

YAMUNA CLEAN

YAMUNA CLEAN-UP BEGINS IN DELHI DAYS AFTER PM'S PROMISE, BJP'S POLL WIN

Diary Times Desk : Trash skimmers, weed harvesters and dredge utility units were in action as the Yamuna cleaning work, which dominated the headlines in the run-up to Delhi polls, began on Sunday.

The action follows a meeting between Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and the Chief Secretary of the national capital, where an immediate directive was issued to clean the Yamuna river. According to a statement from the Lieutenant Governor's office, there is a "four-pronged strategy" to tackle the issue of pollution in the Yamuna.

"To begin with, the trash, garbage and silt in the Yamuna River stream will be removed. Simultaneously cleaning operations in the Najafgarh Drain, Supplementary Drain, and all other major drains will start," read the statement.

For the other two methods, the statement added, "3. At the same time, a daily watch on the existing STPs (sewage treatment plants) in terms of their capacity and output will be maintained, and a time-bound plan in terms of construction of new STPs/DSTPs, etc., to meet the actual shortfall of treating about 400 MGD of sewer will be put in place and operationalised." The L-G's office has set a three-year timeline to clean the river, emphasising the need for 'seamless coordination' between various agencies and departments.

"The execution of this ambitious plan that targets cleaning the river in about 3 years will require seamless coordination between various agencies and departments that include DJB (Delhi Jal Board), I&FC (Irrigation and Flood Control Department), MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi), Environment Department, PWD (Public Works Department) and DDA (Delhi Development Authority)," the statement read.

There will be weekly monitoring of the cleaning progress, and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has been instructed to have been directed to ensure that industrial units in the city do not discharge dirty water into the drains. This step is being taken as part of the efforts to rejuvenate the Yamuna river, improve the quality of its water, and control pollution.

"Monitoring of the abovementioned works will be done at the highest level on a weekly basis. In addition to this, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has been directed to keep a strict vigil on the discharge of untreated effluent into the drains by Industrial Units in the City," the statement added.



INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

US PLANE WITH 3RD BATCH OF ILLEGAL INDIAN IMMIGRANTS LANDS IN AMRITSAR



Diary Times Desk : A plane with 112 Indians, who were deported from the United States for illegally residing in the country, landed in Amritsar on Sunday night, the third such arrival in a span of 10 days as part of the Donald Trump administration's crackdown on such immigrants.

The flight C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the US Air Force landed at the Amritsar International Airport at around 10.03 pm, according to sources.

Of the total deportees, 31 are from Punjab, 44 from Haryana, 33 from Gujarat, two from Uttar Pradesh and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The families of some of them reached the airport to receive them.

The deportees will be allowed to head to their homes after completion of all formalities, including immigration, verification and background checks. Arrangements have been made for the transportation of deportees to their destination, the sources said.

The first round of deportation had taken place on February 5, when a US military plane transported 104 Indians to Amritsar. A second plane carrying 116 Indians landed on Saturday.

During the first round of deportation, the people 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. Similar allegations of ill-treatment were also made by those who returned on Saturday.

Amid criticism, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar earlier 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 in the US earlier this week, 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".

ASSAM GOVERNMENT ORDERS PROBE INTO PAKISTANI NATIONAL ALI SHEIKH'S INDIA ACTIVITIES

Diary Times Desk : The BJP-led Assam Government on Sunday ordered a DGP-level inquiry into the network of Pakistani national Ali Sheikh in the state and across India, with the state Cabinet passing a resolution on the issue. The resolution led by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma also cited the alleged contact Ali Sheikh had with Elizabeth Gogoi, a British national and wife of Congress MP from Jorhat Gaurav Gogoi. Gaurav has already denied any links between his wife and Sheikh and said he would take legal action for defamation of his family. The Assam Cabinet resolution passed today said: "Given the broader national security implications of the issue, particularly in Assam, the Assam Cabinet has directed the Director-General of Police (DGP) of Assam to register a case against Mr Ali Sheikh under appropriate provisions of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhtia (BNS) and other relevant laws. Additionally, the Assam Cabinet directs an extensive inquiry to be conducted to ascertain whether these activities are part of a larger conspiracy and to identify any sympathisers or associates within Assam and across India who may be aiding Mr Sheikh's Anti India agenda."



NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION STILL CROWDED DAY AFTER STAMPEDE LEAVES 18 DEAD

Diary Times Desk : The New Delhi railway station remained crowded on Sunday afternoon, hours after a stampede there claimed 18 lives on Saturday. A senior railway official said on Sunday that the incident occurred after some passengers slipped and fell on others while coming down from a foot over bridge. More than a dozen people were also injured in the stampede on Saturday night at the railway station which witnessed a surge of passengers waiting to board trains for Prayagraj on platform numbers 14 and 15 of the station. Northern Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer Himanshu Upadhyay said that at the time of incident the Patna-bound Magadh Express was stationed at platform number 14 and the New Delhi-Jammu Uttar Sampark Kranti Express was stationed at platform number 15. "Some people who were coming down from the foot over bridge towards platform numbers 14 and 15.

