

## 'KANNADA BORN OF TAMIL'

## 'NO APOLOGY...': SUPREME COURT ON KAMAL HAASAN'S 'KANNADA BORN OF TAMIL' REMARK

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court hauled up the Karnataka government Thursday afternoon over threats against the screening of actor-politician Kamal Haasan's new film 'Thug Life' in the state. It is your duty, the top court said, to act against people who issue such threats and demanded a 'plan of action' from the state.

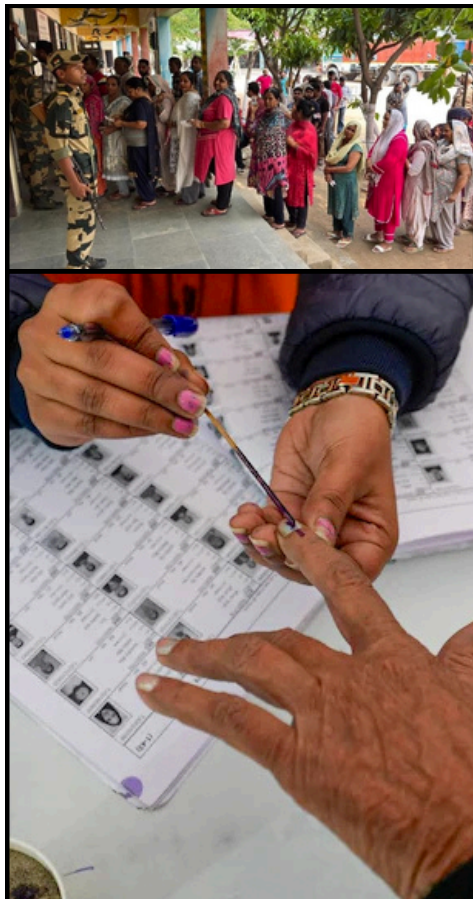
A chastised state assured the court of action; "full protection and security" will be provided at all theatres is the film is released now, the government said. The police have now issued a notice to pro-Kannada groups, who had threatened to block the film over the actor's comment about the Kannada language.

The court also Kamal Haasan need make no apology for his remark - as demanded by protesters - and lamented the trend of art being stymied by people who claim hurt sentiments. "We cannot allow this to happen. Just because of an opinion, should a movie... a stand-up comedy should be stopped?" The actor, meanwhile, said was satisfied with the state's reply and wants to close the case. However, advocate A Velan, appearing for the original petitioner, opposed the closure request, arguing for guidelines and criminal proceedings against those who had issued the threats. The original petitioner, a Mahesh Reddy, approached the Supreme Court last week; this was after the Karnataka High Court refused to direct the state to ensure the release of 'Thug Life' is not blocked.



## BYPOLLS ELECTION

## POLLING ENDS IN BYPOLLS ACROSS 5 STATES WITH 69.85% TURNOUT IN WEST BENGAL



**Diary Times Desk :** Polling in five assembly constituencies bypolls across Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Kerala ended peacefully on Thursday. Polling commenced at 7am and continued until 5pm and 6pm in some seats.

The bypolls in one seat each in Gujarat, West Bengal, and Punjab were necessitated by the deaths of sitting MLAs, while the elections in Kerala and another constituency in Gujarat were held due to the resignation of two legislators. Vote counting is scheduled for June 23.

West Bengal's Kaliganj seat: A voter turnout of 69.85 per cent was recorded till 5pm in the by-election to the Kaliganj Assembly constituency in West Bengal's Nadia district, data from the Election Commission showed. Officials said that polling was largely peaceful except for a few isolated incidents.

"Polling has been peaceful. There was no report of any incident from anywhere in and around the constituency. Till 5pm, the polling was 69.85 per cent," an election official told PTI.

The by-election in the seat was necessitated after the demise of TMC MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed in February. In the election, the ruling Trinamool Congress has fielded his daughter, Alifa Ahamed, a 38-year-old BTech graduate and corporate professional, as its candidate.

The BJP has nominated Ashis Ghosh, while Congress candidate Kabil Uddin Shaikh is contesting with the backing of the CPI(M).

CASH ROW: SC PROBE PANEL REPORT SAYS MISCONDUCT PROVED, PROPOSES JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA'S REMOVAL

**Diary Times Desk :** High court judge Yashwant Varma, and his family members had “covert or active control” over the store room where a huge cache of half-burnt cash was found, proving his misconduct, which is serious enough to seek his removal, a report of the inquiry panel probing the incident said. The three-judge panel headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court conducted the inquiry for 10 days, examined 55 witnesses and visited the scene of the accidental fire that started at around 11.35 pm on March 14 at the official residence Justice Varma, then a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and now in the Allahabad High Court. Acting on the report, former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna wrote to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommending the judge's impeachment. “This committee thus holds that the cash/money was found in the store room of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi officially occupied by Justice Varma. More so, the access to the store room has been found to be within the covert or active control of Justice Varma.



DINESH K PATNAIK LIKELY TO BE INDIA'S NEXT HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA

**Diary Times Desk :** Seasoned diplomat Dinesh K Patnaik is likely to be appointed as India's new high commissioner to Canada with both sides looking at rebuilding bilateral ties that came under severe strain following the killing of a Sikh separatist in 2023, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday. Patnaik, a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as India's ambassador to Spain. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on Tuesday agreed to pursue “constructive” steps to restore stability in India-Canada ties including the early return of envoys to each other's capitals. Ties between India and Canada plummeted to an all-time low following a diplomatic spat over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The people cited above said Patnaik is likely to be succeeded in Spain by Jayant Khobragade. Khobragade is currently serving as India's ambassador to the Association.

