# DIARYTIMES



Monday 19 May 2025 | Shimla | Vol: 05 | Issue: 452 | Pages: 08 | Price: 3

www.diarytimes.com · twitter.com / thediarytimes · facebook.com/thediarytimes

# CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

# "3 PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY EQUAL": CHIEF JUSTICE BR GAVAI'S BIG PROTOCOL REMARK

**Diary Times Desk:** Amid a debate over judicial overreach, Chief Justice of India BR Gavai today pointed out protocol gaps during a visit to his home state, Maharashtra. In a subtle remark aimed at the Executive, he said discussions about Article 142 -- which gives special powers to the Supreme Court -- would have begun if judges broke protocol.

The Chief Justice, who took over the country's top judicial post last month and became the second Dalit to be elevated to the post, attended a felicitation ceremony in Mumbai and then visited Babasaheb Ambedkar's memorial Chaitya Bhoomi.

During his address at the felicitation event organised by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, the Chief Justice pointed out the absence of three key officials — the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, the Director General of Police and the Mumbai Police Commissioner. "The three pillars of democracy—Judiciary, Legislature and Executive— are equal. Every Constitutional institution must reciprocate and show respect to other institutions. When a person from Maharashtra becomes the Chief Justice of India and visits Maharashtra for the first time, if the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, the Director General of Police or the Mumbai Police Commissioner don't feel it appropriate to be present, then they need to reflect on that. Protocols are not something new, it's a question of the respect one constitutional body gives to another," Chief Justice Gavai said. "When the head of a constitutional institution visits the state for the first time, the way they are treated should be reconsidered.



## 'OPERATION SINDOOR'

# ASSAM CM SARMA ALLEGES CONGRESS' GAURAV GOGOI VISITED PAKISTAN ON; VOWS TO PRESENT PROOF BY SEPT 10





**Diary Times Desk:** Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday alleged that Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi had visited Pakistan on an invitation from its spy agency ISI, and stated that he would provide proof of the interaction by September 10.

"Gaurav Gogoi visited Pakistan on an invitation of the ISI. For the first time, I am saying this. We have documents of the same. He did not go for tourism purposes. He went there definitely for taking training," the CM claimed, as quoted by PTI news agency.

Himanta Biswa Sarma alleged that the deputy leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, had gone to Pakistan after being invited by their government, which was a "dangerous" precedent.

"He was (working) closely with the Pakistan establishment. When does the Home Department send an invitation? It is only to impart training. An invitation from the foreign affairs (department) or any university is altogether a different thing. This was not from the foreign affairs or cultural departments. He went there on a direct invitation from the home department of Pakistan," Sarma asserted.

The chief minister stressed that the government had proof of Gogoi's actions, and would soon reveal it after verification. "All his paths are closed. We have seen the evidence. Only we need time till September to get the papers. We have to submit a notice and then the embassy will provide us with the documents. September 10 is final and please do not ask about this again till that time," he said. BJP leader Himanta Sarma has been alleging that the Jorhat MP's wife "continues to receive a salary from a Pakistan-based NGO while residing and working in India."

## 8 CHILDREN AMONG 17 KILLED IN FIRE AT BUILDING NEAR HYDERABAD'S CHARMINAR

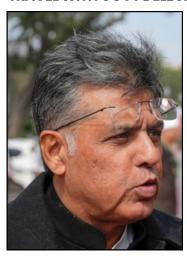
Diary Times Desk: As many as 17 people, including eight children, were killed in a massive fire that broke out at a building in near the iconic Charminar on Sunday. The fire broke out at a building in Gulzar House here, police said. "All 17 who were shifted to hospitals were brought dead," a senior police official said. A narrow staircase was the only escape route for the inmates of the building, but they could not rush out. The building housed jewellery shops on the ground floor and people were residing in a flat above, police said, adding smoke spread and people suffocated. Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services Director General Y Nagi Reddy, who inspected the spot, told reporters that the fire accident was reported between 6 am and 6.15 am. There was a call to the Fire Department at 6.16 am and the fire engine was turned out at 6.17 am, he said. There were shops on the ground floor while the first and second floors were residential, he said. "Prima facie cause of the fire is short-circuit in the mains in the shopping area," Reddy said. A total of 21 people were in the building when the fire erupted, and 17 of them were shifted to hospitals by the Fire Department in an unconscious state. There was only one escape route, the staircase, which was very narrow and the inmates could not run to safety, he said.



## CONSTITUTION OF INDIA SUPREME. ALL ITS PILLARS MUST WORK **TOGETHER: CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA**

Diary Times Desk: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Sunday stressed that neither the judiciary nor the executive, but the country's Constitution was supreme and its pillars must work together. Even though Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution, it cannot touch the "basic doctrine" structure, he said, underscoring the supremacy of the Constitution. The right to shelter is also supreme, he said, referring to "bulldozer justice". Justice Gavai, who took oath as the 52<sup>nd</sup> CJI earlier this week. spoke at his felicitation ceremony and state lawyers' conference organised by the Bar Council Maharashtra and Goa here. The CJI said he was glad that the country has not just strengthened but has also developed on the social and economic fronts and continues to do so. "Neither the judiciary, nor the executive, nor Parliament is supreme, but it is the Constitution of India which is supreme.

#### MANISH TEWARI CITES KISHORE SONG TO DECLARE HE WILL TRAVEL WITH GOVT DELEGATION ON OP SINDOOR OUTREACH



Diary Times Desk: Even as the Congress kept its leaders guessing over its stand with respect to the government nominees in the delegations finalised for global outreach on Operation Sindoor, Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari cited a Kishore Kumar song to announce his acceptance for the tour. After Shashi Tharoor, former minister Tewari becomes the second Congress leader who has conveyed his acknowledgment for the government invitation to be part of the group that will present the Indian position on Pakistan sponsored terror to the world. Tewari, like Thatoor, hasn't been nominated by the Congress, though both are on the government list. Taking to X today, Tewari said: "A song from the movie 'Akraman ' 1975 sung by Kishore Kumar for Rajesh Khanna reminds us as how to answer the call of the nation.

