

PM NARENDRA MODI

AMID NEP ROW, PM BATS FOR EDUCATION IN 'ALL LANGUAGES': 'THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANIMOSITY...'

Diary Times Desk : Amid the Centre vs Tamil Nadu government faceoff over the three-language mandate under the National Education Policy (NEP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that there has never been any animosity between languages of India since they influence and enrich each other.

PM Modi was delivering an address at the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi. "There has never been any animosity among Indian languages. Languages have always influenced and enriched each other. Often, when efforts are made to create divisions based on language, our shared linguistic heritage provides a strong counterargument. It is our social responsibility to distance ourselves from these misconceptions and to embrace and enrich all languages. That is why today we are looking at all the languages of the country as mainstream languages," news agency PTI quoted PM Modi.

The PM said that the government was "promoting education in all major languages", including Marathi. PM Modi added that the efforts being made by the government to change the mindset that divests talent due to a lack of English proficiency. "We are promoting education in all major languages , including Marathi. The youth of Maharashtra can easily pursue higher education, engineering, and medical studies in Marathi. We have changed the mindset that overlooked talent due to a lack of English proficiency. We all say that literature is the mirror of society. It also guides society's direction. Therefore, literary conferences and institutions connected to literature play a very important role in the country," PM Modi said. The statement of PM Modi, though not directly aimed at, but comes amid the ongoing political slugfest between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and Centre over NEP's three-language policy.



MAHAYUTI RIFT

EKNATH SHINDE'S CRYPTIC 'DON'T TAKE ME LIGHTLY' MESSAGE AMID MAHAYUTI RIFT RUMOURS



Diary Times Desk : Amid rumours of a rift brewing within Maharashtra's ruling alliance, deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde warned his detractors on Friday to not "take me lightly".

Eknath Shinde, referring to his rebellion against Uddhav Thackeray in the undivided Shiv Sena, said he toppled the government of the state when he was "taken lightly" in 2022.

"Do not take me lightly; I have already said this to those who have taken me lightly. I am a normal party worker, but I am a worker of Bala Saheb, and everyone should take me with this understanding. When you took it lightly in 2022, I changed the government; we brought the government of the wishes of the common people," he was quoted as saying by news agency ANI. Eknath Shinde had reportedly been skipping meetings called by chief minister Devendra Fadnavis fueling speculation of the rift, reported India Today.

Shinde's rebellion led to the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray government and a vertical split in the Shiv Sena in 2022. He later stitched an alliance with the BJP and became the chief minister of Maharashtra. However, after the BJP's stellar performance in the recent assembly election, he was forced to relinquish the coveted post. Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena has 57 MLAs to the assembly. The BJP has 132 seats in the 288-member assembly. In a cryptic remark, Shinde said those who take him lightly must "understand this hint"

"In my first speech in the Vidhan Sabha, I said that Devendra Fadnavis ji would get more than 200 seats, and we got 232 seats. That is why do not take me lightly; those who want to understand this hint, they should understand it, and I will continue doing my work," Shinde said.

INDIA PROBES ALLEGED \$21 MILLION USAID FUNDING, CITES CONCERNS OVER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

Diary Times Desk : India on Friday said the revelations about the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding for certain activities in the country are "deeply troubling" and have led to concerns about foreign interference in its internal affairs. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said relevant departments and authorities are looking into the information put out by the United States administration regarding certain US activities and funding. "We have seen information that has been put out by the US administration regarding certain US activities and funding. These are obviously very deeply troubling," Jaiswal said. Addressing an event in Miami on Thursday, US President Donald Trump questioned USAID's funding of USD 21 million for voter turnout in India and wondered whether it was trying to get someone else elected. "This has led to concerns about foreign interference in India's internal affairs. Relevant departments and agencies are looking into this matter. It would be premature to make a public comment at this stage, so relevant authorities are looking into it and hopefully, we can come up with an update on that subsequently," Jaiswal said.



PAKISTAN ISSUES 154 VISAS TO INDIAN PILGRIMS TO VISIT KATAS RAJ TEMPLES

Diary Times Desk : The Pakistan High Commission Friday said it has issued 154 visas to Indian pilgrims to visit the Shree Katas Raj temples in that country's Punjab province. Under the Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974, every year thousands of Indian pilgrims visit Pakistan to attend various religious festivals. The High Commission for Pakistan in New Delhi said it has issued "154 visas to a group of pilgrims for their visit to the sacred Shree Katas Raj Temples in the Chakwal district, scheduled to take place from February 24 to March 2". Pakistan's charge d'affaires in India, Saad Ahmad Warraich, wished the pilgrims a spiritually rewarding and fulfilling journey. He reaffirmed that the government of Pakistan will "continue to facilitate such visits as per its policy to promote interfaith harmony and mutual understanding", a statement said. Every year, thousands of Indian pilgrims visit.

PRAISES FOR RSS AND MODI-PAWAR BONHOMIE AT MARATHI SAMMELAN



Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nationalist Communist Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar's bonhomie stood out at the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan which began in the National Capital on Friday. Seated alongside on stage, Modi was seen pulling a chair for Pawar and later serving him a glass of water. The Prime Minister also ensured Pawar joined him in lighting the traditional lamp to declare the event open. Modi was in fact seen handing over a diya to Pawar to light. On both occasions, the gathering at Vigyan Bhavan here broke into a thunderous applause. Later in his address, Modi showered praises on the BJP's parent organisation, the RSS and remembered its Marathi founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. "A distinguished Marathi leader planted the seed of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on the soil of Maharashtra. That seed has now grown into a vast tree and is celebrating its centenary year. For the past 100 years, the RSS has carried forward the great tradition and culture of India, from the Vedas to Vivekananda.

