

PM NARENDRA MODI

PM MODI TO VISIT MAURITIUS NEXT WEEK TO GRACE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day state visit to Mauritius beginning March 11 to grace the island nation's national day celebrations as the chief guest. A contingent of Indian defence forces will also participate in celebrations, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

Modi is travelling to Mauritius at the invitation of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a state visit to Mauritius on March 11 and 12 to attend the national day celebrations of Mauritius," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

The national day celebrations of Mauritius will be on March 12. An Indian Navy ship will also travel to Mauritius on the occasion. In Mauritian capital Port Louis, Modi will call on the president of Mauritius and hold wide-ranging talks with Ramgoolam.

India has close and longstanding relations with the island nation in the Western Indian Ocean. A key reason for the special ties is the fact that Indian origin people comprise nearly 70 per cent of Mauritius's population of 1.2 million. Since 2005, India has been among the largest trading partners of Mauritius.

For the financial year 2022-2023, Indian exports to Mauritius was USD 462 million while Mauritian exports to India was USD 91.50 million. The total trade volume was USD 554 million. Trade has grown by 132 per cent in the last 17 years, from USD 206 million in 2005-06 to USD 554 million in 2022-23, according to official data.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TO LEAD INDIA'S WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS



Diary Times Desk : President Droupadi Murmu will lead India's International Women's Day celebrations on Saturday, March 8. The Women and Child Development Ministry has organised a national-level conference on the theme "Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat", featuring discussions with renowned women leaders from STEM, business, sports, media, and governance.

In the run-up to International Women's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited women to share their inspiring life stories on NaMo App Open Forum. Many stories highlighting women's resilience and achievements from various walks of life have already been submitted. The Prime Minister announced that selected women would take over his social media accounts on March 8 to amplify their voices and experiences.

International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide on March 8, recognising women's achievements across national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, and political boundaries. The theme for International Women's Day 2025 is "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment". This year's theme calls for action to unlock equal rights, power, and opportunities for all, envisioning an inclusive future where no one is left behind.

Empowering the next generation – youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls – is central to this vision, as they are catalysts for lasting change, according to an official statement. The day aims to celebrate women's contributions and inspire others by showcasing their journey of empowerment, perseverance, and success. The first Women's Day was celebrated on March 19, 1911, in the US and some European countries.



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'LICENCE ACCORDED TO SUCH FORCES IN UK': INDIA ON JAISHANKAR'S SECURITY BREACH

Diary Times Desk : India on Friday pressed the UK to take action against the pro-Khalistan elements involved in the breach of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's security in London and said the incident showed the "licence" accorded to such forces as well as "indifference" to their "intimidation and threats". A pro-Khalistani protester attempted to break barricades while some others were shouting anti-India slogans as Jaishankar was leaving the Chatham House after concluding an interactive session at the institute on Wednesday evening. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal suggested that the sincerity of the British authorities over the incident would be measured on the action they take against the culprits involved. "We have conveyed our deep concern to the UK authorities about the breach of security arrangements by UK-based separatist and extremist elements during the external affairs minister's visit," he said. There is a larger context to the incident. It brings out both the licence accorded to such forces, as well as indifference to their intimidation, threats, and other actions aimed at impeding our legitimate diplomatic activities in the UK," he said.



TELANGANA TUNNEL COLLAPSE: CADAVER DOGS IDENTIFY TWO POSSIBLE SPOTS FOR HUMAN PRESENCE

Diary Times Desk : Cadaver dogs deployed inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel in Telangana on Friday identified two possible spots for human presence where the rescue personnel started removing the silt. Eight persons remained trapped inside the tunnel since February 22, after a part of it collapsed. The cadaver dogs of the Kerala police joined the operation, with the rescue teams taking the canines inside the tunnel on Friday morning. Such dogs are trained to locate missing humans and human bodies. "The dogs were locating the probable locations where workers could be trapped. They identified two possible spots and teams are removing the silt from these two points," a senior official told PTI. The cadaver dogs of Kerala police (of the Belgian Malinois breed) can detect smell even from a depth of 15 feet, officials said. The medical team of NDRF has also gone inside the tunnel to ensure SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) as and when workers are traced, he said.

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO ORDER STATUS QUO ON ADANI'S DHARAVI REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Diary Times Desk : Mumbai's Dharavi redevelopment project being executed by Adani Properties Pvt Ltd remains on track as the Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the ongoing work on it. A Bench led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, however, asked the Maharashtra Government and Adani Properties Pvt Ltd, which was awarded the tender for the project, to respond to a petition filed by UAE-based Seclink Technologies Corporation challenging the Bombay High Court's verdict that said there was no "arbitrariness, unreasonableness or perversity" in the decision. One of the world's densest urban sprawls, Dharavi is a slum colony having a mix of residential and small industrial units. In its December 20, 2024, verdict, the high court had cleared the decks for redevelopment of the slums in Dharavi by upholding the tender awarded to the Adani Group for the project. The high court had dismissed Seclink Technologies Corporation's petition challenging the Maharashtra Government's decision to award the project to Adani Properties Pvt Ltd, which had made a Rs 5,069-crore offer.