## **UK JUDGE NOTES 'CONFIDENTIAL IMPEDIMENT' IN NIRAV** MODI EXTRADITION CASE

Diary Times Desk: A London High Court judge who refused Nirav Modi's latest bail application this week has taken note in his judgment of a "confidential impediment" in the long-drawn extradition proceedings against the imprisoned diamantaire wanted in India on fraud and moneylaundering charges. Justice Michael Fordham on Thursday concluded at a Royal Courts of Justice bail hearing that there are substantial grounds for believing that if released on bail, the 54-year-old businessman would "fail to surrender" and his risk of absconding remained high. While Nirav's barrister argued in favour of his bail from London's Thameside prison based on the "long passage of time" without trial, the judge highlighted the constraints of a "confidential" process that prevented his surrender to the Indian authorities even though the legal process related to his extradition had "run its course". "There is a 'legal reason' which relates to 'confidential proceedings'. The nature of this is known to the applicant (Niray Modi), and his lawyers; it is known to the Home Office, but apart from what I have recorded, nothing is known by the CPS [Crown Prosecution Service] or by the Government of India, nor by this court." Justice Fordham states.



#### YOUR HOROSCOPE





Today, you will meet old friends, which Today you will get success as your long 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.

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.

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will 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.

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

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 pain and headache may bother you.

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.



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.

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 increased difficulties ue to arguments v business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a

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

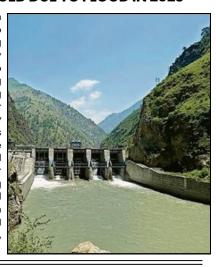
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked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

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 face difficulties in repaying ess loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

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

## HIMACHAL NEWS: LARJI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RESTORED. IT WAS DAMAGED DUE TO FLOOD IN 2023

Diary Times Desk: The 126 MW Larji Hydroelectric Project in Kullu district has been fully restored and put back into operation, which was severely damaged by the devastating floods in the Beas river on 9th and 10th July 2023. The speedy revival of the project, which was completed in less than two years, was possible due to the timely intervention and strona support of the State Government, which helped in averting major financial losses. Led by Chief Minister Thakur Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, the State Government initially allocated Rs 25 crore, followed by Rs 35 crore and then Rs 185.87 crore for complete rehabilitation of the project. The Chief Minister lauded the engineers and staff of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) for their untiring efforts and commitment to restore the project. Owing to their dedication, Unit I of Larji Power Project was restarted on 15th January 2024 and synchronized with the power grid on 2nd May 2024. Unit II was restored on 9 August 2024 and Unit III on 17 January 2025. With all three turbines now operational, the project has resumed full power generation.



# HIMACHAL WEATHER: WEATHER WILL CHANGE IN HIMACHAL FROM TODAY, ORANGE ALERT FOR HAILSTORM TODAY

Digry 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 till May 21.

# INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY: THE STATE MUSEUM HAS PRESERVED THE REMAINS OF THE CEMETERY CULTURE, 1700 YEARS OLD

Diary Times Desk: The remains of the cemetery culture found at the highest altitude are preserved in the Himachal Pradesh State Museum Shimla. It includes the complete skeleton of a human body. These remains were found at an altitude of 14 thousand 400 feet above sea level in the Kibber Valley of Spiti. This is the first museum of its kind in the country to preserve them. In the cemetery culture, utensils etc. were also buried along with the dead body. The team of the State Museum Shimla found these remains in 2017. After this, their carbon dating was done from Florida, America. It was found that the remains are 1700 years old. Some earthen pots were also found buried along with the bones. After this, it was preserved in the museum. This team was led by the museum's chairman Dr. Hari Chauhan, Dr. Hari Chauhan said that the name of the State Museum is also included in the list of museums of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). This is a matter of pride for Himachal. The museum has a rich collection of sculptures, Pahari, Rajasthani, Mughal miniature paintings, mural paintings, drawings, contemporary paintings, bronzes, weapons, wood carvings, coins, jewellery, decorative arts, textiles, philately, and other archaeological remains. He said that the museum has a very good collection of miniature paintings.

## HIMACHAL: TWO WOMEN TGTS DISMISSED FOR DOING B.ED FROM UNRECOGNIZED INSTITUTE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TOOK ACTION

Diary Times Desk: The Education Department has dismissed two female TGTs from their jobs for doing B.Ed from a non-recognized institute. The Directorate of School Education issued office orders on Saturday after a departmental inquiry. Both were appointed in July 2024. The appointment orders of both the teachers posted in Government Senior Secondary School Kosari, Kangra and Baur School of Shimla district have been canceled. Both were appointed on batchwise basis. Both have B.Ed degrees from an institute in Haryana. The screening committee of the Education Department examined the degrees and other documents. Haryana Vocational Training Council Hisar does not fall under any of the above categories of institutions. Both the teachers were issued notices in March 2025 and asked for their reply. The explanations of both were found unsatisfactory.



