

**PM  
MODI**

## **PM MODI DIALS GHULAM NABI AZAD, HOSPITALISED IN KUWAIT, CHECKS ON HIS HEALTH**

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called up former Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad, currently hospitalised in Kuwait, and checked on his health.

The Prime Minister wished Azad a speedy recovery as he recuperates in Kuwait where he had arrived Sunday as part of the Indian multi party delegation travelling across Muslim nations for the Operation Sindoor outreach.

The delegation was assigned to Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Algeria. Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and former Chief Minister of J&K Azad, who has been ailing for three days, was admitted to Kuwait's Royale Hayat Hospital yesterday. He had posted late on Wednesday that he was feeling better.

"Blessed to share that despite the extreme heat in Kuwait affecting my health, by God's grace I'm doing fine and recovering well. All test results are normal. Thank you all for your concern and prayers — it truly means a lot!" he posted on X. Azad could not accompany the delegation for their onward journey to Riyadh and Algeria.



**OP  
SINDOOR**

## **CONGRESS UPSET WITH SHASHI THAROOR'S 'COVER FIRE' TO BJP POST OP SINDOOR: SOURCES**



**Diary Times Desk :** The tussle between the Congress and Shashi Tharoor escalated on Wednesday after the party leadership expressed displeasure over the MP's remark in Panama that the BJP government conducted the first cross-border surgical strike, sources said.

The Congress's stated position has been that six surgical strikes were conducted during the UPA regime, but those were never publicised. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera also posted an old interview of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in which he said that many surgical strikes were conducted under the UPA. The top brass is miffed with Tharoor as there is a sense within the party that he is giving coverfire to the Narendra Modi government post Operation Sindoor, where India destroyed terror camps and struck military sites in Pakistan.

The Congress believes that the government is on the backtrack following the sudden ceasefire and the issue should be raised. The Thiruvananthapuram MP is presently leading one of India's multi-party delegations in Panama after completing their visit to the US. Senior party leader Udit Raj also attacked Shashi Tharoor for praising the Narendra Modi government, calling him a "super BJP spokesperson". Raj claimed that Tharoor was doing a better job of praising PM Modi than any BJP member, adding that the Centre is taking undue credit for the Army's actions.

"Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is the super spokesperson of the BJP, and what the BJP leaders are not saying when it came to speaking in favour of PM Modi and the government, he is doing," Raj was quoted as telling news agency ANI.

44 MLAS READY TO FORM NEW GOVT IN MANIPUR, CLAIMS BJP LEADER AFTER MEETING GOVERNOR

**Diary Times Desk :** Forty-four MLAs are ready to form a new government in Manipur, BJP legislator Thokchom Radheshyam Singh claimed on Wednesday after meeting Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. Singh, along with nine other MLAs, met the governor at the Raj Bhavan. "Forty-four MLAs are ready to form a government as per the wishes of the people. We have conveyed this to the governor. We also discussed what solutions can be there for the issue," he said. "The governor noted what we had to say and will initiate actions in the best interests of the people," he added. Asked if they would stake a claim to form the government, he said the central leadership of the BJP will take the decision. "However, to inform that we are ready is similar to staking a claim to form a government. Speaker Th Satyabrata has individually and jointly met the 44 MLAs. There is no one who opposes the formation of a new government," Singh said. "People are facing too much hardship. In the previous term, two years were lost due to COVID, and in this term, another two years have been lost due to the conflict," he said. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February after BJP leader N Biren Singh resigned as the chief minister, amid criticisms about his government's handling of the ethnic clashes between Meiteis and Kuki-Zos, which broke out in May 2023.



EX-SEBI CHIEF MADHABI BUCH GETS CLEAN CHIT FROM LOKPAL ON HINDENBURG REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on Wednesday disposed of complaints alleging impropriety and conflict of interest against former SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch based on a Hindenburg Research report, terming the charges as "presumptions and assumptions" not supported by any verifiable material. The Lokpal said that the complaints, including the one by TMC MP Mahua Moitra, filed last year were essentially founded on the report "by a known short seller trader whose focus was to expose or corner Adani Group of Companies". In its report published on August 10, 2024, Hindenburg Research alleged that Buch and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged money-siphoning scandal involving the Adani Group. They had denied the allegations saying the short-seller was attacking the capital markets regulator's credibility and attempting.

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**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called up former Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad, currently hospitalised in Kuwait, and checked on his health. The Prime Minister wished Azad a speedy recovery as he recuperates in Kuwait where he had arrived Sunday as part of the Indian multi party delegation travelling across Muslim nations for the Operation Sindoor outreach. The delegation was assigned to Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Algeria. Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and former Chief Minister of J&K Azad, who has been ailing for three days, was admitted to Kuwait's Royale Hayat Hospital yesterday. He had posted late on Wednesday that he was feeling better. "Blessed to share that despite the extreme heat in Kuwait affecting my health, by God's grace I'm doing fine and recovering well. All test results are normal. Thank you all for your concern and prayers — it truly means a lot!" he posted on X. Azad could not accompany the delegation for their onward journey to Riyadh and Algeria.

BIHAR CM NITISH KUMAR 'PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY UNFIT': PRASHANT KISHOR

**Diary Times Desk :** Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Wednesday alleged that Bihar's law and order situation was worsening because Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had grown "physically and mentally unfit". Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a rally in Siwan district, Kishor claimed that the state was being run by "four to five bureaucrats and as many sycophantic ministers". Incidentally, Kishor has had a long association with Kumar, whom he helped run the 2015 assembly poll campaign and got rewarded with the post of the Chief Minister's advisor, enjoying a rank equivalent to that of a cabinet minister. In 2018, he was inducted into the JD(U), headed by Kumar, and was elevated to the post of national vice-president within weeks, only to be expelled from the party two years later following a spat with the CM. Kishor maintained that the people of Bihar were fed up with Kumar as well as his arch rival Lalu Prasad, the RJD president, and claimed they will "vote for a change" in the upcoming assembly polls.



