

SHANGHAI  
COOPERATION  
ORGANISATION

INDIA REFUSES TO SIGN SCO DECLARATION OVER OMISSION  
OF PAHALGAM ATTACK; BALOCHISTAN INCLUDED

**Diary Times Desk :** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign a joint declaration at a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China, because it did not mention the Pahalgam terror attack.

A draft joint declaration on terrorism was discussed at the meeting; however, it did not reflect India's position on countering terrorism, said sources, confirming the development. Following India's objections, the 'joint declaration' was held back. India accuses Pakistan of having masterminded, aided, abetted, and financed the Pahalgam terror attack.

The SCO joint declaration looked to mention the attack in Balochistan—the Jaffar express hijacking in March—while China – the present Chair of the SCO – and its ally Pakistan wanted Pahalgam's exclusion from the document. Rajnath Singh and his delegation objected to this.

In the past, New Delhi has consistently dismissed Pakistan's allegations about its involvement in Balochistan and said Islamabad must look within and stop backing terror instead of making wild allegations. Earlier, while making his remarks at the meeting, Rajnath Singh, without naming Pakistan, said some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide shelter to terrorists. There should be no place for such double standards.



CONTROVERSIAL  
REMARKS

'YOU HAVE CLOTHES, SHOES, MOBILE PHONES BECAUSE  
OF US': BJP MLA SPARKS ROW WITH REMARKS



**Diary Times Desk :** In controversial remarks, Maharashtra BJP MLA Babanrao Lonikar told a gathering that people who criticise his party and government should know they are getting "clothes, shoes, mobile, monetary benefits of schemes and money for sowing because of us".

Speaking at a function on 'Har Ghar Solar' scheme in his assembly constituency Partur in Jalna district of central Maharashtra, the former state minister highlighted the BJP-led government's welfare schemes and development work, and went on to berate the critics of his party. A video of Lonikar's controversial remarks surfaced on social media on Thursday and invited strong criticism from the opposition.

"There are a few people and especially the youth who criticize us and our party on social media platforms. We gave overhead water tanks, concrete roads, function halls and benefits of various government schemes in your village," he is heard telling the gathering.

"Babanrao Lonikar gave salaries to mothers of those who criticize us and also sanctioned pension for their fathers. (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi gave Rs 6,000 to your father for sowing (a reference to PM Kisan Samman Nidhi). Your sister is benefiting from the Ladki Bahin Yojana. The clothes, shoes, mobile phones that you (BJP critics) have is because of us," the MLA is heard saying in the video. Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Ambadas Danve hit out at the BJP legislator for his tasteless remarks and dubbed him as an "indigenous version of the British".

Speaking such a language is not good in a democracy, he noted.

## SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA, 3 OTHERS REACH INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

**Diary Times Desk :** India's Shubhanshu Shukla and three other astronauts reached the International Space Station on Thursday as the Dragon spacecraft docked to the orbital laboratory after a 28-hour journey around the earth. The new spacecraft -- fifth in the Dragon series, named Grace -- achieved a soft capture with the space station at 4.01 pm IST over the North Atlantic Ocean. This is the first time an Indian astronaut has travelled to the International Space Station. "At 6.31 am EDT (4.01 IST) on Thursday, the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft docked to the International Space Station for the fourth private astronaut mission to the orbiting laboratory, Axiom Mission 4," the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced in a statement. A live video link from the NASA showed the spacecraft approaching the space station. The docking sequence was completed at 4.15 pm IST. After the soft capture of the spacecraft, the hard-mating was completed when the two orbiting bodies were connected with 12 sets of hooks with each other and communication and power links were established.



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## UPSC LIKELY TO OPEN 'CORRECTION WINDOW' TO HELP CANDIDATES RECTIFY MISTAKES IN APPLICATION FORMS



**Diary Times Desk :** The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is planning to open a "correction window" for candidates to rectify their mistakes in the application forms filled for the NDA & NA and CDS examinations to be held this year. The correction window will open for three days and will be a one-time measure, according to the UPSC statement issued on Thursday. Combined Defence Services (CDS) exam-II, National Defence Academy (NDA) and Naval Academy (NA) -II, 2025, were notified on May 28 and will be held on September 14. The UPSC said that this window would give an opportunity to the candidates to edit their details and make necessary corrections in the 'common application form' and 'examination application form.' UPSC chairman Ajay Kumar said that the online portal provides repeated checks before the final submission of any application form. "Despite that, apparently, some mistakes have been made by the applicants in attaching their documents and filling up their details. As the portal is new and applicants are filling the information for the first time, UPSC is giving an opportunity to correct and rectify any wrong information filled during the application process, as a one-time measure," he said.

## DATA FROM AGEING STUDY FINDS MOST INDIANS DESCENDED FROM 3 ANCIENT POPULATIONS IN IRAN, EURASIA, SOUTH ASIA

**Diary Times Desk :** Analysing present-day genomes collected via an ageing study, researchers have shown that most Indians descend from three ancestral groups: Neolithic Iranian farmers, Eurasian Steppe pastoralists, and South Asian hunter-gatherers. Neolithic, also known as 'New Stone Age', featured the development of agriculture and polished stone tools. The study "fills a critical gap" in how historic migration and social structures helped shape India's populations -- genetically the most diverse in the world, yet underrepresented in global datasets, the team from the University of California-Berkeley (US), All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, among other institutes, said. They reconstructed the evolutionary history of India over the past 50,000 years at fine scale using whole genome sequences of 2,762 linguistically diverse individuals from the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India, Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia (LASI-DAD).