# HIMACHAL NEWS: IT AND SCRAP BUSINESS SHOWN IN GST, NO STOCK OR RECORD ON THE SPOT: NOTICE ISSUED

Diary Times Desk: In GST, business of IT products, TV panels and scrap was shown, but nothing like this was found on the spot. The South Enforcement Zone Parwanoo of the State Tax and Excise Department searched the records of five firms simultaneously. In this, last month, a notice was issued to a firm of Parwanco under the GST law in the case of tax evasion of Rs 5.90 crore. In the further investigation, action has been taken against these five firms associated with the said firm due to the suspicion of big tax evasion. In the initial investigation, the department has found that these firms have shown bogus purchases of about Rs 70 crore in the papers. There is a possibility of tax evasion of about Rs 13 to 14 crore in this. This action was taken on the exchange of bogus bills. In the investigation, it was found that the purchases made by the said firms from Delhi and other states have actually been shown only on papers. However, it is still going on. In the investigation, it has also been found that only one common room was used fraudulently. No stock was found in it, whereas according to the details of the businessman, purchases of crores were shown. The department has taken possession of the records of all five

# HIMACHAL NEWS: WOMAN CONSUMED POISON ALONG WITH HER TWO SONS, ONE IS SERIOUS, CASE OF GOHAR IN MANDI DISTRICT

Diary Times Desk: On Saturday, in Bhotha village of Killing Panchayat of sub-division Gohar, a woman first fed poisonous substance to her two sons and then ate it herself. When their condition deteriorated, all three were brought to Community Health Center Gohar. from where they were referred to Medical College Nerchowk. The younger son is admitted in ICU in critical condition. Domestic discord is being told as the reason. According to the information, there was a fight in the family over something. However, the real reason behind eating poisonous substance and feeding it to the children has not been revealed yet. Pradhan Killing Deputy of Panchayat Tek Singh Thakur said that this incident came to light on Saturday morning. He told that the police is investigating the matter seriously. Police station in-charge Devrai said that the woman's statement will be recorded after she regains consciousness. Meanwhile, SP Sakshi Verma said.

#### 8 KILLED AFTER SHORT CIRCUIT TRIGGERS MASSIVE FIRE AT MAHARASHTRA FACTORY

Diary Times Desk: Eight persons, including three women and a child, were killed in a massive fire at a factory in Maharashtra's Solapur district on Sunday, officials said. Prima facie, a short in the circuit triagered the blaze ground 3:45 am at Central Textile Mills situated on the Akkalkot Road in Solapur MIDC, around 400 km from Mumbai. The individuals who died include the factory owner, identified as Haii Usman Hasanbhai Mansuri, three members of his family including his one-and-a-half-year old grandson, and four workers. An official said the people who died included three women. Due to the intensity of the blaze, it took five to six hours for Fire Brigade personnel to control the flames. Fire fighting raaina operations are underway at the spot, he added.

#### ABU SAIFULLAH, LASHKAR TERRORIST BEHIND 3 ATTACKS IN INDIA, KILLED IN PAK

Diary Times Desk: Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Razaullah Nizamani alias Abu Saifullah, who was the brain behind the 2006 attack on the RSS headquarters, was killed by unidentified gunmen in Sindh province of Pakistan, officials here said. Nizamani, who had been provided security by the Pakistani government, had left his residence at Matli in Sindh this afternoon and he was gunned down by assailants near a crossing, the officials said. Besides masterminding the attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters at Nagpur, the Lashkar operative was involved in the Indian Institute of Science attack of 2005 in Bengaluru and the terror strike at a CRPF camp at Rampur in 2001.

#### BOYCOTT THIS 'BARAAT': SANJAY RAUT SLAMS DELEGATION DIPLOMACY ON OP SINDOOR

Diary Times Desk: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday questioned the need to send parliamentarians abroad to brief other countries about Operation Sindoor and India's escalation with Pakistan, likening the move to a "baraat," or groom's procession. wedding government has decided to send seven delegations comprising MPs from various parties to several countries starting later this month, to explain India's position in the recent conflict and to mount diplomatic pressure on Islamabad, accusing it harbouring cross-border terrorism. "There was no need to send this bargat. The Prime Minister is weak. There was no need to rush this.

## PSLV-C61 MISSION FAILS: FORMER ISRO SCIENTIST EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT



Diary Times Desk: The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle at 5:59 a.m. IST from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre, but the rocket veered off trajectory during the critical third-stage burn ending up in a major failure. It was carrying the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-09) to space in a bid to give India an all-weather imaging edge. When a space mission fails, Isro initiates a meticulous and systematic process to analyse the failure and identify its root cause. This process is critical to ensure future missions are safer and more reliable. Here's how Isro typically approaches the analysis of a lost mission, such as a launch failure. The first step is to form a Failure Analysis Committee (FAC), comprising experts from various Isro centers, including engineers, scientists, and mission specialists. This team is tasked with reviewing all available data from the mission. During a launch, Isro's telemetry systems collect vast amounts of real-time data, such as velocity, altitude, pressure, temperature, and engine performance.

# AFTER HIMANTA SARMA'S "ISI INVITE" CHARGE, GAURAV GOGOI'S "WORSE THAN B-GRADE FILM" RETORT

Diary Times Desk: The war of words between Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi escalated today after Mr Sarma said the government has evidence of the Congress leader's visit to Pakistan on an invitation from the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Mr Gogoi shot back, saying Mr Sarma has made many baseless remarks about him ever since he joined politics 13 years ago and 99 per cent of what the chief minister has been saying is "nonsense". Mr Sarma has been attacking Mr Gogoi over his wife's alleged connection with the ISI. Mr Sarma had alleged the Congress MP's British wife, Elizabeth Colburn, travelled 19 times between India and Pakistan. "Gaurav Gogoi visited Pakistan on an invitation of the ISI. For the first time, I am saying this. We have documents of the same. He did not go for tourism purposes. He went there definitely for training," the chief minister alleged, adding "every proof will be presented before the public by September 10" after proper verification. Mr Gogoi, the Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, went to Pakistan on a direct invitation.

#### ASHOKA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ARRESTED OVER SOCIAL MEDIA POST ON OPERATION SINDOOR

Diary Times Desk: Ashoka University professor Ali associate Mahmudabad has been arrested for his social media post on Operation Sindoor, police said here on Sunday. The action was taken on a complaint by a BJP Yuva Morcha leader. "Ali Khan . Mahmudabad has been arrested from Delhi," Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Ajeet Singh said over the phone. He has been arrested in connection with some comments connected with Operation Sindoor, he said. In a statement, the Ashoka University said, "We have been made aware that Prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad has been taken into police custody earlier today. We are in the process of ascertaining details of the case". "The University will continue to cooperate with the police and local authorities in investigation, fully," it said. The arrest comes days after the Haryana State Commission for Women sent a notice to the associate professor over his Operation Sindoor remarks. The May 12 notice mentioned that the panel has taken suo motu cognisance.