5 ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS IN 4 STATES LARGELY PEACEFUL; KALIGANJ IN WEST BENGAL RECORDS BRISK VOTING



**Diary Times Desk :** Bypolls were held in five Assembly segments across Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kerala on Thursday, with the Kaliganj seat in West Bengal registering a polling percentage of nearly 70 by 5 pm. The polling that commenced at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm was largely peaceful, with the exception of a few isolated incidents, officials said. While the deaths of the incumbent MLAs necessitated the bypolls in one seat each in Gujarat, West Bengal and Punjab, the resignation of two legislators led to the polling in Kerala and another seat in Gujarat. At Kaliganj in West Bengal's Nadia district, a voter turnout of 69.85 per cent was recorded till 5 pm. Sources said the polling percentage may go further up as there were queues outside polling booths. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed in February. His daughter, Alifa Ahamed, was fielded in the bypoll by the ruling TMC. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominated Ashis Ghosh for the contest, while Congress candidate Kabil Uddin Shaikh is in the fray with the support of the CPI(M).

AIR INDIA'S FLIGHT FROM DELHI TO VIETNAM RETURNS MID-WAY AFTER TECHNICAL SNAG

**Diary Times Desk :** Air India on Thursday said its flight AI388 from Delhi to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam on June 19 returned to the national capital mid-way as a “precautionary measure”. The flight landed safely back in Delhi and all passengers have been disembarked, the airline said in a statement. The aircraft made a mid-air turn after it developed a technical snag, a source said, adding that there were over 130 passengers on board, a source said. According to live flight tracking website flightradar24.com, the Airbus A320 neo aircraft took off for Ho Chi Minh City at 1.45 pm, 45 minutes behind its scheduled departure time. An alternative aircraft with fresh crew has been arranged to fly the passengers to Ho Chi Minh City flight and it is likely to depart for its destination shortly, Air India said without giving a specific departure time.



**Aries**

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

**Taurus**

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

**Gemini**

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

**Leo**

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

**Libra**

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

**Scorpio**

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

**Sagittarius**

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

**Capricorn**

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

**Aquarius**

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

**Pisces**

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

**YOUR HOROSCOPE**

20-06-2025





### HIMACHAL: 23 HUTS BURNT TO ASHES IN BADDI DUE TO FIRE, CASH, GRAINS AND GOODS ALSO BURNT

**Diary Times Desk :** 23 huts were burnt to ashes in a fire near the toll barrier of Baddi in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh. The loss due to the fire is estimated to be in lakhs of rupees. After receiving the information, the fire brigade team reached the spot and controlled the fire. The cause of the fire is not known. Baddi police has also registered a case. According to the police, this fire broke out at 12:00 in the morning. The fire department was informed as soon as the fire broke out. The fire brigade team reached the spot with three fire tenders as soon as the information was received, but the fire spread rapidly during the heat and all the huts were burnt to ashes in no time. Contractor Bhagwan Das said that he had to deposit the bank installment. He had to deposit an installment of Rs 1.85 lakh from the bank, that too was destroyed in the fire. He had withdrawn this money from some banks and borrowed it from some people. Baddi Tehsildar Satendra Jeet Singh also reached the spot and took the responsibility of arranging food and accommodation for all the migrant laborers. He said that all the workers were sitting under the tree during the day in the heat, so there was no loss of life. The clothes, grains and money of the workers were burnt. Arrangements for accommodation and food are being made for all of them.



### HIMACHAL: CONGRESS IS NOT IN FAVOR OF ONE COUNTRY ONE ELECTION, CM SUGGESTED TO

#### HOLD BY-ELECTIONS ONCE A YEAR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Congress government of Himachal Pradesh is not in favor of one country one election. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu made it clear to the Joint Parliamentary Committee that the Congress Party is opposing the bill proposing one country-one election. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri also supported him on this issue. Both shared their opinion with the Joint Parliamentary Committee in this regard. Chief Minister Sukhu also suggested this committee to hold by-elections once a year. The Joint Parliamentary Committee i.e. JPC related to the proposal of one country-one election held a meeting with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in Shimla on Thursday. This committee has been constituted under the Constitution One Hundred Twenty-Ninth Amendment Bill 2024 and Union Territory Law Amendment Bill 2024. The Chief Minister welcomed the Chairman of the Committee PP Chaudhary and other members. On this occasion, he honored the Chairman and other members by presenting traditional Himachali cap and shawl.

### HIMACHAL WEATHER: HEAVY RAIN ALERT FOR FIVE DAYS IN HIMACHAL, MONSOON MAY ARRIVE BY JUNE 21

**Diary Times Desk :** Orange-yellow alert has been issued for five days of heavy rain in many areas of Himachal Pradesh. According to the Meteorological Department, the southwest monsoon is likely to advance in some parts of the state during the next 2-3 days. From June 21 to June 25, light to moderate rain is expected in many parts of the state, while heavy rain may occur at some places in the lower hills/plains and mid-hill areas. Last night, 7.4 mm rain was recorded in Pachhad, 5.8 in Sundarnagar, 3.0 in Kasauli and Bajaura, 2.2 in Jot, 2.0 in Bharwain and Chamba, 1.8 in Sangla, 1.0 in Kufri, 0.7 in Kalpa, 0.5 in Dhaula Kuan and 0.4 in Solan. Today the weather remains bad in the capital Shimla and surrounding areas. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, the period of rain will continue in the state till June 25. Light to moderate rain is likely at some places in the state on June 19. Light to moderate rain is likely at many places on 20, 21, 23 and 24 June 2025 and rain will occur at most places in the state on 22 and 25 June. Heavy rain is likely at many places on 20, 21, 23 and 24 June and at most places on 22 and 25 June. Yellow alert for heavy rain has been issued on 21 and 24 June, while orange alert has been issued for 22, 23 and 25 June. Yellow-orange alert for heavy rain has been issued for Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra and Sirmour districts. There is a yellow alert for Shimla, Solan and Mandi.

