

## PM NARENDRA MODI

# PM NARENDRA MODI BEGINS 3-NATION VISIT TO CYPRUS, CANADA, CROATIA

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday his three-nation tour of Cyprus, Canada and Croatia will help expand ties in trade, investment and security and galvanise global understanding on tackling all forms of terrorism.

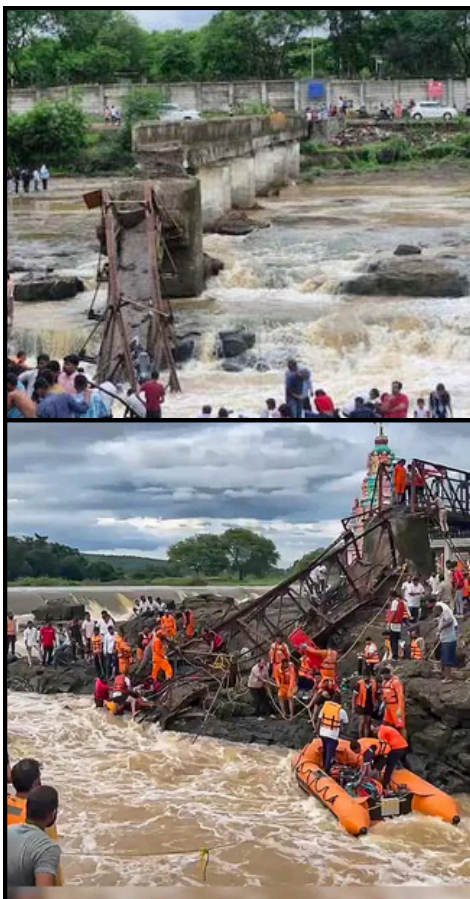
The visit is being closely followed as Modi is set to hold his first meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the margins of the G7 Summit during the second leg of the tour. The meeting has been described by the Indian side as an opportunity to reset relations with Canada after a long-running diplomatic row over the killing of a Khalistani separatist in 2023.

Modi arrived in Cyprus late on Sunday afternoon, becoming the first Indian premier to visit the Mediterranean country in 23 years. The decision to travel to Cyprus on the way to Canada was influenced by Turkey's support for Pakistan during last month's clashes with India. Turkey recognises Northern Cyprus, comprising territories seized by Turkish forces in 1974, while India has maintained close ties with the Republic of Cyprus. In a statement issued ahead of his departure from New Delhi, Modi described Cyprus as a close friend and important partner in the Mediterranean region and the European Union (EU). He said: "The visit provides an opportunity to build upon the historical bonds and expand our ties in the areas of trade, investment, security, technology and promote people-to-people exchanges."



## PUNE BRIDGE COLLAPSES

# 4 DEAD AFTER OLD BRIDGE COLLAPSES IN PUNE AMID HEAVY RAIN, SEVERAL STILL MISSING



**Diary Times Desk :** Four people were killed and 32 others were injured after an old bridge collapsed in Pune amid heavy rain on Sunday afternoon, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said. The bridge collapsed and fell into the Indrayani river and swept away at least 15 to 20 people with the speeding stream.

Fadnavis has also announced financial aid of Rs 5 Lakh to the families of those who lost their lives in the incident. The incident occurred when several people had gathered on the bridge, which had been in a dilapidated state, to witness the swelling river. Among the injured, six of them were critical, according to Fadnavis. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic. Five to six people have been rescued from the river.

According to initial reports, the strong water current led to the collapse of the bridge. Rescue and search operations have been launched on a war footing, with teams from the local police and district administration actively engaging in relief efforts. As many as 15 ambulances are presently being rushed to the spot.

"According to preliminary information, two people have died in this incident. I pay my heartfelt tribute to them. We share the grief of their families," Fadnavis wrote on X. At least 32 people were injured, six of them are critical. They have been admitted to the hospital for treatment," he said. "I have spoken to the Divisional Commissioner, Tehsildar and the Police Commissioner. Some people have been injured and taken to hospital. Some people are also trapped. The NDRF team is reaching there. It is possible that some people have been swept away," he added.



## PASSENGERS FUME AS AIR INDIA EXPRESS PLANE FLIES FROM GUWAHATI TO KOLKATA LATE BY 18 HOURS

**Diary Times Desk :** Passengers on an Air India Express flight from Guwahati to Kolkata faced a harrowing ordeal after being de-boarded twice due to a “technical glitch” in the aircraft before being flown to their destination on Sunday afternoon – more than 18 hours after the scheduled departure, officials said. The incident involved 170 passengers aboard Air India Express flight IX-1226, which was scheduled to depart from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at 9.20 pm on Saturday. The flight was delayed till after midnight because of a “technical glitch” and passengers remained seated inside all the while, an aggrieved traveller said in a video that has gone viral on social media. Several such videos of the delayed flight are being circulated on social media alleging no clear information for the flight's delay. PTI, however, independently could not confirm the authenticity of the videos. “Around 1.30 am, we were asked to de-board and taken to the lounge. From there, we were taken to a cheap hotel for overnight stay. It did not provide us breakfast,” he alleged.



## INDRAYANI RIVER BRIDGE NEAR PUNE WAS RUSTED, COLLAPSED PROBABLY DUE TO CROWDING: AJIT PAWAR



**Diary Times Desk :** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday said the iron bridge over the Indrayani river was rusted and prima facie it gave way as several people were standing on the structure, killing two individuals. Pune district collector Jitendra Dudi said 38 people had been rescued so far, and 30 of them hospitalised, while six others sustained serious injuries. The collector said the exact number of people present on the bridge when it collapsed and was swept away is being assessed. “We are also assessing how many people are missing,” he added. The incident occurred in the Kundamala area of Maval tehsil frequented by picnickers, officials said. They said the area had been receiving heavy rains over the past few days, sending the river into a spate. Pawar said, “We have received various versions of the incident. As per the preliminary information, the bridge was old and rusted. Many people were standing on the bridge when it collapsed.”

## HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR KEDARNATH SHRINE IN UTTARAKHAND, ALL 7 ON BOARD KILLED

**Diary Times Desk :** A helicopter crashed near the Kedarnath shrine in Uttarakhand amid poor visibility early Sunday, killing all seven on board. Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the accident took place above the forests of Gaurikund. Five pilgrims, the pilot and an employee of the Badrinath-Kedarnath temple committee was among those killed. The helicopter took off from Kedarnath for Guptkashi around 5:30 am and crashed soon after. The crash site is located nearly 5 km above Gaurikund known as Gauri Mai Khark. Sources said the chopper belonging to Aryan Aviation Pvt Ltd crashed between Gaurikund and Trijuganarayan in Kedarghati and caught fire. Rajwar said zero visibility caused by bad weather apparently led to the crash and added that rescue and relief teams have been dispatched to the spot. District Tourism Development Officer and Nodal officer for Heli Service Rahul Chaubey said information about the helicopter going missing was received early this morning and a search was launched immediately. The deceased hailed from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Those on board the helicopter included Shradha Rajkumar Jaiswal (35) from Maharashtra, Kashi (2) from Maharashtra, Rajkumar Suresh Jaiswal (41).



## 3 KILLED AS BUILDING COLLAPSES IN CONGESTED KACHCHI SADAK AREA IN MATHURA

**Diary Times Desk :** Three people, including two minor sisters, were killed when a multi-storey building collapsed on Sunday in the congested Kachchi Sadak area here, officials said. One person was pulled out from the debris, they said. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh said the building was located on a mound. Rescue operations are under way to ascertain that no one else is buried under the rubble. He said Totaram (38) and two sisters -- Yashoda (6) and Kavya (3) -- were killed in the incident. SSP Shlok Kumar said one person was earlier rescued from the rubble and taken to hospital. He is currently under observation and is stable. "Rescue operations are under way. Teams from the fire services, municipal corporation, civil defence and police are currently on the site. Additionally, National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force teams have been called in to assist with the rescue efforts," said the SSP.



### Aries

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

### Gemini

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

### Leo

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

### Libra

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

### Sagittarius

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

### Aquarius

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



16-06-2025

### Taurus

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

### Cancer

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

### Virgo

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

### Scorpio

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

### Capricorn

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

### Pisces

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



## HIMACHAL: VIRBHADRA SINGH'S STATUE WILL BE UNVEILED ON JULY 15 ON SHIMLA RIDGE, CENTRAL LEADERS WILL ALSO BE PRESENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh, President of Raja Virbhadr Singh Foundation, said that on the advice of the central leadership, the statue of late Raja Virbhadr Singh will now be unveiled on 15 July next month instead of 23 June at the Ridge Ground in Shimla. Senior Congress leaders, former national president Sonia Gandhi, national president Mallikarjun Kharge, general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, state affairs in-charge Rajni Patil and many other central leaders have expressed their desire to attend the ceremony. He said that in this regard, he met Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and requested him to fix the date of unveiling of the statue on 15 July, which he has accepted. Vikramaditya Singh said that Virbhadr Singh was a famous leader not only of the state but also of the country. Not only the ruling party but also the opposition leaders and many other senior people want to attend the unveiling of his statue. He said that the statue of Virbhadr Singh has reached Shimla and now it will be unveiled on 15 July in the presence of the central leadership. He said that Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, all members of the State Cabinet and all MLAs would be witnesses to this historic occasion.



## HIMACHAL : THE EXISTENCE OF THE HILL COW GAURI IS IN DANGER IN HIMACHAL, THE NUMBER OF COWS OF THIS BREED HAS REDUCED TO ONLY TEN THOUSAND

**Diary Times Desk :** A massive explosion occurred due to cylinder blast in Vasni of Purani Mandi ward of Nagar Nigam. This caused a fire in the store located on the second floor of the house. Property worth about Rs 4 lakh was destroyed in this incident. The fire brigade personnel controlled the fire with the help of local people but by then everything was burnt to ashes. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained. The team of the Revenue Department has prepared a report after reaching the spot and assessing the damage. A massive explosion occurred in the store on the second floor at Vasni of Purani Mandi ward of Nagar Nigam Mayor Virendra Bhatt Sharma at around 12:30 pm on Sunday afternoon. Sohan Singh Saklani's family was terrified on hearing the sound of the explosion. The family members came out of the house. When Sohan Singh and other people reached the second floor of the house, they saw that the trunk, utensils, gas stove and other items in the store were engulfed in fire.

## MANDI NEWS: EXPLOSION DUE TO CYLINDER BURST, STORE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HOUSE BLOWN TO PIECES; LOSS OF LAKHS

**Diary Times Desk :** A massive explosion occurred due to cylinder blast in Vasni of Purani Mandi ward of Nagar Nigam. This caused a fire in the store located on the second floor of the house. Property worth about Rs 4 lakh was destroyed in this incident. The fire brigade personnel controlled the fire with the help of local people but by then everything was burnt to ashes. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained. The team of the Revenue Department has prepared a report after reaching the spot and assessing the damage. A massive explosion occurred in the store on the second floor at Vasni of Purani Mandi ward of Nagar Nigam Mayor Virendra Bhatt Sharma at around 12:30 pm on Sunday afternoon. Sohan Singh Saklani's family was terrified on hearing the sound of the explosion. The family members came out of the house. When Sohan Singh and other people reached the second floor of the house, they saw that the trunk, utensils, gas stove and other items in the store were engulfed in fire. Due to it being a weekly holiday, people from nearby areas also immediately reached the spot and gathered to control the fire. Meanwhile, the fire brigade personnel also reached there. Before the fire could be controlled, everything was burnt to ashes. At present, the fire department team is investigating the matter.