# AMIT SHAH CONFIRMS INDIA USED BRAHMOS MISSILES TO DESTROY PAKISTANI BASES IN OPERATION SINDOOR

Diary Times Desk: Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday confirmed that indigenously developed BrahMos missiles were used to destroy Pakistani air bases during the conflict in the aftermath of India's Operation Sindoor. During his address in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, Amit Shah also said that Pakistan's air defence system, borrowed from China, remained unused during Operation Sindoor, which exposed its lies on terrorism to the world. "As our indigenously developed BrahMos (supersonic cruise missile system) worked to destroy Pakistan's air bases, its own air defence system, borrowed from China, remained unused. Our Air Force carried out precise attacks and inflicted heavy damage on many places in Pakistan, which were considered impregnable. Operation Sindoor will be written in golden letters when the history is written on the border safety," PTI quoted Shah as saying. The home minister said that while surgical strikes and the airstrike in the past were limited to the (PoK), Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir India penetrated 100 km inside Pakistan's border under Operation Sindoor

## 'HER TRIPS DEFY SOURCES OF INCOME': POLICE ON 'SPY' YOUTUBER JYOTI MALHOTRA WHO VISITED PAKISTAN

Diary Times Desk: The case of social media influencer Jyoti Malhotra, who has been arrested on charges of spying for Pakistan, is a big example of how modern warfare does not necessarily mean fighting at the border, a senior police officer in Haryana's Hisar told reporters. The role of social media influencers who can hide in plain sight has come under scrutiny now. It also defies explanation how Ms Malhotra's travel costs can be covered by her income, the police officer said. While nearly all Indians who travel to Pakistan are monitored at the police level and can visit only those places mentioned in the visa, Ms Malhotra allegedly received VIP treatment due to her links with Pakistan High Commission officer Danish and other intelligence operatives. She allegedly got security from the police during her tour of Pakistan. Ms Malhotra's YouTube channel 'TravelwithJo' has 3.82 lakh subscribers; her Instagram profile and Facebook Page with the same name have 1.39 lakh and 3.2 lakh subscribers, respectively.



# ISRAEL'S NETANYAHU SAYS OPEN TO "END FIGHTING" IN GAZA IF HAMAS DOES THIS

Diary Times Desk: In an apparent shift in approach, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has indicated that Tel Aviv was open to a deal with Hamas to "end the fighting" in Gaza, laving out conditions for such an agreement. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the hostage negotiation team in Doha was exhausting "every possibility" for a deal with the Palestinian group to either temporarily cease fighting or permanently end the war. Per the PMO, its team is looking at US special envoy Steve Witkoff's proposal for a limited hostage exchange and short-term ceasefire, or a comprehensive agreement to end the war by releasing all hostages in Gaza and the complete surrender and exile of Hamas operatives. "Even at this very moment, the negotiation team in Doha is working to exhaust every possibility for a deal -- whether according to the Witkoff framework or as part of ending the fighting, which would include the release of all the hostages, the exile of Hamas terrorists, and the disarmament of the Gaza Strip," his office said in a statement. According to Israel, 58 hostages remain in Hamas's captivity, with about 23 of them said to be alive.

# DONALD TRUMP PLANS CALL WITH RUSSIA'S PUTIN TO END BLOODBATH IN UKRAINE

Diary Times Desk: President Donald Trump said he'll have a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday morning to discuss how to stop the war in Ukraine. Hours after the US president's announcement, Kremlin forces launched the largest drone barrage on Ukraine since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Posting Saturday on Truth Social, Trump said he'll also speak on Monday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and "various members" of the NATO alliance. "HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE A PRODUCTIVE DAY, A CEASEFIRE WILL TAKE PLACE, AND THIS VERY VIOLENT WAR, A WAR THAT SHOULD HAVE NEVER HAPPENED, WILL END. GOD BLESS US ALL!!!," Trump wrote. Officials from Ukraine and Russia on Friday held their first direct talks in more than three years, mediated by Turkey. Yet while the two sides agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners in the coming days, expectations going into the meeting were low after Putin decided not to attend, sending only a low-level delegation.

## POPE LEO XIV MEETS UKRAINE'S ZELENSKYY AFTER HIS INAUGURAL MASS



Diary Times Desk: Pope Leo XIV has met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after his inaugural Mass in the Vatican, where he delivered a message of love and unity to a crowd of 200,000 pilgrims. "We thank the Vatican for its willingness to serve as a platform for direct negotiations between Ukraine and Russia. We are ready for dialogue in any format for the sake of tangible results. We appreciate the support for Ukraine and the clear voice in defense of a just and lasting peace," Zelenskyy posted on X. No statement has been issued by the Vatican yet regarding Sunday's meeting. Leo, formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost, was officially installed as the head of the Catholic Church at an outdoor Mass in St Peter's Square with world leaders and European royalty in attendance. In his sermon, Leo, the first American pope, called for unity within the church, saying he wanted it to act as a force for peace in the world. "I would like that our first great desire be for a united church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world," he said.

#### INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN FACES BACKLASH OVER CALL TO SCRAP H-1B VISA PROGRAMME

Diary Times Desk: An Indian-origin man in the US has come under fire for publicly calling for all H-1B visas to expire and for visa holders to be sent back to their home countries."All H-1B visas should expire, the program should be ended, and visa holders should be sent back to their home countries. It has nothing to do with keeping America competitive. Our major national competitors don't bring in large numbers of foreign workers," Rohit Joy wrote on X. Mr Joy made the remark in response to a post by Republican Congressman Rich McCormick, who had voiced support for expanding domestic visa renewals for H-1B and other low-risk visa holders. "Last week, I joined a bipartisan push to expand domestic visa renewals for H-1B and other low-risk visa holders. It's time to modernise our visa system by reducing costs, efficiency, and America boosting keeping competitive," Mr McCormick had posted.

