

## LAKSHYA SEN'S FORGERY

## KARNATAKA HC DISMISSES BADMINTON PLAYER LAKSHYA SEN'S PLEA IN BIRTH CERTIFICATE FORGERY CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Karnataka High Court has rejected the petitions filed by ace badminton player Lakshya Sen, his family members, and his coach U Vimal Kumar in connection with allegations of fabricating birth certificates.

The court ruled that there was prima facie evidence warranting an investigation into the case. The case originated from a private complaint filed by M G Nagaraj, who alleged that Lakshya Sen's parents Dhirendra and Nirmala Sen, along with his brother Chirag Sen, coach U Vimal Kumar, and an employee of the Karnataka Badminton Association, were involved in falsifying birth records.

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly manipulated the birth certificates of Lakshya and Chirag Sen, reducing their age by approximately two and a half years. The alleged forgery was intended to allow them to participate in age-restricted badminton tournaments and avail government benefits. Nagaraj supported his claims with documents obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act and requested the court to summon original records from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in New Delhi. Based on this evidence, the court directed the High Grounds police station to conduct an investigation.

Following the court's directive, the police registered a First Information Report (FIR) under IPC Sections 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery), and 471 (using forged documents as genuine). However, the petitioners moved the Karnataka High Court in 2022, securing an interim order that stalled the investigation. The petitioners argued that the complaint and subsequent FIR were baseless, motivated, and intended to harass them. They alleged that Nagaraj was acting out of personal vendetta, claiming that his daughter had applied to join the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in 2020 but was not selected after the evaluation process. Vimal Kumar, a coach at the academy, was named in the complaint. Justice M G Uma, while dismissing the petitions, observed that the petitioners' counsel did not present arguments despite being given sufficient opportunities. The judge also refused a request for more time. "When prima facie materials are placed on record that constitute the offenses, I do not find any reason to stall the investigation.



## 1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

## 'WELCOME VERDICT, BUT WANT DEATH SENTENCE': 1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS SURVIVORS, KIN ON SAJJAN KUMAR'S LIFE TERM

**Diary Times Desk :** While the victims, kin of slain persons and members of the community welcomed the life term awarded to Sajjan Kumar in a murder case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots on Tuesday, they advocated capital punishment for the former legislator.

A special court, saying the case did not fall in the "rarest of rare" category, handed out life term to Kumar for the murders of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh on November 1, 1984. Jaswant's wife, who is the complainant in the case, and the state had sought death penalty for Kumar.

The offence of murder entails a minimum of life term in jail and death sentence as the maximum punishment. Jagdeep Singh Kahlon, general secretary of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the judges for "ensuring justice".

"The Saraswati Vihar case was reopened multiple times, giving us hope that one-day justice would be served. Finally, today, the hearing was conducted with fairness, and the culprits responsible for the killing of Jaswant Singh and Tarundeep Singh have been punished," Singh said. He added, "Although we demanded the death penalty for Sajjan Kumar, we accept the court's verdict."

Kuljeet Kaur, a survivor of the anti-Sikh riots, recalled her ordeal. "We can never forget how our fathers and brothers were killed before our eyes. Kumar was already serving a life sentence in the Palam case, and this time, we wanted the death penalty for him," she said. Gurlad Singh, who was leading the protest outside the Rouse Avenue district courts premises before the verdict, urged the government to challenge the order before a higher court to enhance the punishment to death sentence.

"We will not accept anything less than the death penalty. We are not happy with the verdict of the court. We will appeal to the government to go to a higher court," Singh said, terming the offence a "pre-planned genocide". Another riots' survivor, speaking to PTI, said while they accepted the court's judgment and appreciated the judiciary for delivering justice after 40 years, their fight was not over.



**STALIN CONVENES ALL-PARTY MEET ON MARCH 5 TO DISCUSS LOK SABHA DELIMITATION**

**Diary Times Desk :** Tamil Nadu Chief minister M K Stalin on Tuesday called all registered political parties for a meeting on March 5 in Chennai to discuss the impending issue of Lok Sabha seat delimitation. Speaking to reporters after a state cabinet meeting, Stalin said Tamil Nadu faced the threat of losing eight seats should the delimitation happen. "The state has successfully implemented the family planning programme which has led to population control," he said. The ruling DMK had earlier in its Lok Sabha manifesto made the important political point on behalf of all southern states by pledging a status quo on Lok Sabha seats despite the next delimitation exercise, scheduled after the 18th Lok Sabha poll. Promising a population and caste survey every five years, the DMK manifesto said, "The successful implementation of Centre's family planning programme by Tamil Nadu led to a decrease in population, resulting in the reduction of parliamentary constituencies from 41 to 39 during the constituency delimitation in 1971. Based on the amended law in 2002, the Union Government decided to maintain the number of constituencies at the previous level due to the insistence of states and the number of constituencies remains the same ever since. The DMK assures that this status will continue during the upcoming constituency delimitation as well."



**NEXT MAHA KUMBH ON SAND AS RIVERS MAY DRY UP: SONAM WANGCHUK IN LETTER TO PM**

**Diary Times Desk :** Fresh from his tour to the US where he carried a piece of ice from a glacier in Ladakh to flag their fast melting, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has written an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that India should take a lead in addressing the issue. Drawing attention to the gravity of the situation in the Himalayas, Wangchuk told a press conference in the capital that if steps are not taken to restore these glaciers which are the source of perennial rivers, the next Maha Kumbh after 144 years may be held on sand as the rivers may dry up. Wangchuk, who has been working on preserving Himalayan glaciers, travelled from Ladakh to Delhi, and then to the US with a piece of ice from a glacier in Khardung La. The ice was placed in a container wrapped in Ladakh's iconic Pashmina wool for insulation. The ice was taken to the UN office in Delhi, before he flew to the US where it travelled along with the climate activist.

