

DONALD TRUMP NEWS

'HUGE SETBACK': CONGRESS REACTS TO DONALD TRUMP-PAKISTAN ARMY CHIEF ASIM MUNIR MEETING IN US

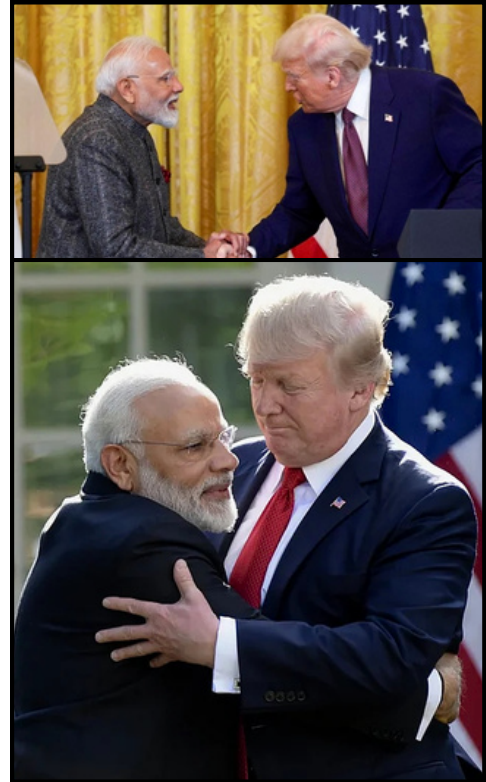
Diary Times Desk : The Congress party on Wednesday took a dig at the Centre and said the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Pakistan Army Field Marshal Asim Munir is a major setback for India.

The Opposition party has called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to chair an urgent all-party meeting upon his return from the three-nation tour to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia.

The Congress added that Modi should have expressed India's displeasure regarding the White House meeting between Trump and Munir during the telephonic conversation between Trump and Modi at the G7 Summit.

During his phone call with Trump, Modi briefed the US president on Operation Sindoor and stated that the strikes on Pakistan were halted at Islamabad's request and not because of a trade deal with the US.

Hours after this call, however, the US President once again claimed that he had stopped the war between India and Pakistan. Congress general secretary and spokesperson Jairam Ramesh called on Modi to express the country's displeasure regarding the meeting. Ramesh also told the news agency PTI that if Indira Gandhi had been prime minister, she would have expressed her displeasure regardless of who the US president was.



'OPERATION SINDHU'

INDIA LAUNCHES 'OPERATION SINDHU' AS IT EVACUATES INDIAN STUDENTS STRANDED IN IRAN



Diary Times Desk : Amid the growing tensions between Iran and Israel, India has launched 'Operation Sindhu' with the aim to bring back Indian students stranded in Iran.

As per the official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs, around 110 students have been evacuated from northern Iran. These students were asked to cross over into Armenia, from where they are being brought back to New Delhi.

"India launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran. India evacuated 110 students from northern Iran who crossed into Armenia under the supervision of our Missions in Iran and Armenia on 17th June. They departed from Yerevan on a special flight and will arrive in New Delhi in the early hours of 19th June 2025," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Iran is home to over 4,000 Indian nationals, of whom half are students. Many of the students are from the region of Jammu and Kashmir and are enrolled in medical and other professional courses.

As per MEA, the first flight of Indian students has taken off from Yerevan's Zvartnots International Airport and are expected to reach India in the early hours of Thursday - June 19. This is not the first time the Indian government has launched a special evacuation operation to bring home Indians stranded in war areas. In 2023, the Indian government launched Operation Ajay, which aimed to bring back Indians stranded in Israel during the war with Hamas.

PM MODI ARRIVES IN CROATIA ON THE LAST LEG OF HIS 3-NATION TOUR

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Croatia on Wednesday on the first-ever visit by an Indian premier, during which he will hold talks with the country's leadership to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The Prime Minister arrived here from Canada on the last leg of his three-nation visit. In Canada, the Prime Minister attended the G7 summit and held talks with several world leaders. He had earlier visited Cyprus as part of the tour. "I look forward to my visit to the Republic of Croatia and meetings with President Zoran Milanovic and Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic," Modi said in a statement before his departure in New Delhi on Sunday. "Both our countries enjoy centuries-old close cultural links. As the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Croatia, it will open new avenues for bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest," he said. "The visit to Croatia will also underscore India's commitment to further strengthening its engagement with partners in the European Union," the Ministry of External Affairs had said in a statement in New Delhi.



INDIA'S FIRST EVACUATION FLIGHT FROM IRAN TO LAND IN DELHI EARLY THURSDAY

Diary Times Desk : The Government of India has launched "Operation Sindhu", an evacuation plan for Indian nationals stranded in Iran amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel. A special flight carrying 110 Indian students took off from Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, at 3 pm local time and is scheduled to land in New Delhi in the early hours of Thursday. These students were evacuated from north-western Iran yesterday via a land route to Armenia, under the supervision of Indian missions in both countries. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed gratitude to the governments of Iran and Armenia for facilitating the evacuation process smoothly. The evacuation is a response to the deteriorating situation due to the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel. The MEA emphasised that the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad is of utmost priority. As part of "Operation Sindhu", the Indian Embassy in Iran has been assisting Indian nationals.

DEFENCE PERSONNEL OPTING FOR PREMATURE RETIREMENT CANNOT BE DENIED BENEFITS OF OROP: AFT



Diary Times Desk : The Armed Forces Tribunal has ruled that defence personnel who have sought voluntary premature retirement cannot be denied benefits under the Defence Ministry's 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP) scheme. A soldier who was enrolled in the Army in October 1995 was thereafter discharged from service in November 2014 at his own request, after rendering over 19 years and one month's service. However, as a consequence of having sought premature retirement, he was denied the grant of the OROP benefits by the authorities, which cited a new policy on the subject issued by the government in 2015. The Tribunal's Bench comprising Justice Anu Malhotra and administrative member Rasika Chaube observed that pensioners form a common category and personnel who opted for premature retirement and qualify for grant of pension are also included in this general category. The pension regulations and rules applicable to premature retired personnel who qualify for pension are similar to that of a regular pensioner retiring on superannuation or on conclusion of his terms of appointment.

