

'MAKE IN  
INDIA'

## EVEN GANESH IDOLS IMPORTED: PM'S 'MAKE IN INDIA' APPEAL TO CHECK CHINA DUMPING

**Diary Times Desk :** In a strong push for self-reliance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to prioritise Made in India products and reduce dependence on imported goods, especially during festivals like Holi, Diwali, and Ganesh Puja. Taking a veiled dig at Chinese products flooding Indian markets, PM Modi said that “even Ganesh idols come from abroad, small-eyed Ganesh idols whose eyes don't even open properly”.

Addressing the public in Gujarat, the Prime Minister said, “We must encourage village traders to pledge that no matter how much profit they make, they will not sell foreign goods.”

Citing examples of foreign imports flooding Indian markets, he said, “Unfortunately, even Ganesh idols come from abroad, small-eyed Ganesh idols whose eyes don't even open properly. Even Holi colours are foreign-made.” The Prime Minister's remarks come amid concerns over China dumping cheap goods into the Indian market. Items such as decorative lights, firecrackers, toys, and religious idols, often imported at low prices from China, have dominated festival sales in recent years, impacting local artisans and manufacturers. PM Modi urged people to introspect on their daily use of imported products. “As a citizen, I have a task for you- go home and make a list of how many foreign products you use in 24 hours. You don't even realise but even hairpin, comb used are foreign-made,” he said. Calling on the collective responsibility of all citizens, he added, “If we want to save India, to make India, to make India grow, then Operation Sindoor is not just the responsibility of armed forces, it's the responsibility of 140 crore citizens.”



MANIPUR  
NEWS

## OFFICES LOCKED, SIGNBOARDS SMEARED: MANIPUR CONTINUES TO BOIL OVER BUS NAME ROW



**Diary Times Desk :** Tensions in Manipur escalated sharply on Tuesday as members of the student wing of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) locked central government offices and defaced signboards in the valley district, as part of a statewide agitation over the concealing of the state's name from a government bus.

The protestors locked the Geological Survey of India office and the Chief Electoral Office at Lamphelpat in Imphal West, while signboards bearing “Government of India” were smeared with mud, a visible act of defiance against the Centre amid mounting regional discontent.

Simultaneously, large-scale demonstrations, led primarily by women, erupted across valley districts, including Imphal East and West, over the concealing of the state's name from the government bus with journalists on board, which was heading to the Shirui Lily festival in Ukhrul district on May 20. The incident occurred in the Gwaltabi area. In Khurai, Imphal East, women protestors marched to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, disrupting operations and demanding an official apology from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. Similar scenes played out in Imphal West, where human chains were formed and placards with slogans such as “Self-determination is our birthright” were displayed. The protestors are also demanding the resignation of the state's Chief Secretary and Security Advisor, accusing them of administrative negligence and worsening unrest. The agitation was led by an alliance of civil society organisations, including AMUCO (All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation), Poreileimaril, AMAWOVA (All Manipur Women's Voluntary Association), MSF (Manipuri Students' Federation), and COHR (Committee on Human Rights).

DUE DATE EXTENDED; NOW YOU CAN FILE YOUR INCOME TAX RETURNS TILL SEPTEMBER 15

**Diary Times Desk :** The Income Tax department on Tuesday extended the due date for filing ITRs for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26 to September 15 from July 31. The extension applies to individuals, HUFs and entities who do not need to get their accounts audited. They can now file their tax return for income earned in the 2024-25 (April-March) fiscal by September 15. In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the extension was necessitated to prepare Income Tax systems to incorporate changes in ITR forms and roll out the utilities. This year, ITR forms for AY26 were notified in late April and early May against the previous year's practice of notifying them in January/February. "To facilitate a smooth and convenient filing experience for taxpayers, it has been decided that the due date for filing ITR, originally due on July 31, is extended to September 15," the CBDT said. The notified ITRs for AY2025-26 have "undergone structural and content revisions" aimed at simplifying compliance, enhancing transparency and enabling accurate reporting. These changes have necessitated additional time for system development, integration and testing of the corresponding utilities, it added. Furthermore, credits arising from TDS statements, due for filing by May 31, are expected to begin reflecting in early June.



2 DAYS AFTER EXPULSION FROM RJD, TEJ PRATAP CONGRATULATES TEJASHWI ON BIRTH OF SON

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Bihar minister Tej Pratap Yadav, who was recently expelled from the RJD by his father and founding president Lalu Prasad, on Tuesday congratulated younger brother Tejashwi Yadav on the birth of the latter's second child, a boy. Tej Pratap, who had been keeping mum ever since his expulsion was announced by Prasad on social media, expressed his elation on becoming 'Bade Papa' on X. "With the grace and blessings of Shri Banke Bihari Ji, I have become 'Bade Papa' with the arrival of the new baby boy. Hearty congratulations and best wishes to younger brother Tejaswi and Raj Shri Yadav...My blessings and love to my nephew," he wrote. RJD supremo Lalu Prasad on Sunday expelled Tej Pratap Yadav from the party and snapped all family ties with him, stating that his actions were "irresponsible" and not in accordance with public conduct. Tej Pratap had on Saturday evening announced on social media.

SC ISSUES NOTICES TO CENTRE, OTHERS ON PLEA CHALLENGING VALIDITY OF WAQF ACT, 1995



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notices to the Centre, states and others on a petition challenging the validity of certain provisions of the Waqf Act, 1995. A bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih asked the respondents to respond to the petition and clubbed it with other pending petitions that raised similar issues. On behalf of petitioner Nikhil Upadhyay, advocate Ashwini Upadhyay submitted that the petition challenged the provisions of the Waqf Act, 1995 and that the top court had last month said that petitions against the 1995 Waqf Act would be dealt with separately. "Why should a challenge to the 1995 Act be allowed in 2025?" the CJ asked. He also asked why the plea should not be dismissed on the ground of delay. However, the petitioner's counsel said the petition has challenged the amendments made in 2013. As he pointed out that the top court has been hearing pleas filed in 2020, challenging the provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 and the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, the bench agreed to tag it with already pending petitions.