## HIMACHAL: FIVE YOUTHS FROM HIMACHAL BECAME LIEUTENANTS IN THE INDIAN ARMY, NOW THEY WILL TAKE CHARGE OF PROTECTING THE COUNTRY ON THE BORDER

**Diary Times Desk :** On Saturday, five young officers from Himachal Pradesh became part of the Indian Army after completing their training from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun and taking the oath to protect the country. After the passing out parade, the youth have been posted in different regiments. Seeing the stars on the shoulders of their beloved ones and the officer's uniform on their bodies, the family members' chests swelled with pride. Shubham Thakur of Jamthalgahat of Sarayun Khas Panchayat has been appointed in 5/5 Gorkha Rifles. His parents were also present at the passing out parade at IMA on Saturday. Seeing their son in army uniform, their faces lit up with pride. Father Rajesh Thakur said that Shubham had got a job in a multinational company, but the passion to serve the country pulled him into the army. Aryan Thakur of Gram Panchayat Bat, who became a lieutenant in the army, studied till 12th from Sainik School Sujapur Tihra. He passed the NDA exam in the first attempt and was selected for the National Military Academy, Pune, Maharashtra. After completing four years of rigorous training, he passed out from IMA, Dehradun. Father Randhir Singh is TGT Non Medical in the Education Department and mother Vaishno is a housewife.



## SIRMOUR: POLICE RECOVERED THE GIRL FROM AMBALA, 4 PEOPLE PROTESTING WERE ARRESTED; ALTERCATION BETWEEN BINDAL AND SDM

**Diary Times Desk :** The police has found the girl missing from Majra area since June 5 along with a young man from Ambala in Haryana. On Saturday, the police presented the girl before the court after recovering her. Time till Monday has been given to record the girl's statement. In such a situation, the police has kept the girl in the Women's One Stop Center. On the other hand, the police is interrogating the young man. SP NS Negi said that the police team has recovered the girl and the young man from Ambala. Both have been brought to Sirmour. The police is interrogating the young man, while the girl has been presented before the court, time has been given to record the statement on Monday. The SP said that the police has also arrested 4 people from among those who demonstrated in provocation and other matters. He said that the accused will be produced before the court. At the same time, Section 163 of BNSS was implemented in the area by the District Magistrate, despite this, a crowd gathered outside the Majra police station on Saturday. In such a situation, action will also be taken against those who disobey the orders as per the rules. The SP has appealed to the people to follow the orders issued (Section-163 BNSS) and maintain peace and harmony in the area.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU SAID- WATER SUPPLY WILL BE MONITORED, SENSORS WILL BE INSTALLED IN 291 DRINKING WATER SCHEMES

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that sensors will now give information whether drinking water has reached people's homes or not. These sensors will be installed in 291 schemes of 10 districts of the state. This will monitor the real time water supply. This system will be installed in all districts except Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti. CM Sukhu said that 14 state-level and 14 district-level NABL-accredited water testing laboratories will be established to check the purity of drinking water. So far, there are a total of 71 water testing laboratories in the state. In a statement issued from Shimla on Saturday, Sukhu said that one area of every district will be marked under the drinking water supply system for 24 hours a week. Work is in progress on underground water supply scheme in Rampur, Chamba.



LANDSLIDE ON NH-169,  
WATERLOGGING IN  
MANGALURU AS HEAVY RAINS  
LASH COASTAL KARNATAKA

**Diary Times Desk :** Heavy rains across Karnataka disrupted daily life on Sunday, with a landslide near Kettikallu in Belthangady taluk affecting vehicular movement along the busy National Highway-169. The downpour triggered widespread waterlogging and caused damage to infrastructure in several parts of the state, particularly coastal Karnataka. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded intense rainfall in Dakshina Kannada, with Mangaluru receiving 170 mm and the Panambur observatory reporting 210 mm of rain in 24 hours. Neighbouring Udupi district received about 50 mm. An orange alert was issued for Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu, warning of thunderstorms and lightning. In Mangaluru city, several low-lying areas such as Pumpwell, Kaikamba, Kankanady, and Bikarnakatte were severely affected by flooding. Residents reported rainwater entering homes, shops, and roadways due to poor drainage systems. The flooding in Pumpwell – a major traffic junction – led to slow-moving traffic, with buses from Bengaluru forced to reroute via Nanthur Circle after a diversion at Padilil.

AIR INDIA CRASH: 47 VICTIMS  
IDENTIFIED VIA DNA; 24 BODIES  
HANDLED OVER

**Diary Times Desk :** Three days after an Air India flight bound for London crashed in Ahmedabad, authorities have identified 47 victims through DNA testing. Of these, 24 bodies have been handed over to their families, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. "We have established contact with the next of kin/relatives of all passengers and crew members, expressing our condolences and helping them with the next steps. Over 400 family members have reached Ahmedabad and are being assisted by our teams on the ground," Air India said in a statement on social media site X. "Every affected family in Ahmedabad has been assigned at least one caregiver by Air India. Air India is working closely with other Tata Group companies to provide every possible assistance to the families and loved ones of those deceased, which remains our number one priority," the airline added. Authorities are conducting DNA tests to confirm the identities of the deceased, as several bodies were either burned or damaged. "A total of 47 plane crash victims have been identified so far through DNA matching. Of these, bodies of 24 victims have been handed over.

VIJAY RUPANI'S LAST RITES WITH FULL STATE  
HONOURS, STATE MOURNING FOR A DAY



**Diary Times Desk :** The state funeral of former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani, who was killed in the Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crash in Ahmedabad, will be held on Monday with full state honours. A one-day state mourning in memory of the BJP leader will be observed. Three days after the plane crash, the body of the former chief minister was identified after DNA testing. A large team of forensic experts have been working to identify bodies of those killed in one of the worst aviation disasters in India by matching DNA with samples collected from their relatives. DNA-matching is a complex medical and legal process and involves layers of verification. It's only after an elaborate set of tests and confirmation of DNA samples, families are called up and asked to collect the bodies of their loved ones. In some cases, the analysis is repeated due to insufficient DNA material. The identification process can take up to 72 hours. The confirmation of Vijay Rupani's identification was announced by Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi on Sunday morning.