BENGALURU COURT ACQUITS GOA TOURISM MINISTER IN ILLEGAL MINING CASE

Diary Times Desk : Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has been acquitted by a Bengaluru court in a case related to illegal iron ore mining and transportation. The verdict brings closure to a high-profile case that has been under scrutiny for several years. The case traces back to the early 2010s when allegations of widespread illegal mining activities emerged in Goa. In 2012, a government-backed inquiry led by retired judge MB Shah reported that all 90 iron ore mines in Goa were operating illegally, lacking proper environmental permissions. The inquiry estimated that illegal mining had cost the state more than \$6 billion over five years. Consequently, the authorities ordered all mines to suspend operations from September 2012. In 2015, the Goa government renewed 88 mining leases — a move that faced legal challenges. Activists argued that these renewals were arbitrary and bypassed mandatory auctioning processes. Subsequently, in February 2018, the Supreme Court quashed these lease renewals, citing the need for fresh leases to be granted through a transparent process.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 08-03-2025

Aries

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

Gemini

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

Leo

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

Libra

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

Sagittarius

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

Aquarius

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



HIMACHAL : CLASS 12 ENGLISH PAPER SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY CANCELLED, THIS REASON THE BOARD HAD TO TAKE THE DECISION

Diary Times Desk : The English subject examination of class 12 has been cancelled in Himachal. Now there will be no English paper of class 12 on Saturday. On Friday, the bundle of English subject question papers of class 12 was opened instead of class 10 in Chuwari of Chamba district. After the matter came to light, the education board has cancelled the examination. The board will soon release the next date of English paper. The education board received a complaint through e-mail that the question papers of the English subject examination to be held on March 8 were opened in the Government Senior Secondary School Chuwari. After receiving the complaint, when the board management saw the video uploaded on the Exam Mitra mobile app, it was found that the bundle of English subject question paper of class 12 was opened before the scheduled schedule in the concerned school. After this, the board took immediate action and cancelled the English subject examination of class 12. Himachal Pradesh School Education Board has formed a team to investigate the matter and sent it to Chamba. The team will find out how the question paper of English subject of class 12 to be held on March 8 was opened before the scheduled time.



NABARD WILL GIVE 109.3 CRORES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 10 RURAL ROADS IN SIX DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : An amount of Rs 109.3 crore has been sanctioned under NABARD for 10 rural roads in 6 districts of Himachal Pradesh. These projects will prove helpful in providing better road and transport facilities in rural areas. People living in rural areas of the state will benefit from this. Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh has asked the officials to start construction work within a month after completion of all the necessary formalities. The Public Works Minister said that under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, the state government is moving ahead in the direction of development. To strengthen the infrastructure in rural areas, the government is placing the developmental needs of the state before the Center. The approved projects include upgradation of Junala-Karloti-Chhat-Barthi road, Tikkar-Manoh via Jakhoyol-Ramehra-Sulkhan-Dhirvi road and Rohru-Chidgaon-Dodra Kwar road. Along with this, the road from Pirsulhi (Kangra) to Kitpal (Hamirpur), Puyad to Tikri via Dharali and Thathar Tripal to Mehwa Panchayat, Shaheed Tej Singh Memorial Jatta Ra Nala to Kukri Galu via Harijan Basti Saloon, Katoon and Chharyar are included.

JP NADDA: UNION HEALTH MINISTER JP NADDA SAID - 25,000 JAN AUSHADHI KENDRAS WILL BE OPENED ACROSS THE COUNTRY BY THE YEAR 2027

Diary Times Desk : PET scan facility has started for cancer patients in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bilaspur. On Friday, Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda inaugurated PET and SPECT machine worth Rs 31 crore in AIIMS. AIIMS has become the first health institution in the state to provide PET scan facility for cancer patients. Here patients will get high quality services at concessional rates. Beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Himcare Yojana and patients below poverty line will get services free of cost. The Union Health Minister has also gifted a portable hospital to Himachal. He handed over the first set of portable hospital Bhisma to AIIMS, its cost is about three crore rupees. The portable hospital will provide facility to provide treatment to patients on the spot during disaster.

HRTC STRIKE UPDATE: NOW THE WHEELS OF HRTC BUSES WILL NOT STOP, UNION HAS WITHDRAWN THE STRIKE DECISION

Diary Times Desk : After a discussion with Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri in Shimla, various organizations of Himachal Road Transport Corporation have withdrawn their proposed strike. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that the Himachal government and the Transport Corporation are dedicated and committed to serve millions of people of the state. The State Road Transport Corporation is celebrating its golden jubilee year this year and decisive efforts are being made for its betterment. He said that the salary and pension of the employees and pensioners of the corporation are being given on time every month without any delay. The state government has given the benefit of old pension to the employees of the corporation and recently Rs. 5 crore of overtime allowance has also been released. Agnihotri said that soon Rs. 10 crore of overtime allowance will also be released to the employees. The HRTC Driver Conductor Union has withdrawn the strike. The union took this decision after a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri.

CM SUKHU SAID- PRATIBHA IS THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT, DISCUSSED THE FORMATION OF NEW EXECUTIVE WITH THE PARTY IN-CHARGE

Diary Times Desk : There has been no discussion about the new president of Himachal Congress. There has been a discussion with the party in-charge on the formation of the new executive. The President of Himachal Congress is Pratibha Singh. First the executive will be formed, after that the future policy will be decided. No thought has been given to the new president. CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, who arrived at the wedding ceremony of the son of KCC Bank Chairman and former MLA Kuldeep Pathania, said this while answering the questions of the journalists. He said that in-charge Rajni Patil has discussed with all the ministers, MLAs and workers. During this, there has been a discussion about the formation of a new executive. He said that preparations for the budget are going on and the budget session is an account of the entire financial year.