### HIMACHAL: THREATENING CALL ON WHATSAPP, RANSOM OF RS 50 LAKH DEMANDED FROM PETROL PUMP OWNER

**Diary Times Desk :** An unknown person has threatened a petrol pump owner of subdivision Bangana in Una district of Himachal Pradesh for the second time through a WhatsApp call and demanded ransom. The victim Vinod Kumar alias Santi, resident of village and post office Bangana, district Una, has lodged a complaint at Bangana police station. He told that an unknown person called him on WhatsApp and demanded a ransom of Rs 50 lakh. According to the complaint given to the police, Vinod Kumar had earlier received threatening calls on 24 and 25 May 2025. Now on June 15, he has again been threatened through an audio call from an unknown WhatsApp number. However, Vinod Kumar saw this message on June 16 evening when he turned on the internet of the phone. He saw an audio call. An unknown person made a WhatsApp call on Vinod Kumar's mobile number. When he called, the unknown person on the other side threatened him saying that I have all your information. Where do you live, what do you do, I also have complete information about it. After this, the accused demanded Rs 50 lakh from Vinod and threatened that if the money is not transferred on time, he will have to face dire consequences. Superintendent of Police Rakesh Singh said that the investigation of the case is going on. Soon the evidence related to the accused will be collected and raids will be conducted.



### HIMACHAL: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WILL ALSO PREPARE AN ACTION PLAN AT HIS OWN LEVEL FOR MONSOON PREPARATIONS, VOLUNTEERS WILL BE TRAINED

**Diary Times Desk :** In a high-level review meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena on Wednesday in view of the monsoon season, a detailed discussion was held on pre-monsoon preparations. He also asked all the District Deputy Commissioners to prepare an action plan at their level and implement the work. Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena directed the concerned officials to train volunteers under civil defense, establish extensive coordination with the dam management authorities and make extensive arrangements for the restoration of blocked roads and drinking water schemes, keeping in mind the upcoming monsoon season. In the meeting, the India Meteorological Department made a presentation on the progress of monsoon, previous weather trends and warning system, while the Central Water Commission shared information on flood forecasting and warning system. Teams of NDRF and SDRF, including Home Defense, Civil Defense and Fire Services departments, also shared information about the preparations made for the monsoon, equipment and National Disaster Response Stock.

### HIMACHAL: FIREFIGHTERS WILL GET THE BENEFIT OF REVISED PAY SCALE, STATE HIGH COURT GAVE ORDERS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh High Court has ordered to give the benefit of revised pay scale to the employees posted in the fire department as per the notification issued by the government. The court directed the Principal Secretary (Home) to take appropriate action within three weeks on the recommendation of the Additional Director General of Police-cum-Director Fire Services dated September 5, 2022. Justice Sandeep Sharma said that if the fireman category is found eligible, then they should be considered for pay revision from the due date as per the notification of September 27, 2012. The High Court said that when the constable category has been given the benefit of pay revision, then there is no reason to keep the firemen out of it. Especially when their duties and responsibilities are similar to those of constables. The court rejected the state's argument that fixing pay scales is the prerogative of the employer.

INFLUENCER, WITH 1 MILLION FOLLOWERS, ARRESTED FOR HONEYTRAPPING BUILDER IN GUJARAT

**Diary Times Desk :** A social media influencer who had been on the run for over 10 months after allegedly honeytrapping a builder and trying to extort crores from him has been arrested in Ahmedabad. The police said a case had been registered against Kirti Patel, who has 1.3 million followers on Instagram, in Surat on June 2 last year and a warrant had also been issued against her by a court some time later. "Patel was accused of honeytrapping a builder in Surat and then blackmailing him, demanding crores. Four other people were also named in the first information report (FIR) and had been arrested earlier," said an official, adding that the influencer has also been named in other complaints of land grabbing and extortion. Despite a warrant being issued by a court in Surat, Patel managed to evade the police by changing cities and using different SIM cards on her phone. She was tracked down to the Sarkhej area of Ahmedabad and the Surat Police took the help of counterparts in the city to arrest her on Wednesday.

'NO APOLOGY...': SUPREME COURT ON KAMAL HAASAN'S 'KANNADA BORN OF TAMIL' REMARK

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court hauled up the Karnataka government Thursday afternoon over threats against the screening of actor-politician Kamal Haasan's new film 'Thug Life' in the state. It is your duty, the top court said, to act against people who issue such threats and demanded a 'plan of action' from the state. A chastised state assured the court of action; "full protection and security" will be provided at all theatres is the film is released now, the government said. The police have now issued a notice to pro-Kannada groups, who had threatened to block the film over the actor's comment about the Kannada language. The court also Kamal Haasan need make no apology for his remark - as demanded by protesters - and lamented the trend of art being stymied by people who claim hurt sentiments. "We cannot allow this to happen. Just because of an opinion, should a movie... a stand-up comedy should be stopped?" The actor, meanwhile, said was satisfied with the state's reply and wants to close the case. However, advocate A Velan, appearing for the original petitioner, opposed the closure request, arguing for guidelines and criminal proceedings against those who had issued the threats. The original petitioner, a Mahesh Reddy, approached the Supreme Court.

AVIATION WATCHDOG WARNS AIR INDIA OVER 3 PLANES, SAYS CHECKS OVERDUE: REPORT



**Diary Times Desk :** India's aviation regulator has warned Air India for breaching safety rules after three of its Airbus planes flew despite being overdue checks on emergency equipment, and for being slow to address the issue, government documents show. The warning notices and an investigation report - both reviewed by Reuters - were not in any way related to last week's crash of an Air India Boeing 787-8 plane that killed all but one of the 242 people onboard, and were sent days before that incident. In the report, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said spot checks in May on three Air India Airbus planes found that they were operated despite mandatory inspections being overdue on the "critical emergency equipment" of escape slides. In one case, the watchdog found that the inspection of an Airbus A320 jet was delayed by more than a month before being carried out on May 15. AirNav Radar data shows that during the delay.