INDIA ISSUES FRESH ADVISORY FOR  
NATIONALS IN ISRAEL AMID IRANIAN  
STRIKES

**Diary Times Desk :** India on Sunday issued a fresh advisory for nationals in Israel as tensions in the Middle East continued to rise. The Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv asked all Indians to stay vigilant and avoid any unnecessary movement while adhering to the safety protocols issued by the Israeli authorities. "The Embassy of India in Tel Aviv is in touch with members of the Indian community in Israel, including caregivers, workers, students, businessmen and tourist groups. All necessary measures are being taken to ensure their safety and well-being," said the Embassy's statement. It added that India is monitoring the situation closely and is in regular touch with the Israeli authorities. "All Indian nationals are once again advised to stay vigilant, strictly avoid any unnecessary movement and adhere to the safety protocols as advised by the Israeli authorities and home front command (<https://oref.org.il/eng>). Safety and security of Indian nationals.

PM MODI SENT A MESSAGE THAT INDIA'S  
BLOOD IS NOT MEANT TO BE SHED: AMIT  
SHAH

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a message to the whole country that India's blood is not meant to be shed and whoever dares to do this will be punished, union home minister Amit Shah said on Sunday. Addressing a public gathering in Lucknow, Shah said that India has "retaliated with surgical strike, air strike and razed terrorist headquarters" to the ground whenever Pakistan tried to attack the country during PM Modi's government in the past 11 years. Shah, who was in Uttar Pradesh's capital to hand over appointment letters to 60,244 newly recruited police constables, said Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, had led to the death of over 100 terrorists linked to groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen. In an operation named 'Sindoor', Indian armed forces conducted strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), two weeks after the April 22.

PUNE BRIDGE ORIGINALLY BUILT FOR FARMERS 30 YRS AGO COLLAPSED UNDER  
TOURIST LOAD; 4 DEAD: MLA

**Diary Times Desk :** The bridge over Indrayani River in Maharashtra's Pune district, which collapsed on Sunday afternoon, was built 30 years ago for the movement of farmers, NCP MLA Sunil Shelke has said. Shelke told the news agency ANI that the bridge was periodically repaired, and tourists were prohibited from entering it. "This bridge was constructed for the movement of farmers 30 years ago. But due to the excessive load of tourists and two-wheelers, this bridge collapsed. 2 people have died," Shelke said, according to ANI. "Pimpri-Chinchwad and NDRF are fully supporting. We used to repair it time to time and had denied the entry of tourists... but they came here and the tragedy took place..." he added. While several people are feared to have been swept away in the currents, the police have confirmed the death of four people so far. The accident took place at around 3:30pm on Sunday when many visitors were present near the Kundamala area in Maval tehsil for the weekend. Two teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed and are carrying out search and rescue operations at the site.



**PAKISTAN STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
IRAN AMID CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL: PM  
SHARIF TO IRANIAN PRESIDENT  
PEZESHKIAN**

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, expressing Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with Iran after Israel's attacks, which he described as "blatant provocations". Israel launched attacks on Iranian nuclear and military facilities on Friday. The strikes killed several senior military commanders and nuclear scientists. Iran later launched retaliatory strikes. In the telephonic conversation with Pezeshkian on Saturday, Sharif strongly condemned Israeli attacks against Iran that he said violated its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and were in complete defiance of the UN Charter and international law. "Spoke with President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran today to express Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the brotherly people of Iran in the face of Israel's unprovoked aggression," SHrif posted on X. The Prime Minister said that Iran has the right to self-defence, as provided under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

**SAUDI ARABIA EXECUTES JOURNALIST  
AFTER 7 YEARS ON TERRORISM,  
TREASON CHARGES**

**Diary Times Desk :** A prominent Saudi journalist, who was arrested in 2018 and convicted on terrorism and treason charges, has been executed, the kingdom said. Activist groups maintain that the charges against him were trumped up. Turki Al-Jasser was put to death on Saturday, according to the official Saudi Press Agency, after the death penalty was upheld by the nation's top court. Authorities had raided Al-Jasser's home in 2018, arresting him and seizing his computer and mobile phones. It was not clear where his trial took place or how long it lasted. According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, Saudi authorities maintained that Al-Jasser was behind a social media account on X that levied corruption allegations against Saudi royals. Al-Jasser was also said to have posted several controversial tweets about militants and militant groups. CPJ's programme director Carlos Martínez de la Serna condemned the execution and said the lack of accountability in the wake of the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

**ISRAEL, IRAN BOMBARD EACH OTHER; TRUMP SAYS HE CAN 'EASILY' END  
CONFLICT**

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel and Iran launched fresh attacks on each other overnight into Sunday, killing scores and raising fears of a wider conflict, as US President Donald Trump said it could be ended easily while warning Tehran not to strike any US targets. Israeli rescue teams combed through rubble of residential buildings destroyed by Iranian missiles, using sniffer dogs and heavy excavators to look for survivors after at least 10 people, including children, were killed, raising the two-day toll to 13. Sirens rang out across Israel after 4 pm on Sunday in the first such daylight alert, and fresh explosions could be heard in Tel Aviv. In Iran, images from the capital showed the night sky lit up by a huge blaze at a fuel depot after Israel began strikes against Iran's oil and gas sector — raising the stakes for the global economy and the functioning of the Iranian state. Iran has not given a full death toll but said 78 people were killed on Friday and scores more have died since, including in a single attack that killed 60 on Saturday, half of them children, in a 14-storey apartment block flattened in Tehran.

**'I DO A LOT, NEVER GET CREDIT': TRUMP SAYS  
IRAN-ISRAEL PEACE SOON, ASKS THEM TO  
MAKE DEAL**

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump on Sunday said Iran and Israel "should make a deal" and added that his intervention has led to peace between several countries in conflict, but he "never got credit". Donald Trump, in a post on Truth Social, also repeated his claim of trade being used for India and Pakistan's ceasefire understanding last month. India has rejected Donald Trump's claims of trade being a key part of reaching the ceasefire understanding with Pakistan, saying it was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries. Citing 'peace' between countries like Serbia and Kosovo, Egypt and Ethiopia over issues they once had, Donald Trump on Sunday, in a post on Truth Social, said he does "a lot" and "never" gets "credit" for anything.