'I GOT MARRIED QUIETLY BECAUSE OF INDO-PAK CLASH': INTERNET SENSATION 'KHAN SIR'

**Diary Times Desk :** Internet sensation 'Khan Sir', whose "classes" on YouTube are raved about, claimed that he kept his marriage, solemnised earlier this month, a hush-hush affair because of the military conflict between India and Pakistan. The Patna-based teacher, who has been alleged to be the man behind the protests against the Agniveer scheme a couple of years ago and the more recent stir by BPSC candidates, made the claim in a video he posted on Monday. In the video clip, he was seen telling students of his class, "I did not tell you guys one thing: when the war was on, I got married." The students can be heard erupting into cheers at the news as Khan Sir had a tough time making them hold their horses. He said, "Initially, I wanted to put off the wedding and go and help the soldiers fighting the enemy at the borders. But things had been planned by my parents and they were distraught." "Finally, I relented. I cursed the Pakistanis for their sudden attack and agreed to tie the knot, but on the condition that nobody will be invited," the famed YouTuber said.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

28-05-2025

Aries

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

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.

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.





## VIMAL NEGI CASE: BIG ACTION BY THE GOVERNMENT, ACS, DGP, SP SENT ON LEAVE, ALL DEPARTMENTS TAKEN BACK FROM OMKAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Sukhu government has taken a big action against bureaucracy for indiscipline. ACS Home Omkar Sharma, DGP Dr. Atul Verma and SP Shimla Sanjeev Gandhi have been sent on leave. Along with this, all the departments have been taken back from Omkar Sharma. DG Vigilance Ashok Tiwari has been given additional charge of DGP. Show cause notices have also been issued to DGP Dr. Atul Verma and SP Shimla Sanjeev Gandhi for indiscipline and mutual tussle. The charge of SP Shimla has been given to Superintendent of Police Gaurav Singh of District Solan. However, according to the notification, DGP Dr. Atul Verma had applied for earned leave and SP Sanjeev Gandhi had applied for medical leave. The role of the three officers was discussed in the meeting of high officials held at Oak Over Shimla on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu. After that the government decided to send them on leave and take action against them. Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena, Secretary to Chief Minister Rakesh Kanwar, Secretary Law Sharad Kumar Lagwal and Advocate General Anoop Ratan were present in this high level meeting.



## HPU SHIMLA: PHD ADMISSION WILL BE BASED ON NET SCORE, NEW RULES APPROVED

**Diary Times Desk :** The Standing Committee of the Academic Council of Himachal Pradesh University met under the chairmanship of Dean Studies Prof. B K Shivram. Deans and nominated members of all faculties participated in the meeting. In the meeting, the committee approved the syllabus prepared for implementing NEP-2020 in UG degree courses. These syllabus were brought to the Academic Council for approval after approval from the Board of Studies and Faculty. In the meeting, the rules made for admission were approved by accepting the new rules of UGC for PhD admission. According to this, now admission in PhD in all the departments of the university will be given only on the basis of NET score. The university will not conduct PhD entrance examination of the departments at its own level. The committee approved the rules made on the basis of UGC regulation for PhD admission. In future, admission in PhD in the university will be given according to these rules. The rules will be implemented in the admission process. Soon the university is going to start the admission process of PhD.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: CM SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO CORONA WARRIORS IN THE RECRUITMENT OF NURSES

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Monday evening interacted with faculty members of IGMC Shimla and Atal Institute of Medical Super Specialty, Chamiana and discussed in detail the future challenges in the health sector. On this occasion, heads of various departments of medical colleges made their presentations. The Chief Minister said that the state government would provide all possible assistance as per the requirements of each medical college. The Chief Minister said that machines and equipment older than 20 years in government health institutions would be replaced within a year. Robotic surgery facility would be started in Super Specialty Hospital Chamiana and Tanda Medical College within two months. Three Tesla MRI machines are also being installed in all medical colleges in a phased manner. He said that the previous governments did not pay any special attention to improve health services, due to which patients are facing various problems. The present government has given priority to improvement in the field of education and health and Rs 1350 crore is being spent on medical technology. He said that the government would provide funds for building hostels for students pursuing medical studies and parking facilities would be strengthened for the patients as well as.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: GOOD NEWS FOR TOURISTS! AFTER SEVEN MONTHS, THE GRAMPHOO-KAZA-SAMDO ROAD IS OPEN FOR FOUR BY FOUR VEHICLES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Gramphoo-Kaza-Samdo road has been officially opened for four by four vehicles after about seven months. Earlier, before travelling on this route, four by four vehicles had to take permission from disaster management at Koksar checkpost. Now four by four vehicles will be able to run on this route without taking permission. In this regard, the Lahaul-Spiti administration has also issued a notification. Tourists will now be able to see Chandratat lake along with Spiti. This will give impetus to the tourism business in Spiti Valley. On Monday, the BRO team led by Tehsildar Keylong Ramesh Rana inspected the road. During this, it was found that due to the falling of icebergs in two-three places between Gramphoo and Batal, the snow is frozen on the road. In such a situation, the movement of small vehicles is not possible. In its report, the inspection team has recommended the movement of only four by four vehicles for the time being. Rana said that icebergs have fallen at some places, from where the movement of small vehicles is not possible.