SIRMOUR RESIDENT CONVICTED IN CHITTA CASE SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS IMPRISONMENT, FINED RS 25,000

Diary Times Desk : In a case of chitta in the capital Shimla, the district court has convicted Sirmour resident Manish Thakur and sentenced him to 4 years rigorous imprisonment. Along with this, a fine of Rs 25,000 has been imposed. In case of non-payment of fine, an additional three months of simple imprisonment will have to be undergone. Special Judge Shimla Praveen Garg pronounced this sentence while convicting Manish Thakur (29) in an NDPS case. District Attorney Mukta Kashyap said that on June 27, 2022, a police team was on patrol in Taradevi-Shoghi area. The police stopped a private bus at Taradevi-Tutu bifurcation for investigation. When the police searched Manish Thakur on the basis of suspicion, 7.31 grams of chitta was recovered from his possession. Baluganj police station arrested the accused and filed a charge sheet in the court under section 21 of the NDPS Act. Statements of 14 witnesses including the police were recorded on behalf of the prosecution in the court. The District Court of Shimla has sentenced Sirmour resident Manish Thakur to 4 years of rigorous imprisonment after declaring him guilty in the drug case.

HIMACHAL NEWS: SCHOLARSHIP OF 13,887 STUDENTS STOPPED IF AADHAAR NUMBER IS NOT LINKED TO BANK ACCOUNT, LAST CHANCE GIVEN

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, 13,887 students may be deprived of scholarship under the Pre and Post Matric Scheduled Caste Scholarship Scheme. These students have not yet linked Aadhaar number with their bank accounts. These students have been given the last chance till March 20 to get the scholarship amount. If these students do not link Aadhaar number with their bank account by the due date, then the scholarship of these students will be stopped. The Directorate of Higher Education on Thursday issued a letter to the representatives of all private and government educational institutions and asked them to make the eligible students aware. Director of Education Dr. Amarjeet Kumar Sharma said that under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme, scholarships of 1831 students.

"LET US MAKE ELEPHANT, DRAGON DANCE": CHINA MINISTER AMID US 'TARIFF WAR'

Diary Times Desk : As tensions between China and the United States ramp up - particularly after the US doubled tariffs on Chinese imports to 20 per cent - China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday called on New Delhi and Beijing to work together and "take the lead in opposing hegemonism and power politics". Speaking after a National People's Congress meet, Mr Wang said "making the dragon and elephant dance is the only right choice". He also said, "Supporting, instead of wearing each other down, and strengthening cooperation, instead of guarding (against) each other, is in our fundamental interests." He also declared that if Asia's two largest economies were to combine, the "democratisation of international relations and development and strengthening of 'Global South' will have a brighter future". India has not yet responded to this statement. However, on Thursday Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said the Indian government is working with China to plot "a more predictable and positive course" for the relationship, measures for which will include resumption of pilgrimages to sites under China's control, direct flights, and exchange of journalists.

KARNATAKA CAPS MOVIE TICKET PRICES TO ₹200 ACROSS ALL THEATERS INCLUDING MULTIPLEXES

Diary Times Desk : The Karnataka government has introduced a price cap on movie tickets across the state, ensuring that the cost does not exceed ₹200 under any circumstances. This regulation applies to films of all languages screened in Karnataka, including in multiplexes. The move has come as a surprise to film producers, who frequently request ticket price hikes ahead of major movie releases. During his budget speech, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah emphasized that ticket prices across all theatres would be capped at ₹200. While a similar price ceiling had been imposed earlier, it was not strictly enforced. Over the years, Bengaluru has seen a steep rise in ticket prices, with some movie tickets selling for over ₹600 during initial release days. To make cinema more affordable for audiences, the government has now decided to standardize ticket prices across the state. The new rule will be implemented soon across the state. This decision follows recent remarks by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who made controversial statements about the film industry. At a public event, he remarked that film productions are dependent on government approvals for shooting.

TAMIL NADU'S MK STALIN RAISES STAKES OVER DELIMITATION, CALLS 7 STATE LEADERS TO CHENNAI



Diary Times Desk : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday called on seven counterparts, including Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Punjab's Bhagwant Mann, and BJP-ruled Odisha's Mohan Chandra Majhi, to join a 'joint action committee' of political parties against the delimitation exercise proposed by the centre. He has also asked Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Karnataka's Siddaramaiah, Telangana's Revanth Reddy, Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu, as well as senior politicians from non-ruling parties and the BJP in each of these states, to a meeting in Chennai on March 22 "to chart a collective course". "Delimitation is a blatant assault on federalism, punishing states that ensured population control by stripping away our rightful voice in Parliament. We will not allow this democratic injustice!" he said on X. The Union Govt's plan for #Delimitation is a blatant assault on federalism, punishing States that ensured population control & good governance by stripping away our rightful voice in Parliament. We will not allow this democratic injustice!

RANYA RAO BROKE DOWN DURING QUESTIONING, CLAIMED SHE WAS TRAPPED: SOURCES

Diary Times Desk : Kannada actor Ranya Rao, the stepdaughter of a senior police officer who was arrested for smuggling gold, denied her involvement in the racket and claimed that she was "trapped" during questioning by authorities, sources said. The actor, who was arrested with gold bars worth Rs 12 crore strapped to her body in a hidden belt, broke down during questioning and continued to claim innocence before officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). The latest revelation has added another dimension to the case after Ranya admitted to the crime in her official statement to the DRI. In her statement, the actor admitted that 17 gold bars were recovered from her possession, and she not only travelled to Dubai but Europe, America and the Middle East as well. The contrasting claims of the actor have led the sleuths to probe whether the actor was unknowingly caught in the smuggling racket.

