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DELHI NEWS

BJP KEEPS KEY DELHI POLL PROMISE, ELIGIBLE WOMEN TO GET RS 2,500 PER MONTH

Diary Times Desk: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Delhi government on Saturday approved an allocation of Rs 5,100 crore for implementing a scheme to provide financial assistance to eligible women, even as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) slammed the delay in fulfilling a promise the ruling dispensation made in the run up to the assembly elections last month.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, BJP President JP Nadda announced the immediate implementation of the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana, under which eligible women in the national capital will receive Rs 2,500 each per month. The announcement was made in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other senior BJP leaders, at an event of the party's Mahila Morcha.

Ms Gupta said a committee headed by her has been formed to implement the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana. "We had a cabinet meeting earlier in the day and the cabinet has put its stamp of approval on the promise we (the ruling BJP) had made in our (poll) manifesto. It has approved the scheme to support poor women in Delhi," she said. To oversee the implementation of the scheme, a committee headed by her has been formed, Ms Gupta said. Senior ministers Ashish Sood, Parvesh Verma and Kapil Mishra will also be part of the committee, she said, adding that a dedicated web portal will be launched for registrations under the scheme. In its election manifesto, the BJP had pledged Rs 2,500 each per month for women, surpassing the AAP offer of Rs 2,100. The AAP, which has been criticising the BJP government for not approving the scheme in its first Cabinet meeting, as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier.



RAHUL GANDHI

"WE SHOULD NOT ASK PEOPLE TO GIVE US POWER TILL...": RAHUL GANDHI IN GUJARAT



Diary Times Desk: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed party workers in Ahmedabad on Saturday during the Samvaad program. He emphasized that the Congress party must first fulfill its responsibilities before asking people for votes.

During the Samvaad program, Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said, "It has been almost 30 years since we have been in power here. Whenever I come here, there are discussions on Assembly elections of 2007, 2012, 2017, 2022, 2027...But the question is not about elections. The people of Gujarat will not make us win the elections until we fulfil our responsibilities...We should not even ask the people of Gujarat to bring us to power until we fulfil our responsibilities. I guarantee you that the day we do this, the people of Gujarat will give their support to the Congress party."

He highlighted the role of Gujarat in shaping India's freedom movement as he said, "...When the Congress party had to face the British, we were looking for leadership everywhere. The British were in front of us; the Congress party represented the people of India, but we did not have any leader. From where did the leader come? The leader came from South Africa. Who was Mahatma Gandhi and who gave him to us? South Africa did not give him. Gujarat gave our original leadership to the Congress party and that leadership gave us the way to think, the way to fight, the way to live."

"Without Gandhi ji the Congress party would not have been able to get freedom for the country and without Gujarat, Gandhi ji would not have been there...If we were shown the way, our organisation was shown the way, India was shown the way, Gujarat was the one that showed us the way," Rahul Gandhi said.

NEED TO FILTER OUT CONGRESS LEADERS WHO WORK FOR BJP: RAHUL GANDHI IN GUJARAT'S AHMEDABAD

Diary Times Desk: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said there was a need to filter out leaders and workers from the party who were working for the BJP and warned of strict action, even removals. Addressing party workers on the second day of his two-day Gujarat visit, the party's first job was to separate two groups of Congress workers and leaders—ones who carry the party ideology in their hearts and stand with the public and the others who were cut off from the public, "half of whom are with the BJP". Gandhi's visit to the state is focused on the 2027 Assembly polls, for which he has hinted at a major overhaul in the party's state unit and assured a strong plan to defeat the BJP. "There are two types of people in the Gujarat Congress leadership and among workers. Those who are honest with people, fight for them, respect them and have the ideology of the Congress in their heart. And the others who are cut off from the people sit far away, do not respect them, and half of whom are with the BJP," he said. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said the party's first job should be to filter these two groups, even if it means taking strict action of removing people.



1 KILLED, 25 INJURED IN CLASHES WITH **SECURITY FORCES IN MANIPUR'S** KANGPOKPI

Diary Times Desk: A protester was killed while 25 others, including women, were injured in clashes between Kuki demonstrators and security forces in different parts of Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Saturday, officials said. The deceased has been identified as Lalgouthang Singsit. The 30-year-old received bullet injuries during the clashes at Keithelmanbi and died on the way to hospital, police said. At least 25 protesters sustained different types of injuries during the clashes with security forces at Gamgiphai, Motbung and Keithelmanbi, police said, adding they have been admitted to the nearby public health centre for treatment. Clashes erupted between demonstrators and security forces in the Kuki-dominated district after police fired tear gas to disperse them, as they opposed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive allowing free movement across the state. During a security review meeting on Manipur on March 1.

'NARI SHAKTI' BREAKING BARRIERS: FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN ON WOMEN'S DAY



Diary Times Desk: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman celebrated International Women's Day by acknowledging the transformative power of "Nari Shakti" in India. In a post on X, Sitharaman wrote, "Nari Shakti in India is breaking barriers, rewriting history, and shaping a brighter future for the country." She emphasised that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, women are being empowered with equal opportunities, financial independence, and a stronger role in nation-building. Sitharaman highlighted the government's commitment to women's empowerment through progressive policies and initiatives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tribute to "Nari Shakti" on International Women's Day, recognising the strength and contributions of women.

