

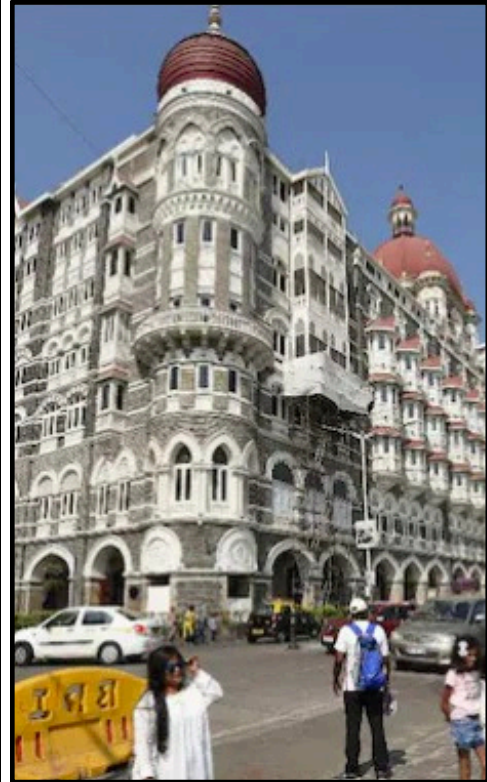
'OPERATION SINDOOR'

MUMBAI AIRPORT, TAJ HOTEL RECEIVE BOMB THREAT OVER AFZAL GURU HANGING

Diary Times Desk : The Mumbai Police have received a threat email, warning of bomb attacks at two major city landmarks, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel. The email claimed that the hanging of parliament attack mastermind was "unjust", The Indian Express reported.

Taking note of this, security teams immediately carried out checks at both the airport and the hotel, but nothing suspicious was found. The report said that the email was sent from the id tviduthalai_puli_vellum@outlook.com to the official email of the airport police station on Thursday morning. Even as Mumbai is already on high alert due to recent tensions between India and Pakistan, the administration has been conducting security drills across several key locations. In the email, the sender cited "unjust hanging of Afzal Guru and Savakku Shankar" as the motive behind the threat. Afzal Guru was executed on February 9, 2013 for his role in the 2001 Parliament attack, but reference to Savakku Shankar is factually incorrect. Shankar, a former clerk who became known for exposing corruption, is still alive and currently active as a YouTuber and social activist. He recently filed a public interest litigation in the Madras High Court seeking a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in schemes meant for manual scavengers, the Indian Express report stated.

The Mumbai Police has filed a case against the sender of the email and is now working to trace the origin of the message through its digital footprint, the report said. Just last week, a similar bomb threat was reported at the disaster control room of the Maharashtra Secretariat and the police.



'OPERATION SINDOOR'

'IT IS AN HONOUR': SHASHI THAROOR ON LEADING MODI GOVT'S GLOBAL OUTREACH DELEGATION, SAYS NATION ABOVE POLITICS



Diary Times Desk : Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said he was honoured to be called upon to serve the nation in a time of crisis, stressing that national interest must rise above politics. Tharoor, who was named to lead one of the government's delegations to explain India's stance on cross-border terrorism, said he had no hesitation in accepting the role, calling it a matter of duty. "As I have mentioned, it is a very great honour. As a citizen being called upon to serve the nation at the time of crisis, is a matter of duty for all of us. At the same time, it is an honour that I have been asked to lead a delegation and I look forward very much to playing my part," Tharoor told reporters.

The Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram said he accepted the government's invitation without hesitation, saying it was about national interest, not politics, and that his duty to the country comes first. "I have always said that when my services are required for the nation, I should not be found wanting and I had no hesitation in accepting the kind invitation of the government, which to my mind is nothing to do with politics and everything to do with our country's national interest. National interest, in my mind, are always above everything else," added Tharoor.

The government will send seven all-party delegations to key partner countries, including members of the UN Security Council, later this month. This is to share India's strong message of zero tolerance against terrorism after the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor.

A statement from the parliamentary affairs ministry said, "The all-party delegations will show India's united stand and firm approach against terrorism. They will send a clear message to the world that India will not tolerate terrorism."

DISHONEST: CONGRESS ON GOVT NAMING NOMINEES
DIFFERENT FROM PARTY LIST FOR GLOBAL OUTREACH

Diary Times Desk : After the government announced on Saturday that Shashi Tharoor would lead one of the seven multi-party delegations set to travel abroad for outreach on Operation Sindoor, the Congress described the NDA's move as "dishonest and diversionary." Tharoor is not part of the official Congress list of four MPs that the government had requested from the party on Friday morning. The Congress list includes Anand Sharma, Gaurav Gogoi, Raja Brar, and Syed Nasir Hussain, while the government's list features Tharoor, Salman Khurshid, Manish Tewari, and Amar Singh. Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju had called Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday, requesting four names, which the party submitted by 12:30 pm. "When the minister called, we were not given any indication that the government would release its own list of nominees. We were asked for four names, which we provided. To go ahead and announce names other than those is plain dishonest and diversionary," said Jairam Ramesh. He added that the party would not change its nominees, even as government sources stated that they would proceed with the pre-decided names for the delegations.



PAKISTAN TO REBUILD JUD
HEADQUARTERS AT MURIDKE
DESTROYED IN INDIAN STRIKES

Diary Times Desk : The Pakistan Government has assured to rebuild the mosques—the JuD headquarters—at Muridke destroyed in the Indian strike, the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League said on Saturday. The Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) is a political wing of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and is a front for Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) that has carried out terror strikes in many parts of India, including the horrific 26/11 Mumbai attack in 2008. As part of the Operation Sindoor, Indian military carried out missile strikes on May 7 on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) stronghold of Bahawalpur and the LeT's base at Muridke in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Pakistan claims it was a mosque and an educational complex that were hit in the strikes at Muridke, located at about 40 km from Lahore. Three JuD activists were killed.