ED ARRESTS ASHISH BHALLA OF WTC GROUP IN REAL ESTATE FRAUD CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ashish Bhalla, promoter of WTC Group, days after multi-state raids in connection with an alleged real estate fraud, people familiar with the development said on Friday. The agency claimed that the WTC Group collected more than ₹3,000 crores from various investors across several states such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Ahmadabad, Punjab, etc., for 15 projects in Delhi NCR, but probe revealed that very few were delivered. "ED's Gurugram office has arrested Ashish Bhalla, promoter WTC Group under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case of real estate fraud involving cheating and duping thousands of investors of their monies through well planned conspiracy. During investigations it was revealed that after promising assured returns in exchange for their investment against plot or commercial space, the funds were diverted and siphoned off to several shell companies to acquire lands at various locations," a senior agency official said. "Investigations have also revealed that hundreds of crores were also diverted abroad to suspicious entities in Singapore whose beneficial ownership is with family members of Ashish Bhalla. Further investigation has revealed that WTC group had collected more than ₹3,000 crores from various investors across several states.



MK STALIN'S "LKG STUDENT LECTURING PHD HOLDER" CHARGE, AMIT SHAH'S COUNTER

Diary Times Desk : Hours after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin accused the Centre of imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speakers, Home Minister Amit Shah urged the state government to introduce medical and engineering courses in Tamil. Mr Shah claimed that the DMK chief has not done enough in this regard and that it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government that has made key changes to recruitment policies to accommodate regional languages. Till now, there was no place for the mother tongue in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Constable recruitment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided that our youth will now be able to write their CAPF exam in all languages in the Eighth Schedule, including Tamil," said Mr Shah. "I want to urge the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to take steps towards introducing the curriculum of medical and engineering courses in Tamil language as soon as possible." The Centre had approved the conduct of the CAPF examination in 13 regional languages, including Tamil.

ALL-WOMEN SECURITY COVER FOR PM MODI'S GUJARAT EVENT ON WOMEN'S DAY

Diary Times Desk : A security cover comprising only women police personnel will be deployed at a mega event to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat's Navsari district on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, a state minister has said. This will be the first such initiative in the country, he said. "The Gujarat police is taking a unique initiative on the occasion of International Women's Day. For the first time in the history of India, only women police will handle the entire security arrangement of the PM's event - right from his arrival at the helipad at Vansi Borsi village in Navsari till the event venue," Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said on Thursday. The women police personnel will include IPS officers and constables, he said. The prime minister will be on a two-day visit to Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli on Friday and Saturday, during which he will address.

DONALD TRUMP DELAYS CANADA, MEXICO TARIFFS AFTER MARKET BLOWBACK

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Thursday delayed some tariffs targeting Canada and Mexico -- leading Ottawa to halt an upcoming wave of countermeasures -- in moves that bring reprieve to companies and consumers after blowback on financial markets. Stock markets tumbled after Trump's duties of up to 25 percent took effect Tuesday, as economists warned that blanket levies could weigh on US growth and raise inflation. But Trump signed orders Thursday to delay the fresh tariffs for Canadian and Mexican imports covered by a North American trade agreement, though he dismissed suggestions that his decisions were linked to market turmoil. The halt -- which will last until April 2 -- offers relief to automakers. In the auto sector, parts cross North American borders multiple times during production. Following talks with the "Big Three" US automakers -- Stellantis, Ford and General Motors -- Washington initially announced a one-month exemption on autos coming through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). A White House official told reporters that about 62 percent of Canadian imports will still face the new tariffs, although much of these are energy products hit by a lower rate of 10 percent.

10 INDIAN WORKERS, HELD HOSTAGE IN PALESTINE'S WEST BANK, RESCUED BY ISRAEL

Diary Times Desk : Ten Indian construction workers were rescued from Palestine's West Bank village, a month after they were stripped of their passports, local media reported. News agency PTI quoted reports which claimed that the workers were lured to the West Bank village of al-Zaayem for work. They had originally come to Israel to work in the construction industry. News portal Ynetnews reported that Israeli forces intercepted some suspects at a checkpoint which led to the recovery of the Indian workers. The Palestinians allegedly used the Indian passports to easily cross checkpoints into Israel. In an overnight operation led by the Population and Immigration authority together with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and the Justice Ministry, the workers were rescued.

RUSSIA LAUNCHES MAJOR UKRAINE MISSILE ATTACK AFTER US CUTS OFF MILITARY AID



Diary Times Desk : Russian forces damaged Ukrainian energy and gas infrastructure overnight in their first major missile attack since the U.S. paused intelligence sharing with Ukraine, piling pressure on Kyiv as President Donald Trump seeks a swift end to the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, seeking to shore up Western support for his country after Trump's diplomatic pivot towards Moscow, called for a truce covering air and sea, though not ground troops -- an idea first mooted by France. "The first steps to establishing real peace should be forcing the sole source of this war, Russia, to stop such attacks," Zelenskiy said on the Telegram messaging app, responding to the overnight missile attack. Ukraine's air force said Russia had fired a salvo of 67 missiles and 194 drones in the overnight attack, adding that it had shot down 34 of the missiles and 100 of the drones. Regional officials from the northeastern city of Kharkiv to the western city of Ternopil reported damage to energy and other infrastructure. Eight people were injured in Kharkiv and two more, including a child, were hurt in Poltava, officials said.

UKRAINE, US TO HOLD TALKS ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR IN SAUDI ARABIA NEXT WEEK

Diary Times Desk : Ukraine and the United States have indicated they will meet in Saudi Arabia next week to discuss a framework for ending Russia's war, as Moscow launched a massive drone and missile attack on Ukrainian energy and gas infrastructure. Russia's attack overnight on Thursday came after Washington suspended military aid and intelligence sharing with Kyiv after a fiery exchange between US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Zelenskyy said on Thursday he would travel to Saudi Arabia on Monday for a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman before bilateral talks with US officials.