**'CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES' MAY SEE BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF YAMUNA CLEANING PLANS: SC**



**Diary Times Desk :** As the national capital witnessed installation of a new dispensation following the recent assembly election, the Supreme Court on Tuesday noted that there might be better implementation of plans for cleaning of the Yamuna in view of the "changed circumstances". "Now, with changed circumstances, there will be a better implementation of plans," a Bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih said while hearing a 2021 suo motu case on 'Remediation of polluted rivers' in which it's also dealing with cleaning of the Yamuna. It intends to check unabated flow of effluents into the Yamuna, making its water toxic. The top court's observation came barely five days after the BJP formed a government in the national capital, unseating the Aam Aadmi Party which ruled Delhi for more than a decade. Due to the AAP government's constant bickering with the Lt Governor and the Central government, various projects would often get mired in controversy and litigation. However, the top court hinted that "changed circumstances" may lead to smoother implementation of plans such as cleaning of the Yamuna.

**YOGI MUST PAY PROMISED COMPENSATION TO FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED DURING MAHA KUMBH: MAMATA**

**Diary Times Desk :** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that many people lost their lives during the ongoing Kumbh Mela and demanded that the Uttar Pradesh government, led by Yogi Adityanath, immediately release the promised compensation announced for the families of the victims. She also questioned claims that this year's Maha Kumbh Mela is taking place after a gap of 144 years, urging experts to verify the accuracy of this assertion. "It would be my demand to the UP government, to CM Yogi Adityanath, that since they have announced ex gratia for the families of those killed in Kumbh Mela, they must immediately release the amounts to them," Banerjee told reporters at the state secretariat here. "There are many (Kumbh pilgrims) who have died in accidents, or while attempting to board trains and they all should be compensated," she said. The UP government had announced a compensation of Rs 25 lakh each for the families of people who lost their lives during the Kumbh Mela.



**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
 26-02-2025

<p><b>Aries</b>                  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><b>Taurus</b>                  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><b>Gemini</b>                  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><b>Cancer</b>                  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><b>Leo</b>                  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><b>Virgo</b>                  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><b>Libra</b>                  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><b>Scorpio</b>                  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><b>Sagittarius</b>                  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><b>Capricorn</b>                  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><b>Aquarius</b>                  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><b>Pisces</b>                  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>





## HIMACHAL NEWS: DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MUKESH AGNIHOTRI SAID- TENDERS WILL BE ISSUED NEXT MONTH FOR THE BULK DRUG PARK PROJECT

**Diary Times Desk :** Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that the Bulk Drug Park project will prove to be a milestone in the economic scenario of the state in the direction of industrial development. Addressing the annual function of Beaton College, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the project to be built in 1405 acres of area at a cost of Rs 2000 crore will provide employment to thousands of youth. The Central and Himachal governments are investing Rs 1000 crore each in it. He said that tenders worth Rs 800 crore will be issued from next month, which will accelerate the infrastructural construction work of the project. The Deputy Chief Minister said that strict action will be taken against those involved in the drug trade. He said that the government has adopted a zero tolerance policy against chitta.



## HIMACHAL NEWS: INDUSTRIES CAN GET RELIEF FROM STRICT PROVISIONS OF FIRE NOC, CHIEF SECRETARY ASSURED

**Diary Times Desk :** Industries in the state may get relief from the stringent conditions of fire NOC. During the annual convention of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena has assured relief on the request of industrialists. A decision will be taken in the meeting to be held in March. The Chief Secretary has also directed Additional Chief Secretary RD Nazim to mediate to resolve the problems of industrialists. CII representatives say that the government has implemented the same rule for all categories of industries for fire NOC. Under MSME, the same standard has been fixed for micro, small and medium enterprises. It has been made mandatory for industries to build a water tank of one lakh liters. It is difficult to build such tanks in a plot of 500 or 1000 square meters. There is a provision to categorize buildings under the National Building Code.

## CM SUKHU TOOK A DIP IN MAHA KUMBH WITH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER, LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR TOOK A JIBE

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that Maha Kumbh is a symbol of our culture and is the center of faith. This is not from today. If we turn the pages of history and look into the past, our culture and traditions are already famous in the world. Hindustan's culture and Hinduism are already world famous. CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said this while talking to journalists during Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. On Tuesday, CM Sukhu took a holy dip in Prayagraj along with his wife Kamlesh Thakur and daughter. He said that taking a dip in Maha Kumbh is a very good feeling. It is a confluence of faith and belief. He said - We respect all religions. He is happy that he has got a chance to take a dip in Maha Kumbh along with his family. They are all feeling happy. Chief Media Advisor to Chief Minister Naresh Chauhan, his daughter, Chief Minister's political advisor Sunil Sharma Bittu were also present with him. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur has taken a jibe at Chief Minister Sukhu's visit to Prayagraj. He said that the whole world is reaching Prayagraj to take the holy bath of Maha Kumbh, while CM Sukhu has now remembered to go to Prayagraj. Now someone must have guided him.

## SHIMLA: HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY'S LOCAL FUND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REACHED MEGHALAYA ON A STUDY TOUR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Local Fund Accounts Committee of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly reached Meghalaya while taking forward its study tour programme. It is worth mentioning that the committee will be on a study tour of seven states from 20 February to 1 March. The committee met Deputy Speaker of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Timothy D Shira in his office room. On this occasion, Commissioner and Secretary of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Dr. Andrew Simmons and Secretary Malthus S. Sangma were also present. Apart from Hon'ble Chairman Sanjay Ratna, the committee includes members Kuldeep Singh Rathore, Prakash Rana, Vivek Sharma, Lokendra Kumar and Sudarshan Singh, while Committee Officer Rakesh Thakur and Reporter Divesh Thakur are also included in the study tour to assist the committee. On this occasion, the committee visited the Legislative Assembly building in Meghalaya.

