

## PRESIDENT'S RULE

# PRESIDENT'S RULE WILL PAVE WAY FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT: KUKI-ZO COUNCIL

**Diary Times Desk :** The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) in a statement said it has received positively the government's imposition of President's Rule in the violence-hit state, and the move will help pave the way for political settlements and peaceful coexistence.

"We are hopeful it (President's Rule) would pave the way for due political settlements and peaceful coexistence (of Meitei and Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribals) as good neighbours," KZC secretary (information) Khaikhohauh Gangte said.

Referring to comments by BJP's northeast incharge Sambit Patra that Manipur's territorial integrity will not be touched, the KZC in a statement said, "Patra may be unaware or has chosen not to be aware that Meitei physically violated Manipur's territorial integrity on May 3, 2023, when they massacred, attacked church buildings, destroyed the homes, and forcefully displaced the Kuki-Zo people from the Imphal valley."

The KZC alleged the government led by former chief minister N Biren Singh carried out "ethnic cleansing", which led to the separation of Kuki-Zo tribes and the valley-dominant Meiteis demographically and physically.

"Kuki-Zo are not separatists, Meiteis have separated Kuki-Zo from Manipur. More than 250 Kuki-Zo people have died in this ethnic conflict, over 7,000 Kuki-Zo homes have been destroyed, more than 360 places of worship have been set on fire or destroyed, and more than 40,000 Kuki-Zo people have become homeless," the KZC said in the statement. Mr Patra in Imphal on Friday said the 60-member state assembly was put under suspended animation, meaning the assembly can be revived whenever the President deems it fit. "The BJP government is committed to continuing peace efforts in the state and to maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur. There would be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the state. Illegal infiltration into Manipur would not be allowed in any circumstances and such attempts would be dealt with severely," Mr Patra had told reporters. Speculation is that the BJP is trying to choose a leader who will be acceptable among all communities - Kuki-Zo-Hmar, Naga tribes, and the non-tribal Meiteis. The Kuki tribes and the Meiteis have been fighting since May 2023 over a range of issues such as land rights.



## INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

# US PLANE CARRYING 2ND BATCH OF 119 INDIAN IMMIGRANTS LANDS IN AMRITSAR



**Diary Times Desk :** A plane carrying 119 Indians arrived from the United States at Punjab's Amritsar airport on Saturday, the second such arrival in a span of 10 days, as part of the Donald Trump administration's crackdown and decision to deport illegal immigrants. The first round of deportation had taken place on February 5, when a US military plane transported 104 Indians to Amritsar. A third plane with 157 deportees is expected to land in India on Sunday. The C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the US Air Force landed at the Amritsar International Airport close to 11:40 pm on Saturday.

Of the total deportees, 67 are from Punjab, 33 are from Haryana, eight from Gujarat, three from Uttar Pradesh, two each from Goa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, those deported were from Haryana (33), Gujarat (33), Punjab (30), Maharashtra (3) Uttar Pradesh (3), and Chandigarh (2). They were sent back on the same military aircraft that took off from San Antonio, Texas.

The deportees were shackled and restrained throughout the flight, only to be freed upon arrival in India - a move that triggered a political storm in India, and led to an uproar in both Houses of Parliament during the then ongoing Budget session.

Amid criticism, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the Centre is engaging with the US to ensure the deportees are not mistreated. He also said the US' deportation of illegal migrants is not a new development and has been going on for years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a trip to the US on Thursday, said India will take back any of its citizens living illegally in the US. He, however, emphasised that efforts need to be made to end human trafficking. "Our bigger fight is against that entire ecosystem, and we are confident that President Trump will fully cooperate with India in finishing this ecosystem," he said.

In its defense, the US Embassy in India said "enforcing our nation's immigration laws is critically important to the national security and public safety of the United States". "It is the policy of the United States to faithfully execute the immigration laws against all inadmissible and removable aliens," an embassy spokesperson said.

## ALLAHBADIA'S PHONE SWITCHED OFF; RAINA GETS TIME TILL MARCH 10 TO RECORD STATEMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Mumbai police are unable to trace podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia as his phone remains switched off, while they have given comedian Samay Raina time till March 10 to appear before them in a probe into the former's controversial remarks on his YouTube show, an official said on Saturday. Allahbadia's crass remarks about parents and sex on Raina's now-deleted YouTube show 'India's Got Latent' have sparked massive outrage, leading to complaints from several persons. The official said the Khar police have been unable to contact Allahbadia, popular on YouTube for his 'BeerBiceps' channel, as his phone is switched off. He said Raina's lawyer met senior police officials seeking more time, citing that his client was in the US. On the lawyer's request, the police have given him time till March 10 to appear before them to record a statement. Allahbadia had earlier requested the Khar police to record his statement at his residence, but his request was turned down.



## STAMPEDE-LIKE SITUATION AT NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION, FIRE TENDERS RUSHED TO SPOT



**Diary Times Desk :** A stampede-like situation broke out at the New Delhi railway station late on Saturday evening, triggering a chaos on platform number 14 and 15, a Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official said. Sources said three women were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. The incident occurred around 9:55 pm, prompting an emergency response. Authorities immediately dispatched rescue teams and four fire tenders were rushed to the site to assist in the relief efforts, DFS chief Atul Garg said. The exact cause of the stampede remains unclear, but initial reports suggest overcrowding due to train services for the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.