INDIA TO BEGIN EVACUATING CITIZENS WISHING TO LEAVE ISRAEL

**Diary Times Desk :** India announced on Thursday that it will begin evacuating Indian nationals who want to leave Israel in view of the clashes with Iran, with arrangements being made for them to leave via land borders because of airspace restrictions. The evacuation of Indians from Israel will be done under Operation Sindhu, initially launched by the Indian government on Wednesday for getting Indian citizens in Iran to safety. "In view of the recent developments between Israel and Iran, the Government of India has decided to evacuate from Israel those Indian nationals who wish to leave," the external affairs ministry said in a statement. "Their travel from Israel to India will be facilitated through the land borders and thereafter by air to India," the statement added. This is being done in view of airspace restrictions over Israel since the clashes with Iran erupted over the past weekend. The Indian embassy in Tel Aviv will be responsible for arrangements for evacuating the Indians. All Indian nationals in Israel were requested.

BYPOLLS FOR 5 SEATS IN 4 STATES LARGELY PEACEFUL, HIGH TURNOUT IN BENGAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Bypolls were held in five Assembly segments across Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kerala on Thursday, with the Kaliganj seat in West Bengal registering a polling percentage of nearly 70 by 5 pm. The polling that commenced at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm was largely peaceful, with the exception of a few isolated incidents, officials said. While the deaths of the incumbent MLAs necessitated the bypolls in one seat each in Gujarat, West Bengal and Punjab, the resignation of two legislators led to the polling in Kerala and another seat in Gujarat. At Kaliganj in West Bengal's Nadia district, a voter turnout of 69.85 per cent was recorded till 5 pm. "Polling has been peaceful. There was no report of any incident from anywhere in and around the constituency. Till 5 pm, the polling was 69.85 per cent," an election official told PTI. Sources said the polling percentage may go further up as there were queues outside polling booths. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed in February. His daughter, Alifa Ahamed, was fielded in the bypoll by the ruling TMC.

RAJA RAGHUVANSHI'S BROTHER MAKES BIG CLAIM IN MEGHALAYA HONEYMOON MURDER CASE: 'SONAM HASN'T...'

**Diary Times Desk :** The brother of Indore-based businessman Raja Raghuvanshi has claimed that the prime accused, Sonam Raghuvanshi and the other suspects in the Meghalaya murder case, have not yet confessed to their crimes and are attempting to mislead the police, reported news agency ANI. Vipin Raghuvanshi's accusation comes after the Meghalaya Police force had confirmed that Sonam Raghuvanshi, the wife of Raja Raghuvanshi who was murdered in Meghalaya on their honeymoon, had admitted to her role in the murder. Vipin demanded an additional eight days of police remand for Sonam and the other suspects to aid further investigation. "Sonam hasn't confessed her crime yet. She and the other accused are trying to mislead the police. We demand that their remand be extended by eight more days. Through further investigation and interrogation, the truth will come out," ANI quoted Vipin as saying.

"TRUMP WASN'T DIRECTLY INVOLVED": SHASHI THAROOR TO NDTV ON CEASEFIRE CLAIMS

**Diary Times Desk :** Donald Trump was not involved in ceasefire talks with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor told NDTV Thursday. "This is Trump expressing his understanding of something but, as far as we're concerned, he was not directly involved. There wasn't any call from Trump during Op Sindoor..." he said, stressing India was always in control and "there was no question of us needing persuasion (from the US) to stop". "We were only reacting to terrorism," Mr Tharoor said firmly, "We said, 'if Pakistan decides to hit us... we will hit them back. If they stop... we will stop'. And the moment they stopped, we stopped." "This was not action against Pakistan.. that was absolutely not the case. We took action on well-announced grounds," he said, pointing out India had clearly said only terror camps would be struck. Mr Tharoor's statements are the latest by an Indian lawmaker countering the American President's repeated credit grab.





## US "DOOMSDAY PLANE" THAT CAN WITHSTAND NUCLEAR BLAST LANDS IN WASHINGTON AS TRUMP MULLS IRAN STRIKE

**Diary Times Desk :** As US President Donald Trump mulls striking Iran's nuclear facilities, one of America's "doomsday planes" made a flight to Joint Base Andrews in Washington on Tuesday night. According to the New York Post, the E-4B Nightwatch - a plane designed to protect the Secretary of Defence and other national security officials and keep the government operating in the time of nuclear war - was spotted by flight trackers. The aircraft departed from Bossier City, Louisiana, on Tuesday evening and landed in Maryland around 4 hours later, after a long, winding route. A "doomsday plane" is a highly specialised aircraft operated by the US Air Force and serves as a National Airborne Operations Centre (NAOC). The US has four E-4Bs that serve as an airborne command centre for the President, Secretary of Defence and the Chairs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to ensure continued critical command, control and communication in case of emergencies.

## RUSSIA WARNS OF 'CHERNOBYL-SCALE CATASTROPHE' IF ISRAEL STRIKES IRAN'S BUSHEHR NUCLEAR REACTOR

**Diary Times Desk :** As Israeli bombs rain down on Iran, the biggest concern for the region and the world is not just further destabilization, but also the threat of a nuclear disaster. While Israel has repeatedly claimed it is only targeting nuclear facilities in Iran, experts are sounding the alarm over the potential fallout from such precision strikes. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has warned of possible risks of nuclear accidents due to military attacks - and now Russia has joined the chorus, warning of a nuclear catastrophe. Russia's state-owned nuclear energy company, Rosatom, issued a strong statement through its CEO, Alexey Likhachev, saying that if Israel targets Iran's sole active nuclear reactor at Bushehr, it could trigger a Chernobyl-like disaster. Russian state media RIA Novosti quoted Likhachev as urging Tel Aviv to refrain from attacking the only operational nuclear reactor in Iran. An Israeli strike on the Bushehr nuclear power plant - Iran's only functioning reactor - could result in a catastrophe comparable to Chernobyl, warned Likhachev on Thursday. The Rosatom chief called any such attack "beyond evil" and revealed.