UK FOREIGN SECRETARY SAYS CEASEFIRE BETWEEN
PAKISTAN, INDIA MUST BE 'SUSTAINED'



Diary Times Desk : UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, who is on a two-day visit here, said on Saturday that the ceasefire between Pakistan and India must be "sustained". Lammy's visit, the first by a British Foreign Secretary to Pakistan since 2021, follows India's 'Operation Sindoor' targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attacks that claimed 26 lives. A brief statement and video clip appeared on Lammy's X account at the conclusion of his trip during which he held talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. "My message has been clear with India, Pakistan and international partners. The ceasefire must be sustained, further conflict is in nobody's interest," Lammy said in the video. "And I am proud of the work that foreign office staff in both countries and back in the UK have done to ensure that British nationals in this part of the world have access to up-to-date, accurate advice and information to help keep them safe," he said. According to the statement, Lammy's visit to Pakistan followed the "hugely welcome ceasefire with India".

CJI BR GAVAI CALLS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN JUDICIARY
AND EXECUTIVE TO FILL JUDICIAL VACANCIES

Diary Times Desk : Three days after taking over as the Chief Justice of India, Justice BR Gavai on Saturday called for cooperation between the Judiciary and the Executive to fill judicial vacancies at the earliest in order to clear the backlog of cases. I would request the Laureate Solicitor to convey our request to the Executive that by a cooperative approach we must ensure to minimize the vacancies as much as... as strictly as we can so that to some extent the issue of pendency would be resolved," the CJI said, alluding to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta while speaking at a felicitation ceremony organised by the Bar Council of India (BCI). Emphasising the need for greater diversity in judicial appointments, Justice Gavai urged high courts to recommend the names of more women, SC, ST, and OBC candidates for elevation to the Bench. "On a personal note I have spoken to many of the chief justices that if they do not have a woman candidate in their high courts they should take from a very good pool of women advocates who are practising in the Supreme Court.



Aries

Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.

Gemini

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

Leo

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

Libra

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

Sagittarius

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

Aquarius

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



YOUR HOROSCOPE

18-05-2025

Taurus

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

Cancer

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

Virgo

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

Scorpio

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

Capricorn

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

Pisces

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



HIMACHAL WEATHER: WEATHER WILL CHANGE IN HIMACHAL, CHANCES OF RAIN, ORANGE ALERT FOR HAILSTORM

Diary Times Desk : The weather will change in Himachal Pradesh from Sunday. An orange alert for hailstorm has been issued in many areas on Monday. The weather of the state is predicted to change due to the activity of western disturbance. On Saturday, the high altitude areas of the state remained cloudy. The plain districts remained sunny. Apart from drizzle in Shimla in the afternoon, it rained in some areas of Hamirpur. The maximum temperature in Una has again crossed 40 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature was recorded above 30 degrees in 15 places of the state. The Meteorological Center Shimla has predicted clear weather in the plain districts of Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Kangra on Sunday. The temperature of these places is also expected to increase. There is a possibility of light rain on Sunday in some areas of the middle and high mountain districts Shimla, Solan, Sirmaur, Mandi, Kullu, Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti. An orange alert for hailstorm has been issued at some places in these districts on Monday. The weather is forecast to remain bad here till May 21.



HIMACHAL: ED REGISTERED TWO NEW FIRS IN SCHOLARSHIP SCAM, NAMED 10 ACCUSED IN THE CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered two new FIRs in Shimla in the much-discussed Rs 250 crore scholarship scam. These cases have been registered in the name of ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The PMLA Court Shimla has also taken cognizance of these two supplementary prosecution complaints. ED has named 10 accused in this case. The investigating agency has so far temporarily attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs 30.5 crore in this case. The properties that have been attached include properties in Nahan and Panchkula (Haryana) and other places. ED has started this investigation on the basis of the FIR registered by the CBI. In this, irregularities in the post-matric scholarship given to OBC, SC and ST students by the Directorate of Higher Education Shimla were revealed. The CBI investigation revealed that the institutions obtained scholarship funds in an illegal manner. ED had found out in the investigation that the institutions had received scholarship funds by verifying fake details of the students.

HIMACHAL: ROHTANG PASS, THE FIRST CHOICE OF TOURISTS, HAS BEEN RESTORED, VEHICLES PASSED THROUGH 40 FEET HIGH SNOW WALLS

Diary Times Desk : If you want to see snow in the scorching heat of June, then come to Rohtang. Rohtang Pass, the first choice of tourists, has been restored. Tourist movement to Rohtang started from Saturday. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) had to face many difficulties in removing snow to the pass. Now the journey of adventure has begun. On Saturday, when vehicles left for Rohtang crossing 40 feet high snow walls, tourists were thrilled. On the first day, tourists reached Rohtang in about 800 vehicles. Deputy Commissioner Kullu Torul S Ravish has issued a notification to restore Rohtang Pass for tourists as District Magistrate. According to the information, SDM Mandali Raman Kumar Sharma inspected the Rohtang road on May 15 with Border Roads Organisation and police. During the inspection, it was found that the road is suitable for the movement of tourists. Toilets have been built for the convenience of tourists in Rohtang and snow has also been removed from the parking places. After the SDM's report, the Deputy Commissioner issued a notification to start the movement of tourists to Rohtang Pass from May 17. Rohtang Pass will remain closed every Tuesday due to road repair work. On the first day, Saturday, about 800 tourist vehicles arrived. More than 15 feet of snow is deposited in Rohtang Pass.

