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CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025

INDIA WIN CHAMPIONS TROPHY, PREVAIL OVER KIWIS BY 4 WICKETS

Diary Times Desk: Skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front with an excellent half-century as a resolute India held their nerve to win an unprecedented third Champions Trophy title with a four-wicket victory over New Zealand in the final here on Sunday.

Bowling first after Rohit lost his 12th straight toss, India's spinners restricted New Zealand to 251 for seven in the allotted 50 overs, with Kuldeep Yadav (2/40) and Varun Chakaravarthy (2/45) making significant contributions with the ball.

India completed the chase of 252 with six balls to spare after Rohit (76 off 83 balls) and Shreyas Iyer (48 off 62 balls) shone with the bat. For New Zealand, Daryl Mitchell (63 off 101 balls), Michael Bracewell (53 not out off 40 balls), and Rachin Ravindra (37 off 29 balls) were the main contributors with the willow.

While chasing, India faced some anxious moments when they lost two wickets after being well paced at 183 for three after 38 overs, but KL Rahul (34 not out off 33 balls) showed great composure to see his team through after Hardik Pandya's breezy 18-run knock. India won the trophy without losing a match, reflecting their dominance. India's previous title triumphs in the tournament came in 2002 and 2013. No other team has won the event thrice.



MAHA KUMBH

WATER QUALITY DURING MAHA KUMBH FIT FOR BATHING, POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REPORT FINDS



Diary Times Desk: A new report by the Central Pollution Control Board submitted to the National Green Tribunal has said that as per statistical analysis, the water quality during the recently-concluded Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj was fit for bathing.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report said the statistical analysis was necessitated because of "variability of data" in the samples collected from the same locations across different dates and on different locations on the same day, because of which these did not reflect the "overall river water quality throughout the river stretch".

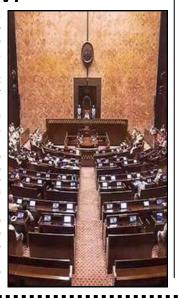
The report dated February 28 and uploaded on the tribunal's website on March 7 said the board had conducted water monitoring twice a week from January 12 onwards, including on auspicious bathing days, at five locations on Ganga river and two locations on Yamuna river.

"There is a significant variability in the values on various parameters, viz pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and fecal coliform count (FC) for the samples taken from the same location on different dates. The values of the afore-mentioned parameters also vary at different locations for the samples collected on the same day," the report said.

The DO or the amount of oxygen in water, BOD, which measures the amount of oxygen needed to break down organic matter in water, and FC, a marker of sewage contamination, are key indicators of water quality. The report said that an expert committee examined the issue of "variability in data" and said that "the data represents a snapshot of water quality at a specific location and time and may vary significantly depending upon factors such as upstream anthropogenic activities.

BUDGET SESSION SET FOR SHOWDOWN: WAQF BILL TOP PRIORITY FOR GOVT

Diary Times Desk: Parliament's Budget Session resumes on Monday amid indications of a showdown between the government and the Opposition which is planning to raise issues such as the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls, the fresh bout of violence in Manipur and India's handling of the Trump administration. The focus of the government will be on getting Parliament nod for the demands for grants, completion of the budgetary process, seeking approval for the Manipur budget and passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill. Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution seeking Parliament approval for the proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also scheduled to table the budget for Manipur on Monday. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13 after the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh. The Opposition said that it is set to corner the government over the issue of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. The Trinamool Congress has taken the lead in flagging the issue, following which the Election Commission declared that it would take corrective measures within the next three months.



LIOUOR SCAM: SC GRANTS BAIL TO FORMER CHHATTISGARH EXCISE **OFFICER, DEFERS RELEASE**

Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court has granted bail to a former excise officer from Chhattisgarh in a cheating and corruption case linked to the high-profile liquor scam in the state. The top court, however, directed that the officer shall be released on April 10 to ensure that the ongoing investigation is not affected. A bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan noted that the accused, Arun Pati Tripathi, is in custody for approximately 11 months and there is no possibility of the trial commencing in the near future. "Considering the observations made by us in the aforesaid order, the appellant is entitled to be enlarged on bail. However, to ensure that the investigation is not affected in any manner, we direct that the appellant shall be enlarged on bail on April 10, 2025 subject to appropriate terms and conditions fixed by the concerned Sessions Court," the bench said. The apex court directed Tripathi to surrender his passport.