## HIMACHAL: MONEY SHOWER ON PLAYERS, NHPC WILL GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH THOUSANDS EVERY MONTH; 16 SPORTS INCLUDED IN THE SCHOLARSHIP LIST

**Diary Times Desk :** NHPC will provide scholarships to talented youth in 16 sports under the Sports Scholarship Scheme. Online applications are invited from eligible applicants for Football, Kabaddi, Hockey, Boxing, Archery, Athletics, Shooting, Cricket, Swimming, Wrestling, Volleyball, Bridge, Table Tennis, Chess, Badminton and Para Sports. The aim of this scholarship is to encourage the talent of young sportspersons in the age group of 14 to 19 years (14 to 24 years for Para Sports) and prepare them for sports during the early years of education. A maximum of 32 scholarships will be awarded in the above 16 sports. Scholarships will be awarded in two categories Elite Scholar and Scholar on applications fulfilling the requisite criteria. This scholarship will be awarded for a period of three years. Elite Scholar will be awarded a scholarship of Rs. 12,000 per month in the first year, Rs. 13,000 in the second year and Rs. 14,000 in the third year. The scholar will get a scholarship of Rs 9,000 in the first year, Rs 10,000 in the second year and Rs 11,000 per month in the third year. Apart from this, some other benefits will also.

## JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- AFTER TAXIS, PREPARATIONS ARE ON TO INCREASE BUS FARES, GOVERNMENT IS CHEATING THE PUBLIC

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the government has increased the fare of taxis by fifty percent. This decision is against the common man, after this the government has now prepared to increase the fare of buses as well. Its proposal has come in the recently concluded meeting of the Board of Directors. HRTC is the common man's ride. Only the common man travels in HRTC. Ever since the new government has come to power, every day HRTC is in the news due to its anti-people decisions. Every day some or the other decision is being taken by the government which is not beneficial for the common people of Himachal Pradesh. The government is working to suppress the people of the state with the burden of fare. Therefore, the government should withdraw this decision. The Leader of Opposition said that according to the news published in the newspapers, 'In the meeting of the Board of Directors of HRTC held in Shimla last Saturday, it has been decided that the minimum fare of buses will be doubled from five rupees to 10 rupees. Apart from this, a demand for increase of 15 percent in the fare per kilometer will also be made.

## SHOCK TO PASSENGERS: HRTC INCREASED THE FARE OF TAXIS IN SHIMLA, NOW IT WILL COST THIS MUCH

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) has shocked the passengers by increasing the fare of its taxis plying in and around Shimla city. In the meeting of the Board of Directors of HRTC held on February 22, it has been decided to revise the fare of HRTC Innova taxis (Ride with Pride) plying in and around Shimla city. Now, regarding this decision, the HRTC management has written a letter to RTO Shimla and informed them. According to this decision, the Board of Directors has approved an increase of Rs 10 in each fare slab. The fare charges for senior citizens will remain unchanged in each slab. The fare of taxis plying on Sanjauli-IGMC for patients will also remain the same. Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) has shocked the passengers by increasing the fare of its taxis plying in and around Shimla city. In the meeting of the Board of Directors of HRTC held on February 22, it has been decided to revise the fare of HRTC Innova taxis (Ride with Pride).

## CAG REPORT TABLED IN DELHI ASSEMBLY, 15 AAP MLAS SUSPENDED AMID UPROAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Fifteen Aam Aadmi Party MLAs - including ex-Chief Minister Atishi, who is now Leader of the Opposition - were suspended from the Delhi Assembly, for the day, Tuesday morning in a face-off with the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party over an auditor's report into the alleged liquor policy scam. Senior AAP leader Gopal Rai, one of the few high-profile figures to avoid defeat in the February 5 election (party boss Arvind Kejriwal was not so lucky), was also ejected from the Assembly. The House session was then extended by two days. Tabled today, the report by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, or CAG, is one of over a dozen alleging corruption by the AAP, which ruled Delhi till the BJP's election win this month. Another investigates the 'sheeshmahal' scam, i.e., claims taxpayers' money was used to refurbish - with luxury fittings - the bungalow Mr Kejriwal occupied when he was Chief Minister. This report has not been tabled as yet. These allegations have dogged the AAP and Mr Kejriwal - who was jailed for several months, as was his former deputy, Manish Sisodia - in the build-up to the election in which the party was eventually thumped; the BJP won 48 of Delhi's 70 seats, 37 more than it won in the past two elections combined.

## HE WENT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE IN KERALA, KILLED 5, INCLUDING TEEN BROTHER

**Diary Times Desk :** A 23-year-old walked into a police station in a suburb of Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram on Monday and made a confession that sent the force into a tizzy. Affan told the cops that he had killed six people, including his mother, grandmother, girlfriend and 13-year-old brother. As the police began investigating, they found that Affan had indeed brutally attacked six people, but his mother - a cancer patient - had survived. She has been admitted to a hospital, where her condition is said to be critical. Police officials said Affan travelled to three houses in Venjaramoodu to carry out the brutal murders and has been changing his statements frequently. "Affan keeps saying that his father, who owns a shop in Dubai, had run up a debt of Rs 75 lakh and he was also in financial trouble because of this. He said no one agreed to help him, but it is not clear how his girlfriend fits into that picture," said an official. Police said Affan first attacked his mother and girlfriend, who was also at his home, with a sharp object and then killed his 13-year-old brother with a hammer.

## "GIVE PROOF": CONGRESS' HEATED EXCHANGE WITH PREITY ZINTA OVER LOAN CLAIM



**Diary Times Desk :** Congress' Kerala unit urged actor Preity Zinta to present proof to refute reports that she "gave her social media accounts to the BJP" to get a Rs 18 crore loan written of, while also asking her to raise her voice for depositors who lost money. In a post on X, the Congress' Kerala unit said "depositors are on the streets for their money" after the Reserve Bank of India dissolved the New India Co-operative Bank's board on February 15 amid reports of financial irregularities. Their post referred to a report about a Rs 18 crore loan to Preity Zinta and others being written off by the bank. The actor was quick to call out the X post as "vile gossip" and "clickbait", adding that she had fully paid back the loan a decade ago. In further development in the exchange between the party and the actor, the party asked her for proof that she has paid off the loan. "We are standing with the depositors who lost their savings," the party's X post mentioned. Elaborating on the matter, the party said that media outlets claimed that former employees of the bank had first warned the RBI in 2020 about ongoing corrupt practices, which also included her Ms Zinta's name.