KARNATAKA BUDGET MODEL FOR COUNTRY, BOOSTS 'BRAND BENGALURU': DY CM D K SHIVAKUMAR

Diary Times Desk: Describing the Karnataka Budget as a model for the country, State Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said that it is good for "Brand Bengaluru," with several projects planned to address the city's traffic issues, including a tunnel road project. Shivakumar, who is also the Minister in charge of Bengaluru development, said that 700-800 km of new roads are being added to the city. "The budget is a model for the country. Other states will also take note of it. It is a good budget for Brand Bengaluru. It is not for us; it is for the benefit of the 1.40 crore population of the city. The tunnel road project will happen," Shivakumar said. Speaking to reporters, he said flyovers will be constructed to address traffic issues. Additionally, double-decker flyovers will be built, and new Metro projects will be taken up with 50 per cent contributions each from the city corporation and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). A network of 300 km of additional roads will also be constructed at Rs 3,000 crore, utilising canal buffer zones. "With all of this, including tunnel roads, we are adding 700-800 km of new roads. It may seem unimaginable, but the government has planned for it. We may take loans, but we want to provide relief to the people," he added.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 09-03-2025



Today, you will meet old friends, which Today you will get success as your long 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.

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.

Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will

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.

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

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.

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 increased difficulties ue to arguments v

business partners. As the problem of

foot pain increases, you must consult a

Today, you should offer water to Lord

Today is aoina 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 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.

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 iob in the workplace. Due to financial pain and headache may bother you.

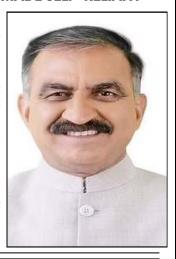
Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business face difficulties in repaying ess loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the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

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.

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: CM SUKHU SAID- SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE STATE, THE STATE WILL BE MADE SELF-RELIANT

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday laid the foundation stone of Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap Smarak Bhawan in Shahpur Assembly Constituency of Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. On this occasion, he said that the Congress government is the government of the common people. The present state government is making policy changes to ensure good governance. He said that with change, challenges are also coming but every challenge is being faced boldly. The Chief Minister said that world-class infrastructure is being developed in rural areas to prepare students for future challenges. He said that Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding School will also be established soon in Shahpur Assembly Constituency. He further said that the state government is improving not only in education but also in the health sector. In the last two years, by curbing corruption, the government has earned additional revenue of Rs 2,600 crore, through which welfare schemes are being implemented for the people of the state. The Chief Minister said that there are signs of improvement in the economic condition of the state and through these changes, the state government is working towards making Himachal self-reliant.



WOMEN'S DAY: CM SUKHU SAID- SPECIAL CARE WILL BE TAKEN OF WOMEN IN THE STATE BUDGET

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu addressed a huge public gathering at a state level programme organised on International Women's Day at Chambi Ground in Shahpur Assembly Constituency of Kangra District on Saturday. He announced to open Sub Judge Court and DSP office in Shahpur. He announced to convert Government Senior Secondary School Rait into Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding School, Rs 25 lakh for construction of Guru Ravidas Bhawan Shahpur, opening of Jal Shakti Department section in Darini and setting up of 2000 litre capacity bulk milk cooler in Ridkmar. He also announced to convert PHC Ridkmar into CHC, setting up oxygen plant in Civil Hospital Shahpur, providing facilities of ultrasound and dialysis. The Chief Minister announced to provide funds for the construction of PHC lounge, sanctioning the post of dentist in Civil Hospital Shahpur.

HP POLICE BHARTI: HIMACHAL HIGH COURT STAYS DECLARATION OF RESULT FOR 123 POLICE CONSTABLE POSTS

Diary Times Desk: Himachal government will not be able to declare the result of police constable recruitment without the permission of the High Court. This order has been issued by the court of High Court Judge Sandeep Sharma. The court said that the recruitment process started by the department will continue. 123 posts will be filled by the government under the ex-service quota. The petitioners have challenged the cutoff date in the court. Now the hearing in the case will be held on March 19. The state cabinet had decided to fill the posts of constables on September 14, 2023. For this, advertisements were issued by the department in the year 2024. The advocate of the petitioners told the court that the cutoff date of ex-service was changed by the department. This date was fixed by the department between 13 December 2022 to 2024. The petitioners say that this date should be counted.

HIMACHAL: SCHOOL TEACHERS WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM APRIL AND COLLEGE TEACHERS FROM MAY 1, GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN DECISION

Diary Times Desk: As soon as the new academic session begins in schools and colleges of Himachal Pradesh, the government is going to lift the ban on transfers. Teachers will be transferred in schools from 1 to 30 April and in colleges from 1 to 15 May. Before lifting the ban, the Education Department has asked the interested teachers who have completed their service period in tribal areas to give their options of five schools with vacancies by 15 March. They will have to apply to the Higher and Primary Directors for transfer. Education Directors will have to send transfer proposals to the government by 20 March. Transfer orders will be issued after approval from the Chief Minister. Mutual transfer of teachers will not be considered. An office order was issued by the Education Secretary on Friday. This decision was taken in a review meeting chaired by Education Minister Rohit Thakur recently. After getting approval from CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, Education Secretary Rakesh Kanwar has issued a letter to the Directorate of Higher Education and Directorate of Primary Education informing them about the decision.

HIMACHAL: VRDL TO BE BUILT IN AIIMS BILASPUR, DANGEROUS VIRUSES TO BE TESTED, JP NADDA LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE

Diary Times Desk: VRDL (Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory) will be built in AIIMS Bilaspur for virus research and diagnosis. The target is to start this facility in the institute in one and a half years. About 30 crores will be spent to build this proposed laboratory in 1,279 square meters. This will be the 11th laboratory of its kind at the regional level in the country. Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda laid its foundation stone on Friday. Bilaspur AIIMS has been given the Regional VRDL Laboratory, which is the 165th in the country. Earlier, the virus test was sent to Pune Lab. But now this facility will be available in the state itself. Its purpose is to help in controlling the epidemic along with timely identification of the virus, research. This laboratory will help in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. The main objective of the lab is to research virus-based diseases, help in their diagnosis and treatment. Whenever a new viral infection comes out, it is challenging to diagnose it, but with the help of state-of-the-art technology in VRDL, quick diagnosis will be possible.