AI-ENABLED HANDHELD X-RAY MACHINES HELPING IN EARLY TB DETECTION IN UP: OFFICIALS



Diary Times Desk: Al-enabled hand-held X-ray machines are emerging as game changers in the early detection of Tuberculosis enabling Uttar Pradesh to diagnose and notify 6.8 lakh patientsthe highest it has achieved in a calendar year, officials said. Of the 6.8 lakh cases notified in 2024, 4.29 lakh of these patients were notified from the public sector, and 2.5 lakh from private sector. These Al-enabled hand-held X-ray machines are helping in intensified screening under the ongoing pan India 100-Day Intensified Campaign to Eliminate TB aimed at accelerating efforts for the elimination of the disease from the country. According to the National TB Prevalence Survey in India (2019-2021) by ICMR in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry, X-rays are a critical screening tool for tuberculosis, as close to 42.6 per cent cases of the disease would be missed had they not been screened through an X-ray. Even when the patient is at a very early stage of the disease and does not have conventional symptoms of the disease, the machine can help diagnose the air borne disease, Tuberculosis Officer Dr Shailendra Bhatnagar said.

INDIA-KYRGYZSTAN SPECIAL FORCES DRILL TO **COMMENCE ON MARCH 10 IN CENTRAL ASIA**

Diary Times Desk: The 12th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise, Khanjar-XII, is set to take place in Kyrgyzstan from March 10 to 23. Since its inception in 2011, the drill has evolved into an annual training event. The alternating venues between India and Kyrgyzstan reflect the unique dimension of the thriving strategic relationship, a Defence spokesperson said. The last edition of the same exercise was conducted in India in January 2024. The Indian contingent is represented by troops from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), while the Kyrgyzstan contingent is represented by Kyrgyz Scorpion Brigade. The aim of the exercise is to exchange experiences and best practices in counter-terrorism and special forces operations in urban and mountainous high altitude terrain scenarios. The exercise will also focus on developing advanced special forces skills like sniping, complex building intervention and mountain craft.







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.

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 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

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.

Today, you should offer water to Lord 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 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

gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may

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.

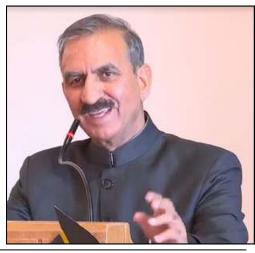
Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business face difficulties in repaying ess loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the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

TEAM INDIA: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU INVITED THE TEAM TO COME TO HIMACHAL, WROTE-SUPERB, ZINDABAD... CHAK DE INDIA

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has invited the players of Team India, who won the Champions Trophy, to come to Himachal. He has also offered to bear all the expenses of the players' hospitality. After this victory on Sunday, Chief Minister Sukhu in his post on Instagram congratulated Team India for the spectacular victory in the Champions Trophy. While congratulating, he said - 'Your hard work and dedication has made the whole country feel proud. We invite the entire team to come and relax in the peaceful and beautiful valleys of Himachal. The state will feel proud to host all of you.' The CM wrote in his post - Shaandaar, Zindabad, Jabardast ... Chak De India. He wrote that in the Champions Trophy, the Indian cricket team has won a spectacular victory by defeating New Zealand in the final match. He congratulates and wishes all the players of the team on this historic



HIMACHAL PRADESH: ALL-PARTY MEETING CONCLUDED, JAIRAM THAKUR AND SUKHRAM ATTENDED FROM BJP'S SIDE

Diary Times Desk: Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania called an all-party meeting on Sunday for the budget session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly starting from Monday. This meeting has been concluded. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur and Chief Whip Sukhram Chaudhary participated in the meeting on behalf of the BJP. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshvardhan Chauhan and Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania attended the meeting on behalf of the Congress Legislature Party. Speaker Kuldeep Pathania has asked both the parties to cooperate in the proceedings of the House. After the all-party meeting concluded, Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania said that the all-party meeting in which only two parties were present was concluded in a cordial atmosphere today. Parliamentary Affairs Minister of Himachal Pradesh Harshvardhan Chauhan, former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur.