### YOUR HOROSCOPE

27-06-2025

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

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

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

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

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

**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.





## HIMACHAL: THREE PEOPLE INCLUDING FAKE PSO ARRESTED, ONE PISTOL AND TWO CARTRIDGES RECOVERED

**Diary Times Desk :** Police has detained three people including a person who claimed to be a PSO of a Haryana MLA. Police has taken this action near Solan bypass. The number of the vehicle has also turned out to be fake. Apart from this, a pistol and two cartridges have also been recovered from the fake PSO. Police is interrogating all three. According to the police, a Scorpio car with Haryana number was coming towards Solan from Parwanoo blowing horn. Traffic police stopped the vehicle by blocking the road near the double wall. There was a person wearing Haryana Police uniform, a car driver and a woman in the car. When the police questioned the person wearing the uniform in this matter, he said that he was a PSO of a Haryana MLA and the vehicle also belonged to the MLA. When the police asked him for the ID card, he could not show it. During this, when the police checked the number on the vehicle through the app, it also turned out to be fake. The number was coming out to be of a Toyota Crysta car, but this number was installed on a Scorpio vehicle. On the other hand, ASP Solan Rajkumar has confirmed the matter.



## HIMACHAL: FAKE AND NARCOTIC DRUGS ARE BEING MADE IN THE NAME OF HIMACHAL IN OTHER STATES, INVESTIGATION REVEALED

**Diary Times Desk :** There is an illegal business of making fake and narcotic drugs in other states and Himachal Pradesh is getting a bad name for it. Last year, 20 such cases have come to light. This year, two such cases have been exposed so far. Actually, samples of medicines of many such companies have failed, on which Himachal address is written, but investigation has revealed that this address is not in Himachal at all. 30 percent of the medicines manufactured in the country are being produced in Himachal. Medicines made in Baddi, Asia's largest pharma hub, are being exported to many countries. To spoil the image of the state, fake and narcotic medicines are being made in other states in the name of famous drug companies here. During the last one year, 20 such cases have come to light. In this, 19 were fake and one was a narcotic drug case. The fake medicines caught in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Punjab were found to have the names and labels of Himachal companies. No such company was found in Himachal during investigation. This year, two such cases have been exposed so far. The drug manufacturers of the state have nothing to do with them. To make the testing of drug samples in Himachal more effective, besides the already functioning composite testing laboratory at Kandaghat in Solan district, the government has now started another state-of-the-art drug testing laboratory.

## HIMACHAL CLOUD BURST: EIGHT PEOPLE MISSING DUE TO CLOUDBURST AT FIVE PLACES

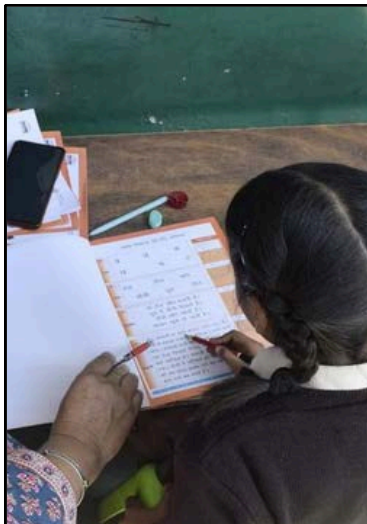
**Diary Times Desk :** The sky wreaked havoc in Himachal on Wednesday amid the weather department's orange alert. However, there has been some relief today as the weather has cleared. Rescue operations have been intensified to search for the missing people. After the devastation caused by cloudburst in Jiwanala in Sainj, the water level of Pin Parvati river has decreased on Thursday. In such a situation, the rescue team reached the spot to search for three missing people in Bihali village. A team of NDRF has also reached. On Wednesday, five people died amid heavy devastation due to cloudburst at five places in Dharamshala and Kullu, while about eight people are missing. In this, three people are missing in Kullu and five in Dharamshala. Rescue operations by NDRF and SDRF are continuing for the second day to find the workers who were swept away in Manuni Khad in Khaniyara. Rescue teams have rescued one worker safely. While the body of another worker has been recovered from the ravine. Overall, the bodies of three workers have been recovered in the last two days so far. NDRF Commandant Singh himself is on the spot.

## HIMACHAL: ED RAIDS SEVEN LOCATIONS OF SARIN, MORE THAN 40 BANK ACCOUNTS AND THREE LOCKERS SEIZED

**Diary Times Desk :** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Chandigarh Zone on 22 and 23 conducted searches at seven residential, commercial premises and government offices of Assistant Drug Controller Nishant Sareen posted in Kangra, Himachal, his family members and associates located in Haryana and Punjab. The search was conducted in a case related to misuse of official position for personal gain and corruption and bribery while Sareen was posted as Assistant Drug Controller Baddi. This information was given by the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday. During the ED search operation, documents like drug licenses, show cause notices, approvals issued to pharma companies, property related documents, besides digital devices including mobile phones, laptops, pen drives were seized. During the search operation, two vehicles, more than 40 bank accounts / FDRs and three lockers worth about Rs 32 lakh of Nishant Sareen and his family members were seized / frozen. Apart from this, more than 60 bottles of liquor without bills were also found at his residence in Omaxe Cassia New Chandigarh. Besides, complaints of extortion by Nishant Sareen in his current role as ADC, Dharamshala and interlinked financial transactions between family members of Nishant Sareen and pharmaceutical companies are also being investigated.

## HIMACHAL: NOW DOCUMENTS WILL BE CHECKED IN TWO PHASES FOR PRE-PRIMARY TEACHER RECRUITMENT, MORE THAN 20 THOUSAND APPLICANTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Under the pre-primary teacher recruitment, the documents of the candidates will be checked in two phases. In the first phase, the company conducting the interview will check the diploma and other certificates. In the second round, the education department will check the certificates and other documents at its own level. After receiving complaints of some fake documents and diplomas of unrecognized institutions during the interview, it has now been decided to conduct investigation at two levels. The education department will take the final decision regarding the recruitment of 6297 posts. More than 20 thousand applicants arrived across the state to give interviews. Interviews are being conducted through 14 private companies. Before giving appointments to 6297 pre-primary teachers, their Nursery Teacher Training (NTT) diplomas will be checked. The Directorate of Education has decided to conduct an investigation on the suspicion of NTT diplomas being fake. Complaints have been received from many districts about showing fake diplomas during the interview process going on in the state these days. Due to this, the Directorate of School Education has issued orders to the district officials to check the NTT diplomas before giving appointments.