BEGUMPET AIRPORT, QATAR AIRWAYS CARGO FLIGHT RECEIVE HOAX BOMB THREATS

Diary Times Desk : Bomb threat calls to a city airport and a private international cargo flight here on Wednesday kept officials on their toes, prompting the deployment of standard measures including declaring an emergency, but they eventually turned out to be hoax claims. An emergency was declared at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGI) after an email claimed of a "human bomb" in an incoming Qatar Airways flight but it turned, police said. A similar threat call was made to the Begumpet airport, largely used for VIP movement. Both turned out to be hoax calls, police said. The bomb threat targeting the Doha-Hyderabad Qatar Airways cargo flight was received at the RGI airport on the city outskirts. The email claimed the presence of a human bomb in the cargo flight, which was found to be hoax after thorough checks, police said. The email was sent to the customer care ID of the airport in the morning and all procedures were followed as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), airport sources said.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

19-06-2025

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.

Gemini

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

Leo

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

Libra

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

Sagittarius

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

Aquarius

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

Taurus

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

Cancer

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

Virgo

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

Scorpio

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

Capricorn

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

Pisces

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



JAIRAM THAKUR: LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- DON'T TEST OUR PATIENCE, BJP IS NOT AFRAID OF THE THREAT OF SENDING US TO JAIL

Diary Times Desk : Former CM and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the state government, administration and police are guilty for bringing the Majra police station incident to this end. This is the result of the Chief Minister's ideology of defeating 97 percent Hindutva. The government is conspiring with the officials to implicate Hindu people. Governments come and go, officials should not try to crush anyone's sentiments. BJP is not afraid of the threat of sending to jail. Do not test our patience too much, if patience breaks, it will be a problem for the state government, people standing with this wrong deed and the administration. Jairam Thakur said that a daughter disappeared from home. The worried family is pleading to find and bring their daughter. Many questions arise on the action of the administration and police for so many days. The police knew where the daughter was? In such a situation, the question arises that why the daughter was not handed over to the family. BJP state president Dr. Rajiv Bindal and MLA Sukhram Chaudhary worked to calm the people. The statement of a minister belonging to the district is also surprising.



HIMACHAL PRADESH: STUDENTS OF 10TH AND 12TH CLASS COULD NOT TELL CM SUKHU WHO IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY

Diary Times Desk : After staying overnight in Baga Sarahan, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu suddenly reached the school for the morning assembly. The children of Government Senior Secondary School Baga Sarahan were standing in rows in the prayer assembly at that time. When the Chief Minister asked the children - those who know who is the President of India, raise their hands, many students from class 10th to 12th could not raise their hands. After this, when a student told him that the President of India was Narendra Modi, he was shocked. Then he asked a primary school student and he answered quickly. Similarly, when the Chief Minister asked the name of the country's capital, many students remained silent. The primary school students kept answering it correctly. On this, CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu patted the back of the primary school teacher. The Chief Minister also asked jokingly who is the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, to which the small children replied smilingly... Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

HIMACHAL: THREE CRICKETERS FROM THE STATE CAN BE SEEN IN THE WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP

Diary Times Desk : This time, three Himachali cricketers may get a place in the Indian team for the Women's Cricket World Cup to be held in September. Fast bowlers Renuka Thakur, Harleen Deol and Tanuja Kanwar from Himachal may get a chance to play in the Women's World Cup. Renuka has been undergoing treatment at NCA Bangalore for the last three months due to injury. She will soon be fully fit and return to the Indian team. Harleen Deol has been selected in the Indian team for the England tour. She will be seen playing in the tri-series in England from June 28. Tanuja Kanwar has recently made her debut in the Indian women's team. The Indian team's first match in the Women's Cricket World Cup will be on September 30. This will also be the opening match of the tournament. The Indian women's cricket team will be announced by the BCCI about a month before this, so that there can be mutual coordination among the players in the camp. Renuka Thakur has played 19 ODIs so far, in which she has taken 35 wickets. Renuka has also taken five wickets for 29 runs. This is her best performance. Renuka Thakur has taken five wickets four times in ODIs.

HIMACHAL NEWS: FIGHT BETWEEN TWO GROUPS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, TEACHER DIES; CROSS FIR REGISTERED

Diary Times Desk : A case of death of a teacher has come to light in Rarang village under Murang police station due to a fight between two groups over land dispute. As soon as the information was received, the police registered a case and started investigation. Both the groups have filed cross FIRs against each other. According to the information received from Murang police station, the deceased's wife Chunni Devi has lodged a complaint against these six people and alleged that my husband and I were returning home after watering the field when around 9:30 in the morning, Dawa Gyalchan, Sem Kali, son Suman Singh, Praveen, daughter Poonam and daughter-in-law all came together and attacked us with iron rods, sticks, stones, and sickles in their hands. Due to which Kumanand and Dandup Gyachho have been injured. Meanwhile, Shiv Singh of our village, who was sowing in the adjacent field, came to us and rescued us from the beating of these people. We were worried due to the severe injuries, as Krishan Lal was covered in blood and had fainted.