## HIMACHAL NEWS: UNDERTRIAL PRISONER ESCAPES BY DODGING POLICE PERSONNEL, POLICE BUSY SEARCHING FOR HIM

**Diary Times Desk :** An undertrial prisoner escaped by fooling the police personnel. As soon as the news of the prisoner's escape was received, the Deputy Superintendent of the District Jail lodged a complaint with the police about the escape of the undertrial prisoner. After receiving the complaint, the police department has put up blockades at various places to catch the escaped prisoner and has also informed the police posts and police stations. In the case of kidnapping a minor in District Jail Rajpura, 36-year-old Ibrahim, resident of Gadri Post Office Barour District Chamba, an undertrial prisoner, was brought out of the jail along with other prisoners for cleaning. On Tuesday afternoon at 3:30, Ibrahim escaped from the spot by fooling the deployed jawans. As soon as the police personnel sensed that one prisoner was missing while counting the prisoners, the ground slipped under the feet of the deployed jawans. They immediately informed the Deputy Superintendent of the jail about this. After which the police of the district jail started searching for the escaped prisoner. The Deputy Superintendent immediately informed the police about the escape of the prisoner. After this, police teams gathered at various places to search for the prisoner.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: UNION MINISTER SUKANT MAJUMDAR SAID- INSTEAD OF TRAVELING ABROAD, COME TO VISIT KULLU-MANALI

**Diary Times Desk :** An undertrial prisoner escaped by fooling the police personnel. As soon as the news of the prisoner's escape was received, the Deputy Superintendent of the District Jail lodged a complaint with the police about the escape of the undertrial prisoner. After receiving the complaint, the police department has put up blockades at various places to catch the escaped prisoner and has also informed the police posts and police stations. In the case of kidnapping a minor in District Jail Rajpura, 36-year-old Ibrahim, resident of Gadri Post Office Barour District Chamba, an undertrial prisoner, was brought out of the jail along with other prisoners for cleaning. On Tuesday afternoon at 3:30, Ibrahim escaped from the spot by fooling the deployed jawans. As soon as the police personnel sensed that one prisoner was missing while counting the prisoners.

## IMD FORECASTS 'ABOVE-NORMAL RAINFALL', 108 PER CENT OF LONG-PERIOD AVERAGE IN JUNE

**Diary Times Desk :** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted on Tuesday, May 26, 2025, that India will witness "above-normal" rainfall in June 2025. The weather agency estimated the rains to be amounting to 108 per cent of the long-period average over North Western India. According to a PTI's report, citing the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, M Ravichandran, India is also likely to experience 87 cm of rain during the entire monsoon season. The monsoon, considered the lifeline of the country's \$4 trillion economy, delivers nearly 70% of the rain that India needs to water farms and replenish aquifers and reservoirs, Reuters reported. Nearly half of the agricultural land in the country, which doesn't have any irrigation cover, depends on the annual June-September rains to grow a number of crops. The core zones for the upcoming monsoon will include parts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and other nearby areas. This region gets most of its rain from the Southwest Monsoon Winds, and its agriculture is also heavily reliant on the rains for growth, as per the report.

## KARNATAKA INVESTORS DUPED OF RS 2 CRORE IN AI-DRIVEN 'TRUMP HOTEL RENTAL' SCAM

**Diary Times Desk :** Over 200 people across Karnataka have filed complaints with cybercrime authorities after being swindled out of nearly Rs 2 crore through a fake mobile app named Trump Hotel Rental, which exploited AI-generated visuals of former US President Donald Trump to lure unsuspecting investors, as per a TOI report. According to multiple police reports and victims' accounts, the now-defunct Trump app promised massive short-term returns - in some cases over 100% - under the guise of a high-profile hotel rental and investment platform. The app is alleged to have duped over 800 people in districts including Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mangaluru, Haveri, Hubballi, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, Ballari and Bidar. Haveri Superintendent of Police Anshukumar told India Today that the app gained traction through targeted advertisements on social media, promising users high returns in a short period. The app operated on a pyramid-like model, initially collecting small registration fees - typically around Rs 1,500 - and paying out Rs 500 to gain the users' trust. "By offering small returns, they gain the user's confidence.

## MUMBAI'S AQUA LINE 'LIVES UP TO ITS NAME' AND BRINGS A POLITICAL STORM



**Diary Times Desk :** On Monday, the officials of the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRCL) might have been regretting naming Metro Line 3 as the Aqua Line. Acharya Atre Chowk, one of the stations on the line, literally turned into a water body when the monsoon announced its early arrival in the city. The waterproofing arrangements of the almost fully underground metro line were exposed by the very first showers of rain. This has given the opposition an opportunity to corner the government, and social activists are demanding accountability for the lapse. The incident also raises a question about the viability of an underground metro line in a city like Mumbai. On Monday morning, when passengers entered the Acharya Atre Chowk station near Worli Sea Face, they were shocked to see the premises flooded, with water gushing in through automatic elevators and staircases. Train services from the station were suspended for a few hours. Reporters who had arrived to cover the aftermath were thrown out by security guards. However, it didn't take long for the visuals shot by passengers to go viral.

## OMAR ABDULLAH CHAIRS CABINET MEETING IN PAHALGAM, SAYS TOURISM A 'CONFLICT-NEUTRAL' ACTIVITY

**Diary Times Desk :** A month after a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam killed 26 people, chief minister Omar Abdullah chaired a meeting in the region as part of an attempt to revive tourism. This meeting in Pahalgam also marks the first time a cabinet meeting has been held outside the capital of Srinagar or Jammu. Following the terror attack in Pahalgam, tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, which is a key economic means for the union territory, took a severe hit as tourists fled the region. Speaking at a press conference, the J&K chief minister called for an increase in tourism. "We want the world to look at Jammu & Kashmir's tourism as an economic activity. We have to take steps with caution, but we will try to ensure that tourism begins in Kashmir and the valley soon. The last 5-6 weeks have been tough for the nation, but J&K has paid the highest price. The government of J&K will decide what steps we need to take to overcome this situation," the JKNC leader was quoted as saying by ANI. Adding that tourism should be a "conflict-neutral" activity, Abdullah shared that the state government conducted.