HIMACHAL TOURISM: TOURISM HAS PICKED UP PACE AGAIN IN THE STATE, TRAINS ON THE WORLD HERITAGE TRACK ARE PACKED TILL MAY 30

Diary Times Desk : After the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, the situation has become normal. In such a situation, the number of tourists in the state is increasing again. Six trains running on the world heritage Kalka-Shimla line are also packed. Now the maximum waiting list in the trains is 107. This waiting list is for May 24. If any ticket is cancelled, then the people on waiting list will be able to enjoy the toy train. The special thing is that the number of seats available in the train is the same in the month of May. Recently, after the possibility of war between India and Pakistan, bookings in trains were also cancelled. Due to this, fewer people traveled by trains for a week. Few passengers were seen in the trains going from Kalka to Shimla. But most of the trains coming from Shimla to Kalka ran empty. But now after the situation has improved, the trains have started getting crowded again. At the same time, people are also turning to Himachal due to excessive heat in other states.



HIMACHAL: STATE GOVERNMENT WILL EARN LAKHS FROM EXPENSIVE ROOMS OF HOMESTAYS, MATH OF EARNING FROM GST BEHIND DISCOUNT IN RENT

Diary Times Desk : In the revised Home Stay Rules 2025, the government has found a new source of income by allowing operators to fix the room rent at Rs 10,000 or more. The government expects to earn lakhs from GST (Goods and Services Tax) levied on room rent. 12 per cent GST is levied on tariffs ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 7,500 and there is a provision to levy 18 per cent GST on tariffs above Rs 7,500. The number of registered homestays in Himachal Pradesh is 4,289 and more than 2,000 homestays are running illegally without registration. According to the data of the Tourism Department, the number of registered Bed and Breakfast (B&B) units in the state is 2,867, while more than 1,500 B&Bs are running without registration by applying on the online portal with the Union Ministry of Tourism. The government has implemented the system of mandatory re-registration of all homestays and B&Bs in the revised Home Stay Rules 2025. In such a situation, more than 10,000 units are likely to be registered in the state.

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 government has made arrangements so that any department or institution can use the vacant buildings of merged 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.

HELICOPTER MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING IN KEDARNATH AFTER TECHNICAL SNAG

Diary Times Desk : Three people had a close shave after their helicopter made an emergency landing in Kedarnath due to a technical fault. The helicopter belonged to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rishikesh, and had arrived in Kedarnath to pick up a patient. District Tourism Development Officer Rahul Chaubey said the helicopter developed a technical snag in its tail rotor. However, all occupants are reported to be safe. The pilot of the helicopter made the emergency landing just 10 metres away from the helipad. Local officials and relief workers quickly arrived at the spot. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will conduct an investigation into the incident, Choubey told PTI. This is the third instance of a helicopter accident during the Chardham Yatra this year. Earlier, on May 8, six people, including the pilot of a helicopter, were killed and one injured when it crashed near Ganganani in Uttarkashi district.

TRUMP REITERATES INDIA TARIFF CLAIM AFTER S JAISHANKAR'S "PREMATURE" REMARK

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has claimed that India offered to remove all tariffs on American goods, but added that he was in no rush to finalise a trade deal despite the apparent breakthrough. In an interview with Fox News on Friday, Donald Trump said India is a top example of a country with barriers he is determined to dismantle. "They make it almost impossible to do business. Do you know they're willing to cut 100 per cent of their tariffs for the United States?" the President said. But Trump also sent mixed signals on how close a deal could be, saying, "That'll come soon. I'm in no rush. Look, everybody wants to make a deal with us." He added that he is not planning to "make deals with everybody." However, reacting to Donald Trump's claim that India has offered a trade deal with "literally zero tariffs," External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Thursday said that the ongoing negotiations are complex and far from final. "Between India and the US, trade talks have been going on. These are complicated negotiations. Nothing is decided till everything is. Any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial; it has to work for both countries. That would be our expectation from the trade deal. Until that is done, any judgment on it would be premature," EAM Jaishankar said while speaking to reporters. Trump's remarks suggest that while some countries may be signalling readiness to reset.

BJP VS CONGRESS SHOWDOWN OVER SHASHI THAROOR'S ROLE IN OP SINDOOR DIPLOMACY



Diary Times Desk : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has found himself at the epicentre of political controversy for being chosen by the PM Modi government to lead a key multi-party delegation abroad in the wake of Operation Sindoor. The nomination of former United Nations diplomat-turned-MP for the role has triggered an intense BJP vs Congress slugfest, with Tharoor caught in the crossfire. Following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 civilians, the government announced it would send seven multi-party delegations to key global capitals, including UN Security Council member states, to project a united Indian voice against Pakistan-backed terrorism. Each delegation would be led by prominent MPs from across party lines. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, is among those leading one of the delegation.

15 DELHI COUNCILLORS RESIGN FROM AAP, FORM 'INDRAPRASTHA VIKAS PARTY'

Diary Times Desk : In a major jolt to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), fifteen municipal councillors in Delhi have resigned from the party and announced the formation of a separate political party named the Indraprastha Vikas Party. The newly-formed front will be led by Hemchand Goel, with prominent former AAP leaders such as Mukesh Goel, Himani Jain, Devindra Kumar, Rajesh Kumar Ladi, Suman Anil Rana, Dinesh Bhardwaj, Runakshi Sharma, Manisha, Sahib Kumar, Rakhi Yadav, Usha Sharma, and Ashok Pandey playing key roles in the rebellion. Among the rebels, Mukesh Goel's departure carries particular weight as he served as the Leader of the House for AAP in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). "We have launched Indraprastha Vikas Party because we were not able to do any public work for the past year or two. The House never functions smoothly due to disruptions," said Goel, claiming that more councillors might join their new party. Notably, he had contested the Delhi Assembly elections held in February this year on an AAP ticket but failed to secure a win. However, the list released includes the names of 13 councillors, as two were absent during the announcement.