**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
29-05-2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





## HIMACHAL NEWS: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- BJP IS DIVIDED INTO FIVE FACTIONS, MISLEADING PEOPLE

**Diary Times Desk :** State Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has launched a scathing attack on the BJP in Banjar. He said that the BJP is divided into five factions. Those who have already been accused of corruption are making false allegations against the current state government to mislead the people of the state. Today he has become the policy maker of the BJP but first he should look into his own affairs. During the disaster in the year 2023, the BJP leaders did not go to the central government even once to plead for the rights of the affected families, while the Congress government stood with the people. Banjar MLA Surendra Shourie kept distance from the Chief Minister's visit. On this, the Chief Minister said that it is his responsibility to come and sit on his chair. The chair was kept for him. If he had come, his name would also have been put on the plaque. He is our younger brother. The gift of crores given in Banjar today is for Banjar only. At the same time, after the statement of the Chief Minister, there is an atmosphere of discussions in the political corridors.



## HIMACHAL : BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION DECLARED THE RESULT OF PAT, 4215 STUDENTS HAD APPEARED IN THE EXAM

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Board of Technical Education has declared the result of Polytechnic Entrance Test (PAT). In the examination conducted by the board on May 18, 4215 students appeared for the examination at more than 34 centers in the state. In the entrance examination, Aniket Verma of Hamirpur and Mannat of Shimla jointly secured first position in the state by scoring 540 marks. Tribhuvan Naresh Sharta secured second position by scoring 521 marks and Ashmit Kumar of Bilaspur secured third position by scoring 515 marks. The entrance examination was conducted for 600 marks. In this, 4 marks are awarded for the correct answer and one mark is deducted for the wrong answer. Secretary of Board of Technical Education Ashok Pathak said that the result of PAT has been declared by the board. Now soon the dates of counseling for admission in PAT will also be released. Candidates can download the result card by visiting the board's website and logging in with their registered number and password. For more information, students and parents.

## RAJYA SABHA MP HARSH MAHAJAN SAID- IF GIVEN A CHANCE, MANY MORE MLAS ARE READY TO CROSS VOTE

**Diary Times Desk :** Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan has said that Chief Minister Sukhu is my friend. The Rajya Sabha elections have given him a lifelong shock. Cross voting happened during the elections last year due to displeasure with the Chief Minister's working style. Now if given a chance, many more MLAs are ready to cross vote again. After meeting the Governor on Wednesday, MP Harsh Mahajan said that even the ministers of the Congress government are upset with the Chief Minister. One has to meet ministers and Congress MLAs in programs. Several ministers have formed separate groups. Harsh Mahajan said that he has given such a shock to the Chief Minister that he always remembers him. Corruption is happening on a large scale in the State Power Corporation. Apart from the Pekhabela Solar Project, the Shongtong Hydroelectric Project should be investigated by the CBI. Honest officer Omkar Sharma was wronged. The government is not allowing officers to work honestly. Corruption is being done in the state by promoting outsiders. The problems of Shimla SP Sanjeev Gandhi, who accused the officers and BJP MLA through a press conference after the death of Chief Engineer Vimal Negi, do not seem to be decreasing. On Wednesday, BJP MLA Sudhir Sharma said that he has sent a notice of criminal defamation to the SP. He has already sent a letter to bring a privilege violation motion in the assembly.

## HIMACHAL: BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT ISSUED HONOR TO THE MARTYR, 21 PUNJAB REGIMENT CAME TO HIS HOME ON 28 MAY AND GAVE HIM HONOR

**Diary Times Desk :** In 1971, during the liberation war of East Pakistan (Bangladesh), the Indian Army displayed indomitable courage and wrote the saga of victory by defeating Pakistan. Due to the indomitable courage of the soldiers, India got a big victory in this war against Pakistan. After the war, East Pakistan became an independent nation as Bangladesh. Many soldiers of India embraced martyrdom in the war. Regarding this, Bangladesh has issued letters of honor to honor the families of the martyred Indian soldiers. Hans Raj, a soldier of 21 Punjab Regiment, a resident of Chamral area under sub-division Fatehpur, also displayed indomitable courage in that battle and wrote his saga of bravery by drinking the cup of martyrdom on 6-12-1971. Remembering the memory of that bravery, soldiers of 21 Punjab Regiment came to his native village Chamral on 28 May 2025 with the honor letter of the Bangladesh government and honored his younger brother Ram Swaroop Sharma by giving him the Liberation War Honor memento and citation. Martyr Hans Raj's younger brother Ramswaroop Sharma said that Hans Raj was the eldest among five brothers. He joined 21 Punjab Regiment on 26 October 1965. During this time he took part in the Pakistan-India war in 1971.



## HIMACHAL: CM SUKHU SAID- FIRST GIVE AFFIDAVIT ON BBMB ARREARS, THEN WE WILL GIVE KISHAU WATER

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, while addressing a public meeting at Dehuri in Banjar development block of Kullu district on Wednesday during his two-day visit, announced to set up a CBSE board based Rajiv Gandhi Day-boarding School and a milk processing unit of 10 thousand liters capacity in Banjar. He said that the state government is making extensive reforms in the field of education and these efforts will continue in the future as well. He said that former Chief Minister Jairam Thakur looted the wealth of the people of the state and distributed electoral freebies of Rs 5,000 crore to win the assembly elections. He opened new institutions but cheated the people of the state by not providing staff and proper facilities. Former Chief Minister Jairam Thakur is responsible for the decline in the level of education. He said that we are not opening new educational institutions, but are appointing teachers in schools and arranging facilities so that children can get better education even in rural areas. Moving on the path of reforms, we created Directorate of School Education from Class 1 to Class 12, started English medium education for students and will make extensive reforms in the field of education in future.