HIMACHAL CM: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAIDWILL GIVE RS 1,500 TO ALL ELIGIBLE WOMEN, WILL TAKE SPECIAL CARE IN THE BUDGET

Diary Times Desk: Himachal's upcoming budget will focus on rural environment. Special care will be taken of women in the budget, because women are the real strength of our economy. Under the Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana, all eligible women will soon be given Rs 1500 per month. These things were said by Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu in a function organized on International Women's Day in Chambi, Shahpur on Saturday. The Chief Minister also honored the women of the state who have given excellent services in various fields in the program. He said that every year the honorarium of Anganwadi workers, mini workers and assistants is being increased. During the tenure of previous governments, the increase was done only before the elections. He said that in the police recruitment that is happening now.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID-IN THE BUDGET SESSION, THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT ON PUBLIC INTEREST ISSUES

Diary Times Desk: Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur, while talking to the media after attending the all-party meeting called by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, said that the discussions took place in a cordial manner in the meeting. There are many issues in the state, for which answers have to be taken from the government and the government's accountability has to be fixed on public interest issues. The government has failed on every front, it has no concern with public interest. The government will have to answer on public interest issues. Jairam Thakur said that there has been a tradition of an all-party meeting before the session begins. I have attended this meeting under the same tradition. It is the responsibility of the government to run the House in a cordial manner. If the government gives priority to the public interest issues raised by the opposition, then the atmosphere in the House will be cordial. The opposition is accountable to public interest issues. The people of the state are troubled due to the anti-people policies of the government. Today there is discontent in every section. People are on the streets and protesting.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: BODY OF A PERSON FROM PUNJAB FOUND IN A PRIVATE GUEST HOUSE, DEATH SUSPECTED TO BE DUE TO CHITTA: OTHER PARTNER ABSCONDING

Diary Times Desk: The body of a person from Punjab has been found in a private guest house in Shri Naina Devi area under Police Station Kot Kahlur. It is suspected that the person died due to overdose of chitta. Svringe and needle have been recovered from the pocket of the deceased. According to the information, two persons were staying in a private guest house in Shri Naina Devi. From there, the police received information that a person was lying dead in the guest house. After this, the police team reached the spot and started investigation. The other person who was with the deceased has fled from the spot after the incident. On reaching the spot, FSL expert was called for investigation. During the examination of the body, a syringe and a needle were recovered from the pocket of the deceased. No clear injury marks were found on the body. The police sent the body to the Regional Hospital Bilaspur for post-mortem. At the same time, the other person is being searched. The deceased has been identified as Somnath (50) resident Quality Chowk Preet Nagar District Ludhiana Punjab.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: PREPARATIONS TO GIVE HRTC CONDUCTORS THE BENEFIT OF PAY SCALE ON THE LINES OF PUNJAB, SALARY MAY INCREASE BY THIS MUCH

Diary Times Desk: Conductors of Himachal Path Parivahan Nigam (HRTC) will get the benefit of pay scale on the lines of Punjab. On the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, this was discussed in a meeting of HRTC Driver-Conductor Union with the Managing Director of Corporation on Saturday. the The Corporation management has decided to form a committee to decide on the demands of the conductors. After the pay scale is fixed on the lines of Punjab, the salary of about 4,000 conductors who were regularized after 2011 can increase up to Rs 5,000. Till now conductors did not get the benefit of Pay Commission. After the implementation of the new system, they will get the benefit when the Eighth Pay Commission comes. Conductors have not been placed in any category for the benefit of pay scale. They are not getting the benefit of pay scale since the time of Sixth Pay Commission. For a long time, they have been demanding to remove the salary anomalies, on which a decision is likely now. The driver-conductor union has also demanded from the corporation management to implement a provision for taking action against the conductor as well as the passenger if caught without a ticket, on the lines of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Chandigarh Transport Undertaking