DELHI NCR WEATHER: STRONG WINDS HIT CITIES; TREES, POLES, SHEDS TOPPLE IN NOIDA

Diary Times Desk : Strong winds and dust storm swept parts of Delhi and adjoining cities such as Uttar Pradesh's Noida and Ghaziabad on Saturday afternoon, a day after similar weather was experienced in the areas. In parts of Noida, trees were uprooted and fell on vehicles after heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds on Saturday. The Rapid Rail Metro Ashok Nagar station shed was also damaged by strong winds accompanied by rain. A traffic light pole also fell amid heavy rainfall accompanied by wind in Noida's DM Chowk. In Delhi's Connaught Place as well, a tree uprooted and fell on vehicles near PVR: Plaza-CP following heavy thunderstorms and rain on Saturday. The IMD had forecast a thunderstorm accompanied with rain for Delhi on Saturday, with the maximum temperature expected to settle around 42 degrees Celsius. The IMD had forecast a thunderstorm accompanied with rain for Delhi on Saturday, with the maximum temperature expected to settle around 42 degrees Celsius. The weather department said at around 3:30 pm on Saturday that a dust storm followed by a thunderstorm with light to moderate rain and lightning is very likely to happen across all of Delhi.

AFTER RAHUL GANDHI'S 'PAK INFORMED' POST, CENTRE'S 'EARLY PHASE' REPLY

Diary Times Desk : Slamming Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for his claim that informing Pakistan at the start of Operation Sindoor was a "crime", the BJP has accused him of spreading fake news. The Ministry of External Affairs has also said that a statement on the timing of Pakistan being informed was being falsely represented. On Saturday, Mr Gandhi took to X and shared a video of S Jaishankar in which the External Affairs Minister said that at the start of Operation Sindoor, which was carried out on the intervening night on May 6 and 7, a message was sent to Pakistan that only terror bases were being struck, and not military installations. "At the start of the operation, we had sent a message to Pakistan, saying we are striking at terrorist infrastructure and we are not striking at the military. So the military has the option of standing out and not interfering in this process. They chose not to take that good advice," Mr Jaishankar can be heard saying in the video. The Congress MP wrote that informing Pakistan at the start of the attack was a "crime".



TRUMP WRAPS MIDDLE EAST TOUR WITH GRAND PROMISES, WARM PRAISE, AND ELUSIVE DEALS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump capped off a whirlwind Middle East trip this week by declaring that diplomacy, under his watch, now runs on "the power of love." Over four frenetic days across Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, Trump leaned into pageantry and personal rapport, setting aside geopolitical caution in favour of affection, spectacle, and sky-high investment claims—many of them unverifiable or previously announced, the Washington Post reported. "I have to be a cheerleader for our country," Trump said, repeatedly boasting that no other president would be doing what he is: personally promoting American corporations and chasing down mega deals abroad. Throughout the trip, the White House released a cascade of press releases touting deals supposedly worth hundreds of billions—culminating in the bold assertion that Trump had secured more than \$2 trillion in investments. But many of the agreements were aspirational, repackaged, or light on detail. Sceptics point out that even Saudi Arabia, which Trump claims committed \$600 billion, may struggle to deliver half of that, given strained budgets and slow oil revenues.

LIBYA PROTESTS ERUPT IN TRIPOLI AS CALLS GROW FOR PM DBEIBAH'S RESIGNATION

Diary Times Desk : Hundreds of Libyan protesters called on Friday for the ouster of the internationally-recognised prime minister and his government said one security force member was killed when some protesters tried to storm his office. At least three ministers resigned in sympathy with the protesters, who want Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah to quit. The demonstrators gathered in Martyrs' Square in Tripoli, chanting slogans such as "The nation wants to topple the government" and "We want elections." They later marched to the main government building in the city center. "We won't leave until he leaves," one protester said. The demonstrators carried pictures of Dbeibah, national security adviser Ibrahim Dbeibah and Interior Minister Emad Tarbushi with their faces crossed out in red. State-oil firm NOC said in a statement that its operations at oil facilities are proceeding as normal, with oil and gas exports operating regularly.

'ELON WILL BE JEALOUS': A PRIME MINISTER GOT DOWN ON ONE KNEE WITH 'NAMASTE' TO GREET GEORGIA MELONI

Diary Times Desk : A video of the Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama's way of welcoming Italian PM Giorgia Meloni while hosting Europe's leaders on Friday has gone viral on social media. The video shows him kneeling on one knee and folding his hands to welcome the Italian leader – a gesture many media users claimed would make Elon Musk jealous, referencing rumours about a romantic relationship between the tech billionaire and the politician. "Giorgia Meloni truly commands the utmost respect of world leaders. This is quite the sight to see," Joey Mannarino wrote on X. The video captures Edi Rama standing on one side of a red carpet holding an umbrella amid rain. As Meloni approaches him, the Albanian PM gently puts down the umbrella on the ground while kneeling on one knee.

ISRAELI STRIKES KILL 146 PALESTINIANS IN GAZA IN 24 HOURS: REPORT



Diary Times Desk : Israel's airforce killed at least 146 Palestinians in new attacks on Gaza over the past 24 hours and injured many more, local health authorities said on Saturday, as the country appeared set to press ahead with a new ground offensive. Israeli strikes since Thursday have seen one of the deadliest phases of bombardment since a truce collapsed in March. The latest strikes came as U.S. President Donald Trump ended his Middle East tour on Friday with no apparent progress towards a new ceasefire. "Since midnight, we have received 58 martyrs, while a large number of victims remain under the rubble. The situation inside the hospital is catastrophic," said the director of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, Marwan Al-Sultan. Local health authorities said 459 people had been injured in Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours. Israel's military said on Saturday it was conducting extensive strikes and mobilizing troops as part of preparations to expand operations in the Gaza Strip and achieve "operational control" in areas of the Palestinian enclave.

10 INMATES ESCAPE US JAIL, LEAVE TAUNTING MESSAGE: "CATCH US WHEN YOU CAN"

Diary Times Desk : Ten inmates, described as violent offenders, escaped from the Orleans Justice Centre in New Orleans, United States Friday, leaving behind a scene of brazen defiance and raising serious questions about security lapses, according to Fox News. Officials discovered the escape during a morning headcount, revealing that the inmates had used a small window concealed behind a toilet to access a maintenance area. From there, they scaled a wall and fled the facility, according to Fox News. A witness reported seeing the group, dressed in orange jumpsuits, running across Interstate 10 in the dark. Adding insult to injury, the inmates left taunting graffiti on the wall around their escape route. Messages such as "Too Easy LOL", "Catch us when you can", and "Most Hated 9" were scrawled amidst profanity.