SENIOR'S ADMONITION AT WORKPLACE DOESN'T AMOUNT TO 'INTENTIONAL INSULT', NOT CRIME: SC



Diary Times Desk : Holding that senior's admonition at the workplace does not amount to an "intentional insult" requiring criminal proceedings, the Supreme Court has said that allowing criminal charges to be pressed against individuals in such cases may lead to disastrous consequences, crippling the entire disciplinary atmosphere required in the workplace. Mere abuse, discourtesy, rudeness or insolence do not amount to an intentional insult within the meaning of Section 504 of the Indian Penal Code (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), a Bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice Sandeep Mehta said in its February 10 judgment. Section 504, which prescribed a jail term of up to two years, has been replaced with Section 352 under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) effective from July 2024. The Bench quashed a 2022 criminal case against the officiating director of the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities—accused of insulting an assistant professor who alleged that the director scolded and reprimand her in front of other employees for submitting complaints against him to the higher authorities.

BJP TARGETS CONGRESS AFTER US CANCELS PROGRAMME FOR 'VOTER TURNOUT' IN INDIA

Diary Times Desk : The BJP on Sunday claimed that a US-funded programme, now cancelled, linked to voter turnout in India is a pointer to the previous Congress-led UPA government allegedly enabling infiltration of Indian institutions by forces opposed to the country's interests. BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said on X, "It is becoming increasingly evident that the Congress-led UPA systematically enabled the infiltration of India's institutions by forces opposed to the nation's interests - those who seek to weaken India at every opportunity." Once again, he alleged, it is the billionaire US-based investor George Soros, a "known associate" of the Congress party and the Gandhis, whose shadow looms over our electoral process. Malviya said the Election Commission in 2012 had signed an MoU with The International Foundation for Electoral Systems' an organisation linked to Soros' Open Society Foundation, which is primarily funded by USAID.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 17-02-2025

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>



Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition said- Mining mafia is flourishing in Himachal, police is also avoiding action

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that all kinds of mafias are flourishing in the state and it has become difficult for the common man to live. The news published in the newspapers today clearly shows that the government's credibility has ended and mafia rule is dominant. Mafias are mining on a war footing within a radius of 100-200 meters of the SP office and the police do not have the courage to take action against them. Even after complaints by the villagers, the police do not come. Such anarchy is spreading under the protection of the government. The state government has completely failed and the mafia is completely looting the state. Such scenes are not good for any state. Will the resources of the state be looted by the mafia in this way and the government will stand and watch the spectacle and later come to the media and give false sermons. Jairam Thakur said that along with giving protection to the mafia, the government has also broken the morale of the police, the result of which is that the mining mafia is now mining near the SP office and the police is just a mute spectator. I am not surprised to say that in the coming time these mafias can dig up.



Himachal: Car of a family returning from a wedding ceremony in Aslu falls into a ditch, girl dies, four people injured

Diary Times Desk : A three-month-old girl died and four people were injured in a road accident near Aslu in Dadlaghat of Solan district of Himachal Pradesh. According to police information, Meena Kumari, wife of Shashi Pal, resident of village Tuni, Arki district Solan, has lodged a complaint that she had gone to attend a wedding ceremony in village Chaurutu with her husband and two daughters. When she was returning from the wedding with her family, near village Aslu, the driver Kamlesh Kumar lost control due to careless driving. Due to which the car fell into a ditch about 20 feet from the road. In this accident, Meena Kumari, Shashi Pal, Pooja Verma have suffered bodily injuries. While Shivanshi died due to the accident. On the other hand, DSP Dadlaghat Sandeep Sharma confirmed the case. He said that the police have registered a case and started investigation.

Himachal: Mushroom Directorate Solan collected 4,092 mushroom germplasm from across the country

Diary Times Desk : Mushroom Directorate Solan (DMR) has collected 4,092 germplasms of mushrooms from across the country. Which the directorate is providing to farmers, universities and mushroom farms. Apart from this, DMR is also identifying poisonous and edible mushrooms. Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Dr. Himanshu Pathak gave this information during the inspection of Mushroom Research and Directorate. Dr. Himanshu told that DMR has been collecting many types of mushrooms from different places for the last several years. All these germplasms have been collected and kept safe in cold and hot temperatures in the country's only Mushroom Research Solan. DMR Director Dr. VP Sharma said that 500 types of wild mushrooms have been collected only from Himachal, on which the experts of the directorate have also started research work.

Sports News: Kamalakar Nikita in 55 kg weight category, Reema Bhoi in 59 kg category winner; Competition going on in Dharamshala

Diary Times Desk : On the second day of the All India Inter Zonal Women's Weightlifting Competition being hosted by Central University (CU) Dharamshala, competitions were held in different weight categories on Saturday. In the 55 kg weight category, Kamalakar Nikita secured the first position, while in the 59 kg weight category, Reema Bhoi secured the first position by lifting the highest weight. In the competition, 300 women players from about 78 universities from across the country are showing their strength. International referee Pradeep Kumar Sharma said that on the second day of the competition, competitions were played in three weight categories. In the 55 kg weight category, Kamalakar Nikita of Shivali University Kolhapur secured the first position by lifting 174 kg, while Ramandeep Kaur of Punjabi University secured the second position by lifting 173 kg and Shivani Rani of Desh Bhagat University, who lifted 167 kg, secured the third position. In the 59 kg weight category, Reema Bhoi of Lovely Professional University secured the first position by lifting 186 kg. Shagun Rao of MG Kashi University.