HIMACHAL WEATHER: MONSOON WILL ARRIVE IN HIMACHAL SOON, YELLOW-ORANGE ALERT FOR FOUR DAYS OF HEAVY RAIN IN THE STATE

Diary Times Desk : Conditions are becoming favourable for the advancement of southwest monsoon in many parts of Himachal Pradesh during the next 2-3 days. Heavy rains are forecast in the state for the next one week. During the last 24 hours, 55.4 mm rain was recorded in Ghagas, 50.2 in Sundarnagar, 39.2 in Murari Devi, 31.0 in Bhuntar, 25.0 in Gohar, 24.1 in Baggi, 21.0 in Banjar and Mandi, 20.9 in Slappar, 20.0 in Sarahan and Rohru. According to Meteorological Center Shimla, light to moderate rain is expected at some places in the state from June 18 to 19. Light to moderate rain will occur at many places in the state from June 20 to 24. Yellow alert for heavy rain has been issued in many parts on June 20, while orange alert has been issued for June 21 to 23. Orange alert for heavy rain has been issued for Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Shimla, Sirmaur. While there is a yellow alert for Kangra, Mandi and Solan. At the same time, there is no possibility of any major change in the minimum temperature during the next 2 days. After this, the minimum temperature is expected to gradually fall by 3-4 degrees Celsius in many parts of the state during the next 3-4 days. The maximum temperature is likely to increase by 2-4 degrees Celsius during the next 48 hours. After this, the maximum temperature is likely to gradually fall by 3-4 degrees Celsius.

HIMACHAL: CENTRE SANCTIONED RS 2006.40 CRORE TO HIMACHAL FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS

Diary Times Desk : The central government has approved an assistance amount of Rs 2,006.40 crore to Himachal Pradesh for reconstruction in areas affected by disasters like floods, landslides and cloudbursts in the year 2023. A high-level committee headed by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has approved this amount. The Home Minister's Office has given this information on its social media account. According to the Home Minister's Office, the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands firmly with the states in times of disasters without any discrimination. In this direction, a high-level committee headed by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah approved an assistance amount of Rs 2006.40 crore to Himachal for reconstruction in areas affected by disasters like floods, landslides and cloudbursts in the year 2023. In this, Rs 1504.80 crore will be the Center's share from the Recovery and Reconstruction Funding Window under the NDRF. The Home Ministry had also given additional financial assistance of Rs 633.73 crore to Himachal Pradesh in December 2023 for relief and rehabilitation from this disaster.



CONTINUE PROBE BUT RESUME MNREGA SCHEME IN BENGAL, ORDERS CALCUTTA HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk : The Calcutta high court directed on Wednesday that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme must be resumed in West Bengal from August 1 but allowed the Centre to impose conditions and restrictions in the state in view of the allegations of financial irregularities in disbursement of central funds, lawyers who attended the hearing said. The order was passed by the division bench of chief justice TS Sivagnanam and justice Chaitali Chatterjee (Das) after a series of hearings on a petition the Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity, a farmers' body, filed last year against the Union government, challenging the non-payment of dues to daily wage labourers over allegations of embezzlement of funds. West Bengal received ₹7,507.80 crore in 2021-22 under MGNREGA but has not received any central fund since then. During the hearing, the chief justice said: "All these allegations are from before 2022. You do whatever you want but implement the scheme."

SONAM RAGHUVANSHI'S 3 MOBILE PHONES AND A WHATSAPP "MISTAKE"

Diary Times Desk : The police got a major breakthrough in the Meghalaya honeymoon murder case after the newly married Indore woman, Sonam, who along with three hitmen murdered her husband, decided to check her WhatsApp messages and turned on data connection. The couple had four mobile phones. After the three hitmen killed her husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, she broke his phone and threw away the damaged device, the police said. The other three mobile phones which belonged to Sonam are still missing, and the police are searching for them. However, Sonam did something which made the police trace her - after she reached Indore, she activated her SIM card and turned on data to check WhatsApp messages. She used one of the three phones to do this, the police said. After the arrest, she has not revealed what happened to her phone, and the police are still questioning her. A search for the three phones is going on in many districts in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The Meghalaya Police on Tuesday conducted a recreation of the crime scene near Wei Sawdong falls along with Sonam and the other accused. The police said Raja Raghuvanshi was hit by all the three contract killers.

ON PM-TRUMP PHONE CALL, CONGRESS' 'TRIPLE JHATKA' JAB, BJP'S "LIAR" REPLY



Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's phone call with Donald Trump - in which the US President's claim of negotiating the India-Pakistan ceasefire after Operation Sindoor was firmly rebutted - was labelled a 'triple jhatka' by the Congress' Jairam Ramesh Wednesday afternoon. The Congress said the call, claimed as a diplomatic win by the government, and its context were actually a 'triple jolt' to India. The big 'jhatka', it said, was that it took place as Pak Army chief General Asim Munir is expected to have lunch with Mr Trump in the White House later today. "Asim Munir, the man whose inflammatory, incendiary, and provocative remarks were linked directly to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attacks, is having lunch with President Trump in the White House." "Is this why President Trump abandoned the G7 Summit a day early..." Mr Ramesh asked on X, demanding to know if Mr Modi had raised this issue in his conversation with the American leader.

90 KASHMIRI STUDENTS AMONG 110 FLOWN OUT FROM CONFLICT-HIT IRAN BY INDIA

Diary Times Desk : At least 110 Indian students including 90 from Jammu and Kashmir are set to reach Delhi tonight from conflict-hit Iran after the Union government launched an operation to evacuate them. Visuals from an airport in Doha showed the students boarding a connecting IndiGo flight. The Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association (JKSA) in a statement thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the timely evacuation effort, and reassuring anxious families back home during this period of uncertainty. The JKSA said it remains hopeful that all remaining students will be evacuated soon. All flight tickets including the Delhi to Srinagar leg have been arranged free of cost by the Union government, the students' body said in a post on X. "We deeply appreciate this effort to ensure a smooth, full journey home," it said. The first group of evacuees comprising 110 students of Urmia Medical University, including the 90 from Kashmir valley.