## POLICE ARREST NEW INDIA COOPERATIVE BANK'S GENERAL MANAGER IN RS 122 CRORE 'FRAUD'



**Diary Times Desk :** The Mumbai police on Saturday arrested Hitesh Mehta, General Manager and Head of Accounts of the New India Cooperative Bank, for allegedly misappropriating Rs 122 crore from the bank, officials said. Mehta was placed under arrest by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police after being questioned for more than three hours, an official said. He was called to record his statement before the probe agency at its south Mumbai office in connection with the case registered against him and others, he said. Mehta will be produced before a local court on Sunday, the police official added. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday superseded the cooperative bank's board for a year and appointed an administrator to manage its affairs. A day prior to that, it imposed several restrictions on the lender, including on withdrawal of funds by depositors, citing supervisory concerns emanating from the recent material developments in the bank, and to protect the interest of its depositors.

## MAHARASHTRA FORMS 7-MEMBER PANEL FOR LAW ON FORCED CONVERSIONS, 'LOVE JIHAD'

**Diary Times Desk :** The Maharashtra Government has set up a seven-member committee headed by the state director general of police (DGP) to study the legal aspects for a new law against forced conversions and cases of 'love jihad'. The committee includes secretaries of the women and child welfare, minority affairs, law and judiciary, social justice and special assistance departments, and deputy secretaries of the home department. As per a Government Resolution (GR) issued late on Friday, the committee will study the prevailing situation in the state and suggest steps to tackle the complaints of "love jihad" and forced conversions. The committee will also look at legal aspects and the laws framed in other states. Accordingly, it will recommend legislation to prevent forced conversions and instances of "love jihad". Love jihad is a term used by right-wing activists and outfits to allege a conspiracy by Muslim men to convert Hindu women to Islam through marriage.



## YOUR HOROSCOPE 16-02-2025

### Aries

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

### Gemini

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

### Leo

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

### Libra

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

### Sagittarius

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

### Aquarius

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

### Taurus

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

### Cancer

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

### Virgo

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

### Scorpio

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

### Capricorn

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

### Pisces

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



## Himachal: 25 industries will invest Rs 883 crore in the state, 2,830 will get employment

**Diary Times Desk :** 25 industries will invest Rs 883 crore in Himachal. This will provide employment to about 2,830 people. This decision was taken in the meeting of State Single Window Approval and Monitoring Authority chaired by Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday. In this, 25 project proposals were approved for setting up new industrial enterprises and expansion of existing units. Apart from this, proposals of M/s Barflex Polyfilms, which manufactures tablets and capsules, M/s Tiwari Pharma Private Limited, which manufactures plastic films and PVC, and M/s Micro Pharma, which manufactures tablets and capsules, including Solan, were approved. The Authority has given permission to M/s Bauji, a capsule and tablet manufacturer, Jaipali Infra, a PUF panel manufacturer, Rich Printers, a corrugated box manufacturer, Ridgelins Health Care Company, a tablet-capsule manufacturer, in Solan, M/s Shri Kaumudi Textiles, a IMFL and country liquor manufacturer, in Kangra, M/s Efficient Crop Control, a textile fabric towel manufacturer, in Solan, M/s SA Consultancy and Projects, a zinc powder manufacturer, to set up and expand their industries in Solan.



## Himachal: Lung tumor surgery done for the first time with VATS technique in AIIMS Bilaspur

**Diary Times Desk :** AIIMS Bilaspur has achieved another important milestone for the health sector. For the first time in AIIMS, successful surgery of lung tumor was done through Video Assisted Thyroscopic Surgery (VATS). This surgery was successfully completed by renowned oncosurgeon Dr. Chitresh Sharma along with his team. VATS is a modern technique, in which surgeons remove tumors from the lungs through small incisions. It provides less pain, faster recovery than traditional open surgery. The patient's condition is stable after surgery and his recovery is going well. This successful operation is being seen as a new beginning for AIIMS Bilaspur and the medical sector in Himachal Pradesh. It not only reflects the growing capabilities of medical facilities in the state, but also highlights the expertise of Dr. Chitresh Sharma and his team, who are solving complex surgical cases with simplicity. Experts believe that this success in lung tumor surgery through VATS will pave the way for more such operations in the future, giving a new ray of hope to the patients.

## Himachal Pradesh: Preparations are being made to make electricity cheaper for industries in Himachal Pradesh, industrialists are angry

**Diary Times Desk :** Preparations are on to make the electricity being supplied to industries cheaper in Himachal. Work has begun on the proposal to give subsidy up to 50 paise per unit. On the request of Industry Minister Harsh Vardhan Singh Chauhan, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has directed the Energy Department to explore possibilities in this regard. Industrialists of the state are angry due to the discontinuation of subsidy of one rupee per unit. Representatives of the industrial houses of the state have demanded relief from the Industry Minister by reducing the electricity charges. Industrialists have even talked about winding up business from Himachal in case of no relief. Representatives of the steel industry have even warned of not paying electricity bills and stopping work. Industrialists are demanding restoration of subsidy of one rupee per unit on electricity, withdrawal of milk cess per unit, approval for installing solar panels and permission to purchase electricity.

## Himachal Weather: Weather changed, snowfall on Rohtang, Narkanda and high peaks, hail fell in Shimla

**Diary Times Desk :** Due to the western disturbance that became active in Himachal Pradesh late on Friday night, there was snowfall on Rohtang, Narkanda and the high peaks of the state on Saturday morning. Snowfall occurred in the capital Shimla. Due to snowfall, the movement of buses from Atal Tunnel Rohtang has stopped. Jalori Pass has also come to a standstill. National Highway-5 was disrupted for some time in Narkanda on Saturday morning. During the day, the weather was clear in most of the districts of the state with the sun shining. There was light snowfall in the high altitude areas of Rampur and Kinnaur on Saturday morning and rain in the lower areas. The weather cleared after noon. Due to the change in weather, there was fresh snowfall in the morning in the high altitude areas of Lahaul and Kullu valley along with Atal Tunnel Rohtang. The corporation bus that went from Kullu to Keylong.