ACHIEVEMENT: INDIA WINS ASIAN WOMEN'S KABADDI CHAMPIONSHIP, FIVE DAUGHTERS OF HIMACHAL ALSO SHOWED THEIR TALENT

Diary Times Desk: India defeated Iran and won the title in the sixth Women's Kabaddi Championship. India defeated Iran by 32-25 points. India's team has performed brilliantly in the Women's Kabaddi Championship held in Tehran, Iran. India has won all the matches one-sidedly. In the semifinals, India defeated Nepal by 56-18. In the final match played on Saturday, India defeated Iran. Five players from Himachal Pradesh are included in India's women's Kabaddi team. These include Pushpa Rana, Nidhi Sharma, Bhavana Thakur, Sakshi Sharma and Jyoti Thakur. These players had a special contribution in this victory. Himachal Pradesh Kabaddi Association General Secretary Krishna Lal said that the daughters have once again made the whole country proud. He congratulated all the players and the team management.

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 machines worth Rs 31 crore in AIIMS. AIIMS has become the first health institute 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 Bhishma to AIIMS, its cost is about three crore rupees. The portable hospital will provide the facility of providing treatment to patients on the spot during disaster. Nadda said that by the year 2027, 25.000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras will be opened across the country. This will provide convenience to the people of the country. He inaugurated the Jan Aushadhi Pharmacy in B-Block of AIIMS. Life saving medicines will be available at more than 50 percent discount. He also interacted with the beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's Indian Jan Aushadhi Yojana. Nadda said that this is the 225th Amrit Pharmacy of the country.

1 KILLED IN CLASHES, KUKI GROUPS ANNOUNCE SHUTDOWN IN PARTS OF MANIPUR

Diary Times Desk: A protester from the Kuki tribes was killed in clashes with the security forces in Manipur today as buses moved out of the state capital Imphal towards other districts, following the Centre's order to ensure free movement across the state that is under the President's rule. The police in a statement said "armed miscreants from among the protesters" fired at them. The buses with security escorts that went towards Kangpokpi, 45 km from Imphal, faced a blockade by women protesters. The security forces fired tear gas and lathi-charged them as the mob refused to let the vehicles pass, officials said. Sixteen protesters were injured, the police said in a statement, adding the crowd grew in number and some started throwing stones at the buses and the escort vehicles. The Kanapokpi protesters damaged some vehicles and set one on fire, officials said. Twenty-seven security force personnel were injured, two critically, the police said in a statement. "The security forces showed tremendous restraint while trying to control the unruly and violent mob and used minimum force to control and counter the anti-social elements, including the firing by armed miscreants from among the protesters," the police

WOMEN SHOULD CARRY KNIFE, CHILLI POWDER FOR PROTECTION:

MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

Diary Times Desk: Maharashtra minister Gulabrao Patil on Saturday suggested that women should carry knives, chilli powder along with lipstick in their purse for selfprotection. Speaking at an event here to mark International Women's Day, the senior Shiv Sena leader also highlighted the steps taken by the government for women's empowerment, including slashing MSRTC bus fares by half, the Ladki Bahin scheme and free education for girls. "Even if we talk about empowerment, women are taking place incidents today....When we were inspired by the thoughts of Shiv Sena pramukh (Bal Thackeray), journalists had criticised him severely for saying that women should carry chilli powder and Rampuri knife along with lipstick," he said. "But same is the situation today. This (carrying such items) is my request to the young women today for selfprotection," Patil added. He was referring to recent cases of crimes against women.

TELANGANA TUNNEL COLLAPSE: ROBOTS TO BE DEPLOYED FOR RESCUE OPERATION FROM MARCH 11



Diary Times Desk: The Telangana government on Saturday decided to deploy robots from March 11 for rescue operations inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel and also to take the cadaver dogs again to look for presence of humans. Eight persons remained trapped inside the tunnel since February 22, after a part of it collapsed. The government has decided to deploy robots to avoid any danger to the rescue personnel as the conditions inside the tunnel, including water and slush, posed a challenge. "The usage of bots for the last 70 mtrs (at the accident site) was discussed with (concerned) gaency and robots will be placed and tried from Tuesday onwards, in addition to all the efforts which are being undertaken now," a senior official told PTI. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has submitted an initial report in which, among other things, it has cautioned that rescue operations should be carried out with extreme caution and care in the last 70 metres, he said. Digging would be taken up beyond five feet at the two points identified by HRDDs (human remains detection dogs.

"IMMUNITY FOR 1 MURDER...": MAHARASHTRA LEADER'S UNIQUE REQUEST TO PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk: The women's wing of the NCP (SP) has written to President Droupadi Murmu, urging her to grant immunity from punishment against "one murder" as women want to kill the "oppressive mentality" and "rapist mindset". Rohini Khadse, the women's wing president of the Sharad Pawar-led party, in the letter written on the occasion of International Women's Day, pointed out the recent gangrape of a 12-year-old girl in Mumbai to highlight rising crimes against women and press for their demand. We, on behalf of all women, are demanding immunity (from punishment) to commit one murder," Rohini Khadse said in the letter, aimed at targeting the state government over the law and order situation in the state. She also cited a survey report stating that India was the most unsafe country for women as crimes, including kidnapping and domestic violence, were happening against them.