BJP SLAMS KARNATAKA DEPUTY CM SHIVAKUMAR OVER 'BENGALURU TRAFFIC' REMARKS, ASKS HIM TO STEP DOWN

Diary Times Desk : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's statement that even God can't fix Bengaluru's traffic in the next two or three years, has come under severe criticism from the BJP, with leader of opposition R Ashoka on Friday demanding that the former step down and make way for someone more capable if he is unable to take responsibility and address the city's traffic issues. Shivakumar is also Minister in-charge of Bengaluru Development. Speaking at an event on Thursday Shivakumar said, "I want to tell the media friends and others, even if God himself comes down from above, he cannot do anything (to fix) Bengaluru within the next one year, two years, or three years. Such is the difficulty. We have to plan properly, implement the projects, and we are making efforts to give a proper outline for the days ahead." Reacting to this, Ashoka on Friday said 'Brand Bengaluru' turns out to be another "bland statement" of Congress government in the state.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 22-02-2025

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 Scholarship Scam: Himalayan Group's property worth Rs 18.27 crore seized, MD's brother is in Shimla jail

Diary Times Desk : In the much talked about scholarship scam of Himachal Pradesh, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has finally attached five immovable properties of Himalayan Group worth Rs 18.27 crore. These properties include 125 bighas of land registered in Paonta Sahib of Sirmaur in the name of Maa Saraswati Educational Trust and two flats in Panchkula. The joint team of ED from Chandigarh and Shimla took this action in Paonta Sahib and Panchkula on Friday. In this case, about 15 days ago, the brother of the MD of Himalayan Group was arrested from Panchkula, who is lodged in Shimla jail. The joint team of Chandigarh Zonal Office and Shimla ED has taken this action against Himalayan Group under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. In Himachal, a scam of Rs 181 crore was revealed in the scholarship issued by the Central Government for SC, ST and OBC categories between the years 2013 to 2017. CBI had registered two cases of fraud against 29 educational institute operators of Himachal and later ED also registered a case of money laundering. ED team has now attached about 125 bighas of land registered in Nahan district Sirmaur in the name of Maa Saraswati Educational Trust in the properties of Himalayan Group under money laundering in the scholarship scam.



Himachal News: 'Government is taking strict action against employees involved in drug smuggling'

Diary Times Desk : The State Government led by Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has intensified its efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking through stringent enforcement of laws, coordinated action and people's participation. A State Government spokesperson said here today that the Police Department has successfully dismantled the drug network in collaboration with various enforcement agencies. Illegally acquired properties have been confiscated and strict legal action has been taken against the offenders under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Act (NDPS Act) and Prevention of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act, 1988. The State Government is also taking strict action against policemen and government employees found involved in drug trafficking. Apart from enforcement measures, awareness campaigns are being conducted regularly to educate the people about the dangers of drug abuse. He said that 45 proposals were submitted for preventive detention in the year 2024, while no proposal was submitted till 2022 and four detention orders were approved against repeat offenders.

HP Rajya Chayan Aayog: Result of post code 980 will be declared soon, 7 days time to submit documents

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh State Selection Commission has started the process of evaluation of documents of candidates for Drawing Master Post Code 980. Under the post code, the candidates who could not provide the documents due to the dissolution of the Staff Selection Commission have been given time to provide the documents within a week. In the cabinet meeting, a decision has been taken recently to declare the result of seven recruitments done during the time of the dissolved Staff Selection Commission. Under this decision, the process of declaring the result of 314 posts under post code 980 has been started by the commission. During the evaluation of documents under this post code in December 2022 during the dissolved commission, the candidates were given time to submit the necessary documents within seven days. Meanwhile, the commission was suspended due to the paper leak case.

Himachal News: Dr. Rajiv Bindal said- Foreign powers also tried to stop PM Modi from coming to power



Diary Times Desk : BJP State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal has said that US President Donald Trump's comment on US-aid funding to India has confirmed Prime Minister Modi's claim that foreign powers are trying to prevent him from coming to power during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Bindal said that when people do not vote for Congress, Congress people hatch conspiracies and use foreign money to influence elections. This attempt of foreign interference in India's democratic process is a matter of shame. Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said that Rahul Gandhi has been questioning India's democracy by going abroad and alleging that democracy is in danger in the country, which is shameful.

Himachal News: Apple crop is being affected by climate change and wheat crop is being affected by rust diseases

Diary Times Desk : On Thursday, in the ongoing Winter School program for scientists and assistant professors of the country's prestigious agricultural universities at the Central Potato Research Institute Shimla (CPRI), the participants visited three institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research located in Shimla. Course Director Dr. Alok Kumar and Coordinator Dr. Ajay Thakur said that the participants visited IARI, NBPGR and IIWBR on Thursday and gained information about the research being done in the agricultural sector. Senior scientist Dr. Santosh Watpade at the Dhanda Farm of the regional office of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute informed the trainees about the impact of climate change on the production and quality of apples and stone fruits. Dr. Santosh said that due to lack of sufficient rain and snowfall.

Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said- 'One nation, one election' is a historic step of Modi government

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that 'One Nation, One Election' will prove to be a historic step for India, when the centralized agenda of the government will be public interest and development. The time and energy that is spent in repeated elections will be spent on developmental works. On 12 December 2024, the Union Cabinet has approved 11 proposals of the 'One Nation, One Election' bill. In September 2024, the government accepted the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind. This committee had given 11 suggestions to conduct Lok Sabha, Assembly and local body elections simultaneously in a phased manner. He said that 'One Nation, One Election' was the need of the hour to strengthen the democratic interests of the country. Which has been accomplished by the Narendra Modi government.

Himachal Pradesh: Demand of revenue employees rejected, state cadre will be implemented in any case; Minister said- decision in interest

Diary Times Desk : State cadre will be mandatory for revenue personnel. The state government has rejected the demand of revenue personnel to retain the district cadre. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi has bluntly said that the decision to include them in the state cadre has been taken keeping in mind the interests of the people of the state and the revenue personnel. Revenue personnel are opposing the state cadre and have submitted demand letters to the government several times regarding this. After the decision to include revenue personnel in the state cadre in the cabinet meeting in July last year, the revenue personnel had warned the government to leave the additional workload and lock the Patwar Khanas and Kanungo offices and hand over the keys to the government. After this, online work was stopped as a protest. The Patwari and Kanungo Federation had raised the demand to fulfill the pending demands from the government. The demand was raised from the government to set technical scale, one Kanungo for four Patwaris, time for promotion and release of financial benefits.

"IN 2022 I CHANGED GOVERNMENT...": E SHINDE AS MAHARASHTRA ALLIANCE WOBBLER

Diary Times Desk : Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday fired a "do not take me lightly" warning, ostensibly in response to death threats but in remarks that come amid reports of a rift between the Shiv Sena leader and his ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party that leads the state government. Asked about the threat - police received emails warning of bombs in Mr Shinde's car - he declared himself unafraid. "Threats came before too... attempts were made too, but I am not afraid." It was his next set of comments that raised eyebrows. "Do not take me lightly... I have already said this to those who took me lightly. I am a normal party worker... but I am also a worker of Balasaheb (Thackeray, the Shiv Sena's founder), and everyone should take me with this understanding," Mr Shinde - whose 2022 rebellion split the Shiv Sena and brought down Uddhav Thackeray's Congress, NCP-backed government) - said. And Mr Shinde then referred to his role in bringing the BJP back to power, saying, "... in 2022 I changed the government (and) in my first speech in the Vidhan Sabha (ahead of the 2024 election) I said Fadnavis would get over 200 seats... and we got 232. That is why I say, do not take me lightly."

RAHUL GANDHI ON PM'S ADANI ANSWER TO US PRESS: 'MODI JI, IT'S NOT A PERSONAL MATTER'

Diary Times Desk : Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remark to US press on the Adani Group row is "not a personal matter but a "matter of the country". Rahul Gandhi made the remarks while delivering an address at an event in the Lalgarh area of Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly during the second day of his visit to his parliamentary constituency. Narendra Modi ji, this is not a personal matter. It's a matter of the country," Rahul Gandhi said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Washington DC visit last week, told the US press that he did not discuss the bribery charges that the US government had levelled against business tycoon Gautam Adani during his meeting with US President Donald Trump. At a press briefing at the White House, PM Modi was asked if he raised the indictment of Adani and his key associates in a New York court over his involvement in an alleged bribery scheme. "Firstly, India is a democratic country.

ATISHI'S 'BREAKING PROMISES' ALLEGATION AFTER DELHI CM REKHA GUPTA'S FIRST CABINET MEETING



Diary Times Desk : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi on Thursday accused Delhi's new, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government of 'breaking its promise' after chief minister Rekha Gupta-led cabinet, in its first meeting, passed two agenda items, which did not include the proposal to provide financial assistance of ₹2,500 per month, a pre-poll promise from the saffron party for Delhi's women. The BJP has "made up its mind" to "cheat" the people, Atishi, CM Rekha Gupta's predecessor, claimed. "The BJP had promised that in the first cabinet meeting itself, they would pass the scheme in which the women of Delhi would be getting ₹2,500. The new CM Rekha Gupta and her cabinet ministers took oath. In the evening, at 7 pm, the first cabinet meeting took place. The women were expecting that scheme to be passed," Atishi said in a self-made video on X. "The first day itself BJP started breaking their promises...they did not pass the scheme...BJP has made up their mind to cheat the people," she added.

CONGRESS URGES KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT TO GRANT EVENING LEAVES FOR MUSLIM EMPLOYEES DURING RAMZAN

Diary Times Desk : The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to grant Muslim government employees permission to leave work early during Ramzan, similar to the provision implemented in Telangana. The demand seeks to allow Muslim employees to leave after 4 pm to facilitate Iftar and evening prayers, news agency ANI reported. In this regard, emphasizing that party leaders will soon meet with the Chief Minister to push for the request. In their letter, KPCC Vice Presidents Syed Ahmad and Hussain have made an official appeal through CM's political secretary and Legislative Council member, Nazir Ahmad, requesting a policy similar to that of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. With the holy month of Ramzan approaching, both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments.

AMID SPIKE IN CROSS-BORDER FIRING, INDIA, PAKISTAN HOLD FLAG MEETING IN POONCH

Diary Times Desk : India and Pakistan on Friday held a flag meeting along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district in an effort to ease tension after recent incidents of cross-border firing and an IED attack, official sources said. The sources said the brigade-commander level flag meeting took place in the Chakan-Da-Bagh crossing point area with both sides highlighting the need to maintain peace. The 75-minute meeting that started at 11am took place in a congenial atmosphere and both sides agreed to honour the ceasefire agreement in the larger interest of peace on the borders, the sources said. Ceasefire violations have been rare since India and Pakistan renewed the agreement on February 25, 2021. Two army personnel, including captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi, were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack carried out by suspected terrorists in the Akhnoor sector of the Jammu region on February 11. The People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF).

