

## AIR INDIA PLAIN CRASH

## AIR INDIA DREAMLINER CRASHES INTO AHMEDABAD COLLEGE HOSTEL, KILLS OVER 290

**Diary Times Desk :** More than 290 people were killed when an Air India plane bound for London with 242 people on board crashed minutes after taking off from the western city of Ahmedabad on Thursday, authorities said, in the world's worst aviation disaster in a decade.

The dead included people on the ground as the aircraft - headed for Gatwick Airport, south of the British capital - crashed on to a medical college hostel during lunch hour. At least one passenger is known to have survived, police said, and the man told Indian media how he had heard a loud noise shortly after take-off.

"Approximately 294 have died. This includes some students as the plane crashed on the building where they were staying," Vidhi Chaudhary, a top state police officer, told Reuters. She said police found one survivor who was in seat 11A, next to an emergency exit, adding that there could be more survivors in hospital. "Thirty seconds after take-off, there was a loud noise and then the plane crashed," 40-year-old Ramesh Viswashkumar told the Hindustan Times, which showed a boarding pass for seat 11A in that name online. It all happened so quickly," he told the paper from his hospital bed. "When I got up, there were bodies all around me. I was scared.

I stood up and ran. There were pieces of the plane all around me," he said. "Someone grabbed hold of me and put me in an ambulance and brought me to the hospital."



## CASH DISCOVERY ROW

## CASH DISCOVERY ROW: CONGRESS ASKS GOVT TO SHARE SC REPORT ON ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JUSTICE VARMA



**Diary Times Desk :** The Congress has asked the government to share with it the report of a Supreme Court-appointed committee that probed graft allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma so that it can firm up its stand on the issue of his impeachment before the Monsoon session of Parliament, party sources said on Thursday.

The government, however, is yet to respond, the sources said. Several burnt sacks containing cash were allegedly discovered at Justice Varma's residence in Delhi after a fire broke out there in March, when he was a Delhi High Court judge.

Though the judge, who was later transferred to the Allahabad High Court, has claimed ignorance about the cash, the Supreme Court-appointed committee indicted him after speaking to a number of witnesses and recording his statement. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has initiated discussions with all political parties to bring an impeachment motion against Justice Varma in Parliament's Monsoon session, starting from July 21.

The Congress sources said the party has asked Rijiju to share the report of the committee so that it can firm up its stand on the issue of impeachment. The minister is yet to get back to the Congress, they said. Last week, Rijiju underlined the government's resolve to take all political parties on board in moving the impeachment motion against Justice Varma, saying corruption in the judiciary cannot be approached through a "political prism". He said the government wants the exercise to be a "collaborative effort".

### AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH: POSSIBILITY OF SURVIVORS CANNOT BE RULED OUT, SAYS AHMEDABAD TOP COP

**Diary Times Desk :** Ahmedabad Police Commissioner GS Malik said possibility of survivors in Thursday's Air India plane crash cannot be ruled. He said rescue operations are under way at the site of the crash in Meghaninagar close to Ahmedabad international airport. The Air India Ahmedabad-London flight, with 230 passengers and 12 crew members on board, crashed minutes after taking off at 1:39 pm. Videos showed the jet losing altitude before crashing, triggering a ball of fire followed by thick plumes of smoke rising into the sky. "Possibility of survivors in the plane crash incident cannot be ruled out. Our rescue operations at the site are still ongoing. Some people have been taken to hospital," Malik said.



### MIRACLE SURVIVOR: RAMESH VISHWASHKUMAR SOLE PASSENGER TO WALK OUT ALIVE AFTER DEADLY PLANE CRASH



**Diary Times Desk :** On the day of unspeakable tragedy and charred wreckage, one man walked out alive. Ramesh Vishwashkumar, a 40-year-old British national of Indian origin, was seated on 11A aboard Air India Flight AI 171 when it crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad on Thursday afternoon. Despite being surrounded by charred wreckage and debris, Vishwashkumar miraculously survived the disaster. According to Ahmedabad Police Commissioner GS Malik, Vishwashkumar was the sole survivor found in seat 11A. "The police found one survivor in seat 11A. One survivor has been found in the hospital and is under treatment. We cannot confirm the number of deaths yet, but it may increase due to the residential area impact," Malik told the media. Vishwashkumar was returning to the UK after visiting his extended family in Gujarat, accompanied by his elder brother, Ajay Kumar Ramesh. However, the fate of his brother remains unknown, and Vishwashkumar is still searching for him. Witnesses described seeing a dazed man, with scorched clothes and a blood-stained white T-shirt, limping away from the wreckage. "He was in shock, just walking, not speaking—barely breathing," a bystander recalled.

### PLANE CRASH IN AHMEDABAD: DEBRIS SCATTERED OVER MEDICAL COLLEGE PREMISES, CHARRED BODIES SEEN

**Diary Times Desk :** Debris of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft (AI171) which crashed after take-off from the Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon were seen scattered around the hostel and residential quarters of doctors on the BJ Medical College premises. Videos that went viral after the horrific air crash, among the worst in Gujarat's history, also showed charred bodies in the debris. The Ahmedabad-London flight with 242 passengers on board crashed soon after the take-off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel airport. The area around the crash site is densely populated. The entire accident site was cordoned off and operations to rescue the survivors and extricate the bodies was underway.