INDIA LOOKING FOR GOOD TRADE AGREEMENT WITH US, SAYS NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

Diary Times Desk: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said India is looking for a "good" trade agreement with the US to promote economic growth and ensure smooth supply chains. She also said that amid a growing global tariff war, India will have to move "smartly" to guard against possible dumping of goods from countries that are facing higher US tariffs. At the same time, India will protect the interests of domestic industries that rely on affordable imports. In a broad sense, I think, both sides should have ambition for a good treaty, and nobody can fault that. Particularly for India, when you are looking at Viksit Bharat, you need to have good traction. Everybody is concerned about the growth numbers," she said at The Economic Times Awards. The minister said that a lot more steps are required to strengthen the country's exports across the board, wherever there is potential. So, I am sure the commerce minister (Piyush Goyal) is quite seized of this.

MAHARANA PRATAP, SHIVAJI OUR HEROES NOT AKBAR OR AURANGZEB: YOGI ADITYANATH

Diary Times Desk: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that "our ideals and national heroes" are Maharana Pratap, Veer Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh, not Akbar or Aurangzeb. "Akbar can never be a hero. Be it Akbar or Aurangzeb, their mentality towards Hindus was the same. They hatched many conspiracies to trample the eternal tradition of India," he said. He was speaking after unveiling the statue of Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap at Dadri. Yogi Adityanath said that only a warrior who fights an army of millions with 20 thousand soldiers can be "our true hero". Haldighati gave the status of a national hero to Maharana Pratap and forced Akbar to kneel down by taking back the lost areas of Mewar in his lifetime," the chief minister added. He also praised Mahrana Pratap's horse Chetak. "The devotion of his horse Chetak was also amazing.

INDIA SAYS SUPPORTS MAURITIUS ON ISSUE OF CHAGOS ISLANDS

Diary Times Desk: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mauritius, India on Saturday said it supports the island nation in its efforts to reach a mutually beneficial deal with the UK over Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean. The issue is expected to figure in PM Modi's talks with Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam. PM Modi is paving a two-day visit to Mauritius on March 11 and 12. At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri indicated that Mauritius and the UK have perhaps arrived at a mutually acceptable deal in Chagos. In October last year, the UK had announced its decision to hand over the sovereignty of Chagos Islands to Mauritius after more than half a century under a historic agreement. Under the deal, sealed during tenure of previous Mauritian prime minister Pravind Jugnauth, the UK would give up sovereignty over Chagos Islands but would maintain a 99-year lease over the UK-US military airbase on the largest island, Diego Garcia.



TRUMP CREATES TASK FORCE TO PREPARE FOR 2026 WORLD CUP

Diary Times Desk: President Donald Trump created a task force on Friday to prepare for the 2026 World Cup, which will bring the globe's premier soccer tournament to North America at a time when his on-again, offagain tariffs have ratcheted up tensions across the continent. I think it's going to make it more exciting," Trump said about playing the World Cup amid sharp rhetoric between leaders of the host nations. "Tension's a good thing." The task force, which Trump will chair, will coordinate the federal government's security and planning for the tournament, which is expected to draw millions of tourists to the United States, Canada and Mexico. "It's a great honour for our country to have it," Trump said about the World Cup after meeting officials from FIFA, the international soccer governing body. He said he'd like to attend multiple games. Preparations are ramping up across the continent alongside tensions between the United States and its neighbours as Trump has repeatedly threatened to impose tariffs before backing off, spooking markets and leading to fears of a trade war and economic downturn. He also speaks pejoratively of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and muses about Canada becoming a US state, which has boosted national pride north of the border.

BANGLADESHI SMUGGLERS ATTACK BSF PARTY, INJURE JAWAN; 1 MISCREANT KILLED

Diary Times Desk: A BSF party was attacked by Bangladeshi miscreants near the border area of Raiganj in Darjeeling district of West Bengal during the early hours of Saturday, in which one jawan was severely injured. The attack was carried out by a group of around 15 to 20 miscreants who had crossed over into the Indian territory and were also joined by some Indians. This is the second attack on a BSF party by Bangladeshi smugglers within a week. BSF sources said that the group had entered the Indian territory with the intention of smuggling cattle and contraband. The BSF party detected the intrusion and asked them to surrender. However, the miscreants attacked the party with sharp-edged weapons and lathis, besides pelting stones at them. In retaliation, the BSF personnel fired non-lethal.

5 CHILDREN AMONG 11 KILLED IN RUSSIAN MISSILE STRIKE ON UKRAINE



Diary Times Desk: At least 11 people were killed and 30 wounded, including Russian missile and drone attacks on Ukraine's eastern city of Dobropillia overnight, the Ukrainian Interior Ministry said on Saturday. Russian forces attacked Dobropillia with ballistic missiles, multiple rockets, and drones, causing damage to eight multi-storey buildings and 30 vehicles, according to the ministry. The assault resulted in the deaths of 11 people, including five children, and left 30 others wounded. "While extinguishing the fire, the occupiers struck again, damaging the fire truck," the ministry said on the Telegram messenger app. Photographs of partially destroyed buildings engulfed in flames and rescue workers clearing debris were also published by the ministry. The ministry also reported that three civilians were killed in a separate drone attack on the Kharkiv region in the northeast. "Such strikes show that Russia's objectives have not changed. Therefore, it is crucial to continue to do our best to protect lives, strengthen our gir defences.

SOUTH KOREA'S IMPEACHED PRESIDENT YOON RELEASED FROM PRISON

Diary Times Desk: South Korea's impeached conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol was released from prison on Saturday, a day after a Seoul court cancelled his arrest to allow him to stand trial for rebellion without being detained. A TV footage showed Yoon waving his hand, clenching his fists and bowing deeply to his supporters who were shouting his name and waving South Korean and US national flags. He climbed into a black van to travel to his presidential residence in Seoul. In a statement distributed by his lawyers, Yoon said that he "appreciates the courage and decision by Seoul Central District Court to correct illegality", in an apparent reference to questions over his arrest. He said he also thanks his supporters and asked those who are on hunger strike against his impeachment to end it.