## 'SHARAB KA DALAL': BJP'S SCATHING ATTACK ON ARVIND KEJRIWAL OVER CAG REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Hours after Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta tabled the CAG audit report of the national capital's liquor sector, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday launched a vitriolic attack on Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal as it called him "sharab ka dalal (the broker of liquor)". Delhi BJP chief Virendraa Sachdeva said the CAG report was a list of the Aam Aadmi Party's "black deeds". "Today the CAG report was tabled by Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta. The CAG report is a list of the black deeds of AAP. Throughout the election campaign, we said that 'Delhi mai koi sharab ka dalal hai vo Kejriwal hai'. We had promised the people of Delhi during the elections that whoever has committed corruption will have to answer," Sachdeva was quoted as saying by news agency ANI. Bharatiya Janata Party leader Manoj Tiwari accused Arvind Kejriwal of using his power to prevent the CAG report.

## MAN PICKED UP BY UP COPS SANS INTIMATION TO DELHI POLICE: HC SEEKS REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** The Delhi High Court has directed the Greater Noida police commissioner to file a report for arresting a person in the national capital without informing Delhi police and said inter-state arrests couldn't be effected without following the proper protocol. A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Dharmesh Sharma underlined the need to ensure the prescribed protocol for inter-state arrests was followed by UP Police. Saying the incident was cause of concern, the court sought the stands of UP Police and Delhi police on the allegation and said UP Police entered the capital and picked up its resident without any intimation to Delhi Police, without adhering to the prescribed protocol. The police commissioner was ordered to inquire into the matter and inform the court about the police officials who held the Delhi resident aside from the nature of the vehicle he was picked up in. The petitioner was allegedly intercepted on February 18 from Connaught Place in Delhi by UP Police without any prior information to the local police and taken to an unknown location.

## VIDEOS OF WOMEN DANCING WITH 3 PISTOLS, RIFLE IN BIHAR VIRAL, COPS TAKE NOTE

**Diary Times Desk :** Videos which are going viral on social media show two women dancing with guns in Bihar. While one of the women has a pistol in her hand and another pistol and country made pistol tucked in the waistband of her skirt, the other can be seen dancing with a rifle. Police said they have taken note of the incident and are investigating. Officials said the videos are from Ramchandrapur village of Daraudha police station area of Siwan district. Dancers had been called for the tilak ceremony (a pre-wedding ritual) of one Chandan Kumar, a resident of the area. Videos show one of the women flaunting a pistol and pulling out another from her waistband, which is snatched away. She then takes out a country-made pistol before dancing with both guns. In the other video, a woman poses and dances with a rifle before pointing it straight at the camera. Sub-Divisional Police Officer Rakesh Kumar Ranjan said information has been received about the videos and the matter is being investigated.

## AFTER ROW OVER SHASHI THAROOR REMARKS, CONGRESS IN KERALA PLANS BIG MEETING

**Diary Times Desk :** The Congress in Kerala - back in the news again over its row with senior leader Shashi Tharoor - has started damage control measures, starting with a meeting. Senior leaders of the party are expected to meet on Friday. While the agenda is the state election, the row over Mr Tharoor and the importance of speaking in one voice will definitely feature, sources indicated. Sources said the Congress leaders in Kerala have consciously decided not to respond to Mr Tharoor or his remarks. Responding would turn it into friendly fire - a situation the party is trying to avoid in view of the state assembly election scheduled later this year. The focus, sources said, should be against the CPM and its government and the BJP . They also added that they have dropped the matter after Mr Tharoor's meeting with Rahul Gandhi on February 19. The interview Mr Tharoor gave to a daily was before he met Mr Gandhi.





## "WAR COULD END BY...": TRUMP HINTS ZELENSKY IS READY TO SIGN MINERALS DEAL

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has invited his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky for a meeting in Washington to sign a deal on critical minerals and suggested that the war between Russia and Ukraine could end "within weeks". The American President also claimed that Russian President Vladimir Putin had "no problem" with European peacekeeping troops in his country, saying Kermelin does not want "more war." "I will be meeting with President Zelensky. In fact, he may come in this week or next week to sign the agreement," Trump told reporters from the Oval Office on Monday. President Trump's comments came during a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, which happened days after the American leader suggested Zelensky did not need to be part of negotiations about ending the war in Ukraine. This came after Trump last week branded the Ukrainian a "dictator" following US-Russia talks in Saudi Arabia from which Kyiv was excluded. On talks with Ukraine about gaining access to the country's critical minerals, Trump said, "They're very close to a final deal."

## 'GOOD IDEA': VLADIMIR PUTIN BACKS TRUMP'S PROPOSAL TO SLASH DEFENCE BUDGETS

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday backed a suggestion by US counterpart Donald Trump for Russia, the United States and China to all cut their defence budgets in half. "I think it's a good idea. The US would cut by 50 per cent and we would cut by 50 per cent and then China would join if it wanted," Putin said in a televised interview. Russia has massively ramped up military spending since launching its offensive in Ukraine in 2022, boosting economic growth but also inflation. Vladimir Putin said last year that by 2024 defence and security spending would reach about 8.7 per cent of the GDP. He said Monday he could not speak for China but that Russia "could come to an agreement with the US (on cutting spending), we're not against it." "We think it's a good proposal and we are ready for a discussion about this," he concluded. Russia has massively ramped up military spending since launching its offensive.