MELANIA TRUMP'S STATUE SAWED OFF AT ANKLES, STOLEN IN HER HOMETOWN SLOVENIA

Diary Times Desk : A life-sized bronze statue of US first lady Melania Trump has disappeared from its perch in her hometown of Sevnica, Slovenia. The sculpture was unveiled in 2020, during the first term of US President Donald Trump. According to the BBC, the statue was sawn off at the ankles and was carried away by unknown individuals on Tuesday. The report added that the police are investigating the matter and tracking down the people who are responsible for the theft. Police spokeswoman Alenka Drenik Rangus said, "Police are still assessing the theft, and an investigation is still ongoing," reported the NY Times. Some residents in eastern Slovenia believe it may have been vandalised, while others believe it was likely melted down for money. Igor Pavkovic, a resident, spoke to The NY Times about the theft. He said, "Melania [Trump] is rarely seen in the spotlight or anywhere else, and even when she does do something, it's so bizarre, so I don't even want to think about her that much." Another resident, Franja Kranjc, a bakery owner, added, "I think no one was proud of this statue, not even the first lady of the US. So I think it's OK that it's removed."

IRAN'S LEADERS SLAM TRUMP FOR 'DISGRACEFUL' REMARKS DURING MIDDLE EAST TOUR

Diary Times Desk : Iran's political and military leaders are pointing the finger back at Donald Trump after the United States president sharpened his rhetoric during his first major tour of the Middle East. In a speech to a group of teachers gathered for a state ceremony in Tehran on Saturday, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said some of Trump's comments were not even worth responding to. "The level of those remarks is so low that they are a disgrace for the one who uttered them and a disgrace to the American nation," he said, to chants of "Death to America" and others from the crowd. Khamenei added that Trump "lied" when he said he wants to use power towards peace, as Washington has backed "massacring" Palestinians and others across the region. He called Israel a "dangerous cancerous tumour" that must be "uprooted". Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also told a gathering of navy officers on Saturday that Trump is extending a message of peace while threatening destruction at the same time as backing Israel's "genocide" in the Gaza Strip.



ATTARI-WAGAH CHECK-POST REOPENS: STRANDED AFGHAN TRUCKS ALLOWED ENTRY AFTER 22-DAY CLOSURE

Diary Times Desk : After four coordination committee meetings, India allowed entry to five out of 162 stranded trucks from Afghanistan through the Attari-Wagah Integrated Check-Post that was closed after the start of hostilities with Pakistan. The remaining 157 trucks carrying consignments of spices, herbs and dry and fresh fruits are expected to cross over to India from Pakistan over the next few days. The move in no way should be construed as normal opening of the border as the ICP continued to remain non-operational as per the directions of the Prime Minister headed Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), said an official. The CCS had pronounced the decision in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack. The 162 trucks carrying perishable goods from Afghanistan had reached Wagah border, which is situated inside Pakistan, on April 22, a day prior to the CCS had convened at the residence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 23, which recommended closure of the Attari-Wagah border with immediate effect. The Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) handling cargo at the ICP had received the last consignment of 17 truckloads on April 23. Thereafter, it did not accept any truck of merchandise from Afghanistan till May 16. The ICP normally receives about 15 to 20 truckloads of dry fruit, spices, herbs.



LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR KIRATPUR SAHIB-NANGAL FOUR-LANE PROJECT TO START SOON

Diary Times Desk : The process for land acquisition for Kiratpur-Nangal four-lane road would be started very soon. The government is going to appoint officials for acquisition of land for the four-lane road project that would be executed by the National Highways Authorities of India (NHAI). Ropar Deputy Commissioner Varjeet Walia said that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for four-laning of the Kiratpaur Sahib-Nangal road has been finalised by the NHAI. The government will appoint officials for land acquisition for the project in the next few days, he said. In a bid to fast-track the much awaited project, Punjab Education Minister and MLA from Anandpur Sahib Harjot Singh Bains held a meeting yesterday and directed the officials concerned to accelerate land acquisition. He said that he would personally review the progress of the project on a weekly basis. Bains claimed that he had met the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, seeking his intervention to expedite the project.

'DON'T WAIT TO BE CHOSEN': JUDICIARY, ACADEMIA, BAR URGE WOMEN IN LAW TO REWRITE THE RULES

Diary Times Desk : "Break the mould, claim the stage, and define your own path." This was the united message from the judiciary, academia and Bar at a thought-provoking panel discussion on 'Unconventional Advocacy and the Path Ahead for Women' held at Law Bhawan on Saturday. Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, senior academics and advocates called on women in law not to wait for traditional routes or institutional nods, but to seize space, trust their merit, and reshape the legal profession through bold visibility, unflinching self-belief, and collective upliftment. The panel comprised Justice Meenakshi I Mehta, Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj, Justice Pankaj Jain, Dr Shruti Bedi (Director of the University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), Panjab University) and advocate Rameeza Hakeem. The session was organised by the Indian Women Commercial Dispute Resolution.

99% VILLAGES DRUG-FREE, CLAIMS PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT MANN

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Friday claimed that 99 per cent of the drugs had been eradicated from state villages and that government was working to root out the "remaining seed" to make Punjab free of drugs. The remarks were made during the launch of the "Nasha Mukti Yatra" at Lakhnawal village in the district. During the second phase of the "Yudh Nasheyan Virudh" campaign, village-level meetings and drives against drugs will be held across the 13,000 villages of the state, the CM said. He also said that the drugs problem took root and spread in the state during the tenure of previous governments and that the AAP had taken it upon itself to make the state free of drugs. Addressing the gathering of village defence committee leaders and residents of Lakhnawal, Dhani Pind, Samrai and Jandiala in Jalandhar, the CM said, "We met a sarpanch at Langroya village in Nawanshahr, who said 99 per cent drugs had been eradicated, but the seed is still there. We will destroy the seed too. We won't let the drug problem remain in any village, lest it spring up again like weeds." The CM said, "Punjab was a great state which was known for its culture, but bad governments came and ruined it. Their ministers themselves were responsible for the sale of drugs and used to broker deals between smugglers. One government started and the other expanded."