TRUMP ORDER DENIES STUDENT LOAN RELIEF TO NONPROFIT WORKERS ENGAGED IN 'IMPROPER' ACTIVITY

Diary Times Desk: President Donald Trump is ordering changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness programme that would disqualify workers of nonprofit groups deemed to have engaged in "improper" activities. An executive order signed Friday directs the Education Department to modify the programme to deny loan relief to some borrowers. It would exclude loan forgiveness to people whose work is tied to illegal immigration, foreign terrorist groups or other illegal activity. Congress created the programme in 2007 to encourage careers in the government or nonprofit groups. It offers to cancel any remaining student debt after borrowers make 10 years of payments while working in public service. It's open to government workers, teachers, police, religious pastors and certain nonprofit employees, among others. More than 2 million Americans have eligible employment and open student loans, according to December data from the Education Department.



CHINA ANNOUNCES RETALIATORY TARIFFS ON CANADA'S FARM, FOOD PRODUCTS

Diary Times Desk: China announced tariffs on Canadian agricultural and products on Saturday, retaliating against levies Ottawa introduced in October on Chinesemade electric vehicles and steel and aluminium products. The tariffs announced by the commerce ministry, to take effect from March 20, add a new front to a trade war largely driven by US President Donald Trump's announcement of tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China and threats of protectionist measures on other nations. China will apply a 100 per cent tariff to Canadian rapeseed oil, oil cakes and pea imports, and a 25 per cent duty on Canadian aquatic products and pork, the ministry said in a statement. Canada's 100 per cent tariff on Chinese EVs and 25 per cent levy on its aluminium and steel products "seriously violate World Trade Organization rules, constitute a typical act of protectionism and are discriminatory measures that severely harm China's legitimate rights and interests," the ministry said. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in August that Ottawa was imposing the levies to counter what he called China's intentional state-directed policy of overcapacity, following the lead of the United States and European Union, both of which have also applied import levies to Chinese-made EVs.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON INVITES INDIAN POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR SPECIAL AWARDS

Diary Times Desk: King's College London has issued a callout to Indian students to apply in time to be eligible for the Vice-Chancellor's Awards, which comes with a 10,000pound (about Rs 11,26,000) fee waiver to pursue a post-graduate degree geared towards making a wider societal impact. The leading London-based university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shitij Kapur, said that he was particularly proud of these awards for Indian students, having himself left Delhi to pursue post-graduate studies abroad. also highlighted Kapur the university's historic Indian connection, going back to when freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu was among its first female alumni in the nineteenth century. "We were one of the earliest universities in the UK to teach Sanskrit and Bengali and Sarojini Naidu was one of our remarkable students in the very early days when King's started admitting female students," said Kapur.

SEVERAL AKALI DAL LEADERS RESIGN, PARTY POSTPONES MEETING AMID JATHEDARS' REMOVAL ROW

Diary Times Desk : A major revolt has erupted within the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) led by Sukhbir Badal, following the removal of Jathedars of Akal Takht and Kesgarh Sahib. Senior leaders, including Sukhbir's brother-in-law Bikram Singh Majithia, have condemned the decision, leading to a wide crack within the party. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) interim committee removed Giani Raghbir Singh as Akal Takht Jathedar and Giani Sultan Singh as Jathedar of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib on March 7. Several leaders in district units of Punjab and the Haryana unit of the party have resigned in protest. Majithia, along with other leaders, issued a statement expressing their disagreement with the decision. They emphasised the importance of upholding the dignity and respect of Akal Takht Sahib and called for Panthic unity. SAD has postponed its March 10 meeting to start the election process for new leadership to March 17. The party spokesperson, Dr Daljeet Singh Cheema, cited the formal installation of Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj as head of Takht Keshgarh Sahib as the reason for the postponement.



PUNJAB TO AUCTION RS 2,000 CRORE GOVERNMENT LAND IN 13 TOWNS

Diary Times Desk : The government is putting land and properties worth Rs 2,000 crore up for auction in 13 towns. Residential, commercial, and institutional sites worth Rs 2.000 crore will be available in 13 towns, including Mohali, New Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, and Patiala, among others. The Punjab Urban Development Authority (PUDA) and other development authorities in the state will commence the eauction on March 12, which will conclude on March 22. Group housing, schools, commercial plots, and other properties, such as SCOs/SCFs and booths, will be available. GMADA officials said that sites would be allotted to the successful bidder upon receiving only 10 per cent of the final bid price. Possession of the sites would be handed over to the allottees after they deposit 25 per cent of the bidding amount. Twice-in September and October 2024-PUDA and other regional development authorities had auctioned properties worth more than Rs 2.000 crore.

CBI FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST MUMBAI-BASED PHARMA COMPANY IN RS 60 CRORE BANK FRAUD CASE

Diary Times Desk: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against Mumbai-based MS Ankur Drugs and Pharma Ltd and its director in a two-year-old alleged bank fraud case involving Rs 60 crore. The chargesheet was filed in a Chandigarh CBI court under Sections 420 read with 120 of the IPC and Sections 13(2) read with 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. According to the complaint filed by Nand Kishore Barnwal, Chief Manager of Punjab National Bank (PNB) in Chandigarh, on July 17, 2023, Ankur Drugs and Pharma Ltd is a public limited company engaged in manufacturing pharmaceutical formulations. The company, through its directors, availed various working capital facilities from different banks under a consortium arrangement led by the State Bank of India. In 2009, the company sought financial assistance for a short-term loan.