GOVERNMENT'S NEW RS 3000 FASTAG PASS FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES

Diary Times Desk : In a landmark move aimed at simplifying toll payments and improving road travel, the Government of India has announced the launch of a FASTag-based Annual Pass for Rs 3,000. Effective from August 15, 2025, the new scheme is exclusively meant for non-commercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans. As per the official announcement, the pass will be valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 trips, whichever comes first. It is designed to benefit regular highway commuters by reducing recurring toll charges and offering predictability in costs. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, shared the update via his official handle on X (formerly Twitter) on June 18, 2025. "In a transformative step towards hassle-free highway travel, we are introducing a FASTag-based Annual Pass priced at Rs 3,000, effective from August 15, 2025. Valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 trips—whichever comes first—this pass is designed exclusively.

2 KILLED, 3 INJURED IN LANDSLIDE ON KEDARNATH DHAM TREK ROUTE

Diary Times Desk : Two porters from Jammu and Kashmir were killed and three others, including a pilgrim, were injured in a landslide that struck the Kedarnath Dham trek route near Jungle Chatti in Uttarakhand's Rudrapur district on Wednesday morning, officials said. "Falling debris from the landslide swept several individuals into a deep gorge at 11.20 am near the Jangalchatti stream (gadhera)," district disaster management officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said. Teams from the national disaster response force (NDRF), state disaster response force (SDRF), local police, and district disaster response force (DDRF) launched a coordinated rescue operation. The deceased were identified as Nitin Kumar and Chandrashekar, both palanquin porters from Jammu and Kashmir. Among the injured were Sandeep Kumar, a 22-year-old porter from Jammu and Kashmir, who sustained injuries in both legs and his waist; Nitin Manhas, a 16-year-old from Jammu and Kashmir, who fractured his right hand; and Akash Chitariya, a 40-year-old pilgrim from Gujarat.

NO HELICOPTER SERVICE FOR AMARNATH YATRA PILGRIMS THIS YEAR: OFFICIALS

Diary Times Desk : Following an order by the Jammu and Kashmir government, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) said on Wednesday that there would be no helicopter service to the Yatris this year. SASB said on its website that following an order by the Lt Governor, the Yatris should reach the holy cave shrine from both South Kashmir's Pahalgam and North Kashmir's Baltal route on foot or by using Ponies and palkis (palanquins). Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday chaired a security meeting attended by Director Intelligence Bureau (IB), J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, GoC 15 corps Prashant Srivastava, intelligence officers of central/UT agencies and senior officers of CAPFs.



**"WON'T SURRENDER": IRAN WARNS US
OF 'IRREPARABLE DAMAGE' IF IT
INTERVENES**

Diary Times Desk : After warnings, ultimatums, and even a death threat by Israel's Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump, Iran's Supreme Leader has spoken. "Never", he said responding to President Trump's call for an "unconditional surrender". Addressing the people of Iran and sending a message to the enemy from his secret hideout, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's Supreme Leader said, Tehran "will never surrender". Countering the threats given to him by Netanyahu and Trump, the Ayatollah warned the United States of "irreparable damage" if it intervenes in the Israel-Iran conflict. "The harm the US will suffer will definitely be irreparable if they enter this conflict militarily," Khamenei wrote on X. Speaking about Trump, Khamenei wrote, "The US President threatens us. With his absurd rhetoric, he demands that the Iranian people surrender to him. They should make threats against those who are afraid of being threatened. The Iranian nation isn't frightened by such threats."

**ISRAEL DESTROYED TWO SITES LINKED
TO IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME, IAEA
CONFIRMS**

Diary Times Desk : The United Nations nuclear watchdog has confirmed that two Iranian centrifuge production facilities were hit during Israeli strikes on Wednesday. In a post on X, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) identified the two centrifuge production facilities as the TESA Karaj workshop and the Tehran Research Centre. The UN agency was monitoring both sites. "The IAEA has information that two centrifuge production facilities in Iran, the TESA Karaj workshop and the Tehran Research Center, were hit. Both sites were previously under IAEA monitoring and verification as part of the JCPOA," IAEA wrote on X. "At the Tehran site, one building was hit where advanced centrifuge rotors were manufactured and tested. At Karaj, two buildings were destroyed where different centrifuge components were manufactured," IAEA added on X. According to AFP, Centrifuges are vital for uranium enrichment, the sensitive process that can produce fuel for reactors or, in highly extended form, the core of a nuclear warhead. On Wednesday, the Israeli military issued a warning for civilians to leave one district of Tehran for their safety.

TRUMP TO MEET PAK ARMY CHIEF ASIM MUNIR, DAYS AFTER US DENIED PARADE INVITE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump will meet Pakistan's Army Chief, General Syed Asim Munir, who is in Washington on an official visit. The reports about the meeting came days after the White House denied inviting Munir to the US Army's 250th anniversary celebrations on June 14. The Pakistani military leader will meet the US leader for lunch, scheduled to take place at 1:00 PM (Washington time) on Wednesday, in the White House's Cabinet Room, according to the president's daily public schedule. Munir is also expected to meet with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on his US trip, according to a report by Pakistani daily Dawn. The timing of the meeting is critical, as it comes during an escalating high-stakes conflict between Israel and Iran. Pakistan shares a land border with Iran, and its geopolitical location as a frontline state in the war is strategically crucial for the US, especially if Washington decides to get directly involved in the conflict.