## HRTC VOLVO BUSES: 24 NEW VOLVO BUSES OF HRTC REACHED HIMACHAL AFTER TRAVELLING A DISTANCE OF 2,700 KM

**Diary Times Desk :** 24 modern Volvo buses that joined the fleet of Himachal Pradesh Road Transport Corporation reached Himachal after travelling 2700 kms. On Thursday, Volvo buses reached the entry point Parwanoo and then left for Shimla. During this, the buses stopped for some time near Sanwara toll gate on Kalka-Shimla National Highway 5. These buses reached the headquarters of Shimla Road Transport in the afternoon and will be allotted to various depots in the coming days. Chief Inspector Hemant Sharma from Shimla Control Room said that the buses left Bangalore Volvo workshop four days ago. They reached Shimla on Thursday afternoon. He said that these buses are hi-tech. There are 39 seats in a bus. Fire sensors have been installed in the bus.

AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL,  
INDIA EXPOSES PAK FOR  
TERRORISM, CHILD RIGHTS  
ABUSES

**Diary Times Desk :** India has strongly rejected what it described as Pakistan's "nefarious agenda" at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), accusing Islamabad of attempting to deflect attention from its own human rights violations and state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, issued a sharp rebuttal during the UNSC's open debate on Children and Armed Conflict (CAC), calling out Pakistan for misusing the platform and violating the Council's agenda. "Pakistan is casting unwarranted aspersions over UN processes and also smearing India at various discussions to pursue its nefarious agenda. We reject this attempt by Pakistan to deflect attention from the atrocities committed against children in their country, as highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, as well as their rampant cross-border terrorism," said Mr Harish. The Indian envoy labelled Pakistan as "one of the grave violators of the CAC agenda," citing not only the systemic abuse of children within Pakistan's borders but also the impact of its military operations in Afghanistan's border areas, where children have suffered casualties due to cross-border shelling and air strikes by Pakistani forces.

TIGRESS, 4 CUBS FOUND DEAD  
IN KARNATAKA, MINISTER  
ORDERS PROBE

**Diary Times Desk :** Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Thursday ordered a probe into the "unnatural death" of a tigress and four cubs in Male Mahadeshwara Hills under the Huguam forest range. The tigress and the cubs were found dead this morning, officials said. Expressing sorrow over the incident, Mr Khandre immediately ordered an investigation into the matter, which will be led by a team under the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF). As per preliminary information, the tigers died due to poisoning. A detailed investigation is underway to ascertain the exact cause of death, they said. According to forest department, the minister has issued instructions to the Additional Chief Secretary and the Chief Wildlife Warden of the department, stating that the government is taking the deaths of five tigers very seriously and has directed that action be taken against those found guilty. Referring to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Project Tiger for the protection of endangered tigers, the minister noted that Karnataka has also taken.

IN AIR INDIA CRASH PROBE BREAKTHROUGH, DATA  
DOWNLOADED FROM 'BLACK BOXES'



**Diary Times Desk :** Information from the black boxes recovered from the June 12 Air India plane crash has been successfully downloaded and is being analysed, the government said Thursday afternoon. The black boxes - a flight data recorder, or FDR, and a cockpit voice recorder, or CVR - were damaged in the crash and there were questions over the recovery of usable data. Last week sources told NDTV the government may send the FDR and CVR to the United States for forensic extraction of data. However, in a big breakthrough, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau has succeeded in safely extracting the Crash Protection Module, or CPM, and the memory module, and downloaded the data. The government said both boxes - one found on the rooftop of the hostel into which the plane crashed and the other from the debris - were securely transported to the AAIB lab in Delhi on Tuesday.

INDIAN NAVY CLERK ARRESTED FOR  
LEAKING OPERATION SINDOOR INTEL TO  
PAKISTAN

**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian Navy staffer, posted at the Naval headquarters in New Delhi, was arrested for allegedly leaking classified information related to Operation Sindoor to Pakistan's intelligence agency. The accused, Vishal Yadav, an upper division clerk (UDC) at the directorate of dockyard, was taken into custody by the Rajasthan Police's intelligence wing and was sent to four days of police remand on Thursday by a local court for further interrogation. Yadav, a resident of Punsika in Haryana's Rewari, was arrested under the Official Secrets Act, 1923. The criminal investigation department (CID), which had been monitoring espionage activities, found Yadav in contact via social media with a female handler from a Pakistani intelligence agency, inspector general of police (IGP) of CID security Vishnukant Gupta said. Gupta said the woman, operating under the alias Priya Sharma, had allegedly lured Vishal with money to extract strategically sensitive and confidential information from the Naval headquarters.

RUDRAPRAYAG: 3 DEAD, 9 MORE MISSING  
AFTER CHAR DHAM PILGRIM BUS FALLS IN  
RIVER

**Diary Times Desk :** Three pilgrims were killed and nine others are missing after a bus carrying Char Dham pilgrims veered off the Badrinath national highway between Rudraprayag and Gauchar, and fell into the Alaknanda river on Thursday morning, police said. A police officer said there was no trace of the nine people who were washed away by the strong currents of the river, and rescue operations are underway at the spot. Among the nine people who are missing are a jeweller and a lawyer from Rajasthan's Udaipur, who were in Uttarakhand with their extended families for the pilgrimage. The 31-seater bus headed to Badrinath was carrying pilgrims from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra when the accident took place at about 7:50am. Bus driver Sumit Kumar, who survived the crash, said he wasn't speeding but lost control of the bus after a head-on collision with a speeding truck. Kumar said the truck hit the bus on his side of the vehicle, "after which I lost control and the bus fell into Alaknanda". Police said the driver's version of the events was yet to be verified.