## HP DGP: HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING FOR A NEW DGP, ATUL VERMA IS RETIRING ON 31ST

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the ongoing tussle over the Vimal Negi case, the search for a new Director General of Police has begun in Himachal Pradesh. The tenure of the current DGP Dr. Atul Verma is ending after four days on 31 May. The state government has started the selection process for the new DGP. The government will have to prepare a panel of names of three officers and send it to UPSE. UPSE will assess the eligibility of the officers and make suggestions regarding the new DGP. Sources say that so far the name of 1991 batch IPS officer Shyam Bhagat Negi is leading. Negi is currently on central deputation. He has been invited to come to Himachal from Delhi. Apart from these, the name of IPS officer Anurag Garg is also in the race for DGP. DG Vigilance Ashok Tiwari and IPS officer Satwant Atwal are also in the race for DGP. Shimla.

GOA NOTIFIES DRAFT  
GUIDELINES FOR TAXI  
AGGREGATORS, UPSETS CAB  
DRIVERS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Goa government has released the draft guidelines that would enable app-based taxi aggregators to extend their services in the state, upsetting the state's taxi unions. The government has asked stakeholders to send their comments on the guidelines by June 30. The draft guidelines were notified on May 20. "The government's guidelines are very loosely defined and prompt a fear that people from across the country will come here and start operating taxis," said Sunil Naik, the president of the north and south Goa Taxi Owners Association. The unions say the draft guidelines was an attempt to corporatise the taxi sector. "These guidelines are not acceptable to us and threaten our livelihood," he said. "We are self-made people who have grown up by building our own businesses. We are not about to give that all up and begin working under someone or a company," Naik added. The state government has said the guidelines seek to protect the interests of the state's taxi owners and drivers. The draft guidelines provide the driver should get at least the fare prescribed by the government for each journey. Also, aggregators will have to pay the cab driver's fare within 72 hours of the trip. In case of any delay, the aggregator will have to pay a penalty of 25%.

SHASHI THAROOR LAUDS  
JMM'S SARFARAZ AHMAD FOR  
OFFERING PRAYERS WITH  
HINDU, SIKH COLLEAGUES AT  
PANAMA TEMPLE

**Diary Times Desk :** Congress MP Shashi Tharoor-led all-party delegation visited the Indian Cultural Centre in Panama and offered prayers at a temple there. The delegation made the visit while they were in Panama to put forth India's stance against terrorism emanating from Pakistan. In a post on X, Shashi Tharoor also said it was moving for him to see Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MP Sarfaraz Ahmad, who is a part of the delegation, to join his Hindu and Sikh colleagues at the temple during the visit. Tharoor shared pictures of the temple visit and wrote, "The multi-party MPs' delegation visited the Indian Cultural Centre in Panama City and offered devotions at the beautiful temple there. It was moving to see our Muslim colleague Sarfraz Ahmed join his Hindu and Sikh colleagues at the temple. As he later told the audience, "jab bulane wala ko aitraaz nahin, toh jaane walo ko aitraaz kyon hoga?" All the members of the all-party delegation offered prayers and performed aarti.

'KAMAL HAASAN NOT AWARE OF KANNADA'S  
HISTORY': KARNATAKA CM SIDDARAMAIAH ON  
TAMIL REMARK



**Diary Times Desk :** Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday took a dig at Kamal Haasan over his "Kannada is born out of Tamil" remark, saying that the actor is not aware of the long history of the language. "Kannada has a long-standing history," Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said, according to ANI. "Poor Kamal Haasan, he is unaware of it." A controversy erupted after Kamal Haasan, at the audio launch of his upcoming film 'Thug Life' in Chennai, claimed that 'Tamil gave birth to Kannada'. The comments have sparked outrage among several pro-Kannada outfits. These groups staged protests against Haasan in various parts of the state, like Belagavi, Mysuru, Hubballi, Bengaluru, among others. The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV), one of Karnataka's most vocal Kannada organisations, has now threatened to boycott Haasan's films across Karnataka unless he issues an unconditional apology. "Kamal Haasan must apologise unconditionally to the people of Karnataka for belittling our language. Until he does, we will not permit his movies to screen anywhere in the state," Gowda said.

SHASHI THAROOR PRAISES PM MODI'S  
TERROR RESPONSE, GETS CONGRESS "CC"  
STRIKE

**Diary Times Desk :** Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor's remarks in Panama praising the Narendra Modi government's response to terror since it took over are set to hike the unease between the four-time MP and the Grand Old Party. Shortly after Mr Tharoor mentioned India's retaliatory strikes since 2016, his party colleague Pawan Khera tagged him in a video in which former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh says that many surgical strikes were conducted during the UPA era. While Mr Khera just added a "CC", the message was clear: the Congress is not happy. Addressing a gathering in Panama City as the head of one of the seven Indian delegations that have travelled abroad to expose Pakistan's link to terror, Mr Tharoor said terrorists targeting India have realised in recent years that they will have to pay. "We have suffered attack after attack for almost four decades. It is just not acceptable for us to continue to bear the pain, the grief, the wounds, the losses and then merely go and tell the international community, look what is happening to us. Please help us.