**ISRAEL TARGETS IRAN'S DEFENCE  
MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS AS TEHRAN  
UNLEASHES DEADLY MISSILE STRIKE**

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel launched an expanded assault on Iran on Sunday, targeting its energy industry and Defence Ministry headquarters, while Tehran unleashed a fresh barrage of deadly strikes. The simultaneous attacks represented the latest burst of violence since a surprise offensive by Israel two days earlier aimed at decimating Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme. New explosions boomed across Tehran as Iranian missiles entered Israel's skies in attacks that Israeli emergency officials said caused deaths around the country, including four in an apartment building in the Galilee region. A strike in central Israel killed an 80-year-old woman, a 69-year-old woman and a 10-year-old boy, officials said. Casualty figures weren't immediately available in Iran, where Israel targeted its Defence Ministry headquarters in Tehran as well as sites that it alleged were associated with the country's nuclear programme. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard claimed that Iranian missiles targeted fuel production facilities for Israeli fighter jets, something not acknowledged by Israel.

**MILLIONS PROTEST TRUMP'S  
POLICIES IN 'NO KINGS'  
DEMONSTRATIONS ACROSS US**

**Diary Times Desk :** Masses of demonstrators packed into streets, parks and plazas across the US on Saturday to protest President Donald Trump, marching through downtowns and small towns, blaring anti-authoritarian chants mixed with support for protecting democracy and immigrant rights. Organisers of the "No Kings" demonstrations said millions had marched in hundreds of events. Governors across the US had urged calm and vowed no tolerance for violence, while some mobilised the National Guard ahead of marchers' gathering. Confrontations were isolated. But, police in Los Angeles, where protests over federal immigration enforcement raids erupted a week earlier and sparked demonstrations across the country, used tear gas and crowd-control munitions to clear out protesters after the formal event ended. Officers in Portland also fired tear gas and projectiles to disperse a crowd that protested in front of a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement building well into the evening. And in Salt Lake City, Utah, police were investigating a shooting during a march downtown that left one person critically injured. Three people were taken into custody, including a man believed to be the shooter, who also suffered a gunshot wound, according to Police Chief Brian Redd.

**GUNMEN KILL AT LEAST 100  
PEOPLE IN NIGERIA'S BENUE  
STATE, AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL SAYS**

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 100 people have been killed in an attack by gunmen on a village in Nigeria's central Benue state, Amnesty International Nigeria said on Saturday. The attack took place from late Friday into the early hours of Saturday in the village of Yelewata, the group said in a post on social media platform X. "Many people are still missing...dozens injured and left without adequate medical care. Many families were locked up and burnt inside their bedrooms," the post added. Benue is in Nigeria's Middle Belt, a region where the majority Muslim North meets the largely Christian South. The region faces competition over land use, with conflicts between herders, who seek grazing land for their cattle, and farmers, who need arable land for cultivation. These tensions are often worsened by overlapping ethnic and religious divisions. Last month, at least 42 people were shot dead by suspected herders in a series of weekend attacks across Gwer West district in Nigeria's central Benue state.





**PUNJAB POLITICAL PARTIES OPPOSE 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION' PLAN**

**Diary Times Desk** : Political parties in Punjab have opposed the "one nation, one election" scheme proposed by the BJP-led Union Government. Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, on Saturday, described it as a direct assault on the fundamental structure and spirit of the Constitution. After attending a meeting convened by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) under the chairmanship of PP Choudhary, Cheema said he, along with AAP state president Aman Arora, rejected the move as it was a hidden agenda designed to destroy the federal structure of the nation. Referring to the amendments in the proposed Bill, Cheema said these would render the tenures of state assemblies subject to the discretion of the Centre. He said the Bill would further encourage the misuse of Articles 356 and 360 by the Centre. As per provisions, if the Election Commission is of the opinion that the elections to any Assembly cannot be conducted along with the General Election, it may make a recommendation to the President, to declare by an order, that the election to that Assembly may be conducted at a later date. Cheema said the BJP's "one nation, one election" concept would ultimately backfire as it would enable the Centre to conduct state elections at its convenience. Punjab Congress leaders put up a case against the idea of "one nation, one election" during a meeting with members of the committee set up by the government for the purpose.

**HARYANA CM NAYAB SAINI'S LUDHIANA VISIT AHEAD OF BYPOLL SPARKS OUTRAGE**

**Diary Times Desk** : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was met with strong public opposition during his visit to Ludhiana to campaign for BJP candidate Jiwan Gupta ahead of the Ludhiana West byelection. Residents, frustrated over Haryana's historical exploitation of Punjab's water resources, confronted the CM's convoy, waving black flags and raising slogans of "Punjab de Paania de Chor Murdabad." The protests, which drew hundreds of participants, underscored the rising anger among Punjabis over the decades-long issue of water-sharing between the two states. Protesters accused Haryana and the BJP government of trying to loot Punjab's water. They said the Haryana Government was unfairly using Punjab's share of water, leaving the state's agricultural sector struggling. This discontent stems from Haryana's alleged misuse of Punjab's rightful water allocation from the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). While previous governments remained silent on this issue, the Mann-led government has firmly stood its ground, ensuring that the state's share is not compromised.

**POLICE SEEK VALUATION OF PROPERTIES OF ACCUSED IN MBBS EXAM SCAM**

**Diary Times Desk** : The district police have approached local offices of the Revenue Department, Public Works (B&R) and vehicle registration authorities seeking valuation reports of immovable properties and vehicles owned by key accused in the MBBS examination scam that surfaced at Pt BD Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak, (UHSR) in January. Confirming the move, DSP Dalip Singh, who is heading the investigation, said it was essential to ascertain the number and value of properties owned by the accused. Sources revealed that more assets could be attached if found to have been acquired through funds exceeding the accused's legal sources of income. Meanwhile, fresh revelations have surfaced during the police interrogation of two university employees — a programmer and a clerk — who were arrested recently. According to sources, one of the main accused used to hand over a mobile phone to the two employees, which was then used to leak question papers from an exam centre set up on the university campus in May 2024. "The employees, who were deputed at the exam centre, would click photos of the question paper using the same phone and send them to the accused via WhatsApp."

