

## FLOOD IN ASSAM

## FLOOD SITUATION IN ASSAM CRITICAL AS OVER 5.35 LAKH AFFECTED; TOLL RISES TO 11

**Diary Times Desk :** Guwahati, Jun 2 The flood situation in Assam remained critical on Monday with more than 5.35 lakh people affected by the deluge in 22 districts as the death toll increased by one to reach 11, while 15 rivers were flowing in a spate, an official bulletin said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Lakhimpur district, among the worst-hit areas, and assured the affected people of all possible assistance.

The Regional Meteorological Centre in Guwahati has said that moderate rainfall is very likely to occur at most places of Assam, while heavy to very heavy rainfall has been predicted at a few places and extremely heavy rainfall in isolated places. Road, rail and ferry services remained affected in the state due to heavy rain in several areas. An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said 5,15,039 people in 65 revenue circles and 1,254 villages of 22 districts have been affected by floods.

The worst-hit district is Sribhumi where 1,94,172 people are reeling under the deluge, followed by Cachar district with 77,961 affected people and Nagaon with 67,880 flood-hit people. One death was reported in the last 24 hours from Doboka revenue circle of Hojai district, taking the toll in floods and landslides to 11. Two other persons, one each from Hailakandi and Dibrugarh, have been reported missing.



## G7 SUMMIT CANADA

## INDIA NOT INVITED TO G7 SUMMIT IN CANADA, LIKELY TO SKIP EVENT: SOURCES



**Diary Times Desk :** India has not received an invitation for the upcoming G7 Summit, scheduled to be held from June 15 to June 17 in Canada, according to official sources. There have been no advance visits or indications of a high-level dignitary visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As a result, it appears that India will not participate in the G7 summit in Canada.

In the past, PM Modi has attended the summit successively for six years, making this the first time India will be absent from the event. Traditionally, the host country has discretion over guest invitations, agenda setting, and the tone of the summit, allowing them to tailor the event to their priorities and foreign policy objectives.

The G7 is an informal grouping of the world's most industrialised economies, including the US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Canada. The European Union, IMF, World Bank, and UN are also invited.

The G7 Summit's timing is notable, given the strained relationship between India and Canada following the killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June 2023.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations of Indian involvement were vehemently denied by India, which termed them "baseless".

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, had stated on multiple occasions last month that there was "no information" on PM Modi's visit to Canada for the summit.

### PM TO CHAIR MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; FIRST AFTER OPERATION SINDOOR

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers on Wednesday, the first after the Pahalgam terror attack and the subsequent Operation Sindoor, officials said. The meeting is also being held as the Modi 3.0 government completes one year in office this month. The Council of Ministers meets every three months, where the implementation of key government policies is discussed threadbare in the presence of top bureaucrats. The meeting assumes significance as it is the first after the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack in April and the subsequent strikes carried out by the armed forces deep inside Pakistan to avenge the killings of innocent civilians. Indian and Pakistani forces had clashed after Operation Sindoor.



### INDIA, PARAGUAY TO WORK TOGETHER TO EXPAND SOUTH AMERICA TRADE BLOC

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the visiting Paraguay President Santiago Pena Palacois on Monday that both the countries could work together to further expand the preferential trade agreement with other South American countries and their trading bloc MERCOSUR. MERCOSUR (Mercado Común del Sur, or Common Market of the South) is a trading bloc in South America, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It was founded in 1991 with the aim of establishing a customs union and a common market, allowing for the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people among member countries. "We see new opportunities for cooperation in areas such as digital technology, critical minerals, energy, agriculture, health care, defence, railways, space, and overall economic partnership. We have a Preferential Trade Agreement with MERCOSUR.

### 'IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO BE PATRIOTIC': SALMAN KHURSHID'S CRYPTIC POST ON DIPLOMATIC MISSION ABROAD



**Diary Times Desk :** Congress leader Salman Khurshid, who is a part of India's diplomatic mission abroad, on Monday said it is "distressing" that people back home are calculating political allegiances and asked if it is "so difficult to be patriotic". Khurshid, a former external affairs minister, is part of a delegation led by JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha which is currently in Malaysia after visiting Indonesia, South Korea, Japan and Singapore to convey India's message against terrorism in the wake of April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor launched on May 7. Taking to X and without naming anyone, the senior Congress leader said, "When on mission against terrorism, to carry India's message to the world, it's distressing that people at home are calculating political allegiances. Is it so difficult to be patriotic?" Khurshid's cryptic post comes after Congress MP Shashi Tharoor faced attacks from party leaders, including Udit Raj, who called him a "super spokesperson of BJP" for remarks which were perceived to favour the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Tharoor is leading one of the seven delegations and is currently in Brazil.

### NEET PG EXAM POSTPONED, TO BE CONDUCTED IN SINGLE SHIFT

**Diary Times Desk :** The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has postponed the NEET PG 2025 exam scheduled on June 15 to arrange more test centres as the examination will now be conducted in a single shift. NBEMS has notified the candidates appearing for the NEET PG exam that the revised date for the exam will be announced in due course of time. The postponement comes after the Supreme Court's verdict to conduct the NEET PG 2025 examination in a single shift to ensure that "complete transparency is maintained". "NEET-PG 2025 scheduled to be held on 15.06.2025 has been postponed to arrange for more Test Centres and required infrastructure. The revised date for conduct of NEET-PG 2025 shall be notified shortly," NBEMS said in the notification. The June 15 exams were to be held across 900 centres in the country.



