

## PM MODI

## INDIA NOW EMERGING AS FACTORY OF WORLD: PM MODI

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that his “vocal for local” campaign is bearing fruits as Indian products are going global and making their presence felt across the world. Speaking at the NXT conclave where the ‘NewsX World’ channel was launched, Modi said the world used to look at India as its back office for decades but the country is now emerging as the factory of the world. Now, India is not the workforce but a “world force”, the prime minister added.

Modi said the country is manufacturing semiconductors and aircraft carriers and its superfoods like ‘makhana’ and millets, Ayush products and yoga are being embraced across the world. India has also become a major automobile producer and its defence export is rising, he said. Modi said India should be presented as it is, without any colour. It does not need any make-up, he said, adding that real stories from the country should reach the world. The prime minister said the BJP-led NDA government’s re-election for a third term showed people’s trust and hoped that the new global news channel from India would take the country’s achievements abroad.

He said the world is looking at India in the 21st century, and that the country is constantly generating positive news. India is now leading many global initiatives, he said, referring to him co-hosting the recent AI summit and India’s presidency of the G20. Citing the Maha Kumbh, he said it highlighted India’s organising skills and innovation. Noting that his government has repealed many obsolete laws, he said an Act made by the British criminalising the dancing of 10 or more persons remained in force till it was annulled by his dispensation. Taking a swipe at the “Lutyens jamat” and “PIL ke thekedaar”, he said they go to courts for everything but kept mum over such a law. They did not think of liberty then, he said.



## TELANGANA TUNNEL COLLAPSE

## TELANGANA TUNNEL COLLAPSE: FOUR TRAPPED PERSONS LOCATED, MINISTER SAYS SURVIVAL CHANCE '1 PER CENT'



**Diary Times Desk :** The rescue operation to pull out the eight persons trapped inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel here for a week saw a breakthrough on Saturday with the whereabouts of four of them being located, though a Telangana Minister put the chances of their survival at “one per cent.”

State Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who attended a meeting with officials involved in the rescue operation along with Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, said there was lot of progress during the last couple of days. “In my view, the whereabouts of four persons have been located through radar,” he told reporters at the tunnel and expressed hope they would be extricated by Sunday evening.

Asked about the condition of the four whose whereabouts have been found, the minister recalled he had said on the first day itself that the chances of survival of the trapped persons are remote. “I had said the chances (of survival) are very, very remote. I am not talking about it but waiting in view of one per cent possibility (for survival),” he said.

Krishna Rao added desilting was being carried out manually where the whereabouts of four persons had been identified which was expected to be completed by Sunday evening.

Scientists from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) used Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and detected some “anomalies” inside the tunnel, providing a crucial lead in the operation.

The other four appear to have been stuck beneath the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), the minister said. It may take some time to get a breakthrough about them, he said. The 450 ft tall TBM was being cut, he said. The personnel of about 11 agencies, including Army, NDRF, rat miners, are involved in the operation.

Referring to the criticism of Opposition parties that the operation is getting delayed, Krishna Rao said those involved in the endeavour are experts but the rescue work is complex in view of the conditions, including slush, inside the tunnel.

## 'CLOUD PARTICLE SCAM': ED ARRESTS PROMOTER COUPLE FROM DELHI AIRPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has arrested the promoter couple of a company, which allegedly duped many investors through a "cloud particle scam", from the Delhi airport under the anti-money laundering law. Sukhvinder Singh Kharour and Dimple Kharour were taken into custody on Thursday. A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Jalandhar, Punjab remanded "mastermind" Sukhvinder Singh Kharour in ED custody for ten days and his wife Dimple Kharour for five days, the federal agency said in a statement. The two were detained at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport on the basis of a Look Out Circular (LOC) issued by the ED. Last month, the ED had arrested a man named Arif Nisar in this case. The agency said Sukhvinder Singh Kharour, the CEO and founder of Vuenow Group, is the 'mastermind' of this scam. The CEO, in connivance with his close associates, orchestrated the 'cloud particle scam' worth thousands of crores of rupees where the hard-earned money of the investors was "siphoned off" by the accused persons for their personal gains, the ED said.



## GOVT AMENDS PASSPORT RULES, ALLOWS SUBMISSION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR THOSE BORN AFTER OCT 1, 2023

**Diary Times Desk :** The government on Friday, through a gazette notification, amended the Passport Rules, 1980, to be known as Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2025, in respect of documents to be presented as proof of birth while applying for a passport. As per the amended rules, those applicants born before October 1, 2023, will have to attach any one of the documents as proof of date of birth; namely birth certificate issued by the municipal corporation, matriculation or school leaving certificate, PAN card, service record or pension pay order (in case of government servants, driving licence, voter ID card or insurance policy bond bearing date of birth issued by either LIC or any other public company). In respect of persons born on or after October 1, 2023, however, only the copy of birth certificate issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths or the Municipal Corporation or any other authority, empowered under the Registration.

## INDIA NOWHERE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION: VICE-PRESIDENT DHANKHAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Lamenting that India was nowhere in international commercial arbitration, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said it was time to look beyond retired judges as arbitrators. "On self-assessment, without fear of contradiction, I can say we are nowhere. We are nowhere in the minds of people having commercial relationships with us if it is international commercial arbitration," the Vice-President said, addressing the inaugural session of a colloquium on "International Arbitration: Indian Perspective" organised by India International Arbitration Centre here. Emphasising the need for participation of domain experts in arbitration, he referred to a former Chief Justice of India's remarks that the arbitral process in the country has become an "old boys' club". The Vice-President, however, said, "I should not be misunderstood... even for a moment. Retired judges of this country are an asset to the arbitral process. They lend credibility to us. I know some of the former chief justices and judges being absolutely appreciated globally for international commercial arbitration.... But there are areas where the arbitral tribunal needs to be supplemented by experts in the field of oceanography, in aviation, in infrastructure and what not. And the disputes are relatable to the experience which is sectoral."

