

## MAHA KUMBH 2025

## MAHA KUMBH 2025 ENDS WITH 66 CRORE ATTENDEES, STAMPEDES, VIRAL STARS LIKE MONALISA

**Diary Times Desk :** As the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj concluded on Wednesday, February 26, with the final holy dip on Mahashivratri, the world's largest spiritual gathering is leaving behind more than just numbers – some faces like 'Monalisa' and IIT 'Baba' amid the overwhelming crowd of over 66 crore that made hit headlines and some tragic moments like stampedes.

At the Kumbh fairs, devotees from different Hindu sects, or 'Akharas', take part in grand processions to perform the 'Shahi Snan' or royal bath in the sacred rivers at the above-mentioned sites. The spectacle draws millions, not just for the ritual, but also for a chance to see thousands of ascetics, often dressed in saffron, who immerse themselves in the frigid waters. The Maha Kumbh 2025 Mela in Prayagraj commenced on January 13 and since then over 66 crore people have taken a dip at the Sangam, the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, according to the Uttar Pradesh government. The final figure of attendees is expected to be released by the UP government later.

While a record-breaking 66 crore visitors attended the Maha Kumbh, individuals like garland seller 'Monalisa' who became an internet sensation for her striking appearance and the stampedes at the mela site and New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) that killed over 45 people made the grand fair a whirlwind of devotion, drama, viral moments and unexpected events. – Monalisa, IIT Baba | Kumbh's viral faces: Monalisa 'Moni' Bhosle, a 16-year-old garland seller from Madhya Pradesh, became an overnight sensation after videos of her, highlighting her striking appearance and eyes, were shared online. Her sudden fame led to crowds chasing her for selfies, sparking both admiration and concern for her safety on social media. While some celebrated her rise, others debated the authenticity of rumours claiming she earned ₹10 crore in 10 days, which she later denied. The girl also bagged a film.



## AMIT SHAH

## "I APOLOGISE FOR BEING UNABLE TO SPEAK TAMIL": AMIT SHAH AMID LANGUAGE ROW



**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the row over the alleged imposition of Hindi in Tamil Nadu, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday "apologised" for not being able to speak the "world's oldest language." Addressing the special Maha Shivratri celebrations being held at Isha Foundation in Coimbatore, Mr Shah called the event 'Bhakti ka Mahakumbh' (Maha Kumbh of devotion).

"First of all, I would like to apologise for being unable to speak the world's oldest language, Tamil. I extend my wishes on the occasion of Maha Shivratri. I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to come here at the invitation of Sadhguru," Mr Shah said. The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu has been opposing the three-language mandate of the National Education Policy 2020. The DMK has termed this Hindi "imposition."

Mr Shah said that the entire nation was immersed in Shiv bhakti as Maha Shivratri is not only a festival but an occasion of "self-awakening". "Today, the whole nation, from Somnath to Kedarnath, Pashupatinath to Rameswaram and Kashi to Coimbatore, is 'Shivmay'. The Mahakumbh in Prayagraj is concluding, but the 'Bhakti ka Mahakumbh' is here in front of me in Coimbatore. Maha Shivratri is not only a festival but an occasion of self-awakening," the Union Home Minister said.

Praising Isha Foundation founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Mr Shah said that the place built by the spiritual leader was not merely a pilgrimage site but also a place of devotion and liberation. He added that the 112-foot Adiyogi Shiva statue helps one experience the 112 ways of achieving spirituality.

"The place that you (Sadhguru) have built is not only a pilgrimage site but a place of yoga, sadhana, devotion, repentance and liberation. Isha Yoga Centre has brought positivity to a lot of lives through yoga. This statue of Adiyogi makes us experience and identify the 112 ways to our spiritual journey. On visiting here, we get to know that the last destination of life is to attain 'Shivatva'. Isha Yoga Centre has become a medium for connecting youth with the almighty," Mr Shah said. Earlier, the minister also made offerings to the 'Dhyanling' during the religious ceremony at Isha Yoga Centre. The Maha Shivratri celebrations at the Isha Yoga Centre started at 6:00 PM on Wednesday and will continue until 6:00 AM on Thursday.

**LAKHS OF DEVOTEES RUSH TO SANGAM FOR MAHA KUMBH'S FINAL 'SNAN' ON MAHA SHIVRATRI**

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid chants of 'Har Har Mahadev', a multitude of pilgrims from across the country on Wednesday took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam on Mahashivratri as the 45-day Maha Kumbh inched towards its closure. Maha Kumbh began on January 13 (Paush Purnima) and saw a grand processions of Naga Sadhus and three Amrit Snans. As per official figures, over 65 crore devotees have so far visited this year's Kumbh in Prayagraj. According to government data, by 2 am on Wednesday, over 11.66 lakh devotees immersed themselves in Sangam on Mahashivratri, which marks the last day of the Kumbh. The number surged to 25.64 lakh in the next two hours and 41.11 lakh by 6 am. By 10 am, 81.09 lakh people had taken the final 'snan' at the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati rivers. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath began monitoring the arrangements at the Kumbh Mela at 4 am from Gorakhpur with senior government officials. In a post on X, the CM said, "Hearty congratulations to all the revered saints, Kalpvasis and devotees who have come to take a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam today on the holy bathing festival of Mahashivratri dedicated to the worship of Lord Bholenath in Maha Kumbh-2025, Prayagraj....Har Har Mahadev!"



**ARMY PROCURES RS 80.43 CR-WORTH EQUIPMENT FOR ENHANCING DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Indian Army on Wednesday signed a contract worth Rs 80.43 crore for the procurement of 223 Automatic Chemical Agent Detection and Alarm (ACADA) Systems from the private industry. The induction of ACADA in the field units will substantially enhance Indian Army's defensive Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) capability for operations, as also for peacetime deployment, especially for responding to disaster relief situations related to industrial accidents. More than 80 per cent of the components and sub-systems of the equipment, being manufactured by Larsen and Toubro Limited, are sourced locally, a Defence spokesperson said. ACADA has been designed and developed by DRDO's Defence Research and Development Establishment, Gwalior, and marks a significant milestone in the nation's indigenisation initiative in the niche CBRN domain.