## HP Cabinet Decisions: CM Sukhu will present the budget on March 17, approval to release the recruitment result of 699 posts

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet meeting was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu at the State Secretariat Shimla. Many major decisions have been taken in the meeting. In the state cabinet meeting, it was decided to recommend the Governor to hold the budget session of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 10 to 28 March 2025. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu will present the budget of Himachal on March 17. There will be 15 meetings in the budget session. The Governor's address will be on March 10. After that it will be discussed. The CM will respond to the discussion on March 13. Ministers Harshvardhan Chauhan and Anirudh Singh gave information about the decisions of the cabinet. The cabinet approved the declaration of pending results of 699 posts of six post codes. These include Market Supervisor Post Code-977, Fireman Post Code-916, Drawing Master Post Code-980, Clerk Himachal Pradesh Secretariat Post Code-962, Lineman Post Code-971 and Steno Typist Post Code-928.

## E-waste cannot be dumped here and there, registered organizations will place bids; new rules implemented

**Diary Times Desk :** E-waste cannot be dumped here and there in Himachal Pradesh. Only the institutions registered with the Pollution Control Board will bid for this. The new rule has been implemented to get rid of the increasing e-waste and problems related to its disposal in Himachal Pradesh. E-waste generated by all government departments, boards, corporations and commissions will be disposed of according to Rule-9 of the 'E-waste Management Rules-2016'. This information was given by a spokesperson of the Central Government's Department of Environment, Science Technology and Climate Change on Friday. Under the new rule, it has been decided to deliver e-waste to authorized dismantlers or recyclers only through authorized collection centers, manufacturers' dealers, dismantlers, recyclers or take-back service providers nominated.

## HP Politics: Anurag Thakur said- We are continuously giving money from the center, the state government should keep a positive attitude

**Diary Times Desk :** Money is continuously being given from the centre for the development of the state. The state Congress government should have a positive thinking for the development of the state. This was said by MP Anurag Singh Thakur. MP Anurag Singh Thakur reached Bilaspur on Saturday. On reaching Bilaspur he was given a grand welcome by BJP workers. During this Anurag Thakur said that the central government has presented the budget keeping in mind all the sections. The faces of the opposition have turned gloomy. Anurag Thakur said that the liability of the state government in the Bhanupalli-Bari railway line has reached Rs 2700 crores. Despite this the central government has not allowed this project to be closed. The state government should take positive steps for the development of the state and talk about its own and the people's interests. MP Anurag Singh Thakur reached Bilaspur on Saturday. On reaching Bilaspur, he was given a grand welcome by BJP workers. During this, Anurag Thakur said.

## Golden Sword, Crowns Among J Jayalalithaa's Seized Assets Given To Tamil Nadu

**Diary Times Desk :** Nearly 27 kg of gold ornaments, including at least two golden crowns and a gold sword, were some of the items belonging to former chief minister and AIADMK chief J Jayalalithaa that were handed over to Tamil Nadu government by a special court in Karnataka as part of a process that began on Friday. The items were seized in connection with a disproportionate case against the former Tamil Nadu chief minister, who died in 2016, and had been lying in the Karnataka state treasury for nearly 21 years. Some of the other articles in the treasure trove are 481 items made of gold - including a golden ornament shaped like what appears to be the former chief minister's profile - documents of over 1,520 acres of land and some cash. Visuals showed officials carrying out bags, suitcases and trunks full of the items. The disproportionate assets case against Jayalalithaa, which lasted about 18 years, was transferred to Bengaluru from Chennai. She and three other accused, including her close associate VK Sasikala and Ms Sasikala's relatives VN Sudhakaran and J Ilavarasi, were convicted by a special court in Bengaluru in 2014.

## Policeman among 3 govt employees sacked by J&K LG for terror links

**Diary Times Desk :** Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday sacked three government employees, including a police constable, for their terror links. With this, the services of 69 J&K government employees have been terminated since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. The employees whose services were terminated on Saturday were identified as constable Firdous Ahmed Bhat, government teacher Mohamad Ashraf Bhat and Nisar Ahmed Khan, an orderly in the J&K forest department. On November 30 last year, Sinha had terminated the services of two government officials for their alleged involvement in anti-national activities and terror links. This is the second such termination since chief minister Omar Abdullah took charge in October last year. The fresh terminations on the orders of the lieutenant governor may raise questions over Abdullah's authority in the government. Constable Firdous Ahmed Bhat was engaged as an SPO in 2005 and became constable in 2011. He was arrested in May 2024 and is facing terror charges and currently lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail.

## 'Is this the gift Modi ji is bringing back': Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann on Indians deported from US



**Diary Times Desk :** Ahead of a US military aircraft arriving in Amritsar tonight with 119 deported Indians, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann accused the BJP government of targeting the state over its electoral loss while failing to address its concerns. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should explain why he remained silent on his own citizens in front of his friend Donald Trump. "The BJP should not defame Punjab or Punjabis, nor should it take out its anger on the people just because they did not vote for the party. This country is a democracy, and good work should be done here. Are such actions considered good? How will they (BJP) face the people in 2027? Will they say that they sent deported Indians to Punjab?" questioned Mann while talking to reporters. He said it was happening at a time when Modi was embracing the same Trump under whose watch Indians were being deported on a US military aircraft. "Is this the gift Modi ji is bringing back?" he asked.