## NEW SEARCH BEGINS FOR MH370 PLANE, MISSING SINCE 11 YEARS



**Diary Times Desk :** Malaysian transport minister Anthony Loke on Tuesday said that maritime exploration firm Ocean Infinity has resumed the search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, after 10 years of its disappearance in what came to be known as one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries. A Boeing 777, flight MH370 with 227 passengers and 12 crew members on board, vanished while en route to China's Beijing from Kuala Lumpur on March 8, 2014. Loke told reporters that contract details Malaysia and the firm were still being finalised. But, he welcomed Ocean Infinity's "proactiveness" to deploy their ships to search for the missing plane. However, the transport minister did not provide details on when exactly did the British maritime exploration firm began its hunt. He noted that terms of how long would this search last have also not been negotiated yet.

## FAR-RIGHT'S AGENDA GETS MAINSTREAMED IN BERLIN

**Diary Times Desk :** The results of the German elections largely aligned with the opinion polls. This election saw a voter turnout of 83.5%, the highest since German reunification in 1990. Such a turnout typically signals a vote against incumbency, and this election was no exception. The centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), in coalition with the Christian Social Union (CSU) of Bavaria, emerged as the largest political force, securing 28.5% of the vote, a 4% increase since 2021. The biggest winner of this election has been the right-wing populist party, Alternative for Germany (AfD), which secured 20.8% of the vote, a significant jump from the 10.4% in the previous elections. This makes the AfD the second-largest party in the Bundestag, a remarkable shift in Germany's political landscape. The ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD), of outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz, garnered only 16.4% of the vote, marking its worst performance in a national election.

## AI VIDEO OF DONALD TRUMP LICKING ELON MUSK'S FEET PLAYED ON TV INSIDE FEDERAL OFFICE: WATCH

**Diary Times Desk :** Employees arriving at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on Monday morning with a motivation to "ensure Americans have access to fair, affordable housing, and opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency, thereby strengthening [the] nation" were met with a quite unusual sight—office televisions displaying an AI-generated video featuring former President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk. The video, which showed Trump sucking Musk's toes, with the text: "LONG LIVE THE REAL KING." The video was apparently a reference to Trump's Truth Social post, posted last week. Trump captioned his post, "Long Live the King!" Kasey Lovett, a department spokesperson, told Business Insider, "Another waste of taxpayer dollars and resources. Appropriate action will be taken for all involved." One HUD employee noted that the video had already been removed from the monitors by the time they arrived, just before 9 a.m. Multiple reports confirm that the video was indeed displayed at HUD's office.

## NYC ENDS \$220M MIGRANT DEAL WITH PAKISTAN, SHUTS DOWN ROOSEVELT HOTEL CENTER

**Diary Times Desk :** New York City is ending its \$220 million lease agreement with the Pakistan-owned Roosevelt Hotel, which had been serving as a migrant shelter, following intense criticism from MAGA conservatives over the use of American taxpayer money to house asylum seekers. Facing pressure from both the federal government and right-wing hardliners, Mayor Eric Adams announced the closure of the facility. The historic Manhattan hotel, which was converted into an emergency shelter, reportedly housed tens of thousands of migrants across its 1,025 rooms at an estimated cost of \$200 per night. The city saw a sharp decline in weekly migrant arrivals, dropping from 4,000 at the peak of the crisis in 2023 to approximately 350 now. The Roosevelt Hotel, owned by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and leased to NYC for three years in a \$220 million deal, served as a key processing center, handling around 75% of the migrants who arrived in the city. Mayor Eric Adams credited the closure to the administration's successful emergency response and policy decisions, stating that it will help the city save millions of taxpayer dollars. The deal with the Pakistani government.

## TALIBAN CONFIRMS ARREST OF UK COUPLE, CHINESE-AMERICAN AMID CALLS FOR RELEASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Taliban on Monday announced that they have detained two British citizens, a Chinese-American, and their Afghan translator in the central province of Bamiyan. The arrest of the group, which was confirmed by the Afghan Interior Ministry, has sparked calls for the immediate release of the detainees, particularly from the family of the British couple. "Based on certain considerations, the authorities have detained four people: two British citizens holding Afghan papers, one person with Chinese and American nationality and their translator," Abdul Mateen Qani, spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, told AFP. "Efforts are underway to resolve this issue," Qani said shortly after the daughter of the two Britons -- Peter and Barbie Reynolds, called on London to secure her parents' release. The couple had been running training programs in Afghanistan for years. The four adult children of Peter and Barbie Reynolds said their parents have lived in Afghanistan for 18 years, remaining after the Taliban toppled the Western-backed government in 2021.



## PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA: MLAS UNITE TO REJECT DRAFT NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY OF CENTRE

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann led the charge against the Centre on Tuesday over the latter's alleged anti-farmer policies, during the discussion on the Resolution brought by the state's Aam Aadmi Party government to reject the Draft National Policy on Agriculture Marketing. The policy was unanimously rejected by the House in the Vidhan Sabha, with MLAs from across all parties rejecting it. The two BJP MLAs, Ashwani Sharma and Jangli Lal Mahajan, were not present during the two-hour discussion on the policy. While rejecting the policy, MLAs from both Treasury and Opposition benches said that bringing a policy on agriculture marketing, which is a state subject, is an interference by the Centre and against the spirit of the Constitution. The draft policy has also been rejected by the Vidhan Sabha members, saying that the broad spirit of the Policy is to promote private markets and to significantly dilute the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Markets, so as to eventually make them irrelevant.