PUNJAB CM MANN SLAMS SGPC'S REMOVAL OF JATHEDARS AS 'ACT OF VENGEANCE'

Diary Times Desk: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday condemned the removal of two Jathedars (heads) of the Akal Takht and Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, saying it seems an act of 'badlakhori' (vengeance). The Akal Takht in Amritsar and Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib in Anandpur Sahib in Rupanagar district are two of the five seats of temporal authority of Sikhism. Mann's reaction came a day after the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the organisation responsible for the management of gurdwaras, removed Giani Raahbir Singh from the post of Akal Takht Jathedar and Giani Sultan Singh as Jathedar of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib. The SGPC appointed Sikh scholar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gadgaj as the new Jathedar of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib. He would also serve as the acting Jathedar of the Akal Takht, until an appointment is made. Responding to a question on the SGPC's move, Mann said, "Look, this is a religious matter. What should have happened is that politics learn from the religion. But what is happening is that politics is teaching the religion." Speaking on the sidelines of an event to flag off a batch of school principals for training in Singapore, Mann also stressed that the general elections of the SGPC should be held.

ON WOMEN'S DAY, CONGRESS ASKS AAP GOVT TO FULFIL RS 1,000 ALLOWANCE PROMISE TO PUNJAB WOMEN

Diary Times Desk: Punjab Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa on Saturday reminded the AAP government of its "unfulfilled" promise of Rs 1,000 grant to each woman of the state and asked it to release the money on International Women's Day. Before the 2022 Assembly polls, the Aam Aadmi Party had promised to give Rs 1,000 per woman per month if voted to power. Bajwa, the Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, said women are the backbone of society and slammed the government for not yet making good on its promise. Before the 2022 assembly elections, @AamAadmiParty had promised to give a monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 to women in Punjab, but unfortunately, it has not fulfilled this promise even after three years of its government. "I demand from the @AAPPunjab government that on the occasion of International Women's Day today, they fulfil this promise and release the due arrears of three years to the women of Punjab," Bajwa said in a post on X in Punjabi. Before the 2022 Assembly polls, the Aam Aadmi Party had promised to give Rs 1,000 per woman per month if voted to power.

OVER 3.25 LAKH CASES DISPOSED OF IN 2025'S FIRST NATIONAL LOK ADALAT ACROSS HARYANA

Diary Times Desk : More than 3,25,000 cases—both pre-litigative and pending-were disposed of on Saturday during the first National Lok Adalat of the year, held across all 22 districts and 34 sub-divisions of Haryana. Organised under the Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA), the Lok Adalat provided a platform for litigants to resolve their disputes expeditiously through mutual settlement. The large-scale exercise was conducted through the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), which constituted 174 Benches to hear cases across the State. The matters taken up included a wide array of disputes such as civil suits, matrimonial conflicts. motor accident claims, bank loan recoveries, cheque bounce cases, traffic challans, and compoundable criminal offenses. More than 3, 80,000 cases referred to the Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) functioning in ADR Centres were also placed before the Benches for resolution. Puniab and Harvana High Court Judge and HALSA Executive Chairperson Justice Lisa Gill monitored the proceedings through video-conferencing to ensure smooth functioning in all districts and sub-divisions.

CM SAINI LEADS HOUSE IN PAYING HOMAGE TO DEPARTED LEADERS AND SOLDIERS

Diary Times Desk: On the first day of the Budget session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, obituary resolutions were passed to pay homage to prominent personalities and soldiers who passed away since the last session. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini led the House in reading out obituary resolutions for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, former Harvana Chief Minister Om Parkash Chautala and other political figures, including Satpal Sangwan, Kirpa Surinder Singh Ram. Auila. Chaudhary Karam Singh, and Hem Raj, all ex-MLAs, along with freedom fighter Baaj Singh. Vidhan Sabha Speaker Harvinder Kalyan also read the obituary resolutions, offering condolences to the bereaved families. Former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, speaking on behalf of his party, joined in paying respects. The House observed a moment of silence and paid heartfelt tributes to 21 brave soldiers from Haryana who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. The Vidhan Sabha extended its deepest condolences to the families of these martyrs who sacrificed their lives while safeguarding the nation's unity.

REWARI MAN ARRESTED FOR CARRYING ELECTRONIC DEVICE IN RAILWAYS CONSTABLE EXAM

Diary Times Desk: A Rewari resident was remanded to five days in police custody last evening by a court after he was arrested by the Barotiwala police for carrying an electronic device in an examination center for the examination of constable in the Railways Protection Force held on March 6. He was arrested on Thursday evening by the Barotiwala police, confirmed SP Baddi Vinod Kumar. The Barotiwala police received a from Gauray complaint Pathania, who was deputed at the examination center at the gate of Maharaja Agrasen University. A handheld metal detector detected an electronic device, charging jack battery, a SIM card, and a small Bluetooth device from Rahul Following this, the Barotiwala police registered a case under section 318(4), 62 of the BNS for cheating and attempting to commit a serious crime, and section 3, 4, 10, 11(1) of the Public Examination (Prevention Unfair Means) Act 2024.