TARN TARAN PHARMACIST ARRESTED WITH 85-KG HEROIN

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Police's Tarn Taran unit claims to have recovered 85 kg of heroin from a pharmacist working at a private hospital after busting a Pakistan intelligence agency ISI-controlled narco-smuggling module. The seized contraband was valued at around Rs 500 crore, said an official. The pharmacist has been identified as Amanjot Singh, alias Jota Sandhu (30), a resident of Bhitewad village in Amritsar. According to the police, Amanjot's residence was a major storage point for the heroin that was being smuggled from Pakistan through drones. The police said the racket was being operated by a UK-based handler, Lalli, who along with his Pakistan-based accomplice Shah was pushing narcotics into India at the behest of the ISI. Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said Amanjot would allegedly secure the supply of drugs from different points on the Pakistan border and get it delivered across Punjab on Lalli's directions. Tarn Taran SSP Abhimanyu Rana said Amanjot was initially arrested with 5 kg of heroin from the Chabhal area following a tip-off. "The 5-kg heroin was hidden in Amanjot's scooter. Upon interrogation, he confessed to having concealed 40 kg.

WHO IS JYOTI MALHOTRA, THE HARYANA YOUTUBER AT THE CENTRE OF PAKISTANI SPY NETWORK

Diary Times Desk : Jyoti Malhotra aka Jyoti Rani, a popular travel YouTuber known for her channel 'Travel with JO', has been arrested on Saturday on charges of espionage for Pakistan. The arrest allegedly described as a larger, deeply embedded spy network operating across northern India. The 33-year-old, who hails from Hisar in Haryana and commands a following of over 3.77 lakh subscribers on YouTube and about 1.5 lakh on Instagram. She has so far produced nearly 500 videos for her YouTube channel with over 53 lakh views and describes herself as a "nomadic Leo girl wanderer", "Haryanvi+Punjabi" and "purane khyalo ki modern ladki" (a modern girl with a traditional outlook). She launched her channel in 2011 and is known to produce videos related to travel to several destinations in India as well as Pakistan. In a YouTube shorts posted in March, Jyoti detailed her journey to Pakistan, saying she had gone to visit Hindu pilgrimage sites.

HARYANA BOARD CLASS 10 RESULTS DECLARED, GIRLS OUTSHINE BOYS

Diary Times Desk : The Board of School Education Haryana (BSEH) on Saturday announced the results for the 2025 Secondary (Class 10) Annual Examinations for both regular and open school candidates. The overall pass percentage for regular students was 92.49%, while private candidates recorded a pass percentage of 73.08%. In the open school category, fresh candidates recorded a pass percentage of 15.79%, while 70.23% of re-appear candidates cleared the exams. The results are available on the official website: www.bseh.org.in. Announcing the results at a press conference, Board Chairman Dr Pawan Kumar stated that a total of 2,71,499 students appeared for the regular exams, with 2,51,110 passing. Around 5,737 students have been marked for essential repeat (E.R.), meaning they will need to retake the exams. Girls once again outperformed boys, with a pass percentage of 94.06% (121,566 out of 129,249), compared to 91.07% for boys (129,544 out of 142,250), giving girls a 2.99% lead. Government school students recorded a pass percentage of 89.30%, while private school students performed better with a pass rate of 96.28%. Rural candidates achieved a pass rate of 92.35%, slightly trailing behind urban students, who recorded a pass rate of 92.83%. Rewari district topped the state performance charts, followed by Charkhi Dadri.

HIMACHAL PRADESH BANK HIT BY RS 11.55 CRORE CYBER FRAUD

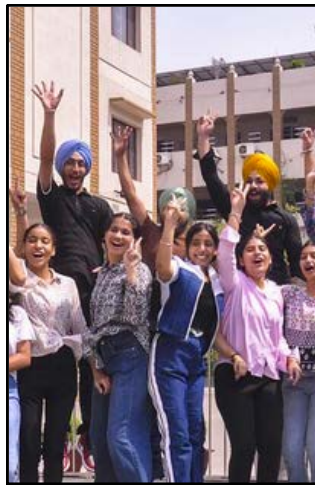
Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank was hit by cyber fraudsters after it hacked the bank server through the mobile phone of a customer. According to reports, the fraudsters hacked the mobile banking application of a customer of the bank's Haldi branch in Chamba district and withdrew the amount of Rs 11.55 crores, which was later transferred to 20 different bank accounts. The State Cyber cell stated that the incident occurred on May 11 and 12, but the matter only came to light on May 14 as, due to a bank holiday, the bank was not able to receive the transaction report from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). After bank authorities became aware of the fraud by going through the transaction report received on May 14, they immediately lodged a complaint at the Police Station, Sadar in Shimla, which was then transferred to the Cyber Police Station, Shimla. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Cybercrime Mohit Chawla confirmed the report and said that a team from the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) from Delhi is on its way to Shimla to assist in the investigation.

SHIFTING OF OFFICE TO DHARAMSALA CAN MAKE POSTS OF RERA CHIEF UNATTRACTIVE FOR BUREAUCRATS

Diary Times Desk : Retired bureaucrats may not find the much sought after post of the Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) lucrative anymore after the state government issued a notification regarding the shifting of the RERA office from the state capital to Dharamsala. The appointment of the RERA Chairman is on hold at present but the decision to shift its office from the state capital to Dharamsala, the second capital of the state, may cause most of the officers to lose interest in post-retirement employment. The Principal Secretary (Housing) has written a letter to the Chairman of RERA, seeking the details of the office space requirement in Dharamsala. "The state government intends to shift the office of RERA from Shimla to Dharamsala. You are requested to kindly submit the office space and residential accommodation requirements.