## 47-YEAR-OLD MAN UNDERGOES KIDNEY TRANSPLANT, LIVES WITH 5 KIDNEYS

**Diary Times Desk** : A 47-year-old man has undergone a rare third kidney transplant at a private hospital here, leaving him with a total of five kidneys in his body. A surgery was performed at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad, on Devendra Barlewar, who had been battling chronic kidney disease for 15 years and had undergone two failed transplants in 2010 and 2012. Dr Ahmed Kamaal, senior consultant, Urology, said the patient's condition worsened after Covid-19 complications in 2022. However, when a 50-year-old brain-dead farmer's family decided to donate his kidneys, hope emerged for Barlewar. The four-hour-long surgery, conducted last month, posed significant medical challenges due to the presence of four non-functioning kidneys -- two native and two previously transplanted ones, Kamaal said in a statement. He explained that the multiple existing kidneys increased the risk of immune rejection, requiring specialised immunosuppression protocols before the procedure. Dr Anil Sharma, senior consultant, Urology, highlighted the surgical complexities, saying, "We faced space constraints due to the patient's thin build and an existing incisional hernia."

## BOGIE OF PASSENGER TRAIN DERAILS IN HARYANA'S NILOKHERI, ALL PASSENGERS SAFE

**Diary Times Desk** : The bogie of a passenger train derailed at Nilokheri in Haryana's Karnal district on Tuesday though all the passengers were reported safe, officials said. The passenger train was headed from Kurukshetra to Delhi when the incident took place, a Government Railway Police (GRP) official said over phone from Karnal, adding that no report of injury to passengers has been received. "When the train travelled barely 100 metres after halting at the Nilokheri railway station, a wheel of the fourth bogie from the rear came off the tracks. The train was stopped immediately," the GRP official said. When asked what could be the reason behind the incident, the official said, "It could be a technical issue. The technical team of the Railways will be able to tell the exact cause after a probe." Rail traffic on the affected line has been impacted by the incident, which would be restored soon, he added. The passenger train was headed from Kurukshetra to Delhi.

## CHANDIGARH COURT ANNULS DUBAI DIVORCE RULING UNDER SHARIA LAW

**Diary Times Desk** : A Chandigarh court has declared a divorce decree passed by a Dubai court under Sharia law null and void, stating that marriages solemnised in India under Indian laws cannot be dissolved by foreign courts in a manner contrary to Indian matrimonial statutes. The court's decision was based on the grounds that the divorce decree violates Indian public policy, undermining the sanctity of marriage, which is protected under Indian law. The husband, a permanent resident of Chandigarh, had filed a suit claiming that the Dubai court's decision was against the principles of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, as Islamic Sharia law is not applicable to them. The court relied on a Supreme Court judgment, which states that marriages solemnised in India under Indian laws cannot be dissolved by foreign courts in a manner contrary to Indian matrimonial statutes. The court also noted that the defendant wife did not appear in court to rebut the evidence presented by the plaintiff.

## CHANDIGARH GETS 40 SPECIAL EDUCATORS IN FIRST-EVER REGULAR RECRUITMENT

**Diary Times Desk** : With an aim to promote and celebrate inclusive education, Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria distributed appointment letters to newly recruited special educators. As many as 22 TGT and 18 JBT cadre special educators were given appointment letters today. The posts had been created by the Government of India in 2019. Held under the aegis of the School Education Department, which has made regular appointments for special educators for the first time, the ceremony was a part of the "Samavesh Utsav" organised at Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 35. Special aids, appliances and TLM kits, made available by ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), were given to 75 students. Special athletes were also felicitated by the chief guest during the event.

## DELHI COURT AWARDS LIFE IMPRISONMENT TO SAJJAN KUMAR IN ANTI-SIKH RIOTS CASE

**Diary Times Desk** : A Delhi court on Tuesday awarded life imprisonment to former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar—who was held guilty of murder of a father-son duo in Saraswati Vihar area of the national capital during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Despite vehement demands from the prosecution and the victim's family to award the death penalty to Kumar, Special Judge Kaveri Baweja spared him the gallows in view of his old age, ailments and good conduct while serving life term in another anti-Sikh riots case. "Though the killing of two innocent persons in the present case is no less an offence, the circumstances, in my opinion, do not make this a 'rarest of rare case' warranting imposition of death penalty for the offence punishable under Section 302 r/w Section 149 IPC," Baweja said in her order. Noting that the offences proved to have been committed by Kumar were "undoubtedly brutal and reprehensible", the Special Judge said there were certain mitigating factors which weighed in favour of imposing a lesser sentence, instead of the death penalty.

## PANEL FORMED TO REVIEW ABSENT MPS' LEAVE, HC ADJOURNS AMRITPAL'S PLEA

**Diary Times Desk** : The Centre has informed the Punjab and Haryana High Court that a 15-member committee, headed by Biplab Kumar Deb, has been constituted by the Lok Sabha Speaker to examine leave applications of all absent Members of Parliament, including Amritpal Singh. During the resumed hearing of Amritpal's petition, Additional Solicitor General Satya Pal Jain, accompanied by advocate Dheeraj Jain, told a Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel that the committee, formed on Monday, would review the cases of all such MPs. Meanwhile, Amritpal's counsel, R S Bains, could not appear before the court and sought time for arguments. Taking the Centre's statement on record, the High Court adjourned the matter to next week. 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. In his petition, he has sought permission to attend Parliamentary sessions, arguing that his prolonged absence violates his constitutional rights and leaves his constituency unrepresented. He has also pointed out that an absence exceeding 60 days could result in his seat being declared vacant, affecting nearly 19 lakh constituents. Singh has further requested authorization to meet officials and ministers regarding the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to address.



## HIGHEST IN 2024, HIMACHAL SEX RATIO AT BIRTH TOUCHES 964

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal has logged its highest sex ratio at birth (SRB) in 2024 over the past 30 years. As per the data from the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the SRB touched 964 last year, up from 947 in 2023. Until now, the highest SRB in the state was recorded in 2021 at 949 since 1993. "It's the result of combined efforts of various departments and various schemes like Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao, Shagun Yojana, etc," said Dr Parkash Chand Daroch, Director, Health Services. As per the Health Management Information System (HMIS) report 2021-22, the average national SRB was 934. As per the data, the state had recorded the lowest SRB in 2001 when it had slipped down to 856. Thereafter, the SRB has seen a gradual improvement, barring a few slips in some years. Since 2015 onwards, when the birth and death registration was made online, there has been a steady improvement in the SRB, barring a minor dip in 2019 and 2022.