Himachal: Employees unhappy with the transfer will be able to present their side in the department before going to court, notification issued

Diary Times Desk : Employees unhappy with the transfer will now be able to present their case to the concerned department before going directly to the High Court. For this, the Himachal government has included a new provision for grievance redressal in the employee transfer guidelines. This decision has been taken to ensure fairness and transparency in the grievance redressal process. The personnel department has issued its notification. However, joining will be mandatory first when the transfer takes place. Later the employees will present their side. The competent authority will also have to find a solution within 30 days of receiving the complaint. The complaint will have to highlight such events or reasons that can affect the transfer decision. If the transfer order turns out to be unfair, the employee will get appointment at the old place. According to the notification issued by Personnel Secretary M Sudha Devi, a new provision has been made under Comprehensive Guidelines-2013 (CGP-2013) for state government employees. This amendment is especially for those employees.

Himachal Weather: There is a possibility of rain and snowfall in many places in Himachal Pradesh on 19-20 February

Diary Times Desk : Due to the western disturbance that became active in Himachal 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. Talking about Sunday, Shimla is cloudy. During the day, the weather was clear and the sun shone in most of the districts of the state. The weather is forecast to remain clear in the state on Sunday and Monday. The western disturbance is expected to become active again from the night of February 18. There is a forecast of rain and snowfall at many places in the state on February 19 and 20.

Himachal News: Train 04505/06 will run with new look and new number, all trials of upgraded bogies successful

Diary Times Desk : The 04505/06 train, which has been closed for four months on the World Heritage Kalka-Shimla rail line, will run with new facilities. Many facilities have been added to it including fire alarm, new seats. All the trials of the train with the upgraded old bogies have been successful. Now a plan is being prepared to start this train from March. It is being told that this train will run in its old scheduled time. However, a decision is yet to be taken on this. Passengers will get a lot of benefit from the start of the train. With the bogies being better, the journey of the passengers will be more comfortable and safe. About six months ago, this train was closed to upgrade the bogies. The train could not be restarted due to lack of bogies. But now the bogies have been upgraded and the braking system has also been enhanced. Trials were going on continuously since January to check it. First trials were done till Dharampur. After this the train was sent to Shimla. On Saturday, the trial train left from Shimla towards Kalka. Medical relief bogie was also added to it.

Spoke in national interest: Shashi Tharoor on why he praised PM Modi's US visit

Diary Times Desk : Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Saturday clarified that his praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with United States President Donald Trump was made in India's broader interest, asserting "we cannot always speak only in terms of party interest". "Some of the important outcomes of PM Modi's meeting with President Trump is that there are good things for Indian people. To my mind, it appears that something good has been achieved, and I applaud that as an Indian. In this particular case, I am speaking solely in the national interest," Tharoor said while speaking to reporters. "We can't always speak only in terms of party interest. I am not a party spokesperson, I am an MP elected by the people of Thiruvananthapuram and on that basis I speak as an important stakeholder in Indian democracy," the Congress leader added. Tharoor recently heaped praise on the Prime Minister for his two-day visit to the United States, saying that several major concerns had been addressed.

Vikatan website 'blocked' after BJP complaint over PM Modi cartoon

Diary Times Desk : Tamil weekly Vikatan's website was reportedly inaccessible on Saturday, hours after BJP's Tamil Nadu chief K. Annamalai said the party had complained to the Press Council of India (PCI) and the Union government over a cartoon of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The publication, late in the night, posted a message on X stating that several news outlets were reporting its website was blocked but it had not received any official notification from the centre. "Vikatan has stood in support of freedom of expression for a century. In case the site has been blocked by the centre because of the cartoon, we will fight it legally," it added. TNIE was able to access the website. The Chennai Press Club, in a statement, condemned the incident and added that it would stand with Vikatan. The Tamil daily, in its Feb.13 edition, had published a cartoon of PM Modi in handcuffs alongside former US President Donald Trump in its digital magazine, criticising the inhumane deportation of illegal Indian immigrants from the US in handcuffs — an incident that sparked nationwide. The cartoon drew criticism from BJP supporters, and Annamalai said the party had petitioned the PCI and MoS for information.

"A Nail Pierced Her Head": Man Who Lost His Daughter, 7, In Delhi Stampede



Diary Times Desk : "Meri ladki ke kila ghus gaya (a nail pierced my daughter's head)," said a man, whose 7-year-old daughter was among the 18 who died during a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station late on Saturday when surging crowds scrambled to catch trains to UP's Prayagraj to visit Maha Kumbh, the world's largest religious gathering. "14 number platform se neeche utare, lekin bheed dekh ke wapas aane lage, maine kaha bheed jyada hai, chalo ghar chalte hain, bachho ko leke nahi jaate, chote chote bacche hain kya karenge, sone ko bhi nahi hai (We got down from platform number 14, but seeing the crowd we started coming back. I said there is too much crowd, let's go home, we should not take the children along, what will we do with the little ones. They don't even have anything to sleep on," Opil Singh, who had a confirmed ticket and was headed to Maha Kumbh with his family, told NDTV.

Elon Musk's DOGE Flags \$21 Million For "Voter Turnout In India", BJP Responds

Diary Times Desk : The United States Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk, has cancelled a \$21 million US taxpayer-funded grant - under former President Joe Biden's administration - meant to influence "voter turnout in India." In its announcement, DOGE highlighted that the \$21 million was part of a larger \$486 million budget allocated to the "Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening." Another \$29 million was slated for "strengthening the political landscape in Bangladesh" - a country that witnessed political turmoil amid allegations of US 'deep state' involvement in the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The sweeping cancellations, Mr Musk's department stated, were part of efforts to improve government efficiency and ensure taxpayer dollars were not being spent on "questionable" overseas political activities. The BJP termed the now-cancelled funding "external interference" in India's electoral process.