DHARAMSHALA: FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD ACTOR RICHARD GERE REACHED MCLEOD GANJ, VISITED THE CTA-RUN TIBET MUSEUM

Diary Times Desk: Hollywood actor and Tibetan rights advocate Richard Gere has arrived in McLeodganj. He inspected the Tibet Museum operated under the Department of Information and International Relations of the Central Tibetan Administration on Saturday. His visit is being considered a symbol of global support for the Tibetan independence movement. Gere's effort is to highlight the struggle of Tibet on the international platform and raise awareness about Tibetan culture. Gere, who is considered a close friend of the Dalai Lama, has been raising his voice for Tibetan rights for a long time. He has earned international recognition for his commitment to Tibetan independence. Tibetan leaders officials have welcomed his visit.

VICE-PRESIDENT JAGDEEP DHANKHAR ADMITTED TO AIIMS-DELHI

Diary Times Desk: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has been admitted to AIIMS in New Delhi in the wee hours on Sunday after he complained of uneasiness and chest pain, said sources. The 73year-old was taken to the hospital around 2 am. Dhankhar is admitted to the Critical Care Unit (CCU) under Dr Rajiv Narang, Head of Department of Cardiology at AIIMS. He is stable and under observation, a source said, adding that a group of doctors is monitoring his condition. Union Health Minister JP Nadda visited AIIMS to enquire about Dhankhar's condition.

AFTER 33 YEARS, ENDANGERED OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES REAPPEAR TO LAY EGGS AT ODISHA'S EAKAKULANASI ISLAND

Diary Times Desk: Endangered Olive Ridley turtles have reappeared at Eakakulanasi island in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Odisha for mass nesting after a gap of 33 years, an official said. The idyllic beach on the island had undergone sea erosion, leading to the beach profile getting truncated. However, the beach is currently elongated as it has started accreting since 2020. This has turned out conducive for turtles to turn up en masse to lay eggs," Assistant Conservator of Forests Manas Das said. Das said the marine species had last appeared at the beach in 1992 when 3 lakh turtles had laid eggs. "It's an exceedingly positive development in the turtle protection initiative that is underway under the stewardship of Odisha Forest Department," he said. The profile of the Ekakulanasi beach, which was around 4 km long earlier, has now been elongated to 8 km following the natural process of accretion, which is a process of sediments returning to the beach. The nesting beach played host to 1.7 lakh turtles over the last two days, he said. The beach, apart from Nasi-2 beach, has emerged as the favourite nesting site, the official said, adding 2.63 lakh turtles have emerged on Nasi-2 beach to dig pits and lay eggs. The Olive Ridley turtles turn up in millions for mass nesting along the Odisha coast every year. Gahirmatha beach in Kendrapara district is acclaimed as the world's largest-known nesting ground of these turtles. Apart from Gahirmatha, these threatened aquatic animals turn up at Rushikulya river mouth and Devi river mouth for mass nesting. After egg-laying, the turtles leave the nesting ground.

IN BIGGEST DRUG BUST IN GOA'S HISTORY, MAN HELD WITH HYDROPONIC WEED WORTH RS 11.67 CRORE



Diary Times Desk: A man has been arrested in Goa for possessing hydroponic weed valued at Rs 11.67 crore, police said, claiming it is the biggest seizure of drugs in the history of the coastal state. The man was arrested on Saturday from Guirim village, located between Panaji and Mapusa cities, a police crime branch spokesperson said. "We seized 11.672 kilograms of hydroponic weed valued at Rs 11.67 crore from him. This is biggest seizure of drugs in Goa's history. He has been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act." the spokesperson said. Hailing the police, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in a post on X on Saturday said, "Congratulations to the Crime Branch Goa Police for Goa's Biggest-Ever Drug Bust!" "In a major breakthrough, the Crime Branch has successfully busted a drug racket, arresting an individual in possession of 11.672 kg of hydroponic weed worth Rs 11.67 crores. This is a testament to the relentless efforts of our law enforcement agencies in keeping our state drug-free," he said.