### FORMER GUJARAT CM VIJAY RUPANI DIES IN AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH IN AHMEDABAD

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani died on Thursday after an Air India aircraft carrying him and 241 others crashed near Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad in the afternoon, Union Minister CR Patil said. Rupani, 68, was the chief minister from 2016 till 2021, after winning the Gujarat Assembly election from the Rajkot West seat. The London-bound flight AI 171 was carrying 169 Indians, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese, and one Canadian national, apart from two pilots and 10 cabin crew members. Rupani was known for his composed demeanour and firm administrative style. He was a student leader who led many agitations. During his college years, he worked as an activist of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). In 1975, Rupani faced imprisonment for one year in Bhavnagar jail while protesting against the Emergency. He entered public service in 1987.

#### YOUR HOROSCOPE

13-06-2025

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 TOURISM: TOURISTS ARE REACHING HIGH ALTITUDE AREAS TO GET COOL, HOMESTAYS ARE PACKED IN RURAL AREAS

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the scorching heat in the plains, tourists have turned to the mountains. Tourists who usually visit Shimla, Manali and Dharamshala are this time reaching higher areas to find peace. The famous tourist places of the state are also burning in the heat. Instead of the capital Shimla, tourists are reaching the cool valleys of Mashobra, Hatu Peak, Dodra Kwar and Baralacha-Jispa instead of Manali and Dharamkot, Kareri-Triund instead of Dharamshala. The hotels and homestays here are packed. At the same time, due to increasing heat, the occupancy in the hotels of Shimla, Dharamshala, Manali has reached more than 70 percent. Due to increasing heat in these areas too, tourists have now started giving preference to colder areas. The occupancy in the hotels of the capital Shimla is also more than 80 percent. A large number of tourists are strolling on the Mall Road and Ridge Ground of the city as the evening falls. During the day tourists are visiting Kufri and Naldhera.



### HIMACHAL: CONGRESS MLA'S COMPLAINT AGAINST SP ILMA SENT TO PRIVILEGE COMMITTEE, VIDHAN SABHA SECRETARIAT TOOK ACTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Congress MLA Ramkumar's complaint of breach of privilege against IPS officer Ilma Afroz has been forwarded to the Privilege Committee of Himachal Pradesh Assembly. The State Assembly Secretariat has taken this action after receiving a reply from the Home Department of the State Government. Now the Privilege Violation Committee will take the next decision after hearing the matter. The Assembly Secretariat had sought a reply from the Home Department in this regard. The State Home Department had handed over its investigation to the State Police Headquarters. The Police Headquarters had mailed its reply on the investigation report directly to the Assembly Secretariat, but legally it was sought through the Home Secretary instead of the DGP. For legal reasons, the Assembly Secretariat can only look into the matter received through the Administrative Secretary of the Government, so the Home Department was asked to respond to it. The State Home Department forwarded the reply received from Ilma Afroz along with the investigation report of the Police Headquarters in this regard to the Assembly Secretariat. After inspecting it, the Assembly Secretariat has sent the matter.

### SHIMLA NEWS: THE STATUE OF VEERBHADRA TO BE INSTALLED ON THE RIDGE WILL COME FROM GHAZIABAD

**Diary Times Desk :** The statue of former Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh, which is going to be installed on the Ridge Maidan in the capital Shimla, has been built in Ghaziabad. It is being installed on the Ridge Maidan on 23 June on the occasion of the birth anniversary of late Virbhadr Singh. Earlier, the Raja Virbhadr Singh Foundation itself had talked about bearing its expenses, but Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu gave instructions to install it at government expense, so now it is being installed by the State Public Works Department. A review meeting is being organized by the Foundation at the State Guest House Peterhoff Shimla on 15 June to discuss the installation of this statue and other events on the birth anniversary of Virbhadr Singh. Virbhadr Singh's son and Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh has also invited the central leadership of the Congress to attend this program. He has also invited Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. Not only this, Vikramaditya Singh has invited Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu. Vikramaditya Singh on his social media account urged all the residents of the state to witness this moment by coming to the historic Shimla ground at 10 am on this occasion. Virbhadr Singh's contribution has been in the development of Himachal Pradesh and in giving it a distinct identity. This is a non-political program. Apart from all the Congress leaders from New Delhi.

### HIMACHAL: CABINET EXPANSION MAY HAPPEN SOON IN HIMACHAL, SUKHU REACHED DELHI; WILL MEET RAHUL GANDHI

**Diary Times Desk :** Cabinet expansion may happen soon in Himachal Pradesh. Preparations are on to fill the vacant post in the cabinet. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has gone to New Delhi to discuss this matter with the Congress high command. Sukhu is scheduled to meet former Congress national president Rahul Gandhi. Apart from cabinet expansion, a decision can also be taken after discussing with Rahul on the Congress state president and organization. Pratibha Singh has to step down from the post of party state president due to completion of tenure six months ago and on the basis of one family one post. Sukhu government's two and a half year tenure is over. On completion of half the tenure of Sukhu government in the state, CM reached New Delhi on Wednesday to meet the high command. In the past few days, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh have also gone to New Delhi and met central leaders. However, Vikramaditya has also invited Rahul and Priyanka to come to Shimla on the occasion of unveiling of the statue of former CM Virbhadr Singh being installed in Shimla on June 23.



### HIMACHAL NEWS: 10 KG BOX OF RED JUNE APPLES SOLD FOR RS 600, FIRST CONSIGNMENT REACHED BHATTAKUFAR MANDI

**Diary Times Desk :** Red June apples have arrived in the markets. On Wednesday, a half box (10 kg) of early variety of Red June apples was sold for Rs 600 in Bhattakufar fruit market. Gardeners from Malyana had reached the market with 13 half boxes of apples. This apple was sold at Rs 60 per kg at Gyan Singh and Sons firm number 27. The apple season has arrived in the fruit markets of the district. However, the early variety of apples is currently arriving in the market. Due to the small size of the fruit and lack of right quality apples, the prices are low. Arhatiya Atar Singh said that the consignment of apples has started arriving in the market, but the quality is not very good yet. A gardener had brought 13 boxes and another B grade half box for sale. It was sold for Rs 400. These days the stone fruit season is at its peak in the market. Red Beauty and Black Amber Plum are getting record prices in the market. Plum is being sold at 80 to 130 rupees per kg. However, there has been a slight decline in the price of cherry. The cherry season is in its final stage.