#### YOUR HOROSCOPE

03-06-2025

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

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

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

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





## HIMACHAL BJP CORE GROUP MEETING: JP NADDA SAID IN SOLAN- LEADERS AND WORKERS SHOULD UNITE AND WORK FOR THE ORGANIZATION

**Diary Times Desk :** BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda gave the message to BJP leaders in Solan to work unitedly for the organization. He said that BJP should form teams for the upcoming Panchayat elections. In this, workers should go door-to-door and take the pulse of the voters from now on. On completion of 11 years of Modi government, a special report card will be made of the field visits of BJP leaders. They will have to promote the schemes of the central government in the field. Programs will be organized at various levels on 11 years of Modi government from resolution to accomplishment. In this, there will be a developed India resolution meeting in every division. The meeting of BJP Core Committee was held under the chairmanship of National President Jagat Prakash Nadda. Nadda gave instructions to gear up for the elections. Nadda said that workers should go door-to-door and convey the failures of the state government to the people. He also asked to be ready for the elections of urban bodies. Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, BJP State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal, National Vice President Saudan Singh, State Incharge Shrikant Sharma, Co-Incharge Sanjay Tandon, Organization General Secretary Siddharth, MP Harsh Mahajan, members Vipin Parmar, Rakesh Jamwal, Trilok Jamwal, Trilok Kapoor, Bihari Lal Sharma, Dr. Sikandar Kumar, Rajiv Saizal, Suresh Kashyap, Satpal Satti.



## HIMACHAL NEWS: CM SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- 2100 FOREST FRIENDS APPOINTED IN HIMACHAL, 55 PERCENT GIRLS

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that about 2100 Van Mitras have been appointed in the Forest Department. More than 55 percent of them are girls. On Monday, Chief Minister Sukhu inspected the passing parade of Van Mitras at the sports ground of Polytechnic Institute Baru and interacted with them. He also administered the oath of conservation of forests to Van Mitras. The Chief Minister said that forest conservation was being hindered due to lack of field staff in the Forest Department, so Van Mitras have been appointed on the basis of merit. Daughters have gone ahead in getting jobs. He told the Van Mitras that you should rest assured, a policy will be considered for your future. You are the true protectors of forests. The state government has also increased the reservation for women to 30 percent in police recruitment. The Chief Minister launched the Rajiv Gandhi Forest Conservation Scheme in Hamirpur. He also provided certificates to Amlahad and Bhavdaan Mahila Mandal of Naidun. Both the Mahila Mandals will plant saplings on two hectares of forest land each and will also ensure their care for five years.

## HIMACHAL: IN CASE OF ROAD ACCIDENT IN HIMACHAL, CASHLESS TREATMENT UP TO RS 1.5 LAKH WILL BE AVAILABLE, THIS IS THE PLAN OF THE CENTER

**Diary Times Desk :** Any victim of a road accident in Himachal Pradesh will be given cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh. Hospitals will be empanelled for this. The victim will get cashless treatment in such hospitals for a maximum of seven days from the date of the accident. On June 11, the Secretary of the Union Transport Ministry has called a virtual meeting in this regard. Additional Chief Secretary Transport RD Nazim will attend it. In this, Himachal will be asked how ready it is to implement the scheme on a pilot basis. This scheme is to be implemented through the State Health Advisory Council. The scheme has been implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Central Government to reduce deaths due to road accidents. Currently this scheme has been implemented in UT Chandigarh, Puducherry etc. Now it is being implemented in Himachal and Madhya Pradesh under the pilot program. This program will be implemented by the National Health Authority in coordination with local police, state health agency, panelized hospitals.



## HPU GOT PERMANENT VICE CHANCELLOR AFTER WAITING FOR THREE YEARS, GOVERNMENT HANDED OVER THE COMMAND TO PROF. MAHAVIR SINGH

**Diary Times Desk :** After a long wait of three years, Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) has got Prof. Mahavir Singh of the Department of Physics as the new Vice Chancellor. On Monday, Governor and HPU Chancellor Shiv Pratap Shukla issued orders to appoint Prof. Mahavir to the post of VC for a period of three years. He took charge as the 28th Vice Chancellor of the university on Monday. Prof. Mahavir is a resident of Kumarsain in Shimla district. He has also worked in the French lab where Rafale was made. Prof. Mahavir has been among the top 2 percent scientists globally in the Stanford University rankings in 2024. Prof. Mahavir has been decorated in the field of applied physics (physical science). He received this honor in magnetic nanotechnology. With more than 13 years of dedicated research, Professor Mahavir has discovered innovative applications of magnetic nanotechnology in the green energy sector, especially for electric vehicles and in communication. While focusing on GHz frequency range antenna miniaturization, his work has also focused on the activity of biological cells and enzymes.

## HIMACHAL WEATHER: FORECAST OF MORE THAN NORMAL RAIN THIS MONSOON SEASON

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh is likely to receive above normal rainfall (more than 109% of LPA) in the southwest monsoon season. The normal rainfall for the state during the period 1971-2020 is considered to be 734.4 in the southwest monsoon season. A forecast in this regard has been issued by the Meteorological Center Shimla on Monday. The monsoon season in the state runs from June to September. Most parts of the state are likely to receive above normal rainfall during June. Normal rainfall (101.1) millimeters has been considered for June. According to the Meteorological Department, above normal rainfall is beneficial for agriculture and water resources, but also brings risks such as flooding, disruption of transport, public health concerns and damage to the ecosystem. Strategies to deal with these risks may include strengthening infrastructure, using IMD's early warning systems, strengthening monitoring and conservation initiatives, and establishing response mechanisms in particularly vulnerable areas.