"KICKBACK SCHEME... WHAT DO I CARE?" TRUMP ON USAID AS BJP SLAMS CONGRESS

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump on Thursday repeated his criticism about \$21 million in United States government funding for India - via global aid agency USAID in 2012 - for 'voter turnout', calling it a "kickback scheme" and declaring, "What the hell do I care about it? We got enough problems (of our own)." The US President did not, however, elaborate on the allegation or offer proof. Trump, addressing a gathering of state Governors from his Republican Party, declared, "Can you imagine all that money going to India? I wonder what they think when they get it. Now, it is a kickback scheme... you know... they kick it back to the people that send it..." "I would say in many cases, many of these cases, anytime you have no idea what we're talking about, that means there's a kickback because nobody has any idea what's going on there," he rambled on, also questioning grants of \$29 million to "strengthen."

ED RAIDS HOUSE OF SIMRAN PREET PANESAR, ACCUSED IN CANADA'S 'BIGGEST' GOLD HEIST

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday raided the house of and questioned Simran Preet Panesar, a 32-year-old former Air Canada manager, who is facing a Canada-wide warrant for his alleged role in the April 2023 gold robbery at the North American nation's Toronto Pearson International Airport. An ED team arrived at Simran Preet Panesar's residence at Sector 79 in Punjab's Mohali on Friday morning. "Our teams are in the process of questioning him," a senior ED officer said. The Indian Express earlier reported about Panesar living on the outskirts of Chandigarh. The ED, the central agency which probes financial crimes, has, in a rare instance of investigating a crime beyond India's territorial boundaries, has launched a money-laundering probe into the case as the accused is now in India. The idea, officers aware of the matter said, is to investigate if the gold or its proceeds made their way to the country.



"Not Heard From Them": Trump Claims BRICS "Broke Up" After 150% Tariff Threat

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Thursday claimed that the BRICS nations have "broken up", days after he threatened them with 100 per cent tariffs if they tried to seek an alternative for the US dollar. "BRICS states were trying to destroy our dollar. They wanted to create a new currency. So when I came in, the first thing I said was any BRICS state that even mentions the destruction of the dollar will be charged a 150% tariff, and we don't want your goods and the BRICS states just broke up," the US President said. Calling it an amazing turnaround, Mr Trump said, "I don't know what the hell happened to them. We haven't heard from the BRICS states lately." BRICS, formed in 2009, is an intergovernmental organisation made up of 10 countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. This is the only major international group of which the US is not a part. Over the years, the nations have been trying to find an alternative to the US dollar or create their own BRICS currency. If done so, it seems as a way to reduce their reliance on the US dollar as a prominent medium of exchange.

Ukraine's Zelensky bats for 'strong ties' after US envoy meet amid tensions with Donald Trump

Diary Times Desk : President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday that Ukraine was ready to work quickly and tirelessly to produce a strong and useful agreement on investments and security with the United States. The statement comes amid rising tensions between Zelensky and US President Donald Trump, with the two trading barbs on Wednesday. "We must and can ensure that peace is strong and lasting—so that Russia can never return with war," Zelensky wrote on X on Thursday after meeting US envoy for Ukraine and Russia Keith Kellogg. "Ukraine is ready for a strong, effective investment and security agreement with the President of the United States. We have proposed the fastest and most constructive way to achieve results. Our team is ready to work 24/7," he added.

Donald Trump "Very Frustrated" With Ukraine's Zelensky: US NSA



Diary Times Desk : Following President Donald Trump's remarks on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy over the Russia-Ukraine conflict, US National Security Advisor (NSA) Mike Waltz emphasised that Trump aims to bring an end to the war, and criticised Zelensky for not taking the opportunity to negotiate peace. While addressing the media briefing on Thursday, Waltz said, "His (President Trump) goal is to bring this war to an end. There has been ongoing fighting on both sides. This is World War I style trench warfare. His frustration with President Zelensky is multi-fold. Some of the rhetoric and insults coming out of Kyiv for President Trump are unacceptable. President Trump is very frustrated with President Zelensky because he hasn't come to the table and hasn't been willing to take this opportunity that we have offered. I think he will soon get to the point."

Indians among 300 US migrants held in Panama hotel: 'Help, we are not...'

Diary Times Desk : Nearly 300 people, including Indians, deported from the United States, are being held in a hotel in Panama. The deportees are not allowed to leave as Panama waits for international authorities to organise a return to their countries. The migrants are mostly from 10 Asian countries, including Iran, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and others, reported AP. Migrants in the hotel rooms displayed placards with messages reading "Help" and "We are not save (sic) in our country." Authorities say that more than 40% of the migrants won't voluntarily return to their homeland. Panama's security minister Frank Abrego said that the migrants are receiving medical attention and food as part of a migration agreement between Panama and the US. The Panamanian government has now agreed to serve as a "bridge" or transit country for deportees.