### SHIMLA NEWS: CASE FILED AGAINST ELECTRICITY BOARD OFFICIALS OVER DEATH OF TEAMMATE

**Diary Times Desk :** In the case of the death of a teammate of the Electricity Board due to electric shock while working near Solah Mile, the police have registered a case of negligence against the officials of the Electricity Board. Harvinder, who was serving as a teammate in the Electricity Board, was climbing an electric pole and connecting the service wire on Tuesday afternoon. During this time, he died due to electric shock. On the complaint of his father Ravindra Kumar, the police have registered a case against the officials of the Electricity Board under the Indian Justice Code and started investigating the matter. The police department will now summon the record of the teammate's work area and other information from the Electricity Board in the investigation of the case. The teammate died due to electric shock while working on an electric pole in Solah Mile of Dhami. The deceased Harvinder (30) son of Ravindra Kumar Tiyal was a resident of Dehra district Kangra. He had got married only two months ago. The people present at the spot at the time of the accident.

NO FEE TO BE CHARGED FOR UPI TRANSACTIONS, CLARIFIES FINANCE MINISTRY

**Diary Times Desk :** The finance ministry has said no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be levied on transactions through Unified Payments Interface platforms. "Speculation and claims that the MDR will be charged on UPI transactions are completely false, baseless and misleading," the ministry said on X on Wednesday. "Such baseless and sensation-creating speculation causes needless uncertainty, fear and suspicion among our citizens. The government remains fully committed to promoting digital payments via UPI," it said. MDR is the cost paid by a merchant to a bank for accepting payment from their customers via digital means. The merchant discount rate is expressed in percentage of the transaction amount. The ministry's clarification came following some reports that the government is planning to impose MDR on large-ticket UPI transactions. Meanwhile, transactions through UPI touched a record high of Rs 25.14 lakh crore in May, recording a growth of 5 per cent over the preceding month, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

CASH DISCOVERY ROW: CONGRESS ASKS GOVT TO SHARE SC REPORT ON ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JUSTICE VARMA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Congress has asked the government to share with it the report of a Supreme Court-appointed committee that probed graft allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma so that it can firm up its stand on the issue of his impeachment before the Monsoon session of Parliament, party sources said on Thursday. The government, however, is yet to respond, the sources said. Several burnt sacks containing cash were allegedly discovered at Justice Varma's residence in Delhi after a fire broke out there in March, when he was a Delhi High Court judge. Though the judge, who was later transferred to the Allahabad High Court, has claimed ignorance about the cash, the Supreme Court-appointed committee indicted him after speaking to a number of witnesses and recording his statement. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has initiated discussions with all political parties to bring an impeachment motion against Justice Varma in Parliament's Monsoon session, starting from July 21. The Congress sources said the party has asked Rijiju to share the report.

VIDEO SHOWS AIR INDIA FLIGHT TRYING TO TAKE OFF, CRASHING INTO BUILDING



**Diary Times Desk :** A new video captured by a CCTV camera in Ahmedabad airport shows the Air India plane gaining speed on the runway before taking off, and to the naked eye everything seemed fine, nothing out of the ordinary. Seconds later, the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner - one of the most reliable passenger aircraft in the world - took off. It was uneventful until then. The next few seconds, however, indicated the plane could be in trouble as it did not gain the altitude usually expected of a passenger aircraft of this size and type. It flew level for a few more seconds before losing altitude. By then the visuals said it loud and clear - the flight was not going to make it. The Air India aircraft carrying 242 passengers slammed into a doctors' hostel of a medical college, some distance away from the end of the runway. Rescuers have confirmed only one passenger survived. Five people in the hostel were also killed. The Ahmedabad airport CCTV footage showed a very short flight of 32 seconds from the time the landing gears left the runway to the time of impact.

US AGENCY TO LEAD TEAM TO INDIA TO ASSIST AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH INVESTIGATION

**Diary Times Desk :** A US government agency that investigates civil aviation accidents on Thursday said it would be leading a team of American investigators to India to assist in the investigation of the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said in a post on X that it will be "leading a team of US investigators travelling to India to assist the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau with its investigation into the crash of an Air India Boeing 787 in Ahmedabad, India, Thursday". It added that as per international protocols under the International Civil Aviation Organisation, all information on the investigation will be provided by the Government of India. The Air India flight was carrying 242 passengers and crew members on board the Boeing 787-8 aircraft. There were 169 Indians, 53 British, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals on board the ill-fated Air India flight AI 171 from Ahmedabad to London.

NDRF DISPATCHES 3 TEAMS TO AHMEDABAD CRASH SITE, AMIT SHAH SPEAKS TO GUJARAT CM

**Diary Times Desk :** Soon after an Air India plane crashed near Ahmedabad airport, three National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, comprising 90 personnel, have been moved from Gandhinagar to the plane crash site, while three more teams are being moved from Vadodara, an official spokesperson of the force said. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and took stock of the situation. "Shocked and devastated to learn about the flight crash in Ahmedabad. We are on highest alert. I am personally monitoring the situation and have directed all aviation and emergency response agencies to take swift and coordinated action. Rescue teams have been mobilised, and all efforts are being made to ensure medical aid and relief support are being rushed to the site. My thoughts and prayers are with all those on board and their families," Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu said in a post on X.

