has been found to be responsible for orchestrating numerous grenade attacks on police stations and posts in Punjab and Haryana. NIA investigations in the case revealed that the arrested accused, who committed the crime, was acting on the directions of Happy, along with Shamsher and other associates. According to NIA investigations, BKL operatives based in various countries were engaged in a criminal conspiracy to recruit and train India-based associates, provide funds, weapons, and explosives to the outfit's field operatives.



PUNJAB POLICE BUST PAKISTAN-BASED NARCO-SMUGGLING MODULE, SEIZE 85 KG OF HEROIN

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Police on Friday said they have busted a Pakistan-based and ISI-controlled narco-smuggling module, arrested its Indian operative and seized 85 kg of heroin. The module was being operated by a UK-based drug handler, police said. "In the biggest drug seizure of 2025, @TarnTaranPolice busts a cross-border, #ISI-controlled-#Pakistan based narco-smuggling module operated by #UK-based drug handler Lalli and arrests his #India-based operative, Amarjot Singh @ Jota Sandhu, resident of Vill. Bhattewad, Amritsar Rural and recovers 85 Kg Heroin," Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav posted on X. Yadav said Amarjot was receiving consignments from smugglers across the border and supplying drugs across Punjab. His residence served as a major stash point for the network, the police chief said.

PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF WARRING TAKES DIG AT AAP'S 'WAR ON DRUGS'

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring today took a dig at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government for its tall claims about "war on drugs", saying that the party was trying to create an "ugly optical illusion" to fool people. He observed that the AAP optics could not have come at a worst time when Punjab was still mourning the death of 27 people killed in the hooch tragedy in Majitha. Reacting to the claims made by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal at a programme today, he asked them which war they were talking about when people were dying after consuming spurious liquor, besides drug overdose. "While the funeral pyres of those 27 unfortunate people are yet to cool down, you are celebrating a lost war," he told the AAP leaders while maintaining that the AAP was trying to create an "optical illusion" about the war on drugs. Warring quoted former police officer and AAP MLA Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh for revealing that the AAP leaders were involved in the trade.

'NASHA MUKTI YATRA' TO BE TAKEN OUT ACROSS PUNJAB FROM TODAY: ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Diary Times Desk : Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said a "Nasha Mukti Yatra" will be taken out across Punjab, terming it a people's revolution to free the state from the menace of drugs. Addressing an event at Langroya village in Punjab's Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district as part of the ongoing "Yudh Nashian Virudh" campaign, the AAP leader said the war against drugs has turned into a people's movement against the scourge. "The entire state is united against drug abuse. Nasha Mukti Yatra is starting from SBS Nagar today," the former Delhi chief minister said. "Over the next one-and-a-half months, we will go to all the 13,000 villages (in the state) and speak to the people. In the cities, we will go to every ward," said Kejriwal, flanked by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. A decisive battle is going on against the drug menace in Punjab, making village after village drug-free, the AAP leader added. "Everyone must take a pledge that they will not use drugs or allow their sale in the villages. The police and the administration are there to support the people in this movement against drug abuse," Kejriwal said.

AAP MLA KUNWAR VIJAY PRATAP ALLEGES OWN GOVT'S COMPLICITY IN LIQUOR TRADE

Diary Times Desk : Ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh on Thursday fired a salvo at his own party's government, alleging that people involved in the illicit liquor trade had become "a part of the regime and running the show". "The mafia-police nexus has a free run under this government. They (liquor mafia) have been made a part of the government and now running the show," said the Amritsar (North) MLA, who is a former IPS officer. The criticism of the government by its own party legislator has come in the wake of the Amritsar spurious liquor tragedy, which has claimed 27 lives till now. The Aam Aadmi Party legislator also termed as "eyewash" the suspension of lower-rung officers over the tragedy and sought action against DIG-level officers, accusing them of "patronising" the criminals even during their tenures as district police chiefs. "Be it illicit liquor or sand trade, criminals continue to prosper," the AAP legislator told reporters at Bhangali village after meeting relatives of some of the victims. Kunwar Vijay Pratap also dared Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to "walk the talk". He said during the previous Congress regime, Mann had demanded that a "murder case be registered" against.