IN ODISHA, 5TH RAPE IN 10 DAYS. WOMAN RETURNING FROM TEMPLE GANG-RAPED

**Diary Times Desk :** A series of five separate rape cases have been reported across Odisha within a ten-day period. The most recent incident occurred in the Karanjai area of Mayurbhanj district. According to police, a young woman was allegedly gang-raped on June 25 while returning home from a local temple. Preliminary reports state that three men stopped her, took her to a nearby forest, and assaulted her. Police have arrested one suspect, identified as Bikash Patra from Malarpada village, and are actively searching for two others. This case follows four other serious incidents reported since mid-June. Gopalpur Beach, Ganjam District, June 17: Police arrested ten men in connection with the gang-rape of a woman near Gopalpur beach. The victim had reportedly visited the beach with a male friend. The accused allegedly dragged the friend away, tied him up, and then multiple men raped the woman. All ten suspects are currently in custody.





**FRENCH ARMY INTERCEPTED IRANIAN DRONES TARGETING ISRAEL BEFORE CEASEFIRE**

**Diary Times Desk :** France's military took part in efforts to stop Iranian drones targeting Israel prior to this week's ceasefire, the country's defence minister Sebastien Lecornu said late on Wednesday. "I can confirm that the French army intercepted less than 10 drones in the last few days during the different military operations conducted by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Israel, either by ground-to-air systems or via our Rafale fighter jets," Lecornu said during a parliamentary debate on the situation in the Middle East. Lecornu said Iran had launched some 400 ballistic missiles and 1,000 drones towards Israel during the 12-day conflict. Israel started attacking Iran on June 13, saying it aimed to destroy its arch-enemy's nuclear capabilities. Its strikes wiped out a senior echelon of Iran's military command and killed several nuclear scientists. Iranian authorities said 610 people were killed and nearly 5,000 injured in the country. Tehran's retaliatory missiles killed at least 28 people in Israel and damaged hundreds of buildings, until a ceasefire came into effect on Tuesday.

**"DESERVED SO MUCH MORE": FAMILY OF BRAZILIAN HIKER WHO FELL INTO VOLCANO**

**Diary Times Desk :** The family of a Brazilian hiker found dead in Indonesia days after a fall climbing a volcano have criticised the rescue effort as too slow, before authorities carry out an autopsy Thursday to find out the time of her death. Juliana Marins, 26, went missing on Saturday at Indonesia's second-largest volcano, Mount Rinjani, located on Lombok island. Attempts to evacuate her were hindered by challenging weather and terrain after authorities spotted her unmoving body with a drone. Rescuers finally reached her body on Tuesday evening after a day-long effort and evacuated her a day later. Her family has claimed Marins could have been saved if she was reached within hours rather than days. "Juliana suffered severe neglect by the rescue team. Juliana would still be alive if the team had gotten to her within the estimated time of 7 hours," her family wrote late Wednesday on an Instagram account that has amassed over one million followers. Juliana deserved so much more! Now we are going after justice for her, because it's what she deserves."

**12 KILLED IN MASS SHOOTING AT RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION IN MEXICO**

**Diary Times Desk :** Twelve people were killed overnight in the Mexican state of Guanajuato when gunmen opened fire on a celebration in the city of Irapuato, authorities said Wednesday. People were dancing and drinking in the street in celebration of St. John the Baptist when the shooting began. Revelers screamed and ran to escape the gunfire, according to videos circulated online. Irapuato official Rodolfo Gómez Cervantes, said in a news conference Wednesday that the number of victims had risen to 12. Some 20 others were wounded. President Claudia Sheinbaum lamented the attack, saying that it was under investigation. Last month, seven people were killed in a shooting that targeted a party organized by the Catholic Church in San Bartolo de Berrios, Guanajuato. Guanajuato, which is northwest of Mexico City, has been one of the country's most violent states, as various organized crime groups battle for control. There have been 1,435 homicides in the state through the first five months of the year, more than double any other state.

**FLOODS LEAVE SIX DEAD AND THOUSANDS DISPLACED IN CHINA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Six people have died from floods in China's Guizhou province, state media said, after more than 80,000 people were driven from their homes this week. Towns and villages by a key river in China's Guangxi lay half-submerged as floodwaters from a province upstream roared into the mountainous region, with the expected landfall of a tropical cyclone later on Thursday compounding disaster risk. The flooding that overwhelmed the counties of Rongjiang and Congjiang in Guizhou province on Tuesday has spread downstream to other parts of southwest China, including rural settlements in Guangxi by the Liu River, which originates from Guizhou. On Thursday, state broadcaster CCTV said "exceptionally large floods" had swept through Guizhou's Rongjiang county since Tuesday. China is enduring a summer of extreme weather.

**"MONEY CAN'T BUY CLASS": JEFF BEZOS' WEDDING INVITE ROASTED ONLINE**

**Diary Times Desk :** The wedding festivities for Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and former news anchor Lauren Sanchez have already begun in Venice, but the couple has found itself at the centre of an unexpected criticism - their wedding invitation. A glimpse of the invite, obtained by ABC News, has triggered a wave of ridicule online. The couple, together for six years, will exchange vows in a multi-day celebration said to include an official ceremony on the picturesque island of San Giorgio Maggiore on Friday, June 27. Far from the elegance expected of a billionaire's wedding, the invitation's design - a collage of butterflies, birds, feathers, and shooting stars in shades of pink and blue, set against a stark white background - has been branded "atrocious" and "ugly" by social media users. The card included a message requesting guests not to bring gifts. It read, "We are excited for you to join us! We have one early request: please, no gifts." Instead, the invite said the couple would make charitable contributions on behalf of attendees.