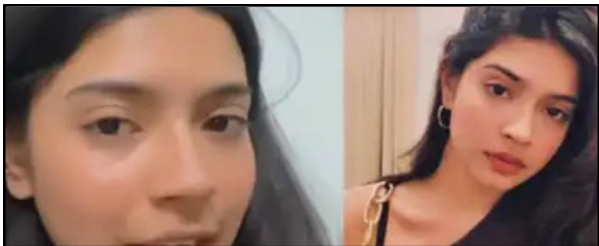
3 KILLED AS LANDSLIDE HITS ARMY CAMP IN NORTH SIKKIM; 9 MISSING

**Diary Times Desk :** At least three army personnel were killed and nine were missing after a landslide hit an army camp at Chatten in North Sikkim late on Sunday night. Meanwhile, 1,600 tourists stranded in Lachung since May 30 were rescued on Monday morning, officials said. "The army camp at Chatten was hit by a landslide after the water level in the Lachen River increased. Three bodies of army personnel have been recovered and nine army personnel are missing. Search operation by the army is going on," said Arun Thatal, sub-divisional police officer of Chungthang in Mangan district. Last Thursday, nine people including eight tourists went missing in North Sikkim after the vehicle, in which they were travelling, fell into the swollen Teesta River. All of them are suspected to be dead. Chatten, which is around 3 km from Lachen, is amongst the most affected by the landslides and it houses many army camps.

IMD ISSUES THUNDERSTORM ALERT FOR DELHI; STRONG WINDS LIKELY TO HIT CAPITAL IN NEXT 2-3 HOURS

**Diary Times Desk :** After a day of sudden gusty winds, dust storms and adverse weather conditions, Delhi is again likely to receive thunderstorms and light rains accompanied with strong winds gusting up to 60 kmph in the next 2-3 hours on Monday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s alert comes just a day after strong gusty winds—followed by rains—swept through the NCR region, forcing the diversion of 14 Delhi-bound flights. A Delhi-bound IndiGo flight was forced to abort landing and climbed away as winds in the region gusted up to 80 kmph. After several circuits in the air, the aircraft landed safely at the Delhi airport. The IMD has further issued a multi-hazard warning for multiple states, including Chandigarh, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh and other Northeastern states, warning of thundersqualls and thunderstorms on Monday, June 2. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura – Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places. 2. East Rajasthan, Kerala, Mahe and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim – Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places. 3. Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and West Uttar Pradesh – Thundersquall with wind speed reaching (50-60 kmph) very likely at isolated places.

MAN WHO FILED COMPLAINT AGAINST SHARMISHTHA PANOLI MISSING, CLAIMS HIS FATHER



**Diary Times Desk :** The man who filed a police complaint based on which social media influencer and law student Sharmishtha Panoli was arrested in Gurugram, has allegedly gone missing. The father of Wajahat Khan, the complainant, has claimed that had not been seen since last (Sunday) night and that the family had been receiving threatening phone calls ever since Panoli's arrest. Sharmishtha Panoli's arrest by the Kolkata Police sparked an outrage on Sunday, with several BJP leaders calling for her release. She was arrested over a video in which she used abusive language and made communal remarks criticising Muslim Bollywood celebrities for remaining silent on Operation Sindoor. Wajahat Khan, the complainant in the case that led to Panoli's arrest, received threatening calls following Panoli's arrest, his family claimed. "My son is innocent and secular. He cannot insult Hinduism. We have been receiving threats since Sharmistha's arrest," his father Saadat Khan said in an interview with Aaj Tak, India Today's sister channel.

INDIGO FLIGHT TO RANCHI MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER HIT BY 'VULTURE', AIRCRAFT DAMAGED

**Diary Times Desk :** A Ranchi-bound IndiGo flight was forced to make an emergency landing on Monday, PTI news agency reported, citing officials. Officials added that the emergency landing happened due to a bird hit and all 175 passengers on board were safe. PTI further reported that the aircraft suffered damage after it was hit by vulture around 4,000 feet altitude. "An IndiGo flight suffered a bird hit near Ranchi. It was approximately 10 to 12 nautical miles away from here, at about 3,000 to 4,000 feet altitude, when the incident occurred. The IndiGo flight was coming from Patna to Ranchi, and the pilot had to make an emergency landing here," Birsamunda Airport, Ranchi, Director R R Maurya told news agency PTI. He added that the "aircraft suffered a dent after being hit by a vulture. Engineers are assessing the damage." On Sunday, an IndiGo flight heading to Delhi experienced major turbulence due to the intense weather in the national capital.

INDORE COUPLE MISSING IN MEGHALAYA: MAN'S BODY FOUND, SEARCH FOR WIFE CONTINUES

**Diary Times Desk :** The body of a man from Indore in Madhya Pradesh who had gone missing along with his wife in Meghalaya recently was found on Monday, while search for his wife continues, a police official said here. Raja Raghuwanshi and his wife Sonam had gone missing on May 23 in Sohra (also known as Cherrapunji) in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district after going there for their honeymoon. "Meghalaya police recovered a body on Monday which was identified as that of Raja Raghuwanshi by his brother Vipin Raghuwanshi. The time and other details of the death will be had after we get the post mortem report. The police have not got any clue so far of Sonam Raghuwanshi," Indore Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Prevention Branch) Rajesh Kumar Tripathi told PTI. Raja Raghuwanshi's family runs a transport business, with kin saying the couple got married here on May 11 and left for Meghalaya on May 20.

LEFT WAITING IN AMBULANCE FOR HOURS, MINOR RAPE VICTIM DIES AT PATNA HOSPITAL

**Diary Times Desk :** A minor from Bihar's Muzaffarpur, who was raped and subsequently assaulted, died on Sunday morning in Patna. The girl was lured with a chocolate near her aunt's house and taken to a maize field in Muzaffarpur, where she was raped on May 26. The rape victim was referred to Patna Medical College Hospital (PMCH), where she was made to wait for five hours after registration on Saturday -- just a day before she died. The deceased girl's uncle, Virendra Paswan, alleged that they were made to wait in the ambulance with the child for two hours, but the hospital administration did not admit her. He claimed that if the girl had been admitted to PMCH in time, her life could have been saved. According to the police, there were slash wounds on the girl's throat and chest. The accused tried to kill her by slitting her throat. "Her vocal cords were damaged, and she was unable to speak. The accused was arrested," a police official told PTI.