## WHO WAS GUY EDWARD BARTKUS, MAN BEING LINKED TO PALM SPRINGS FERTILITY CLINIC EXPLOSION?

Diary Times Desk: A man named Guy Edward Bartkus is being linked to a bombing at a fertility clinic in Palm Springs, California, BNO News reported. The blast killed one person and left four people injured on Saturday, May 17. Local officials called the incidentan "intentional act of terrorism," the New York Post reported. Bartkus is believed to be the only person who was killed in the explosion at American Reproductive Centers. However, authorities have not yet formally identified his remains. Bartkus has also not been formally identified as a suspect, but has been named in an X post by Karol Markowicz, a Fox News and New York Post columnist. Bartkus, 25, is from Twentynine Palms, a small city about 35 miles northeast of Palm Springs. He reportedly left an online manifesto in which he described himself as a pro-mortalist, stating people didn't give consent to exist. Bartkus left a 30minute audio recording explaining his motive for the alleged attack. "I figured I would just make a recording explaining why I've decided to bomb an IVF building, or clinic," he said.



# INDIAN PHD GRADUATE FACING DEPORTATION WINS LEGAL BATTLE TO STAY IN US

Diary Times Desk: Priya Saxena, an Indian PhD student at a university in South Dakota, whom the Trump administration has been attempting to deport from the United States, has won a legal reprieve from a federal court, allowing her to stay in America. The 28-year-old who recently received a doctorate in chemical and biological engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology faced deportation after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) unexpectedly revoked her F-1 her F-1 student visa in April over a minor traffic violation. After Saxena's visa was terminated -- which was valid till February 2027 -- her Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVIS) record was deleted, which could have potentially prevented her from completing her studies and graduating on May 10. But, Saxena sued the Trump administration in mid-April and was granted a temporary restraining order by a federal judge. This allowed her to complete her doctorate graduate over the past weekend.

# VLADIMIR PUTIN'S SPY AGENCY USED SEX, DRUGS, TO EXPLOIT ELON MUSK: EX-FBI AGENT

Diary Times Desk: Russia's top military intelligence agency targeted Elon Musk by exploiting the billionaire's alleged weaknesses for sex, drugs, and a lavish lifestyle, a former FBI agent has claimed. The operation was reportedly greenlit by Russian President Vladimir Putin himself. They would not have done so if Putin had not personally known about the action and approved it," Jonathan Buma, who served 16 years as a counterintelligence officer, told German broadcaster ZDF. He claimed Russian intelligence, GRU, actively ran special operations to influence top Silicon Valley figures like Musk and venture capitalist Peter Thiel. The tactics included gathering compromising material that could be used for blackmail. "Musk's susceptibility to promiscuous women and drug use, particularly ketamine, were seen by Russian intelligence as an opportunity for an agent to exploit," Buma said in the documentary. "There's a vast amount of evidence to support this fact," he said. "There is absolutely evidence for it." Buma also claimed that Musk's interests in desert rave scenes like Burning Man, adult entertainment, and gambling were all seen by Russian security agencies as potential points of access to the billionaire. According to Buma, it wasn't just the GRU acting alone. He

## PUNJAB DRUG PROBLEM LEGACY OF PREVIOUS REGIMES: CM BHAGWANT MANN

Diary Times Desk: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday alleged that the drug menace plaguing the state was a "legacy of previous governments". The Chief Minister made the remarks at a gathering at Tanda's Jalalpur village, where he sought people's support in eradicating the menace. The event was also attended by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Keiriwal, who accused past regimes of being "hand in glove" with drug smugglers. Mann said it took them over two years to devise an effective strategy to put an end to the menace and sought people's cooperation in the "war against drugs" launched by his government on March 1. Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav too had set the May 31 deadline to arrest all drug traffickers in the state. The CM claimed that due to their efforts, the "supply line of drugs had been snapped", resulting in the arrest of the "big players" involved in the heinous crime. "Rehabilitation of drug victims is being ensured while the (illegal) property of drug smugglers is either being confiscated or razed," he added. He congratulated the village for achieving the "drug-free" status, saying the model opted by it to eradicate the problem, with the help of the police, should be replicated across the state.



### GOVT DEPARTMENTS TO PAY BUILDING PLAN APPROVAL FEE TO URBAN LOCAL BODIES

Diary Times Desk : In an important development, all the government departments undertaking construction of their buildings in the 116 urban local bodies will have to pay the layout plan fee and change of land use charges to the civic body concerned. In the instructions issued by the Director of Local Government, on Friday, it has been pointed out that it was seen that the ULBs were objecting to the building plans/layout plans approved by the state architect department. While being asked to allow the construction as per the plans approved by the architect department, the ULBs have been asked to ensure that the plans are in accordance with the Local Government Building bylaws, 2018, and other amendments carried out from time to time. The ULBs have also been asked to take undertaking from the respective department that they have deposited the requisite building plan approval fee. In the past, there have been several cases, wherein the ULBs have been objecting to the building plans of different departments prepared by the architect department.

# BALWANT RAJOANA'S MERCY PETITION WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN: SGPC

Diary Times Desk: The SGPC has asserted that it will not withdraw the mercy petition filed in the case of Balwant Singh Rajoana, a death row convict in the assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh. The decision was taken by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) after holding a meeting with legal experts. Rajoana had earlier demanded that the SGPC withdraw its petition. Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, SGPC chief Harjinder Dhami said all legal experts believed that the mercy petition should not be withdrawn and the legal battle be carried on. "All lawyers gave their view that the petition should not be withdrawn. We should see what the government's stand is on it," Dhami said. Taking no decision on the petition by the successive governments.