Hundreds of Chinese airlifted home after crackdown on Myanmar scam centres

Diary Times Desk : As many as 1,000 Chinese nationals rescued from online scam centres in Myanmar are due to return home following an international crackdown on the illegal operations. They are among the thousands of foreigners freed this week from scam centres, where they were forced to run romance and investment scams, among others. Many claim to be victims themselves, lured to countries like Thailand with the false promise of a job before they were trafficked over the border into Myanmar. The Karen Border Guard Force, a group allied with Myanmar's military government, says it will deport 10,000 people from the Myanmar-Thailand border region in the coming days. Thailand, China and Myanmar are working together to shut down scam centres on the Thailand-Myanmar border. Thai authorities are overseeing much of the evacuation and processing, with workers being sent from Myanmar to Thailand in small batches. The UN estimates that as many as 120,000 people may be working in online scam centres in Myanmar, where criminal gangs have taken advantage of the country's instability and ongoing civil war. Another 100,000 may be trapped in Cambodia, according to the UN, with thousands more in similar facilities across Southeast Asia.

'World War III not far away but...': US President Donald Trump

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Thursday warned that World War III was not far away. However, his leadership would prevent war from breaking out, Trump said at the FII Priority Summit in Miami. "There's no profit for anyone in having World War III, and you're not so far away from it. I'll tell you right now. You're not so far away. If we would've had this [Biden] administration for another year, you would've been in a war three, and now it's not going to happen," news agency ANI quoted Donald Trump as saying at the event. Trump added that although the US will not participate in the wars going on across the world, he would work towards stopping them. "We're going to stop people from these stupid, never-ending wars. We're not going to partake in them ourselves, but we'll be stronger and more powerful than anybody by far. And if it ever came to war, there is nobody that will be able to come close to us, but we don't think that's going to ever happen," he said.

'I'm become meme': Elon Musk Says Doge's journey from meme to reality is 'crazy but cool'

Diary Times Desk : Elon Musk stole the spotlight at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, making a surprise appearance that quickly went viral. The Tesla and SpaceX CEO took the stage, alongside Newsmax host Rob Schmitt, wielding a gold-plated chainsaw—gifted to him by Argentina's President Javier Milei—as a symbol of slashing government spending. Musk engaged in an ongoing exchange with the television host, discussing various topics, including his shift from political neutrality to becoming a strong financial supporter of President Donald Trump, his personal security concerns, and his interest in touring the U.S. gold depository at Fort Knox in Kentucky. Speaking with TV host Rob Schmitt, Musk further embraced his status as an internet phenomenon. "I am become meme. Yeah. Pretty much. I'm just—I'm living the meme. I'm just like, living the dream. And there's living the meme, and it's pretty much what's happening. I mean, Doge started out as a meme. Think about it. And now, it's real. Isn't that crazy? But it's cool," he said.



1984 anti-Sikh riots: Court reserves order on quantum of sentence against Sajjan Kumar

Diary Times Desk : A court here on Friday reserved for February 25 the order on the quantum of sentence against Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. During the hearing, the complainant, whose husband and son were killed by a mob instigated by Kumar, urged the Delhi court to award death penalty to the former Congress MP. The complaint made the submission through her lawyer before special judge Kaveri Baweja, who reserved for February 25 the order on the quantum of sentence against Kumar. "The accused being the leader of the mobs instigated others to commit a genocide and crime against humanity and cold-blooded murders, and he deserve nothing less than capital punishment," senior advocate HS Phoolka, appearing for the complainant, told the court. The court has asked the counsel for Kumar to file his written submission within two days.



Punjab and Haryana High Court to hear Amritpal Singh's plea on February 25

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing of MP Amritpal Singh's petition to February 25, allowing Additional Solicitor General of India Satya Pal Jain time to seek instructions in the matter. He was accompanied by advocate Dheeraj Jain during the hearing. The petition was placed before Chief Justice Sheel Nago and Justice Sumeet Goel's Bench. Amritpal Singh, the Member of Parliament from Khadoor Sahib and leader of "Waris Punjab De", is currently detained in Dibrugarh Central Jail under the National Security Act. He has filed a petition seeking permission to attend parliamentary sessions, arguing that his prolonged absence violates his constitutional rights and leaves his constituency unrepresented. Singh emphasises that an absence exceeding 60 days could result in his seat being declared vacant, affecting nearly 19 lakh constituents. He also requests authorisation to meet with officials and ministers regarding the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to address local development projects.

Railways unveils four-line upgrade for 193.6-km Delhi-Ambala corridor

Diary Times Desk : In response to the rising load on the Delhi-Ambala rail corridor, the Ministry of Railways has initiated plans to upgrade the existing two-track system into a four-line corridor. Railway officials convened meetings with district administration officers at Panipat and Sonapat under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioners to discuss the details of the project. Dr Manoj Kumar, DC Sonapat, highlighted the pressing need for expansion, noting that "presently two lines (up and down) are on Delhi to Ambala railway track but the load of trains is regularly rising on this rail corridor." He said, "Now, Railway Ministry has decided to expand the 193.6 km corridor from Delhi to Ambala for which a plan is being prepared." The project will involve development work at 32 railway stations along the route.

Punjab Government calls for all 232 law officers' resignation

Diary Times Desk : In a significant administrative move, the Punjab Government has requested the resignation of all 232 law officers appointed to represent the state in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Supreme Court and various boards and tribunals. This development was confirmed by Advocate-General Gurminder Singh, who said the resignations were part of a routine process coinciding with the conclusion of the officers' one-year tenure in February. The Advocate-General said the procedural step was designed to facilitate the reappointment of law officers, ensuring continuity in legal representation. He said, "The government is committed to rationalising and streamlining the functioning of the office in the larger interest of the litigants and the people of Punjab." This initiative aligns with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's broader efforts to enhance administrative efficiency, especially in light of recent challenges faced by the party in Delhi. In addition to addressing the legal department, the government has implemented a major reshuffle within the police department, executing numerous transfers and initiating proceedings against more than 50 police officials.