ANNA UNIVERSITY SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE CONVICT JAILED FOR 30 YEARS WITHOUT REMISSION

**Diary Times Desk :** A Chennai court on Monday sentenced the 37-year-old man convicted of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old Anna University student after trespassing on the campus in December 2024 to life imprisonment, saying he must remain in prison for at least 30 years without remission. Judge M Rajalakshmi pronounced the sentence, citing the severity of the crime. On Wednesday last, she convicted Gnanasekaran, five months after the assault at the premier university triggered concerns over women's safety and state-wide protests. Gnanasekaran was found guilty of all charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Information Technology Act, and the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act. Gnanasekaran was brought to the court from the Puzhal Central Prison for the sentence pronouncement. The First Information Report in the case said that Gnanasekaran forced the student to perform "sexual acts". Gnanasekaran, who worked as a vendor near the university, faced 20 other cases and was convicted in six of them related to petty crimes such as theft and housebreaking.





## IRAN DEMANDS SANCTIONS RELIEF GUARANTEE IN NUCLEAR TALKS WITH US

**Diary Times Desk :** Iran has demanded that the United States clarify exactly how sanctions will be lifted if the two sides are to reach a new agreement on Tehran's nuclear programme. Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Esmail Baghaei made the comments on Monday, days after the US submitted what it described as an "acceptable" proposal. Unverified reports claim that Iran sees the offer as a "non-starter" and is preparing to reject it. The pair has conducted seven weeks of negotiations over the nuclear programme, with the US seeking assurances that it is peaceful, while Iran hopes to escape punishing sanctions that have battered its economy in recent years. However, Tehran is now demanding Washington detail what it is offering, reflecting scepticism voiced earlier this year by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In remarks carried by the official IRNA news agency, Baghaei stressed the need for guarantees regarding the "real end of the sanctions", including details on "how and through what mechanism" they would be removed.

## RUSSIA, UKRAINE AGREE TO SWAP 6,000 BODIES OF SOLDIERS IN PEACE TALKS DAY AFTER KYIV'S MASSIVE DRONE ATTACK

**Diary Times Desk :** Delegations from Russia and Ukraine met at Ciran Palace in Turkey on Monday for their second round of direct peace talks in just over two weeks, in an attempt to put an end to the three-year long war and a day after Kyiv launched a massive drone attack, targetting Moscow's airbases. Russia and Ukraine agreed at the peace talks to swap 6,000 bodies of soldiers killed in action, reports AP news agency, citing officials. The latest round of direct peace talks between Russia and Ukraine went on for over an hour. Defense minister Rustem Umerov led the Ukrainian delegation as said in a message posted on the Ukrainian Embassy WhatsApp group by Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesperson Heorhii Tykhvi. Ukraine's Umerov said after the meeting that a new Prisoners of War (PoW) exchange was agreed, to focus on severely injured, and young people. Turkish foreign minister Hakan Fidan presided over the talks. Turkish intelligence agency officials were also present at the meeting.

## BANGLADESH DROPS BANGABANDHU FROM TAKA. HINDU, BUDDHIST HERITAGE SHOWCASED

**Diary Times Desk :** Bangladesh's interim government has taken another step in eroding the legacy of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of the nation. On Monday, Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser of Bangladesh, unveiled new currency notes that will soon come into circulation - however, these won't feature Bangabandhu on it. Critics of the Yunus Government see this as an effort to wipe out the legacy of the Father of the Nation. This comes after other similar steps, like rewriting history books and diluting Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's contribution in Bangladesh's freedom struggle, and removing his statues from several prominent locations. Instead of Sheikh Mujib, the redesigned Taka notes feature the cultural landmarks of Bangladesh. Since 1971, when Bangladesh gained independence from West Pakistan, Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's image has featured on all banknotes. Justifying the decision to remove Bangabandhu's image, authorities in Bangladesh say that the move is a step towards depoliticising national symbols amid heightened political tension in the country.

## 3 KILLED, DOZENS WOUNDED IN ISRAELI FIRE AT GAZA AID SITE: REPORT



**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli fire killed at least three Palestinians and wounded dozens of others near an aid distribution site operated by the U.S.-based Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, local health authorities said on Monday. The Israeli military said it was aware of reports of casualties and the incident was being thoroughly looked into. It said in a statement that troops operating overnight in Rafah, which is under full Israeli military control, in the southern Gaza Strip, had fired warning shots "to prevent several suspects approaching them", adding the incident took place about a 1 km away from the aid distribution site. The GHF, a private group sponsored by the United States and endorsed by Israel, said there had been no fatalities or injuries at its distribution site or the surrounding area. Reuters could not independently verify what took place. The reported incident was the latest in a series underscoring the volatile security situation that has complicated aid delivery to Gaza, following the easing last month of an almost three-month Israeli blockade.

## "GROUNDLESS": CHINA REJECTS TRUMP'S 'BEIJING VIOLATED GENEVA TRADE DEAL' CLAIM

**Diary Times Desk :** China said on Monday that US President Donald Trump's accusations that Beijing had violated the consensus reached in Geneva trade talks were "groundless", and promised to take forceful measures to safeguard its interests. The comment by the commerce ministry was in response to Trump's remarks on Friday that China had breached a bilateral deal to roll back tariffs. The ministry said China had implemented and actively upheld the agreement reached last month in Geneva, while the US had introduced multiple "discriminatory restrictive" measures against China. Those measures included issuing guidance on AI chip export controls, halting sales of chip design software to China and revoking visas for Chinese students, the ministry added. "The US government has unilaterally and repeatedly provoked new economic and trade frictions, exacerbating uncertainty and instability.