**TARGET KILLING PLOT BY CANADA-BASED TERRORIST ARSH DALA FOILED IN PUNJAB; 2 ARRESTED**

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Police has foiled a target killing plot orchestrated by Canada-based terrorist Arsh Dala and arrested two key operatives of the module, officials said on Sunday. According to preliminary investigation, the arrested individuals were acting on the directions of Arsh Dala to eliminate rival gang members and extortion targets, DGP Gaurav Yadav posted on X. "In a major breakthrough, State Special Operations Cell (#SSOC), Punjab, foils a target killing plot orchestrated by Canada-based terrorist Arsh Dala and apprehends two key operatives — Kawaljit Singh, R/o Dharamkot, and Navdeep Singh @ Hani, R/o Badduwal," the DGP said in the post. He added that with this timely and intelligence-led operation, the SSOC has successfully busted a targeted killing module, averting a serious threat to public safety. Police also seized one Zigana .30 bore pistol (Turkish made) and nine live cartridges during the operation, the DGP said. "Further investigation is underway to trace both forward and backward linkages of the module," the DGP said.

**DRIZZLES, CLOUDY WEATHER PROVIDE RELIEF FROM HEAT IN PARTS OF PUNJAB, HARYANA**

**Diary Times Desk** : Cloudy weather conditions prevailed in some parts of Punjab and Haryana on Sunday, providing slight relief from the scorching heat. The maximum temperature, which had been hovering in the range of 41-45 degrees at most places in the last several days, registered a slight drop though it settled close to the normal limits. Chandigarh received a drizzle. The maximum temperature in the city was recorded at 37.7°C. According to the local Met department, Patiala and Ferozepur in Punjab received light showers. Patiala recorded a maximum temperature of 34.1°C, Amritsar 39.5°C, Ludhiana 38.6°C, Pathankot 39.8°C, Ferozepur 39°C, Gurdaspur 39°C and Bathinda 42.2°C. In Haryana, Narnaul and Rohtak were among the few areas that received rains. Narnaul recorded a maximum temperature of 38.5°C, Rohtak 34.6°C.

**IIT-ROPAR RANKED 12 AMONG TOP ENGINEERING INSTITUTES IN INDIA**

**Diary Times Desk** : The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has secured the 12th position in Top Engineering Colleges in India 2025 ranking released by the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF). In a press release issued here today, professor Rajeev Ahuja Director of IIT-Ropar said the IIRF evaluates over 2,500 institutions across India, assessing them on parameters such as faculty quality, research output, industry collaboration, infrastructure and student satisfaction. IIT-Ropar's consistent rise in rankings reflects its strong research ecosystem, interdisciplinary approach, and impactful contributions to science and technology. According to the latest rankings, IIT-Ropar is placed among IIT-Bombay, IIT-Madras, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kharagpur, and IIT-Kanpur, surpassing several established engineering colleges in the country. The institute has attracted funding of Rs 600 crore from different sources and published 1,056 research papers, he said. He added that the institute has emerged as a research and technological innovation leader, particularly in defence and security, energy efficiency and decarbonisation, semiconductor technology, quantum, agriculture and water management, artificial intelligence and data science, and cyber-physical systems (CPS).

**PUNJAB INFLUENCER MURDER: AMRITPAL MEHRON FLED TO UAE WITHIN HOURS OF KILLING, SAY POLICE**

**Diary Times Desk** : Amritpal Singh Mehron, the alleged mastermind behind the murder of social media influencer Kanchan Kumari, also known as Kamal Kaur Bhabhi, fled to the UAE just hours after the incident, taking a flight from Amritsar airport, Bathinda SSP Amneet Kondal said on Sunday. Police had issued a lookout circular for Amritpal on Saturday, anticipating that he might attempt to leave the country. "When we obtained Amritpal's passport details and checked his travel records, we found that he had fled to the UAE after killing Kanchan. We are now following the procedure for his deportation and have informed the authorities there that he is wanted in a murder case here," said SSP Kondal. The police further stated that two more of Amritpal's associates — Ranjit Singh of Sohal village in Tarn Taran district and an unidentified person — have been named in the FIR. "They helped Amritpal flee in a car after committing the crime. Efforts are underway to nab them as well. We obtained this information during the questioning of Amritpal's two associates, Nimaratjeet Singh and Jaspreet Singh, whose two-day remand ends today. We will seek further police custody to interrogate them," said the SSP. She further revealed that during the investigation, it emerged that Amritpal had planned.

UNVEILING OF VIRBHADRA  
SINGH'S STATUE: SENIOR  
CONGRESS LEADERS TO  
CONVERGE ON SHIMLA'S  
RIDGE ON JULY 15

**Diary Times Desk :** The statue of former six-time Chief Minister late Virbhadra Singh will be unveiled at the historic Ridge in the state's capital in the presence of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, various senior Congress leaders, including All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge, former president Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Wadra. This was stated by Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh, son of the late leader, while he addressed mediapersons here today. Singh said that the unveiling ceremony was initially scheduled to take place in June 23 but was postponed due to unavailability of many senior Congress leaders. He said that recently, he had visited Delhi where he met several senior Congress leaders and invited them to attend the unveiling ceremony. "While the senior leadership expressed interest in coming to Shimla to attend the ceremony, they were unable to do so on June 23 due to various reasons such as the ongoing health issues of Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi being out of the country, therefore it was decided to reschedule the ceremony," he said. The minister also informed that the statue had arrived in Shimla from Delhi and its installation work would commence soon.

COOL HAVEN MANALI  
BECOMES HOTSPOT FOR  
TOURISTS SEEKING RELIEF  
FROM HEAT

**Diary Times Desk :** The scorching heat sweeping across the plains has driven a massive influx of tourists to the cool, tranquil heights of Manali. With temperatures soaring elsewhere, visitors are seeking respite in this picturesque hill station, drawn by its natural beauty, refreshing climate and thrilling adventure activities. From the snow-covered Rohtang Pass to the breathtaking Baralacha Pass in Lahaul, the region is offering tourists a taste of a winter wonderland in the midst of summer. Frequent, gentle afternoon showers are adding to the charm, infusing the air with freshness and making outdoor excursions all the more enjoyable. On the streets, Manali is buzzing with life. The iconic Mall Road is teeming with visitors from early morning until late at night.