GIRLS OUTSHINE BOYS IN CLASS 12 HIMACHAL BOARD RESULTS, MEHAK OF UNA SECURES TOP POSITION

Diary Times Desk : Girls outshone boys yet again in the Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education (HPBOSE) Class 12 examinations, which was declared on Saturday. Of the 86,373 students who appeared in the exam, 71,591 have been declared pass. The pass percentage for 2025 is 83.16% compared to 74.5 % in 2024 and 79.6% in 2023. Unlike in the matriculation examination the government schools have stood the ground competing with private institutions. Mehak, a student of St D R Public Senior Secondary School, Gagret, in the Una district emerged as the overall state topper across all streams, arts, science, and commerce. Mehak secured 486 marks out of 500, achieving 97.2 per cent in science stream while Khushi, a student of Dhauladhar Public Senior Secondary School, Sham Nagar (Dharamshala) and Jahnvi Thakur from Bharti Vidyapeeth Public Senior Secondary School, Baijnath both stood second with 96.6 per cent marks each. Government Senior Secondary School's Ankita secured the top position in the arts stream, scoring 483 out of 500 marks (96.6 per cent) while Nirdosh Kumari of the New Era School of Sciences, Chhatari in Kangra and Jyoti Sharma, a student of the Government Senior Secondary School, Jalari in the Hamirpur district stood second and third with 96 per cent and 95.8 per cent marks, respectively.



TURKISH FIRM'S ROLE IN SURVEY OF BILASPUR-MANALI-LEH RAILWAY PROJECT RAISES EYEBROWS

Diary Times Desk : A hoteliers' association has raised serious concerns about the involvement of a Turkish company in the survey for the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway project. It has called for the immediate suspension of the company's services to the country on the grounds of national security. Addressing a press conference today, Vedram Thakur, chief adviser, Mandali Hotel Association, questioned the role of the foreign firm and demanded that the Union Government should intervene without delay. Thakur asserted that allowing a company from Turkiye — which is known to have close ties with India's adversary — to conduct surveys in sensitive border areas posed a potential security threat. He also alleged that the survey carried out by Yuksel Proje was trying to manipulate the railway alignment in a zigzag route, cutting through orchards and hotels, raising doubts about its intent and implications. "We seek to bring the government's attention to this matter, which is of grave national importance," he stated. Expressing skepticism over the current route and the foreign involvement in the project, Thakur urged the Centre to reconsider the railway alignment and assign the survey to an Indian agencies. He said that any survey should prioritise the protection of local livelihoods.

HIMACHAL MINISTER THAKUR ADMITS DECLINE IN EDUCATION STANDARDS IN GOVT SCHOOLS

Diary Times Desk : Education Minister Rohit Thakur has admitted that the performance of government schools is not good as compared to private schools. However, he claimed that the state government was committed to raise the standards of education in government schools. He was addressing a gathering after performing 'bhoomi poojan' of Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding School at Nagrota Bagwan in Kangra district on Friday. The MLA of Nagrota Bagwan and vice-chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Corporation Raghuvir Bali was also present along with him. Adding that the standard of education in the government schools has declined in the past few years, he said it was in this context that the government has decided to construct Rajiv Gandhi day boarding schools at various locations in the hill state. These Schools of Excellence will bridge the gap between government and private schools. The minister said these schools would be constructed with an excellent building having modern facilities, playgrounds, laboratories etc. "The main aim to construct these schools is to attract more students as compared to the private schools and provide education better than private.

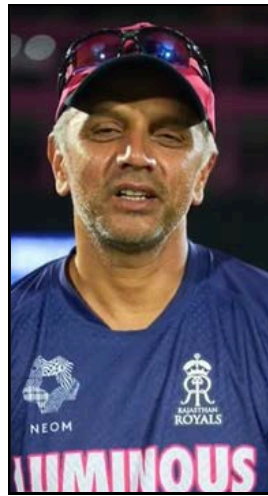
PVT SCHOOLS SHOW OVERWHELMING DOMINANCE IN CLASS X RESULTS

Diary Times Desk : As many as 117 students finished in the top-10 merit list of the Class X results announced by Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education on Thursday. Out of these, 97 students are from private schools, while just 20 students from government schools. Such overwhelming dominance of private school students raises a question why more qualified and well-paid government school teachers are not able to match the results produced by private school teachers, who are paid much less as compared to government school teachers. While admitting that such disparity in the result would raise a question mark on government schools, teachers point out the constraints they face. According to them, the socially and financially advanced segment of society sends their children to private schools. "School, teachers and parents work collectively on a child in these schools. There's a collective and coordinated effort to ensure the child does well. In government schools, most parents hardly show any involvement," said Surender Pundir, an officiating principal in a government school in Sirmaur.



'I KNOW WHO TO CALL FOR TICKETS' – RAHUL DRAVID GIVES HILARIOUS MESSAGE TO ROHIT SHARMA FOR WANKHEDE STAND HONOUR

Diary Times Desk : Rohit Sharma has officially been immortalised at the iconic Wankhede stadium after the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) unveiled a stand in his honour. Tributes have been pouring in for the Mumbai Indians veteran and former India head coach Rahul Dravid joins the list. In a video posted by the Indian Premier League franchise, Dravid, who is at the helm of Rajasthan Royals, paid tribute to the 'Hitman' and added a dose of humour in his message. "Hey Rohit. Guess you hit so many sixes into those stands that they had to name one after you! But, congratulations. I'm sure as a young boy going into the iconic Wankhede Stadium – truly one of the great stadiums in the world – I'm sure you would have loved to have played there, I'm sure you would have wanted to have some great performances there, which you have done. "I'm not sure you dreamt about having a stand named after you, but that it has come to that and that you have one named after you, it's a just reward for your contribution to both Mumbai and Indian cricket." "It's truly well deserved – congratulations! I hope it was a great day with family and friends. Looking forward to seeing a lot more sixes into the Rohit Sharma Stand in all the games that you play. "And when I'm short on tickets in Mumbai – now that you have a stand – I know who to contact," Dravid said.