## 'TERRORISTS GETTING AID...': PAK-OCCUPIED GILGIT- BALTISTAN RISES IN REVOLT, LOCALS BLOCK CPEC LIFELINE

**Diary Times Desk :** Thousands of furious residents and traders in Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan have brought life to a standstill by blockading the strategically vital Karakoram Highway - the main artery of the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The unprecedented protest, now in its third day, is being described as the most significant show of public anger against the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government in the region in recent years. A leader of Sharif's party said while the establishment was compensating terrorists, it failed to aid traders, reported India Today. At the heart of the unrest is what local businesses describe as "economic strangulation" - a reference to Islamabad's trade policies, particularly the six-month-long suspension of customs clearance for goods imported from China via the Sost Dry Port, the critical customs facility near the Chinese border. The blockade of the Karakoram Highway, which runs through the mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan and connects China to Pakistan, marks a critical moment for CPEC.

## PM MODI UNLIKELY TO ATTEND G7 SUMMIT IN CANADA, FIRST MISS IN 6 YEARS: SOURCES

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to visit Canada for the upcoming G7 summit amid frosty ties between Ottawa and New Delhi. The G7 is an informal grouping of the most industrialised economies in the world -- France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, and Canada. It is also attended by the European Union (EU), the IMF, the World Bank and the United Nations are also invited. While South Africa, Ukraine and Australia have reportedly accepted invitations from Canada, uncertainty remains over PM Modi's visit. India is yet to receive any official invitation for the summit, which is being hosted by Canada from June 15-17, nor is the Indian side inclined to attend, said sources, adding that the relationship must improve before any such high-profile visit takes place. Additionally, sources said there are security concerns that would need to be addressed if Prime Minister Modi were to travel to Canada in the future. Last month, the Ministry of External Affairs, on two occasions, stated that there was "no information" on PM Modi's visit to Canada for the G7 summit. Meanwhile, Canada's foreign minister.



## PUNJAB CABINET APPROVES LAND POOLING POLICY AMID TIFF WITH FARMERS

**Diary Times Desk** : Amid ongoing tensions with farmer groups and criticism from various Opposition parties, the Punjab Council of Ministers on Monday approved the Land Pooling Policy, aimed at curbing illegal colonisation. Under the policy, farmers can voluntarily offer their land for development and, in return, receive a residential plot and a commercial site in lieu of one acre of land. Punjab Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora clarified that the policy is entirely voluntary, with no element of coercion. "This initiative will initially be launched in 27 cities across the state," he said. Farmers will have the choice to develop the land themselves or hand it over to private developers or government agencies. If a person contributes nine acres of land, three acres will be returned to the owner for developing a group housing society—meaning one-third of the pooled land is returned to the owner. It is learnt that under the land pooling scheme, for every one acre of land contributed to the developer, the owner will receive a 1,000-square-yard residential plot and a 200-square-yard commercial plot.



## COURTS CAN DENY ANTICIPATORY BAIL IF ACCUSED MAY TAMPER WITH EVIDENCE OR ABSCOND: HC

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the exception to the general rule of bail, not jail, must be carved out in cases where the accused may abscond, threaten witnesses, or tamper with evidence. The court clarified that the antecedents of the accused, coupled with the probability of such actions, weigh heavily against the grant of anticipatory bail in such matters. "The general rule, put tersely, may be of bail, no jail. However, a just exception may be taken where there are circumstances which might thwart the course of justice. The antecedents of the accused or the probability of the accused fleeing, intimidating witnesses or tampering with the evidence, inter alia, weigh in heavy before the court when dealing with a petition for the grant of anticipatory bail," Justice Kirti Singh of the high court ruled. The bench made the observations while dismissing an anticipatory bail plea filed by a man accused of harassing and assaulting his wife, in a case registered at Amritsar.

## PUNJAB AAP REMOVES WOMEN WING HEAD PREETI MALHOTRA

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab AAP today removed Preeti Malhotra as its women wing president and gave an additional charge of the post to vice-president Amandeep Kaur. The action was taken against Malhotra after she raised a banner of revolt and held a dharna against her own party and its senior leadership. A senior party leader said Amandeep Kaur was appointed as the state AAP women wing president to honour her dedication to the party. "If Malhotra had grievances, she should have raised them within the party forum. The party discipline cannot be breached," he said. Malhotra has been protesting against the alleged lack of attention given to the party's old activists. She has been holding a dharna along with hundreds of workers claiming that the "genuine workers working for the party for the past several years feel side-lined and harassed, while turncoats and Delhi leaders are being given priority". Malhotra, who had taken over as the state women AAP chief.

## CBI SEIZES RS 1 CRORE IN CASH, 3.5-KG GOLD FROM IRS OFFICER'S PREMISES

**Diary Times Desk** : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has seized Rs 1 crore in cash and 3.5 kg gold and 2 kg silver, estimated to be worth Rs 3.5 crore, from a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, who along with his aide was arrested on Saturday. A 2007-batch IRS officer, Amit Singhal, who was posted at the Directorate of Taxpayer Services, and his close associate, Harsh Kotak, were arrested by the CBI from Delhi and Mohali, separately, for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 25 lakh. "The CBI conducted searches and recovered approximately 3.5 kg of gold, 2 kg of silver and Rs 1 crore cash in the ongoing investigation related to the arrest of two accused including a senior IRS officer," a senior officer of the federal agency told The Tribune on Monday. She said that during the ongoing investigation in the case, the CBI has conducted searches at various premises and recovered substantial assets and incriminating material, including approximately 3.5 kg of gold and 2 kg of silver, valued at around Rs 3.5 crore, Rs 1 crore in cash, documents of a locker and 25 bank accounts with various banks, and documents of immovable properties and assets located in Delhi, Mumbai and Punjab.