DUSHYANT CHAUTALA ALLEGES OVER RS 100 CRORE LAND SCAM, SEEKS JUDICIAL PROBE

Diary Times Desk : JJP national president Dr Ajay Singh Chautala inaugurated the party's new state office at Rohtak on Friday. He said the party would now focus on revamping by appointing heads of constituencies and making new members. "Till now, the party's national and state offices were being run in Chandigarh. The state office has now been opened at Rohtak on demand of party workers. State-level meetings will be held at the party's state office in Rohtak on the 5th and 20th of every month," he said. Addressing a news conference on the occasion, Dushyant Chautala alleged that a chunk of prime land measuring nearly 4 acres located in Kaithal district, which could have fetched a price of about Rs 125 crore, was sold to a private builder for just Rs 12.5 crore in connivance with certain officers, which indicates a big scam. Dushyant demanded a judicial probe by a retired high court judge into the matter. In response to a query, Dushyant stated that Haryana had surplus water while the JJP was a coalition partner in the state, while now there was an acute crisis of water owing to mismanagement.

ROHTAK MBBS EXAM SCAM: THREE PAPERS WERE 'LEAKED' IN 2024 TO FACILITATE RACKETEERS

Diary Times Desk : The MBBS examination scam at Pt BD Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak (UHSR), appears to be more deeply entrenched than initially suspected. Fresh revelations indicate that question papers were leaked on at least three occasions in 2024 to facilitate a meticulously organised answer-sheet racket, allegedly run by a nexus of insiders and students. According to sources, this revelation was made during the interrogation of a key accused. The accused revealed that question papers for exams held on May 15, 17, and 19 were leaked by an invigilator, who clicked images of the papers and shared them with accomplices via mobile phone. These images were further circulated on WhatsApp to MBBS students from other batches. These students, in turn, were assigned the task of rewriting the answer sheets for the original examinees. "On all three days, these students completed the answer sheets at the residence of the accused. Two of them wrote six answer sheets each, impersonating different candidates. Another student completed four, while a fourth wrote three," an official said on condition of anonymity. The forged answer sheets.

HC SETS ASIDE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT POLICY 'CLAUSE' FOR GRANT OF INCENTIVES

Diary Times Desk : The HP High Court has set aside the clause 5B of the Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy, 2019, along with Rule 4B(b) and 4F of the Rules regarding the grant of incentives, concessions and facilities for investment promotion to the extent they are inconsistent with the Industrial Policy, 2019. A Division Bench comprising Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Sushil Kukreja passed the judgment on a petition filed by an industrial unit alleging that the state had on August 16, 2019, notified the Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy, 2019. Under this policy, eligible enterprises were assured that they would be charged 15 per cent less for energy if they did substantial expansion in accordance with the "Rules Regarding the Grant of Incentives, Concessions and Facilities for Investment Promotion in Himachal Pradesh-2019". It was averred in the petition that the state government after framing the Industrial Policy, 2019, had assured the eligible industries (new or existing) of particular incentives and in terms thereto, therefore, the state was under obligation to show an appropriate enabling/follow-up notification to effectually convey the incentives relating to electricity to the eligible industrial units.

HIMACHAL: PUBLICISE ACS REPORT FINDINGS, DEMAND NEGI'S KIN

Diary Times Desk : Making serious allegations against the state government on its stance adopted in Vimal Negi's case, the family of former Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) Executive Engineer Vimal Negi has demanded the state government to publicise the findings of Additional Chief Secretary's (ACS) report. The family has also demanded a CBI probe into the matter, citing suspicion that the state government is not conducting an unbiased investigation. Addressing a press conference here today, Capt (Retd) Rajinder Negi, uncle of Vimal Negi, said that the state government had assured the family that the ACS report will be provided to the family within 15 days. However, despite that the report was submitted to the state government on April 8.