**THAROOR VISITS RUSSIA, MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER SERGEY LAVROV**

**Diary Times Desk :** Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, currently at the centre of a row within the party, is on a private visit to Russia to promote a documentary series based on his book "Inglorious Empire" and has had meetings with key members of the Russian leadership such as foreign minister Sergey Lavrov. Tharoor is in Russia at the invitation of Russia's state-run television network RT, which produced the 10-part series based on his 2017 book, which itself was based on a speech he made at the 2015 Oxford Union debate on the theme "Does Britain owe reparations to its former colonies?". He arrived in Russia on June 21 and participated in the St Petersburg Economic Forum before travelling to Moscow, where he met Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the committee on international affairs of the State Duma or lower house of Parliament, on June 23. On the same day, Tharoor also met the Indian diaspora at the Indian embassy. Tharoor met foreign minister Lavrov on the margins of the Primakov Readings, an annual international meeting focused on international relations and the world economy, on June 24. On Wednesday, Tharoor met Konstantin Kosachev, chair of the foreign affairs committee of the upper house of Parliament, and members of the Malayalee diaspora in Russia.

**IRAN EXECUTES 'SPIES', WIDENS ESPIONAGE DEFINITION TO INCLUDE SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Following days of conflict with Israel, Iran has turned its attention inward, intensifying a domestic crackdown framed as a response to foreign infiltration. The government has sharply widened its definition of espionage to include even basic social media activity, warning that following, liking, or commenting on accounts linked to Israel could now be treated as a criminal offence. On June 25, Iran executed three Kurdish men accused of collaborating with Mossad, just a day after passing a new law expanding the definition of espionage. The legislation labels collaboration with "hostile governments" like Israel and the US as "corruption on Earth," punishable by death. It also criminalises activities such as cyber warfare, weapons trafficking, and sharing content with foreign media, targeting activists and citizen journalists with harsh penalties. But now even social media have been added to the directives from the Justice Ministry of Iran. The Ministry issued a nationwide warning that merely following or interacting.

## IRREFUTABLE PROOF AGAINST 'BIG FISH' IN DRUG TRADE: PUNJAB CM MANN ON MAJITHIA'S ARREST

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday said the state government had gathered "substantive and irrefutable proof" against those arrested on charges of running drug rackets and amassing wealth through drug money. Without naming Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia, who was arrested by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau on Tuesday, Mann said, "The mobiles, laptops, and documents seized, along with investigations into his business dealings, have given us enough evidence to nail him. A proper money trail has been established." Majithia is to be produced in court shortly, where the Vigilance Bureau is expected to seek his remand. Rejecting allegations of political vendetta, the Chief Minister said a "big crocodile in the illicit drug trade" had been arrested, and warned that another "big fish" would be caught soon. He also stated that any property built with illicit drug money would be demolished. "With this arrest, we have begun targeting the kingpins of the drug business. Earlier, all opposition parties accused my government of only catching drug peddlers. Now that I have arrested the kingpin, they are uniting and crying political witch hunt. "Those supporting him could themselves be involved in similar illegal activities," said Mann.



## NIA RAIDS IN PUNJAB, HARYANA, UP TO PROBE KHALISTANI TERROR NETWORK

**Diary Times Desk** : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted a series of searches across Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to probe Khalistani terror network, officials said. NIA teams launched searches at 18 locations in the three northern states in the morning. They seized various incriminating materials, including mobiles, digital devices and documents, officials said. The searches were conducted on the premises of suspects linked with banned outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) operative Kulbir Sidhu, US-based gangster Manish alias Kaka Rana, and their nodes based in India and various other countries, according to a statement issued by the probe agency. Sidhu, originally from Yamunanagar in Haryana, is currently in Germany and is a key aide of designated terrorist and BKI chief Wadhawa Singh Babbar, who is based in Pakistan, it said. Sidhu is also an accused in the NIA case related to the murder of Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Vikas Prabhakar in Nangal, Punjab, in April 2024.

## FORCED INTO BONDED LABOUR, UTTARAKHAND MAN RESCUED FROM PUNJAB AFTER 3 YEARS

**Diary Times Desk** : A 35-year-old man from Uttarakhand was rescued and reunited with his family after allegedly being held as a bonded labourer at a cowshed in a village in Tarn Taran district, officials said on Thursday. Ramesh Kumar, from Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, was rescued following the intervention of Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria, an official statement said. After a video went viral on social media purportedly showing Kumar tending to cattle under exploitative conditions, Garhwal MP Anil Baluni reached out to Governor Kataria. Kataria then directed Punjab's Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav to take prompt action. Responding swiftly, the DGP mobilised the Tarn Taran district police, who located Kumar within hours and rescued him from the custody of the cowshed owner, a statement said.

## PUNJAB CABINET APPROVES KEY INDUSTRIAL POLICIES — FREEHOLD CONVERSION AND LAND USE CHANGES

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab Cabinet today gave its assent to two important policies for industry — allowing conversion of industrial plots from leasehold to freehold and allowing change in land use of industrial plots. The two decisions were taken at a meeting of Punjab council of ministers chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann here today. Announcing the decisions of the Cabinet, New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora, flanked by the Industry Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond, said that the two decisions were being demanded by industrialists for a long time. "Not only will the decisions help in encouraging economic activity in the industrial estates, by allowing these decisions, the state government will earn at least Rs 1,000 crore only for conversion of plots from leasehold to freehold," he said. Those seeking conversion of industrial plots can now run commercial establishments, hotels, convention centres, hospitals and hostels on industrial plots of over 1,000 to 4,000 square yards.