"Treacherous Routes, Phones Confiscated": Indians Recount Deportation Horror

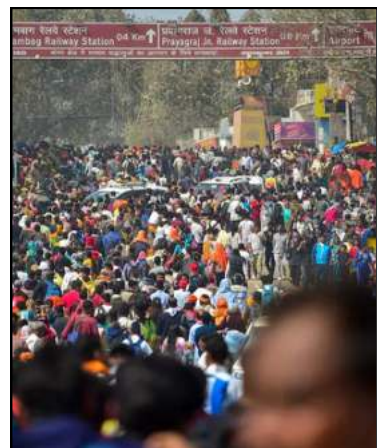
Diary Times Desk : After traversing treacherous routes through hills, forest and sea, and losing tens of lakhs of rupees to find a passage into the US, 116 Indians landed in Amritsar on board the second deportation flight to India amid US President Donald Trump's hardline stance on illegal immigration. Nawankot-based Mangal Singh Thind came to the airport to receive his grandson Jasnoor Singh, who left India nine months ago. "The agent told us our child will be taken directly to the US. But he was taken to Colombia, made to stay there for 3.5 months, then taken by ship to Panama, where he crossed deep jungles. He would talk to us twice daily. We saw him scratched, tired and repented sending him away," he told NDTV. Ferozpur-based Sourav said he was caught within two to three hours of entering the US through a hilly region. His ordeal began on January 17, when an agent took Rs 45 lakhs from him to help him migrate to the US. Instead, he was taken to Malaysia for a week, then for 10 days to Mumbai.

New Chief Minister Of Delhi Likely To Be Picked Today : Sources

Diary Times Desk : The BJP legislative party will meet on Monday afternoon to pick the next Chief Minister of Delhi, sources have told NDTV. The Legislature party leader will be picked more than a week after the BJP won a massive victory in Delhi, sweeping out Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party. The delay was owing to the France and US tour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who returned to Delhi on Saturday. Sources said the observer for the process could be named tonight or early tomorrow morning. The MLAs' meet could be held in the office of the Delhi BJP. The BJP, which is coming to power in the national capital -- a decade after it won in the centre -- after 26 years, is planning to turn the oath ceremony of its new Chief Minister into a grand event. More than 200 MPs and former MPs of the party, Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of all NDA-ruled states will be present and all the state leaders and workers will be present.

Kumbh-Bound Rush In UP Cities, Train Stations On Alert After Delhi Stampede

Diary Times Desk : Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj and neighbouring cities continued to face massive traffic over the weekend as thousands of vehicles moved towards the city for the ongoing Maha Kumbh, which has attracted more than 50 crore devotees since it began last month. The congestion in the city was seen near Balsan, Bairhana, Sobtiabagh and Darbhanga. A 15-minute journey is taking residents nearly three hours. The number of Maha Kumbh-bound vehicles in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, which borders Prayagraj, has also increased in the past 24 hours. The roads are choked despite the completion of three significant 'Amrit Snans' (holy dips) on the auspicious days of Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, and Basant Panchami. The massive traffic was seen a day after 18 people were killed in a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station, which was caused by a sudden rush of passengers who were trying to board trains for the Maha Kumbh. Various railway stations across Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have now been put on alert after the stampede.



MEA Jaishankar calls for joint efforts on Indian Ocean region's growth, security

Diary Times Desk : External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Sunday called the Indian Ocean region a vital global lifeline and urged countries in the region to support each other, build on their strengths, and align policies to advance development, connectivity, maritime interests, and security. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat on "Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership." "The Indian Ocean is veritably a global lifeline. Its production, consumption, contribution and connectivity are central to the manner in which the world runs today," he said. "Our voyage to new horizons is best done as a coordinated flotilla of the Indian Ocean. We are understandably a diverse group in terms of history, geography, development, politics or culture. But what unites us is a common devotion to the well-being of the Indian Ocean region," he said. "In a volatile and uncertain era, we seek stability and security as the baseline. But beyond that, there are ambitions and aspirations that we strive to achieve. They will be easier reached when we look out for each other, supplement our strengths and coordinate our policies," he added.

Inflation Ahead? Zoho Founder Sridhar Vembu's Big Warning As Trump Demands Reciprocal Trade

Diary Times Desk : India may witness some economic hardships amid US President Donald Trump's push for balancing bilateral trade with threats of reciprocal tariffs, warned Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu. He pointed out that amid Mr Trump's threats, India will soon need to increase its imports from America to balance the bilateral trade, which could put pressure on New Delhi's current account deficit unless domestic production ramps up quickly. "As a slightly oversimplified mental model, India exports software services to America and imports consumer goods from China. The surplus with America is more than matched by the deficit with China," Mr Vembu said in a post on X. "Now India will (have to) import more iPhones, GPUs, LPG, nuclear plants, fighter jets, whiskey and so on from America to balance."

Netanyahu says with US support, "we can finish the job" against Iran



Diary Times Desk : Israel and the United States are both determined to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions and its "aggression" in the Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday following a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Speaking after a meeting with Rubio in Jerusalem, Netanyahu said they had held a "very productive discussion" on a number of issues, "none more important than Iran". "Israel and America stand shoulder to shoulder in countering the threat of Iran," he said. "We agreed that the ayatollahs must not have nuclear weapons and also agreed that Iran's aggression in the region must be rolled back." Rubio said: "Behind every terrorist group, behind every act of violence, behind every destabilising activity, behind everything that threatens peace and stability for the millions of people that call this region home is Iran."