HP GOVERNMENT HIKES PENSION FOR EX-SERVICEMEN, VEER NARIS BY 40%

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh government has made a one-time increase of 40 per cent in the pension given to ex-servicemen and their widows, Veer Naris, through the Sainik Welfare Department, officials said on Friday. The pension given to ex-servicemen and their widows who took voluntary retirement before the year 1987 has been increased by Rs 2,000 per month, officials said. They will now receive a monthly pension of Rs 5,000 instead of Rs 3,000. In the first quarter of the financial year, in the month of June, a lump sum of Rs 15,000 will be released for three months — April, May and June — Brigadier Madansheel Sharma, Director of Sainik Welfare Department, said. A total of 507 ex-servicemen and their widows in the state will benefit from the increase in pension. These ex-servicemen do not receive any pension from the Government of India, he said. Currently, 246 ex-servicemen and 261 widows of ex-servicemen in the state will get the benefit of pension increase. Earlier Rs 15,21,000 was the allotted monthly budget for the pensions of ex-servicemen and their widows, which has now been increased to a budget of Rs 25,35,000.



79.8 PER CENT STUDENTS PASS HIMACHAL BOARD CLASS X EXAM, GIRLS GRAB TOP 4 RANKS

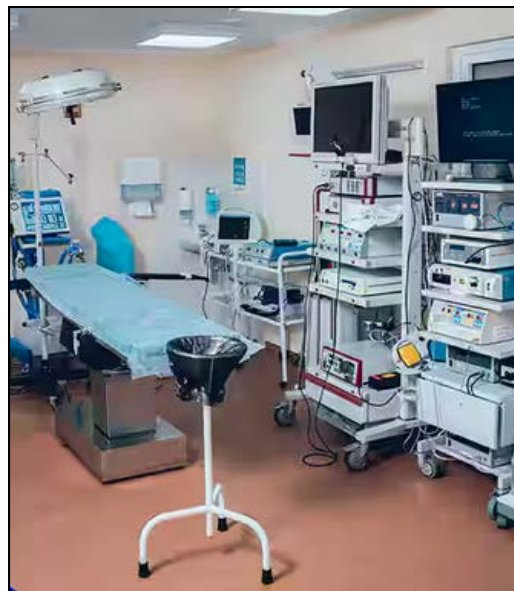
Diary Times Desk : Saina Thakur of Neugal Model Public Senior Secondary School at Bhawarna in Kangra district topped the Class X examination, the results of which were declared by the Himachal Pradesh School Education Board today. Saina scored 696 out of 700 marks (99.43 per cent). Ridima Sharma, RK Senior Secondary Public School at Ghandalwin in Bhoranj tehsil of Hamirpur district got the second position by scoring 695 marks (99.29 per cent), just one mark less than Saina's. Two girls jointly held the third place by scoring 694 marks each (99.14 per cent). Mudita Sharma of Modern Public Senior Secondary School, Swarghat, shared the third place with Parnika Sharma of Minerva Senior Secondary School, Ghumarwin in Bilaspur district. In this year's Class X results, the girl students outperformed the boys, as there were 15 girls among the 17 students who secured the top five ranks. Of the total 95,495 candidates, who had appeared in the exam, 75,862 (79.8 per cent) were declared pass while 427 had abstained. Of 48,946 male students, who had appeared in the Class X examination, 38,002 (77.6 per cent) were declared pass while 37,860 (82 per cent) of total 46,122 girl students, who had appeared in the Class X exam, were declared pass.

HIMACHAL TO RECEIVE RAINFALL FROM FRIDAY

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh is set to receive rainfall from tomorrow onwards as the state's Meteorological Department has issued a yellow weather warning for several districts for May 18 and 19. As per the Meteorological Department, light rainfall will occur in middle and high hills of the state tomorrow and only in high hills on May 17 and 18. Rainfall will occur across the state from May 19 to May 21. A yellow alert has been issued for Chamba and Kangra for May 18 and for Shimla, Solan, Mandi, Sirmour, Kinnaur, Bilaspur and Lahaul and Spiti on May 19, resulting in thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds in these districts. Meanwhile, light rain occurred in several areas of the state during the past 24 hours while the weather was mostly dry. Shimla recorded a maximum temperature of 27.2°C, Dharamsala (34°C), Manali (27.2°C), Solan (33.5°C), Bilaspur (38.7°C), Kangra (37.8°C), Nahan (35.2°C), Bhuntar (36°C), Kufri (21.3°C), Narkanda (20.8°C), Kasauli (30.6°C) and Mandi (37°C). Una with 41.8°C was the hottest place in the state while Tabo village in Lahaul and Spiti was the coldest at 4.5°C. Himachal Pradesh is set to receive rainfall from tomorrow onwards as the state's Meteorological Department has issued a yellow weather warning for several districts.