AFTER TRUMP'S "LAST WARNING" THREAT, HAMAS' "LIES AND DECEPTION" RESPONSE

Diary Times Desk : The armed wing of Hamas said on Thursday it remained committed to its fragile ceasefire with Israel, after Donald Trump told the people of Gaza they would be "DEAD" if hostages held there are not freed. The first phase of the six-week-old truce expired at the weekend and talks on the deal's future have hit an impasse. Hamas said Trump's threats would encourage Israel to ignore the deal, which largely halted more than 15 months of war in Gaza between Israel and Palestinian militants. Trump had earlier floated a widely condemned plan to relocate Palestinians from Gaza, prompting Arab leaders who met in Cairo this week to support an alternative. A United States envoy praised Egypt on Thursday for coming up with the new plan, but did not endorse details of the proposed alternative. Trump's warning followed his administration's revelation that it held unprecedented direct talks with Hamas -- listed as a "terrorist" group by Washington -- focused on American hostages in Gaza.

"NO GAMES WITH HER HAIR": TRUMP ON STRANDED ASTRONAUT SUNITA WILLIAMS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump had some words of appreciation for NASA's Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams' hair as he told a pair of stranded astronauts aboard the International Space Station that "we're coming up to get you." Trump, 78, mused Thursday about the possibility of personally launching a rescue team into orbit to help bring astronauts Butch Wilmore and Williams back to Earth -- and blasted former President Joe Biden for their eight-day mission stretching to nine months and counting. "Biden left them up there," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "We have two astronauts that are stuck in space. I have asked Elon (Musk), I said, 'Do me a favour. Can you get them out?' He said, 'Yes.' He is preparing to go up, I think in two weeks." He added that Musk is "right now preparing a ship to go up" and get them. And I see the woman with the wild hair, good, solid head of hair she's got. There's no kidding, there's no games with her hair," Trump said during remarks in the Oval Office Thursday while talking about Williams. Trump was responding to a question about Williams and Wilmore, who have been stranded on the International Space Station for the past nine months. When asked what his message.

WORLD WAR 2 BOMB ON TRACKS OF PARIS'S BUSIEST STATION, EUROSTAR TRAINS HALTED

Diary Times Desk : Train services at Paris' busy Gare du Nord station were disrupted on Friday morning after an unexploded World War 2-era bomb was discovered near the tracks, French national railway company Transport Express Regional (TER) said. "An unexploded bomb from the Second World War was discovered near the tracks", TER said on X. The discovery has impacted local metro services, as well as national and international trains, including Eurostar services. According to Eurostar's website, at least three trains scheduled to depart from Gare du Nord on Friday morning have been cancelled, news agency Reuters reported. Eurostar says on its website: "Due to an object on the tracks near Paris Gare du Nord, we are expecting disruption to our services this morning. Please change your journey for a different date of travel." Authorities are working to safely remove the bomb, but delays and cancellations are expected to continue until further notice. The bomb was found during overnight works on the tracks, train line RER B said on X. Media reports suggest the discovery was made in the area of Saint-Denis, a suburb of Paris. Gare du Nord is Europe's busiest rail station and serves 214 million passengers a year, as per Eurostar.



BAJWA FEARS REDUCED REPRESENTATION AFTER DELIMITATION, CALLS FOR PUNJAB LEADERS' UNITY

Diary Times Desk : Partap Singh Bajwa, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, has called upon leaders of all political parties in Punjab to discuss the impending delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, scheduled for 2026. Bajwa expressed serious concerns about the potential consequences of delimitation, emphasising that it's not just southern states that will be affected, but also northern states like Punjab. "Since we belong to Punjab, leaders of all the political parties of the state should come on a single platform to figure out something," he added. Bajwa noted that the Lok Sabha currently has 543 MPs, which may increase to approximately 848 after delimitation. Punjab's parliamentary seats will rise from 13 to around 18, but its representation will decrease percentage-wise, potentially marginalising the state further. In contrast, overpopulated states like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar will gain more seats, with BJP holding a strong presence in these states.



IAF'S JAGUAR CRASHES IN HARYANA'S PANCHKULA; AN-32 AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN 'SERIOUS ACCIDENT' IN BENGAL'S BAGDOGRA

Diary Times Desk : Two aircraft of the the Indian Air Force (IAF) were involved in separate accidents on Friday. In the first incident, a Jaguar fighter aircraft of the IAF crashed due to a technical defect during a routine training sortie on Friday. The pilot, a Flight Lieutenant, ejected safely and was later evacuated by the IAF. The remains of the ill-fated aircraft fell in a hilly forest area near Raipur Rani in Panchkula district, close to the Haryana-Himachal Pradesh border. The aircraft had taken off from the Ambala airbase. Local villagers gathered around the spot and assisted the pilot in freeing himself from his parachute harness. A Jaguar aircraft of the IAF crashed at Ambala during a routine training sortie today, after encountering a system malfunction. The pilot maneuvered the aircraft away from any habitation on ground before ejecting safely. An inquiry has been ordered by the IAF to ascertain the cause of the accident," an official statement by the IAF said.

HUGE RUSH AT CHANDIGARH DISTRICT COURT AFTER WEEK-LONG LOK ADALAT FOR TRAFFIC CHALLANS

Diary Times Desk : A massive rush was witnessed at the District Court in Sector 43, Chandigarh, on Friday, as people flocked to pay their traffic challans. Long queues were observed at the counters specially created for this purpose within the District Court premises. The District Court authorities have decided to hold a special Lok Adalat for a week, specifically for paying traffic challans, from March 3 to March 8, 2025, at the District Court, Chandigarh. This decision was made to avoid a heavy rush of people on a single day at the National Lok Adalat, scheduled for Saturday. This special Lok Adalat is being organised prior to the National Lok Adalat. The National Lok Adalat would handle various cases, including matrimonial, cheque bounce, and accident claim cases. In the past, the National Lok Adalat has witnessed a massive rush for paying traffic challans.