## SPACEX'S ROCKET EXPLOSION RAISES SAFETY CONCERNS AHEAD OF AXIOM-4 MISSION

**Diary Times Desk :** Elon Musk's commercial space flight company SpaceX suffered a major setback after its latest reusable rocket that was under development, the massive Starship, exploded on the launch pad, causing a huge fireball. Does the explosion put a question mark on the safety record and culture followed at SpaceX? On a separate rocket from a different space port, India's Astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is set to fly to space no earlier than June 22. The rocket he will use is the Falcon-9 rocket and Crew Dragon capsule. This rocket launch has been repeatedly delayed since it was first scheduled to be held on May 29. Group Captain Shukla will fly from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Incidentally a leak of liquid oxygen was reported on the Falcon-9 rocket by SpaceX itself and then Indian scientists stationed at the Kennedy Space Center, under the leadership of Dr V Narayanan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), had "insisted" on repairs and "validation", which incidentally SpaceX did carry out on India's insistence.

## WHEN MOSSAD WALKED OUT OF TEHRAN WITH 500 KG OF NUCLEAR BLUEPRINTS



**Diary Times Desk :** In the early hours of June 13, Israel initiated what it called a "necessary preemptive action" against Iran. Over 100 air and drone strikes pounded key nuclear, military, and intelligence sites across the Islamic Republic. The target list read like a blueprint of Iran's national defence: nuclear enrichment plants, Revolutionary Guard Corps headquarters, missile stockpiles, and covert sites. At least 224 Iranians were confirmed dead. Several Iranian nuclear and missile facilities were reduced to rubble. The covert component, reportedly orchestrated by Mossad, involved high-precision drone strikes deep inside Iran's territory. Israel claimed it had no choice. But this strike wasn't born in a war room the night before. Its seeds were planted years earlier. On the night of January 31, 2018, a small team of Israeli Mossad agents infiltrated a nondescript warehouse in southern Tehran.

## THAI GOVERNMENT IN CRISIS AMID FALLOUT FROM PM'S LEAKED PHONE CALL

**Diary Times Desk :** Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's government has been rocked after a major coalition partner quit amid mounting public anger over a leaked phone call she had with a former Cambodian leader. Paetongtarn faced growing calls to resign on Thursday as the kingdom was racked by renewed political instability, with fears that an ongoing border dispute with Cambodia could trigger military clashes. The crisis engulfing Paetongtarn's government comes after audio was leaked of a phone call she held with Cambodia's ex-leader Hun Sen, who still wields considerable influence in his country, discussing a border dispute between the countries in which a Cambodian soldier was killed in a clash in May. During the June 15 call, Paetongtarn pressed Hun Sen for a peaceful resolution to the dispute, calling him "uncle" and urging him not to listen to "the other side" in Thailand, including an outspoken Thai army general who she said "just wants to look cool". Paetongtarn, the scion of a political dynasty who had never held office.

## AFTER DONALD TRUMP'S WARNING TO IRAN, CHINA WARNS AGAINST 'USE OF FORCE'. WHAT BEIJING SAID

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, China has warned the United States against the "use of force" as US President Donald Trump mulls American intervention. Speaking at a press briefing, Guo Jiakun, spokesman for the Chinese foreign affairs ministry, said any use of force from the US would be seen as an infringement of Iran's sovereignty and security. "China opposes any act that... infringes upon the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of other countries, and opposes the use or threat of use of force in international relations", he told reporters. Earlier this week, Chinese President Xi Jinping stated Beijing was "deeply worried" about Israel's military strikes against Iran. Speaking on the sidelines of a summit with five Central Asian nations in Kazakhstan, the Chinese president called for an "urgent de-escalation." "All parties should work to de-escalate the conflict as soon as possible and prevent the situation from worsening further," Xi was quoted as saying by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

## "STRIKING AYATOLLAH REGIME WITH GREAT FORCE": FRESH ATTACKS BY ISRAEL, IRAN

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel and Iran traded fresh missile strikes as the conflict between the two Middle East countries entered its seventh day on Thursday, with senior US officials reportedly preparing for the possibility of a strike on Tehran in the coming days. The Israeli military late Wednesday said sirens were sounded across the country following a missile attack from Iran. It also said that it intercepted a drone that was launched from Iran. An Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson said they launched a "new wave of raids" on the Iranian capital, Tehran, and warned residents in two villages - Arak and Khondab - to leave before it struck the "military infrastructure". The worst-ever conflict between Israel and Iran began when the Israeli military launched "Operation Rising Lion" last Friday and attacked Iranian cities, saying it had concluded Tehran was on the verge of developing a nuclear weapon. More than 250 people, including over 220 in Iran, have been killed in cross-border strikes. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu late Wednesday said they began the campaign to remove two existential threats to Israel - the nuclear threat and the ballistic missile threat. "We are advancing step by step to remove these threats," he said in a video message.



## LUDHIANA WEST BYPOLL SEES PEACEFUL VOTING, 51.33% TURNOUT RECORDED TILL 7 PM

**Diary Times Desk** : A voter turnout of 51.33 per cent was recorded till 7 pm for the bypoll to the Ludhiana West Assembly seat in Punjab on Thursday, with poll Voting came to an end at 6 pm, and the turnout figures might increase once all the data pertaining to polling are received. Officials said polling will continue until the last voter is present inside the polling station. The Ludhiana West seat fell vacant following the death of AAP MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi in January. The counting of votes will be taken up on June 23. In the first two hours (7 am to 9 am) of polling, the voting percentage was 8.50 per cent, which went up to 21.51 per cent at 11 am, as per the Election Commission data. The voting percentage increased to 33.42 per cent at 1 pm and to 41.04 per cent at 3 pm, the data showed. Voters, including women and the elderly, began arriving at the polling stations in the morning, and their numbers grew as the day progressed.