## LAWRENCE BISHNOI'S JAIL INTERVIEW: SC QUESTIONS REPORTER'S ENTRY INTO PRISON

**Diary Times Desk** : As dismissed Punjab Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gursher Singh Sandhu sought quashing of proceedings arising out of an interview of alleged gangster Lawrence Bishnoi in jail, the Supreme Court raised questions over the entry of a journalist in jail. A Bench of Justice KV Viswanathan and Justice N Kotiswar Singh wondered how the reporter got access to jail for the interview. Noting that Sandhu's petition challenging issuance of notices under Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was already listed before the Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 3, the Bench on June 24 allowed him to withdraw his petition. Sandhu has also challenged his dismissal. On behalf of Sandhu, senior counsel Vikram Chaudhri argued that the notice was issued to him but the journalist who recorded the interview got interim protection from the Supreme Court. Chaudhri said Sandhu never had access to Bishnoi and that he was being selectively targeted. To Sandhu's contention that he was summoned under Section 41A of CrPC despite not being named as an accused in the FIR, the Bench pointed out that he was in charge the night before the interview. Bishnoi is one of the accused in the May 29, 2022, murder of singer Sidhu Moosewala. In March 2023, a private news channel ran two interviews of Bishnoi while the alleged gangster was lodged in a high-security Bathinda jail over video calls.

## NAVY STAFFER FROM HARYANA ARRESTED FOR LEAKING INFORMATION TO PAKISTANI HANDLER 'PRIYA SHARMA'

**Diary Times Desk** : An Indian Navy staffer posted in naval headquarters in Delhi was arrested in Jaipur for allegedly leaking defence-related sensitive information to a Pakistani handler in exchange for money, a police official said on Thursday. Vishal Yadav, an upper division clerk in the Directorate of Dockyard at the Navy building, allegedly also shared details on Operation Sindoor — strikes carried out by the Indian Armed Forces in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. Inspector General of Police (CID-Security) Vishnu Kant Gupta said Yadav, originally from Rewari in Haryana, leaked the classified information to a female Pakistani handler posing as an Indian woman. "Yadav confessed to receiving approximately Rs 2 lakh for the information he passed on," Gupta said. This included Rs 50,000 for leaking information related to Operation Sindoor," the IGP said, adding some of the payments were also made in cryptocurrency. Special public prosecutor Sudesh Satwan revealed that intelligence agencies caught hold of Yadav while they were investigating an old case, during which a lead led them to him. Agencies then put him under surveillance, and when it was determined that he sent confidential information to the handlers of the Pakistani intelligence agency, Yadav was questioned, Satwan said.

## GURUGRAM 'TREE FELLING' ROW: DLF TELLS HC IT HAS PERMISSIONS, LICENCE SINCE 1995

**Diary Times Desk** : Just about a week after the Punjab and Haryana High Court took suo motu notice of alleged felling of 2,000 trees across 40 acres reportedly to make way for a real estate project, the DLF today told a vacation Bench that it had valid permissions and a licence since 1995. The Gurugram Municipal Corporation also submitted an affidavit stating, among other things, that the DLF had obtained approval for the project from Haryana Town and Country Planning Department to develop the "new real estate project" after getting clearance from "various government authorities". An application for intervention was also filed by Lt Col Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi, stating at the onset that he had "led the protest to a Minister, requesting him to stop the dislocation of the wildlife and that too at night". As the matter came up for resumed hearing before the Bench of Justice Suvir Sehgal and Justice Amarjot Bhatti, senior advocates Randep Singh Rai and Chetan Mittal submitted on DLF's.



### THREE WASHED AWAY IN FLASHFLOOD IN SAINJ VALLEY OF KULLU DISTRICT

**Diary Times Desk :** Sudden cloudbursts and heavy rainfall in the higher reaches of Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti districts unleashed powerful torrents, sweeping away homes, vehicles and critical road links across different valleys. In Raila Bihal in Sainj Valley, three persons, including two women, are feared washed away after floodwaters tore through four houses and a makeshift shop. Eyewitnesses report that the victims were scrambling to salvage their belongings when the deluge suddenly struck. The adjacent Siund road has been washed out, leaving an NHPC maintenance shed dangling and cutting off Bihali village from relief teams. A jeep and a scooty were swept away in the swollen Siund nullah near Sainj market. The Kasol nullah in Parbati Valley, Jivah nullah in Sainj and Snow Gallery in Mandli had their banks damaged within minutes of heavy rain. In Banjar's Horangarh area and Garsa Valley's Neuli nullah, swollen waters infiltrated homes and blocked roads. A parking lot in Kasol was inundated, damaging more than 20 vehicles. Temporary footbridges and small culverts gave way, further isolating hamlets downstream.

### CHAPTER AGAINST DRUG ABUSE TO BE INCLUDED IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM: HIMACHAL CM

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday announced that the state government would introduce a dedicated chapter on drug abuse awareness in the school curriculum. He made this statement while presiding over a function organised to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The Chief Minister urged every section of the society to join the drive against drug abuse to make Himachal Pradesh a drug-free state. "The vision of a prosperous country can only be realised by channelising the energy of the youth in the right direction," he said. He added that the government had adopted a zero tolerance policy against the use and trafficking of drugs. The Chief Minister said that the state government was going to act tough against the government employees involved in drug trafficking. He said the state government had approved.

### ED IMPOUNDS 2 VEHICLES, FREEZES 40 BANK ACCOUNTS OF DHARAMSALA ASSISTANT DRUG CONTROLLER, KIN DURING RAIDS

**Diary Times Desk :** The ED has impounded two vehicles worth approximately Rs 32 lakh, frozen more than 40 bank accounts/FDRs and three lockers belonging to Assistant Drug Controller (ADC) in Dharamsala Nishant Sareen and his family members. Additionally, the anti-money laundering agency also found more than 60 unaccounted liquor bottles at his residence at Omaxe Cassia, New Chandigarh, during raids conducted at seven residential and commercial premises and government offices located in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, linked to Sareen and his associates. The raids were conducted on June 22 and 23 in a case related to misuse of official position for personal benefits and corruption and bribery reportedly by Sareen while being posted as Assistant Drug Controller in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh. Investigation under the PMLA was initiated by the ED based on an FIR registered by the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Himachal Pradesh Police under Section 11 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, against Nishant Sareen, then Assistant Drug Controller (ADC), Baddi. Subsequently, he was arrested by SV&ACB, Himachal Pradesh Police, and was charge-sheeted along with his associate Komal Khanna.