**'I DON'T WANT JASPRIT BUMRAH TO BE MADE CAPTAIN...': RAVI SHASTRI NAMES HIS CHOICE FOR INDIA'S NEXT TEST SKIPPER**

Diary Times Desk : Ravi Shastri has called for a forward-looking approach in appointing India's next Test captain following Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format, strongly advocating for youth to be prioritised over experience. In a conversation on The ICC Review, the former India head coach outlined his preference for either Shubman Gill or Rishabh Pant to take the reins, while firmly opposing the idea of handing over leadership to pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. Jasprit Bumrah was the Indian vice-captain during Rohit Sharma's leadership over the past year, and also led the side in two Tests during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in 2024/25. While India won a match in his captaincy in Perth, Bumrah was forced to exit mid-match due to back spasms, with the side eventually losing in Sydney. "See for me, Jasprit would have been the obvious choice after Australia," Shastri said. "But I don't want Jasprit to be made captain and then you lose him as a bowler." Citing Bumrah's long-standing back troubles, including a layoff of nearly three months earlier this year after the Sydney setback, Shastri emphasised that the 31-year-old needs to be preserved as a strike weapon rather than be distracted by the weight of captaincy.

TITANS TEST AWAITS MISFIRING CAPITALS IN DELHI

Diary Times Desk : Little over a week after the dramatic mid-game evacuation, amidst peaking Indo-Pak skirmishes, Delhi Capitals will return to the comforts of their high-scoring home Delhi – also a high-alert area ever since – in a bid to revitalise their IPL 2025 campaign on Sunday, against table-toppers Gujarat Titans. While the mental scars from that night in Dharamsala may linger for many, DC were also spared the wrath of an on-song PBKS top-order that could have potentially cost them more valuable points following a dip in their recent performances. Of their last six games as of that fateful night, Delhi had won just one, lost three, had one washed out in Hyderabad after their plummeted to 133/7, and were literally pulled out from a tough spot they found themselves in against Punjab, who were 122/1 in just 10 overs at the time of the blackout orders. A playoffs spot is still very much on the table with three games in hand, albeit all against sides above them in the points table, but Delhi will have to shake off any complacency to get back to their ruthless best form that they kick-started the IPL 2025 in. A significant loss for DC amidst the events of last week is that they no longer have the services of the experienced Mitchell Starc, who has decided against returning for the remainder of the season. While his numbers may have dwindled in the second half of the league.

NO VIRAT KOHLI, JASPRIT BUMRAH AS BABAR AZAM PICKS HIS WORLD T20 XI; TWO INDIANS INCLUDED

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's star batter Babar Azam picked his World XI in the T20 format and it was a surprise that he didn't include the likes of Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah, two of India's greatest-ever players in the format. While Bumrah is simply an all-format great bowler, Kohli is equally good with his batting skills. However, it was interesting to see that both of them could not find a place in Babar's team. As he had to pick a maximum of two players from one country, the Pakistan star went ahead with Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav while naming players from India in his XI. Babar picked the squad during a podcast on Zalmi TV. Notably, he is the captain of Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League. Rohit Sharma (India), Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan), Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan), Suryakumar Yadav (India), Jos Buttler (England), David Miller (South Africa), Marco Jansen (South Africa), Rashid Khan (Afghanistan), Pat Cummins (Australia), Mitchell Starc (Australia), Mark Wood (England).

**NEERAJ CHOPRA BREAKS SILENCE AFTER FINISHING 2ND DESPITE 90.23M THROW IN DOHA DIAMOND LEAGUE: "WILL WORK..."**

Diary Times Desk : Neeraj Chopra finally breached the elusive 90m frontier with a 90.23m throw but the trailblazing Indian had to settle for a second place behind Germany's Julian Weber in a dramatic men's javelin contest at the Doha leg of the prestigious Diamond League Meeting series on Friday. The 27-year-old double Olympic medallist Indian sent his spear to 90.23m in his third attempt to join a list of javelin throwers, led by his current coach Jan Zelezny of Czechia, who had recorded 90m-plus efforts. He became the third Asian and 25th overall to achieve the feat. However, Weber turned the tables and took the top spot with his sixth and final throw, measuring 91.06m. Chopra was leading before Weber's final attempt. It was Weber's first 90m-plus effort as well, and he became the 26th javelin thrower to breach the coveted mark. His effort was the world leading mark this season so far. Two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada was third with his opening throw of 84.65m.

ROSTON CHASE NAMED WEST INDIES TEST CAPTAIN

Diary Times Desk : Roston Chase has been appointed the new Test captain of the West Indies men's team. Having last played a Test match more than two years ago, the 33-year-old will take over from Kraigg Brathwaite, who resigned from his role in March earlier this year. Chase's first assignment in the role will be the Test series against Australia at home, which will also be the first rubber for both teams in the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. Jomel Warrican has been named the vice-captain of the side. Cricket West Indies (CWI) said it adopted a "data-informed, multi-dimensional framework to guide the selection" and named John Campbell, Tevin Imlach, Joshua Da Silva, and Justin Greaves among those shortlisted for the leadership roles. Shai Hope, the current ODI and T20I captain, "respectfully declined consideration to focus on his existing leadership roles," the CWI release further said. The interview panel consisted of Daren Sammy (head coach), Miles Bascombe (Director of Cricket) and Enoch Lewis (Chairman of the Cricket Strategy and Officiating Committee). "This selection process is one of the most comprehensive and forward-thinking we have undertaken," CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow said. "I am deeply impressed."