PROTESTER KILLED AS CLASHES ERUPT WITH SECURITY FORCES IN MANIPUR

Diary Times Desk: One person was killed and 40 others, including women, injured in clashes between protesters and security personnel as tensions escalated across Manipur on Saturday, the first day of the opening of roads and highways as directed by the Centre. Home Minister Amit Shah had at a security review meeting on March 1 issued instructions to ensure free movement for people on all roads in the state from March 8 and deal sternly with those trying to create obstructions. The protesters, mainly led by Kuki groups that have been opposing the Centre's move and seeking a separate union territory status in tribal-majority areas, started blocking roads and in tribal-dominated highways Kanapokpi and Senapati districts on Saturday morning, leading to violent skirmishes with security personnel, who fired multiple rounds of teargas shells to disperse them. Several state transport buses were blocked across Manipur by protesters, who were seen in videos raising "Meitei go back!"

AFTER MAHA KUMBH, UP WELCOMES RARE INDIAN SKIMMER CHICKS

Diary Times Desk: After hosting over 66 crore pilgrims at the Maha Kumbh, the Uttar Pradesh Government has now begun preparations to welcome the rare Indian skimmer chicks on the sands of river Ganga. At the beginning of the fair, the state government and Wildlife Department reported the arrival of 150 pairs of Indian skimmers a species that typically lays eggs from December to late February or early March. Along with these skimmers, their eggs and new-born chicks are now being protected from wild animals through the deployment of a large number of watchers. Additionally, the wildlife team has been put on high alert. Over 90 species of native and foreign birds have also arrived at the world's largest fair, contributing significantly to pollution control. Bird enthusiasts from across the globe visit the Maha Kumbh to witness these species, a statement from UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's office said.

LEAKING GAS PIPELINE CATCHES FIRE IN MUMBAI, 3 INJURED

Diary Times Desk: Three persons suffered burn injuries after a leaking gas pipeline caught fire on a road in Mumbai's Andheri area on Sunday, an official said. Two vehicles were also damaged in the incident, he added. The blaze erupted at 12.35 am in a heavily leaking supply pipeline of the MGL, passing through the middle of a road at Sher-E-Punjab society near a gurdwara at Takshila in Andheri (East) area, a fire official said. It was a "level-one" fire which was confined to two moving vehicles, he said. A two-wheeler rider, Arvindkumar Kaithal (21), suffered 30 to 40 per cent burns; another biker Aman Harishankar Saroj (22), sustained 40 to 50 per cent burn injuries; and an auto-rickshaw driver Suresh Kailas Gupta (52) suffered 20 per cent burns, he said. A water tanker, a fire engine and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was extinguished by 1.34 am, the official said. The three injured persons were taken to Balasaheb Thackeray Trauma Care.

TELANGANA TUNNEL RESCUE: DOGS TRAINED TO PICK SCENT OF HUMAN REMAINS TO BE SENT INSIDE

Diary Times Desk: Cadaver dogs will be deployed inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel here on Sunday to search for human presence as the rescue operation to save eight trapped persons entered its 16th day. The dogs first joined the rescue efforts on March 7, when they were taken inside the tunnel. The canines, specially trained to detect human remains, would be taken into the tunnel on Sunday, said a police official. Rescue teams will dig beyond five feet at two points identified by Human Remains Detection Dogs (HRDDs), as workers may be trapped in the second layer of the dismantled tunnel boring machine (TBM), according to a senior official on Saturday. The Kerala police's Belgian Malinois breed dogs are capable of detecting scent from a depth of up to 15 feet. The Telangana Government has decided to deploy robots for the rescue operation from March 11 to ensure the safety of rescue personnel, as the challenging conditions inside the tunnel, including water and slush, pose significant risks.