## TELANGANA TUNNEL COLLAPSE: FOUR TRAPPED PERSONS LOCATED, MINISTER SAYS SURVIVAL CHANCE '1 PER CENT'

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### Aries

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

### Gemini

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

### Leo

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

### Libra

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

### Sagittarius

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

### Aquarius

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to 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.



### Taurus

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

### Cancer

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

### Virgo

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

### Scorpio

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

### Capricorn

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

### Pisces

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





## HP CONGRESS: RAJNI PATIL OFFERED PRAYERS AT JAKHU HANUMAN TEMPLE, SAID- NEW EXECUTIVE WILL BE RECONSTITUTED WITHIN 15 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Congress in-charge Rajni Patil offered prayers at Jakhu temple in the capital Shimla on Saturday morning. State Congress President Pratibha Singh was also present during this time. Rajni Patil inspected the premises after paying obeisance at the temple. After this, Rajni went to Pratibha Singh's residence Holly Lodge and had breakfast. Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh was also present during this time. Congress politics has heated up due to Rajni Patil's visit to Holly Lodge. Holly Lodge has been the power center of the state's politics for many years. The direction of the Congress was decided from here till former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh was alive. Now his wife and former MP Pratibha Singh is the state Congress president. Son Vikramaditya Singh is a cabinet minister. Pratibha Singh's three-year term as state president is to be completed in April. In such a situation, speculations are being made whether she will be made the state president again or some other leader will be crowned in her place. Discussions continued at the party headquarters Rajiv Bhawan Shimla on Saturday regarding the party in-charge's visit to Holly Lodge. Party sources said that during breakfast, Patil had a discussion with Pratibha Singh and Vikramaditya Singh about the formation of the state executive.



## HIMACHAL PRADESH: RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS MAY GET THE RIGHT TO SELL AND TRANSFER LAND, PEOPLE HAVE DONATED LAND

**Diary Times Desk :** Religious institutions in Himachal Pradesh may get the right to sell and transfer land. The amended bill passed by the state government in the assembly has been sent by the Raj Bhavan for the President's approval. It can be implemented in Himachal only after the President's approval. In this amended bill, the government has said that land will be given to institutions only for religious activities. Land will neither be sold nor transferred for hotels and other commercial purposes. In Himachal Pradesh, people have donated hundreds of acres of land to religious institutions. At present, these institutions have assets worth billions in Himachal. The Himachal government has amended the Land Ceiling Act-1972. This amendment was made for Radha Swami Satsang Beas. Radha Swami Satsang Beas wants to transfer the hospital located in Bhota of Hamirpur district to a society. The legal aspects of the request from the institution were considered. This is a charitable hospital, where hundreds of people of the district get free treatment. Before approving the amended bill in the assembly, the Revenue Department had sent the draft to the Law Department for screening. After this, it will be brought to the cabinet.

## HP BOARD: ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS OF CLASS 10TH AND 12TH FROM 4TH, QUESTION PAPERS DID NOT REACH PANGI-UDAIPUR

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh School Education Board's annual examinations for class 10th and 12th are starting from March 4. The annual examination of class 10th will start with Hindi and class 12th with Economics paper. The board has delivered question papers to all the examination centres except Udaipur and Pangi. Question papers could not be delivered in Pangi-Udaipur due to roads being closed due to rain and snowfall. Question papers for the examinations have been delivered to Kullu. Helicopter facility has been sought from the government to deliver the question papers beyond Kullu. If the weather remains bad like this, then it will be difficult to deliver the question papers to both the places even through helicopter. In such a situation, the education board may have to postpone the examinations of the initial days. In Himachal, 1,93,298 regular and SOS students will appear for class 10th and 12th examinations.

## HIMACHAL: DETAILS OF PANCHAYAT REPRESENTATIVES ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION SOUGHT, DEPARTMENT ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Department has sought details of panchayat representatives facing corruption charges. Giving this information, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh said that to curb corruption, it is our wish that those facing corruption charges should not be allowed to contest elections. He said that from 2018 to 2025, corruption complaints have been received against 358 panchayat representatives and investigation is going on in 237 of them. Apart from this, the department received 1,353 complaints since 2018, out of which 611 have been settled. Panchayati Raj institutions elections are to be held in Himachal in December this year. Referring to the formation of panchayats, Anirudh Singh said that about 750 proposals have been received, which are being reviewed as an amount of Rs 6 to 7 crore is spent on the formation of a new panchayat. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh said that 800 e-rickshaws will be used for garbage collection in panchayat areas.

## HIMACHAL: PARWANOO TOLL BARRIER AUCTIONED FOR RS 21.13 CRORE, BIDDER FROM ANANDPUR SAHIB PLACED THE HIGHEST BID

**Diary Times Desk :** The auction process of the toll barrier at Parwanoo, the gateway of Himachal Pradesh, was conducted by the State Tax and Excise Department, Solan. Four bidders participated in the auction process held at the District Panchayat Officer's office. Finally, the bidder from Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, placed the highest bid and got the toll for the financial year 2025-26. This company will look after the toll collection from April 1. On Friday, the auction process was chaired by District Deputy Commissioner and Presiding Officer Manmohan Sharma. The highest bid for the Parwanoo toll unit was Rs 21 crore 13 lakh 13 thousand 113. Shilpa Kapil, Deputy Commissioner of State Tax and Excise Department, Solan, said that the Parwanoo toll unit is in Sector-4 and Tipra bypass of Parwanoo. The reserve price for the Parwanoo toll unit was fixed at Rs 20 crore 59 lakh 72 thousand 150.