MOCK DRILL TODAY IN 4 STATES BORDERING PAKISTAN, WEEKS AFTER OP SINDOOR

**Diary Times Desk :** Civil defence mock drills are set to begin again from Thursday, in four states bordering Pakistan - Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab as well as Jammu and Kashmir. The Haryana government is also set to conduct a major state-wide civil defence exercise named "Operation Shield," on May 29, across all 22 districts from 5 pm onwards to enhance the state's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. The civil defence mock drills in states bordering Pakistan will be carried out just weeks after India launched Operation Sindoor against the neighbouring nation, and the two countries reached a bilateral understanding to cease all military action and firing. The government had announced countrywide civil defence mock drills in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, as a part of Operation Abhyaas.



GAURAV GOGOI, HIS WIFE INTO  
ANTI-INDIA ACTIVITIES,  
ALLEGES HIMANTA BISWA  
SARMA

**Diary Times Desk :** Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday stepped up his attack on Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, claiming that he had documents to establish that Gogoi and his wife were "deeply into anti-India activities". Sarma also claimed that he had documents to back his allegations against Gogoi, who was appointed Assam Congress president on Monday, and his British wife, Elizabeth but would only make them public on September 10 after an ongoing probe by a special investigation team (SIT) of the state police into the allegations is completed. "I have documents to prove that his wife is involved in collecting various intelligence inputs of Government of India on behalf of a climate lobby. On September 10, I am going to reveal their relationship with the Pakistan army, the interior department of Pakistan and how they are doing all these things for a climate lobby," said the chief minister, who has been targeting Gogoi.

EX-SEBI CHIEF MADHABI PURI BUCH GETS  
LOKPAL CLEAN CHIT ON HINDENBURG  
ALLEGATIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** Lokpal on Wednesday has given a clean chit to former SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch on graft allegations against her based on a Hindenburg report, stating that the claims were "bordering on frivolity," reported PTL. The anti-corruption body stated that allegations against the former SEBI chief were untenable, unsubstantiated and borderline frivolous. They termed the charges as "presumptions and assumptions" which were not supported by any verifiable information. The Lokpal said that the complaints against Madhabi Puri Buch, including the one by TMC MP Mahua Moitra, filed last year were founded on a report by "a known short seller trader whose focus was to expose or corner Adani Group of Companies". While disposing the complaints, the six member bench led by Lokpal chairperson Justice A M Khanwilkar stated that the Hindenburg report could not be the sole basis to demand action against Buch. Buch, who took over as the chief of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on March 2, 2022, resigned from office on February 28, this year after the completion of her tenure.



**BANGLADESH NATIONALIST PARTY  
HOLDS RALLY AS MUHAMMAD YUNUS  
LEAVES FOR JAPAN**

**Diary Times Desk :** A massive political rally commenced in Dhaka this afternoon by three affiliated organisations of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) - Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, and Swachchhasebak Dal - even as interim government advisor Muhammad Yunus embarked on a four-day Japan visit. The rally, titled "Rally for Establishing Youth Political Rights", will see BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman to addressing the rally virtually as the chief guest. The organisers say lakhs of supporters are expected to congregate at the BNP's central office in Nayapaltan Mr Rahman's address will be closely watched as he has been critical of the Yunus-led interim government. A BNP delegation had met Mr Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on May 24 and demanded a clear and immediate roadmap for elections, which should be held by December. The BNP has often expressed its opposition on the interim government taking decisions on matters that have long-term implications for Bangladesh and wants it to focus on primarily holding elections and transfer power to a democratically elected government. The party had stated that the people of Bangladesh do not believe that an interim government has the jurisdiction to make such nationally important and long-term policy decisions.

**THIS SHADOWY US-BACKED AID  
GROUP IS ACCUSED OF HELPING ISRAEL  
IN GAZA**

**Diary Times Desk :** A shadowy US-backed group pledging to distribute aid in Gaza has faced accusations of helping Israel fulfil its military objectives while excluding Palestinians, of bypassing the UN system, and of failing to adhere to humanitarian principles. What do we know about the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), and what criticism has it faced? Registered in Geneva in February, the GHF has no known offices or representatives in the unofficial capital of the humanitarian world. Its former executive director, Jake Wood, announced his resignation on Sunday, saying it was impossible to do his job in line with humanitarian principles. His announcement came hours before the organisation said it would start delivering aid. On Monday, the GHF said it had commenced operations, delivering "truckloads of food to its Secure Distribution.

**CHINA FLEXES MILITARY MUSCLE WITH EAST ASIAN NAVAL ACTIVITY: REPORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** China has flexed its muscles this month by sending an unusually large number of naval and coast guard vessels through a swathe of East Asian waters, according to security documents and officials, in moves that have unnerved regional capitals. Since early May, China deployed fleets larger than usual, including navy, coast guard and other ships near Taiwan, the southern Japanese islands and the East and South China Seas, according to three regional security officials and documents of regional military activities reviewed by Reuters. On May 21 and May 27, for instance, China deployed nearly 60 and more than 70 ships, respectively, around three-quarters of them naval, the documents show. These included guided-missile frigates, destroyers and coast guard boats. Beijing also dispatched two aircraft carrier groups, with the Shandong now in the busy waterway of the South China Sea and the Liaoning off the southeastern coast of Taiwan, the documents show.



**HAMAS GAZA CHIEF MOHAMMED SINWAR  
ELIMINATED BY ISRAELI FORCES: BENJAMIN  
NETANYAHU**



**Diary Times Desk :** Hamas Gaza chief, Mohammad Sinwar, has been eliminated by Israeli forces, the country's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Wednesday, Reuters reported. Mohammad Sinwar was elevated to the top ranks of the Palestinian armed group last year after Israel killed his brother, Yahya Sinwar, in combat. "We eliminated Mohammad Deif, (Ismail) Haniyeh, Yahya Sinwar and Mohammad Sinwar," Netanyahu said, confirming the death to the Israeli parliament, according to Reuters. "In the last two days, we have been in a dramatic turn towards a complete defeat of Hamas," he added. Hamas has yet to confirm Sinwar's death. Earlier, Israeli media reported that Sinwar was targeted in Israeli air strikes in southern Gaza earlier this month. However, it was not confirmed by the Israeli defence forces at the time.