## POLITICS AT TIMES GETS TOO HOT FOR NATIONALISM, NEED TO OVERCOME THIS: VP

**Diary Times Desk :** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday cautioned that at times politics gets "too hot" for nationalism and security, something which the political class needs to overcome. Operation Sindoor has "changed our mindset massively" and Indians are now "nationalistic as never before", he said, while calling on everyone in the political spectrum to agree to work with consensus on issues of national security and economic growth. He said it is reflected in the participation of various political parties in the delegations that have gone abroad to project "our message of peace and New Delhi's intolerance to terrorism". "Having seen recent events... we have no choice. We have no other option but to remain united and grow stronger... like institutions, even political tribes have a moral duty to the national cause, because ultimately all institutions -- the Legislature, the Judiciary, the Executive -- the focal point is national growth, national welfare, public welfare," he said.

## HAD RS 20 CRORE DEBT, GOT THREATS: RELATIVE OF DEHRADUN FAMILY WHO DIED BY SUICIDE

**Diary Times Desk :** The deceased, Praveen Mittal, and his family were receiving constant death threats due to their inability to repay a loan, his maternal uncle's son told India Today TV, adding that the family was burdened with a total debt of Rs 20 crore. On Sunday, Praveen and six of his family members were found dead inside a car parked outside a house in Haryana's Panchkula. After local residents found all the family members unconscious inside the car, they managed to pull out one person who was still breathing. Before dying, the man revealed that his family was "drowning in debt." "I will die in five minutes as I have also consumed poison," he told Puneet Rana, a local resident. Hailing from Barwala in Hisar, Praveen had shifted to Panchkula 12 years back. He owned a scrap factory in Himachal Pradesh, which was later seized by the bank due to unpaid loans, according to Praveen's cousin Sandeep Agarwal. The mounting debt had forced the family to suddenly leave Hisar and move to Dehradun. "For five years, he did not stay in touch with anyone," Sandeep told India Today TV.

## NAKAL KARNE KE LIYE AKAL CHAHIYE: ASADUDDIN OWAIISI ROASTS PAK OVER FAKE PHOTO

**Diary Times Desk :** It was part roast, part geopolitical jab, as AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi took a sharp swipe at Pakistan's military bluff -- this time over a misfired photo op. Speaking to members of the Indian diaspora in Kuwait, Owaisi ridiculed Pakistan's attempt to portray an old Chinese military drill photo as evidence of victory over India. "Yesterday, the Pakistani Army chief gifted a photo to the Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif... these stupid jokers want to compete with India," Owaisi quipped. "They had given a photograph of a 2019 Chinese Army drill claiming it is a victory over India. This is what Pakistan indulges in." Mocking the lack of originality, he delivered a cutting punchline, "Nakal karne ke liye akal chahiye inke pass akal bhi nahi hai (It takes brains to copy and they don't even have that)."





**PAK RAISES INDIA CONFLICT WITH  
IRAN. AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI'S  
MEASURED RESPONSE**

**Diary Times Desk :** A year after they conducted airstrikes in each other's territory, Iran and Pakistan appear to be burying the hatchet as Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir visit Tehran and meet the Iranian leadership. The key factor bringing the countries together is Gaza, devastated in the aftermath of Israel's brutal counterstrike to the Hamas attacks in October 2023. While Pakistan brought up its recent conflict with India and Kashmir, Iran's leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in public remarks, has only said Iran hopes disputes between India and Pakistan are resolved. During his meeting with Khamenei, Sharif brought up the India-Pakistan conflict after New Delhi carried out airstrikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 innocents dead. The Pakistan Prime Minister appreciated Iran's "positive role" during the conflict. During a joint press conference with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Sharif said Pakistan is ready to talk with India "to find solutions" to "longstanding problems", including Kashmir, water-sharing and trade. "We are ready to talk, for the sake of peace on water issues with our neighbour. We are ready to talk to promote trade and also, counter-terrorism."

**N. KOREA SAYS US 'GOLDEN DOME'  
MISSILE SHIELD 'VERY DANGEROUS'**

**Diary Times Desk :** North Korea has slammed US President Donald Trump's "Golden Dome" missile shield plan as a "very dangerous" threat that aims to weaponise space, state media reported Tuesday. Pyongyang's foreign ministry has issued a memorandum calling the system "a very dangerous 'threatening initiative' aimed at threatening the strategic security of the nuclear weapons states," the Korean Central News Agency said. Trump announced new details and initial funding for the missile shield system last week, calling it "very important for the success and even survival of our country". The initiative faces significant technical and political challenges, according to analysts, and could come at a hefty price tag. The memorandum by nuclear-armed North Korea accused the United States of being "hell-bent on the moves to militarize outer space," KCNA said. "The U.S. plan for building a new missile defense system is the root cause of sparking."

**WHAT SAUDI ARABIA OFFICIAL SAID ON REPORTS OF KINGDOM LIFTING ALCOHOL BAN**

**Diary Times Desk :** A Saudi official denied on Monday media reports saying the kingdom, the birthplace of Islam, would lift its 73-year-old ban on alcohol, which is prohibited for observant Muslims. The report, which was picked up by some international media after it appeared on a wine blog last week, said Saudi authorities planned to allow the controlled sale of alcohol as the country prepares to host the 2034 soccer World Cup. It did not give a source for the information. The report sparked a vigorous online debate in the conservative kingdom, whose king also holds the title of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - Islam's most revered places in Mecca and Medina. Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, known as MBS, is pushing a series of reforms to open up the country for tourism and business, as part of an effort to strengthen non-oil sectors of the economy.

**TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SET TO END \$100  
MILLION IN FEDERAL CONTRACTS WITH  
HARVARD**

**Diary Times Desk :** According to a letter sent to federal agencies by the US government, the latter plans to cancel \$100 million of the federal government's remaining contracts with Harvard. It also asked the agencies to "find alternative vendors" for the future, in its latest offence on the school. "Going forward, we also encourage your agency to seek alternative vendors for future services where you had previously considered Harvard," the letter said. Per The New York Times, the letter stated that it is a "complete severance of the government's longstanding business relationship with Harvard." Moreover, federal agencies are required to respond with a list of contract cancellations by June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Trump administration on Thursday barred Harvard University's ability to enrol international students. The administration also said that it would be doing so as an ongoing investigation into the university by the Department of Homeland Security. A letter has been sent to the university by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

**UKRAINE SAYS RUSSIAN FORCES CAPTURE 4  
VILLAGES AS WAR INTENSIFIES**

**Diary Times Desk :** The governor of Ukraine's Sumy region on the Russian border said on Monday that Russian forces had captured four villages as part of an attempt to create a "buffer zone" on Ukrainian territory. Russia's military and Russian military bloggers have in recent days reported captured villages in Sumy, which has come under frequent Russian air strikes for months. Sumy Region Governor Oleh Hryhorov, writing on Facebook, listed four villages inside the border that he said were now held by Russian forces -- Novenke, Basivka, Veselivka and Zhuravka. He said their residents had long been evacuated. "The enemy is continuing attempts to advance with the aim of setting up a so-called 'buffer zone,'" he wrote. Ukrainian forces, he said, "are keeping the situation under control, inflicting precise fire damage on the enemy". Hryhorov said fighting was continuing around other villages in the area, including Volodymyrivka and Bilovodiv -- two settlements.

**MACRON GIVES VIETNAMESE  
STUDENTS A LESSON IN  
'IMPULSIVE' SUPERPOWERS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Between jobs at Donald Trump's US trade tariffs and criticism of Beijing's assertiveness in the South China Sea, French President Emmanuel Macron warned Vietnamese students Tuesday that "on the impulse of a superpower, everything can change". Macron is in Vietnam as part of a six-day Southeast Asian tour that includes Indonesia and Singapore, as he tries to pitch his offer of a "third way" between the United States and China to a region caught up in a confrontation between the two. "The conflict between China and the United States of America is a geopolitical fact that casts the shadow of risk of a much larger conflict in this important region," he told a group of around 150 students at the University of Science and Technology in Hanoi, listening through translation headsets. China would do well to remember that "freedom of navigation, maritime freedom is important for the South China Sea", he said, adding that what is happening there "worries everyone". Macron quickly moved on to a swipe at the United States, which he described as "imposing tariffs according to the side of the bed on which he woke up", before presenting France as a reliable alternative.

**NEPAL'S SHERPA GUIDE KAMI  
RITA CLIMBS MOUNT EVEREST  
FOR A RECORD 31ST TIME**

**Diary Times Desk :** Famed Nepalese Sherpa guide Kami Rita has scaled Mount Everest for the 31st time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak. The 55-year-old climber leading stood atop the 8,849-meter summit at around 4 am on Tuesday under stable weather conditions, according to Mingma Sherpa, chairman of Seven Summit Treks, the expedition organiser. He was guiding a team of the Indian Army Adventure Wing Everest Expedition, led by Lieutenant Colonel Manoj Joshi. "This new feat cements his status as the record holder for the highest number of ascents to the top of the world -- a record that no one else has come close to," the Kathmandu Post newspaper quoted Mingma as saying. "Kami Rita is safe and stable after his summit. He has started his descent and is on his way back to base camp," he added. "As always, Kami has demonstrated his unmatched skills and professionalism on the mountain. We are immensely proud of his achievement and the legacy he continues to build." In the last two years, Kami Rita scaled Mt Everest twice each season taking his successful summits count to 30.



## MAN KILLED IN AMRITSAR BLAST; POLICE CLAIM WAS TRYING TO PICK 'CONSIGNMENT'; ISI-LINK SUSPECTED

**Diary Times Desk :** An explosion in a vacant plot of a residential colony on the Majitha Road Bypass led to the death of a man who had reportedly come to collect a "consignment from the site" on Tuesday. According to sources, the blast was so intense that both of the person's arms were blown off above the wrists. Maninder Singh, SSP Amritsar Rural, stated that the police had been tracking the individual who sustained serious injuries in the blast. He claimed the man had come to retrieve the consignment and that the explosion occurred due to mishandling of the bomb. Hearing the loud explosion, local residents rushed to the scene and immediately informed the police. A police team arrived, cordoned off the area, and began an investigation. In the initial probe, DIG Border Range Satinder Singh claimed that the ISI-backed Babar Khalsa was behind the incident, aiming to disturb peace in the region. Officials said they had prior inputs about the injured individual and are now working to identify him and his accomplices. Authorities also claimed to possess strong evidence linking the deceased to a Pakistan-backed terrorist group.



## HARYANA NEWS: FORMER BUREAUCRATS RETAIN HOLD OVER INFO COMMISSION

**Diary Times Desk :** In the appointment of former Haryana Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) today, the state's powerful bureaucracy has retained its hold over the top post in the State Information Commission (SIC). Since 2005, when former Chief Secretary G Madhavan was appointed the state's first CIC, the SIC has remained a favourite parking place for retired bureaucrats. All CICs, including Naresh Gulati and Vijay Vardhan, have been retired IAS officers. One of the CICs was Yashpal Singhal, a retired DGP. Over the years, a substantial number of Information Commissioners have been retired bureaucrats, mostly IAS officers. Meanwhile, besides Prasad, four Information Commissioners—Amarjit Singh, Karamvir Saini, Neeta Khera and Sanjay Madan—were administered oath by Governor Bandaru Dattatreya. In another development, Hemant Kumar, an advocate of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, in a representation to President Droupadi Murmu, copies of which were sent to the Prime Minister, Governor and Chief Minister, sought her immediate intervention for protecting and upholding the sanctity of Article 319(d) of the Constitution in connection with the appointment of Neeta Khera, a former member of the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC).