## HIMACHAL WEATHER: RAIN AND SNOWFALL IN HIMACHAL REVIVES CROPS, GARDENERS ARE HAPPY, WHEAT AND PEAS ALSO BENEFIT

**Diary Times Desk :** The crops which were getting affected by drought like situation have got a new lease of life due to the rain and snowfall since last two days. The gardeners are excited due to snowfall in the high altitude areas. The snowfall has raised the hope of completion of chilling hours of apple. At the same time, rain and snowfall is also being said to be beneficial for stone fruits. Experts have said that the rain in the plains is also beneficial for the wheat crop. Peas and other vegetables will also benefit from the rain. On the other hand, wheat crop was scattered in the fields due to strong storm in many areas including Una. At the same time, flowering has started in other crops including apricot, plum, almond, grapes, cherry and kiwi in the lower areas these days. Due to this, they can be damaged by excessive rain and cold. After not getting enough rain and snowfall in winter, farmers and gardeners have heaved a sigh of relief due to snowfall in the end of February. Due to lack of snowfall, gardeners were worried about loss in this year's season.

## HIMACHAL: ELECTRIC WIRE STUCK IN THE TYRE OF A MOVING HRTC BUS, ONE PASSENGER DIED DUE TO ELECTRIC SHOCK

**Diary Times Desk :** A person died due to electric shock near Parwanoo on Kalka-Shimla NH. The accident occurred when the HRTC bus was going from Haridwar to Shimla. Meanwhile, due to heavy rain and wind, the earth wire attached to the electricity pole near Shivalik Hotel Parwanoo broke and got stuck in the tire of the bus. Meanwhile, as soon as a person travelling in the bus got down, he got an electric shock and died. According to the police, the Disaster Management Department Solan informed the Parwanoo police station that a bus caught fire near Shivalik Hotel Parwanoo. One person died in this. On this information, the team of Parwanoo police station reached the spot. An electric wire was found broken on the road in front of the HRTC bus. A person was found lying unconscious on the road in front of the bus. Investigation revealed that the bus did not catch fire.

## COURT ALLOWS POLICE TO WITHDRAW CASE AGAINST SHEHLA RASHID FOR ANTI-ARMY TWEETS

**Diary Times Desk :** Delhi's Patiala House Court on Saturday accepted the police's plea to withdraw the sedition case against former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student leader Shehla Rashid for her alleged anti-army tweets in 2019. Shehla, a member of the All India Students Association (AISA), was accused of making several controversial and objectionable tweets, one after the other, about Jammu and Kashmir and the Army on 18 August 2019. She had accused the Indian Army of committing atrocities against the people of Kashmir. The army denied Shehla's allegations and called them a lie. One of her tweets read, "Armed Forces are entering houses at night, picking up boys, ransacking houses, deliberately spilling rations on the floor, mixing oil with rice, etc". Another tweet read, "In Shopian, 4 men were called into the Army Camp and 'interrogated' (tortured). A mic was kept close to them so that the entire area could hear them scream and be terrorised. This created an environment of fear in the entire area".

## GIVE UP SMUGGLING OR LEAVE PUNJAB, HARPAL CHEEMA WARNS DRUG PEDDLERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Friday issued a stern and final warning to drug traffickers in Punjab to either give up smuggling or leave the state. Cheema, who heads a cabinet sub-committee set up to monitor the government action against drugs, gave this warning in the presence of committee members Aman Arora, Balbir Singh, Tarunpreet Singh Sond, and Laljit Singh Bhullar during a press conference here. Chief secretary KAP Sinha and DGP Gaurav Yadav were also present. He said that the state government had carried out a major campaign over the past three years to eradicate drugs from the state, which, as per AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal's vision, is in the final stage, with bulldozers targeting the houses of drug peddlers. "No individual involved in the drug trade, regardless of their position or influence, will be spared," he added. He said that around 12,000 FIRs have been registered under the NDPS Act in the recent past, with only 24 individuals granted default bail. AAP state chief and minister Aman Arora said that the AAP government seized property worth ₹612 crore of drug smugglers in just three years compared to ₹142 crore during the five-year rule of the Congress. He said that there is a 600% increase.

## CENTRE'S BIG ORDER ON MANIPUR TO ENSURE FREE MOVEMENT FROM NEXT WEEK



**Diary Times Desk :** Home Minister Amit Shah today issued a directive mandating that the free movement of people be ensured on all roads in Manipur starting March 8. He also instructed authorities to take strict action against anyone attempting to obstruct movement on the roads. Mr Shah had earlier chaired a high-level review meeting on the security situation in the conflict-hit state. The meeting, held in Delhi, focused on restoring normalcy in the northeastern state, which has been grappling with ethnic violence since May 2023. This was the first such review meeting held since the imposition of President's Rule in the state. Manipur has witnessed widespread violence for nearly two years, with over 200 people killed in clashes. In January, an economic blockade was placed along the NH-2 (Imphal-Dimapur), which goes through the Kangpokpi district, by a Kuki group. The blockade was later lifted. "To make Manipur drug-free, the entire network involved in drug trade should be dismantled," a statement from the Home ministry read.

## 'NO FUEL TO 15-YEAR-OLD VEHICLES': DELHI GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES

**Diary Times Desk :** To curb Delhi's pollution levels, environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Saturday announced that vehicles older than 15 years will not be provided fuel at petrol pumps from March 31. Announcing several anti-pollution measures, Sirsa said that the newly formed BJP government is taking stringent steps to curb vehicular emissions and pollution. Restrictions on older vehicles, mandatory anti-smog measures, and the transition to electric public transport were among the issues discussed. "We are installing gadgets at petrol pumps which will identify vehicles older than 15 years, and no fuel will be provided to them," Sirsa said, adding that the Union Ministry of Petroleum will also be informed about the decision. Apart from fuel supply restrictions, all high-rise buildings, hotels, and commercial complexes in Delhi will be required to install anti-smog guns to curb air pollution levels.