## 26/11 Accused Tahawwur Rana's Extradition To India May Be Delayed: Sources

**Diary Times Desk :** The extradition of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks accused Tahawwur Rana, announced by US President Donald Trump during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country earlier this week, is likely to be delayed, sources have told NDTV. The sources said Rana has filed a final appeal on humanitarian grounds after the US Supreme Court rejected his review petition, paving the way for his extradition, which may push back his arrival in India by a few weeks. Rana, a Canadian national of Pakistani origin, had earlier worked as a doctor for the Pakistan army and a federal jury had convicted him in 2011 of providing material support to Lashkar-e-Taiba, the terrorist organisation behind the 2008 attacks. Several places in Mumbai, including the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel, were attacked and 166 people were killed, including 20 personnel from the police.

## Actor Raghu Ram's Confession During Probe Into 'India's Got Latent' Row

**Diary Times Desk :** Actor Raghu Ram has appeared before the Maharashtra Cyber Department amid a probe into podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia's controversial remarks on a YouTube show hosted by comedian Samay Raina. Mr Allahbadia, widely known by his online moniker "BeerBiceps", sparked massive outrage this week with his remarks about parents and sex during an episode of the now-deleted show 'India's Got Latent', which also featured content creators like Ashish Chanchlani, Jaspreet Singh and Apoorva Mukhija, who goes by the name "The Rebel Kid" on Instagram. "Would you rather watch your parents have sex every day for the rest of your life or join in once and stop it forever?" Mr Allahbadia had asked a contestant. After the backlash, he offered an apology and blamed a lapse in judgement. Mr Ram, who was on the judges panel in one of the episodes, allegedly told the cyber cell on Thursday that Mr Raina should have edited the abusive language used in the show, sources said. He also confessed that he regretted using abusive language in the show.



## BJP Sweeps All 10 Mayor Posts In Urban Bodies Election In Chhattisgarh

**Diary Times Desk :** After its resounding victories in assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Chhattisgarh, the BJP on Saturday won elections to a majority of civic bodies in the state, riding high on welfare schemes and fulfilled promises. The saffron party won all ten mayor posts in the state, poll officials said. The performance of the main opposition Congress was lacklustre, but it managed to win the post of chairman in the Kunkuri Nagar Panchayat in Jashpur district, in the assembly constituency of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. Elections to 173 urban bodies including 10 municipal corporations, 49 municipal councils and 114 Nagar Panchayats were held on February 11 with a 72.48 per cent turnout. Counting of votes was held on Saturday. As per the results, the BJP won mayoral posts in all 10 municipal corporations, captured by Congress in the last elections held in 2019-2020. Of the chairperson posts in 49 municipal councils, BJP won 35, Congress eight, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) one.

## Goa Ex MLA Dies Shortly After Fight In Karnataka, Auto Driver Arrested

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Goa MLA Lavoo Mamedar died, shortly after he had an altercation with an auto driver, in Karnataka's Belagavi district on Saturday. The reason behind the death of the former Maharashtra Gomantak Party legislator could not be immediately ascertained but police said the driver has been arrested. Sources said the altercation between Mamedar and the driver took place after the former's vehicle reportedly bumped into the auto near Srinivas Lodge at around 1.40pm. Visuals of the incident captured on CCTV showed Mamedar and the driver locked in a severe argument. The argument takes a violent turn when Mamedar slaps the driver. The driver slaps Mamedar in return. The people around the two intervene and try to push the driver away but he again slaps Mamedar. The driver then goes on to assault the former legislator. As more people step in to defuse the situation, Mamedar goes inside the lodge.

## 'Free speech in retreat': JD Vance sparks diplomatic storm at Munich Security Conference

**Diary Times Desk :** US Vice President JD Vance ignited controversy at the Munich Security Conference on February 14, 2025, by sharply criticising European governments for suppressing free speech, mismanaging migration, and disregarding voter concerns. Vance said that he fears free speech is "in retreat" across the continent. "To many of us on the other side of the Atlantic, it looks more and more like old entrenched interests hiding behind ugly Soviet-era words like misinformation and disinformation, who simply don't like the idea that somebody with an alternative viewpoint might express a different opinion or, God forbid, vote a different way, or even worse, win an election," Vance said. His remarks have drawn strong reactions from European officials, US lawmakers, and the global media. German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius rejected Vance's assertion that Europe was curbing free speech and compared his remarks to attacks from authoritarian regimes. "If I understood him correctly, he is comparing conditions in parts of Europe with those in authoritarian regimes. This is not acceptable," Reuters reported.

## Elon Musk's DOGE Barred From Treasury, Access To Health Allowed

**Diary Times Desk :** A federal judge extended a block on Elon Musk's government cost-cutting team from accessing payment systems at the US Treasury Department on Friday, while another judge allowed the billionaire's DOGE staffers to access records at health, labor and consumer financial protection agencies. Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency has swept through federal agencies since Republican Donald Trump became president last month and put the chief executive of carmaker Tesla in charge of rooting out wasteful spending as part of Trump's dramatic overhaul of government, which included thousands of job cuts on Friday. In Manhattan, US District Judge Jeannette Vargas extended a temporary block on DOGE that was put in place on Saturday, which prevented Musk's team from accessing Treasury systems responsible for trillions.