PUNJAB'S CHANDAN NEGI WINS SAHITYA AKADEMI TRANSLATION AWARD

Diary Times Desk : Punjab-based writer Chandan Negi has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award 2024, alongside 20 other awardees. Negi has been recognised for translating Himanshi Joshi's Hindi novel "Tere Liye" into Punjabi, titled "Tere Laee". The Sahitya Akademi Translation Award honours outstanding translations of literary works. This year's awardees include Madan Soni for his Hindi translation of Yashodhara Dalmia's biography, "Sayed Haider Raza", and Archana Kesar for her Dogri translation of Bishama Sahani's Hindi novel "Tamas". The executive board of the Sahitya Akademi, chaired by President Madhav Kaushik, approved the selection of 21 books for the awards. Translation prizes in Nepali and Sanskrit languages will be announced later. Notably, no award was given for Urdu translation this year. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 and a copper plaque, which will be presented to the winners at a special ceremony later this year. The prize recognises translations published between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2022.

AT 12, PUNJABI-ORIGIN GIRL IS YOUNGEST FEMALE AUTHOR TO WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD IN AUSTRALIA

Diary Times Desk : Australian-born, Indian girl Ashleen Khela, 12, and Australia's youngest published female author, hailing from Sajawalpur village in Balachaur tehsil of Nawanshahr district in Punjab, was awarded the prestigious "New South Wales Woman of the Year" state award in The Ones to Watch Age 7-15 category on Thursday in Sydney. Minister for Women, Jodie Harrison, presented the award to Ashleen Khela on Friday during a state-level function organised by the New South Wales state government at the International Convention Centre Sydney to mark International Women's Day. This award was given to Ashleen for donating all proceeds from the sale of two books she wrote at a very young age to support the welfare of poor and neglected children around the world, including Australia. She also raised all the expenses for the publication of her debut book by recycling bottles and cans and gardening from the age of 8 to 11, her father, Amarjit Khela, a prominent entrepreneur in Australia, has informed. In a letter to Ashleen, upon publication of her second book, Jodie Harrison, NSW Minister for Women, wrote: "(Ashleen), You should be extremely proud of your efforts to produce this book that brings to the fore gender biases women across NSW continue to endure. As the Minister for Women, I have a keen interest in addressing this issue, and I am always delighted when I hear about young women like you who are taking matters.

HARYANA GOVERNOR INAUGURATES 73RD ALL INDIA POLICE VOLLEYBALL CLUSTER

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya inaugurated the 73rd All India Police Volleyball Cluster tournament 2024-25 at Vachher Stadium in Haryana Police Academy, Madhuban, on Friday. The tournament will feature competitions in both volleyball and sepak takraw for men and women. A total of 1,088 players, including 791 men, 297 women, and 65 technical officials of 49 teams in the men's category and 28 teams in the women's category are competing for medals in the events. The Governor emphasised the crucial role of police forces in maintaining national security and highlighted Haryana's rich sports culture. He also praised the contribution of police personnel in promoting sports. "Haryana has always been at the forefront in sports and our police personnel have played a significant role in this achievement. Many of our officers have brought laurels to the state and nation at national and international levels. I applaud the Haryana Police for organising such events, which uplift the sporting spirit and enhance the state's reputation."

HARYANA COMMITTED TO WATER SECURITY, FARMERS' WELFARE, SAYS GOVERNOR AS BUDGET SESSION GETS UNDER WAY

Diary Times Desk : The Budget Session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha began here on Friday. Governor Bandaru Dattatraya, addressing the Vidhan Sabha to mark the commencement of the Budget Session, reiterated the state's commitment to securing its legitimate share of water from the Ravi-Beas rivers and completing the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal. He said that continuous efforts are being made in this direction. Moreover, the state government is actively working on the construction of the Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar Vyasi dams on the upper reaches of the Yamuna river to ensure a consistent water supply to the state from the Yamuna and 10 its tributaries, Giri and Tons. Once completed, these dams will provide Haryana with 47.81 per cent of the total stored water," he pointed out. The Governor further maintained that a Memorandum of Understanding had also been signed with the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the construction of the Adi Badri Dam. This dam, being built by the Himachal government, is expected to be completed by June 2027.

GUV: TO JOIN HPU, STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO SIGN ANTI-DRUG PLEDGE

Diary Times Desk : In a significant move to combat drug abuse, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla today announced that students seeking admission to Himachal Pradesh University (HPU), Shimla, will be required to sign an anti-drug pledge. This announcement was made during the 35th court meeting of the university, where the Governor emphasised the need for collective efforts to address the issue of drug abuse at the college level. He further said that the university administration will also raise anti-drug awareness among parents through letters and emails. This initiative is part of the university's efforts to promote a healthy and productive academic environment. During the meeting, the Governor approved the annual reports for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23 as well as the annual accounts for 2018-19. He also expressed concern over the absence of several members in the court meeting and directed that his displeasure be conveyed to the individuals concerned. The Governor stressed the importance of quality education, innovation and moral values, emphasising that the primary responsibility of the University Court is to determine comprehensive policies and programmes for the institution.

2 PATIENTS FROM TINDI IN LAHAUL AND SPITI AIRLIFTED TO KULLU FOR MEDICAL AID

Diary Times Desk : Two patients were on Friday evacuated from the Udaipur Sub-Division in Lahaul and Spiti district for medical treatment to Kullu. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Udaipur, Manoj Thakur, stated that two patients were airlifted from the Tindi area to Kullu for medical aid this morning. "The first patient, Tara Devi, a pregnant woman from Bada village in Tindi, was accompanied by her two-year-old child. Tara was in need of immediate medical attention due to pregnancy-related complications. The second patient, Devki, 60 years old, hailing from the village of Kuthad under the Udaipur Sub-Division, was suffering from an ear infection with active bleeding. Both patients were airlifted from the Tindi heliport to Kullu.