**'I MAY DO IT, I MAY NOT': TRUMP ON IRAN
STRIKES, CLAIMS TEHRAN REACHED OUT TO
NEGOTIATE**

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump left the question of whether the United States will join Israeli strikes on Iran up in the air Wednesday, as he said that Tehran had reached out to seek negotiations. "I may do it, I may not do it. I mean, nobody knows what I'm going to do," Trump told reporters as he supervised the installation of a new flagpole on the White House South Lawn. Trump's remarks come shortly after Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said his nation would "never surrender", while warning Israel's ally, the United States it would suffer "irreparable damage" if it intervenes in the conflict. "This nation will never surrender," Khamenei said in a speech read on state television. "America should know that any military intervention will undoubtedly result in irreparable damage." US President Donald Trump had stepped up his rhetoric, saying on Tuesday that the United States knows where Khamenei is located but will not kill him "for now".

**ALL ABOUT FATTAH-1, IRAN'S HYPERSONIC
MISSILE FIRED AT ISRAEL**

Diary Times Desk : Iran on Wednesday claimed to have fired hypersonic missiles at Israel in the latest round of overnight strikes as the Islamic republic's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, launched a battle cry, calling for showing "no mercy" toward Israelis. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps said the 11th wave of the proud Operation Honest Promise 3 was carried out "using Fattah-1 missiles", as they claimed the Iranian forces "have gained complete control over the skies of the occupied territories". This is not the first time Tehran has used hypersonic missiles against Jerusalem. Iran had used dozens of Fattah-1 missiles to pound Israel during its Operation True Promise II against Jerusalem on October 1, 2024. However, this seems to be the first occasion when the said missile was used in the ongoing conflict. The term "hypersonic" is often used to refer to hypersonic glide vehicles and hypersonic cruise missiles. They are highly advanced weapons.

**BOMB BLAST DERAILS 6
CARRIAGES OF JAFFAR
EXPRESS IN PAKISTAN**

Diary Times Desk : A bomb explosion near a railway track derailed six carriages of Jaffar Express in Sindh province of Pakistan on Wednesday. No casualties were reported in the incident involving the train plying from Peshawar to Quetta, authorities said. However, train operations were suspended on the route. It is the second time in four months that the Jaffar Express was targeted. Wednesday's blast occurred near the railway track close to a cattle market in Jacobabad in the Sindh province bordering the volatile Balochistan province. The explosion caused a three-foot deep and railway track of almost six feet was damaged, according to Dunya TV. A heavy contingent of police cordoned off the area soon after. Authorities are currently investigating the nature of the blast and an inquiry is underway to determine the cause and nature of the incident. A senior railway officer told PTI that by 6 pm local time, one coach was re-railed while the work for lifting the remaining five coaches away from the track was under progress. Officers and senior subordinates are at the site to supervise relief operations, he said, adding, the repair of track, damaged by the blast, may take a lot of time.

**"YOU ARE THE BEST, TRYING
TO BE AS YOU": ITALY PM
MELONI TELLS PM MODI**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart, Giorgia Meloni, met on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Canada. The two leaders greeted each other with a handshake, with Prime Minister Modi saying, "India's friendship with Italy will continue to get stronger." Meanwhile, in a warm exchange, Prime Minister Meloni told Prime Minister Modi, "You are the best. I am trying to be as you." Italy's PM posted a picture on X and said, "Italy and India, linked by a great friendship". Prime Minister Modi reshared the post and said, "Fully agree with you, PM Giorgia Meloni. India's friendship with Italy will continue to get stronger, greatly benefitting our people!" The two leaders had a brief exchange during the summit. PM Modi and Meloni earlier met during the COP28 summit in Dubai. The two leaders clicked a selfie, and Meloni captioned the photo "Good friends at COP28, #Melodi". Earlier in the day, PM Modi arrived at the Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge in Canada to attend the high-level gathering. Canadian PM Mark Carney received PM Modi as he arrived at the venue of the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta. This marks his sixth consecutive participation in the G7 Summit.

LUDHIANA WEST BYPOLL: FIR AGAINST ONLINE NEWS CHANNELS FOR PUBLISHING OPINION POLL

Diary Times Desk : An FIR has been registered against some online news channels for publishing an opinion poll on the Ludhiana West by-election scheduled for June 19 under the Representation of the People Act and the BNS. The publication was carried out in violation of the guidelines of the Election Commission, which prohibits the publication or broadcasting of opinion polls in electronic media during the restricted period (48 hours prior to close of the poll). The complaint was formally lodged by the returning officer. The publication is viewed as an attempt to influence voter perception and election response. Numerous complaints were received against online news channels, 'Turn Times', 'Jan Hitaishi', 'The City Headlines' and 'E News Punjab', for publishing opinion polls during the restricted period, so the Cyber Crime police station, Ludhiana, registered the FIR.



LUDHIANA (W) BYPOLL: BATTLE MOVES TO CYBERSPACE AS WARRIORS DEFY 'SILENCE PERIOD'

Diary Times Desk : As the high-decibel campaign in the Ludhiana West constituency came to an end this evening, numerous social media handles, that have cropped up in support of candidates and their parties in the election fray, continue to fire political salvos at their opponents. The political battle in cyberspace is now enthralling the voters of the constituency through their mobile devices, rather than being played out in the open. While the content posted by these handles against the candidates is apparently defamatory, based on hearsay, the Election Commission of India finds itself in a bind in controlling the continuous flow of content, as these are not the official handles of either the party or the candidates. Since the four main political parties in the fray – AAP, Congress, BJP and SAD – have high stakes in the bypoll, apparently believing that the outcome will set the tone for the 2027 Assembly elections, they are leaving no stone unturned to project their own candidates in good light, while denouncing the opponents.