**"WORLD WAR 3": EX-RUSSIAN PRESIDENT  
WARNS TRUMP AFTER PUTIN'S CRITICISM**

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has warned Donald Trump of World War III after the US President said his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, was "playing with fire" by continuing the war with Ukraine. The threat came as Trump said he would "absolutely" consider new sanctions on Moscow amid missile and drone bombardment in Ukraine that left many dead. "Regarding Trump's words about Putin "playing with fire" and "really bad things" happening to Russia. I only know of one REALLY BAD thing - WWII. I hope Trump understands this!" Medvedev said in a post on X. Medvedev served as Russia's President of Russia between 2008 and 2012 and Prime Minister between 2012 and 2020. Trump's frustration at his failure to end a war he said he could solve within 24 hours boiled over the weekend after Russia's drone barrage killed at least 13 people. Diplomatic efforts to end the war have intensified in recent weeks, but Putin has been accused of stalling peace talks. On Tuesday, he warned Putin of serious consequences, saying, "What Vladimir Putin doesn't realise is that if it weren't for me, lots of really bad things would have already happened to Russia, and I mean REALLY BAD.

**FRANCE, INDONESIA CALL FOR  
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN  
PROGRESS AS MACRON VISITS**

**Diary Times Desk :** France and Indonesia called Wednesday for progress on "mutual recognition" between Israel and the Palestinians at a key meeting next month as Emmanuel Macron visited Jakarta, bringing the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation into his diplomatic efforts. It came as Paris and Jakarta signed a series of cooperation agreements, with Macron seeking to deepen trade and defence ties with Southeast Asia's largest economy on a three-country tour promoting France as a balancing power between the United States and China. Speaking next to his French counterpart, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto made the rare pledge of recognising Israel if it allowed for a Palestinian state. Indonesia has no formal ties with Israel and support for the Palestinian cause runs high there. "Indonesia sees that the two-state solution and the freedom of Palestine is the only way to achieve the true peace," Prabowo told a news conference. "We must acknowledge and guarantee Israel's rights as a sovereign country that must be paid attention to and guaranteed safety. Indonesia has stated that once Israel recognises Palestine, Indonesia is ready to recognise Israel and open the diplomatic relationship."

**ISRAEL ATTACKS YEMEN'S  
SANAA AIRPORT; HOUTHIS  
SAY WON'T DETER GAZA  
SUPPORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel says it has launched air strikes on Yemen's main airport in the capital, Sanaa, a day after Yemen's Houthi rebels fired two projectiles towards Israel. The Houthi-affiliated news outlet Al Masirah TV reported on Wednesday that four strikes hit the runway. Khaled al-Shaief, general director of Sanaa International Airport, wrote on X that the strike had completely destroyed the last of the civilian planes that Yemenia Airways was operating from the airport. According to aviation data checked by Al Jazeera, the Yemenia plane was scheduled to take those performing the Muslim Hajj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Defence Minister Israel Katz said that the Israeli air force struck Houthi "terror targets" at the airport and "destroyed the last aircraft remaining". "This is a clear message and a continuation of our policy: Whoever fires at the State of Israel will pay a heavy price," Katz said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement that any harm directed at Israel will meet greater force. "But, as I have said more than once.

## 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.



## URGENCY OVER, HIGH COURT FIXES BBMB CASE HEARING IN JULY

**Diary Times Desk** : Immediate urgency over, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday deferred the hearing in the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) case to July after the summer break. As the matter came up before the Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumet Goel, Punjab submitted that any restriction on access to the BBMB was imposed by the crowd, not the authorities. Senior advocate Gurminder Singh submitted on behalf of the State: "As regards the police presence, it was on their own asking... and the restriction, if any, was by the crowd which had gathered at the spot. Because of the issue being sensitive, the court is aware a large protest has taken place on the site." The submission came barely a month after the BBMB Chairman told the Bench that he had been locked out of the installation by the public — a claim the Bench had earlier termed "unbelievable." The court had also noted that a prima facie case of contempt was made out for non-compliance with its directions restraining interference with BBMB's functioning.

## FAZILKA SSP SUSPENDED AMID MINOR BRIBE ALLEGATIONS OVER VIDEOS IN HIS PHONE

**Diary Times Desk** : A day after the Punjab Vigilance Bureau arrested four cops in Fazilka for taking a bribe from a minor boy over some videos in his phone, the Punjab government on Wednesday suspended SSP Fazilka Varinder Brar in the case. A spokesperson said that following an investigation into the allegations of corruption linked to the bribery case involving four police officers, action was taken against the senior officer. Finance Minister Harpal Cheema had on Tuesday announced the arrest of four cops, emphasising the government's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. The scandal came to light when a Fazilka resident presented evidence to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on the anti-corruption helpline against the cops of the Cyber Crime police station in Fazilka who demanded Rs 1 lakh to resolve a complaint involving the confiscation of the minor's.

## VETERAN AKALI LEADER SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA DIES AT 89

**Diary Times Desk** : Veteran Akali leader and former Union minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa died on Wednesday evening following age-related health issues at a private hospital in Mohali. He was 89. Dhindsa had been admitted to the hospital two to three days ago. Dhindsa's son Parminder Singh Dhindsa was a finance minister in the erstwhile Akali government. Sukhdev Dhindsa was Lok Sabha MP from Sangrur from the Shiromani Akali Dal. He was the Union minister of sports, chemicals and fertilizers in Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. In March last year, Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa merged his faction, SAD (Sanyukt), with the Sukhbir Singh Badal-led Shiromani Akali Dal. The merger came nearly four years after Dhindsa and his son were expelled from the party in February 2020 over alleged anti-party activities. Following their expulsion, the father-son duo had launched SAD (Sanyukt). Dhindsa Sr once held the influential position of secretary general in the SAD and was widely regarded as the party's second-in-command after patriarch Parkash Singh Badal. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann also mourned the sad demise of Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, who is survived by his wife, son, and two daughters.