NAGPUR GIRL FALLS OFF ZIPLINE IN MANALI AS HARNESS BELT BREAKS

**Diary Times Desk :** A disturbing video capturing a 12-year-old girl falling 30 feet from a zipline near Nehru Kund in Manali has gone viral, reigniting concerns over adventure tourism safety in Himachal Pradesh. The incident, which took place on June 8, remained under wraps until the footage surfaced online. According to the police, Trisha's father, Prafful Vijve, decided not to pursue legal action, saying he will personally ensure his daughter receives the necessary treatment. Eyewitnesses reported that the zipline cable snapped mid-course, causing the girl to fall. She sustained serious injuries and was initially treated at a hospital in Manali before being referred to Chandigarh. She has since been transferred to Nagpur, where she continues to receive treatment, and her condition is said to be stable. The incident has again raised concerns over the lax safety measures, adherence to proper safety protocols by operators and participation of minors in such high-risk activities. While the Tourism Department has promised a full investigation, there has been no official statement confirming whether the operator involved in the incident will face charges for criminal negligence.



WITH 71 LABS, HIMACHAL TO SET  
BENCHMARK IN SAFE DRINKING WATER,  
SANITATION

**Diary Times Desk :** The state government has set up 71 water testing laboratories and proposes to install sensor-based systems in 291 schemes across 10 districts to ensure safe drinking water for every household in Himachal Pradesh. The government plans to set up one state-level and 14 district-level NABL-accredited water testing laboratories. Additionally, drinking water treatment plants would be established in Jawalamukhi, Jaswan, Pragpur and Dehra of Kangra district during the next financial year at a cost of Rs 43 crore. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu reiterated that during the last two-and-a-half years, the state government has taken major initiatives to ensure clean and "These initiatives are reinforcing the commitment of state government towards ensuring health and well-being of the citizens," he said. The state government will start the 'Mukhya Mantri Swachh Jal Shodhan Yojana' with an initial budget of Rs 80 crore received in the first phase. This initiative would deploy advanced technologies like ozonation (waste water treatment), UV filtration, RO and nano-filtration to purify water for both domestic and commercial use," he said. Similarly, under the 'Rural Drinking Water Up-gradation Project', a provision has been made to provide uninterrupted water supply to as many 20,663 households in rural areas. Funded by the NDB, the total project cost amounts to Rs 745 crore with state share of Rs 148 crore.

HEAVY RAINFALL PREDICTED ACROSS HIMACHAL ON JUNE 19, 20

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh is set to receive few spells of heavy rainfall on June 19 and 20. According to the state's Meteorological Department, while light rainfall will occur in the isolated areas of the state till June 18, several areas of the state will experience few spells of heavy rainfall on June 19 and 20. The department has also issued a yellow weather warning for most of the districts of the state till June 18, resulting in thunderstorms along with lightning and gusty winds in isolated areas. The Department has also mentioned that maximum temperatures will likely fall by about 3°C to 4°C over some parts of the state during next subsequent days while no large change will occur in the minimum temperatures during the next three to four days. Meanwhile, light rain occurred in isolated parts of the state during the last 24 hours while weather was mostly dry across the state. Shimla, the state's capital, recorded 28.4°C maximum temperature while prominent tourist destinations such as Dharamsala, Manali, Dalhousie and Kasauli recorded 31°C, 29.6°C, 26.2°C and 30.5°C, respectively.

RAIN BRINGS RELIEF FROM  
SCORCHING HEAT IN HIMACHAL

**Diary Times Desk :** People in Himachal Pradesh received relief from the scorching heat as several parts of the state experienced light rainfall on Sunday. According to the State's Meteorological Department, rainfall across the state is very likely to continue till June 21 with heavy spells of rain at isolated areas on June 20 and 21. The department has also issued a yellow weather warning for 10 districts with the exception of tribal districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti till June 19, resulting in thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds in isolated areas of these districts. Maximum temperatures are also expected to fall by 4°C to 5°C across the state over the next few days while maximum temperatures are very likely to witness a dip of 2°C to 3°C in the next few days, thus bringing the mercury down in the state. Meanwhile, weather was mostly dry across the state during the last 24 hours with maximum temperatures being in the range of 23°C to 42°C in the state. Shimla recorded 27°C maximum temperature while prominent tourist destinations such as Dharamshala, Manali, Dalhousie and Kasauli recorded 32°C, 26.7°C, 25°C and 28.7°C, respectively. Maximum temperature in Solan was 31.4°C, Mandi 35.8°C, Kangra 35.3°C, Nahan 33.8°C, Bilaspur 35.4°C, Hamirpur 36.2°C, Keylong 21.9°C, Kalpa 22.4°C, Kufri 22.6°C, Bhuntar 37.2°C, Sundernagar 35.1°C and Narkanda 20.9°C.





## YUVRAJ SINGH TAKES CHEEKY DIG AT AUSTRALIA AFTER WTC FINAL LOSS: "IT'S OKAY TO..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Legendary India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh took a cheeky dig at Australia following their loss to South Africa in the World Test Championship (WTC) final. South Africa ended a 27-year ICC title drought, beating Australia by five wickets. South Africa's previous and only other ICC triumph came back in 1998 when they lifted the ICC KnockOut Trophy (now called as the Champions Trophy). Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Yuvraj extended wishes to the South Africa team, saying that the class of 2025 showed "resilience and character" and rose to the occasion in style. In the process, Yuvraj also took a lighthearted dig at the Pat Cummins-led Australian team. "The class of 2025 ends a 27-year wait and lifts the ICC World Test Championship Trophy in style! Huge congrats to the @ProteasMenCSA on a historic win at Lord's. I've always believed there's no greater measure of resilience and character than Test cricket, and South Africa rose to the occasion! #AidenMarkram's century was pure class. @KagisoRabada25, @marcojansen2000 and @Ngidilungi brought relentless intensity and #TembaBavuma led with calm and courage. A final worthy of the format. Tough luck #Australia! You know it's okay to let go of one trophy #WTCFinal," wrote Yuvraj.