## US Army officially pauses recruitment of transgenders individuals in military

**Diary Times Desk :** The United States Army has officially announced that they will no longer allow transgender individuals to join the military, after President Donald Trump signed an executive order banning "transgender ideology" and "invented pronouns" in the troops as part of his first set of sweeping actions after return to the White House. In a post on social media platform X, the US Army stated, "The US Army will no longer allow transgender individuals to join the military and will stop performing or facilitating procedures associated with gender transition for service members." The Army added that while people with gender dysphoria would be treated with dignity and respect for volunteering to serve America, gender-affirming care would be paused indefinitely. "Effective immediately, all new accessions for individuals with a history of gender dysphoria are paused, and all unscheduled, scheduled, or planned medical procedures associated with affirming or facilitating a gender transition for Service members are paused," the post said.



## "Obama Is Queer, Married To A Man": Elon Musk's Father's Bizarre Claim



**Diary Times Desk :** Errol Musk, the father of billionaire Elon Musk, recently made a bizarre claim about US former First Lady Michelle Obama's gender, saying that she is a man who dresses as a woman. He also alleged that her husband and former US President Barack Obama is "queer". Errol has been known for making ridiculous claims online. "We realised Obama is a queer who is married to a man who dresses as a woman. We all learned that. It's not common knowledge," he said during an interview with Joshua Rubin on 'Wide Awake Podcast'. Shocked, the host asked him, "Michelle Obama is a man?" Errol said, "Of course, you don't know that?" He then went on to cite a conspiracy theory that went viral in 2014 when comedian John Rivers joked about the former first lady's gender. He had also alleged that Barack Obama is "gay". "John Rivers mentioned it publicly and she was dead two weeks later by the way. They axed her, yeah. So that's common knowledge. You can look it up anywhere," Errol said.

## Conservative Influencer Claims She Gave Birth To Elon Musk's 13th Child

**Diary Times Desk :** Conservative influencer and author Ashley St Clair claimed she had a child with billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), St Clair announced that Musk is the father of her five-month-old baby. "Five months ago, I welcomed a new baby into the world. Elon Musk is the father," she wrote, captioning her post with the Latin phrase "Alea lacta est" (The die is cast). St Clair explained that she had chosen to keep the information private for her child's safety, but decided to speak out after realising that tabloid reports were imminent. She said, "I have not previously disclosed this to protect our child's privacy and safety, but in recent days it has become clear that tabloid media intends to do so, regardless of the harm it will cause. I intend to allow our child to grow in a normal and safe environment. For that reason, I ask that the media honor our child's privacy."

## Trump keeps tariffs drumbeat going, with autos targeted next

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump on Friday kept alive his drumbeat of tariff threats, saying levies on automobiles would be coming as soon as April 2, the day after members of his cabinet are due to deliver reports to him outlining options for a range of import duties as he seeks to reshape global trade. "Maybe around April 2," Trump said in response to a question about when auto tariffs might be coming, during an executive-order signing session in the Oval Office. "I would have done them on April 1... But we're going to do it on April 2." It was the latest in a litany of trade actions Trump has unveiled since taking office for the second time on January 20. Since his inauguration, he has imposed a 10% tariff on all imports from China, on top of existing levies; announced and then delayed for a month 25% tariffs on goods from Mexico and non-energy imports from Canada; set a March 12 start date for 25% tariffs on all imported steel and aluminum; and on Thursday directed his economics team to devise plans for reciprocal tariffs on every country that taxes U.S. imports.

## Donald Trump admin fires nuclear staff not realising they oversee US weapons stockpile: Report

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump's administration has fired more than 300 officials at the National Nuclear Security Administration as part of wider layoffs in the Energy Department of the country, CNN reported, citing four people with the knowledge of the matter. The report claims that the Trump administration's officials likely did not know that the employees they are firing oversee the country's nuclear weapons. Hours later, however, the agency began withdrawing terminations of employees. An Energy Department spokesperson claimed that the number of persons "dismissed" was "less than 50 people". The spokesperson added that the fired employees "held primarily administrative and clerical roles". Some of the fired employees included NNSA staff, who are on the ground at facilities where nuclear weapons are built. These staff oversee the contractors who build nuclear weapons, and they inspect these weapons. The list of fired employees also included those who draft requirements and guidelines for contractors who build nuclear weapons.

## Don't turn holy city of Amritsar into deportation centre: Punjab CM Mann

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday kept up his attack on the Centre over the landing of US planes carrying illegal Indian immigrants at Amritsar airport and asked it not to make the holy city a "deportation centre". A second US flight carrying 119 illegal Indian immigrants is slated to land in Amritsar on Saturday night. On February 5, a US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian deportees landed at the Amritsar airport. The Chief Minister visited the airport on Saturday and said his government has made arrangements to take the residents of Punjab from among the second batch of deportees to their hometowns. The deportees who hail from other states will head to Delhi from Amritsar in a flight on Sunday morning and then they will be taken to their respective places, Mann said. According to official sources, the second deportation flight from the US is expected to land at Amritsar airport around 10 pm on Saturday. Talking to reporters at the airport, Mann continued his attack on the Centre and said, "Do not make our holy city (Amritsar) a deportation centre." There are many airbases in the country and the flight can be landed at any one of them, the Punjab Chief Minister said.