At Least 48 people killed As Goldmine Collapses In Mali

Diary Times Desk : At least 48 people were killed in the collapse of an illegally operated gold mine in western Mali Saturday, authorities and local sources told AFP. Mali is one of Africa's leading gold producers, and mining sites are regularly the scene of deadly landslides and accidents. Authorities have struggled to control unregulated mining of the precious metal in the country, which is among the world's poorest. The toll at 1800 today is 48 dead following the collapse," said a police source. Some of the victims fell into the water. Among them was a woman with her baby on her back." A local official confirmed the cave-in, while the Kenieba gold miners' association also put the deaths at 48. The search for victims was ongoing, the head of an environmental organisation told AFP. Saturday's accident took place at an abandoned site formerly operated by a Chinese company, sources told AFP. In January, a landslide at a gold mine in southern Mali killed at least 10 people.

Zelenskyy says Ukraine's survival depends on US military aid: 'Low chance to...'

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Ukraine's ability to survive Russia's invasion hinges on continued military support from the United States. He described US aid as "critical" to Ukraine's future. "Probably it will be very, very, very difficult. And of course, in all the difficult situations, you have a chance," Zelenskyy told NBC News, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. "But we will have low chance, low chance, to survive without support of the United States. I think it's very important, critical." He added, "I don't want to think about" the possibility of fighting against Russia without American backing. Zelenskyy also expressed concerns that without long-term US military assistance, Ukraine would remain vulnerable to future Russian aggression. "If the U.S. does not continue providing military support, Russia will use the time to prepare for another major attack," he cautioned.

Netanyahu says Israel working in full coordination with Trump on Gaza

Diary Times Desk : Israel and the United States are working in full cooperation on Gaza, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio that also covered Iran and the Lebanon ceasefire. Thanking Rubio for "unequivocal backing" for Israel's policy in Gaza, Netanyahu said Israel and the United States under President Donald Trump shared a common strategy in the Palestinian enclave, where a fragile ceasefire is in effect between Israel and Hamas militants after 15 months of war. "I want to assure everyone who's now listening to us, President Trump and I are working in full cooperation and coordination between us," he said.

Call for Europe's army is a sign of a continent in flux

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's call for raising an "armed forces of Europe" is an acknowledgment that the continent may no longer be the beneficiary of security guarantees provided by the United States (US) since the end of World War II (WWII), especially against the backdrop of emerging signals that President Donald Trump is intent on cutting a deal with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

World's first openly gay imam, Muhsin Hendricks, shot dead in South Africa

Diary Times Desk : Muhsin Hendricks, who is considered the world's 'first openly gay imam', was shot dead in South Africa's southern city of Gqeberha on Saturday, police said. The police said that the imam was in a car with another person when a vehicle stopped in front of them blocking their exit and opened fire at their car. "Two unknown suspects with covered faces got out of the vehicle and started firing multiple shots at the vehicle," the Eastern Cape force said in a statement. Hendricks ran a mosque intended as a safe haven for gay and other marginalised Muslims, The Guardian reported. After the firing, the driver noticed that Hendricks, who was seated at the back of the vehicle, was shot and killed. The accused fled the scene after the incident, the police said. A police spokesperson confirmed to AFP the authenticity of a video on social media that purported to show a targeted killing in Bethelsdorp near Gqeberha, formerly known as Port Elizabeth. "The motive for the murder is unknown and forms part of the ongoing investigation," police said, urging anybody with information to come forward



SIT nabs immigration agent, first arrest on US deportee's complaint

Diary Times Desk : A special investigation team of the Punjab Police constituted to probe incidents of human trafficking has arrested a Haryana-based immigration agent from his relatives' place in Patiala's Partap Nagar, the first arrest on the complaint of a US deportee. Anil Batra, a resident of Thanesar in Kurukshetra, was arrested from his in-laws' house on Friday evening for allegedly using fraudulent ways to send people to the US. Batra was on Saturday produced before a local court, which sent him to three-day police custody. The arrest came a day before a second batch of 119 deportees, including 67 Punjabis, was scheduled to arrive at Amritsar's Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport. The state police had formed the four-member special investigation team (SIT) on February 7, two days after a US military flight carrying 104 deportees, including 30 state residents, landed at the airport. The team is led by Additional Director General of Police (NRI wing) Parveen Sinha. Other members are ADGP (Internal Security) Shive Verma, IGP (Provisioning) S Bopathi, and DIG (Border Range) Satinder Singh. The state police have lodged at least 10 FIRs against immigration agents after a US flight landed at Amritsar on February 5.



Chandigarh green cover up 5.66 sq km in two years, Lok Sabha told

Diary Times Desk : The green cover in the city has increased by 5.66 sq km in two years — up from 40.52 sq km in 2021 to 46.18 sq km in 2023. In response to a question raised in the Lok Sabha, Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, stated that the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on December 21, 2024, indicated there was a net increase of 5.66 sq km in the forest and tree cover of Chandigarh as compared to the ISFR-2021. The total forest and tree cover in Chandigarh was 40.52 sq km in 2021, which increased to 46.18 sq km in 2023. The Forest Survey of India holds a survey of the forest and tree cover in the country biannually. As per the ISFR, the tree cover in Chandigarh in 2001 was 2 sq km and it increased to 21.18 sq km in 2023. Similarly, the forest cover went up from 13 sq km in 2001 to 25 sq km in 2023. According to officials, the forest cover and tree cover have gradually increased in the past years due to pro-active action taken by the UT Administration and other agencies in enhancing and protecting the forests and greenery in the city.