## HARYANA YOUTUBER JYOTI MALHOTRA SENT TO 14-DAY JUDICIAL CUSTODY

**Diary Times Desk :** After police interrogation for nine days, a Hisar court today sent YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra to judicial custody for 14 days. The police produced her in the court of Civil Judge (Junior Division) Sunil Kumar at about 4.30 pm amid tight security. The media and common people were not allowed inside or near the courtroom at the time of her appearance. Sources revealed that the police informed the court that it had completed its preliminary interrogation and requested it to send her to judicial custody. "There was no debate in the court on the plea of the police. The court completed the formalities and decided to send her to judicial custody," said an official, adding that it was all completed in five minutes. The sources said the police had recovered 14 TB of data, mostly videos from her laptop, which would be analysed for further investigation.

## HC ORDERS FORMULATION OF SOP TO COMBAT GANG-RELATED CRIMES IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has described as "baffling" the absence of a legislative framework in Punjab and Haryana to combat the growing menace of, even as it ordered the formulation of an SOP within two months to guide investigations in such cases. Issuing a slew of binding directions to address the crisis, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar also made it mandatory for investigating authorities to promptly register an FIR on receiving information regarding gang-related activities. The bench clarified that such FIRs must not be uploaded on the police portals concerned. To ensure effective probe, it directed that investigation into such cases must be conducted by an officer not below the rank of DSP. Terming the state of affairs as a failure in ensuring citizens' right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, the bench asserted credible threats of murder, rape, assault etc. were conspicuous obstruction in enjoying the right to life. Justice Brar asserted that organised crime thrives on fear, creating an environment of helplessness and subjugation, and called for breaking this cycle through robust, law-backed measures.

## DELHI POLICE BUST INTER-STATE SYNDICATE OF CAR THIEVES, ARREST 4 PUNJAB MEN

**Diary Times Desk :** The Delhi Police have busted an inter-state network involved in the sale and purchase of stolen vehicles, recovered 21 such cars and arrested four Punjab-based receivers, an official said on Tuesday. The accused have been identified as Avtar Singh alias Sunny Arora (40), Harpreet Singh alias Hunny (32), Paramdeep alias Lotey (42) and Manpreet alias Bau (29), all natives of Punjab, she said. "The gang would purchase stolen vehicles from auto lifters at low rates, forge the chassis and engine numbers, fabricate the registration documents and resell the cars as legitimate," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Apoorva Gupta said. The gang was active in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and other states, and had developed a network to transport and dispose of stolen vehicles, she said.

## SUPREME COURT RECOMMENDS TRANSFER OF 21 HC JUDGES, INCLUDING 3 FROM PUNJAB & HARYANA HC

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major shake-up in the higher judiciary, the Supreme Court has recommended transfer of 21 judges of 10 high courts, including three judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, to different high courts. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Supreme Court Collegium led by CJI BR Gavai on Monday, the Supreme Court announced on Tuesday. Though the SC did not assign any reasons for the en masse transfers, sources said the transfers have been recommended by the Collegium "in the interest of justice". Three judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court — Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, Justice Sudhir Singh and Justice Anil Kshetarpal have been transferred to the Rajasthan High Court, the Patna High Court and the Delhi High Court, respectively. Justice Sharma has been recommended to be transferred back to Rajasthan High Court while Justice Singh is being repatriated to the Patna High Court. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra has been recommended to be transferred from the Allahabad High Court to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

## DELHI CM HANDS OVER GOVT APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO FAMILIES OF 1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOT VICTIMS

**Diary Times Desk :** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said the process of delivering justice to 1984 anti-Sikh riot victims truly began after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, as she handed over appointment letters to the kin of those killed in the carnage. Gupta said that by distributing these appointment letters, the Delhi Government has not just provided jobs but also recognised the dignity and identity of thousands of families who had waited decades for justice. She called it a landmark step in the journey towards justice for the victims. "The 1984 riots remain a dark chapter in the history of India -- one that is impossible to forget. For those who lost loved ones, no compensation can ever be enough for their pain," she noted. The process of delivering justice to the riot victims and punishing the perpetrators truly began after Prime Minister Modi assumed power at the Centre, she said. As she distributed appointment letters to 125 people, she said that it is akin to "justice walking into their lives after 40 years of silence and struggle". "We cannot undo the past, but we can certainly improve their present," she said. Hitting out at previous governments, she said over the last four decades, the victims endured immense pain and hardship but were not provided meaningful assistance.



## CHERRY HARVESTING PICKS UP IN THE STATE

**Diary Times Desk :** As cherry harvesting is in full swing, horticulturists as well as farmers in upper Shimla region see an urgent need for fruit processing units at village level to protect the crops from the impact of unpredictable weather conditions. Cherry growers are getting good prices for their crops ranging between Rs 100 and Rs 1,000 per box (each weighing between 400 and 650 grams). However, they often have to struggle with logistics issues while sending the crops to markets due to sudden change in weather conditions. According to experts, setting up small-scale processing units at local level will help farmers in getting their crops processed quickly. Cherry is considered a high-value fruit crop in Himachal Pradesh in the months of April and May, but due to a short shelf life, timely transportation of produce to the market becomes important. At present, about 500 hectares of land in Himachal Pradesh are under cherry cultivation which adds up to Rs 200 crore to the state's economy.