TERROR FUNDING CASE: DELHI HC DENIES BAIL TO KASHMIRI SEPARATIST LEADER SHABIR SHAH

**Diary Times Desk :** The Delhi High Court on Thursday refused to grant bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah in a terror funding case, observing the possibility of him carrying out similar unlawful activities and influencing witnesses couldn't be ruled out. A Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur said the Constitution of India provides for a right to freedom of speech and expression, but it also places reasonable restrictions such as public order, decency, morality or incitement to an offence. "This right cannot be misused under the garb of carrying out rallies wherein, a person uses inflammatory speeches or instigates the public to commit unlawful activities, detrimental to the interest and integrity of the country," the Bench said. The high court, therefore, dismissed Shah's appeal against the trial court's July 7, 2023, order refusing bail. Shah was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on June 4, 2019. The high court also rejected Shah's alternate prayer seeking "house arrest" given the serious nature of charges.





## AMID UNREST, TRUMP SENDS MORE US TROOPS TO LA THAN IN IRAQ, SYRIA COMBINED

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has reportedly sent more American troops to the city of Los Angeles (LA) in California-- to curb the protests against his harsh immigration policies -- than those deployed in Iraq and Syria by Washington. The Republican leader has deployed around 4,000 National Guard personnel and over 700 active duty Marines in LA to counter protests ignited over a sudden escalation in efforts to apprehend migrants who were in the country illegally. "There are 4,800 activated Guard and Marine personnel in LA, compared to the 2,500 troops in Iraq and 1,500 in Syria," according to an ABC News report. According to the Pentagon, the deployment in LA will cost taxpayers \$134 million over 60 days. The unrest in LA began on June 6 after United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began mass detentions of undocumented migrants. By the evening of June 7, the authorities had reportedly arrested at least 44 people on suspicion of immigration violations.

## MUSK SPOKE TO TRUMP PRIVATELY BEFORE POSTING 'REGRET' MESSAGE ABOUT FEUD

**Diary Times Desk :** On Monday night, US president Donald Trump received a call from billionaire Elon Musk after which the Tesla chief posted about his "regret" on X, according to a report by the New York Times. Days after a public feud with Trump, Musk said he regrets some of the social media posts he made on the president. "I regret some of my posts about President @realDonaldTrump last week. They went too far," he wrote. Responding to Musk's post about his regret, Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Trump "acknowledged the statement that Elon put out this morning and he is appreciative of it." The clash happened when Musk slammed the Trump administration's proposed spending bill. He labelled the bill a "disgusting abomination" and urged political retribution against Republican lawmakers who backed it. After that the back and forth soon culminated into an exchange of insults where Musk linked Trump to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. However, initially, Musk did not want to apologise about his comments. On Friday, he replied to an X user who said he should apologise to Trump with, "What's the apology for exactly?"

## "DANGEROUS PLACE": TRUMP SAYS US TO PULL SOME TROOPS FROM MIDDLE EAST AMID IRAN TENSIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday US personnel were being moved out of the Middle East because "it could be a dangerous place," adding that the United States would not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon. Reuters reported earlier on Wednesday that the US is preparing a partial evacuation of its Iraqi embassy and will allow military dependents to leave locations around the Middle East due to heightened security risks in the region, according to US and Iraqi sources. The four US and two Iraqi sources did not say what security risks had prompted the decision and reports of the potential evacuation pushed up oil prices by more than 4%. A US official said the State Department had authorised voluntary departures from Bahrain and Kuwait. The State Department updated its worldwide travel advisory on Wednesday evening to reflect the latest US posture. "On June 11, the Department of State ordered the departure of non-emergency US government personnel due to heightened regional tensions," the advisory said.

## US ENVOY STEVE WITKOFF TO MEET IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER ON SUNDAY



**Diary Times Desk :** U.S. Special Envoy Steve Witkoff plans to meet Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Oman on Sunday and discuss Iran's response to a recent American proposal for a nuclear deal, a U.S. official said late on Wednesday. Iran said on Monday it will soon hand a counter-proposal for a nuclear deal to the United States in response to a U.S. offer that Tehran deems "unacceptable," while U.S. President Donald Trump said talks would continue. Trump told a podcast on Monday he was less confident that Iran will agree to stop uranium enrichment in a nuclear deal with Washington. Trump has been seeking a new nuclear deal to place limits on Iran's disputed uranium enrichment activities and has threatened the Islamic Republic with bombing if no agreement is reached. Iran has long said it has no plans to develop nuclear weapons and is only interested in atomic power generation and other peaceful projects.

## US ON HIGH ALERT AMID FEAR OF ISRAELI STRIKE ON IRAN'S NUCLEAR SITES: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** The United States is reportedly on high alert amid rising fears of a potential Israeli strike on Iran. The Trump administration fears that the Jewish state may choose to strike Iran's nuclear facilities without the consent of the United States, if ongoing talks between Washington and Tehran over the latter's nuclear program break down, according to a report by the Washington Post. It's amid these concerns that US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he will be moving US personnel out of the Middle East, especially Iran, because "it could be a dangerous place." The US State Department has also allowed some staff to leave Iraq, while the Pentagon is authorising military families to voluntarily depart US bases across the region, the Post reported. The increased security comes amid Trump's dimming hopes of finalising a deal with Tehran that would restrict Iran's nuclear program, forestalling another potentially destructive military conflict in the Middle East after the Israel-Hamas war. Trump on Wednesday said the United States would not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon.