KAMAL KAUR BHABHI MURDER: SUSPECTS SENT TO 14-DAY JUDICIAL CUSTODY

Diary Times Desk : A local court today sent both suspects, Nimratjeet Singh and Jaspreet Singh, arrested on June 13 for allegedly killing social media influencer Kanchan Kumari, popularly known as Kamal Kaur Bhabhi, to 14-day judicial custody. Their five-day police remand ended today. The police have claimed that the two, along with alleged mastermind Amritpal Singh Mehron, were involved in Kanchan's murder. Her body was recovered from a car parked outside Adesh University at Bhuchio Kalan along the Bathinda-Chandigarh highway on the night of June 11. Advocate Harpal Singh Khara, counsel for Nimratjeet and Jaspreet, said, "There is no recovery pending in this case. The deceased's phone has already been recovered by the police. No weapon was used in the crime, and the 'kamarkass' (waistband) allegedly used to commit the murder has been burnt."

NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT FURTHER COMMENTARY: CANADIAN PM CARNEY ON NIJJAR CASE

Diary Times Desk : Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said he needs to be "careful" about pro-Khalistani Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing as there is a judicial process underway in the case. Carney was asked if he spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their talks on Tuesday on the sidelines of the G7 Summit about the killing of a Nijjar on the country's soil. "We have had a discussion, the prime minister and I, about the importance of having the law enforcement to law enforcement... cooperation directly, the importance of addressing transnational repression, as I noted including when we met," he said. "And obviously there is a judicial process that's underway and I need to be careful about further commentary," Carney said. The ties between India and Canada were strained after the then prime minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September 2023 of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in Nijjar's killing outside a gurdwara in Surrey city on June 18, 2023. India, which had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020, had strongly rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated."

SECOND YOUTH ARRESTED FOR THREATENING AMRITSAR-BASED INFLUENCER DEEPIKA LUTHRA

Diary Times Desk : The Amritsar police commissionerate has made another arrest for threatening local social media influencer Deepika Luthra. He has been identified as Jaspreet Singh, a resident of Dhillio Nagar in Ludhiana. Earlier, the police had arrested Ramandeep Singh of Patiala in the case who is currently in three-day police remand. He had threatened her on her Instagram account. Besides, the police had also booked self-styled vigilante and now absconding Nihang Sikh Amritpal Singh Mehron for death threats to Luthra. He is the key conspirator in the murder case of Ludhiana-based influencer Kamal Kaur Bhabhi in Bathinda and has been accused of threatening other social media influencers of dire consequences. Mehron had escaped to Dubai from Sri Guru Ramdas Ji International Airport immediately after killing Kamal Kaur. The Bathinda police had arrested two associates of Mehron who had also issued threats to some foreign influencers for posting vulgar and double-meaning content. Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar had confirmed the arrest of Jaspreet Singh while adding that further probe was on while assuring strict action against those involved in the case. "Whoever is found involved in the Deepika Luthra death threat case would be dealt with an iron hand," said the police.

MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES IN PANCHKULA HIT HARD BY STEEP INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY CHARGES

Diary Times Desk : A wave of discontent has swept Panchkula following a steep increase in electricity charges reflected in the May 2025 bills issued by the Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN). Residents, particularly those from the middle class, have expressed alarm over the new tariff structure and fixed charges. On Tuesday, two delegations – one from the Hitaishi Foundation and another from the Residents Welfare Association (RWA) Sector 20 – met UHBVN Managing Director Ashok Kumar Meena (IAS) to convey the growing public anger and demand urgent corrective measures. Hitaishi Foundation chairman Bharat Hitaishi stated that the abrupt increase in both unit rates and fixed charges has caused deep concern among common households. Citing his personal bill, he revealed that the amount surged from Rs 922 last month to Rs 4,430 this month—nearly four times higher. He criticised the replacement of the previous slab-based system with a flat rate of Rs 6.50 per unit for those consuming above 5kW, terming it "unjust and financially crushing for middle-class families". Suraj Prakash Vij, media advisor of the foundation, added that the new fixed charges of Rs 75 per kW place an undue burden on consumers. For example, a 10kW connection now incurs an additional Rs 750 monthly charge.

HC SLAPS RS 2 LAKH COSTS ON HARYANA FOR MISREADING 'PREFERABLE' QUALIFICATION AS MANDATORY

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has imposed Rs 2 lakh compensation on Haryana for subjecting a retired Indian Air Force officer to "unnecessary litigation" and depriving him of consideration for the Chief Fire Officer's post "for reasons that were unsustainable". The directions by Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj came on a petition filed by Ilam Singh Chauhan, who superannuated from the IAF on August 31, 1989. The Bench was told that he possessed a BA (Hons) and LL.B. degree. But he was denied promotion as Chief Fire Officer under an order dated April 20, 2016, as he did not possess a Bachelor's degree in Science. Taking exception to the erroneous interpretation of eligibility norms, Justice Bhardwaj held: "The attempt by the respondent-authorities to elevate a preferential qualification to the pedestal of an indispensable criterion amounts to a clear misappreciation and misconstruction of the eligibility."

**HIMACHAL CADRE IAS
OFFICER ANURADHA
THAKUR JOINS SEBI
BOARD**

Diary Times Desk : Anuradha Thakur, an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at the Department of Economic Affairs, has been appointed to the SEBI board, the markets regulator's website showed on Wednesday. 1994-batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IAS officer Thakur joined the Department of Economic Affairs as an OSD in April. She will take charge as Economic Affairs Secretary from July 1, after incumbent Ajay Seth superannuates on June 30. Thakur has been inducted as a part-time member of the SEBI board, according to the regulator's website. Other part-time members are — M Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, Secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. All three part-time members are ex-officio — RBI Deputy Governor, Economic Affairs Secretary and Corporate Affairs Secretary. Overall, the SEBI board comprises a chairman, four full-time members and three part-time members. According to a government notification, Thakur has been appointed as a member of the board of SEBI effective June 16. The SEBI board meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

**HIMACHAL: STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING IN
SPORTS EVENTS TO BE
GIVEN 'SPECIAL LEAVE'**

Diary Times Desk : In a bid to encourage budding talented youth, provision for 'special leave attendance' for sportsperson participating in national and international sports events will be made by the state government. CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has issued directions to various sports bodies to consider them as being present during the period they represent India at national and international sports events. This approach is likely aimed at fostering well-rounded individuals who excel in both academics and sports, the CM said. Sukhu said that currently, students participating in events organised by various sports associations, federations or boards are marked absent in schools due to lack of special leave provision. This not only affects their attendance but also their internal assessments.