SGPC executive body turns down Dhami's resignation, asks to reconsider decision

Diary Times Desk : Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's executive body, which met here on Friday, did not accept the resignation of SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami and urged him to reconsider his decision. Addressing a press conference here, SGPC's senior vice-president Ragujit Singh Virk said that Dhami's resignation has not been accepted. It has been kept pending, the meeting decided. He said that an SGPC delegation would meet Dhami to urge him to take his resignation back and continue his services as president of SGPC. Dhami had resigned from his post on Monday. His resignation had come days after Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh strongly condemned the dismissal of services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Damdama Sahib by SGPC. Dhami on Monday said he was always committed to the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Referring to a recent Facebook post of Jathedar Raghbir Singh on the termination of services of Giani Harpreet Singh, Dhami had said he wrote that removing the latter was "highly condemnable" and "unfortunate". "I being 'pardhan' (president of SGPC) take responsibility and resign from the post on moral grounds with immediate effect.

Haryana Government's witness protection scheme to strengthen rule of law

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana Government has rolled out 'Haryana Witness Protection Scheme 2025' to ensure the safety and security of witnesses who play a crucial role in the justice system. The primary aim of the scheme is to protect witnesses from threats, harassment, or intimidation that may arise during the course of judicial proceedings. By providing legal protection, including the possibility of relocating, changing identities, or offering other safeguards, the government seeks to strengthen the rule of law, encourage witnesses to testify without fear, and improve the overall functioning of the criminal justice system. This initiative is part of a broader effort to promote transparency, accountability, and fairness within the legal process. The scheme will be applicable to witnesses of offences punishable with death, life imprisonment, or imprisonment of seven years or more. Additionally, it will cover punishments under Sections 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79 of the BNS, as well as under Sections 8, 10, 12, 14, and 15 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Error fixed, pension of 52 Mahendragarh residents restored after one year

Diary Times Desk : In a significant relief for 52 residents from the Nangal Choudhary area of Mahendragarh district, their monthly pensions have finally been restored after being withheld for a year due to a clerical error that marked them as "dead" in official records. The beneficiaries – comprising elderly, widows and disabled individuals – from the villages of Dholera, Meghot Binja and Meghot Hala – had been battling to prove they were alive since February last year. The Tribune had highlighted this issue in these columns on February 11, which played a pivotal role in resolving the matter. Babu Lal, father of Ram Bharose, a disabled pensioner from Meghot Binja, expressed relief at receiving this month's pension but highlighted that arrears for the past 11 months were still pending. "The majority of the beneficiaries rely on this pension for survival. Despite being alive, they had to make endless trips to government offices to prove it. We are grateful to The Tribune for raising our voice and helping us get justice," he said. Echoing similar concerns, Bir Singh Yadav, father of Meghot Binja Sarpanch Manoj Yadav, emphasised the emotional and financial.

WET SPELL REDUCES PRECIPITATION DEFICIENCY FROM 80 PER CENT TO 66 IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Diary Times Desk : The two-day wet spell in the state has reduced the winter precipitation deficiency from 80 per cent to 66 per cent. The deficiency for the month of February has gone down to 44 per cent. According to the weather department, the precipitation deficiency will reduce further as a fresh active western disturbance will hit the region on February 25. "Over the last two days, we have recorded snowfall and rainfall in almost every district. We have recorded the highest snowfall in Lahaul and Spiti (42 cm), while the highest rain has been recorded in Nagrota Suriyan (56 mm) in Kangra," said a weather official. Following the wet spell, maximum temperatures have plummeted from nine to 11°C in a couple of districts. At most stations, the temperatures are five to eight degree below normal at the moment.

WORK BEGINS ON STATE DEVELOPMENT REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Diary Times Desk : Himachal has taken the lead by initiating the process for the preparation of the State Development Report on Climate Change in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assess its impact. The state has suffered more than Rs 40,000 crore losses due to disasters triggered by flash floods, cloudbursts and landslides. "Himachal's high dependence on natural resources and its fragile ecosystem make it highly vulnerable. Hence, we need to have a report to address issues arising from the very visible impacts of climate change," said DC Rana, Director, Environment and State Disaster Management Authority. The report to be prepared by experts in consultation with local communities will assess the human impact of climate change on four key sectors of health, agriculture, including forestry and water, tourism and construction. It is based on these findings that strategies will be proposed for climate smart development in the report, which will be ready by the year end. Ameet Mishra, UNDP Director and Chief Economist, said that rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall and extreme weather.

HEAVY SNOW DISRUPTS TRAFFIC ON MANALI-LEH HIGHWAY; POLICE ISSUE TRAVEL ADVISORY

Diary Times Desk : Heavy snow has disrupted travel and cut off Lahaul Valley from the rest of Himachal Pradesh, blocking the crucial Manali-Leh highway and stranding locals and travellers. The region, which is part of the tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti, is facing severe weather conditions with snow accumulation reaching up to 60 cm on the road connecting Atal Tunnel's North Portal to Keylong-Jispa. The snow has rendered the road unfit for traffic. The Lahaul-Spiti police have issued a travel advisory, urging all travelers to avoid the Manali-Leh route until further notice. The closure of this highway has significantly impacted transportation, with no vehicular movement allowed on the affected stretch. Motorists and tourists planning to travel in or out of the area have been advised to adjust their travel plans accordingly. Lahaul-Spiti Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar assured the locals and visitors that efforts to restore the road connectivity would begin as soon as weather conditions improve. "The Border Roads Organisation and the PWD are on the standby and will deploy their workforce and machinery to clear key roads once the weather permits it," the DC said. The Deputy Commissioner warned people against unnecessary travel, particularly into high-altitude areas prone to snow avalanches.