## 'THIS ISN'T REAL': TEACHER'S NARROW ESCAPE FROM AUSTRIA SCHOOL SHOOTER

**Diary Times Desk :** A teacher told AFP on Wednesday how he found himself in a corridor with the shooter who killed 10 people in an Austrian school as he fled his empty classroom. Religion teacher Paul G Nitsche was working on his own with the door open on the upper floor of the Dreierschuetzengasse secondary school in Graz when the shooting started. "I heard this bang. And I blocked it out," the 51-year-old told reporters, whose students were elsewhere sitting their final year exams. It was only when he heard the sound of bullet casings hitting the floor of a corridor outside, that "something snapped inside me" and the realisation dawned, he said. "I jumped up and thought, that as a teacher alone in a classroom with a possible attacker, this is a very bad situation. "And I decided to run. "I ran out quickly through the corridor, which is only a few metres long, and then down the stairs." It was then that the evangelical pastor saw the shooter in the corridor of the floor below. The sight of him stopped him in his tracks "for a moment".

## INDIA'S GENDER GAP WIDENS AS IT DROPS TO 131ST SPOT IN GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX 2025

**Diary Times Desk :** India has been ranked 131 out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025, slipping two places from its position last year. PTI reported that India's gender parity score stands at just 64.1 per cent, placing it among the lowest-ranked countries in the South Asian region, according to the report released on Thursday. In the 2024 edition of the report, India was ranked 129. The gender-parity score is a measure used to assess the relative equality or disparity between males and females in a particular region. According to PTI, the Global Gender Gap Index evaluates gender parity across four key dimensions: economic participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. The Indian economy's overall performance showed a slight improvement in absolute terms, rising by 0.3 points. PTI reported that "one dimension where India increases parity is in Economic Participation and Opportunity, where its score improves by 0.9 per cent to 40.7 per cent. While most indicator values remain the same, parity in estimated earned income rises from 28.6 per cent to 29.9 per cent, positively impacting the subindex score." Labour force participation parity remained the same as last year.

## SIDHU MOOSEWALA WAS IN TOUCH WITH LAWRENCE BISHNOI: GOLDY BRAR CLAIMS IN BBC DOCUMENTARY

**Diary Times Desk :** In a BBC World Service documentary on the slain singer Shubhdeep Singh, also known as Sidhu Moosewala, gangster Satinderjit Singh, alias Goldy Brar, made a startling revelation during an alleged interview. He claimed that Moosewala was in touch with Lawrence Bishnoi, one of India's most notorious gangsters, who is currently lodged in a high-security jail. According to Goldy, Moosewala would send "good morning" and "good night" messages to Lawrence, allegedly to flatter him. Goldy alleged that Moosewala had supported their rivals during a kabaddi tournament in Bhagomajra village, which led to tensions between them. Notably, Moosewala's family has already rejected the documentary and sought a stay on its release by filing a petition in court. Justifying Moosewala's murder, Goldy Brar said, "He used his political influence, money, and resources to help those who killed our brothers. When decency fails, it's the gunshot that gets heard." He further added, "Only the powerful can expect justice, not ordinary people like us." Goldy also referenced the murder of Vicky Middukhera, a youth Akali Dal leader who was shot dead in Mohali in August 2021. Goldy claimed that he had no remorse for his actions and felt proud of what he had done. Vicky Middukhera was once a close friend and mentor to both Lawrence and Goldy.



## PUNJAB LEADERS EXPRESS GRIEF OVER AHMEDABAD PLANE CRASH

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said they were deeply saddened over the news of an Air India plane crashing in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. A London-bound Air India plane carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed moments after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon. Many people are believed killed. According to Air India, the Boeing 787-8 aircraft from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick was carrying 242 passengers and crew members. Of these, 169 are Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese and one Canadian national. CM Mann in a post on X said, "A heart-wrenching news has come from Ahmedabad. A passenger plane crashed near a residential area during its flight. The images of smoke and destruction are extremely disturbing." Former Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) president Kejriwal said, "Deeply saddened by the news of the air crash. My prayers with those affected and their families."

## PUNJAB INFLUENCER KAMAL KAUR BHABHI FOUND DEAD IN CAR NEAR BATHINDA

**Diary Times Desk :** Kanchan Kumari, a popular social media influencer widely known as Kamal Kaur Bhabhi, was found dead under mysterious circumstances late Wednesday night in a parked car near Adesh University at Bhucho Kalan, along the Bathinda-Chandigarh highway. The influencer, a resident of Ludhiana, was believed to be in her mid-30s and had over 3.83 lakh followers on Instagram. In October last year, she had reportedly received a threat from Canada-based designated terrorist Arsh Dalla, who had warned her to stop posting "inappropriate" videos. According to preliminary police investigation, the case appears to be a murder. The body was discovered after locals complained of a foul smell emanating from a parked car. Upon arriving at the scene and inspecting the vehicle, police recovered the woman's body from inside.

## MANSA COURT ADJOURNS HEARING ON BBC DOCUMENTARY ON SIDHU MOOSEWALA TO JUNE 16

**Diary Times Desk :** A local court in Mansa on Thursday adjourned the hearing in the case related to the BBC World Service documentary on slain Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, to June 16. The Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) directed the respondents to file their written statement and reply to the stay application before the next hearing. The BBC released two parts of the documentary titled "The Killing Call" on YouTube at 5 am on Wednesday, coinciding with Moosewala's 32nd birth anniversary. The documentary was initially scheduled to be screened in Mumbai later that evening. Speaking to The Tribune, advocate Satinder Pal Singh Mittal, counsel for Moosewala's father Balkaur Singh, said, "The counsel for the defendants (BBC World Service and the two producers) requested time from the court to respond. The court has now directed them to submit a written reply by June 16 and adjourned the matter to that date."