**HOME MINISTER-LED PANEL APPROVES RS 2,006 CRORE ASSISTANCE TO
HIMACHAL PRADESH FOR FLOOD RELIEF**

Diary Times Desk : A high-level committee headed by union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday approved central assistance worth Rs 2,006.40 crore to Himachal Pradesh, for their recovery & reconstruction plan in the aftermath of the flood, landslides, cloudburst incident of 2023. Out of this, Rs 1,504.80 crores will be the central share from recovery and reconstruction funding window under the National Disaster Response Fund. Earlier, on December 12, 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs had approved additional financial assistance of Rs 633.73 crore from the NDRF for Himachal Pradesh due to this disaster. The committee consisting of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog Suman Bery considered the proposal for financial assistance to the state from the recovery and reconstruction funding window under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

**SHIMLA, MANDI LIKELY TO GET HEAVY
RAINFALL ON JUNE 21, 22**

Diary Times Desk : Shimla and Mandi could witness possible landslides/mudslide as well as water logging on June 21 and 22 due to a heavy spell of rain as the state's Meteorological Department has issued an orange weather warning for the districts for these two days. The department has forecast heavy rain accompanied with thunderstorms and lightning in isolated parts of these districts. Similarly, yellow weather warning has also been issued for Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmour districts for June 18 and 19 and in for the rest of the districts with the exception of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti districts for June 20 and 21, resulting in thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds in isolated parts of these districts. As per the State's Meteorological Department, light to moderate rain is very likely to continue in a few places of the state till June 19 with one or two spells of heavy rain at isolated places from June 20 to 22. Maximum temperature is very likely to fall by 4°C to 6°C in the next 24 hours, after which it will rise to 3°C to 5°C during the next two to three days. Similarly, minimum temperatures are also very likely to dip by 2°C to 3°C during the next three days. Meanwhile, light to moderate rainfall occurred in many parts of the state during the last 24 hours. Maximum temperatures across the state were between the range of 19°C and 38°C while minimum temperatures were between the range of 9°C and 26°C.

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HIMACHAL
PRADESH RANKS 8TH IN IIRF-2025**

Diary Times Desk : In a landmark achievement, the Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP) has been ranked eighth among all government universities in India and declared the top-ranked university in Himachal Pradesh as per the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2025. The IIRF, recognised for its credible and holistic assessment methodology, evaluated over 2,500 institutions across the nation this year. The university stood out with an overall score of 985.21 out of 1,000. Speaking at a press conference, Vice-Chancellor Sat Parkash Bansal emphasised the university's commitment to innovation and quality education, despite operating from temporary campuses. "This recognition reflects the collective dedication of our academic community toward delivering impactful education aligned with national priorities," he noted. Established in 2009, the CUHP has quickly ascended the academic ladder, securing first position, higher than even Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in teaching-learning resources and pedagogy with a score of 220.5 and second in research performance, scoring 199.9, just behind JNU, which stood first. The university boasts a strong H-index of 63, over 2,000 research publications, and more than 35,000 citations, earning it international recognition in disciplines such as environmental chemistry and nuclear physics.

**HIMACHAL: GROWERS TO PROTEST IF TARIFF-FREE APPLE IMPORT
ALLOWED FROM US, SAYS NEGI**

Diary Times Desk : Revenue, Horticulture, Tribal Development and Redressal of Public Grievances Minister Jagat Singh Negi today said that apple growers will protest against the central government if it decides to zero the import duty on the apples on the instructions of USA President Donald Trump. Addressing the media during a press conference, the minister said that recently a meeting regarding the upcoming apple season was held with the concerned stake holders during which the apple growers had expressed huge concern over the policies of central government regarding the import of apples. "Earlier, a 75% tariff was imposed on apples imported from the United States of America that was later reduced to 50%. Also, when Donald Trump became the President of the USA, he had mentioned that he plans to further reduce the tariffs on apple. Now, the Niti Ayog has recommended the state government to make import of apple from the USA tariff-free, a decision that will drastically impact the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh as well as Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "Therefore, it has been decided that the apple growers will raise this issue with the central government and will also make it clear that a mass movement will be launched if the central government makes the USA apple tariff-free at Trump's behest," said the minister.



PANT SAYS GILL WILL BAT AT NO. 4, INDIA YET TO DECIDE NO. 3 OPTION

Diary Times Desk : India's vice-captain Rishabh Pant has confirmed Shubman Gill will take the No. 4 position vacated by former captain and India's fourth-highest run-getter in Test cricket, Virat Kohli. Pant said India are still deliberating over who will move to No. 3, the slot last occupied by Gill, who is the new captain after Rohit Sharma's retirement. The options for No. 3 seem to be the returning Karun Nair and the uncapped B Sai Sudharsan, who is rated highly by experts. There might be room for both of them in the XI as India need to slot in another specialist batter after Pant at No. 5. At the moment, two days before the Test and with one training session to go, Nair looks like the favourite to take on the responsibility of batting against the new ball at No. 3. He batted at No. 3 for India against India A in the practice match they played behind closed doors. He was also at first slip in India's slip catching practice, with KL Rahul, Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal making up the rest of the cordon in that order. Jaiswal and Rahul are set to reunite at the top after starting and ending the series in Australia as opening partners with Rohit taking back his place in the middle of the series. If Nair is indeed the No. 3, and given Ravindra Jadeja's near certainty as the allrounder, that one remaining batting position could go to either Sudharsan or Nitish Kumar Reddy, who scored a century in Australia.