CHAMBA HOSPITAL TO BE PROVIDED MODERN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Diary Times Desk : Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil today directed the officials concerned to ensure total transparency in the purchase of world-class healthcare machinery and other medical equipment so that the people of the state could be provided the best services. Shandil presided over a meeting of the Special High-Powered Purchase Committee here. The committee gave approval for the purchase of five Phaco machines at an estimated cost of around Rs 30 lakh. It also approved amendments for expediting the process of procuring digital radiography machine, high-resolution colour doppler ultrasound and a digital mammography machine for Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Government Medical College, Chamba. The committee also approved the recommendations of the Cabinet Technical Sub-Committee for the purchase of various machinery and equipment for Adarsh Swasthya Sansthans. The minister said, "The government is tirelessly working to provide quality health infrastructure and services through Adarsh Swasthya Sansthans set up in around 50 Assembly constituencies of the state having six specialist doctors in each institution."



JAISWAL, GAIKWAD NAMED IN EASWARAN-LED INDIA 'A' SQUAD FOR ENGLAND TOUR

Diary Times Desk : Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad have been named in a strong India 'A' squad for the upcoming tour of England, the BCCI confirmed on Friday (May 16). The squad, led by Abhimanyu Easwaran, will be bolstered by the additions of Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill for the second game. India 'A' squad: Abhimanyu Easwaran (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Karun Nair, Dhruv Jurel (VC) (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan (wk), Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Harshit Rana, Anshul Kamboj, Khaleel Ahmed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sarfaraz Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harsh Dubey. As revealed by Cricbuzz earlier, the squad also consists of the likes of Karun Nair, Tanush Kotian, Nitish Reddy and Akash Deep. Shardul Thakur has also been rewarded for his recent domestic form with a place in the 18-man squad. While doubts remained over Sarfaraz Khan's immediate future since he was returning from a long-term injury, the Mumbai batter has been picked. Apart from Thakur and Deep, the pace attack has been bolstered by the presence of Khaleel Ahmed, Anshul Kamboj, Tushar Deshpande, Harshit Rana and Mukesh Kumar. Ishan Kishan has been chosen as the second wicketkeeper in the squad behind vice-captain Dhruv Jurel. The spin department sees the inclusion of Manav Suthar and Harsh Dubey apart from Kotian.



TEST CAPTAINCY RACE OVER? REPORT REVEALS BIG MEETINGS BEFORE ROHIT SHARMA RETIREMENT

Diary Times Desk : India's hunt for the next Test captain seems to be over, with multiple reports suggesting that Shubman Gill is set to succeed Rohit Sharma in the longest format. Gill, who is already India's vice-captain in ODIs and T20Is, seems to be beating the favourite Jasprit Bumrah to the role, leaving many unimpressed. While Bumrah was India's vice-captain in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, leading the first Test in Rohit Sharma's absence, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee reportedly prefers Shubman Gill because of the pacer's poor injury record. Gill's impressive show as a leader in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 campaign has also impressed many, instilling confidence in the decision-makers to give the baton to the top-order batter. As per a report in the Times of India, Gill held a lengthy discussion with Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir at the latter's residence when the Gujarat Titans had arrived in the national capital for a match against Delhi Capitals. The two reportedly spoke for four to five hours, with Test captaincy, understandably, being the biggest point of discussion. When GT took on the Mumbai Indians at Wankhede Stadium on May 6, Agarkar is said to have also had a discussion with Gill.