**NAVY MISSILE THAT CAN CHANGE OR SELECT TARGETS WHILE IN FLIGHT SUCCESSFULLY TESTED**



**Diary Times Desk :** A first-of-its-kind Naval Anti-Ship missile (NASM-SR) that has the capability of changing or selecting its target in flight, was successfully tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy from a Seaking helicopter at the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur on Wednesday. The trials have proven the missile's 'man-in-the-loop' feature, that enables the missile's pilot to send it commands while in flight, and scored a direct hit on a small ship in the sea-skimming mode at its maximum range. The missile uses an indigenous imaging infra-red seeker for terminal guidance. The mission also has demonstrated the high bandwidth two-way data link system, which is used to transmit the seeker live images back to the pilot for in-flight re-targeting, a defence spokesperson said. The missile was launched in 'bearing-only lock-on after launch' mode with several targets in close vicinity for selecting one among them. The missile initially locked on to a large target within the specified zone of search and during the terminal phase, the pilot selected a smaller hidden target resulting in its being hit with pinpoint accuracy.

**TUNNEL COLLAPSE: SNIFFER DOG TO BE USED TO LOCATE TRAPPED MEN AS MUCK SOLIDIFYING**

**Diary Times Desk :** As sludge started solidifying inside the Srisaigram Left Bank Canal tunnel in Telangana, part of which collapsed trapping eight people, rescuers are planning to use sniffer dogs to locate those got trapped, District Collector B Santhosh said on Wednesday. The official said the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) is expected to give their point of view on Wednesday on the stabilisation of soil and other issues, based on which the action plan would be drafted. Santhosh said the teams were able to reach up to the accident spot inside the tunnel using a thermal fishing boat. "Initially there was a hurdle of 40 metres (from the accident spot). The sludge was there. But that has solidified now to the maximum extent. So the team could go up to the accident spot...So we have a sniffer dog. We will take it. So with the dog's help, we will try to locate (those trapped)," the official told PTI.



**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
 27-02-2025

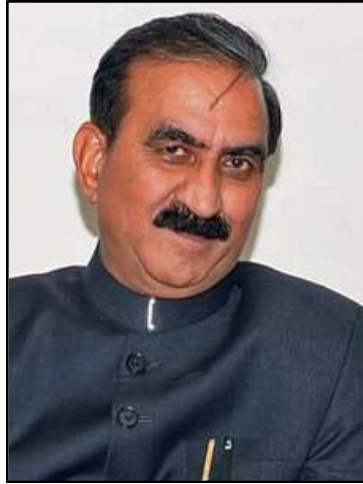
<p><b>Aries</b>                  Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. 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: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- MEDICAL COLLEGES WILL NOT HAVE STATE CADRE FOR NOW

**Diary Times Desk :** At present, there will be no state cadre of medical colleges in Himachal. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the status quo will be maintained regarding the merger of medical college cadre. During the meeting with the officials of the State Medical and Dental Teachers Association, the CM has assured about this. In the cabinet meeting held in Dharamshala during the winter session, in-principle approval was given to make medical colleges a state cadre. Till now, medical colleges have their own cadre, due to which doctors of medical colleges are not transferred. Due to state cadre, doctors were to be transferred. This matter will be brought up again in the cabinet meeting. The CM said that the government is providing all possible help to strengthen the medical colleges. The medical department has been instructed to install the best equipment in all medical colleges, so that better health services can be ensured to the patients. The CM has also reviewed the measures to increase facilities in Shimla Cancer Hospital and has instructed the officials to speed up the work of installing PET scan machine in IGMC Shimla.



## RTI ACT: FIVE HIMACHAL OFFICIALS REPRIMANDED FOR TAKING RTI ACT LIGHTLY

**Diary Times Desk :** The State Information Commission has reprimanded five officials for taking the RTI Act lightly. Four officials, as the appellate authority, did not hear the case on time or as per rules. These include Additional Secretary Animal Husbandry, Joint Director Tourism, Superintendent Engineer of Water Power Department Hamirpur and SDM Kullu. State Chief Information Commissioner RD Dhiman has asked the officials to be cautious. Ajay Kumar of Bhanjwari village of Ghumarwin had sought information in his RTI application about the service charges given to the veterinary pharmacist and assistant for looking after the animals. On not getting the information, he filed an appeal in the First Appellate Authority. On not getting a hearing here, he filed a second appeal in the Commission. The Commission said that Additional Secretary Animal Husbandry, working as the First Appellate Authority, did not show interest in hearing the appeal. The Commission warned the Additional Secretary to be cautious.

## HRTC NEWS: HIMACHAL PATH PARIVAHAN NIGAM GETS TRANSPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD, BETTER SERVICES THAN OTHER HILL STATES

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Road Transport Corporation is being honored with the Transport Excellence Award. In the year 2023-24, Himachal Road Transport Corporation has provided better services than other hill states. This award will be given by the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings on March 8 in Delhi. HRTC has been nominated for four different awards. HRTC was the winner in tire performance while Himachal Road Transport Corporation was the runner-up in digital transaction, vehicle use and employee utility. Work Inspectors will work as Junior Engineers (JE) in the Jal Shakti Department. The state government is going to recruit work inspectors in the department. These inspectors will be deployed on outsource. The work of lineation of laying water pipes in Himachal will be taken from these inspectors. Himachal Pradesh Road Transport Corporation will be honored with the 'Transport Excellence Award'. In the year 2023-24, HRTC has done better work.