## RACHEL GUPTA STEPS DOWN AS MISS GRAND INTERNATIONAL, CITES TOXIC ENVIRONMENT, MISTREATMENT

**Diary Times Desk** : Rachel Gupta, the first Indian to be crowned Miss Grand International, has stepped down from her title less than a year after her historic win. The 20-year-old model from Jalandhar announced her decision on Wednesday, citing "broken promises, mistreatment, and a toxic environment" within the organisation as the reasons behind her move. Rachel had won the Miss Grand International 2024 crown in a glittering ceremony held in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 25 last year. Her victory followed her earlier triumph in "Miss Grand India 2024", organised by Glamanand in August last year, which earned her a spot at the international pageant. In a heartfelt message to her followers, Rachel expressed her disappointment, saying the dream she had worked hard to achieve had turned into a painful experience. "This wasn't an easy decision, but it was the right one for me," she wrote. "I was filled with pride and hope to represent my country, but what followed were months of silence, disrespect, and neglect." She added that a full video explaining her experience would be released soon. However, the Miss Grand International Organisation painted a different picture. In a public statement posted on Instagram, the organisation claimed that Rachel had failed to meet.

## HC FLAGS RISE OF IMMIGRATION SCAMS EXPLOITING INDIANS, HARMING NATIONAL IMAGE

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has flagged the alarming rise in immigration scams, where unscrupulous agents posing as travel facilitators dupe Indian nationals into illegal routes abroad, resulting in deportations, detentions, and irreparable harm to both the individuals and the country's reputation. "Unscrupulous agents masquerading as travel agents have, in recent years, become a menace. In multiple instances, Indian nationals have been deported or detained in foreign countries after being routed through illegal channels by such unscrupulous elements, resulting in irreparable harm, both to the individuals and to the reputation of the country," Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul asserted. The assertion came as Justice Kaul made it clear that the custodial interrogation of an accused in one such matter was not only warranted but necessary to unearth the wider network of criminal syndicates. "This case is yet another grim reflection of that unfortunate trend. The allegations, if proved, constitute a case of human exploitation and aggravated fraud, carried out under the garb of immigration. The custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not only warranted but necessary to unearth the wider network of such criminal syndicates," Justice Kaul asserted.

## FINAL LOCATION SURVEY FOR GURDASPUR-MUKERIAN RAIL LINK PROJECT GETS A NOD

**Diary Times Desk** : In a significant development for the region, the Ministry of Railways has approved the final location survey for the proposed 30 km Gurdaspur-Mukerian rail link. Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries, Ravneet Singh Bittu, announced the news, highlighting the strategic importance of this new railway line in enhancing regional connectivity. The link will also serve as an additional route to Amritsar. Bittu described Gurdaspur, located in Punjab's Majha region between the Ravi and Beas rivers, as a key district headquarters that shares a border with Pakistan. The area serves as a loading station for food grains and fertilisers, handling an average of five rakes per month. Additionally, two GCTs — Chinna and Kathunangal — operate in close proximity to the Gurdaspur station. Currently, goods traffic from the region travels to and from Ambala via Amritsar and Jalandhar (approximately 140 km) or through Pathankot and Jalandhar (around 142 km).



**HP HIGH COURT'S JUSTICE  
TARLOK SINGH  
CHAUHAN'S NAME  
RECOMMENDED AS CJ OF  
JHARKHAND HC**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court Collegium yesterday recommended the name of Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, the senior-most Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court. Justice Chauhan belongs to Rohru tehsil in Shimla district. He had 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 law in the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh on February 23, 2014, and thereafter was appointed a permanent Judge of the High Court on November 30, 2014. Justice Chauhan is the Executive Chairman of the HP State Legal Service Authority and is also on the board of the Governing Council of Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla. He had also remained the president of the HP Judicial Academy.

**'KINDLY IGNORE': SONU  
SOOD REACTS TO  
BACKLASH OVER VIRAL  
VIDEO OF RIDING BIKE  
WITHOUT HELMET IN SPITI**

**Diary Times Desk :** Actor Sonu Sood is facing criticism after a video showing him riding a bike without a helmet in Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley went viral on social media. Responding to the viral uproar, the Lahaul-Spiti police issued an official statement on X, confirming an investigation was underway. Hours later, Sonu reacted to the backlash from netizens in an Instagram Story, this time wearing the helmet. Sonu said, "Safety First. We always abide by the laws. An old clip without the helmet was a part of our script. So kindly ignore." Earlier, the footage, which captured the actor shirtless and leading a group of bikers, has drawn widespread backlash, particularly because Sonu has previously supported road safety campaigns. Just days earlier, Sonu had participated in a road safety initiative. The online reaction was swift and harsh. One X user wrote, "So will @himachalpolice take any action on @SonuSood for riding naked without a helmet in Spiti?"