STARC WRITES TO DC CONFIRMING EXIT FROM IPL 2025 SEASON

Diary Times Desk : Mitchell Starc has confirmed he won't be returning to play in the Indian Premier League (IPL) this season. After keeping Delhi Capitals franchise in tenterhooks for close to three days, the Australia pacer is believed to have informed the franchise on Thursday that he is unable to join. He is understood to have sent an email to the team. Bought for Rs 11.75 crore by the franchise, the 35-year-old pacer hitherto featured in all 11 games of the season for DC, picking up 14 wickets at an average of 26. His availability has been crucial to the team, especially as they stand on the edge of qualifying for the playoffs. The team is in the fifth place, with 13 points from 11 games. Being a big-match player, the franchise had invested a lot of hope in the pacer. However, the recent turn of events in India - particularly the drone attacks from across the Pakistan border - is believed to have left him shaken. He and fellow Australian Jake Fraser-McGurk were particularly the most disturbed players in the situation, which also involved a long and tense bus-and-train journey from Dharamsala to Delhi last week. Delhi Capitals are now banking on Mustafizur Rahman. The Bangladesh pacer, brought in as a replacement for Jake Fraser-McGurk, is expected to play a key role for the franchise. Despite some controversy surrounding his NOC, the 29-year-old left-arm seamer is understood to be available.

"STILL PLAYING...": ROHIT SHARMA'S MESSAGE AS WANKHEDE STADIUM STAND NAMED AFTER HIM UNVEILED

Diary Times Desk : Rohit Sharma received a massive honour from the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) as a stand with his name was unveiled at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Friday. The Rohit Sharma Stand was officially unveiled in an event at the iconic venue in the process of Rohit's parents and wife Ritika Sajdeh. Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Vinoo Mankad, and Dilip Vengsarkar are other cricket stars to have a stand named after them at the venue. During the event, Rohit delivered an emotional speech and expressed his wish to play an ODI encounter for India at the Wankhede Stadium in the near future. "Firstly I would like to thank everyone who has come here to make this event so special. What is going to happen today, I never dreamt of it. As a kid growing up, wanting to play for Mumbai, for India, no one thinks about things like these. For me, it's like any other sportsman who wants to give their best. Serve the nation, the country as much as possible. While doing that you try and achieve a lot of things, A lot of milestones are created but something like this is really special. Wankhede is such an iconic stadium, there are so many memories here," said Rohit while addressing.



IPL SET FOR AN EMOTIONAL RESUMPTION IN BENGALURU

Diary Times Desk : Nearly an hour and a half into RCB's training session at the Chinnaswamy stadium on Friday, Virat Kohli joined the batting group for a hit. A couple of crisp straight drives and pull shots later, there was a brief break in play. He wasn't happy. His arrival to the practice pitch, even in an empty stadium, coincided with the sound system blaring the RCB team song. He conveyed his annoyance to enough people around him to shut it down and restore silence, interspersed with the sound of the ball hitting the bat and the ambient conversations. He will not have such luck or command over the proceedings come Saturday, when the IPL resumes after an eight-day break at a venue where the partisan crowd will come armed with heightened vigour. In this week of non-action, Kohli walked away from Test cricket with a simple Instagram post about it, and is now in for a rousing tribute from the RCB faithful who have plans of turning up in white. RCB's two wins in five home games don't do justice to how well their fans routinely raise the roof here - there's an unwavering consistency to the unabashed support they've dished out year after year. It must be deja vu for so many of them, as the anticipation for the first title is on the rise once again with RCB sitting pretty at second spot.

"IT'S TIME TO GO": VIRAT KOHLI'S INTENSE CHAT WITH RAVI SHASTRI BEFORE TEST RETIREMENT, DETAILS OUT

Diary Times Desk : Former India head coach Ravi Shastri revealed on Thursday, that he spoke to Virat Kohli ahead of the latter's shock Test retirement, saying that the veteran communicated to him about having no regrets with his career and felt that he had given all he could in the long format to his country. Kohli called curtains on his Test career on Monday, 12 May, despite India's five-Test tour of England in June fast-approaching. Kohli finishes as one of the finest Test batters of his generation, with 9230 runs in the format - the fourth-best by an Indian batter - and 30 Test centuries. Kohli and Shastri formed one of the most successful captain-coach duos in Indian Test cricket history, and the latter has now confirmed reports that the star batter reached out to him ahead of announcing his decision to the world. "I did speak to him about it, I think a week before that [his announcement] and his mind was very clear that he had given us everything," Shastri told Sanjana Ganesan in The ICC Review. "There were no regrets."