**SHUBMAN GILL EMBRACES ENGLISH CHALLENGE AHEAD OF TEST CAPTAINCY DEBUT**

Diary Times Desk : As India gears up for a new era in Test cricket, Shubman Gill is set to lead the national side for the first time in the longest format. With the five-match Test series against England starting this Friday at Headingley, Gill is not only preparing for the challenge of captaincy but also adapting to the famously unpredictable English weather. The series signifies a generational transition in Indian cricket. Stalwarts like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and R Ashwin have stepped away from the red-ball game, making way for fresh leadership and a rejuvenated squad. However, the experience of players like KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, and vice-captain Rishabh Pant continues to anchor the team. In a video released by the BCCI on social media, several players shared their thoughts on playing in England. For Gill, three things stand out: the Dukes ball, the ever-changing weather, and the electric atmosphere in the stands. KL Rahul highlighted his fondness for the English summer, especially when the sun is shining, along with the local food and dining options. Other squad members echoed similar sentiments. Washington Sundar pointed to the swing-friendly conditions.

BOMBAY HC UPHOLDS ARBITRATION ORDER, ORDERS BCCI TO PAY KOCHI TUSKERS 538 CRORE

Diary Times Desk : The Bombay High Court has upheld the arbitration in favour of Kochi Tuskers Kerala and has asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to pay the now-defunct franchise INR 538 crore. The order was passed by Justice RI Chagla, who has rejected the BCCI plea challenging the arbitration award. As per the Bar and Bench website, the order said that the Court cannot sit in appeal over the arbitrator's findings. Rafiq Dada, one of the counsellors of the BCCI, agreed that the High Court verdict is adverse. "The court has upheld the arbitration. It is now up to the BCCI whether to challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court. The BCCI has time up to six weeks," the BCCI counsel told Cricbuzz. The Kochi Tuskers Kerala was part of the IPL in the 2011 season but its franchise agreement was terminated by the BCCI in September 2011 (See timeline below). The Tuskers team, was jointly owned by a consortium consisting of M/s. Anchor Earth Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Parinee Developers and Properties, M/s. Anand Shyam Estate Development, M/s. Rendezvous Sports World Pvt. Ltd., Vivek Venugopal and M/s. Filmwaves Combine Pvt. Ltd. The constituents represented Kochi Cricket Private Limited KCPL.

'I THINK WHAT INDIA WILL MISS ABOUT VIRAT KOHLI WILL BE...': BEN STOKES ON WHAT GILL AND CO COULD LACK IN ENGLAND SERIES

Diary Times Desk : The upcoming England Test series will see a new generation of Indian cricketers take over the mantle, with the appointment of Shubman Gill as captain. Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R Ashwin are not part of the Test setup anymore. Rohit and Kohli retired from Test cricket recently and Ashwin quit all formats during the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The atmosphere will be different this time in England as India take on the field in Leeds in the opening Test, starting from June 20 onwards. In a video released by ECB ahead of the series, England Test captain Ben Stokes spoke on Kohli's retirement and what his absence would mean for India. "I think what India will miss will be his fighting spirit out in the game, his competitiveness, and his desire to win. He has made number 18 his, hasn't he? It'll be a bit weird not seeing number 18 on the back of anyone of any Indian shirt, but he has been class for them for a long period of time," he said. The Englishman also revealed that he spoke to Kohli, when he announced his Test retirement. "I did text him, saying it's going to be a shame not to play against him because I love playing against Virat. We both love playing against each other because we have that same mindset when we are out in the field—that it's a battle," he said.

**PROTEAS HEROES REWARDED FOR WTC25 FINAL HEROICS IN LATEST RANKINGS**

Diary Times Desk : Newly crowned ICC World Test Champions South Africa are basking in their glory, with multiple members of their stellar cast at the WTC Final rising in the new ICC Men's Test Player Rankings. Leading the way is their Player of the Match from the final at Lord's, Aiden Markram. The prolific batter has risen seven places to just outside the top-10 in the Men's Test Batting Rankings, with only two points separating the Protea from New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell (725) in 10th. Markram amassed an impressive 136 runs off 207 balls in a masterful display of Test batting to take South Africa across the line in the WTC Final. The 30-year-old, who also nabbed a couple of crucial wickets for South Africa, has also been rewarded in the Test All-Rounders Rankings, rising a whopping 44 places. David Bedingham, who closed the famous win for South Africa, also made a move of note in the Batting Rankings, climbing 17 places to 40 alongside Cameron Green. Meanwhile, South Africa fast bowler Lungi Ngidi, who produced an inspirational spell with the ball during Australia's second innings, has also soared in the Bowling Rankings.

ENGLAND REVEAL PLAYING XI FOR FIRST TEST AGAINST INDIA

Diary Times Desk : England confirmed their lineup for the first of five Tests against India starting this week. The two changes in the lineup that featured in the one-off Test against England is the inclusion seasoned all-rounder Chris Woakes and right-arm quick Brydon Carse. Woakes, who is coming on the back of recovering from an ankle injury, last featured during England's tour of New Zealand in December 2024. England XI: Ben Stokes (C), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (WK), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir. The 36-year-old was recently in action for England Lions during their game against India A in Northampton, where he finished with five wickets across the two innings. Brydon Carse, who also featured during the New Zealand Test series, is also returning after a bout with a toe injury that sidelined him from the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this year. The hosts will be bolstered by an in-form batting lineup that was on display during a high-scoring outing against Zimbabwe last month. The top-three of Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley and Ollie Pope, all amassed centuries as England won by an innings and 45 runs. Shoaib Bashir, who nabbed nine wickets through the Test.