## IN TWO MONTHS, FAMILY LOSES 2 SONS TO DRUG OVERDOSE IN PUNJAB'S TARN TARAN

**Diary Times Desk** : Sanju (26), a youth of the Valmiki Colony in Fatehabad village under Goindwal Sahib police station in Punjab's Tarn Taran, on Thursday died due to an alleged drug overdose, in what is the second incident in two days. Another resident of the same locality, Partap Singh (40), had died of a drug overdose. Father Tilak Raj said the village has become a hub for drugs, where every type of drug is readily available. He said this was the second death due to a drug overdose within two months in the family. He said his son had injected himself on Wednesday and died shortly thereafter, adding that his elder son, Sarwan Singh, also died from a drug overdose just two months prior. He said that even minor children were consuming drugs in the colony. Atul Soni, DSP, Gonindwal Sahib, and SHO Inspector Prabhjit Singh remained unavailable to comment on the issue, neither answering calls nor responding to WhatsApp messages.

## ELECTION COMMISSION'S VEHICLE ASSISTANCE MAKES VOTING EASY FOR ELDERLY, DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS

**Diary Times Desk** : In a citizen-friendly move aimed at ensuring inclusive participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) provided vehicle assistance to senior citizens and persons with disabilities during the Ludhiana West bypoll held on Thursday. The initiative received widespread appreciation from the public, especially among elderly voters and individuals with mobility challenges who were able to cast their vote with dignity and ease. Local election officials, in coordination with polling booth staff, arranged vehicles allowing voters to travel comfortably from their homes to designated centres and back. "We're committed to making elections accessible to every citizen, regardless of age or physical ability. Every voter deserves the chance to participate without barriers," said a polling booth officer. Many voters availed of the service in the early morning hours.

## MONSOON BRINGS RELIEF TO CHANDIGARH, PUNJAB, AND HARYANA WITH RAINS EXPECTED FOR NEXT 6 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk** : A welcome relief from the scorching heat, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced on Thursday that the monsoon has advanced over Chandigarh, Punjab, and Haryana, with more rains expected to lash the region for the next six days starting Friday. According to IMD, favourable conditions for the southwest monsoon's advance over parts of Chandigarh, Punjab, and Haryana have emerged, with increased rainfall activity expected from June 20 to 25. The southwest monsoon has further advanced over most parts of Bihar and some more parts of east Uttar Pradesh. IMD stated that the northern limit of the monsoon currently passes through specific coordinates and cities, including Barmer, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Gwalior, Khajuraho, Sonbhadra, Ballia, and others. Conditions are favourable for the monsoon's further advance over remaining parts of North Arabian Sea, some more parts of Rajasthan, remaining parts of Madhya Pradesh, some more parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad during the next 2 to 3 days.

## WITH 21K PARTICIPANTS, JALANDHAR HOSTS MASSIVE 'CM DI YOGSHALA' EVENT; MANN SKIPS EVENT

**Diary Times Desk** : Jalandhar city on Thursday witnessed a massive CM Di Yogshala event with over 21,000 yoga enthusiasts, setting a new record for attendance in a single yoga event. Originally, arrangements had been made for 17,000 yoga mats, but the overwhelming public response exceeded all expectations. While CM Bhagwant Mann was expected to be present at the event, it was attended instead by state Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh. At the event, Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh gave a clarion call to the people to make yoga an integral part of their daily lives. Addressing a large gathering during the state-level 'CM di Yogshala' event at PAP Ground, the Health Minister said it was heartening to see people from all walks of life participating enthusiastically in the mega event. He said 'CM di Yogshala' serves as a stepping stone towards building a healthier and more vibrant Punjab. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Dr Himanshu Aggarwal and Commissioner of Police Dhanpreet Kaur, Dr Balbir Singh said it brought him immense joy to witness thousands of people joining hands with the government through CM di Yogshala. While the initiative was launched two years ago from Jalandhar.

## US VISA PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT, ITS SCREENING DOESN'T STOP AFTER IT IS ISSUED: EMBASSY

**Diary Times Desk** : A US visa is "a privilege, not a right", its screening does not stop after a visa has been issued and authorities may revoke it if one breaks the law, the country's embassy here said on Thursday. In a brief statement, the US Embassy also said using illegal drugs or breaking any US laws while on a student or visitor visa can make one ineligible for future US visas. The statement was shared on the X handle of the embassy. It comes in the backdrop of an immigration crackdown by the Trump administration in California's Los Angeles recently. "Using illegal drugs or breaking any US laws while on a student/visitor visa can make you ineligible for future US visas. A US visa is a privilege, not a right. US visa screening does not stop after a visa is issued – and we may revoke your visa if you break the law," it said. This is the third such statement issued by the US Embassy in India this month, in which it has underlined that while people travelling legally to America were welcome, illegal entry or abuse of visas won't be tolerated by the country.

## PUNJAB: INDUSTRY TO FACE ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE OF RS 2/UNIT IN PEAK DEMAND HOURS

**Diary Times Desk** : Industrial consumers in Punjab will have to pay an additional surcharge of Rs 2 per unit, if they run their industrial operations during the peak power demand hours of 6 pm to 10 pm. Though higher power tariff is imposed on industry during the paddy season each year, in order to discourage it from using power and ensuring that there is enough power availability for paddy, the industry is upset, as it says that it is already going through a "recessionary phase". This surcharge, though announced when the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) announced its tariff order earlier this year, has become effective only from June 15. Though higher power tariff is imposed on industry during the paddy season each year, in order to discourage it from using power and ensuring that there is enough power availability for paddy, the industry is upset, as it says that it is already going through a "recessionary phase". This surcharge, though announced when the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) announced its tariff order earlier this year, has become effective only from June 15.