## DRIVING LICENCE 'SCAM': PUNJAB POLICE REVOKE SUSPENSION OF 2 OFFICERS

Diary Times Desk: The Punjab Government has revoked the suspension of two police officers who were taken off work in an alleged driving licence scam last month. The suspension of two Punjab Police Service (PPS) officers, Swarandeep Singh and Harpreet Singh, has been revoked with immediate effect, according to two separate orders. Swarandeep will assume the charge of Assistant Inspector General, Flying Squad, Vigilance Bureau, SAS Nagar, while Harpreet will take the charge of Senior Superintendent of Police, Vigilance Bureau, Jalandhar. The suspension period will be treated as a work served, according to the orders. The state government had on April 25 suspended the two officers, along with Vigilance Bureau Chief S P S Parmar. Meanwhile, Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa took a swipe at the AAP Government. "First, @AAPPunjab govt in Punjab suspended senior Vigilance Bureau officers claiming a crackdown on corruption. Now, they're reinstated, same posts, suspension period not even counted. Both decisions can't be right. "Did AAP suspend them to make them fall in line, and now they've complied? This isn't governance. It's intimidation," Bajwa alleged in a post on X.

## FORMER PUNJAB CM CHANNI TO BE HONOURED WITH SANSAD RATNA AWARD 2025



Diary Times Desk: Former Punjab Chief Minister and Jalandhar MP Charanjit Singh Channi is among the 17 Members of Parliament who will be honoured with the prestigious Sansad Ratna Award 2025. The award recognises outstanding contributions to parliamentary work, including participation in debates, raising auestions and involvement in leaislative activities. Channi is the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Agriculture. He is being commended for highlighting farmer issues and proposing substantive agricultural reforms. The Sansad Ratna Awards, instituted by the Prime Point Foundation, are based on data-driven assessments of parliamentary performance. The awardees were selected by a jury committee, chaired by Hansraj Ahir, Chairman of the National Commission for Backwards Classes (NCBC). Ahir emphasised that the award celebrates MPs who have played a significant role in strengthening India's democratic processes.

#### HARYANA YOUTUBER WAS BEING DEVELOPED AS AN 'ASSET' BY PAKISTANI INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES: COPS

Diary Times Desk : Pakistani operatives intelligence were allegedly developing Harvana YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who was arrested on espionage charges, as an asset, said a senior Haryana police officer on Sunday. She was allegedly in touch with a Pakistani officer posted at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi during the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan that followed the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, addressing the officer said mediapersons in Hisar, Haryana. Hisar Superintendent of Police Shashank Kumar Sawan said Malhotra did not have any direct access to any information related to the military or defence operations which could be said at this stage that she could have shared. But she was directly in touch with PIOs, he "Certainly, they were developing her as an asset. She was in touch with other YouTube influencers. They were also in touch with PIOs." the SP said.

# OPPOSITION PARTIES CONDEMN ASHOKA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR'S ARREST OVER POSTS ON OP SINDOOR

Diary Times Desk: Some Opposition parties, including CPI(M) and TMC, on Sunday condemned the arrest of Ashoka University's head of the Political Science Department, Ali Khan Mahmudabad. Associate Professor Mahmudahad arrested on Sunday after two FIRs were lodged on stringent charges, including endangering sovereignty and integrity, for his social media posts related to 'Operation Sindoor', police and his lawyer said. The CPI(M), AIMIM leader Asaddudin Owaisi and Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra were among those who condemned the arrest. "Haryana police reportedly arrested him from Delhi, violating legal process. This targets an individual for his opinions; his post wasn't anti-national or misogynistic. A mere complaint by a BJP worker made Haryana police take action," Owaisi said on X. In a post on X, the CPI (M) said, "We condemn the arrest of professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad for his social media post against hate. While hatemongers like Vijay Shah (Madhya Pradesh minister) roam free, those calling for justice and peace are taraeted in Modi's India." TMC leader Mohua Moitra said they will move the court against the arrest. "Horrified at arrest of distinguished scholar & academic Prof @Mahmudabad - has this bigoted govt & @police\_haryana totally lost it?

# HIMACHAL: NEW TECHNOLOGY 'GADDAR' WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE BRIDGES ON KIRATPURMANALI FOUR LANE, WILL BE LAUNCHED SOON

Diary Times Desk: For the first time in northern India, 'Gadars' made of Ultra High-Performance Fiber Reinforced Concrete (UHPFRC) technology are being used in three bridges being built between Mandi and Pandoh on the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane. The target is to install the upper structure of the bridge on the pillars of the bridge before this monsoon. The construction of these three bridges will make travelling on the four-lane easier. Girders made of new technology are now being launched on the strategically important Kiratpur-Manali four-lane. The special thing is that in this technology, fiber is used instead of steel and its weight is also less than the traditional concrete girders. In such a situation, it can be easily launched through a machine. It also saves time and concrete. The upper structure made of new technology has been ordered from Pune. These girders will be installed from above through machinery after the pillars of the bridge i.e. the lower part is completely built. Although its cost is less as compared to the traditional concrete girders, but due to transportation from Pune, the cost in Himachal is the same.

# HIMACHAL NEWS: THERE WILL BE SPECIAL EXAMS FOR THREE SUBJECTS OF CLASS 12TH AND NINE SUBJECTS OF CLASS 10TH, THESE CANDIDATES GOT THE CHANCE

Diary Times Desk: Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will organize special examinations on 27 May. There will be examinations for three subjects in class 12th and nine subjects in class 10th. The education board has released the schedule. The education board had organized examinations for class 10th and 12th in March. During this time, some candidates were deprived of giving annual examination due to bad weather and many other reasons. The board had talked special about organizing examinations so that one year of the candidates is not wasted. Now the examinations of the students will be held from 27 May to 6 June from 8:45 am to 12 noon. English examination of class 10th will be held on 25 May, Arts on 28, Maths on 30.