## HIMACHAL WEATHER: ORANGE ALERT FOR HEAVY RAIN AND SNOWFALL IN HIMACHAL, 211 ROADS INCLUDING ATAL TUNNEL AND TWO NHS CLOSED

**Diary Times Desk :** Due to heavy snowfall and rain on Wednesday amid orange alert in upper areas of Himachal, traffic remained closed on two national highways and 211 roads including Atal Tunnel. Due to snowfall of up to one feet in Lahaul, electricity is disrupted in 90 percent of the villages of the district. Snowfall in upper areas of Shimla, Chamba, Kullu, Kinnaur and Sirmour and rain in most districts on Tuesday night and Wednesday has increased the cold in the state. Meteorological Center Shimla has also issued an orange alert for heavy rain and snowfall on Thursday and Friday. Heavy rain occurred in the capital Shimla on Tuesday night. On Wednesday, it was cloudy throughout the day and there was drizzle. Due to snowfall in Lahaul-Spiti, traffic has been disrupted between Keylong-Manali in NH-3 through Atal Tunnel Rohtang and NH 305 through Jalori Pass. Due to closure of Atal Tunnel Rohtang, Lahaul has been cut off from Manali. There has been fresh snowfall of 75 cm at Rohtang Pass, about 50 cm at North Portal, 45 cm at Koksar and Sissu, 25 cm at Udaipur and 45 cm at Darcha.

## HIMACHAL: QUESTION PAPERS OF LAST FIVE YEARS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD, STUDENTS WILL GET HELP

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will make available the question papers of the last five years on its website. This will benefit the candidates appearing for the 10th-12th board examinations as well as non-board classes across the state. Till now the Education Board has been uploading only model question papers on its website. The Education Board has taken this decision after the request of the Government Teachers' Union. Earlier, the board management used to provide only model question papers of various subjects, but the Teachers' Union has requested the Education Board to make available the question papers asked in the board examinations in the last five years on the board's website. On this, the board management has now decided that it will soon upload the question papers asked in the last five years on the website. While the board examinees will be able to evaluate themselves related to the evaluation of these questions, they will also be able to know what kind of questions the Education Board has asked during the examinations till now.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: TWO YOUTHS FROM PUNJAB ARRESTED FOR CHITTA BUSINESS IN MANALI, MANALI POLICE RAIDED THE HOTEL AND CAUGHT THEM

**Diary Times Desk :** In the tourist city of Manali, the police has taken a big action against chitta. The police caught two youths dealing in chitta in a hotel. Both have been arrested and a case has been registered. The process of presenting them in the court is going on. 29.700 grams of chitta was recovered from both of them. Where did they bring this consignment from? The police is investigating this. According to the information, the PUMIS team was on patrol on Tuesday evening. During this time, the police got information that two youths from Punjab are staying in room number 106 of Hotel Tirupati Classic near the office of the Town Planning Department. Both are doing the business of selling chitta in grocery shops from rented rooms. After this, the police team raided room number 206.

## JAIRAM THAKUR: LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM SAID- WHAT IS THE SECRET BEHIND THE FAVOUR OF RS 97 LAKH ON THE NGO INSTEAD OF TAKING ACTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that Sukhu's government has become synonymous with scams and corruption in the state. Wherever you look, you see scams. Today, newspapers revealed that a case of wrongly approving projects worth Rs 97 lakh of some NGOs in the Social and Empowerment Department has come to light. The senior officers are being lenient towards the NGOs against whom action was recommended by the competent officers and are working against the rules by rejecting the appeals of their subordinates. This is not a normal case but is related to senior IAS officers. In such a situation, the question arises that how can a senior officer be lenient towards the organizations against which the competent officer has asked to take action? After all, on whose behest was this done? What is the intention of the person doing and getting this done? On one hand, the government is imposing several taxes on the people of the state in the name of economic crisis and is making the life of common people difficult by snatching the facilities being given as per rules.

## "CONGRESSMAN BY BIRTH": DK SHIVAKUMAR ON REPORTS OF 'CLOSENESS' WITH BJP

**Diary Times Desk :** Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday termed as rumours the reports suggesting that he is getting close to the BJP, saying that there are no such developments. When asked about the Maha Kumbh Mela, however, Mr Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress chief, deviated from his party's stand to praise the organisation of the Maha Kumbh. Addressing a press conference at his residence here, Mr Shivakumar stated: "I am making it very clear. I could see in media and social media, some of my friends are calling after seeing reports that Shivakumar is getting closer to the BJP. By birth, I am a Congressman, my stand is I am a Hindu, and I believe in every culture of society. Besides my personal belief, the Congress ideology is to take everyone together." "People are planting stories. Sadhguru of the Isha Foundation came to my residence and invited me to my Shivratri. He is from Mysuru and I admire him for his knowledge. Social media is analysing that I am getting close to the BJP. I have not met Union Home Minister Amit Shah yet," he added. Mr Shivakumar and Amit Shah are slated to attend Mahashivratri celebrations at the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore along with scores of national and state ministers.

## "FIGHT AMONG KG STUDENTS": ACTOR VIJAY ON DMK-CENTRE CLASH OVER HINDI

**Diary Times Desk :** Tamil actor-politician Vijay on Wednesday waded into the 'Hindi imposition' row between Tamil Nadu's ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led centre, slammed both parties and labelling their bitter back-and-forth "a fight among KG (kindergarten) students". The jabs drew a swift response; the DMK accused Vijay of "creating an illusion" and of being "scared" of the BJP. The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam boss - who has a large fan following and is seen as a dark horse for next year's Assembly election - seemed to kickstart his campaign by accusing the DMK and the BJP of having "staged" the confrontation over the National Education Policy and the three-language formula. "One (party) sings while the other dances, both in unison... symbolising their collusion in maintaining the status quo. This leaves the concerns of the common people unheard and unaddressed," the actor raged, asserting the rise of his TVK ahead of the 2026 election. Vijay also underlined his own opposition to the three-language policy - which the DMK has claimed.

## WON'T LOSE ANY SEAT: AMIT SHAH'S BIG PROMISE TO TAMIL NADU ON DELIMITATION



**Diary Times Desk :** Union minister Amit Shah said today addressed the hot button issue of delimitation in southern states, saying it would not reduce the number of seats there even by one. "I want to reassure the people of South India that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kept your interest in mind and will make sure that not even one seat is reduced. And whatever increase is there, southern states will get a fair share, there is no reason to doubt this," he said, speaking at the inauguration of party offices in Coimbatore, Tiruvannamalai. His assurance came amid a massive meeting on delimitation and its effects called by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin. "Today a meeting will be held to ensure the South does not suffer on account of delimitation. The people in Tamil Nadu is disturbed. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and his son (Udhayanidhi Stalin) are trying to distract the public. Mr Stalin, the Modi government has made it clear in Lok Sabha that after delimitation, on pro rata basis, not a single seat will be reduced in any southern state," Mr Shah added.