## MAHARASHTRA LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE ABOVE-NORMAL TEMPERATURE ON MOST DAYS THIS SUMMER

**Diary Times Desk :** While temperatures in the months of January and February too were recorded on the higher side, Maharashtra is likely to experience a hotter-than-usual summer season this year. In its temperature outlook for the summer season, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated that the state is likely to experience above-normal temperature along with a greater number of heatwave events between March and May, 2025. The forecast also indicates that the southern part of the state is likely to experience above-normal rainfall activity in March. In its temperature outlook for the summer season issued on February 28, the IMD indicated that above-normal maximum temperatures are most likely in most parts of the country, except in the southern parts of peninsular India and isolated pockets of northeast India where normal to below-normal maximum.

## 'PUNE RAPE ACCUSED CALLED SURVIVOR DIDI', POLICE TELLS COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** Pune bus rape accused Dattatray Ramdas Gade called the 26-year-old woman 'didi' (sister) and took her to an empty 'Shiv Shahi' bus parked at the Swargate depot and raped her, the police told court on Friday. According to a PTI report, the 37-year-old accused faces half a dozen criminal cases in Pune and Ahilyanagar districts, and was clearly seen in the CCTV footage of the bus terminus on the day of the incident. According to the police, data of the mobile phone he was using was yet to be recovered. The police stated that out of the half a dozen cases registered against Gade, women are complainants in five of them. On Friday, a Pune court sent Gade to police custody till March 12. He was nabbed from a paddy field following an extensive search operation carried out with the help of drones and sniffer dogs around midnight on Thursday in Shirur tehsil of Pune district. Besides harnessing technology, 13 police teams were deployed as part of the search operation, but human intelligence proved decisive in nabbing the accused, another official told PTI.



## 4 TRAPPED IN TELANGANA TUNNEL COLLAPSE LOCATED, 1% SURVIVAL CHANCE: MINISTER

**Diary Times Desk :** The rescue operations to pull out the eight persons trapped inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel here for a week saw a breakthrough on Saturday with the whereabouts of four of them being located, though a Telangana minister put the chances of their survival at "one per cent." State Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who attended a meeting with officials involved in the rescue operation along with Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, said there was lot of progress during the last couple of days. "In my view, the whereabouts of four persons have been located through radar," he told reporters at the tunnel and expressed hope they would be extricated by Sunday evening. Asked about the condition of the four whose whereabouts have been found, the minister recalled he had said on the first day itself that the chances of survival of the trapped persons are remote. I had said the chances (of survival) are very, very remote. I am not talking about it but waiting in view.



## THOUSANDS OF MOURNERS ATTEND FUNERAL OF TALIBAN-LINKED CLERIC KILLED IN PAKISTAN SUICIDE BLAST

**Diary Times Desk :** Thousands of mourners attended a funeral on Saturday for a Taliban-linked cleric slain in a suicide bomb attack on a seminary in Pakistan's northwest. Hamidul Haq, the head of Jamia Haqqania seminary, was one of seven people killed in a suicide bombing on Friday at a mosque inside the compound. Police said Haq was the target of the attack. Haq was the son of the late Maulana Samiul Haq, who is considered a founding figure for the Afghan and Pakistani branches of the Taliban. Many Afghan Taliban have studied at Jamia Haqqania in the past few decades. Mourners packed into the main hall of the seminary for the funeral, with more praying on the street. The prayers passed without incident due to a heavy police deployment and seminary students guarding the venue. Muslim Jan, a cleric at the funeral, called the suicide bombing a tragedy and described the victims as "our teachers and brothers." "What happened was a disaster, it was unbearable," he said. No one has so far claimed responsibility for Friday's attack, which came just before the start of the holy month of Ramadan. Authorities issued a photo of the alleged suicide bomber and have offered a reward of 500,000 rupees for information about his identity, parentage and place of residence.

## PM MODI MEETS 'FRIEND' EX SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT RANIL WICKREMESINGHE AT NXT CONCLAVE

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met the former Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe at the NXT Conclave in Delhi. Calling Wickremesinghe a 'friend', PM Modi said that he always looked forward to their interactions. In a post on X, he said, "At the NXT Conclave, met my friend Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe. I have always looked forward to our interactions and have admired his perspective on various issues." Earlier in the day, Modi highlighted India's capability to efficiently organise large-scale events like Maha Kumbh and said that there is no need to "manufacture" news as everyday, new records are being created. Addressing the NXT Conclave 2025 here, PM Modi said that the "world wants to know" about India in detail.

## INDIA, NEPAL TO SIGN MOU TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

**Diary Times Desk :** India and Nepal are set to sign a MoU aimed at strengthening cooperation in the drinking water, sanitation and hygiene sectors on Monday, in Delhi. Nepal's Minister for Water Supply, Pradeep Yadav, reached Delhi on Saturday to participate in the signing ceremony. Joint Secretary of Nepal's Water Supply Ministry, Meena Shrestha, confirmed this development to ANI and said the aim of the agreement is to develop the water resources, access to clean water, promotion of water sanitation, waste management. "The aim of the agreement is to develop the water resources, access to clean water, promotion of water sanitation, waste management and strengthen the efforts of the Government of Nepal. The agreement also covers groundwater management, technology and information exchange, rain water collection and measurement, technology and training cooperation in between two governments. The agreement set to be signed aims to strengthen mutual cooperation between India and Nepal in the water and sanitation sector," Shrestha told ANI over phone.



## HOURS AFTER TRUMP'S "PEACE" JAB, ZELENSKY'S "THAT'S WHY I CAME TO US" REPLY



**Diary Times Desk :** A shouting match in the Oval Office, broadcast worldwide, with US President Donald Trump appears to have not deterred Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky. Mr Zelensky, whose joint news conference and signing ceremony for a deal on rare minerals was cancelled with US officials telling Ukrainians to leave, today underscored that it is "crucial for us to have President Trump's support". "We want peace. That's why I came to the United States, and visited President Trump. The deal on minerals is just a first step toward security guarantees and getting closer to peace. Our situation is tough, but we can't just stop fighting and not having guarantees that Putin will not return tomorrow," Mr Zelensky posted on X. Moments after his heated exchange with the Ukrainian leader, Mr Trump had said in a social media post that Mr Zelensky can come back "when he is ready for peace". Mr Trump also accused the Ukrainian leader of having "disrespected the United States of America in its cherished Oval Office".