## HIMACHAL YOUTH DIES IN CHANDIGARH: CAR HITS BIKE, DRAGS IT FOR 200 METERS, ABHISHEK DIES ON THE SPOT

Diary Times Desk: A Himachal youth died in a road accident in Chandigarh. A car hit two youths going on a bike. After the collision, the accused car driver dragged the bike for 200 meters. The accident happened late Saturday night near the water works of Maloya. The bike rider died after being hit by a speeding car. The deceased has been identified as Abhishek (23), a resident of Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. The other youth riding the bike with him has been injured. The injured youth is undergoing treatment at PGI. The Maloya police station registered a case against the accused car driver Tejinder Singh, a resident of Mohali Sector-118 TDI City, and arrested him. However, he was later released on bail. The police handed over the body of Abhishek Sharma to the family after the post-mortem. Abhishek Rao, also from Hamirpur, told the police in a complaint that he was going to his sister's house in Baddi on a bike with his friend Abhishek Sharma from Hamirpur. When they reached near the water works of Maloya at 12 o'clock in the night, a car driver hit them. Both of them were dragged along with the bike and fell about 200 meters away. After getting information about the incident, PCR reached the spot and took both the injured to the hospital, where doctors declared Abhishek Sharma



#### HIMACHAL: SON WAS BEHIND BARS FOR CHITTA SMUGGLING, MOTHER DIED IN GRIEF, HUSBAND UNCONSCIOUS DUE TO INTOXICATION

Diary Times Desk: How drug addiction is destroying the whole family, such a heart-wrenching case came to light in Hamirpur district. In the district headquarters, a woman died in grief of her son going to jail. The son was in jail on charges of drug smugaling and the husband was unconscious due to intoxication. The woman died in the house in the morning. The 85-year-old mother-in-law present in the house informed the neighbors and relatives about this. The deceased woman's husband was so unconscious due to intoxication that he could not go to the crematorium. The relatives got the woman's son released from the jail for a few hours and brought him to the crematorium, where he lit the funeral pyre of his mother. The court had given permission for release for six hours. In these few hours of release, the accused attended the funeral, but due to being under trial, he did not get parole. Actually, under trial prisoners can be granted release for a few days in such circumstances on the orders of the court. A guarantor is required in the court for this release. No guarantor appeared in the court for the release of the accused son. It is being told that the accused's father also refused to become the guarantor.

# AUTO DRIVER FATHER BATTLING CANCER, DAUGHTER SHAYNA PROVIDED SOLACE THROUGH MERIT; RELATIVES PROVIDED FINANCIAL HELP

Diary Times Desk: The daughter has provided solace to the unbearable pain of her father who is suffering from a serious cancer by securing the tenth position in the merit list of the 12th class of the School Education Board. The courage of the daughter has relieved the family from the pain which they have been facing for the last four years. The financial crisis in the family could not break Shayna's courage. Despite financial crisis and lack of resources, Shayna of Government Model Senior Secondary School Kangu has secured tenth position in the merit list of Arts Faculty and fifth position in the district by scoring 472 marks out of 500. Shayna's dream is to become an IPS officer. Shayna's journey has not been easy. Along with financial crisis, the family is also fighting the serious disease of cancer. Only Shayna's father Ashwani is ill but the whole family is fighting the battle against cancer. Despite all the adverse circumstances. Shavna left no stone unturned in her studies. Along with school, she strengthened her preparation by studying through online medium and achieved this position.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH: IN A VILLAGE IN KANGRA DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL, A GRANDFATHER AND TWO GRANDSONS DIED DUE TO DROWNING.

Diary Times Desk: A heart wrenching incident has come to light on Sunday in village Mela of Panchayat Mundhi, which comes under sub division Dhira. Here, two grandsons along with a grandfather have died due to drowning. According to the information received, Prakash Chand, a resident of Mela village, aged about 70 years, went to wash clothes in Nayugal Khadd with his two grandsons, aged only 8 years and 6 years, and his grandsons Aarush aged 8 years and Taru aged 6 years went with him. Prakash Chand was washing clothes on the banks of the Khadd and both his grandsons started bathing in the water of the Khadd. While bathing, it is not known when those small children went into the deep water of the Khadd and started drowning. While saving them, their grandfather Prakash Chand also drowned in the deep water. Due to which these three died tragically. When the villagers came to know about this incident, all the villagers reached the spot and started searching for them. Meanwhile, the team of police post Thural also reached the spot and found all the three bodies and took them into their custody.



#### **CLINICAL PBKS EDGE CLOSER TO PLAYOFF SPOT**

Diary Times Desk: A clinical performance from Punjab Kings saw them defeat Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur to edge closer to a playoff spot. PBKS posted a daunting 219 on the board following half-centuries from Nehal Wadhera and Shashank Singh. Even though RR's openers made a stunning start, Harpreet Brar's spell (3-22) stopped them in their tracks as the home side left it too late by the time they recovered. Once again, the middle overs proved to be RR's undoing as they couldn't capitalise on the start provided by Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Suryavanshi. RR have lost 38 wickets in this phase across the IPL, the most amongst all the franchises. PBKS were excellent in that phase with Wadhera and Shreyas Iyer doing the bulk of the damage which set themselves up for a strong finish later. The first ball after resumption in IPL 2025 was hit for a boundary as Priyansh Arya, who faced the last ball before the suspension, guided one bowled down leg for a four. Prabhsimran Singh, who has been in sizzling form, got going immediately but Arya chipped one in tame fashion to depart in just the second over. Kwena Maphaka, coming in place of Jofra Archer, was welcomed to the attack with a four and a six in the first over but the young pacer redeemed himself when Mitchell Owen was sent packing for a duck on his IPL debut. Royals then put themselves on top with another wicket off the very next ball when Tushar Deshpande struck again, this time with an excellent review to send Prabhsimran back to the pavilion.