## DELHI AIRPORT'S TERMINAL 2 TO BE SHUT TEMPORARILY FROM APRIL FOR UPGRADATION

**Diary Times Desk :** Delhi airport operator DIAL on Wednesday said Terminal 2 (T2) is expected to be shut down for four to five months, starting from April and one of the runways will also be closed for upgradation during this period. After renovation works, T1 is expected to be open for operations after March 15, subject to various approvals. In addition, as part of larger efforts to develop an aviation hub, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) aims to have four slot banks by the end of the next fiscal. Generally, slot banks are referred to as particular time windows for efficient flight connections. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3 -- and the total annual passenger handling capacity is around 109 million. It handles around 1,300 flights daily. DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria said the works at T1 are expected to be completed by March 15 and will be open for flights after getting requisite approvals. T2 is expected to be shut down temporarily in April.

## PUNE WOMAN RAPED INSIDE BUS PARKED JUST 100 METRES FROM POLICE STATION

**Diary Times Desk :** A 26-year-old woman was raped inside a bus early Tuesday morning - while it was parked in the middle of Pune's busy Swargate Bus Stand and around 100 metres from a police station. The accused has been named as Dattatraya Ramdas - he was identified through a CCTV feed - but has not yet been arrested. The police have formed eight special teams, and deployed a canine sniffer unit, to track him down. Ramdas, 36, already has a criminal record. The bus in which the young woman - a domestic worker travelling to her home village of Phaltan in Satara district - was raped has been vandalised, the police also said. According to the police, the crime took place sometime between 5.45am and 6.30am. A preliminary scan of CCTV footage shows the alleged rapist talking to the woman, who said Ramdas addressed her as 'didi', or 'sister'. According to the woman, he asked after her destination and told her the parked vehicle - in which there were no lights - would take her there.



## 'NOT CONFINED TO...': AAP DISMISSES ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S PARLIAMENT ENTRY BUZZ

**Diary Times Desk :** AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal has a big responsibility for the party's pan India expansion and he will not become a Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab, party leaders said on Wednesday. The buzz over Mr Kejriwal going to the Rajya Sabha intensified with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) declaring the sitting MP of the upper house from Punjab, Sanjeev Arora, as its candidate for the bypoll in Ludhiana West Assembly seat. Mr Kejriwal, the former three-term chief minister of Delhi, was defeated in the recent assembly polls from the New Delhi seat by BJP's Parvesh Verma. Mr Kejriwal is working to expand the AAP throughout the country, said senior party leader Somnath Bharti. "Kejriwal will not go to the Rajya Sabha because he has the big responsibility of the party's expansion in the country and he is working on it," Bharti told PTI. Echoing similar sentiments, AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said Sanjeev Arora is the best candidate for Ludhiana West seat.

## DMK SLAMS ZOHU FOUNDER: TEACH HINDI TO YOUR STAFF, NOT STUDENTS IN TAMIL NADU

**Diary Times Desk :** DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai hit back at Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu's call for Tamil Nadu's engineers and entrepreneurs to learn Hindi, questioning why students in the state should prioritise the language for business needs. In a post on X, Annadurai wrote, "Teach Hindi to your staff if your business needs it. Why should students in Tamil Nadu study Hindi because your business needs it? Inversely, you can request the Union Govt to ensure rudimentary knowledge of English to school kids there, which would solve the problem. The only issue with these types is that they imagine 'they are twice as smart' than others. Pathetic." His remarks came in response to Vembu's argument that the lack of Hindi proficiency was a "serious handicap" for Tamil Nadu's engineers in business dealings. In a post on X, Vembu stated that many of Zoho's engineers work with clients in Hindi-speaking regions such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Gujarat, and that not knowing the language.



### 'WE WILL DELIVER ALL OF IT': MIKE JOHNSON SECURES KEY WIN FOR DONALD TRUMP'S BUDGET

**Diary Times Desk :** On Tuesday, the House passed a budget plan that would fund President Donald Trump's legislative agenda. This move is considered a huge victory for House Speaker Mike Johnson. He had been trying to persuade a small number of holdouts in the final hours before the vote. Republicans adopted the resolution on a narrow 217-215 margin with no Democratic support. Warren Davidson, Victoria Spartz, and Tim Burchett, who had earlier voted against it, voted in favor. Representative Thomas Massie, was the only Republican who voted against the resolution. After the resolution's adoption, Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, said, "We have a lot of hard work ahead of us. We are going to deliver the American first agenda. We're going to deliver all of it, not just parts of it, and this is the first step in that process." It was not certain whether Republicans would have enough votes to approve the measure on Tuesday afternoon and evening. At least four Republican members had indicated that they would oppose the plan, and Speaker Mike Johnson could lose only one vote.

### NEW SEARCH FOR MH370 PLANE THAT VANISHED WITH 239 ON BOARD 11 YEARS AGO

**Diary Times Desk :** The disappearance almost 11 years ago of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 with 239 people on board remains one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries. The Boeing 777 went missing on its way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. Satellite data analysis showed the plane likely crashed somewhere in the southern Indian Ocean, off the coast of western Australia. However, two major searches failed to come up with any significant findings. The last transmission from the plane was about 40 minutes after it took off from Kuala Lumpur for Beijing. Captain Zaharie Ahmad Shah signed off with "Good night, Malaysian three seven zero", as the plane entered Vietnamese airspace. Shortly thereafter, its transponder was turned off, which meant it could not be easily tracked. Military radar showed the plane left its flight path to fly back over northern Malaysia and Penang Island, and then out into the Andaman Sea towards the tip of the Indonesian island.