## Cancer day care centres to be set up in 200 districts this year: Nadda

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Health Minister JP Nadda has announced that cancer day care centres would be established in 200 districts across the nation this year. "Within three years, the government plans to make this facility available in every district," he said. He emphasised that providing world-class medical care to all Indians was a top priority for the government. The Union Minister made these remarks while addressing a gathering at a national seminar on cancer, held at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), in Badhsa village on Saturday. He was welcomed by BJP national secretary and former Haryana Minister Om Prakash Dhankar. During his speech, Nadda highlighted the BJP government's efforts to provide cutting-edge cancer treatments. "In the past, families had to sell houses and lands to afford cancer treatment. Now, with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Ayushman Bharat Yojana and affordable cancer medications, all cancer patients have easy access to the treatment they need," he said.

## Haryana MBBS exam scam: Probe panel examined 228 answer sheets

**Diary Times Desk :** A three-member committee, led by Dr MK Garg, Director of Kalpana Chawla Medical College in Karnal, has confirmed the existence of a scam in the MBBS annual and supplementary examinations following its inquiry. The committee's findings were presented in a report submitted to the authorities at Pt BD Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak, (UHSR) on Thursday. The committee arrived at its conclusion after examining 228 answer sheets from MBBS students enrolled at a private college, claimed the sources. The inquiry committee was formed by UHSR Vice-Chancellor Dr HK Aggarwal last month on a complaint filed by an MBBS student. He also tasked the committee to submit its report within a month. "The serial number of the answer sheets checked by the examiner, which were available with the university, differ from the serial numbers recorded.

## Simran Preet Panesar, wanted in Canada's largest gold heist, found living quietly around Chandigarh

**Diary Times Desk :** Simran Preet Panesar--Indian-origin former Air Canada manager--wanted in connection with Canada's largest gold and cash heist worth CAD 22.5 million, has been found living in outskirts of Chandigarh. On April 17, 2023, an air cargo container carrying more than 22 million Canadian dollars' worth of gold bars and foreign currency was stolen from a secure storage facility using fake paperwork. The gold and currency had arrived on an Air Canada flight from Zurich, Switzerland, to Pearson International Airport in Toronto. Shortly after the flight's landing, the cargo was offloaded and transported to a separate location on airport property. It was reported missing to the police a day later. Police had arrested six people involved in the theft. The arrested included Indian-origin men Archit Grover, Parmpal Sidhu and Amit Jalota, Ammad Chaudhary, Ali Raza, and Prasath Paramalingam. Canada-wide warrants were issued for Simran Preet Panesar from Brampton and Arsalan Chaudhary from Mississauga.

## Tewari demands point of call status for Chandigarh airport

**Diary Times Desk :** For the convenience of international travellers from neighbouring states, a point of call (PoC) status has been sought for the Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh Chandigarh International Airport situated in Mohali for international airlines to facilitate flights to and from here. In a letter to Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari stated that a large number of people travel internationally from Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh both for the purpose of work as well as tourism. "Unfortunately, the airport has not been designated as a point of call for international airlines and therefore is not on the 'Bilateral Offer List', which is a prerequisite for foreign airlines to be able to fly in-and-out for the Chandigarh airport," he said. The MP said he would be extremely grateful if the airport was added as a PoC to the list of 18 airports in India in addition to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, which are designated as PoC and therefore on the 'Bilateral Offer List' for foreign airlines, to be able to fly to these airports. "This cannot happen till the time it does not become the 23rd airport to be put on 'Bilateral Offer List'," said Tewari. Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari and city Congress president HS Lucky have urged UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria to take a compassionate approach toward the regularisation of structures situated outside the lal dora limits.

## HC raps state for 'dilly-dallying' on illegal construction in Gurugram

**Diary Times Desk :** Rapping Haryana for "casual approach" and dilly-dallying action against unauthorised constructions, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted that haphazard and unplanned development will lead to total collapse of infrastructure in Gurugram. The assertion by the Bench of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Vikas Suri came on petitions filed by the DLF City Residents Welfare Association and other petitioners, alleging illegal constructions in and around Gurugram, especially in DLF Phase I to V. The Bench also directed the authorities to take prompt action against unauthorised constructions in DLF Phases I-V and conclude proceedings within two months. The direction came as DLF Ltd. clarified that illegal construction, if any, was carried out by individual allottees. The Bench observed that the photographs enclosed demonstrated blatant transgression of the population/ density norms prescribed by the State, in addition to the terms and conditions of the layout/ building plans, approvals, bylaws and other statutory provisions.

## Student jumps from 8th floor of Ashoka University hostel, dies



**Diary Times Desk :** A 20-year-old student reportedly died after jumping from the 8th floor of the Ashoka University hostel on Friday night, officials said. The deceased, identified as Dhruv Jyoti Sahu of Bangalore, was a second-year BA student. In another incident, a student was found dead under mysterious circumstances at a tea stall near the main gate of Ashoka University during the early hours of Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Vignesh Guda Sahu of Bangalore. After receiving information, a police team arrived at the scene and began an investigation. The bodies of the deceased were sent to the civil hospital for postmortem, and their families were informed, said officials.

## Chief Minister Sukhu to present Budget on March 17

**Diary Times Desk :** The Budget Session of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha is likely to be held from March 10 to 28 and the annual Budget would be presented on March 17. The state Cabinet in its meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday decided to recommend to the Governor to convene the Budget Session from March 10 to 28, Industry Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan told media persons here. A total of 15 sessions would be held and the Chief Minister would present the annual Budget on March 17, Chauhan said. The Cabinet also approved the declaration of pending results for 713 posts in seven categories, including junior engineer, market supervisor, fireman, clerks (Himachal Secretariat), lineman and stenotypist, he added.