## CENTRE APPROVES RS 2,006 CRORE FOR HIMACHAL AS 2023 FLOOD RELIEF

**Diary Times Desk :** A high-level committee headed by Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday approved Rs 2,006.40-crore central assistance to Himachal Pradesh for a recovery and reconstruction plan in the aftermath of the flood, landslides and cloudburst incidents of 2023. According to official sources, the amount would help the state in carrying out recovery and reconstruction activities in the aftermath of floods, cloudbursts and landslides in 2023. Of the amount, Rs 1,504.80 crore will be the central share from the 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 fund for Himachal Pradesh, which was affected by the 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 the fund.

## BEWARE OF FRAUDSTERS SEEKING MONEY ON SOLAN MC'S BEHALF: COMMISSIONER

**Diary Times Desk :** Expressing concern over complaints received regarding some people demanding money on the behalf of Solan Municipal Corporation (MC) for releasing instalments of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, Solan MC Commissioner clarified that no such funds were required to be paid to anyone. MC Ekta Kapata Commissioner said it had come to their notice that that some persons were demanding Rs 6,000 to Rs 7,000 from the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban under the MC's name to get the instalments released, which was completely illegal. Ekta Kapata said if any beneficiary was asked to pay any such amount telephonically on the behalf of any officer or employee of the MC, they should inform the Commissioner so that legal action could be taken against them. The Commissioner said Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

## CASHLESS TREATMENT UPTO RS 1.5L FOR ACCIDENT VICTIMS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

**Diary Times Desk :** In an historic step to provide medical aid to the people suffering injuries due to a road accident, the Himachal Pradesh Government has decided to implement the pilot scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims in the state under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The scheme has been formulated by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and is set to provide trauma care to accident victims without any upfront cost. The Himachal Pradesh Transport Department recently issued a direction to all top officers of the departments concerned, including the Director General of Police (DGP), Engineer-in-Chief, Directors of HP Public Works Department, Directorate of Higher Education, Directorate of School Education, Technical Education, and Deputy Inspector General of Police (Traffic Tourism and Railways), to implement the scheme.



## CM SUKHU OPPOSES 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION' BILL, GIVES OPINION TO JPC

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday said the Congress was opposed to the 'one nation, one election' Bill and he had made some suggestions before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) which was visiting the state to elicit views on the issue. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Constitution (129<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, pertaining to the proposal of 'one nation- one election', held a meeting with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here today. The JPC headed by PP Choudhary engaged in detailed deliberations on the proposed 'one nation, one election' framework with Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri here today. The Chief Minister presented the view point of the Congress as well as of the Himachal Government before the JPC. Member of Parliament from Hamirpur constituency Anurag Thakur also attended the meeting as a member of the Committee. "We have given certain suggestions on strengthening of democracy which must be incorporated. We were informed about the Draft Bill and we found that the ambit of the Bill had been widened," he said. "We have given a suggestion that by-elections should be held within one year and not six months as is the mandate presently," he said. Sukhu said the Assembly elections in Himachal were due in 2027 and in case the amendment comes into effect from 2029 then what will the term of that government which is elected to power.

## NADDA HAILS CENTRAL GRANT OKAYED FOR 2023 MONSOON DAMAGES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

**Diary Times Desk :** Against a request for Rs 9,000 crore as Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) for the 2023 monsoon damages, the Centre has approved a sum of Rs 2006.40 crore for Himachal Pradesh. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukh had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking grant of the PDNA amount so as to undertake reconstruction of the damage caused to infrastructure, especially roads and bridges due to unprecedented rains. Sources said the amount of over Rs 9,000 crore which Himachal Government had sought as PDNA had been reduced to about Rs 3,000 crore by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which was finally reduced to Rs 2,006.40 crore by the Union Finance Ministry. Union Health Minister JP Nadda today thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for Rs 2006.40 crore the Recovery and Reconstruction Plan to Himachal. "The money approved by the Centre will help in reconstruction for the damage caused amount due to natural disasters of floods, landslides, cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh in the year 2023," Nadda said. "The financial assistance provided by the Modi government in dealing with the crisis in Himachal and providing relief to the disaster victims is an important support to the disaster-affected people of Himachal," said Nadda.

## CHAMBA ACCELERATES TRIBAL WELFARE DRIVE UNDER 'DHARTI AABA ABHIYAN'

**Diary Times Desk :** In a decisive step towards inclusive development, Chamba Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Repaswal chaired a key meeting on Wednesday to review and expedite the implementation of the Dharti Aaba Tribal Village Utkarsh Abhiyan in the district. The campaign, which focuses on uplifting tribal communities, covers 156 villages across Chamba and seeks to bring government welfare schemes to every doorstep. Repaswal instructed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to organise cluster-based activities tailored to the unique needs of these tribal areas. He stressed that the goal was not just outreach but achieving full saturation under various Central and state welfare schemes. These efforts, he noted, must include the coordinated execution of programmes related to infrastructure development, healthcare, nutrition, education and sustainable livelihoods. To ensure that no household is left behind, the DC directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department to conduct detailed surveys for achieving 100 per cent LPG connection coverage in the selected villages. He also called for proactive steps to boost community participation. District Development Officer OP Thakur and the respective Block Development Officers were asked to take the lead in mobilising local residents and ensuring their involvement in the campaign.



GILL SAYS INDIA WILL GO ALL OUT TO TAKE 20 WICKETS: 'YOU COULD MAYBE SEE FOUR PROPER BOWLERS'

**Diary Times Desk :** Expect India to stop hedging bets as they did in Australia. India's new captain Shubman Gill said on the eve of the start of the series at Headingley that he was prepared to play even four tailenders in pursuit of 20 wickets as quickly as possible. "Yes, definitely." Gill said in response to the question. "You can't win a Test match without taking 20 wickets, no matter how many runs you have scored. So, that has been one of our key discussion points, you know, how we're gonna take 20 wickets. And there might be a case, you know, where we could only be going with some pure batters and you could see a bowling allrounder and three to four premier fast bowlers or proper bowlers." The series in Australia was a departure from India's philosophy of playing Test cricket in recent times. They played with only three full-time quicks through the series. The pitches negated the spinner, and the fifth bowler was either Nitish Kumar Reddy or his combination with Washington Sundar. In the absence of Shardul Thakur, who might be the bowling allrounder Gill spoke of, India seemed worried about the depth in their batting. The Border-Gavaskar Trophy was also a series with two different captains, and consequently perhaps no clear direction. Now Gill takes over as full-time captain, and at least in the press conference.