QUESTION PAPER OPENED PREMATURELY, HPSEB CLASS XII ENGLISH EXAM CANCELLED

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh School Education Board (HPSEB) has cancelled the English subject exam of Class XII to be held tomorrow in the state. The board administration has taken this decision as the bundle of question papers of English subject for Class XII was opened by mistake — instead of the Class X question paper bundle — in Government Senior Secondary School, Chauwari in Chamba district. The new date of the examination will be released later by the board administration. Board Secretary Vishal Sharma said the education board had received a complaint through e-mail. After receiving the complaint, the board management saw the video uploaded on the Exam Mitra mobile app that the question paper was found opened before the scheduled date in the school concerned. After this, the board took immediate action and cancelled the exam. The board has also issued a notification regarding the cancellation of this exam. Sharma said that as soon as the matter came to light, the administration formed a team and sent it to Chamba. The team will find out how the papers were opened before the scheduled time. Apart from this, it will also be investigated whether the bundle of question papers was circulated anywhere after opening.



NABARD APPROVES RS 109 CRORE FOR RURAL ROAD PROJECTS IN 6 DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : NABARD has granted Rs 109.3 crore for 10 rural road projects in six districts of Himachal Pradesh under RIDF XXX. This approval was made in the 141st meeting of NABARD's Project Internal Approval Committee. According to Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh, these projects will significantly enhance rural connectivity, improve transportation facilities, and benefit thousands of people across the state. The government has been actively representing the state's developmental needs at the central level, resulting in successful grants for various projects. The approved projects include upgrading of key roads such as Junalla-Karlotti-Chhat-Berthin road, Tikkar Manoh via Jakhyl-Ramehra-Sulkhan-Dhirwin road, and Rohru-Chirgaon-Dodrakawar road; link roads connecting Pirsaluhi (Kangra) to Kitpal (Hamirpur), Puyad to Tikkari via Dharli, and roads from Thathar Tripal to Mehwa Panchayat. Also, Saheed Tej Singh Smarak Jatta-Ra-Nallah to Kukrigalu via Harijan Basti Saloun, Katloun and Chhmyar has been included. One of the key projects is the construction of a 35-metre span bridge connecting Nehwat, Nayaser, Ghaini, and Devidhar.

PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED CHANGES IN ADVOCATE ACT HELD IN SHIMLA

Diary Times Desk : Lawyers practising in the High Court of Himachal Pradesh held a protest against the proposed amendments to the Advocates Act in Shimla on Thursday. The protest march, organised by the Bar Association of HP High Court, commenced from the High Court, and culminated at the Raj Bhawan. The legal fraternity raised strong objections to the proposed changes in the law, arguing that these would infringe upon the independence of the legal profession and undermine the rights of the advocates across the country. Former Advocate General of Himachal Pradesh and Senior Advocate Shrawan Dogra opposed the amendments, stating that the very intention behind the proposed changes was questionable. "The government argues that the Bill is only in the proposal stage and its final form will be decided later. But we refuse to wait until it is finalised to voice our concerns. The very thought of altering the truth of our profession is fundamentally wrong. Your intentions are not pure. You have attempted to introduce such draconian laws in various sectors at different times, and each time, those sectors have opposed them.

NO DISCUSSION WITH PARTY HIGH COMMAND ON NEW HIMACHAL CONGRESS CHIEF: CM SUKHU

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday said no discussions were held about the new state Congress party chief during his recent meeting with the party's national-level leaders in Delhi. Sukhu arrived here at the wedding ceremony of the son of Kangra Central Cooperative (KCC) Bank Chairman and former MLA Kuldeep Pathania. There have been discussions with Congress party in-charge of Himachal Pradesh Rajni Patil on the expansion of the executive, he told reporters on the sidelines of the private function. Pratibha Singh is the president of Himachal Pradesh Congress. The executive will be formed first and it will be followed by deciding the future policy, he added. Singh is the wife of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and mother of Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh. Sukhu said Patil had held discussions with all the ministers, MLAs and workers on the expansion of the executive. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had on November 6 dissolved the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) of Himachal Pradesh along with the district and block units with immediate effect. All the same, Pratibha Singh stayed in her post. Sukhu said the preparation of the Budget is in progress. The year 2025-26 Budget will be presented on March 17. PTI



'WE'LL BE PUTTING OUR THINKING CAPS ON' - STEAD ON DEALING WITH VARUN CV

Diary Times Desk : The legend has it that when Jeff Thomson would begin his run-up, fans and opponents alike would chant 'Thommo! Thommo!'. It would be in awe and fear of the thunderbolts that Thomson, arguably the fastest bowler in the history of the game, would unleash. That was the degree of reverence the Aussie legend commanded on the field. The same level of aura and excitement could be surrounding Varun Chakaravathy, particularly among the New Zealanders. Despite not being a fast bowler like Thomson, Chakaravathy has carved a fearsome reputation for himself here in the Champions Trophy. With his mystery deliveries baffling and mystifying the batters, fans may well be chanting 'Varun! Varun!'. That should be quite a feat in itself since Chakaravathy has only played three ODIs and 21 international matches in all in a not-so-long India career so far. But he seems to be the talking point ahead of the Champions Trophy final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DIC) between India and New Zealand. So, look, we certainly expect him to play after getting 5 for 42 against us in the last game. And yeah, we'll be planning our, I guess, intentions around that as well," Gary Stead, the New Zealand coach, said. It's likely that the nuances of Chakaravathy's deliveries - those that turn either way.