### "SORRY, COULDN'T PROTECT YOU": FREED ISRAELI HOSTAGE AT FUNERAL OF WIFE, SONS

**Diary Times Desk :** Hundreds of mourners gathered at a cemetery in southern Israel on Wednesday to bid a final farewell to Shiri Bibas and her two sons, who were killed in Gaza captivity and had become symbols in Israel of the hostages' ordeal. Orange balloons symbolising the children's red hair fluttered in the breeze from a fence not far from the cemetery of kibbutz Nir Oz, from where the Bibas family were seized by Palestinian militants on October 7, 2023. Signs reading "sorry" and "the broken heart with the Bibas family" hung from a nearby fence. "Shiri, I'm sorry I couldn't protect you all," Yarden Bibas said in his eulogy at the funeral of his wife and two sons -- Ariel and Kfir -- who were aged four and nine months old at the time of their abduction. Hamas handed over the remains of Shiri and the two children last week as part of a ceasefire deal with Israel, while Yarden Bibas was freed earlier this month. "Shiri, I love you and will always love you. Shiri, you are everything to me," said Yarden, his voice choking with emotion as he read his eulogy, which was televised live from the cemetery.



### INVITE TO ZELENSKY TO MEET TRUMP MAY NOT MAKE SENSE: WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL



**Diary Times Desk :** A White House official on Wednesday raised doubts about whether an invitation to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to meet US President Donald Trump would make sense given Zelenskyy's comments that a minerals deal is not complete. "If the Ukrainian leader says the deal isn't finalised, I don't see why an invitation would make sense," the official told Reuters. "There's an expectation that his coming is to recognise a final position (on the minerals deal) and he is not at a final position in his own words in this new wording." The official said Zelenskyy's latest comments from Kyiv suggest the minerals deal is not completed. Zelenskyy said on Wednesday that he had reached a "preliminary" deal with the US on minerals. Trump on Tuesday told reporters he had heard Zelenskyy was coming to the White House on Friday with the expectation that the minerals deal would be signed. He did not say Zelenskyy had been formally invited.

### AMY GLEASON, NOT ELON MUSK, IS ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF TRUMP'S DOGE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Trump administration has finally identified the administrator of the new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which has been pushing agencies to fire employees, cancel contracts and make other budget cuts. The White House on Tuesday afternoon said Amy Gleason, a former US Digital Service official, is the acting leader of billionaire Elon Musk-led DOGE. Although DOGE's cost-cutting measures are being championed by billionaire Elon Musk and his associates, the White House has insisted that Mr Musk is overseeing the effort just as a senior adviser to President Donald Trump-- and not a DOGE employee. So far, the identity of who was technically running DOGE had remained a mystery, even though an executive order signed by President Trump last month called for the appointment of an administrator who would report to the White House. The announcement came as more than 20 members of the former United States.

### ISRAELI WARPLANES STRIKE SOUTH OF DAMASCUS

**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli warplanes hit a town south of Syria's capital as well as the southern province of Daraa late on Tuesday, residents, security sources and local broadcaster Syria TV said. Israeli strikes struck the town of Kisweh approximately 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Damascus, a Syrian security source and Syria TV said. The security source said a military site was targeted, without providing further details. Additional Israeli air raids hit a town in the southern province of Daraa, a resident and Syria TV said. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Residents of Damascus and Reuters reporters in the city heard the sound of airplanes flying several low passes over the capital and a series of blasts. The bombardment came hours after Syria condemned Israel's incursion into the country's south and demanded it withdraw, according to the closing statement of a national summit. Israel moved forces into a U.N.-monitored demilitarized zone within Syria after rebels led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a former Al Qaeda affiliate, toppled former President Bashar al-Assad in December.

### TOP WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL PUSHES FOR CANADA'S EXIT FROM FIVE EYES ALLIANCE: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Peter Navarro, one of US President Donald Trump's closest advisers, is pushing for expelling Canada out of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance as POTUS presses in on the pressure on Ottawa, a country he wishes to turn into the 51st American state, The Financial Times reported. The Five Eyes alliance, which includes the US, Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand, was founded in 1941, wherein the partner nations exchange a wide spectrum of intelligence within of the world's most tightly knit multilateral agreements as part of the collaboration. Donald Trump, who wants to annex Canada, on Monday had announced that the 25 per cent tariffs planned for the country, along with Mexico, are "on time". He said the plan of tariffs on imports will go ahead as planned next month, when the March 4 deadline elapses. Meanwhile, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who is set to step down from the office on March 9, was earlier caught on mic saying that Donald Trump's aim to absorb Canada was a "real thing". Notably, it remained unclear whether the US President also supports his closest advisor Navarro's proposal. Navarro, who holds direct access to the Oval Office.

## AAP LEADER HINTS AT KEJRIWAL'S RAJYA SABHA ENTRY FROM PUNJAB, SAYS WHAT'S ILLEGAL IN IT

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan has stirred the hornet's nest by not rejecting the idea of Aam Aadmi Party supremo Arvind Kejriwal from gaining entry into the Rajya Sabha from Punjab. Though the party spokesperson Neel Garg denied that either Kejriwal or former Delhi deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia would get the Rajya Sabha seat vacated by the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora, as and when he resigns, Sandhwan said that any party can nominate anyone to the Rajya Sabha from anywhere. "It is their right. What is the illegality in this? Even Manmohan Singh went to the Rajya Sabha from another state. The party will decide who will be fielded and anyone they field I will welcome it," he said. The Aam Aadmi Party had stated that the reason behind announcing Sanjeev Arora as its candidate for the Ludhiana West by-election is to prepare its cadres well in advance for the election. Neel Garg, party spokesperson, dismissed speculation and rumors spread by rival political parties regarding either party supremo Arvind Kejriwal or senior leader Manish Sisodia replacing Arora in the Rajya Sabha.



## ILLEGAL US IMMIGRATION: ED RAIDS VISA FIRMS IN LUDHIANA, CHANDIGARH

**Diary Times Desk** : The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it raided three visa consultant firms in Ludhiana and Chandigarh as part of a money-laundering investigation linked to alleged fraud in providing immigration services to aspirants who wish to go to the US. The case emerges from the FIRs filed by Punjab and Delhi police on the complaint by the office of the Overseas Criminal Investigations, US Embassy in Delhi. The complaint stated that "fraudulent" activities were perpetrated by these firms. In a statement, the federal agency said searches were carried out on Tuesday at five business and residential premises in Ludhiana and Chandigarh. Incriminating documents, digital devices and Rs 19 lakh in cash were seized during the searches, it said. The accused entities and people running them had "forged" the education certificates/experience letters of "ineligible" visa applicants who were aspiring to study or work in the United States of America.