### MULTIPLE FLASHFLOODS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: 4 DEAD, 6 LABOURERS MISSING IN KANGRA, 9 SWEEPED AWAY IN KULLU

**Diary Times Desk :** The meteorological department has issued a warning of light to moderate flashflood risk over the watersheds and neighbourhoods of Shimla, Mandi, Kangra, Sirmaur and Chamba districts for the next 24 hours as the state is set to witness heavy to very heavy rain in isolated parts. Search operations have been intensified to trace people missing since the flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in Himachal's Kangra and Kullu districts, officials said on Thursday. Two persons died while about 20 were feared swept away due to heavy rains on Wednesday evening but some of the missing people have since been rescued. In Kangra, flash floods, caused by a cloudburst, struck a rivulet near Khanyara village on Wednesday evening, sweeping away labourers working on the Indira Priyadarshini Hydroelectric Project. Six are missing, and four bodies have been recovered. Over 170 workers were safely evacuated and sheltered by the local administration. Rescue operations continued Thursday, with drones deployed and one worker still unaccounted for in nearby forests. Though officials termed it a natural disaster, some labourers blamed illegal mining and unsafe shelter placement near the rivulet for worsening the tragedy. Three people at Rehla Bihal in Kullu district who were washed away in the deluge while trying to take away valuables from their homes are still missing.

### KULLU LANDSLIDE: HIMACHAL GOVT ISSUES ADVISORY FOR TOURISTS; MET WARNING

**Diary Times Desk :** Rescue operations have been intensified in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district after flash floods triggered by cloudbursts swept through several areas, leaving a trail of destruction and several people missing. Officials reported that three individuals, including a 14-year-old child, are still unaccounted for in the Rehla Bihal area of Sainj. The victims were reportedly washed away while attempting to retrieve valuables from their homes as floodwaters surged through the region. Deputy Commissioner Torul S Ravesh confirmed that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has joined the ongoing search and rescue operations. She urged tourists to avoid riverbeds and low-lying areas during the monsoon season, emphasising that while the rains are a seasonal attraction, safety must remain a priority. Flashfloods have also been reported in Mandli and Banjar, with significant damage reported in Sainj, Gadsa, and Hornagad, all within the Banjar Assembly Constituency. Banjar MLA Surinder Shauri, who visited the flood-hit areas, said the main road in Hornagad is blocked, and essential services like electricity and water supply have been disrupted. He has directed officials from the revenue department to begin relief efforts and assist the affected residents promptly.

### MAGISTERIAL PROBE ORDERED INTO DHARAMSALA FLASH FLOOD TRAGEDY

**Diary Times Desk :** Kangra District Magistrate Hemraj Bairwa has ordered a magisterial probe into the Dharamsala flash floods, in which five bodies of labourers have been recovered so far. One labourer has also been rescued safely from the forest area. At least 170 labourers — trapped on the up-stream of the rivulet that witnessed flash floods — were safely brought down on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. They were working on the under-construction Manuni Hydroelectric Power Project, a sister concern of the Indira Priyadarshini Hydroelectric Power Project, coming up on the Manuni rivulet when the flash floods struck on Wednesday evening. Hemraj Bairwa said that the SDM will look into all facts and circumstances of the tragedy. "We have recovered five bodies; out of which four have been identified and three are yet to be recovered from the rivulet," he said. Kangra SP Shalini Agnihotri said the bodies recovered from the rivulet have been identified as Chain Singh (20), a resident of Kumaadi village, Doda district (J&K); Aditya Thakur (24), a resident of Rakh village, Chamba district; Pardeep Verma (35), a resident of Sohanpur village, Deoria district (UP); and Chandan Kumar (27), a resident of Sohanpur village, Deoria district (UP).



**INDIA DEALT 'JASPRIT BUMRAH BLOW' FOR 2ND TEST VS ENGLAND, SAY BCCI SOURCES. HIS REPLACEMENT MAY BE...**

**Diary Times Desk :** Jasprit Bumrah will miss the second India vs England Test in Birmingham starting on July 2, sources confirmed to NDTV. The star fast bowler, who took five wickets in the first innings of the first Test in Leeds, will not play the second Test as part of workload management. Bumrah's absence is bound to come as a big blow to the Indian cricket team as the other bowlers lacked the fire-power in the first Test. While Bumrah took the first five-wicket haul of the series, Prasidh Krishna was expensive while Mohammed Siraj could not get enough wickets. Krishna's figures were 3/128 in 20 overs and in the second innings it was 2/92 in 15 overs. Mohammed Siraj's figures were 2/122 in 27 overs in the first innings and 0/51 in 14 overs in the second. Compared to Bumrah's figures of 5/140 from 43.4 overs at an economy rate of 3.20, the rest struggled to match his impact. Fast bowling all-rounders Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna combined to return with figures of 9/482 from 92 overs, a massive chasm. Ahead of the series it was decided that Bumrah will play only three of the five Tests against England. The second Test starts on July 2 in Birmingham, and there is a little gap after that as the third Test starts on July 10 in Lord's. Bumrah is likely to be available for the third Test.