## JAGDISH BHOLA, CONVICT IN RS 700 CRORE DRUG RACKET, WALKS OUT OF JAIL AFTER 12 YEARS

**Diary Times Desk** : Jagdish Bhola, a former Deputy Superintendent of Punjab Police and Arjuna Award-winning wrestler, walked out from Bathinda Central Jail on Sunday after nearly 12 years of incarceration. He was granted bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on May 21. Bhola had been convicted in one of Punjab's largest drug trafficking cases, which involved a Rs 700 crore synthetic narcotics racket. Bathinda Central Jail Superintendent Manjit Singh Sidhu confirmed Bhola's release, stating it took place on Sunday evening after all formalities were completed. The High Court's bail order comes with strict conditions. Bhola was required to furnish a Rs 5 lakh bond and surrender his passport. Additionally, he must complete a community service project — planting 100 trees within 15 days of his release. Arrested in November 2013, Bhola was identified as the kingpin of a massive, multi-state drug trafficking network. Investigations led by Punjab Police and central agencies uncovered the illegal trade of synthetic drugs, including pseudoephedrine, with a market value exceeding Rs 700 crore. In 2019, a special CBI court sentenced Bhola to 24 years in prison. In 2024, he received an additional 10-year sentence following a conviction for money laundering.

## AFTER GUJARAT, RAHUL GANDHI SETS EYES ON HARYANA FOR CONGRESS REVAMP

**Diary Times Desk** : After a mammoth organisational revamp exercise in "pilot state" Gujarat, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has set his eyes on rebuilding the party's organisation in faction-ridden Haryana and will be meeting the state leaders on June 4, though a meeting with the party legislators is not on the agenda. Confirming the development, the party general secretary in charge of Haryana, BK Hariprasad, said Rahul would hold two meetings for the restructuring of the party when he arrives in the state for a day-long visit under the Sangathan Srujan Abhiyan. There has been no district-level organisation in Haryana for the past over 11 years and the campaign is being seen by Congress leaders as the long overdue churning that should have taken place well before the 2024 Assembly polls. "The first meeting will be with 17 senior leaders, including former chief minister, former PCC president, former Congress Legislature Party leaders, AICC office-bearers and three all-India chairpersons. They will give feedback on the reorganisation of the party and also the politics on the ground."

## ROHTAK MBBS SCAM: JANUARY, MAY 2024 EXAMS UNDER POLICE SCANNER

**Diary Times Desk** : The MBBS exams conducted in January and May 2024 have become the focus of an expanding police investigation into the scam that came to light at Pt BD Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak (UHSR), earlier this year. "Over 10 university employees, including a faculty member, have been questioned regarding both the exams. All of them held key responsibilities during the exam cycles and were questioned following disclosures made by a key accused. The police are now preparing to interrogate several students (who took the exams) suspected to be involved in the scam. The two employees recently arrested were also connected to the May exams," claimed sources. A fact-finding committee, led by Dr MK Garg, had revealed in its report that 46 answer sheets were found missing during the January exams. Some of the answer sheets were allegedly used in the May exams. The key accused also disclosed that three question papers were leaked from an exam centre on the UHSR campus in May. "These two exams are the key to unravelling the scam, which involves both university employees and students," the sources claimed.



## NURPUR POLICE BUST INTERSTATE DRUG SMUGGLING RACKET, 2 NABBED WITH 103GM HEROIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Tightening the noose around the drug mafia, the Nurpur district police busted an interstate drug smuggling racket by arresting two Amritsar residents trying to enter Himachal Pradesh with a consignment of narcotic drugs. Acting on a tip-off, the police set up a special naka last night at the interstate excise border in Bhadroya, under the jurisdiction of the Damtal police station. The police searched a car at the naka and seized 103.07gm heroin (chitta) from the possession of the occupants — identified as Yaadvinder Singh of Bahini village and Malkiat Singh of Chheharta in Amritsar. The police arrested the duo, allegedly accused of being interstate drug smugglers active in the district. A case under Sections 21-25-29 of the NDPS act has been registered in the Damtal police station. In this connection, Nurpur SP Ashok Ratan told The Tribune that the police had launched a special anti-drug drive in the border district. He added that the police had so far registered 35 NDPS Act cases in the last five months and recovered 762.89gm heroin, 10,579 kg charas (hashish) and over Rs 1.20 crore drug money from smugglers.

## MASSIVE FOREST FIRE NEAR PARAGLIDING SITE IN DHARAMSALA

**Diary Times Desk :** A massive fire broke out in the forest areas of Dharamsala near the Indrunag temple, under the paragliding site, on Sunday night, engulfing a huge area. The forest fire has reportedly affected hundreds of pine trees in the vicinity of Dharamsala and McLeodganj towns. The fire spread rapidly throughout the night. In the morning, although the flames were not visible, smoke was still emanating from the fire-affected areas. The possibility of losses to the lives of wild animals and birds could not be ruled out, judging by the intensity of the fire. The fire spread over a large area due to the dry grass and wind. The exact cause of the fire was not immediately known. Tarush Jamwal, a local tourist guide, said that such fire incidents in the forest hills do not occur naturally. "I suspect it has been caused by intentional acts.

## HAILSTORM, RAIN LASH SHIMLA, MET ISSUES ORANGE ALERT IN A FEW DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL FOR NEXT 2 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** Hailstorm followed by heavy rain struck Shimla on Monday evening, prompting the meteorological department to issue an orange alert for thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds across four to five districts in the state. Thunderstorms, along with lightning and gusty winds with speeds up to 40-60 kmph, are expected at isolated places in Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Kullu and Mandi on Tuesday and Chamba, Kangra, Kullu and Mandi on Wednesday, the forecast said. An orange warning for gusty winds reaching speeds of 40 to 50 kmph has also been issued for the tribal districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti on Tuesday and Wednesday. Light to moderate rain has affected various parts of the state, with the following rainfall recorded: Dadahu in Sirmaur district received 27.4 mm, followed by Jattot Barrage (21.6 mm), Poanta Sahib (18.8 mm), Bharmour (18 mm), Kasauli and Rajgarh (14 mm each), Solan (8.6 mm), Agahar (5.2 mm), Palampur and Nahan (4.4 mm each), Sundernagar (4 mm), Chhatrari (3.5 mm), and Banjar, Mandi and Kasol (3 mm).