SHUBMAN GILL, STEVE SMITH AND GLENN PHILLIPS NOMINATED FOR ICC PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Diary Times Desk : Shubman Gill, Steve Smith, and Shubman Gill have been nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for February 2025. The right-handed India opening batter has been in phenomenal form in the 50-over format, and his form has helped Rohit Sharma and co. reach the final of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025. In the three-match ODI series against England, Gill made valuable contributions of 87 and 60. He rounded off the series with a remarkable 112 in Ahmedabad. The 25-year-old began his Champions Trophy campaign with a 101 not-out against Bangladesh to help chase down a challenging 229 target under the lights in Dubai. Gill is currently the No.1 ranked ODI batter. On the other hand, Australia batter Steve Smith, who recently announced his retirement from ODIs, took centre stage as the stand-in captain in the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. The opening Test saw Smith scoring a formidable 141, and he followed it up with a striking 131 in the first innings of the second Test, where Australia registered a nine-wicket victory. This performance sealed him the Player of the Series accolade and a spot back among the top five Test batters in the ICC Player Rankings.

ROHIT, KOHLI TO END ODI CAREERS AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY? AAKASH CHOPRA REACTS

Diary Times Desk : Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra believes that if Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma choose to retire from ODIs after the Champions Trophy final, it would be a decision difficult to argue against. However, he remains uncertain whether the two stalwarts will indeed take that step. As India prepares to face New Zealand in the final on March 9 in Dubai, speculation is rife that this could be the duo's last appearance in 50-over cricket. Both Rohit and Kohli bid farewell to T20Is after India's T20 World Cup triumph in 2024. Now, many believe they could follow a similar path post the Champions Trophy, regardless of whether they finally secure the ICC ODI silverware that has eluded them for long. In his recent YouTube video, Chopra addressed the possibility of the two icons moving on from ODIs, acknowledging that with the 2027 ODI World Cup still a few years away, a decision to step aside might be logical. "It's entirely up to them. I will be very honest, it's not going to be easy. In 2025, Kohli's performance with the bat has been outstanding and Rohit's has been okay, okay. I won't say his performance is very good. He might change the scenario by scoring a hundred in the final," Chopra said.

MOHAMMAD HAFEEZ ATTACKS '90S PAKISTAN STARS', SPARKS AWKWARD INTERACTION WITH PAKISTAN GREAT

Diary Times Desk : An awkward incident took place on live television between former Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez and pace great Shoaib Akhtar. During a discussion on PTV Sports, Hafeez questioned the legacy of players who represented Pakistan in the 90s and early 2000s, saying that they failed to inspire the next generation by failing to win a number of ICC events during their time. Former Pakistan pacer Akhtar, who was also part of the side during the 90s and early 2000s, was also part of the same discussion, but he seemed agitated while Hafeez was having a go at the former players. "I am a huge fan of those who played in the 1990s but when it comes to legacy, they left nothing for Pakistan. They didn't win an ICC event - they lost the (World Cups of) 1996, 1999 and 2003. We reached one final (in the 1999 World Cup) and lost that badly. As stars, as players, they were the mega superstars. But then they couldn't inspire us by winning an ICC event. Then came a difficult period that we had to go through and then in 2007 we lost the final (of the T20 World Cup).", Hafeez said on PTV Sports. On the contrary, Hafeez lauded Pakistan's T20 World Cup (2009) and Champions Trophy (2017) winning sides. He also explained why players like Babar Azam get idolised by fans.



MUMBAI INDIANS CAPTAIN HARMANPREET KAUR FINED FOR SHOWING DISSENT IN WPL 2025

Diary Times Desk : Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur was on Friday fined 10 per cent of her match fee for showing dissent at umpire's decision during her team's match against UP Warriorz at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here. The incident occurred at the end of the 19th over of UPW innings when umpire Ajitesh Argal informed Harmanpreet that only three fielders could be outside the circle in the final over due to a slow over rate. Seemingly unhappy with the ruling, she was seen engaged in a brief argument with the umpire, with teammate Amelia Kerr also joining the discussion. "Harmanpreet Kaur admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.8 which relates to showing dissent at an umpire's decision during a match," WPL said in a release. "For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding." Harmanpreet also had a spat with UP Warriorz's Sophie Ecclestone during the match, when the English cricketer, standing at the non-striker's end, walked toward the umpire to explain something.

HENRY'S AVAILABILITY FOR CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL 'A LITTLE BIT UNKNOWN'

Diary Times Desk : Doubts have emerged over Matt Henry's availability for the Champions Trophy final, owing to the shoulder injury he picked up during the semi-final in Lahore. Henry, the highest wicket-taker in the tournament so far, had hurt his shoulder while taking the catch to dismiss Heinrich Klaasen, but returned to bowl two overs late in the match against South Africa. He was also seen diving in the field after he came back. Mitchell Santner had been optimistic about Henry's availability soon after the match on Wednesday. But head coach Gary Stead has now said that Henry's fitness status was "unknown" a little more than 48 hours ahead of the final. "I guess the positive thing from our perspective is he got back out there to bowl," Stead said. "We've had some scans and stuff done on him, and we're going to give him every chance to be playing in this match. "[But it's] still a little bit unknown at this stage." Henry has ten wickets at an average of 16.70 at this Champions Trophy. Five of those wickets came in the group match against India in Dubai, their opponents and the venue for the final. "He's obviously pretty sore just from landing on the point of his shoulder," Stead said. "Hopefully he will be okay."