## ADARSH SWASTHYA SANSTHANS TO GET LATEST EQUIPMENT: MINISTER

**Diary Times Desk :** The state government has granted approval for floating rate contract tenders to equip Adarsh Swasthya Sansthan with all necessary machines and equipment of global standards. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dhani Ram Shandil chaired a meeting of the high-powered purchase committee held here today and gave nod to floating the tenders. The minister said that the state government was dedicated to the welfare of the citizens of the state and providing state-of-the-art healthcare was one of its top priorities. "Since day one, we are working to make quality healthcare accessible to everyone on his doorsteps and for this, we are opening 69 model health institutions, one each in every Assembly constituency of the state and two in Lahaul and Spiti," he said. The minister said that the committee gave approval for opening a bid for providing CT-scan services in the public private partnership mode in government-run health.

## INDIA'S TECH SECTOR EXPECTED TO GROW TO \$350 BN BY 2030: RAJNATH AT IIT-MANDI

**Diary Times Desk :** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that India's technological sector was witnessing rapid expansion and it was projected to reach \$300 billion to \$350 billion in the next five years, making it a major player in the global tech landscape. Rajnath, while speaking at the 16th Foundation Day of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, emphasised the nation's growing prominence in technological advancements and innovation. He said, "India's emergence as the third largest startup ecosystem globally, with over 1.25 lakh startups and 110 unicorns, highlights its robust entrepreneurial spirit." He exhorted students to make good use of this period of growth and actively contribute to India's technological progress while aiming for leadership in global research and development. Rajnath focused on national security and outlined the IIT-Mandi's critical role in advancing defence technologies. He lauded its collaborations with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and called for further involvement in AI-driven warfare, indigenous AI chip development, cyber security and quantum technology.



## MINOR GIRL'S DEATH IN BADDI FACTORY ACCIDENT SPARKS OUTRAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** A 14-year-old girl, Muskan, lost her life in a tragic accident at Jainsons Appliances in Bhatoli Kalan village, Baddi, after her hair got entangled in a machine. The incident has sparked outrage among workers, who are demanding action against the management for hiring minor girls. According to Additional SP Baddi Ashok Verma, a case of causing death due to negligence has been registered against the management. The company claimed that Muskan had joined only two days ago, but her mother, Rajwanti, revealed that she had been working there for a month. Muskan was assigned to place boxes on a conveyor belt, despite being supposed to work in the safer packaging section. Another minor girl, Nisha (15), who works in the same company, reported that Muskan's dupatta first got stuck in the conveyor belt, and then her hair got entangled, leading to her death. The incident has raised questions about the labour department's functioning, as minors have been employed in the company in violation of norms.irate workers protested outside the unit, demanding action against the management for hiring minor girls. A 14-year-old girl, Muskan, lost her life in a tragic accident at Jainsons Appliances in Bhatoli Kalan village, Baddi.

## 54 ARNI VARSITY STUDENTS AWARDED DEGREES

**Diary Times Desk :** Technical Education and Town and Country Planning Minister Rajesh Dharmani today awarded degrees to 54 students at Arni University in the Indora Assembly constituency of Kangra district. He awarded degrees to nine PhD, 29 postgraduates, 11 graduates and five diploma holders while presiding over the fourth convocation of the university. In his keynote address, Dharmani felicitated the pass-outs and extended his wishes for their good future. He said this day was of special significance for students as it marked an important stage of their education journey. He appreciated the contribution of parents and teachers, saying that now students are coming out of the protected environment that was created for them and they are ready to face the challenges of real life. "Your real-life journey is now starting and the time has come to implement the knowledge you have received in the classrooms," he said. He advised students to maintain confidence and said it was necessary to maintain self-confidence while facing difficulties. He said a degree is not only a guarantee of success, but to achieve success it is necessary to learn continuously, update knowledge.

## FINISH FORMALITIES FOR SETTING UP VIEWING DECK IN HASAN VALLEY: AGNIHOTRI

**Diary Times Desk :** Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today directed officials concerned to complete the formalities for setting up a viewing deck in the Hasan valley in Shimla district at a cost of Rs 18 crore. Agnihotri presided over a meeting to review the progress made on the project for setting up a glass viewing deck in the Hassan valley near Dhalli, on the outskirts of the capital city. The meeting was told that a detailed project report (DPR) of Rs18 crore was in the final stage of preparation and comprised around a 600 sq m of glass viewing deck, which would be suspended on nine ropes from the hillside and would accommodate around 700 to 800 persons at a time. It was pointed out at the meeting that the project needed diversion of forestland as it was being set up in the Hasan valley, which is a declared wildlife sanctuary area. Agnihotri directed the officials concerned to complete the DPR of the project within the next 10 days and submit it to the Director (Tourism) for administrative approval, expenditure sanction and allocation of funds. He also directed the authorities concerned to prepare and follow up on forest clearances for the diversion of forestland as the project had the potential of emerging as a major attraction for the people of the state and tourists as well.



## AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AFRICA SHARE POINTS AFTER RELENTLESS RAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** The much-anticipated first ever Champions Trophy fixture between Australia and South Africa never got underway as relentless rain forced a washout on Tuesday (February 25) in Rawalpindi. The game, which pitted two batting heavyweights on a good surface, didn't even have room for a T20 contest with the cut-off time being 07:32 PM local time. As a result, both teams were forced to share the spoils and are now on top of Group B with three points each. Australia had chased down a tournament record score to defeat England in their first game and South Africa brushed aside Afghanistan to kickstart their campaign with a win. While the semifinalists from Group A have been decided already, the remaining fixtures from Group B are now crucial in determining the rest of the semifinalists. All four teams currently remain in contention despite the fact that South Africa and Australia have surged ahead. The loser of tomorrow's contest between England and Afghanistan will be eliminated. The final round of fixtures from this group will see two-time winners Australia take on Afghanistan and inaugural champions South Africa face England.