## 'WAS SIMPLE GAS LEAK EXPLOSION, NOT TERROR ACT': SP CLAIMS FALSE IMPLICATION IN SHIMLA EATERY BLAST

**Diary Times Desk :** Superintendent of Police of Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi on Monday alleged that senior officials in the police headquarters manipulated central agencies to falsely implicate him in a 2023 eatery blast case by claiming that RDX samples were found from the spot. Alleging a "conspiracy" by the office of the director general of police (DGP), Gandhi told PTI that efforts were made to project "a simple" gas leak blast at an eatery in Shimla as a terror act. Two persons were killed while over 10 sustained injuries in the blast that took place in an eatery in Middle Bazaar near Mall Road in the heart of Shimla city on the evening of July 18, 2023. This is the second time Gandhi has made allegations against top officials in the state. The SP had levelled serious allegations against former DGPs Sanjay Kundu and Atul Verma, as well as Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena, in a press conference on May 24. In it, he had publicly hit out at the then DGP Verma, saying he filed a "misleading report" on the SIT probe into the death of HPPCL employee Vimal Negi. DGP Verma later called for Gandhi's suspension in a letter to Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Onkar Sharma. A few days later, Gandhi, Verma and Sharma were sent on leave. On Monday, SP Gandhi said the Shimla eatery case was now proved to be a gas leak by forensic experts and the state CID. According to forensic experts, the blast occurred when 10 kg of gas leaked, Gandhi said.

## HIMACHAL GOVT TO DEVELOP 77 ECO-TOURISM SITES, GENERATE RS 200 CRORE IN FIVE YEARS

**Diary Times Desk :** The government will develop 77 eco-tourism sites in different forest circles across the state. This is expected to generate Rs 200 crore in the next five years. "The goal is to attract tourists in a way that protects nature, creates local jobs and helps the economy grow in a clean and sustainable manner," said a government spokesperson. The spokesperson further said that the state had always been a favourite place of nature lovers with its snow-covered mountains, thick forests, clean rivers and rich wildlife. "The new eco-tourism policy aims to use this natural beauty in a responsible way. Eco-tourism means travelling to natural places without harming the environment. The Eco-Tourism Policy, 2024, has been specially made to support this idea, keeping both tourism and nature safe," he said. Under this policy, 77 eco-tourism sites are being developed in different parts of the state like Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Bilaspur, Rampur, Solan, Nahan, Hamirpur, Nalagarh, Dharamshala, Palampur, Chamba, Dalhousie, Nurpur and Reckong Peo. Out of these, eco-tourism operators have already been selected for seven popular sites — Potter Hill and Shoghi in Shimla, Solang Nallah in Kullu and Kasol in Parvati Valley. "The rest of the sites are being developed in phases. Visitors will be able to enjoy eco-friendly activities like trekking, bird watching.

## NADDA ATTENDS TIRANGA YATRA IN SOLAN

**Diary Times Desk :** BJP national president and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda participated in the Tiranga Yatra held here today. The programme aimed at honouring the Indian armed forces following 'Operation Sindoor' in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack. The campaign, being held nationwide, aims to instil a sense of national pride and unity among citizens, emphasising a message of patriotism, national solidarity and respect for the Tricolour. Nadda, who arrived in the afternoon, was driven in a vehicle bedecked with flowers and was flanked by leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur and state president Dr Rajiv Bindal besides Shimla MP Suresh Kashyap. Nadda waved to the party workers who were seen marching beside him holding party flags. The programme, however, caused inconvenience the common man as the Mall Road was closed for traffic for nearly an hour. People had to trudge in the hot weather for nearly 2 km to reach their destinations, including hospitals as well as the main market. With no vehicle permitted beyond Saproon Chowk and no prior information by the police regarding the closure of the road, people were put through a lot of inconvenience.



VIRAT KOHLI HAS GIVEN A LOT OF YEARS TO RCB, WE NEED TO DO OUR BEST FOR HIM: RAJAT PATIDAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Virat Kohli has given 18 years of his senior cricket career to Royal Challengers Bengaluru and their first-time skipper Rajat Patidar understands what it would mean for the team to win the coveted Indian Premier League title for one of country's bonafide cricket legends. In all, RCB have played a total of three finals in 2009, 2011 and 2016 and have ended up on the losing side in each of the summit clashes with Kohli's individual brilliance not being enough for them to end their title drought. "Of course. I think he has given a lot of years to RCB and the international side also. We will try to do our best in the game," Patidar told media here on Monday during his pre-match press conference alongside PBKS' Shreyas Iyer when asked if the Kohli factor would dominate the build-up. When asked if focus on one player alone was frustrating given RCB have been one of the most dominant sides in this competition, Patidar replied, "I think it is not frustrating for me.. "We are not looking on the stage that we are in the finals. We will try to play our best cricket. We are not playing here for the stage. I always like to keep things simple," he added.