**2 YOUTHS ELECTROCUTED IN PARWANOO AS MOTORCYCLE GETS ENTANGLED IN  
LOOSE HIGH-TENSION WIRES**

**Diary Times Desk :** Two youths were electrocuted as the motorcycle they were riding got entangled in loose high-tension wires in Tikri Naryal area of Parwanoo in this district on Tuesday night. They suffered severe burns and were rushed to the ESI Hospital, where the doctors declared them dead on arrival. Basant Kumar, 35, was a resident of Rae Bareilly and Brajesh Kumar, 22, a resident of Kushinagar, both in Uttar Pradesh. The two after work at a printing press were returning to their rented accommodation. The police have registered an FIR under sections of a reckless act endangering the safety of others and culpable homicide. SP Gaurav Singh said the loose wires were live; had the power supply been cut after the wires got loose, the accident could have been averted. Executive engineer Vikas Gupta said the pin insulator of a regulator had burst causing a blast that left the wires loose. Since the incident took place at night, the loose wires scattered on the road could not be spotted, he added.



**BJP LEADERS MEET HIMACHAL GUV  
OVER VIMAL NEGI DEATH, RAISE  
CONCERNS OVER EVIDENCE  
TAMPERING, FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES**

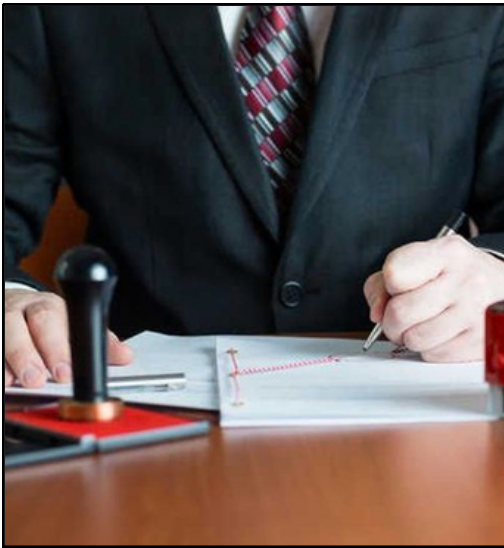
**Diary Times Desk :** The BJP on Wednesday urged Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla to ensure that there is no tampering of evidence in Vimal Negi death case and all allegations levelled by the Shimla SP against senior IAS and IPS officers are looked into to bring out the truth. BJP Legislature party--led by Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur--state BJP president Rajeev Bindal, MPs Suresh Kashyap, Harsh Mahajan and Rajeev Bhardwaj, Himachal BJP incharge Shrikant Sharma and co-incharge Sanjay Tandon, submitted a memorandum to the Governor. They urged Shukla to ensure that there is no tampering with record in the Vimal Negi case and all record is duly handed over to the CBI team. The BJP delegation said the manner in which the SP had levelled allegations against all his seniors, both IAS and IPS, only reflected the "indiscipline" in the services. The delegation also demanded the suspension of the Shimla SP for "irresponsible behaviour". "The CBI inquiry must also look into the allegations of financial irregularities and corruption in the Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd, which is setting up both solar and hydel power projects in the state," the delegation said. Highlighting the issue of concealing of crucial evidence like a pen drive found with Negi's body.

**HIMACHAL DGP, ADDL CS, SHIMLA  
SP RELIEVED OF DUTIES OVER  
INDISCIPLINE**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Government on Tuesday cracked the whip against officers accused of indiscipline in the handling of the Vimal Negi death case by sending DGP Atul Verma, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Onkar Sharma and Shimla SP Sanjeev Gandhi on leave. The three are likely to be issued show-cause notices. Verma is due to retire on May 31 and the additional charge of the DGP has been given to 1993-batch IPS officer Ashok Tiwari, currently posted as DGP (Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau). The High Court had recently handed over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a petition filed by Negi's family. Negi, an HP Power Corporation Limited chief engineer, had gone missing on March 10 and his body was found in the Gobind Sagar Lake in Bilaspur on March 18. The leave orders may spell trouble for Verma, who in his affidavit before the High Court, had made the revelation of a missing pen drive, which, he had claimed, was not made part of the case record and had been formatted. A likely legal battle may further make it difficult for him to get his pension and other benefits. ACS Sharma has been divested of all portfolios, including Home and Revenue, which have been given to other officers.

**HIMACHAL, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ISSUED NOTICE OVER EXTENSION TO  
CHIEF SECRETARY**

**Diary Times Desk :** The HP High Court has issued a notice to the state and Central governments and Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena on a petition seeking the quashing of extension given to Saxena on the ground that it was done in violation of the Central Services Rules and the guidelines of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma passed the order on a petition filed by Atul Sharma, who contended therein that the revised guidelines regarding the grant of vigilance clearance provide that it could be denied if a chargesheet had been filed in court by an investigating agency in a pending criminal case and the competent authority had granted sanction for prosecution in a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, (as amended in 2018) or any other criminal matter pending in a trial court. The petitioner alleged that Saxena was facing a criminal case under the provision of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and the vigilance clearance was given to him in violation of the prevailing norms.



## IPL 2025: TROPHY-STARVED PBKS, RCB IN FINAL-BOUND FACEOFF

**Diary Times Desk :** As far as narratives and sub-plots go, IPL 2025 could not have got a better match-up for the first qualifier with a final spot up for grabs. Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, two peas of a trophy-less pod, have often looked in from the outside longingly, at many-a title fights over the years. It's not that the two franchises do not know what playing in an IPL final means. Kings XI Punjab – the erstwhile name of PBKS – finished runners-up in 2014, and RCB did it thrice in 2009, 2011 and 2016. The fans know and remember, and the management has lived the feeling of having the stakes multiplied infinitely. But the rigours and failures in the seasons since further amplify their achievement of 2025. PBKS have consistently operated in a zone of mediocrity since George Bailey's side lost the title to KKR 11 seasons ago. RCB have been better, making it to the playoffs in five of the six seasons since 2020 but never as a top-two side. 2025 has been a breath of fresh, rarefied air for the two teams often associated with falling short. PBKS have hit a hard reset in personnel and mentality – the Ricky Ponting-Shreyas Iyer duo bringing swagger and identity to a side in desperate need of both. RCB, with a far more chiseled persona despite the absence of success not adding up, have pulled off an un-RCB like achievement of acing squad balance.