## ILLEGAL MINING IN PUNJAB: WEAK LAWS AND POLITICIAN-MAFIA NEXUS FUEL CRISIS

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday promised a judicial probe into the illegal mining in Samana a month after seven schoolchildren died in a road accident involving a sand-laden tipper, giving a strong indication of intended government action against sand mafia operating across the state. However, in wake of the alleged collusion between the sand mafia and politicians, it is feared that the move might be just another public stance taken by the state government. With the poorly framed laws and stringent provisions missing, it has been difficult to curb illegal mining. The Punjab Regulation of Crusher Units, and Stockists and Retailers Act, notified on April 24, provides for "imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine of Rs 1 lakh, or both". Besides, Section 23-C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), 1957, empowers the Punjab government to frame rules to prevent illegal mining. Penalties for contravention of Section 4(1) and 4(1A) of the Act are Rs 5 lakh per hectare and a sentence of up to five years in prison. A sarpanch from a village near Pathankot says, "This is not enough. The government needs to involve the opposition and the public before enacting stricter laws. Also, mining department employees are ill-equipped to check illegal mining." Punjab has been regularly criticised by courts and regulatory bodies for failing.

## FORMER MLA SURJAKHERA, ASSOCIATE SENT TO ED CUSTODY IN RS 170-CR SCAM

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major development in the Rs 170-crore money laundering case linked to Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), a Special PMLA Court in Panchkula on Tuesday remanded former MLA and ex-Account Assistant Ram Niwas Surjakhera in five days of Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody. Ram Niwas was arrested on Monday, June 9, at 9 pm by the ED's Chandigarh Zonal Office-1, along with Sunil Kumar Bansal, the former Senior Accounts Officer of HSVP. Both officials are accused of orchestrating a "deep-rooted financial conspiracy" during their tenure in the state's urban development body (formerly HUDA). The court granted ED a five-day custodial remand, shorter than the 14-day period initially sought. Advocate SPS Parmar, representing Ram Niwas, opposed the plea and argued, "The arrest is illegal and unjustified." However, the court sided with the ED's contention that custodial interrogation was "essential to trace the money trail, confront the accused with evidence and prevent tampering with official documents."

## LEADERSHIP RESTRUCTURING: CONG HOLDS CONSULTATIONS IN ROHTAK, JHAJJAR, REWARI

**Diary Times Desk :** In a bid to restructure the party at the district level, Congress observers have launched an intensive consultation process in Jhajjar, Rewari and Rohtak over the past two days, engaging with party workers, local leaders and key stakeholders to gather feedback on the appointment of new district presidents. On Wednesday, senior Congress leaders, including former MP and CWC member Jagdish Thakur, former MLA Rao Dan Singh and party leader Vardhan Yadav, held discussions with Jhajjar MLA Geeta Bhukkal and other local leaders and workers in Jhajjar. Thakur underlined the party's commitment to an open and inclusive process. "The new district president will be selected through consultation — not behind closed doors — with inputs from workers, party leaders, traders and the general public," he said. Thakur stressed that the chosen candidate should be "a strong, assertive leader aged between 35 and 55, capable of representing the public voice and strengthening the party at the grassroots." In Rewari, Central observer BM Sandeep, along with state observers Suresh Gupta, Sunder Lal Batra and Parag Sharma, led similar interactions with local Congress functionaries.



## AC HELMETS TO HELP BILASPUR TRAFFIC COPS STAY COOL AMID SOARING TEMPERATURE

**Diary Times Desk :** Traffic police personnel here will soon be provided with battery-operated AC helmets to help them cope with the rising temperatures, officials said on Tuesday. According to the officials, this initiative has been inspired by Gujarat, Delhi and Rajasthan police who have provided AC helmets to their personnel on field duty. Traffic police personnel stand in the sun for hours, which can cause health issues. These AC helmets will not only provide relief from the heat to the policemen but also improve their efficiency, said Superintendent of Police (SP) Sandeep Dhawal. A successful trial of these helmets was conducted on Tuesday and the measure will be implemented soon. These helmets run on batteries and have an in-built system which gives cool air for several hours, he said. The temperature in Bilaspur soars to 40-42 degrees Celsius in the afternoon and traffic police personnel face issues like dizziness, headache and dehydration due to the heat, according to the officials.

## NANGAL MC'S PROPOSAL TO IMPOSE RECIPROCAL TAX ON HIMACHAL VEHICLES RECEIVES MASSIVE SUPPORT FROM LOCALS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Nangal Municipal Council's proposal to impose reciprocal tax on vehicles registered in Himachal while entering Punjab territory has received support from netizens and residents of Punjab. People have taken to social media and other media channels to show support for the move. Paramjit Singh Pamma, municipal councillor of Nangal who brought in the resolution, while talking to The Tribune said that he was overwhelmed by the support. Thousands of people have called me and shown support for the move on social media. The sentiments of the people of the state are clear — they have raised their voice against the illegal tax being imposed by Himachal government on residents of Punjab, especially those residing in border areas of the state along Himachal. Pamma said that just two years ago the entry tax on vehicles registered in other states for entering Himachal was Rs 40 for all kinds of passenger vehicles.

## TOURIST FOOTFALL PICKS UP IN HIMACHAL IN JUNE, MANALI SEES 80% OCCUPANCY

**Diary Times Desk :** Tourist footfall has picked up in the state in the month of June following modest arrivals in May. "The tourist footfall last month was quite low. The conflict with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack was the major reason behind low the arrival. But now, the situation has improved a lot," said Anoop Thakur, a hotelier from Manali. "Currently, the occupancy rate in Manali is around 80 per cent," he said. The tourist arrival has increased in Shimla as well over the past one week, but it's not as high as in Manali. "May was bad for us but the situation has improved over the past one week. Currently, the occupancy rate is around 50 to 60 per cent in Shimla. As the heat increases in the plains, it will go further up," said Prince Kukreja, vice-president of the Shimla Hoteliers Association. In May, tourists come here mostly from southern states and Maharashtra. "Most bookings were cancelled in May because many people in the South see Kashmir and Himachal as one region. So, they were a little scared to visit immediately after the terror attack."