## Man arrested for using forged admit card in HP Police recruitment in Mandi



**Diary Times Desk :** A man was arrested for attempting to appear in the Himachal Pradesh Police Constable recruitment process using a forged admit card at the 3rd IRBn Pandoh in Mandi district on Saturday. The suspect had allegedly altered the credentials on an admit card originally issued to another candidate who had already participated in the recruitment process. Mandi SP Sakshi Verma confirmed that the forgery was identified on time, leading to the immediate arrest of the accused. A case has been registered against him under Sections 318(4), 336(1), 336(3), and 340 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The police authorities have assured that strict action will be taken to uphold the integrity of the recruitment process. A case has been registered against the accused under Sections 318(4), 336(1), 336(3), and 340 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

## Rajni Patil back as Himachal Congress incharge



**Diary Times Desk :** Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra Rajni Patil has once again been made the incharge of the Himachal Congress, replacing Rajeev Shukla. Patil (66) has been entrusted the task of being the party incharge for Himachal for the second time. She is familiar with Himachal politics and the Congress organisation in the hill state as prior to this, she remained the party incharge from 2018 to 2020 for almost two years. Being a seasoned leader who has remained a Lok Sabha MP, she faces the challenge of taking along all factions and leaders, especially Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and the state Congress president Pratibha Singh, former Mandi MP and wife of former chief minister Virbhadr Singh. She will have to strike a balance between all senior leaders, ministers and MLAs to forge unity, especially in the backdrop of a revolt by six Congress MLAs in the run-up to the Rajya Sabha elections in February 2024. There is complete uncertainty whether Pratibha will be allowed to continue or the party will get a new president. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who remained an arch rival of Virbhadr Singh, would like to get his own man installed as the party president but eventually it is the high command which will have the final say.

## Former HP CM's foundation plaque found discarded, probe demanded

**Diary Times Desk :** The foundation plaque of former Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh was found discarded under a tree near the Block Development Office on Friday evening. The incident has unfolded in the in the home district of CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Amid mounting political pressure, Chairman of the Workers' Welfare Board, Naradev Kanwar, has called for an investigation into the matter. The plaque, laid in 1996 when Virbhadr Singh was the chief minister, was reportedly removed from its original location. It was found alongside a board of the Agriculture Department's sales center, which had also been displaced to make way for a poster of the HPOCW office. Thakur has questioned how and why the plaque was removed and stressed the need for an investigation to determine its exact placement and the circumstances under which it was relocated. The issue has created Hamirpur a center of a political tussle. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur swiftly condemned the act, terming it a disgraceful departure from Himachal's political traditions. Accusing the Sukhu-led government of disregarding the legacy of one of the state's tallest leaders.

## Work under way to check landslides on the Parwanoo-Solan-Kaithlight section of the national highway

**Diary Times Desk :** Commuters will be able to enjoy an unhindered drive on the Parwanoo-Solan-Kaithlight section of the National Highway (NH)-105 as landslides would be sizeably reduced with the slope protection work under way on this stretch. Connecting the state capital of Shimla to Chandigarh, Delhi and other neighbouring states, this highway serves as a significant route for the region. Work to contain the erosion of vulnerable hilly slopes initially began on the Parwanoo-Solan section of the NH-5 in September 2024. It will cover 42 sites like Chakki Mor, Dattiyar, tunnel near the Barog bypass, Sanawara. It has now been extended to the subsequent stretch of this highway where the four-laning work was at an advanced stage. "The slope protection work has recently begun on the 22.91-km Solan-Kaithlight section where 28 locations have been identified for the job. Dehradun-based Bharat Construction (India) Private Limited has been entrusted the task at a cost of about Rs 100 crore," said Anand.

## Chief Minister Sukhu approves 25 industrial project proposals worth Rs 883 crore

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday approved 25 project proposals for setting up new industrial enterprises and expanding the existing units, involving an investment of about Rs 883.36 crore. The projects approved have the potential to generate jobs for about 2,830 persons, a release said. While chairing the meeting of the State Single Window Clearance & Monitoring Authority (SSWC&MA), Sukhu said that this showed that the state continued to attract investment as a "most-favoured" destination. New proposals approved by the authority include proposals by Bauji Industries for manufacturing of capsules, tablets, liquid etc and Jai Pali Infra for the manufacturing of PUF panel. Rich Printers' proposal for the manufacturing of corrugated boxes; Richlyns Healthcare's plan of manufacturing liquid syrups, tablets and capsules; Indo Spirits' proposal for manufacturing IMFL and country liquor and Kaumudhi Textiles Private Limited's proposal of manufacturing textile fabric towels are among the projects cleared by the authority.



## India Outplayed By Spain In Men's Pro League Hockey Campaign Opener

**Diary Times Desk :** Spain took sweet revenge for their defeat against India in the bronze-medal match at the Paris Olympics, overcoming Harmanpreet Singh's side 3-1 in a FIH men's Pro League game in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. India put up a lackluster show in their first Pro League match this season, even as Spain showed loads of determination with Borja Lacalle (28th), Ignacio Cobos (38th) and Bruno Avila (56th) slotting home the goals after the hosts had taken the lead in the 25th minute through Sukhjeet Singh. The first quarter was all about gauging one another's strengths. Barring a run by Abhishek, who managed to create a chance for Lalit Upadhyay, the Spanish goalkeeper was hardly tested. India goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur too was rarely tested with the ball just hitting the far post and getting deflected, that too from outside the striking circle. India brought in keeper Suraj Karkera in the second quarter, and he was called into action almost immediately. He did well to thwart Spain from scoring the opening goal following a good move from the right. Sukhjeet opened the scoring for the hosts in the 25th minute following a speedy run and circle penetration from the right by Harmanpreet Singh. The defender relayed the ball to Sukhjeet, who failed to trap it cleanly in his first attempt, but recovered well to send a powerful reverse-hit flying past the Spanish goalkeeper.