LISTS READY, HPCC OFFICE-BEARERS WILL BE KNOWN SOON: PRATIBHA

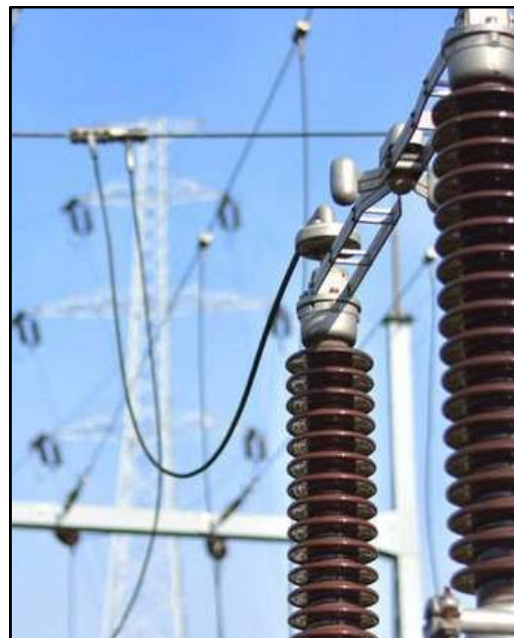
Diary Times Desk : State Congress president Pratibha Singh today said that the names of the office-bearers of the district and block units of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) would be announced shortly. "We have prepared the lists and the groundwork has been done. The lists will be finalised after talks with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and other senior party leaders," said Pratibha. "I will soon meet with newly appointed state in-charge Rajni Patil to discuss the reconstitution of the HPCC," she added. She said that hardworking leaders, youth and women would be given important responsibilities in the party organisation. "We want that committed party workers should get a place in the government as well. I have been taking up this matter with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu for long. We will give important responsibilities to committed workers and leaders in the party organisation," she added. Pratibha said that prompt reconstitution of the organisation was important considering that the elections to panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) were due at the year-end. "The party needs to gear up for the PRI elections. Besides, the party has to start preparations for the Assembly elections due in 2027.

MARKET COMPLEX TO COME UP NEAR GAGGAL AIRPORT FOR DISPLACED TRADERS

Diary Times Desk : The district administration of Kangra has devised a plan to construct a market complex near the Gaggal airport to rehabilitate traders, who will be displaced due to the airport's expansion. Revenue officials have been directed to identify land for the market complex and a proposal has been made to build circular roads around the airport. Kangra Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa said the Block Development Officer (BDO) had been instructed to compile records of panchayat properties in areas around the Gaggal airport that will be acquired for the expansion project. Additionally, records of "kuhls" and roads will also be prepared. During a meeting held yesterday to review the airport expansion progress, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the process is gaining momentum, with efforts underway to ensure minimal displacement. "The state government will ensure the welfare of those affected by the expansion. They will receive priority in development projects around the Gaggal airport and their interests will be safeguarded," he assured.

446 CONSUMERS FACE POWER DISCONNECTION IN CHAMBA

Diary Times Desk : Several people in rural areas of Chamba district are on the verge of losing power supply as the Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board has initiated strict action against defaulters. A total of 446 consumers from various villages have failed to pay their pending electricity bills despite multiple reminders, prompting the board to issue disconnection orders. To implement this decision, field teams have been deployed to cut off power connections in the affected areas, including Saho, Chanaid, Khajjar, Parihar, Sarol, Udaipur, Sach, Kolhadi, Parel, and surrounding villages. The total outstanding amount from these defaulters is reported to be around Rs 4.5 lakh, and the board has taken a firm stand to recover these dues. Officials stated that several notices were sent to the defaulting consumers, providing ample time for payment. However, as many continued to ignore these warnings, the Electricity Board has now resorted to strict action. The board has clarified that once the connections are cut, consumers will only get their electricity restored after clearing all their pending dues and paying Rs 250 charge per connection. Ajay Kumar, assistant engineer, electricity sub-division, Chamba, confirmed that the disconnection process was already underway.



VIDARBHA SEE OFF MUMBAI'S LOWER ORDER RESISTANCE TO REACH FINAL

Diary Times Desk : Last season's runner-up Vidarbha made it to a second consecutive Ranji Trophy final as they beat defending champions Mumbai by 80 runs in Nagpur. On the fifth day, Mumbai was always playing catch-up chasing a daunting target of 406. They had already lost three wickets under hundred but had a few recognised batters yet to come. However, they were soon put in more trouble. Shivam Dube was dismissed with just one run added to the overnight score. Suryakumar Yadav and first innings centurion Akash Anand fell in quick succession to Harsh Dubey, who finished with a five-wicket haul. At 124/6, Mumbai's chance of registering their highest-ever chase in Ranji remained a pipe dream. However, the lower-order continued to put up a stiff fight making Vidarbha wait long for their glory. Shams Mulani (46) and Shardul Thakur put on a 103-run stand for the seventh wicket that kept their faint hopes alive. But their stand was brought to an end courtesy a direct hit from Dinesh Malewar that caught Mulani short while attempting a quick run. Thakur, who was put down twice over the course of his 66, succumbed to the second new ball. Yash Thakur got one to keep a little low and beat Shardul on the defence and break his resistance. All of Mumbai's last three batters though continued in the same spirit offering more fight.