**"IF I WAS GAUTAM GAMBHIR, I WOULD TAKE RISHABH PANT ASIDE..." : R ASHWIN'S STUNNING 'REQUEST'**

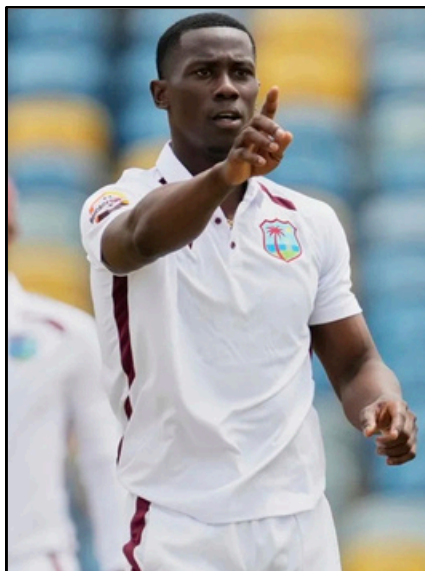
**Diary Times Desk :** India should focus on extending their batting time and Rishabh Pant must convert his hundreds into double centuries against an "average" England attack in the ongoing Test series, said senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in his detailed post-mortem of the team's five-wicket loss in the lung-opener at Leeds. Despite five centuries from their batters across both innings, India allowed England to chase their second highest target of 371 to concede a 0-1 lead in the five-match series. "One thing that the Indian team's batting can focus on is in every innings, can you extend your batting with time -- not by runs. Increase the amount of time England is fielding and increase the amount of time you keep them on the field," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel 'Ash Ki Baat'. "...I will say one thing -- don't panic and change drastically. India could and might level the series in the next Test. But if we don't understand the tactics England are using, this series could very well go away from us quickly." Ashwin stressed that the game slipped out of India's hands the moment they were bowled out early on the fourth day. "When you didn't extend your batting into Day 5, the game was over."

**ARCHER INCLUDED IN ENGLAND SQUAD FOR SECOND TEST**

**Diary Times Desk :** England have added Jofra Archer to their Test squad for the second of the five-game ongoing series against India. Archer, 30, will return to the Test fold for the first time since February 2021 and will be in line to add to his 13 Test caps when the second match gets underway at Edgbaston in Birmingham on July 2. The pacer returned to red-ball cricket in the last round of County Championship for Sussex against Durham. His last Test appearance for England also came against India in 2021, post which he battled a series of injuries, including a back stress fracture, that kept him out of action intermittently until 2024 before he made his white-ball return in May last year. The remainder of the England squad is the same as the one that was named ahead of the series opener in Leeds, which the hosts won by five wickets. The last three Tests in the newly-rechristened Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2025 will be played at the Lord's (July 10-14), Old Trafford in Manchester (July 23-27) and The Oval (July 31-August 4). England squad for 2nd Test: Ben Stokes (C), Jofra Archer, Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes.

**SHAMAR KEEPS THE SPOTLIGHT ON AUSTRALIA'S STRUGGLING TOP ORDER**

**Diary Times Desk :** Things may yet turn out alright on the night for Australia in Barbados in terms of the result - although that remains far from certain - but the opening day of the series shone a further light on the task of reshaping the top order with an eye to the future. Firstly, a qualifier: these were not comfortable batting conditions. Travis Head, who produced the most dominant innings, said that Australia had been taken by surprise with how tough they were, but Jayden Seales suggested West Indies had an inkling of what to expect after the pre-series training camp here. Still, Australia's 22 for 3 - and a later collapse of 7 for 69 - followed on from the difficulties they had in the World Test Championship final against South Africa when they couldn't find a way through tricky periods. West Indies had struggles of their own, but it was a reminder that the next generation of Australia batting could be a longer-term project riddled with uncertainties. You only need to show Shamar Joseph an Australia batting line-up for him to put on a display. He had not quite hit the heights of the Gabba since that heady day (although, after his struggles in England last year, the numbers had been far from dire) but this brought back memories of Brisbane.

**TICKETS FOR SYDNEY ODI, CANBERRA T20I BETWEEN INDIA, AUSTRALIA SOLD OUT: CA**

**Diary Times Desk :** India's white-ball tour of Australia is still four months away but Cricket Australia (CA) has already more than 90,000 tickets for eight matches with third ODI in Sydney and first T20 in Canberra completely sold out. India will travel Down Under in October-November to compete in three ODIs -- starting October 19 in Perth -- and five T20 Internationals -- the last one in Brisbane on November 8. "The Australia vs India white ball series in October/November has generated immense excitement among cricket fans, particularly from the Indian diaspora," the CA said in a statement. "The public ticket allocation for the SCG ODI and Manuka Oval (Canberra) T20I were exhausted four months prior to the match highlighting the huge demand for these matches, while the MCG T20I and Gabba T20I are also proving popular. "Following record ticket sales for the Ashes, the white ball matches are also in high demand, with over 90,000 tickets sold to the eight matches after just two weeks of public sales." According to CA, more than 16 per cent of the tickets sold so far have been purchased by Indian fan clubs.

**SACHIN TENDULKAR MET PRITHVI SHAW 2 MONTHS AGO, GAVE REALITY-CHECK: "GET BACK ON TRACK..."**

**Diary Times Desk :** Prithvi Shaw's career has taken a sharp nosedive in recent years. 2024/25 saw the talented opener dropped from Mumbai's domestic teams, and he also went unsold in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega auction. However, despite all the downs, Shaw has revealed that legendary Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar still has the faith that he can bounce back. He stated that after his own father, it is Tendulkar who has been a strong support system for him, revealing that he also shares a great bond with Tendulkar's son, Arjun. "My biggest support system is my father, but after him, he (Tendulkar) knows a lot. Arjun and I have been friends since we were eight or nine years old. Sir also used to be there. He has seen," Shaw said in an interview with News24. "Hardly two months ago, he was practising at MIG for the (International) Masters League. I was also there. At such a time, you need a mentor who gives a spark," Shaw stated. Shaw revealed that Tendulkar continues to give him words of advice and retains the belief that he can bounce back from his struggles. "He still believes in me. 'Prithvi, I have belief and I will continue to believe.'"