## World Champion D Gukesh Finishes Last At Freestyle Chess Grand Slam

**Diary Times Desk :** World champion D Gukesh finished last after losing to Iranian-French grandmaster Alireza Firouzja in the second game of their seventh-place playoff match at the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam. Gukesh thus concluded his forgettable campaign in the tournament at Weissenhaus resort without a single win. After a lost battle that ended in a draw on the first day, the ball was in Gukesh's court to do well as the white pieces, but clearly, the world champion had run out of steam to lose in 30 moves. The test of time started in the middle game when Gukesh made a mistake and had to part with his queen for two pieces. While Firouzja made good use of his material advantage. Meanwhile, local favourite Vincent Keymer won the first edition despite being touted as a rookie at the start. The German winning the first leg over many of his fancied rivals is good news for the event's sponsors who started it keeping in mind the chess connoisseurs. It is no secret that FIDE, the world's apex chess body, does not like Chess 960, also known as Fischer Random Chess, or the Freestyle Chess. But it is here to stay.

## Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli spotted at Mumbai airport as Team India leaves for Dubai for Champions Trophy

**Diary Times Desk :** Team India players and support staff set off for Dubai on Saturday as they gear up for the highly anticipated Champions Trophy. Departing from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, the contingent featured several key players, including batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who will be crucial to India's campaign in the tournament. Both were seen at the airport, along with several other India stars like Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, KL Rahul, and Ravindra Jadeja, among others. Spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakaravathy were also seen at the airport. India's opening fixture is scheduled against Bangladesh on February 20 in Dubai, and the squad is heading into the tournament with a mix of experience and fresh faces. Head coach Gautam Gambhir was seen engaging with his support staff, including fielding coach T. Dilip, bowling coach Morne Morkel, and assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate. Team India travels to Dubai on the back of a splendid performance in the ODI series against England.

## "Don't Hug Virat Kohli, Indians": Mohammad Rizwan And Co. Sent Stern Message After Champions Trophy Hosting Row

**Diary Times Desk :** The Champions Trophy starts next week with a match between Pakistan and New Zealand. While the top eight ODI teams are competing in the marquee event, the one match that all fans in the sub-continent are looking forward to is the India vs Pakistan match, which will take place in Dubai on February 23. While the arch-rivalry between the two teams is legendary, this time the match hold extra significance in the back-drop of what happened in the build-up of the Champions Trophy 2025. The Champions Trophy 2025 was originally supposed to take place in Pakistan wholly, but the BCCI stated that it would not be sending the Indian cricket team to the country. Then, after much deliberation, it was decided that the tournament will be played in a hybrid format, with India playing all its matches in Dubai. The decision has clearly left the Pakistan fans miffed, who after years hoped to see an India vs Pakistan clash in their own country. According to Pakistan journalist Farid Khan, Pakistan cricket fans are angry with India. He posted a video showing a Pakistan cricket fan asking the Mohammad Rizwan-led Pakistan team to keep its friendship aside with Indian cricketers till the Champions Trophy match. He also tells Pakistan players "to not hug Virat Kohli and other Indian players".



## KKR and RCB set to play IPL 2025 opener on March 22

**Diary Times Desk :** Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will face Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the opening match of IPL 2025. ESPNcricinfo has learned the season opener will be played at Eden Gardens on March 22 and the IPL final will be played on May 25. While the IPL is yet to release the schedule, it is learned that last season's finalists Sunrisers Hyderabad will begin their campaign at home against Rajasthan Royals on the afternoon of March 23. Later that Sunday evening, Chennai Super Kings are likely to host Mumbai Indians at Chepauk. The 10-team league is set to start 12 days after the Champions Trophy final on March 9 and will be played at 12 venues – the ten traditional homes of the franchises as well as Guwahati (second venue for RR) and Dharamsala (second venue for Punjab Kings). The opening fixture will feature two teams led by new captains. While RCB recently appointed Rajat Patidar as their captain, KKR are yet to announce the successor to Shreyas Iyer, who led them to the title in 2024. RCB had finished fourth in the league last year, following a streak of six defeats with six wins to make it to the playoffs where they lost the Eliminator. KKR have been dominant against RCB in Kolkata, winning eight of their 12 matches at Eden Gardens.

## IPL Teams Pump Rs 3257 Crore In England's The Hundred. Then, Comes A Message For Pakistan Players

**Diary Times Desk :** The England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) decision to sell stakes of The Hundred clubs have given a boost to cricket in the region. With investments from four well-known IPL franchises, has been able to raise GBP 975 million by selling stakes in eight teams in their flagship event 'The Hundred'. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has entered into exclusivity agreements with eight parties in the final stage of the process to secure private expertise and investment into The Hundred's teams. Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries – Oval Invincibles (owners of Mumbai Indians), the GMR Group – Southern Brave (co-owners of Delhi Capitals), Sanjiv Goenka's RPSG – Manchester Originals (owners of Lucknow Super Giants) and Sun TV Network – Northern Superchargers (owners of Sunrisers Hyderabad) have all bought stakes in four of the eight franchises.