## ELON MUSK WELCOMES '14TH CHILD' AS SHIVON ZILIS CONFIRMS BIRTH OF THEIR 4TH

**Diary Times Desk :** Elon Musk and his wife, Shvonne Zilis, have welcomed their fourth child, a baby boy. Zilis has publicly confirmed the name of the child in a recent post on X. While she did not disclose when the baby was born, she revealed the child's name while celebrating their third child Arcadia's first birthday. Zilis and Musk had previously kept the identities of their third and fourth children private. However, she has now disclosed that their fourth child is named Seldon Lycurgus. "Discussed with Elon, and in light of beautiful Arcadia's birthday, we felt it was better to share directly about our wonderful and incredible son, Seldon Lycurgus. Built like a juggernaut, with a solid heart of gold. Love him so much," Zilis wrote. Musk responded to the post with a heart emoji.

## PAK ACTIVISTS SLAM POOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN KARACHI, BLAME LACK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Activists advocating for rights and representatives of civil society have stated that the growing number of deadly traffic accidents in the city, along with the inadequate enforcement of traffic laws, constitutes a breach of human rights that the government has neglected to protect, according to a report by Dawn. These opinions were shared during a discussion titled "Traffic and Transport Issues in Karachi, Proposed Solutions," hosted by the Concerned Citizens Alliance (CCA) at the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) House on Friday, moderated by Mirza Ali Azhar, as reported by Dawn. During the event, Vice Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Qazi Khizer remarked that the Pakistani state must ensure the safety and security of every citizen's life according to the Constitution, but it has routinely evaded this responsibility. He stated that the traffic and transport concerns in Karachi exemplify this failure. He attributed the alarming rise in accidents involving heavy vehicles, which have resulted in numerous fatalities, primarily to corruption within the traffic police force. He pointed out that if one focuses solely on the heavy vehicles coming from the port, it becomes evident that trucks and trailers are leaving the Karachi Port at all hours, he noted.

## YOKOHAMA CITY CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH GRANDEUR

**Diary Times Desk :** The Chinese New Year celebration was recently held in Yokohama city featuring stunning performances and beautifully decorated lanterns. Yokohama Chinatown welcomed the New Year with traditional ceremonial performances. In the mid-19th century, the Japanese government opened the country to the world, leading many Chinese immigrants from mainland China and Taiwan to settle in Yokohama and integrate with Japanese society. The Chinese New Year ceremony began in 1986 as a symbol of a harmonious and inclusive civil society beyond national origins. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was suspended, but due to strong public demand, it was revived and has grown more vibrant each year. Yokohama Chinatown Development Association, Tetsuya Shimoda, said "Yokohama Chinatown in Japan is often regarded as the best Chinatown in the world. This year's Spring Festival features several first-time events, including today's night parade.

### 3-MONTH DEADLINE TO MAKE PUNJAB DRUG-FREE: 750 LOCATIONS RAIDED IN STATEWIDE CRACKDOWN

**Diary Times Desk** : A day after holding a high-level meeting with the government, the Punjab Police have launched a statewide operation against drugs, conducting raids at 750 locations as the cabinet sub-committee on the drug menace held its first meeting on Saturday. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday set a deadline of three months to make the state drug-free. Around 12,000 police personnel were involved in the operation being carried out as part of an anti-drug campaign. As part of the state government's renewed push against the drug problem, action is being taken against drug peddlers and in some places, their properties were also demolished. Cabinet Minister Aman Arora on Saturday appealed to all political parties that instead of playing politics, they should extend their support to the state government's anti-drug campaign to save Punjab. The meeting of the cabinet sub-committee was also attended by Chief Secretary KAP Sinha and Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav. Addressing the media after the meeting, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, who is heading the cabinet sub-committee, said the first meeting of the "Yudh Nashia Virudh" campaign was held to ensure strict action against drug peddlers and drug smugglers.



### ROCK GARDEN DEMOLITION ASSAULT ON UT'S ARTISTIC, CULTURAL IDENTITY: RESIDENTS

**Diary Times Desk** : A large number of residents gathered near the Rock Garden today to protest the recent demolition of a wall of the world-famous tourist spot. The protesters, wearing green as a symbol of their commitment to environmental and heritage preservation, also took out a march under the banner of "Uniting for Our Chandigarh". Carrying banners and shouting slogans, the protesters termed the demolition as an "assault on the city's artistic and cultural identity". The demonstration was spearheaded by prominent citizens, environmentalists and artists, including Saving Chandigarh's core committee members Deepika Gandhi, RK Garg, Paveela Bali, Amrita Singh, Samita Kaur, Amandeep Singh and Priyanka Saini, Rock Garden creator Nek Chand's granddaughter. Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari tweeted: "The Rock Garden is a part of the evolution of Chandigarh — a young if not an infant city by the standards of antiquity."

### WOMAN CONGRESS WORKER'S BODY FOUND STUFFED IN SUITCASE IN ROHTAK'S SAMPLA

**Diary Times Desk** : The body of a young woman, identified as Himani Narwal of Rohtak, was found in a suitcase near a bus stand in Sampla town, 25 km away from the district headquarters, on Saturday. The body bore injury marks on the neck and has been kept at the mortuary of the PGIMS, Rohtak, for a post-mortem examination. The incident came to the fore when the police received information about an abandoned suitcase lying along the road. The cops opened the suitcase and found the body. A team of FSL experts was called to the scene to take samples. Later, the body was sent to the PGIMS. "The deceased is believed to be between 20 and 22 years of age. Preliminary investigation suggests she may have been strangled, but further investigation is on," said a police official. He said the footage of CCTV cameras installed on the highway and near the crime spot were being examined. Congress MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra.

### PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT MANN INVITES SKM LEADERS FOR MEETING ON MARCH 3

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann called a meeting of the representatives of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha on March 3 to discuss their demands, farmer leaders said on Saturday. The invite for the meeting came amid the SKM's call for a week-long sit-in in Chandigarh from March 5 in support of their various demands. According to a letter from the chief minister's office, shared by farmers, SKM leaders Balbir Singh Rajewal and Joginder Singh Ugrahan have been invited for a meeting, to be chaired by the Mann, on March 3 at the Punjab Bhavan here. The SKM, which had led the 2020 agitation against the now-repealed three farm laws, is demanding the rejection of the Centre's draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing, a legal guarantee to minimum support price as per the Swaminathan Commission report. They are also demanding the implementation of the state's agricultural policy, purchase of six crops including basmati, maize, moong, potato at MSP by the state government, a law for debt settlement, ensuring canal water to every field and the payment of sugarcane arrears.

### GOLDY BRAR GANG MEMBER TRIES TO ESCAPE POLICE CUSTODY, HURT IN ENCOUNTER IN DERA BASSI

**Diary Times Desk** : A member of the Goldy Brar gang — Malkiat Singh, alias 'Maxi' — was injured in an encounter when he tried to escape police custody at Bhankharpur in Dera Bassi on Saturday morning. The police said Malkiat, a native of Rajasansi, Amritsar, tried to flee from the custody and opened fire, hitting a police vehicle. "In retaliation, cops fired at him and one bullet hit his left leg," said Dera Bassi DSP Bikramjit Singh Brar. He was later taken to the Dera Bassi Civil Hospital. Maxi had reportedly made a call to a Mohali-based builder recently to seek Rs 50 lakh. A case under Sections 308(2) of the BNS was registered at IT City, Mohali, on January 20. Malkiat and his accomplice Sandeep were brought on production warrants and arrested in this case. Malikat's disclosure had led to the recovery of a .32 calibre pistol near the Ghagar bridge in Dera Bassi. Mohali SSP Deepak Pareek said, "He has many cases of extortion and Arms Act against him. When he was brought here for recovery of arms, he took advantage of the situation and fired at the police. The policemen had a narrow escape as the bullet hit their vehicle, after which they retaliated and a bullet hit Maxi's leg." Malkiat Singh, who sustained a bullet injury in his leg, has many cases of extortion and Arms Act against him.

### HARYANA GOVERNMENT TAKES STRICT ACTION AGAINST OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN PAPER LEAK

**Diary Times Desk** : The Haryana Government has taken swift and severe action against officials involved in the paper leak incident during the Haryana School Education Board examination. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced the suspension of 25 police officers and personnel, including four DSPs and three SHOs, found guilty in connection with the case. In addition to the suspensions, FIRs have been lodged against four invigilators from government schools and one invigilator from a private school. All four government school invigilators have been suspended, and the services of two centre supervisors have been placed under suspension. Furthermore, FIRs have been registered against four outsiders and eight students accused of cheating or facilitating the paper leak at various examination centres. The Chief Minister assured that the investigation is ongoing and that strict instructions have been issued to DCs and DSPs to prevent any individual from approaching examination centres.

### BJP MAYORAL CANDIDATE ACCUSED OF USING DOCTORED VIDEO TO CLAIM SUPPORT FROM RAO INDERJIT SINGH

**Diary Times Desk** : BJP's mayoral candidate Sunder Lal Yadav has been accused of using a doctored video of Gurugram MP Rao Inderjit Singh to claim his support. This allegation comes just hours before Manesar's first election. According to the complaint filed by rival independent candidate Dr Inderjeet Yadav's team, Sunder Lal used an old video of Singh and manipulated it using AI to show support for his campaign. The complaint states that Sunder Lal was struggling to get support from Rao Inderjit Singh, who is also the Union Minister. Despite Singh campaigning for BJP's mayoral candidate, he did not attend Sunder Lal's campaign or mention his name. In response, Sunder Lal allegedly released the doctored video showing Singh citing a busy schedule as the reason for not attending the campaign and seeking votes for him. "Sunder Lal is not getting support from his own party MP and Ahir stalwart Rao Inderjit Singh. It is a known fact, which became evident after Rao did not join Sunder Lal's campaign..," said Dr Inderjeet Yadav. Sources close to Rao Inderjit Singh revealed.



## TOURIST FROM MAHARASHTRA BURNT ALIVE IN SHIMLA'S HOTEL FIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** A tourist from Maharashtra was burnt alive after a hotel he was staying in caught fire on Friday night in Shimla, police said. The deceased has been identified as Ritesh Pudale, a resident of Koregaon village in Sangli district, Maharashtra. According to reports, the deceased, along with his two friends, had reached Shimla and was staying in a BnB in the Kachighatti area of Shimla. While they were sleeping in their hotel room, a fire broke out. While his two friends were able to escape, Ritesh was trapped and burnt alive. Upon noticing the fire, the hotel staff informed the fire department, and fire tenders rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire. Police also reached the scene as soon as they received the information and recovered the body from the room. The body was taken to Indira Gandhi Medical College for a post-mortem.