## DELHI CM REKHA GUPTA TO WOO VOTERS IN ROHTAK WITH FEBRUARY 28 ROADSHOW

**Diary Times Desk** : As the Rohtak Municipal Corporation elections draw near, the BJP is ramping up its campaign efforts with a strategic blend of micro-management and high-profile campaigning. In its final push to retain the Mayor's seat in the March 2 civic body polls, the party has roped in Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to lead a high-stakes roadshow on February 28, the last day of electioneering. Gupta, who hails from Nandgarh village in Jind district's Julana block, holds deep regional ties, which the BJP aims to leverage in its bid to sway voters. "Rekha will lead a roadshow in Rohtak city on the final day of campaigning. This is a strategic move to woo both women voters and the influential business community, particularly the Baniya community, which plays a key role in the municipal corporation area," said party sources. The outgoing Mayor, Manmohan Goyal, also belongs to the Baniya community.

## PUNJAB CONGRESS SET FOR OVERHAUL AS BHUPESH BAGHEL TO MEET STATE LEADERS ON MARCH 1

**Diary Times Desk** : Setting the stage for organisational changes in the state unit, General Secretary In-charge Punjab Congress Bhupesh Baghel will hold his first meeting with Punjab Congress leaders on March 1. This development comes amid reports of groupism among party leaders and the central leadership's decision to crack down on indiscipline. Baghel, a senior leader from the OBC community and former Chhattisgarh CM, will interact with party MLAs, MPs, and district unit heads to gather their views. Before the meeting, he will pay his respects at religious places in Amritsar. PPCC chief Amarinder Singh Warring has planned a grand welcome for Baghel. The meeting is crucial, as it aims to address the pending reconstitution of the state party unit since Warring took over as PPCC chief in April 2022. With the 2027 Assembly election looming, the central party leadership has tasked Baghel with ensuring the party presents a united front. Recently, Kapurthala MLA Rana Gurjeet Singh criticised Warring, describing him as a selfish leader. Warring has maintained his composure, but warned that indiscipline will not be tolerated.

## CBI REGISTERS FRAUD CASE AGAINST GODREJ ESTATE, BERKELEY REALTECH

**Diary Times Desk** : The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against Godrej Estate Developers and Berkeley Realtech Ltd besides unidentified officials of the UT Administration on the charges of cheating and corruption. The case pertains to an alleged violation of conditions of environmental clearance by the two commercial complexes located in the Industrial Area, Phase I. A preliminary enquiry was registered in the CBI Anti-Corruption Branch, Chandigarh, on May 17, 2023, against unidentified officials of the Chandigarh Administration and private builders on a complaint of Bhim Sain Garg, the then Under Secretary, Punjab Raj Bhavan, wherein it was alleged that certain manipulations were done in the minutes of a meeting of the State Board for Wildlife, which was held on June 27, 2022, under the chairmanship of the Punjab Governor and UT Administrator. The CBI investigated the matter and on the enquiry report of ASP Karan Singh Rana, a case under Sections 420 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 13(1) (a) and 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered. The CBI inquiry had revealed that proponents of Berkeley Square and Godrej Eterna, in collusion with unidentified officials of the UT Estate Office, had obtained occupation certificate without obtaining the requisite wildlife clearance.

## ARJUNA AWARDEES SAWEETY BOORA, DEEPAK HOODA EMBROILED IN MARITAL DISCORD

**Diary Times Desk** : International boxer Saweety Boora and her husband, former India kabaddi team player Deepak Hooda, are locked in a bitter marital dispute, trading charges of domestic violence, dowry demand, and financial foul play. The Hisar police has registered an FIR under various sections of the BNS against Deepak Hooda on the complaint of Saweety Boora. Saweety, 32, alleged that Hooda, 30, physically assaulted her and demanded an SUV and Rs 1 crore from her family as dowry. In contrast, Hooda accused Saweety's family of usurping his property and threatening him with dire consequences. The couple, both Arjuna awardees, filed police complaints against each other at the Hisar and Rohtak police stations. Hisar SP Shashank Kumar Sawan confirmed that a notice was issued to Hooda regarding the marital dispute, but he failed to respond. The couple married on July 7, 2022, but their relationship has deteriorated, and they may be heading for a split. Saweety, a 2023 World Championships gold medalist, received the Arjuna Award in January 2025. Hooda, a 2020 Arjuna awardee, unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Assembly election on a BJP ticket from the Meham constituency.

## BJP CONFIDENT OF THIRD STRAIGHT VICTORY IN MUNICIPAL POLLS: CM SAINI

**Diary Times Desk** : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday exuded confidence that the BJP would win the upcoming municipal elections by a landslide, claiming a "one-sided atmosphere" in favour of the party across the state. Addressing a massive crowd during the 'Nomination Rally' for BJP's mayoral candidate Komal Saini and 26 councillor candidates, CM Saini asserted that the overwhelming turnout reflected the public's trust in BJP policies and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees. "The crowd here today is proof of people's faith in the BJP's governance. We are heading towards a third consecutive victory in the state on March 12," Saini said. The rally, held at the BJP election office on NH-44, saw the presence of key party leaders, including BJP state chief Mohan Lal Badoli, Panchayat Minister Krishan Lal Panwar, Education Minister Mahipal Dhandra, MLA Pramod Vij and BJP state general secretary Dr Archana Gupta. Following the rally, a roadshow was taken out from the election office to the mini secretariat, where supporters lined the streets.