Govt's goal to ensure progress of all sectors: CM

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has said that the BJP would win the civic bodies election in Haryana and the triple-engine government would further accelerate Haryana's development. The Chief Minister, while addressing a rally in Jagadhri Assembly constituency of Yamunanagar, said, "The Haryana Government is working with the spirit of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' and the principle of 'Haryana ek, Haryanvi ek.' The government's goal is to ensure the progress of every sector and the uplift of every citizen. Haryana's contribution will be pivotal in achieving the Prime Minister's vision of a developed India and Haryana will also become developed along with the nation." Highlighting the developmental achievements in the Jagadhri Assembly.

3rd batch of US deportees to arrive in Amritsar tonight; 31 of 112 from Punjab

Diary Times Desk : A third special flight carrying 112 deportees from the US — including 31 Punjabis — will land at Amritsar's Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport on Sunday night. The flight is expected to land at the airport at around 11.30 pm, official sources said. On Saturday, a US military plane carrying 117 illegal Indian immigrants, including 65 from Punjab, landed at the Amritsar airport at 11.32 pm. The movement followed the deportation of 104 individuals earlier on February 5. According to officials, the deportees to land in Amritsar on Sunday comprise 31 persons from Punjab, 44 from Haryana, 33 from Gujarat, two from Uttar Pradesh and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Their removal is part of an ongoing crackdown by US immigration authorities on individuals who entered the country illegally or overstayed their visas. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had also slammed the Centre for choosing the Amritsar airport for the landing of the flights, saying it was a "deliberate attempt to defame the state" by giving the impression that all deportees belonged to Punjab.

Chandigarh MC proposes 10% sewerage cess hike

Diary Times Desk : Residents will have to shell out more for paying their water bills with the MC proposing a hike in the sewerage cess from the current 20% to 30%. Also, people living outside the Lal dora in 24 villages of the city are likely to get some reprieve, as the civic body has come up with a proposal to provide water connections to them. Both proposals will be tabled for discussion and approval in the General House meeting of scheduled for February 17. At present, the 20% sewerage cess fetches the MC approximately Rs 12-13 crore monthly. If approved, the proposed hike is expected to add Rs 6 crore more to the MC kitty monthly, easing the financial crunch. According to the agenda, the sewerage cess is being charged as per the notification issued by the Chandigarh Administration on July 24, 2023. The cess was initially reduced from 30% to 25% and then to 20% in the 2024 financial year. However, due to financial constraints, the MC is now proposing to restore the cess to 30% on all residential, commercial, institutional and hotel properties. Once approved by the General House, the proposal will be sent to the Administration for an amendment to the Chandigarh Water Supply Bye-Laws, 2011. The sewerage cess has been a contentious issue in Chandigarh. It was first imposed at 30% in June 2019 but faced backlash from residents over "inflated" water bills.

Ambala Sadar civic poll: 50% of Vij's nominees fail to get ticket, local unit 'writes' to BJP high command

Diary Times Desk : The growing differences between the state BJP leadership and Cabinet Minister Anil Vij came to the fore once again after the names of a number of candidates, reportedly recommended by the minister for Municipal Council Ambala Sadar election, failed to find a place on the list of candidates released by the party. As per the information available, of the 32 candidates chosen for the MC election, 15 were not recommended by the local unit. Soon after the list was released last night, the minister's supporters started reaching his house to express resentment. Party workers, local leaders and booth and mandal presidents continued to meet the minister on Saturday too. Sources said the local unit has apprised the party high command that they are not satisfied with the candidates announced and have demanded that only those who were recommended by the local unit must be given party ticket. The local unit has also sent mails to the party high command, including at the national level, to mark their resentment. Anil Vij's supporters raised slogans in support of the minister and against those who were given party ticket. Even those who were given party ticket expressed resentment and said that they would follow the directions of Anil Vij. They said those who had worked against Anil Vij in the Assembly election have been given ticket.

Justice Surya Kant calls for shift from academic to practical training for judicial officers

Diary Times Desk : Calling for a fundamental shift from the traditional academic methods of training judicial officers during their year-long preparation in judicial academies, Justice Surya Kant of the Supreme Court today advocated for a stronger emphasis on practical training. Addressing 110 newly inducted judicial officers of Haryana at the commencement of their one-year training programme at Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Justice Kant asserted that the real test of their competence was not in theoretical knowledge but in its application. Justice Kant was of the view that their journey from law school to the Bench had already proven their brilliance. They had excelled in their legal education, graduated.

Light precipitation likely in Shimla

Diary Times Desk : There is a possibility of light snow at isolated places in the districts of Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, and in the higher reaches of the districts of Kangra, Kullu, Chamba and Shimla until Sunday evening. There is also a possibility of light precipitation in Shimla and adjoining areas this evening. The sky has been cloudy in and around Shimla since morning. The weather department forecasts a possibility of light rain in the districts of Mandi, Solan, Sirmaur, and Bilaspur. The weather is likely to be dry on Monday, but there is a likelihood of snow and rain at most places in the state over the next two days. Thunderstorms and lightning are also forecast at isolated places in the state on February 19-20.