## SC COLLEGIUM RECOMMENDS JUSTICE CHAUHAN AS CJ OF JHARKHAND HIGH COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday (May 26, 2025) recommended the name of Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, the senior-most Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan belongs to Ruhru tehsil in Shimla district. He obtained a degree in law from Panjab University, Chandigarh, and enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh in 1989. He practised in the High Court of Himachal Pradesh in all branches of law. He elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on February, 23, 2014, and was thereafter appointed as permanent judge of the High Court on November 30, 2014. Justice Chauhan is also the Executive Chairman of HP State Legal Service Authority and in Board of the Governing Council the Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla. He also remained President of the HP Judicial Academy. Being a chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Himachal Pradesh.

## SHIMLA: SESSIONS COURT STAYS SANJAULI MOSQUE DEMOLITION ORDERS

**Diary Times Desk :** A Sessions Court today stayed the orders passed by the Municipal Commissioner's Court on May 3 to demolish a mosque located at Sanjauli in Shimla. The court also sought a reply from the Municipal Corporation, Shimla, and fixed the next hearing in the case on May 29. The court of Additional District Judge Yujvinder Singh, during a hearing in the case, accepted the petition filed by the Himachal Pradesh Waqf Board, in which it had appealed for stay on the demolition orders. Besides, the Devbhoomi Sangharsh Samiti also voluntarily withdrew its caveat petition, as the court was about to dismiss it. Waqf Board officer-bearer Qutubuddin said that at least 70 per cent of the work to demolish the mosque was completed after the orders to demolish its top three floors were issued last year. The case of the mosque that was being heard since 2010 came to light in September last year when a fight between two groups led to the demand that the mosque be razed. People associated with Hindu outfits held protests and demanded the complete demolition of the mosque. The Municipal Commissioner's Court had on October 5, 2024, directed the Sanjauli Mosque Committee and the state Waqf Board to demolish the top three floors of the mosque after they were declared illegal.



## BILASPUR ENGINEERING COLLEGE PRINCIPAL SUSPENDED OVER SEXUAL HARASSMENT CHARGES

**Diary Times Desk :** The director-cum-principal of Bandla Hydro Engineering College in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district — who was arrested on charges of sexual harassment — has been placed under suspension, Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani said on Tuesday. Himanshu Monga (51) is accused of causing physical and mental abuse to female students and sending inappropriate calls and messages. The principal was suspended after a committee constituted by the technical education department to probe allegations against him submitted its report, Dharmani said. The minister said such incidents should not happen and the government will take strict action in such cases. Several students have accused Monga of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour and also produced messages sent by him to the three-member committee investigating the allegations. The panel began the probe on April 21 after a former student of Sundernagar Engineering College lodged a complaint against Monga on the Samagra e-Samadhan portal on April 8. The complainant alleged that when she was a student in Sundernagar Engineering College, Monga, who was then a senior faculty member at the college, had behaved inappropriately with the students.

## CBI LODGES FIR, FORMS 3-MEMBER TEAM TO PROBE HPPCL ENGINEER'S DEATH CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered an FIR into the mysterious death of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd (HPPCL) engineer and started a probe into the matter after forming a three-member special team. The deceased engineer Vimal Negi went missing on March 10 and his body was found on March 18 in Bilaspur district, following which his wife lodged a complaint in Shimla alleging that her husband was pressurised for the last six months by HPPCL Director (Electrical) Deshraj. The Himachal Pradesh Police registered a case of abetment of suicide and the matter was being investigated by an SIT led by SP Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi. Additional Chief Secretary of the state had also inquired the matter and subsequently filed a 66-page fact-finding inquiry report to the government on April 8, the contents of which are not available with this newspaper. However, despite the investigation by the police, the family of the deceased engineer was not satisfied and ultimately approached the Himachal Pradesh High Court. A single Bench of the High Court, led by Justice Ajay Goyal, on May 23 accepted the petition by Negi's wife, Kiran Negi, and ordered the transfer of the probe.

## HIMACHAL CM SHOULD APOLOGISE FOR REMARKS AGAINST HIGH COURT: JAI RAM

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today said that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu should apologise for his remarks against the High Court of Himachal Pradesh regarding the handing over of the Vimal Negi death case to the CBI. Thakur, while talking to mediapersons in Mandi, said that the Chief Minister's remarks against the High Court were objectionable. "He has made these very serious remarks against the High Court. I think the High Court, too, will take note of the remarks," he added. He said that the court had done the right thing by handing over the inquiry into the case to the CBI. "Since prima facie there is a possibility of interference in the investigation, the High Court rightly said in its orders that no police officer of the Himachal cadre should be associated with the probe," he added. The Chief Minister wanted that officers of his choice should probe the case to influence it, he alleged. Thakur rubbished the Chief Minister's allegation that the BJP was trying to politicise the Vimal Negi death case. He said that the Opposition could do politics on several other issues and certainly not on the death of a person. He added that the Chief Minister's remarks on the High Court judge were totally wrong and reflected his frustration.



## VIRENDER SEHWAG BLASTS HARDIK PANDYA'S CAPTAINCY IN BRUTAL VERDICT: "DISAPPOINTED ME..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Legendary Indian cricket team batter Virender Sehwag blasted Hardik Pandya's captaincy following Mumbai Indians' loss against Punjab Kings in IPL 2025 on Monday. MI were completely outplayed by PBKS who booked their spot in the Top 2 ahead of the IPL Playoffs. Sehwag was highly critical of Hardik's decision to persist with pacer Deepak Chahar even when he was struggling with injuries. Chahar had to strap his hamstring and following the break, he ended up conceding quite a bit of runs in the next two overs. Sehwag said that he was 'disappointed' by the choices made by Hardik and added that the decision regarding Chahar's usage was probably what led to PBKS gaining the upper hand. "I said it during commentary. Even after Deepak Chahar's hamstring was strapped during the match, Hardik made him bowl two overs. Chahar's first over was a maiden but he conceded 28 runs in the next two overs. That shifted the match in Punjab Kings' favour. If Chahar was not given his second over and Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya or Ashwani Kumar bowled it instead, the 17 runs could have been saved and PBKS would have felt the pressure. Bumrah conceded a few runs and it is natural that even Hardik will concede a few.