## IPL 2025: PANT ENDS DISAPPOINTING SEASON ON A HIGH

**Diary Times Desk :** Having ended a disappointing season for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) with a fine unbeaten ton against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Tuesday, skipper Rishabh Pant is a relieved man. Though Pant's second IPL ton – his first this season – failed to take LSG home who were undone by a stunning assault from RCB skipper Jitesh Sharma, it turned out to be a big confidence booster for Team India's vice-captain ahead of the Test series in England, starting June 20. His post-match comments indicated Pant's relief who has endured a horrid season with the bat, besides failing to lead LSG to the top-four. "Just want to switch off for a few days, not think about cricket and then the England series is coming up and just preparing for that in a good frame of mind," the 27-year-old said. Pant hit his stride early against RCB, smashing a six and two boundaries off Yash Dayal. That 18-run over set him perfectly on course as he ended with 118\* in 61 balls with the help of 11 fours and eight sixes. His celebration on reaching the ton left the crowded Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in raptures. Coming into the game against RCB, Pant had scored just 151 runs in 13 games, averaging 13.73 with a strike rate of 107.09. No one had expected such a turnaround as he eventually finished the season with 268 runs at an average of 24.45.

## HARSHA BHOGLE BLASTS 'SPIRIT OF CRICKET DEBATE' AFTER JITESH SHARMA-DIGVESH RATHI EPISODE

**Diary Times Desk :** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) found an unexpected hero in the form of Jitesh Sharma as the franchise's stand-in captain delivered a performance for the ages, helping his team beat Lucknow Super Giants by 6 wickets on Tuesday. The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 clash saw RCB chase down the mammoth target of 228 runs sparing 8 balls, with Jitesh scoring 85 runs off just 33 balls. However, RCB could've lost Jitesh when LSG spinner Digvesh Rathi attempted a non-striker run-out in the 17th over of the second innings. Though the umpire deemed Jitesh not-out, even as LSG captain Rishabh Pant decided to withdraw the appeal, the entire episode triggered yet another 'spirit of cricket' debate over the nature of the attempted dismissal. Pant was lauded by many for 'uplifting' the 'spirit of cricket' as he decided to withdraw the appeal following Digvesh's attempt to dismiss Jitesh. Famous Indian commentator Harsha Bhogle expressed his disappointment over the 'spirit of cricket' debate being triggered over the incident. "I have no problem with the umpire turning down the appeal if he thinks the non-striker was inside the crease when the bowler's arm had crossed the point where he is expected to release the ball. I am disappointed when the spirit of the game is invoked. You play by the laws," Harsha posted on X (formerly Twitter).



## FRESH BLOW TO INDIA AHEAD OF ENGLAND TESTS: SHUBMAN GILL SET TO SKIP THIS CRUCIAL MATCH - REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** India's new Test captain Shubman Gill is likely to miss the second warm-up game in Northampton, according to a report. India A are scheduled to play the England Lions in a two-match series, starting May 30, while the second match will get underway on June 6. Gill is currently leading Gujarat Titans (GT) who have qualified for the playoffs. GT will be in action on Friday against Mumbai Indians (MI) in the Eliminator. The IPL 2025 final will be played on June 3, and if GT qualified for the summit clash, reaching England in two days could be a huge challenge. According to a report in the Indian Express, the Indian team management has decided to give rest to Gill ahead of the five-match Test series. "India's new Test captain Shubman Gill is likely to miss the second warm-up game at Northampton, which will be played on June 6. Gill is currently leading Gujarat Titans for IPL which has qualified for the qualifiers. The final is scheduled on June 3, and if his team qualifies, it could be a scramble to reach England in two days' time. So the team management has decided to give him some rest before the 46-day tour starts," the report said. As Gill prepares for his first series as Test captain, his decision to prioritize strategic preparation over traditional practice matches.

## RISHABH PANT, ENTIRE LSG TEAM PENALISED BY BCCI OVER CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH

**Diary Times Desk :** Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain Rishabh Pant has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their match in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Tuesday, according to an IPL media advisory. As it was his team's third offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Rishabh Pant was fined 30 Lakh. The remaining members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined 12 Lakh or 50 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser. Coming to the match, with a six-run defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Lucknow's topsy-turvy IPL 2025 campaign ended on a bitter note in their home den. Churning out five victories out of their eight fixtures and then standing with a solitary win in the last six fixtures ruled them out of the race for the playoffs. Stand-in RCB captain Jitesh Sharma arguably played the knock of his life and lifted Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a handsome victory as they overcame Lucknow Super Giants with a six-wicket triumph in the final group stage game of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

## GAUTAM GAMBHIR AVOIDS QUESTION ON SHREYAS IYER'S TEST EXCLUSION: I AM NOT SELECTOR

**Diary Times Desk :** India head coach Gautam Gambhir remained tight-lipped on Shreyas Iyer's exclusion from the Test squad for the upcoming England tour, choosing not to comment on the decision despite the growing public debate. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Gambhir simply said, "I am not a selector," when asked about Iyer's omission. Shreyas has been in outstanding form this season, amassing 514 runs across 14 matches for Punjab Kings, making him the franchise's top run-scorer in IPL 2025. Despite his crucial role in guiding PBKS to the playoffs, he was surprisingly left out of India's 18-man squad for the upcoming five-match Test series beginning June 20 in Leeds. His omission has left both fans and former cricketers puzzled and disappointed. The Indian team, set to depart for England next month, will play five Tests at Headingley in Leeds (June 20-24), Edgbaston in Birmingham (July 2-6), Lord's (July 10-14), Old Trafford in Manchester (July 23-27).