Budget session from March 10



Diary Times Desk : The budget session of the Vidhan Sabha will be held from March 10 to 28 with a total of 15 sittings. The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh here today, decided to recommend to the Governor to convene the budget session of the Vidhan Sabha from March 10. Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said during the Cabinet briefing that the Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance portfolio, would present the budget proposals for financial year 2025-26 on March 17. The budget session would commence with Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla's address to the Assembly on March 10. The budget session, which normally commences by the end of February, was being held a little late this time. "There were discussions at the Cabinet meeting to hold a longer session but since March 29, 30 and 31 are holidays, it was decided to hold 15 sittings till March 28," said Chauhan.

Cabinet okays 60-day special maternity leave in case of stillbirth, newborn's death

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Government has decided to grant 60-day special maternity leave to its women employees in the event of stillbirth or the death of a newborn. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here today. In another important decision, the Cabinet approved the declaration of the pending results of the exams for 699 posts of six codes, excluding the ones in which police cases were pending. These posts included those of market supervisor, fireman, drawing master and clerk in the state Secretariat, lineman and steno-typist. The Cabinet gave consent to allowing allopathic doctors to draw full salary during study leave in India or abroad. It decided to categorise all 135 existing police stations in the state into six categories based on population, area, major crimes, traffic, inter-state borders and the flow of tourists. It decided that the staff posting in police stations would be revised on the basis of their categories to strengthen field offices and ensure better services to people.



25 industrial proposals worth Rs 883 crore cleared

Diary Times Desk : The State Single Window Clearance and Monitoring Authority today approved 25 proposals for setting up new industrial enterprises and for undertaking expansion of existing units at a cost of about Rs 883.36 crore. The approvals were granted at the 30th meeting of the authority held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The setting up of these units would provide employment to about 2,830 persons. The government reiterated its commitment to attracting investment to make Himachal the most favoured destination for industrial development. Some of the new proposals approved by the authority included from M/s Bauji Industries Private Limited at Kirpalpur in Solan district for manufacturing capsules, tablets, liquid; M/s Jai Pali Infra Private Limited Unit II at Manjholi in Nalagarh of Solan for the manufacturing of PUF panels; M/s Rich Printers Private Limited at Baddi in Solan for manufacturing corrugated boxes; M/s Richlins Healthcare at Bhud in Baddi of Solan for manufacturing medicines; M/s Indo Spirits in Nahan tehsil of Sirmaur district for manufacturing IMFL and country-made liquor; and M/s Sri Kaumudhi Textiles Private Limited at Chanour in Kangra for manufacturing textile fabric towel.

CM Sukhvinder Sukhu flags off 27 police motorcycles for road safety

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu flagged off 27 police motorcycles to improve road safety from his official residence in Shimla on Sunday. Out of these, 14 motorcycles will be provided to Kangra district police, while 13 will be given to Mandi district police. Additionally, in the coming days, 42 four-wheeler vehicles, 14 interceptor vehicles and 10 wrecker vehicles for rescue operations will be made available to the police districts of Shimla, Nurpur, Mandi and Kangra. A budget of Rs 90 crore has been allocated for the purchase of 3,373 road safety equipment for these four police districts. So far, over 1,200 pieces of equipment have already been provided to the police department at a cost of Rs 5.71 crore. For the establishment of an integrated road safety enforcement system in Shimla, approximately Rs 60 crore has been allocated. This system will be linked with more than 450 Artificial Intelligence-based speed and surveillance cameras in Shimla, Kangra and Mandi districts, enabling the police to transition towards digital monitoring of traffic regulations in the state. Furthermore, a Mass Action Plan has been prepared with an estimated expenditure.

Bids invited for ropeway from Kullu to Peej paragliding site

Diary Times Desk : Ropeway and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation (RTDC) HP Ltd has invited bids for a ropeway from the bus station at Sarwari in Kullu town to the Peej paragliding site. The 1.2-km-long ropeway will be installed at a cost of Rs 80 crore in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The installation of a ropeway through the middle of the town will encourage tourism activities in the untouched pristine destination. Three runways have been built for paragliders there and it has become a major attraction for adventure seekers. There is an ancient temple of Jamdagni Rishi at Peej. Scores of devotees visit the temple to pay reverence to the deity. The promotion of the area and the development of the paragliding site has generated employment opportunities for the local community. Tourists will also have the option to visit nearby Kaisdhar, a destination being developed for eco-tourism. The visitors can also enjoy e-cart rides on the 7-km-long bridle path from Peej to eco trails in Kaisdhar. The Eco Tourism Society has earmarked Kaisdhar to be developed as an ecotourism site by a private company. The state government is promoting eco-tourism so that untouched tourist places are developed without disturbing nature. There will be no tampering with the natural beauty of the sites and tourists can also witness the mesmerising scenery here. This will create new employment opportunities while conserving the forest wealth.



BCCI announces schedule for TATA IPL 2025

Diary Times Desk : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the schedule for the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. The 18th edition of the prestigious tournament will commence on March 22, 2025 and the Final will be played on May 25, 2025. The 74 matches of the season will be played across 13 venues and will include 12 double-headers. While the afternoon games will begin at 03.30 PM IST, the evening games will begin from 07.30 PM IST. The cricketing extravaganza will kick off when the defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) host the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata on March 22, 2025. The first of the 12 double-headers day will take place on March 23, 2025 as Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) face Rajasthan Royals (RR) in an afternoon game in Hyderabad. This will be followed by a mouthwatering clash in the evening as the two five-time IPL champions – Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians (MI) – lock horns at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai. Delhi Capitals (DC) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) will play their respective first match of the season when they take on each other in Visakhapatnam on March 24, 2025. The world's biggest cricket stadium – Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad – will host its first game of the season when Gujarat Titans (GT) host Punjab Kings (PBKS) on March 25, 2025.