## NO RESPITE EXPECTED FROM HEAT WAVE CONDITIONS IN HIMACHAL TILL JUNE 13

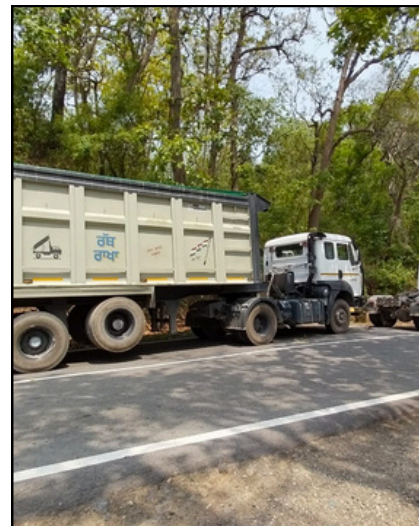
**Diary Times Desk :** Many areas in the plains, low and mid hills of the state are enduring heat wave conditions. At many stations, maximum temperatures have soared past 40 degree Celsius and Una is just shy of touching the 45 degree Celsius mark. The weather department has issued an orange alert for heat wave and severe heat wave at isolated places in the districts of Una and Kullu and yellow alert for isolated places in the districts of Mandi, Shimla, Solan, Bilaspur, Solan, Hamirpur and Kangra. "Weather will remain largely dry across the state till June 13, and several areas are likely to endure heat wave conditions," said Sandeep Sharma, a senior scientist at Meteorological Centre, Shimla. "Maximum temperatures are four to five degree higher than normal at most places in the state. Similarly, minimum temperatures are also significantly higher than normal," he said. Over the last 24 hours, Sundernagar, Bhuntar, Dharamsala, Una, Mandi and Manali have endured heat wave conditions. Sharma further said that the state would get some relief from scorching heat from August 14 onwards as there's a likelihood of light rain across the state until June 17. Incidentally, it's the first heat wave alert issued in June. No alert was issued in the month of May as the state experienced rainfall this month on regular basis. The heat wave is unlikely to impact the agriculture sector much as the crops are at sowing stage.

## 4 ARRESTED FOR HACKING APP, DUPING HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE CO-OPERATIVE BANK OF RS 11.55 CR

**Diary Times Desk :** Four persons were arrested for committing cyber fraud and duping Himachal Pradesh State Co-Operative Bank from various parts of the country, including Mumbai, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, said police officials here today. The accused duped the bank of Rs 11.55 crore. Mohit Chawla, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), State Cyber Crime, confirmed the report and said further investigation was underway. He said at present the police were interrogating two suspects from whom crucial information was being extracted. He said that the bank accounts of the accused had been frozen. On May 11, some fraudsters hacked Himpesa app, the mobile banking application of the bank, and proceeded to dupe a customer of the Hali branch in Chamba district. The fraudsters hacked the customer's mobile banking application and then carried out unauthorised national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) and real-time gross settlement (RTGS) transactions. The withdrawn amount was then transferred into 20 different bank accounts. While the incident reportedly occurred on May 11 and 12, it was only on May 14 that the matter came to light after the branch officials received the transaction report from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

## SIRMAUR HIGHWAY HEIST: TRANSPORT OFFICIALS CRACK CODE OF OVERLOAD SYNDICATE

**Diary Times Desk :** The persistent menace of overloading continues unabated in Sirmaur district, despite repeated crackdowns by the Transport Department and local police. In the latest action, authorities intercepted two suspicious trailers near Juddo ka Johar on the Paonta Sahib highway and issued challans totalling nearly Rs 3 lakh. According to officials, one of the vehicles (HR58E-3030) was found overloaded with gravel, while another vehicle (HR58E-1010) — having only a cabin and chassis — was towing the heavily loaded trailer. Upon closer inspection, officers uncovered a shocking tactic: the number plates of the two vehicles had been swapped. The front vehicle bore the registration plate of the rear one and vice versa, in an attempt to evade enforcement. When the transport team asked for documents, both drivers fled the scene and disappeared into a nearby forest. During a subsequent search, officials recovered papers from the chassis-only vehicle that revealed clear violations of transport rules. Notably, this vehicle had already been fined Rs 2.42 lakh for overloading in a previous case. This time, it was penalised an additional Rs 89,000, while the overloaded trailer incurred a fine of Rs 2.12 lakh.



## BENGALURU STAMPEDE: BCCI SET TO FORMULATE GUIDELINES FOR POST-IPL VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is set to formulate guidelines for post-IPL victory celebrations. The move comes in the wake of the recent Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) celebrations in Bengaluru, which turned tragic, resulting in the deaths of 11 fans and injuries to many others. The BCCI has scheduled a meeting of its Apex Council for Saturday (June 14), to finalise the upcoming domestic season and the itinerary for next year's home white-ball series against New Zealand. The meeting will be conducted online. Sources reveal that the BCCI is exploring ways to regulate trophy celebrations without dampening the spirit of the occasion. Cricbuzz recently reported, quoting BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, that the board is considering introducing formal guidelines in this regard. Meanwhile, the BCCI will finalise the dates and venues for the home series against New Zealand, which will feature three ODIs and five T20 Internationals. The series holds added significance, as it will serve as a key preparatory series ahead of the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka in February-March 2026 - less than a month later."