## WET SPELL TO CONTINUE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH TILL MARCH 1

**Diary Times Desk :** A wave of devotion swept across Chamba district as thousands of devotees thronged Lord Shiva temples on the occasion of Mahashivratri on Friday. Temples reverberated with chants of "Har Har Mahadev" as devotees gathered in large numbers to seek blessings. A huge rush was witnessed at the Chandershekhar Mahadev temple in Saho, around 15 km from Chamba. The temple, nestled in the scenic hills, remained abuzz with religious fervour as people performed rituals and special prayers. Grand Mahashivratri celebrations were organised by the temple committee, which Chamba MLA Neeraj Nayyar attended as the chief guest. He announced a grant of Rs 35 lakh for temple renovation. The temple, believed to be a thousand years old, is home to Asia's largest Shivalinga. The unique feature of the temple is the Nandi bull, which has a stone bell tied around its neck that produces a metal sound. Similarly, the Chaurasi temple complex in Bharmour saw a steady stream of worshippers from early morning. Meanwhile, at the Dwath Mahadev temple, another sacred site in the region, devotees flocked in large numbers, participating in special aarti and bhajan sessions organised for the occasion. Huge rush is witnessed at the Chandershekhar Mahadev and Dwath Mahadev.

## RED, YELLOW, WHITE & MORE, TULIPS OFFER A VISUAL TREAT AT PALAMPUR GARDEN

**Diary Times Desk :** The Tulip Garden set up in the CSIR complex, 2 km from Palampur, along the Pathankot-Mandi national highway has been thrown open to the public. Red, yellow, white and multi-coloured tulips have been grown here this year, with the CSIR-IHBT adding more varieties of flowers. On the first day of its opening, a large number of people thronged to the Tulip Garden. Talking to reporters, CSIR Director Sudesh Kumar Yadav said the tulips were expected to survive for about a month only. "Tulip, which has its origin in Persia (Iran), was introduced in Europe in the 17th century, where it had been developed in different varieties. Holland is the largest producer of tulips," Yadav added. "Tulip is a tuberous cut flower that has a huge international and domestic demand. It ranks third in the world's top-cut flower trade. Under the mission, the institute has been planting these flowers on its premises for the last three years. This year 55,000 tulip bulbs of different varieties of vibrant colours have been planted in the garden. The garden is expected to attract a large number of visitors from within and outside the state, thereby promoting scientific tourism."



## DEVOTEES THROG SHIVA TEMPLES IN CHAMBA ON MAHA SHIVRATRI

**Diary Times Desk :** A wave of devotion swept across Chamba district as thousands of devotees thronged Lord Shiva temples on the occasion of Mahashivratri on Friday. Temples reverberated with chants of "Har Har Mahadev" as devotees gathered in large numbers to seek blessings. A huge rush was witnessed at the Chandershekhar Mahadev temple in Saho, around 15 km from Chamba. The temple, nestled in the scenic hills, remained abuzz with religious fervour as people performed rituals and special prayers. Grand Mahashivratri celebrations were organised by the temple committee, which Chamba MLA Neeraj Nayyar attended as the chief guest. He announced a grant of Rs 35 lakh for temple renovation. The temple, believed to be a thousand years old, is home to Asia's largest Shivalinga. The unique feature of the temple is the Nandi bull, which has a stone bell tied around its neck that produces a metal sound. Similarly, the Chaurasi temple complex in Bharmour saw a steady stream of worshippers from early morning. Meanwhile, at the Dwath Mahadev temple, another sacred site in the region, devotees flocked in large numbers, participating in special aarti and bhajan sessions organised for the occasion. Huge rush is witnessed at the Chandershekhar Mahadev and Dwath Mahadev.

## TO CHECK CRIME, CCTV CAMERAS TO BE INSTALLED IN HAROLI: DEPUTY CM

**Diary Times Desk :** Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today said that highways and entry points to the Haroli Assembly segment, particularly those on the inter-state borders with Punjab, would be covered with CCTV cameras at a cost of Rs 2 crore to check the incidents of crime. He was speaking at the annual function of Government Degree College at Beetan village in the Haroli segment. Agnihotri said that the state government had zero tolerance for drugs and that those involved in its trafficking were being followed up and brought to justice. He added that illegal mining in the Swan river had been controlled and drones had been put into service. The Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need to strike a balance between the withdrawal of groundwater and its recharge by conserving rainwater and rejuvenating traditional sources. He said that though the state government was making efforts in this direction, success was not possible without public participation. Agnihotri said that infrastructure development in the areas of academics and sports in the Haroli Assembly segment had been strengthened.

## SKILL UNIVERSITY PROPOSED AT BHATTIYAT: SPEAKER

**Diary Times Desk :** Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania on Tuesday said that a skill university is proposed to be established in the Bhattiyat Assembly constituency of Chamba district. He also declared that a B.Sc (Computer Science) course would be introduced at Government Postgraduate College at Chowari from the next academic session. He was speaking at the annual prize distribution function at Government PG College as the chief guest. Before the event, he laid the foundation stone of a cultural stage and a botanical garden on the college campus to be built at a cost of Rs 27 lakh. Pathania emphasised the importance of higher education along with employment.

## 330 CCTV CAMERAS TO MONITOR SECURITY DURING WEEKLONG FEST

**Diary Times Desk :** The international Mahashivratri fair is all set to officially begin in Mandi on February 27. The local police have put a stringent security and traffic management plan in place to ensure a smooth and safe festival for thousands of devotees and tourists visiting the city. According to SP Sakshi Verma, over 800 police personnel, including eight gazetted officers, non-gazetted officers grade-I and II and Home Guard jawans, will be deployed across the city to maintain law and order during the weeklong celebrations. She said, "Mandi city has been divided into six key sectors, including vital areas such as Paddal Mela Ground, devta protection, city core area, the route extending from Khaliyar to Bidrawani and the Malori Tunnel. For better surveillance and quick response, additional CCTV cameras will be installed, taking their number in Mandi to 330. These cameras will monitor high-traffic and sensitive spots during the fair to ensure the safety of all participants." Sakshi said, "In terms of traffic management, various routes will be regulated to avoid congestion and temporary bus stops have been set up at key locations. Special arrangements for emergency vehicles have been made and heavy vehicles will be restricted from entering the core area during peak hours. Designated parking spaces have been arranged in the city, including at the Victoria Bridge, Bhima Kali Temple and the Gymkhana Club, among others, to accommodate an expected large number of vehicles."