Jaiswal ruled out of Ranji Trophy semi-final against Vidarbha due to ankle niggle

Diary Times Desk : Jaiswal, who was originally in India's Champions Trophy 2025 squad, was left out as a late change, with the team management opting for Varun Chakaravathy instead. He was named as a non-travelling reserve, but is now expected to return home. Mumbai won't be naming a replacement for Jaiswal for the semi-final match given the resources they already have including, Ajinkya Rahane, Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube and Shardul Thakur. Out of these, Dube is also named as a non-travelling reserve in India's Champions Trophy side, and will travel to Dubai, if needed. A permanent feature in India's Test side, Jaiswal recently made his ODI debut against England in the first ODI in Nagpur earlier this month in place of Virat Kohli, who had missed the game due to a knee niggle. Jaiswal scored 15 in that match. Jaiswal has played just one game in the 2024-25 season of the Ranji Trophy, a group fixture against Jammu and Kashmir, where he managed 4 and 26 in the two innings, with Mumbai going down by five wickets. Defending Champions Mumbai haven't had the easiest of rides in the Ranji Trophy this season.

Mujeeb Ur Rahman replaces injured AM Ghazanfar in Mumbai Indians' squad for IPL 2025

Diary Times Desk : Afghanistan offspinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman has replaced his countryman AM Ghazanfar in Mumbai Indians' (MI) squad for IPL 2025. Ghazanfar was ruled out of the Champions Trophy, which starts on Wednesday, and also the IPL that follows, due to a back injury. The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) had tweeted about Ghazanfar's absence from the Champions Trophy earlier this week, mentioning that he had sustained "a fracture of the L4 vertebra" during Afghanistan's tour of Zimbabwe last month. Ghazanfar, who had bagged his maiden IPL contract after a bright start to his ODI career, will be out of cricket for four months. Mujeeb was last seen at the IPL in 2021, when he played a solitary game for Sunrisers Hyderabad. He made his tournament debut as a 17-year-old for Punjab Kings and represented them in 18 games across three seasons from 2018. Mujeeb has 275 T20 wickets at an average of 23.67 and an economy rate of 6.75. Most recently, he was with Paarl Royals at the SA20, where his side lost to finalists Sunrisers Eastern Cape in Qualifier 2. He was Royals' highest wicket-taker in the tournament, with 14 wickets in 12 matches.

Haris Rauf Blow To Pakistan? Ex-Star Drops Concerning Champions Trophy Update

Diary Times Desk : Former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir has raised concerns over fast bowler Haris Rauf's injury ahead of the Champions Trophy. Rauf limped off with an injury after bowling just 6.2 overs during the opening match of the recently-concluded tri-series against New Zealand in Lahore. Since then, he has been out of action for Pakistan, who face New Zealand in the opening match of the Champions Trophy at the National Stadium in Karachi on Wednesday. After the match in Lahore, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared a medical update on Rauf, saying that the pacer "Rauf sustained a muscular sprain in the lower chest wall." "Following MRI and X-ray scans, it has been confirmed that Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf sustained a muscular sprain in the lower chest wall region during Saturday's match against New Zealand. The injury is not serious, and he is expected to be fully recovered for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which commences in Karachi on 19 February," read the statement on PCB's website.

Rohit Sharma To Return As MI Skipper vs CSK? Hardik Pandya Ineligible Due To This IPL Rule

Diary Times Desk : Mumbai Indians (MI) captain Hardik Pandya will miss his side's opening match of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season, which will be against fellow five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Chepauk on March 23. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Sunday announced the schedule of IPL 2025. Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the opening match at Eden Gardens on March 23, a Saturday. While last season's runner's up Sunrisers Hyderabad will host Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the first match on Sunday, MI will be on the road in the second match of the day at Chennai. However, five-time champions MI will be without their captain Hardik. For the unversed, Hardik was suspended for one match after MI's last group stage match of IPL 2024 against Lucknow Super Giants. He was also fined Rs 30 lakh for maintaining a slow over rate. "Hardik Pandya, the Mumbai Indians captain, has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during their IPL 2024 match against Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede Stadium.

Champions Trophy Blow To Team India As Star Gets Hit On Knee In Nets

Diary Times Desk : India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant copped a blow to his knee during the team's training session in Dubai. This comes days ahead of India's Champions Trophy opener against Bangladesh on Wednesday, February 20. According to a report in Times of India, Pant was hit on the left knee after a shot played by Hardik Pandya. Despite initial pain and limping, Pant continued his practice, after medical attention, with a strapped knee. For the unversed, it's the same "knee which had received a lot of damage during his horrific car crash in December 2022." The report also mentioned that Pant and Hardik hugged each other before the former left for the dressing room. The wicketkeeper-batter also shared a laugh with Axar Patel after returning from the dressing room. It was business as usual after that as Pant started padding for a go in the nets. Pant is playing his first Champions Trophy. He has been a match winner for the team for a long time. Pant has proven himself in the limited overs as he has a strike of 100+ in both ODIs and T20Is. India will play all its matches in the Dubai International Stadium. India will begin their Champions Trophy campaign on 20th February against Bangladesh in Dubai. The world cricket is waiting to see the biggest clash between India and Pakistan on 23rd February.