## R ASHWIN TOLD TO "LEAVE CSK" BY FAN DURING LIVE SESSION. EMOTIONAL STAR SAYS: "CRYING..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Ravichandran Ashwin admitted that his performances were not up to the mark after a fan asked him to leave Chennai Super Kings (CSK) ahead of next season. Ashwin, who was bought by CSK for Rs 9.75 crore, took just seven wickets in nine matches, while scoring only 33 runs during the same course, as the franchise failed to qualify for the IPL 2025 playoffs, finishing bottom of the points table for the first time in their history. During a YouTube live session, a fan urged Ashwin to leave "his beloved CSK". "Hi dear Ashwin, with lots of love, please leave my lovely CSK family," a fan wrote. Ashwin, however, did not ignore the comment and admitted that he failed to replicate his past performances this season. He suggested that the fans need to understand that he also wants the best for the team, vowing to come back stronger with improved performances next season. "One thing that I can relate to is his love for the franchise. Let's not make one mistake. When you say something, please make sure that you're doing it in your best interest. I understand what you're trying to say. I also have the same love and interest. Don't think that I'm going to let this campaign go to waste. What I have in my controllables. If you give the ball in my hand, I will bowl, if you give bat, then I will bat.

## MS DHONI TO BECOME COACH AFTER RETIREMENT? EX-INDIA STAR SAYS "WHY WOULD HE..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Former India cricketer Atul Wassam feels MS Dhoni is unlikely to take up a coaching role after he is done playing in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Just like previous seasons, Dhoni's playing future remains in the air after he continued the tradition of neither confirming nor denying his participation for the next year. Speaking at the post-match press conference, following CSK's win over Gujarat Titans (GT), Dhoni said he has 4-5 months to decide on his future, raising hopes that the 43-year-old might play another season. Wassam suggested that while Dhoni might be perfect for a mentor's role, doesn't have the patience to take up a full-time coaching role. "I think he is fit for a mentor, but for coaching, Dhoni does not have patience. Because you know if he becomes a coach, then his lifestyle will keep looping the same way, like touring with the team and all that. Why would he want all that?" Wassam said on the Bails and Banter show on OTTPlay.



## GULVEER WINS GOLD IN MEN'S 10,000M AT ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Diary Times Desk :** National record holder Gulveer Singh snared India's first gold with a top finish in the men's 10,000m event while Servin Sebastian clinched the 20km race walk bronze on a reasonably good opening day for the country at the 27th Asian Athletics Championships on Tuesday. The 26-year-old Gulveer, a bronze-medallist at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games and a pre-race favourite, clocked 28 minute 38.63 seconds to win his maiden Asian Championships gold. Japan's Mebuki Suzuki (28:43.84) took the silver while Bahrain's Albert Kibichi Rop (28:46.82) won the bronze. Another Indian in the fray, Sawan Barwal finished fourth with a time of 28:50.53. At the end of the opening day, India stood at second place with one gold and one bronze, behind China (5 gold, 2 silver) and above Japan (3 silver, 2 bronze). Gulveer was elated to pocket gold at the continental championships, though the warm weather at the time of his 25-lap race denied him a better timing. "Irrespective of the time, the main goal was to finish first. I am happy to have successfully implemented my race strategy," Gulveer said here. The gold medal will certainly enhance my world ranking and brighten chances to win a ticket to Tokyo World Athletics Championships in September." The automatic qualification in the men's 10,000m is 27 minute.

## "SHREYAS IYER FELT UNDERAPPRECIATED AT KKR": IPL VETERAN, WHO PLAYED FOR KOLKATA, MAKES BIG CLAIM

**Diary Times Desk :** The man behind Punjab Kings' resurrection, Shreyas Iyer, proved why he is one of the finest leaders in the T20 game at present. After winning the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 title with the Kolkata Knight Riders, Iyer arrived at PBKS, a franchise that hasn't won a single trophy yet ahead of the 2025 campaign. Despite being ridiculed initially, Iyer proved that he has the ability to get the best out of his players. Behind his PBKS success, however, also lies the agony of being 'underappreciated at KKR, according to former India star Robin Uthappa. In a chat on JioStar, Uthappa, who also played for the Knight Riders in the past, said that Iyer wasn't pleased with his status at the franchise last year. Hence decided to quit. "Shreyas has always been an exceptional captain. You always sensed that he felt underappreciated at KKR despite adding value there," Uthappa said. "He moved to a franchise where not much had been achieved historically, and then went on to win it for them. That says a lot about his leadership and belief," he added. Punjab progressed to the Qualifier 1 after a victory against Mumbai Indians in their final league game of the season.

## AUSSIERS WAIT ON SELECTION FOR WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Australia coach Andrew McDonald has revealed he is still working out his playing XI for next month's ICC World Test Championship Final. The reigning World Test Championship winners will come together in the United Kingdom at the start of next month ahead of the one-off Test against South Africa at Lord's from June 11. Australia have plenty of decisions to ponder before they settle on their final XI, with the exact make-up of their batting order still up for grabs less than three weeks out from the north London decider. Left-hander opener Usman Khawaja is locked in as one of Australia's openers, but much debate has already been had surrounding who will partner the veteran at the top of the batting order for the clash with the Proteas. Teenager Sam Konstas and veteran No.3 Marnus Labuschagne have already been mooted as potential openers, while McDonald suggested that in-form all-rounder Cameron Green may also come into contention to partner Khawaja. Green has scored three centuries for Gloucester over the past six weeks in Division 2 of England's County.