## RCB ANNOUNCE REFUND FOR WASHED OUT GAME VS KKR

Diary Times Desk: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have announced a ticket refund for their washed out fixture against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Saturday, May 17 played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. The incessant heavy rain didn't allow a single ball to be bowled throughout the fixture, which meant that the resumption game of the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) got washed out. Much to the delight of their fans, RCB have announced a complete refund of the match tickets. Fans who bought tickets throgh the online channel, will get a completye refund back to their original payment source within ten working days. "As the game between RCB and KKR on 17th May 2025 was abandoned due to inclement weather, all valid ticket holders are eligible for a full refund. Digital ticket holders will be issued refund within 10 working days to their original account used to book the tickets," informed RCB through a post on their social media handles. On the other hand, fans who bought physical tickets through offline channels need to present their original tickets to official source to claim the refund. "In case you do not receive refund by 31st May, kindly send an email to refund@ticketgenie.in with booking details to escalate the matter.Physical ticket holders are required to surrender their original ticket to the respective official source from where they purchased the tickets.

### KL RAHUL SCRIPTS HISTORY WITH STUNNING TON IN IPL 2025, BECOMES 1ST PLAYER EVER TO...

Diary Times Desk: KL Rahul slammed a stunning century for Delhi Capitals during the IPL 2025 encounter against Gujarat Titans on Sunday. It was Rahul's 5th IPL century and he remained unbeaten on 112 off just 65 deliveries with the help of 14 fours and 4 sixes. As a result, Rahul became the second Indian batter ever to score 5 or more IPL centuries. The only other Indian batter to achieve the feat was Virat Kohli who has scored 8 IPL centuries till now. Overall, it was the 7th T20 hundred for Rahul. Rahul also became the first cricketer ever to score centuries for three different franchises in the IPL. Rahul shined on his promotion to the openers role by slamming a majestic 112 not out and carry Delhi Capitals to a massive 199/3 in their 20 overs against Gujarat Titans. On a slightly slower pitch, Rahul was at his clean and pristine best in strokeplay, especially when hitting through the line to hit 112 not out off 65 balls - his fifth IPL hundred. His spectacular knock included 14 fours and four sixes as Rahul also became the first ever batter to score IPL centuries for three different teams - having done this previously for Punjab Kings and Lucknow Super Giants. Apart from being the team's main driving force with the bat, Rahul also finished the innings well to ensure DC posted a total which can challenge GT's top-order might.

#### MUST-WIN OR BUST: LSG ON THE BRINK AND RUNNING OUT OF TIME

Diary Times Desk: Lucknow Super Giants' qualification hopes hang by a thread. If they lose to Sunrisers Hyderabad, they're out of contention. If they win, they're still nowhere close - such has been the story of their season. Even if LSG manage to win all three of their remaining matches, they'll only get to 16 points. And with a net run rate of -0.469, there's still too much left to chance. To make matters worse, two of their retained players haven't had the best of seasons. Ravi Bishnoi was left out of LSG's last match after underwhelming returns (nine wickets across 10 games at an average of 41.67 and an economy of 10.42) whereas Mayank Yadav has been ruled out of the season with a back injury, looking a shadow of his fiery self since returning to the side midway into the tournament. That said, LSG will take heart from having beaten SRH earlier this season. That win came without Mayank in the side and Bishnoi at his best. Many expected the inexperienced bowling attack to be steamrolled in Hyderabad but instead, they showed the world how to counter SRH's batting firepower and intent, particularly on a surface that played to the home team's strengths.



### SARFARAZ KHAN LOSES 10 KG THROUGH STRICT DIET TO PREPARE FOR ENGLAND TOUR

Diary Times Desk: India batter Sarfaraz Khan is preparing hard for the upcoming England tour as he's lost 10 kg through strict diet plan. Sarfaraz is yet to play his first Test overseas, having made his debut back in 2024 against England. The 27-vear-old has been included in the India A squad for the two Tests against England Lions and the young batter is preparing hard to make the most of the opportunity. India Today has learnt that the Mumbai-born batter is on a strict diet plan of boiled veggies and chicken to get fitter. He's also practicing twice a day, working on the outside off-stump discipline, which is key to success in the swinging conditions of England. Sarfaraz didn's get a single game during the five-match Test series against Australia and last played against New Zealand in the third Test at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. In the six matches played in his career so far, Sarfaraz has scored 371 runs at an average of 37.10 with one hundred and three fifties. His only century of the career so far came against New Zealand as he scored a magnificent 150 in Bengaluru, albeit in a losing cause. Earlier, he scored a sensational 222\* (286) for Mumbai, playing a pivotal role in their Irani Cup triumph.

#### "VIRAT KOHLI COUNTED MONEY, ATE FOOD...": EX-TEAMMATE REVEALS RCB STAR'S HUGE TRANSFORMATION

Diary Times Desk: India pacer Ishant Sharma said on Saturday that Virat Kohli will always be "Cheeku" to those who grew up with him, reflecting on the friendship that dates back to their early days in Delhi cricket. Ishant, who played alongside Kohli from the under-17 level through to the senior India team, said the former captain's public image of a super star contrasts with the person he has known since childhood. "I think Virat Kohli (the star) is for outside people. I can't see him like that because we played in the U-17s. He is a childhood friend to me," Ishant, who bagged 434 wickets in 105 Tests, said on Star Sports Press Room on the eve of Gujarat Titans' match against Delhi Capitals. The 36-year-old recalled their days in the under-19 setup, where they shared rooms, budgeted meals, and saved travel allowances. "When we were in the U-19s, we used to count how much money we had. We used to eat food. When we used to go to the U-19s, we used to save our TAs and take them with us. So, Virat Kohli is different for everyone.