UNDERGROUND UTILITY DUCTS TO BE LAID IN SHIMLA FOR RS 146 CRORE: CM

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that Rs 146.34 crore would be spent on underground utility ducts in Shimla city. Sukhu, while presiding over a meeting of the Public Works Department here, said that Rs 146.34 crore would be spent on the ambitious directed project. He department officials to complete the work underground utility ducts from Chhota Shimla to Willy Park and other areas in Shimla city in a time-bound manner. The Chief Minister said that this project would go a long way in enhancing infrastructure Shimla city, which would help increase the footfall of tourists and also facilitate local people. He added that this would provide 24x7 uninterrupted power supply to consumers even during heavy snowfall and adverse weather conditions in the city. He said that the underground utility ducts would increase the aesthetic appeal of Shimla city to tourists, besides restoring its old glory. He added that the construction underground utility ducts.

AROGYA MAITRI SCHEME WILL EXPAND HEALTH SERVICES IN REMOTE AREAS OF STATE: NADDA

Diary Times Desk: The Bhishma Cube Arogya Maitri Yojana will expand healthcare services in remote areas of the country and Himachal Pradesh will be one of its major beneficiaries, said Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda at AllMS in Bilaspur today. He said that AllMS-Bilaspur would soon receive support for extending advanced medical services to remote areas under the scheme. He added that the aim of the initiative was to provide cutting-edge healthcare facilities in rural and hilly regions. Nadda said that he was committed to making AllMS-Bilaspur a world-class medical institution. He emphasised the expansion of healthcare schemes and facilities to ensure affordable and advanced medical services for every citizen. He also appreciated the doctors and paramedical staff of AIIMS for their services and assured them that more facilities would be provided at the hospital in future. He said that over 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras would be opened across the country by 2027 to provide affordable and high-quality medicines to people. He also inspected the Jan Aushadhi Pharmacy located in AllMS and interacted with the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana. He asked the AIIMS administration to ensure the availability of quality medicines to people.



BUDGET SESSION FROM MARCH 10, SPEAKER SEEKS MLAS' COOPERATION

Diary Times Desk: Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Pathania today sought the cooperation of the legislators of both ruling and opposition parties for the smooth conduct of the 16-day budget session commencing on March 10. Pathania, while addressing mediapersons here, said that all arrangements had been made for the smooth conduct of the budget session, which would have a total of 16 sittings and would conclude on March 28. "The Vidhan Sabha secretariat has so far received 963 auestions from the MLAs comprising 737 starred and 226 unstarred. Besides, requests for 24 debates under various Vidhan Sabha Rules have been received," he added. He said that the budget session would commence with the Address of Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on March 10. "Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will present the budget on March 17 and after a debate, it will be passed on March 26," he added. Pathania said that there would be two days for Private Members and an all-party meeting would be held on March 9. "It will be my request to both ruling and opposition members to ensure the smooth conduct of the session so that maximum possible business can be taken up," he

ILLEGAL FELLING OF TREES RAMPANT IN NURPUR; 3 FIRS IN 2 MONTHS

Diary Times Desk: Tree felling has been rampant in Rey Forest Range, which falls on the interstate border under Nurpur forest division, with as many as 40 khair trees having been axed in its Dhameta and Sathana forest beats in the past two months. The Forest Department had lodged two FIRs under Sections 26, 32 and 33 of the Indian Forest Act (IFA) and Section 303 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) last month with the Fatehpur police station. In its latest activity, the forest mafia on Friday targeted another forest in Dhameta forest beat and axed seven khair trees at night. The mafia converted the felled khair trees into logs. On getting information, the field staff of the Forest Department rushed to the spot and reportedly seized some khair wood logs even as the mafia had decamped with most of the logs at night. Meanwhile, the Forest Department team impounded a white Tavera car without number plate that was loaded with 11 khair tree logs around 3 am on Saturday. The vehicle was intercepted on the Mangarh-Polian link road at 2.30 am during patrolling by field personnel of the department. The team chased the vehicle and impounded it.

PWD MINISTER VIKRAMADITYA URGES UNION MINISTER TO RELAX CRITERIA FIXED IN URBAN CHALLENGE FUND

Diary Times Desk: The Himachal Pradesh government has urged the Centre to relax the criteria fixed in the Urban Challenge Fund for redevelopment of cities, keeping in view the geographical constraints and smaller population in most towns in the hill sate. Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh recently raised the issue with Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi. He urged the Union Minister to reconsider and relax the criteria fixed in the Urban Challenge Fund for redevelopment of cities. He requested to fix the criteria on 90:10 basis for the state. "Due to tough geographical conditions and small population, the cities are not matching the criteria fixed in the Urban Challenge Fund," he pleaded. He sought Rs 70 crore funding for the successful implementation of the 'Citizen Service Portal' under the National Urban Digital Mission for a period of five years. He added that the funds allocated by the state government for its implementation from its own resources will get exhausted by March, hence funds are required from the Centre to effectively implement and sustain this initiative. He also sought Rs 3.28 crore for clearing liabilities under the National Urban Livelihood Mission. The minister requested to sanction special funds for the construction of parking and development of urban infrastructure in the state.



ROHIT SHARMA TO RETIRE AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY? SHUBMAN GILL'S REPLY MAKES EVERYONE WONDER

Diary Times Desk: Speculation is rife on the ODI future of skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli after the Champions Trophy but vice captain Shubman Gill on Saturday said the Indian dressing room is not discussing retirement of the two modern-day greats. Kohli and Rohit are still batting strong in the format but it is being discussed in cricketing circle that if India wins the Champions Trophy, both the batters or at least one can call time on his career. "There is no talk about retirement in the dressing room, now," Gill said during the pre-match press conference ahead of the Champions Trophy final against New Zealand on Sunday. Gill feels privileged to be a part of "best batting line-up" but said the depth in their order allows the top three to express themselves freely. This is the best batting line up I am part of. Rohit is one of the best openers (in the world) and Virat, we need not tell about him. But our team has depth in batting and that allows the top order to bat with bit more freedom," Gill, India's most prolific 50-over batter in the last two years, said. On the match front, Gill is aware of the huge pressure on them to win the trophy but exuded confidence that they will come up trumps unlike 2023 ODI World Cup which they lost to Australia. We are all excited for the final. Last time we could not win the 50 over World Cup but we are determined to win this time," he said.