## 5 INJURED IN EXPLOSION CAUSED BY LPG CYLINDER LEAKAGE IN HIMACHAL'S BADDI

**Diary Times Desk :** Five people, including two minor girls, suffered injuries after leakage of gas from an LPG cylinder triggered a blast in a house located in Phase-III of the Housing Board Colony in Baddi on Saturday morning. The mishap occurred when Dushyant, driver of a utility vehicle, was transferring gas from a commercial cylinder to a smaller cylinder. The injured have been identified as Rajwati (60), Meena (30), Sakshi (12), Pihu (10) and Dushyant. As Rajwati used the lighter to ignite LPG stove, the leaked gas triggered explosion, which threw open the door of the room, thus giving an opportunity to the inmates to rush out. The injured were admitted to the Baddi Civil Hospital for treatment but were referred to the PGI, Chandigarh, as their condition was critical. Raj Kumar, who was entrusted with supplying LPG cylinders, survived as he was not at home when the mishap occurred. The Fire Department was informed about the mishap, but the fire engine could not reach the spot on time as it got stuck in a drain outside Var Public School in Phase-III. Police have registered a case against Dushyant.

## SNOWFALL TRIGGERS LANDSLIDES IN HP AS PARTS OF NORTH GET RAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Heavy rains and snowfall in Himachal Pradesh triggered landslides and caused roadblocks on Saturday, disrupting normal life in the state, as several other parts of north India received showers. In Uttarakhand, 50 workers trapped in an avalanche in the Chamoli district were rescued, but four of them died on Saturday as rescuers raced against time to save the remaining five. The strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which was shut on Thursday evening following heavy snowfall and multiple landslides in the Ramban district, was reopened for light motor vehicles after the weather improved, and road restoration work was carried out. Parts of Delhi, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh received showers on Saturday. According to the Army, the avalanche hit the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp between Mana and Badrinath between 5.30 am and 6 am on Friday. Thirty-three of them were rescued by Friday night. Rain and snowfall hampered the rescue efforts on Friday, and the operation was suspended as the night fell. As the weather cleared up on Saturday morning, the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel based in Mana resumed the rescue operation, District Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi said.



## HIMACHAL'S WEATHER IMPROVES AFTER SNOW, FLOODS; ROAD, POWER SITUATION RETURNING TO NORMAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Weather conditions have improved in Mandi, Kullu, and Lahaul and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh, allowing restoration work to begin on roads severely impacted by recent heavy snowfall. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the Public Works Department (PWD) have deployed teams to clear snow and restore connectivity across these regions. The districts faced major disruptions due to a severe weather system that brought widespread snowfall, road blockages, and power outages. Key highways, including NH-03 and NH-305 in Kullu, and several roads in Lahaul and Spiti, were closed due to snow accumulation. These closures significantly affected daily life, with numerous road disruptions reported. In Kullu, 112 disruptions were reported, including the closure of vital passes like Rohtang Pass on NH-03 and Jalori Pass on NH-305. The Manali to Solang Nalla ATR road was also blocked, along with several others. The district's power supply was severely impacted, with 975 transformers disrupted, particularly in the Manali and Kullu sub-divisions. Lahaul and Spiti also faced challenges, with 165 disruptions caused by snow-blocked roads.

## FLASHFLOOD DAMAGES 14 HOUSES AT KANGRA VILLAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** As many as 14 houses, several vehicles and a local middle school building were damaged after a flashflood struck Chherana village, located in Himachal Pradesh's remote Chhota Bhanghal valley, 70 km from here. The flashflood occurred this morning following a cloudburst caused by heavy rain. Additionally, due to continuous landslides from the hills, 50 houses have been vacated by local residents, who have relocated to safer areas. Reports indicate that relentless heavy rainfall over the past 48 hours has caused widespread devastation in Chhota Bhanghal, disrupting normal life in the valley. Dozens of villages are without power after power supply poles and transmission lines were uprooted. Vehicular traffic to Multhan, Luhardi, Barot and Kothi Kohar has come to a standstill due to massive landslides and fallen trees blocking the roads. Hundreds of vehicles remain stranded across the valley as most roads are buried under snow and large boulders. In response to the crisis, the local authorities opened the floodgates of two hydroelectric projects in the valley to manage the flashfloods in the Uhal and Lamb Dug rivers. Several camping sites along the banks.

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING WILL BE SACKED: HIMACHAL CM SUKHU

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that the services of government employees, against whom evidence of their involvement in drug trafficking had been found, would be terminated. Sukhu, while presiding over a high-level meeting of senior police officers and other department officials here, instructed them to take stringent action against drug peddlers. He added that no one involved in drug trafficking would be spared. He directed the Police Department to launch a massive crackdown on drug traffickers in a mission mode for the next six months. He also instructed the police to undertake mapping of drug peddlers and victims right up to the panchayat level and submit a report by March 15. Sukhu said that panchayat representatives and Nambardars would also be roped in to combat the drug menace. He added that the state government was also establishing a state-of-art rehabilitation centre at Kotla Behar in Sirmaur district. The Chief Minister said that efforts would be made to establish special courts to fast-track NDPS cases. He added that the government would introduce the Himachal Pradesh Anti-Drug Bill in the upcoming budget session of the Vidhan Sabha, which would clearly differentiate between victims and drug peddlers.



## CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025 SEMI-FINALISTS CONFIRMED: INDIA TO FACE AUSTRALIA IF...

**Diary Times Desk :** South Africa topped Group B of the ongoing Champions Trophy after beating England in their final league game in Karachi on Saturday. With five points in three matches, South Africa finished ahead of Australia, four points, at the summit of Group B. In Group A, India and New Zealand will face on in a group-deciding clash in Dubai on Sunday. If India beat New Zealand, they will top Group A and set up a semi-final clash with Australia in the first semi-final on Tuesday, March 4, at the Dubai International Stadium. New Zealand will face South Africa a day later in the second semi-final in that case. However, if they lose to New Zealand, the Rohit Sharma-led side Group B toppers South Africa on the same day. The other semi-final will see Australia taking on New Zealand in an all Trans-Tasman clash in Lahore on Wednesday, March 5. According to a report, Group B potential semi-finalists Australia and South Africa will travel to the UAE on Saturday. But strangely one of them will return to Pakistan, while the other will be in Dubai to face India on Tuesday. The scheduling is such that India are assured of playing its semi-final in Dubai, regardless of which team they take. Group A's other semi-finalists New Zealand will play its last four match in Lahore. The match-ups and venues of the Champions Trophy 2025 semi-finals will be confirmed after India vs New Zealand final Group A game on Sunday.