JAYAWARDENE: 'WE MADE A FEW BLUNDERS AND OUR EXECUTION WASN'T UP TO THE MARK'

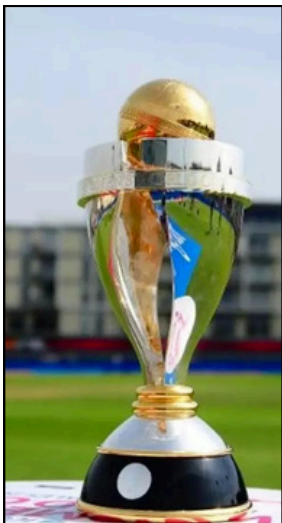
**Diary Times Desk :** Head coach Mahela Jayawardene pointed to the "blunders" on the field and lack of "execution" with the ball as the primary reasons for Mumbai Indians' (MI) exit from what had been a "good campaign" in IPL 2025. On Sunday night, which spilled into Monday, MI lost in Qualifier 2 to Punjab Kings (PBKS) by five wickets to miss a shot at their record sixth IPL title. "It was a good campaign for us, the way we started and how we regrouped as a team and played some really, really good cricket," Jayawardene said in the press conference after the game. "We had our opportunities getting to the playoffs, and we had a really good game first half and even today, I thought we played some good cricket except for Kings playing better cricket than us. Especially with the bat, they were solid, especially chasing 200. It's not that easy, they executed that pretty well. "We made a few blunders obviously with those two catches but I think that's how the game goes, we had those luck going our way in the previous games. It was a good game of cricket and we came short, I think that's as simple as that." After being asked to bat first, MI posted a competitive 203 for 6, but it wasn't enough to contain a clinical chase led by PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer's unbeaten 87.

D GUKESH BREAKS SILENCE ON MAGNUS CARLSEN'S POST-LOSS OUTBURST: "ALSO BANGED..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Following his stunning victory over former world number one Magnus Carlsen in the round six of Norway Chess, India's World Champion chess star D Gukesh spoke on how he was not pleased with his win and had a sporting reaction to Carlsen's post-match outburst, which saw him bang the table aggressively and send down some pieces falling, reported Chess.com. Gukesh pulled off a stunning victory against the former world number one in Round 6 of the ongoing Norway Chess 2025 tournament, turning the game around from a losing position on Sunday. This marked Gukesh's first-ever classical win over the Norwegian grandmaster. The 19-year-old also became the second Indian player to beat Carlsen in the competition's history after Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa. Speaking after the match as quoted by Chess.com, Gukesh said about his win, "I mean, [it was] not the way I wanted it to be, but okay, I will take it." He also took Carlsen's outburst in a sporting manner, understanding the frustration he must have faced, saying, "I have also banged a lot of tables in my career." In the video now posted on the official X handle of Norway Chess, just after the win was sealed by Gukesh, Carlsen let out his emotions by banging the table.

BENGALURU OR COLOMBO TO HOST 2025 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FINAL

**Diary Times Desk :** The 2025 Women's World Cup will be held from September 30 to November 2 in five different venues across India and Sri Lanka - Bengaluru, Guwahati, Indore, Visakhapatnam and Colombo. The mega event will begin with hosts India commencing their campaign on September 30 in Bengaluru. The first semi-final will either be played in Guwahati or Colombo on October 29 while Bengaluru will play host to the second semi-final on October 30. One of Bengaluru or Colombo will host the final three days later on November 2. The eight teams that will participate in the World Cup are hosts India, Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh. Following controversy regarding India's refusal to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy earlier this year, it was revealed that the two countries would play their matches from ICC events (hosted by either of them) in neutral venues in the foreseeable future. While the Indian Men's team played their CT games in Dubai, the Pakistan Women's team will play their matches in Colombo which will also host a semifinal and the final in case Pakistan go that far. Meanwhile, the ICC has also confirmed that Birmingham will host the opening game of the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup on June 12 with the home team England featuring in it. The two semifinal matches will be held at the Oval before the final is played at the Lord's on July 5.



GLENN MAXWELL ANNOUNCES ODI RETIREMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Australian allrounder Glenn Maxwell has announced his retirement from ODI cricket to shift focus to T20s. In a career spanning from 2012 to 2025, Maxwell featured in 149 ODIs, scoring 3990 runs and picking 77 wickets. He was also a part of Australia's World Cup-winning sides in 2015 and 2023. An explosive batter, Maxwell scored his runs at an average of 33.81 and a strike rate of 126.70. His best effort in ODIs, an unbeaten 201 against Afghanistan in the 2023 World Cup, is regarded as arguably the greatest innings played in ODIs. Apart from that, he scored three other centuries and 23 half-centuries. As a bowler also, he was a handy offspinner, picking four-fers four times in his career. A stellar fielder, he has also has 91 catches to his name in the format. Cricket Australia announced that Maxwell took the decision with an eye on preparation for the 2026 T20 World Cup, set to be held in India and Sri Lanka. The board also stated Maxwell's intention to focus on the Big Bash League and other international commitments.

KLAASEN ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

**Diary Times Desk :** Heinrich Klaasen, the South Africa wicketkeeper-batter, has announced his international retirement on Monday (June 2), stepping away from the white-ball formats having ended his red-ball career in 2024. It is a sad day for me as I announce that I have decided to step away from international cricket. It took me a long time to decide what's best for me and my family for the future. It was truly a very difficult decision but also one that I have absolute peace with," said Klaasen about his decision to step away from international cricket having played for the South African team for seven years. "From the first day, it was the biggest privilege representing my country and it was everything that I have worked for and dreamed about as a young boy," said Klaasen. "I have made great friendships and relationships that I will treasure for life. Playing for the Proteas gave me the opportunity to meet great people that changed my life, and to those people I can't say thank you enough. "My road to wearing the Proteas shirt was different than most and there were certain coaches in my career that kept believing in me - to them I will always be grateful. To have played with the Proteas badge on my chest was and will always be the biggest honour in my career. I look forward to spending more time with my family as this decision will allow me to do so. I will always be a big Proteas supporter and would like to thank everyone that supported me.