## MEHIDY HASAN REPLACES NAJMUL HOSSAIN AS BANGLADESH ODI CAPTAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Bangladesh Cricket Board on Thursday (June 12) announced Mehidy Hasan Miraz as the new ODI captain, replacing Najmul Hossain Shanto, "for the next 12 months". The surprising decision comes less than a month ahead of three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka, scheduled to begin on July 2. Shanto, who recently stepped down from T20I captaincy in order to concentrate on his batting, was all set to continue as ODI captain though the board think-tank felt otherwise. "The Board felt that Miraz's consistent performances with the bat and ball, his ability to fight and inspire the team and his energetic presence on and off the field make him an ideal candidate to lead the ODI side during a transitional time," Chairman of BCB's Cricket Operations Committee Nazmul Abedeen said. "We believe he has the temperament and maturity to take Bangladesh forward in this format. We take this opportunity to thank Shanto for the positivity and character he has demonstrated as captain. He remains very much a part of the leadership group and we know how important his batting is to the team." With 1617 runs and 110 wickets in 105 ODIs, Miraz is currently ranked No. 4 among allrounders in the ICC.

## SHUBMAN GILL GETS CALLED 'SELF-OBSSESSED' BY FANS FOR HAVING 'PRINCE' ENGRAVING ON BAT

**Diary Times Desk :** Star India batter Shubman Gill is being slammed for using 'Prince' engraving on his new bat. Gill unveiled his new willow ahead of the upcoming England series as the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) shared photographs from a special captain's photoshoot, where Gill posed wearing the India captain's blazer and cap. The star batter also flaunted his new bat, which he used during the recently concluded Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). The bat, having the 'Prince' engraving, caught the attention of fans as the new India Test captain is set to use it for the first time in international cricket. Gill is often called the Prince of Indian cricket, being touted as the next poster boy of the Indian cricket team after Virat Kohli. However, his self-proclamation of the title hasn't gone down well with fans as he's being widely slammed. Gill was appointed as India's 37<sup>th</sup> Test skipper, following the sudden retirement of Rohit Sharma, ahead of the England tour. The 24-year-old has led India in five T20Is in 2024 on the tour of Zimbabwe, where the team emerged victorious by 4-1.



## 'VERY GRATEFUL AND FORTUNATE' - KARUN NAIR ON SECOND CHANCE AT TEST CRICKET

**Diary Times Desk :** Karun Nair feels "very grateful and fortunate" to have another shot at Test cricket, eight years after he last played in the format. Nair, 33, strengthened his case for a return to the playing XI by scoring a double-century for India A against the England Lions in the first unofficial Test last week in Canterbury. "Feels really special," Nair told BCCI.tv. "[I'm] Very grateful and fortunate to be able to get this opportunity again. Looking forward to grabbing this opportunity with both hands." Nair's return comes on the back of a mountain of runs for Vidarbha in the 2024-25 season. He made 863 runs at 53.93 in a title-winning Ranji Trophy campaign. Before that, Nair had an impressive 50-over season, hitting five hundreds in eight innings at an average of 389.50 in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. At a press conference to announce the Test squad, chief selector Ajit Agarkar cited Nair's strong domestic performances and familiarity with English conditions as key reasons for his selection. Nair played ten County Championship matches across two seasons (2023-2024) for Northamptonshire, scoring 736 runs at 56.61. "Comebacks are never easy," head coach Gautam Gambhir told the Test squad prior to their first training session.

## "FEEL SAD THE WAY VIRAT KOHLI'S GONE": RAVI SHASTRI GRILLS BCCI, TRIGGERS FRESH DEBATE

**Diary Times Desk :** Former India coach Ravi Shastri feels Virat Kohli's Test retirement could have been handled better as he deserved a proper farewell and said he would have reinstated him as captain after the Australia series. Kohli called time on his Test career last month, finishing with 123 matches, 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, including 30 centuries. "When you go, that's when people realise how big a player he was. I feel sad that he is gone, the way he is gone. I think it could have been handled better, there should have been more communication," Shastri said in a video shared by SonyLiv on social media. Kohli's decision came just days before the Indian squad for the five-Test series against England was to be announced. Shastri, who coached India during their historic Test series wins in Australia under Kohli's leadership, said he would have reinstated him as captain after India's 1-3 loss to Australia earlier this year. "If I had anything to do with it, I would have made him captain, straightaway after Australia," Shastri said. Following Kohli's retirement and skipper Rohit Sharma's exit from the format, selectors appointed Shubman Gill as captain for the England series, which begins on June 20.

## I'M HAPPY HIS BODY IS IN GOOD SHAPE AT THE MOMENT - MORKEL ON BUMRAH

**Diary Times Desk :** India bowling coach Morne Morkel admitted to have been 'blown away' by Jasprit Bumrah's rhythm during the team's practice sessions in the build up to the first Test of the England series. The 31-year-old Bumrah had a landmark series in Australia at the end of the last year but couldn't add to his 32 wickets after suffering a back injury that kept him out of the final day of the series in Sydney. It was an injury setback that ruled Bumrah out of the ensuing Champions Trophy and he returned to competitive action only at the recently-concluded IPL, where he had to bowl just four overs in a game. Head coach Gautam Gambhir revealed that his pace ace would play only three Tests on the England tour and Morkel reiterated the importance of managing him. But that didn't stop him admiring the intensity of Bumrah's performances in the nets. "Bumrah knows how to get himself ready, he knows how to prepare," Morkel said on Wednesday. "I was blown away to see the energy on the ball the last three days. That's very exciting to see. I'm happy his body is in good shape."