## FIH PRO LEAGUE: INDIA LOSE 2-3 TO AUSTRALIA IN MANPREET SINGH'S 400TH INTERNATIONAL GAME

**Diary Times Desk :** Manpreet Singh's 400th milestone international match didn't go as he would have hoped, with India going down 2-3 to Australia in the ongoing FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 (Men) on Sunday. It was goals by Tim Brand (4'), Blake Govers (5') and Cooper Burns (18') that set up the victory for Australia, while Sanjay (3') and Dilpreet Singh (36') scored for India. After getting off to a fine start, with an opening goal coming only in the third minute through the handy work of Sanjay, who picked up the rebound from a PC to put India ahead by 1-0, India lost the lead with Australia responding swiftly with an equaliser in the very next minute. It was Tim Brand who scored sensationally, and only seconds later, Australia stunned India with a second goal through Blake Govers. There was little India goalie Krishan Pathak could do to stop the blazing Aussie attack. It was perhaps one of the fastest 10 minutes in any game this far in the European leg of the tournament, with both teams living up to the billing, producing a high-octane encounter. At the first quarter break, Australia was in lead by 2-1 and extended it to 3-1 when Cooper Burns struck one past Pathak in the 18th minute. This goal put India under the pump with Australia.

## PAT CUMMINS' CLASSY RESPONSE PUTS SOUTH AFRICA DOUBTERS TO REST: 'THEY MADE WTC FINAL FAIR AND SQUARE'

**Diary Times Desk :** Temba Bavuma-led South Africa stunned the world by beating Australia to win the third edition of the World Test Championship (WTC) at the Lord's Cricket Ground on Saturday. The Proteas chased down 282 with five wickets in hand to win their second ICC Men's Senior title. South Africa had to wait 27 years for their second ICC title but it was definitely worth the wait. Aiden Markram and Temba Bavuma scored 136 and 66, respectively in the second innings to help South Africa chase down more than 280 runs in the fourth and final innings of the contest. After the defeat in the WTC final, Australia captain Pat Cummins spoke about South Africa's win in the Test Championship and the route they had to face in reaching the final. Ever since Proteas made the finals of the third edition of WTC, several cricket pundits questioned South Africa's path to the summit clash, saying the Rainbow Nation had an easier route as they didn't play bigger teams. Several naysayers also argued that South Africa just played a two-test series, and it was easier for them to clock points than Australia, England, and India, which played more five-match series.



## AXED INDIA STAR SENDS BIG MESSAGE TO GAUTAM GAMBHIR WITH CENTURY IN INTRA SQUAD MATCH

**Diary Times Desk :** Team India continued their preparation for the Test series opener against England, starting June 20, with day 2 of their behind-closed-doors intra-squad game at the Kent Cricket Ground in Beckenham on Saturday. On Day 1, captain Shubman Gill and veteran batter KL Rahul dazzled with half-centuries. Day 2 was even better for one of India's star batters Sarfaraz Khan; albeit he is not part of the official squad for the five-match series. According to a report by Cricbuzz, Sarfaraz scored a century on the second day of play. Sarfaraz isn't a part of the senior team on the tour, and he made sure to make his time in England count, having also scored a 92 for India A during one of the two unofficial Tests against England Lions. Meanwhile, the Indian Express reported that Sarfaraz was retired out for 101. The likes of Abhimanyu Easwaran (39), Sai Sudharsan (38), Ishan Kishan (43) and Washington (0 and 35) were amongst the runs on Day 2. Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is leading India A in the match, got out for a duck. On the first day of the match, KL Rahul and skipper Gill scored fifties while Shardul Thakur was among wickets. Earlier, India A had played two unofficial Tests against England Lions, both ending in a draw.

## IND VS ENG: RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN PUSHES FOR KULDEEP YADAV TO START IN ENGLAND SERIES

**Diary Times Desk :** Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has urged the Indian team to consider playing left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav throughout the upcoming Test series against England, which begins on June 20. This suggestion comes as a surprise, given that Indian teams have traditionally avoided fielding more than one specialist spinner in English conditions. Typically, the combination has leaned toward three to four fast bowlers supported by a lone spinner, due to pitches that tend to favor seam and swing. Ashwin, however, argued that India needs its best bowling attack to win matches - and in his view, Kuldeep is a guaranteed starter. "When batsmen come through, the best bowling attack will win you matches. If they don't leave moisture on the pitch, then I think Kuldeep Yadav would be a certainty. And if there is moisture on the pitch, then Kuldeep should still be there," Ashwin said in an interview with RevSportz. During India's previous tour of England in 2021, the team played only one spinner, Ravindra Jadeja, while Ashwin himself was left out despite his experience. This time, a more flexible team combination could be on the cards - with Jadeja likely to bat higher up the order and the presence of all-rounders like Nitish Reddy or Shardul Thakur potentially freeing up a spot for Kuldeep.

## KHAWAJA HAS ASHES BACKING, BUT LABUSCHAGNE'S SPOT UNCERTAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Usman Khawaja has been backed to be part of the Ashes later this year but Marnus Labuschagne's spot is becoming increasingly uncertain with Sam Konstas firming for a Test recall in West Indies following Australia's World Test Championship (WTC) final defeat at Lord's. There is a chance that Steven Smith's finger injury could provide an opening for Labuschagne to cling onto his spot, after he earned a show of faith at Lord's partly because he had been ever-present in the WTC cycle, but the point has been reached where even that may not save him. The selectors will decide in the next 48 hours whether batting reinforcements need to be added to the squad once there is further clarity over Smith's prognosis, but regardless it's difficult to see a scenario where 19-year-old Konstas doesn't return at the top of the order. "It was a big discussion leading into this Test match and I was on the record a couple of weeks ago .