## ROHIT SHARMA FIT, UNLIKELY TO BE RESTED VS NEW ZEALAND BEFORE CHAMPIONS TROPHY SEMIS, 'CAPTAIN' SHUBMAN GILL HAS TO WAIT

**Diary Times Desk :** India's ICC Champions Trophy campaign reached a bit of a lull in the previous week, with the unit getting an entire week off between games after their victory in the high-intensity contest against Pakistan. India next play New Zealand in Dubai on Sunday to round out the group, but with qualification already promised, India are aware that they play their semifinal on Tuesday, less than two days' rest after their third group game. With fitness and recovery being a concern due to the quick turnaround between these two matches, Indian team assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate was asked about India's plans to ensure their bowlers remain fresh, and if they might consider changes and rest being provided to do so. "We've had two pretty tough training sessions, so that's been the preparation," ten Doeschate explained in the press conference. "In terms of the bench strength, I think the priority is making sure that we have our best guys available and fully fit for the second game." However, ten Doeschate indicated that this extended spell off followed immediately by two quick games provides something of a challenge for the team from a fitness and balance perspective.

## 'INDIA COULD HAVE COMPLAINED THAT IF WE PLAY IN PAKISTAN...': UTHAPPA BRUTALLY SILENCES CHAMPIONS TROPHY VENUE CONTROVERSY

**Diary Times Desk :** India have already qualified for the Champions Trophy 2025 semi-finals and one Group A fixture against New Zealand, which will decide the final outlook of the standings. Rohit Sharma and Co. have faced criticism from former and current players of other teams and experts of having 'home advantage' of playing in the same venue. Notably even Aussie skipper Pat Cummins, who withdrew from the tournament due to injury, criticised ICC's decision to make India play in only one venue, Dubai. Due to geo-political tensions with Pakistan, the Indian cricket team didn't travel to the host nation and requested for a neutral venue, which was granted by ICC. India will play all their matches in Dubai, which is also the semi-final, and if they reach the final. If they don't reach the final, then the title clash will be played in Pakistan. Speaking on the issue, Robin Uthappa, a former teammate of Virat Kohli, rejected the idea that it gave India 'home advantage'.

## D GUKESH ATTAINS CAREER-BEST NO 3 RANKING; R PRAGGNANANDHAA BACK IN TOP 10

**Diary Times Desk :** India's reigning world champion D Gukesh climbed to a career-high number three ranking, while compatriot R Praggnanandhaa broke back into the top 10 in the latest FIDE classical ratings released on Saturday. The 18-year-old Gukesh, who has been in sublime form ever since he beat China's Ding Liren to clinch the world title in Singapore in December, has gained 10 points and now has a 2787 rating. Gukesh, who lost the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk aan Zee to Praggnanandhaa on tiebreak, is behind second-placed Hikaru Nakamura (2802) while and Norway's Magnus Carlsen (2833) continues to be the top-ranked chess player in the world. The Indian Grandmaster has overtaken compatriot Arjun Erigasi and USA's Fabiano Caruana. Erigasi, who was the highest-ranked Indian for a long time, has moved down to fifth with a rating of 2777. Praggnanandhaa, who is currently competing in the Prague Masters, is back in the top 10 for the first time since July last year thanks to his win at the Tata Steel Masters. He has moved up to the eighth spot after gaining 17 pointing. He has a 2758 rating. Koneru Humpy remains the sole Indian in the top 10 in the women's list at number six.

## VIDARBHA CLOSE IN ON THIRD RANJI TROPHY TITLE

**Diary Times Desk :** After eking out a first-innings lead, Vidarbha drove home their advantage with a strong batting performance led by Karun Nair in the second innings. Nair's unbeaten 132 ensured that they ended the penultimate day with a significant lead of 286 against Kerala. Kerala had started the day in desperate need of quick wickets to get back the upper-hand, and for the first hour things went according to script for them. Jalaj Saxena struck with his first ball of the day getting through Parth Rekhade's defence giving Kerala a boost early on, and it was followed up by another breakthrough next over when Dhruv Shorey nicked behind against Nidheesh. At 7 for 2, Vidarbha were in a spot of bother but had the in-form pair of Danish Malewar and Nair to resurrect the innings. The duo had put on a 215-run stand in the first innings and continued from where they left off this time around as well. Nair started off fluently and was the early mover in the partnership before he was put down on 31. Akshay Chandran, at slips, failed to hold on to an edge induced by Eden Apple Tom allowing Vidarbha to get a foot back in. Neither Nair nor Malewar, who had earlier successfully overturned an LBW call, allowed the opposition back in thereafter.

## POSITIVE MOVE BY PCB, MAKE BIG GESTURE TO FANS AFTER WASHED OUT MATCHES IN RAWALPINDI

**Diary Times Desk :** The Pakistan Cricket Board on Saturday announced full ticket refunds for the two Champions Trophy matches in Rawalpindi that were washed out by rain. The affected matches -- Australia vs South Africa on February 25 and Bangladesh vs Pakistan on February 27 -- were abandoned without a ball bowled. As per the PCB ticket refund policy for Champions Trophy, ticket holders are eligible for a full refund if the match was abandoned before the toss. All enclosure tickets will be refunded, the PCB said in a statement. Ticket holders of hospitality tickets (boxes and PCB gallery) will not be eligible for a refund, it said. Eligible ticket holders can claim their refund at select TCS outlets between March 10 and March 14. To process the refund, ticket holders must present an original, undamaged ticket as proof of purchase and must personally visit the TCS outlet, as refunds cannot be claimed on behalf of someone else.