I'M OPEN TO ALL FORMATS, BUT CLASSICAL CHESS WILL ALWAYS REIGN: GUKESH

Diary Times Desk: Unfazed by the evolving chess landscape, reigning world champion D Gukesh is open to compete in all formats but asserted that while freestyle chess brings excitement, the classical chess, with its rich history, will always hold the greatest significance. With two distinct sets of chess enthusiasts emerging—one supporting freestyle and the other showing loyalty to classical-concerns have been raised about a potential split in the sport. Gukesh, who beat Dina Liren to become world champion last year, sees no reason for division. "I don't think much about it. Freestyle is exciting, and I'm happy to play it. But it's too early to say where it's going. We've had just two serious tournaments in freestyle so far," he said at the 'India Today Conclave 2025'. "I wish freestyle becomes big, but I don't see it taking over standard chess. The history and legacy of classical chess give it more value. The World Championship cycle still holds the biggest importance for now." "Freestyle is a great addition to classical, rapid, and blitz. But yeah, we just have to see how it works. I'm open to all," said Gukesh who has confirmed his participation for the Paris leg of Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL: INDIA LOOK TO RISE ABOVE SPUNKY NEW ZEALAND, EMOTIONAL BUBBLE AROUND ROHIT, KOHLI

Diary Times Desk: Successful in keeping opponents and vitriol at bay so far, India will have to rise above traditional bugbear New Zealand and a rigmarole of emotions surrounding stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to reclaim the Champions Trophy after 12 years here on Sunday. India have always found the resilient Kiwis a tall mountain to surmount, as the latter hold a 10-6 lead over their Asian rivals across all the ICC tournaments. If curated further, New Zealand have a 3-1 edge over India in the ICC knockout matches. It's a disturbing loop for them. A section of the cricketing world has been vilifying them for the whole of last fortnight for having an unfair advantage because of their extended stay in Dubai. Now, this argument will not have much merit to it because the Kiwis have already tasted the conditions here. India might still entertain a greater sense of comfort going into the title match, courtesy a spin quartet that showed enough nous to exploit a sluggish DICS deck. In all probability, India will retain the four spinners and two pacers combination for the championship

CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL: NEW ZEALAND BATTER YOUNG SEEKS TO RECLAIM TITLE WITH FAMILIAR FOE, INDIA

Diary Times Desk: New Zealand cricketer Will Young knows firsthand how the ICC Men's Champions Trophy can inspire a generation. The batter was just eight years old when the Blackcaps saw off Zimbabwe, Pakistan, and India to win their first major ICC tournament in this very event 25 years ago, and the magic of that glorious run instilled a drive in him to make it to the top. A quarter of a century later, and Young is on the precipice of following in the footsteps of his first cricketing heroes, as he and his teammates prepare to face India again in the final in Dubai. The links with that team from 25 years ago have been reinforced, but Young believes his side must play their own way if they are to be successful. There were some iconic names in that sauad and those are the ones plenty of guys in this squad looked up to back in the day," the 32-year-old opener said. "It is cool to be trying to achieve the same thing 25 years later. I was eight years old at the time and just starting to fall in love with the game," he added.



IPL 2025: TICKET SALE FOR PUNJAB KINGS FIRST HOME MATCH TO GO LIVE ON MARCH 9

Diary Times Desk: With season 18 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) just around the corner, Punjab Kings have announced the release of the tickets for their first home match against Rajasthan Royals scheduled for April 5 at the New PCA stadium, New Chandigarh. The tickets will go live at 1:00 pm on March 9 (Sunday) in different phases. The fans can purchase them through the District app and website. With the team hosting a total of 7 home games, 4 matches will be played at the New PCA stadium, New Chandigarh, while the remaining 3 games will take place at the HPCA stadium, Dharamsala. With a capacity to host 31,500 fans, the New PCA stadium has around 50 corporate boxes, 3 hospitality lounges and 20 general stands. The General Upper Tier and General Terrace tickets have been priced at Rs 1,250 and Rs 1,750 onwards. Hospitality lounges, on the other hand, will cost a minimum of Rs 6500. The ticket prices will be dynamic and may vary. The Shreyas lyer-led contingent will kick off their IPL 2025 campaign with two away games against Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants on March 25 and April 1, respectively. They will then make their way to Chandigarh for their home fixtures, starting with the one against the Royals on April 5.

SHAMI IS VERY GOOD, HOPE ROHIT SCORES CENTURY IN CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL: FORMER INDIA CRICKETER

Diary Times Desk: As India prepares to take on New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy final in Dubai on Sunday, former India cricketer Deep Dasgupta shared his thoughts on two key players--captain Rohit Sharma and pacer Mohammed Shami. Rohit has not been at his best recently. However, Dasgupta remains hopeful that the Indian skipper will deliver a big innings in the final. "Rohit is known for double hundreds. His playing nature has changed, and so has the team's approach. We definitely hope that instead of scores of 30-40, he will get 130, or 140 but the way he is playing, it is important for him to continue in that manner," Dasgupta told ANI. "What about Shami? I mean, listen-iust look at the record. Nobody has a better record than him in ODIs. So, leave him as he is. He is very good," he said. India are undefeated in the tournament so far and the Kiwis have looked rock solid with bat and under Mitchell Santner's captaincy. The clash promises to be an epic sequel to the 2000 ICC Champions Trophy final.