FROM SACHIN TO SHUBMAN: 'NO 4 IS A GREAT POSITION TO BAT'

**Diary Times Desk :** After a lot of deliberation since the Pataudi Trophy was retired, all future Test matches between India and England will be played for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. Their signatures engraved, the trophy also features images of Anderson and Tendulkar, the two most capped Test players in action. In this interview Tendulkar talks about the honour, his role in carrying forward Pataudi's legacy and India's prospects in the five-Test series beginning on Friday under young captain Shubman Gill. It feels great. I was not expecting this honour. A lot of things have happened for me in England. The first flight I took in my life was travelling to London with Star Cricket Club in 1988. The first hundred I scored was in England in 1990 at Old Trafford. I became the first non-Yorkshire-ite to play for the county in 1992. I surpassed Sir Don Bradman's record of most centuries at Headingley in 2002. Now to know that the trophy is named after me and Anderson is a huge honour. I know the Pataudi Trophy was retired some time ago by ECB and the BCCI. When I got to know (about the renaming), my first phone call was to the Pataudi family. I informed them everything and we discussed ways to keep Pataudi's legacy alive. He has been instrumental in inspiring so many.

INDIA'S REORDER BEGINS IN LEEDS, WHERE ORDER RARELY HOLDS

**Diary Times Desk :** The walk up the slope from Cardigan Road towards Headingley throws up a peculiar sight: a neglected and abandoned relic. It's an old bear pit from the short-lived Leeds Zoological and Botanical Gardens of the 1800s. The zoo folded quickly under financial strain; the brown bear was eventually sold off with the rest. It's a weirdly fitting image to stumble upon before entering the famous stadium, a place where things can quickly veer off plan, where the past clings to the present in strange ways, like in the form of graffiti on the street's utility boxes that honour Botham and Willis and Stokes and Leach. But, Headingley has retained a quintessentially English vibe: low stands intimately close to the action, shifting cloud patterns, and the ball snaking about. Like the Gabba is to Australia, this ground reflects something elemental about England's cricket. But where Brisbane long served as a launchpad for Australian dominance over visiting teams, Leeds can be less definitive and more unpredictable. No surprise, then, that it's often the setting for mid-series drama and only ever chosen to start a Test series nine times in England's long history. But this week, it promises one certainty. It will bring together the game's current top-ranked batter (Joe Root), bowler (Jasprit Bumrah).

BEN STOKES SAYS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, PUTS AN END TO CHATTER AROUND VIRAT KOHLI, ROHIT SHARMA AND ASHWIN'S ABSENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** England captain Ben Stokes has had enough of the chatter around India missing Virat Kohli, Ravichandran Ashwin and Rohit Sharma now that the three of them have retired from Test cricket. On the eve of the series-opener against a relatively young Indian side led by first-time captain Shubman Gill, England's experienced all-rounder put an end to the narrative of 'India being weakened' by the absence of Kohli, Ashwin and Rohit. "There's been a lot said about no Rohit, no Virat and no Ashwin, that doesn't mean that we think it's going to be any easier than what it ever is against India. The pool of talent that Indian cricket has is just ginormous," Stokes told the media during the pre-match press conference. Ashwin was the first to retire in the middle of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy earlier this year. Rohit, India Test and ODI captain, called it quits from red-ball cricket last month, and Kohli did the same five days later. Stokes said any team would look pale when players like Ashwin, Kohli and Rohit retire one after the other but India continue to produce high-quality players regularly.



BCCI, GAUTAM GAMBHIR TOLD TO REWARD OVERLOOKED STAR OVER SAI SUDHARSAN: "FORGET..."

**Diary Times Desk :** There has been a lot of chatter over whether Sai Sudharsan and Karun Nair will play together for the Indian cricket team in the upcoming Test series against England. With Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli both announcing their retirements, a new-look batting line-up is expected for India with many players finding opportunities. However, former India cricketer WV Raman believes that the team management should instead reward Abhimanyu Easwaran with an opportunity. In an interview with Times of India, Raman said that Easwaran has been quite consistent and he should be rewarded along with Karun Nair in the upcoming Test series. "No, let's not forget that Easwaran has been getting runs much higher than him over a long period of time. We have been having Easwaran as a part of the squad. We are not playing him. And that is again creating a lot of dilemma when the next selection comes up. We will have to try and reward him fully in the sense that there is no point picking him in the squad. We don't have, let's say, a player who has opened in the past, who is willing to open."

HAYLEY MATTHEWS TO MISS NEXT WBBL BECAUSE OF SHOULDER SURGERY

**Diary Times Desk :** Melbourne Renegades were dealt with a big blow ahead of the WBBL draft on Thursday when their star allrounder Hayley Matthews was ruled out of the upcoming season due to a shoulder surgery. Matthews had been signed as a pre-draft recruit for two years by Renegades, the defending champions, but her unavailability was announced just hours before the draft. Matthews injured her shoulder recently while fielding in the first ODI against England, and she had to sit out of the last two games of the series. She has been playing after that - in the home ODIs against South Africa - and will feature in the subsequent T20I series too, followed by the Women's CPL in September for Barbados Royals, and will then go for her surgery during the Women's ODI World Cup as West Indies failed to qualify for the tournament. She won't be available for the rest of the year after that. "We are clearly disappointed Hayley won't be with us this season," Renegades general manager James Rosengarten said. "She's been instrumental during her time with the Renegades, not just with her performances but with her leadership and professionalism. "There's a very close relationship between the Renegades.