## VIDARBHA RETAIN 17-MEMBER SQUAD FOR RANJI TROPHY FINAL AGAINST KERALA

**Diary Times Desk :** Vidarbha on Monday retained their 17-member squad to take on Kerala in the final of the Ranji Trophy which will be played at the VCA Stadium in Jamtha from Wednesday. "VCA's senior selection committee, which met on Monday, decided to retain the same squad that did duty in the semi-final against Mumbai. Akshay Wadkar will lead the side," the Vidarbha Cricket Association said on Monday. Vidarbha, who have remained unbeaten in the premier domestic competition this season, qualified for the summit clash after a commanding 80-run win over defending champions Mumbai. It was a repeat of last year's final in which Mumbai had clinched their 42nd title after defeating the two-time winners Vidarbha. Kerala, on the other hand, will make their maiden appearance in the Ranji Trophy final. After pipping Jammu and Kashmir in the quarterfinal on the basis of first-innings lead of a mere one run, Kerala edged out Gujarat in the semifinal with a slender two-run lead. Vidarbha, who will make their fourth appearance in the Ranji final after winning the title in 2017-18 and 2018-19, will bank on their stars such as Yash Rathod (933 runs) and Harsh Dubey (66 wickets) to come good again.

## "EVEN MS DHONI CAN'T...": PAKISTAN GREAT SHREDS TEAM TO PIECES AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY EXIT

**Diary Times Desk :** No member of the Pakistan cricket team seems safe after the unit's early ICC Champions Trophy exit. Pakistan, courtesy of their defeats against New Zealand and India in the two Group A matches, have already been eliminated from the semi-finals race. Former Pakistan women's cricket team captain Sana Mir, in a conversation with other former cricketers, shared her blunt analysis, saying even a legendary captain like MS Dhoni or Younis Khan would not have succeeded in saving this group of players. Sana's comments came after Pakistan suffered a demoralising 6-wicket defeat against India in Dubai. Recalling her conversation with a friend as the match proceeded, Sana said that she had predicted the team's downfall the moment Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the 15-member squad. "I got a message from a friend when we were watching the match [against India]. When the second wicket fell at 100, my friend said, 'I think it's over.' I told my friend, 'No, it was over when we announced the squad.' We had lost more than half of the tournament the day we picked these 15 players," she said on Game On Hai show. "You could make MS Dhoni or Younis Khan.

## BIG AGE FRAUD ALLEGATION AGAINST LAKSHYA SEN, BROTHER CHIRAG.

### KARNATAKA HIGH COURT SAYS THIS ON 'FALSIFYING BIRTH RECORDS' CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Karnataka High Court has rejected the petitions filed by ace badminton player Lakshya Sen, his family members, and his coach U Vimal Kumar in connection with allegations of fabricating birth certificates. The court ruled that there was prima facie evidence warranting an investigation into the case. The case originated from a private complaint filed by MG Nagaraj, who alleged that Lakshya Sen's parents Dharendra and Nirmala Sen, along with his brother Chirag Sen, coach U Vimal Kumar, and an employee of the Karnataka Badminton Association, were involved in falsifying birth records. According to the complaint, the accused allegedly manipulated the birth certificates of Lakshya and Chirag Sen, reducing their age by approximately two and a half years. The alleged forgery was intended to allow them to participate in age-restricted badminton tournaments and avail government benefits.



## VENKATESH IYER

### 'DEFINITELY READY' TO CAPTAIN KKR AT IPL 2025

**Diary Times Desk :** India and Madhya Pradesh allrounder Venkatesh Iyer is "definitely ready" to captain Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in case the job is offered to him. The defending champions, who will play the first match of IPL 2025 on March 22 at Eden Gardens against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), are yet to appoint their new captain after releasing Shreyas Iyer, who has assumed the leadership position at Punjab Kings (PBKS). KKR have not yet made public who their new captain will be, but Iyer, who was bought back for a record sum of INR 23.75 crore (US\$ 2.83 million approx.), is learned to be among the top contenders along with former India captain Ajinkya Rahane. Although Iyer, who is 30, has never led in competitive cricket, he is eager for the experience. "Definitely. Definitely, I'm ready," he said in a chat with ESPNcricinfo recently. "Again, I've always said this: captaincy is just a tag. I believe in leadership. That is a bigger role to play, being a leader. "You don't necessarily need the tag of a captain to be a leader in your dressing room. You need to set examples. You need to be a good role model, both on and off the field, which I am doing right now in MP. I'm not the captain of the MP team, but my opinions are respected and I really love to be in an atmosphere where every individual - again, new or experienced, 20 lakhs, 20 crore, whatever - you just need to have the freedom to voice your opinion.

### "HARD FOR PAKISTAN TO BEAT EVEN INDIA'S B TEAM": SUNIL GAVASKAR ROASTS CHAMPIONS TROPHY HOSTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Champions Trophy exit in just 6 days - that's the reality for the Pakistan cricket in the ongoing tournament. Being the hosts of the event, Pakistan were expected to challenge for the title but little went their way since the tournament began. After losing the match against New Zealand, Pakistan struggled to stand up against Rohit Sharma's Team India on Sunday. As analysts sit down and opine on what went wrong for Pakistan, Indian cricket great Sunil Gavaskar feels the level that Mohammad Rizwan's side has is just not good enough. Giving his scathing analysis of Pakistan's performance in the Champions Trophy, Gavaskar feels even India's B team will give the side a run for its money. "I think a B team certainly (can give Pakistan a run for their money). C team, I am not too sure. But a B team will be very, very hard.