## AFGHANISTAN KNOCK ENGLAND OUT OF ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025

**Diary Times Desk :** The clash in Lahore was anything but easy for both teams, but Afghanistan emerged victorious in a hard-fought battle. In a stunning upset, they knocked England out of the Champions Trophy 2025 with a thrilling 8-run win at Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday, February 26. England are winless after two matches and in their last league match in Group B they will face South Africa, who already have three points along with Australia. Afghanistan now have two points and will have to beat the Aussies in their final group match to entertain the hopes of reaching the last eight. For a long time, England's chase merely rattled along as the dismissal of Phil Salt and Jamie Smith jolted them early. They were 30 for two then, and eventually ended up at 317 all out with a ball to spare as pacer Omarzai (5/58) struck at crucial junctures. But Root (120, 111b, 11x4, 1x6) brought stability to England's innings through two alliances, adding 68 runs with Ben Duckett (38), who was dropped on 29, for the third wicket and then an 83-run stand with skipper Jos Buttler for the fifth wicket. They were not really blazing partnerships but kept England afloat, keeping them in the vicinity of the asking rate.



### DANISH MALEWAR, KARUN NAIR SCRIPT TURNAROUND ON OPENING DAY

**Diary Times Desk :** A fighting double century partnership between Danish Malewar and Karun Nair helped Vidarbha turn things around on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy final against Kerala in Nagpur. Vidarbha received a massive jolt in the first session when their top order was sent packing with just 24 runs on the board. However, Malewar and Nair were involved in a 215-run stand that ensured the hosts finished strong at 254 for 4 by Stumps. Kerala took just two balls to strike after asking Vidarbha to bat. The opening wicket came on the back of a brave review in the first over as MD Nidheesh trapped Parth Rekhade leg-before-wicket for a duck. After three maidens to begin with, Dhruv Shorey opened Vidarbha's account with a boundary. However, Darshan Nalkande miscued a short ball against Nidheesh at the other end to give Kerala their second breakthrough. Despite looking solid in his brief stay, Shorey edged one off Eden Apple to fall for 16 that left his side in desperate need of a partnership. That is when Nair joined forces with Malewar to revive the batting side. Initially watchful, the two batters then went on the offensive to collect boundaries at regular intervals.

### PAKISTAN'S CHAMPIONS TROPHY HUMILIATION TRIGGERS HUGE POLITICAL UPROAR IN COUNTRY

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan's early exit in the ongoing Champions Trophy 2025 has not only drawn widespread criticism against players but also landed Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi in hot waters with his position being held under scrutiny, Geo News reported. Hosts Pakistan, which got the opportunity to host an ICC tournament after a long gap of 29 years, was knocked out of the tournament in a matter of just 5 days leaving the fans of supporters of the team massively disappointed. National Assembly Opposition Leader and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) politician Omar Ayub expressed his disappointment with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi and demanded the post. Following the Green Brigade's exit from the ongoing marquee event, National Assembly Omar Ayub, while speaking to the media on Tuesday, blamed Mohsin Naqvi for the team's poor performance in the ongoing competition and requested the management to remove him from his position following "repeated failures," as reported by Geo News. Pakistan's dreadful run in the ICC events continued after the defending champions lost two games on the trot in group.

### KOHLI MOVES UP TO NO.5 ON ICC RANKINGS, PONTING CALLS HIM 'BEST ODI PLAYER'

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting reckons Virat Kohli will give himself the "best chance to be remembered as the all-time leading run-scorer" in ODIs. With his unbeaten 100 against Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday, Kohli moved up to No.5 on the ICC's ODI rankings and became just the third player to breach the 14,000-run barrier in 50-over cricket. Already past Ponting in the highest run-scorers list, he is now 149 away from second-placed Kumar Sangakkara, but still 4341 behind Sachin Tendulkar who sits on top of the pile. "With someone like Virat, you never write him off, because I'm sure he'd be motivated by that [achieving the record], I think," Ponting said on the ICC Review Podcast. "Now that he's gone past me and only two ahead of him, I'm sure he wants to give himself the best chance to be remembered as the all-time leading run scorer in the game. "So, as long as the hunger's there, obviously, physically wise, he's probably as fit as he's ever been and works exceptionally hard on that side of his game. So, if the hunger's still there, then I'm never going to write him off.



### ICC CLEARS KUHNEMANN'S BOWLING ACTION

**Diary Times Desk :** The International Cricket Council has cleared Matthew Kuhnemann's bowling action after it came under the scanner recently. The Australian spinner was reported for an illegal action during the second Test of the series against Sri Lanka earlier this month. Having been reported for a suspect action for the first time in his professional career, the 28-year-old left-arm spinner underwent an independent bowling assessment at the National Cricket Centre in Queensland. The results have revealed that the elbow extension for all his deliveries were within 15 degrees, above which an action is deemed illegal. As a result, the Australian can now continue to bowl in international cricket. Kuhnemann has played five Tests and four ODIs so far. Making his Test debut in India in 2023, Kuhnemann received a recall to beef up Australia's spin options for another subcontinental tour. He ended up playing a significant role in the series win by picking up 16 wickets.

### PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH SEEK THE PROVERBIAL 'PRIDE' IN DEAD RUBBER

**Diary Times Desk :** At this stage of multi-team competitions, things usually get intense - points table scenarios shift, teams jostle for position, and some even find themselves rooting for rivals to keep their hopes alive. The battle for qualification reaches its peak. But not today. This is the penultimate Group A match in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, and there's nothing on the line. A dead rubber between two underwhelming sides, both beaten by New Zealand and India, with no path forward. It's tournament hosts Pakistan against fellow Asians Bangladesh, playing for pride, not progression. Both teams were under par with their batting and did not have much on the scoreboard to put pressure on the oppositions. And while Bangladesh did at least try to make a fight out of it with some spirited bowling, Pakistan were downright mediocre across all facets of their game. In an era where even 350-plus totals aren't safe in the 50-over format, Pakistan and Bangladesh have regressed. While the pitches may have had a role to play to an extent, their batting struggles were evident. Bangladesh managed only 228 and 240, both times batting first, while Pakistan posted 260 in a chase of 321 and 241 when setting a target. These underwhelming totals exposed their shortcomings and ultimately left them far behind in the race to the semifinals. So, what does this game offer for the teams? Not much in terms of stakes.