KERALA REACH MAIDEN RANJI TROPHY FINAL

Diary Times Desk : Kerala reached their first Ranji Trophy final in dramatic fashion, and by the barest of margins, against Gujarat in Ahmedabad. With three runs required for the hosts to achieve a first innings lead on the final day, No.11 batter Arzan Nagwaswalla went for a lofted drive through the mid-wicket region but the ball cannoned off Salman Nizar's head - high into the air - before it was taken by Sachin Baby at first slip. The wicket was enough to grant Kerala the minutest of first innings leads by two runs, taking them to the final. It followed suit to the similar manner in which Kerala reached the semifinals, with a one run lead against Jammu and Kashmir in the first innings. With only 28 runs to defend and three wickets to pick up at the start of day's play, the well-set Jaymeet Patel (79) was the first to go. Left-arm spinner Aditya Sarwate picked up his second wicket of the contest, dragging the batter out of his crease before Mohammed Azharuddeen did the rest. The wicket also brought an end to the 79-run partnership between Jaymeet and Siddarth Desai, with Gujarat leaving the door slightly ajar for Kerala.

"TRYING TOO HARD...": INDIA GREAT NAMEDROPS ROHIT SHARMA IN BIG ADVICE FOR VIRAT KOHLI

Diary Times Desk : Former India captain and coach Anil Kumble feels Virat Kohli is putting a "lot more pressure on himself" in his effort to get out of the lean patch, and advised the baiting icon to remain mentally relaxed. Since the 2023 ODI World Cup, Kohli has hit just one fifty while scoring 137 runs in six ODI innings. "I think he's trying a bit too hard. You can see that in the way he is going about his innings. He just needs to not worry about it," Kumble said on 'ESPNCricinfo'. "Rohit comes in there, has the freedom because there is plenty of batting and all of them are in great form. Similarly for Virat, he just needs to come in and not worry about anything else," he added. "All players go through tough moments in their career, but I get a feeling watching him bat, I think he is putting a lot more pressure on himself," Kumble added. Kumble reckoned a relaxed approach would help Kohli in getting out of the rut. When you have that kind of pressure and you have that kind of expectation, you suddenly start putting undue importance to all of that and then try hard to do well. "When you do that, you're not really relaxed. The best innings that I am sure he's played, he's not even thinking about all of that." In India's Champions Trophy opener.

INDIA BEAT IRELAND 3-1 IN MEN'S FIH PRO LEAGUE HOCKEY



Diary Times Desk : The Indian men's hockey team came back from a goal down to beat Ireland 3-1 in FIH Pro League in Bhubaneswar on Friday. The Indians were stunned by the Irish in the eighth minute when Jeremy Duncan scored from a field effort. But the Indians bounced back strongly, scoring a field goal through Mandeeep Singh in the 22nd minute. Jarmapnpreet Singh (45th) and Sukhjeet Singh (58th) then scored a goal each from penalty corners to hand India the convincing win. India will next take on Ireland in the return leg match here on Saturday India are currently placed fifth in the standings with nine points from five games.

'60% OF SHUBMAN GILL ENOUGH TO HIT CENTURIES, SHREYAS IYER DOESN'T GIVE YOU THAT IMPRESSION': FORMER INDIA CRICKETER

Diary Times Desk : Shubman Gill again showed his class as he played an unbeaten 101-run knock against Bangladesh to help India register a comprehensive six-wicket win in their ICC Champions Trophy 2025 opener at the Dubai International Stadium. Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar was full of praise for Gill, saying the right-hander is playing at the right position to make the maximum impact. India were in trouble at 144/4, but Gill, along with KL Rahul, ensured that Rohit Sharma and co did not stumble in the middle. In the end, the 2017 finalists registered a victory with 21 balls to spare. While praising Shubman Gill, Manjrekar also mentioned the big difference between the former and Shreyas Iyer. The former India batter said Gill can score centuries while batting at 60 per cent. "Gill is batting at the right position to make a huge impact. When he gets a hundred, like today, it seems like there is plenty left in the tank," Manjrekar said on ESPNCricinfo Match Day. "It was like 60% of Shubman Gill is enough to get a hundred like this and he stays till the end. That is the difference between Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill that Gill will take you right till the end."

YUVRAJ SINGH, SHAHID AFRIDI DISAGREE ON CAMERA BEFORE IND VS PAK CHAMPIONS TROPHY MATCH: 'PAKISTAN WEAKER THAN INDIA'

Diary Times Desk : The India-Pakistan fever has gripped the Champions Trophy 2025. No matter how much the players of both sides try to downplay it by treating it as "just another match" the external noise is rising with each passing day. Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh and former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi disagreed with each other during a television programme ahead of the big-ticket clash on Sunday (February 23) at the Dubai International Stadium. Afridi, who has taken part in many India-Pakistan duels, said Pakistan appear weaker than India because they don't have enough match winners in their side like they used to during his playing days. "If we talk about match-winners, I'd say that India has more match-winners compared to Pakistan. A match-winner is someone who knows how to win the game single-handedly. Right now, we don't have such players in Pakistan," Afridi said on a special episode of JioHotstar's Greatest Rivalry Returns.