INDIA PEGGED AS NO. 1 SOURCE MARKET FOR LONDON'S AMBITIOUS NEW GROWTH PLAN

Diary Times Desk: The UK's capital city has unveiled an ambitious new 'Growth Plan' to provide an estimated 27 billion pounds extra tax revenue to fund vital public services in London and across the country, with India pegged as its number one source market in terms of foreign direct investment. The plan, unveiled recently by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan along with growth agency London & Partners, aims at restoring productivity growth to an average of 2 per cent a year in the next decade, which is hoped would make London's economy 107 billion pounds larger by 2035. India has been on a growth curve for the last three years, overtaking the US as London's single-largest FDI source market in 2022-23 and continuing through 2023-24. "Foreign direct investment from India has been the fastest growing and has been our number one market for the last two years," said Laura Citron, CEO of London & Partners, So, it's Indian tech companies setting up operations in London. Equally, if we look at it as a student market, post-Brexit, India has really rapidly grown as a student market. It's now the number two source market for London after China. It's also a fast-growing tourism market for London; India is just a really critical, top market for London," she said.

'DESPICABLE ACTS': INDIA CONDEMNS VANDALISM AT TEMPLE IN CALIFORNIA

Diary Times Desk: India on Sunday strongly condemned an incident of vandalism at a Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Hindu temple in California's Chino Hills and demanded "stringent action" against those involved. The BAPS Hindu temple was vandalised with inflammatory messages just days before the scheduled 'Khalistan referendum' event in Los Angeles. The desecration came nearly five months after another BAPS temple in Sacramento was vandalised in September last year. In view of the incident, the Centre also called for adequate security to the places of worship. "We have seen reports regarding the vandalism at a Hindu temple in Chino Hills, California. We condemn such despicable acts in the strongest terms. We call upon the local law enforcement authorities to take stringent.

2 DAYS OF CLASHES AND REVENGE KILLINGS LEAVE OVER 1,000 PEOPLE DEAD IN SYRIA



Diary Times Desk: The death toll from two days of clashes between security forces and loyalists of ousted Syrian President Bashar Assad and revenge killings that followed has risen to more than 1,000, including nearly 750 civilians, a war monitoring group said Saturday, making it one of the deadliest outbreaks of violence since Syria's conflict began 14 years ago. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that in addition to 745 civilians. 125 members of the government security forces and 148 militants with armed groups affiliated with deposed President Bashar Assad were killed. The observatory also said that electricity and drinking water were cut off in large areas around the coastal city of Latakia and many bakeries shut down. The clashes, which erupted on Thursday, marked a major escalation in the challenge to the new government in Damascus, three months after insuraents took authority after removing Assad from power. The government has said that they were responding to attacks from remnants of Assad's forces and blamed "individual actions" for the rampant violence.

8 INJURED AFTER DRIVER PLOWS VEHICLE INTO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAR DEALERSHIP

Diary Times Desk: Eight people were injured Saturday when a driver plowed a vehicle into a CarMax location in the Los Angeles area. Two people were critically injured at the car dealership in Inglewood, while the other six suffered minor injuries, Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesperson Jonathan Torres said. A video posted on social media portrayed the crash's aftermath. It shows a damaged SUV driving backward into the building, followed by an employee rushing out. The vehicle pivoted in a lobby area and drove out of the opposite end of the building. CarMax said the driver in question was a customer whose his vehicle had been appraised. He was later arrested. "We appreciate the authorities' swift response to this terrible event.

50 MILLIONTH PAGE UPLOADED TO ISRAEL'S STATE ARCHIVES PUBLIC WEBSITE

Diary Times Desk: The State Archives of Israel on Sunday presented the 50 millionth page uploaded to the State Archives' website, demonstrating what it called "a significant achievement in the process of digitizing and making historical materials accessible to the general public." The 50 millionth page is part of a "fascinating collection" of issues of the "Official Gazette" of the Government of Palestine (PA) during the British Mandate period, which includes approximately 700 files. For about a decade, the State Archives has been working diligently to scan the documents and make them accessible to the public through its website. To date, about a quarter of a billion pages have been scanned, of which, as mentioned, 50 million are now available to the general public. The scanning and disclosure process continues at an impressive pace, with thousands of additional pages being uploaded to the site every day. The "Official Gazette" collection now uploaded to the website is a source of historical information on the development of the Mandate government. These issues published orders and regulations, municipal laws, government announcements, approved trademarks, information on matters of transportation, sanitation, postal services, and more. Most issues also included a supplement that enriched the information



BRIGADIER GENERAL EFI DEFRIN NAMED NEW ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN

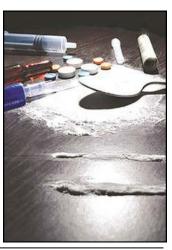
Diary Times Desk: Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir on Sunday appointed Brigadier General Efi Defrin as the new IDF Spokesperson. The appointment was approved by Defense Minister Israel Katz. Brigadier General Defrin, was a combat commander who fought and was wounded in the Second Lebanon War in 2006 when he commanded an armored battalion, after which he continued to serve with distinction in the IDF. In his last position, Defrin served as head of the IDF's "Tevel" (Foreign Relations) Brigade. He will the outgoing IDF Spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, in the near future. (A rear admiral in the navy and a brigadier general in the army are of equal rank, the first and lowest level of general or admiral.) The Chief of Staff thanked Hagari for his "significant service as a soldier," commander of the Shayetet 13 naval commandos unit and as the IDF Spokesperson during the war in Gaza, and wished him continued success

NEPAL PM OLI CHALLENGES FORMER KING GYANENDRA TO CONTEST ELECTION, ALLEGES ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT HARMONY

Diary Times Desk: Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has challenged former King Gyanendra Shah to enter mainstream politics, alleging him of making attempts to disrupt harmony. He (Former King Gyanendra) doesn't mention about the constitution, nor about the law, nothing about Loktantra, nothing about system, process, rather would say, support me, I will come and save the nation. What has happened to the country? This kind of activity would invite instability; chaotic activities that are inspired by him are pushing the country to the brink," the Prime Minister said while addressina the Sudurpaschim Province Assembly meeting. Oli's reaction came after thousands of promonarchists came to support former King Gyanendra in Kathmandu. Three weeks ago, former King Gyanendra, in a message on the eve of Democracy Day, pointed out the need to protect national unity and identity, calling on public support for the country's prosperity and progress. In the release statement, the former king said that all Nepalis should unite in nation-building, urging everyone to correct past shortcomings and move forward towards making Nepal stable, prosperous, and strong. "It is necessary for all citizens to unite for the defense, progress and prosperity of the country," he said.

PUNJAB SWITCHES TO BIOMETRICS AT REHAB CLINICS TO CHECK PILFERAGE OF ANTI-ADDICTION MEDICINES

Diary Times Desk: To check pilferage of medicines and maintain a record of the number of patients seeking treatment for drug addiction, the Punjab Government has decided to install a two-layered biometric system at the 706 Outpatient Opioid Assisted Treatment (OOAT) clinics in the state. Nearly 10 lakh patients take prescribed doses of buprenorphine tablets from doctors at the 529 government and 177 private OOAT clinics to stay away from drugs. The dose of tablets, which are supplied only by the government, is decreased gradually depending on the recovery of the patient. However, it has been observed that a number of patients get addicted to these tablets. In 2019-20, owing to addiction to the tablets, nearly five crore tablets of buprenorphine were pilfered and diverted by some private clinics, leading to the cancellation of the licence of 23 big defaulters. A Vigilance inquiry was held. Neha Shoree, a young officer with the Food and Drug Administration, was allegedly murdered in March 2019 as she had flagged the pilferage of the tablets. Sources said installing the biometric system to maintain a digital record of patients seemed to be the best way to ensure that genuine patients got the medicines.



PRESIDENT TO GRACE PU CONVOCATION CEREMONY ON MARCH 12

Diary Times Desk : President Droupadi Murmu will be on a visit to Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab from Monday to Wednesday. On March 10, the President will grace the convocation ceremony of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar. On the same day, she will launch a state-level campaign, 'Spiritual education for holistic wellbeing' of Brahma Kumaris, Hisar, on the occasion of its golden jubilee celebration. On March 11, she will grace the convocation ceremonies of Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, and AIIMS-Bathinda. The same evening, she will attend a civic reception at Mohali, which the Government of Punjab will host in her honour. On March 12, she will grace the convocation ceremony of Panjab University, Chandiaarh.

AFTER OBJECTIONS FROM CENTRE, BILL ON TRAVEL AGENTS TO BE WITHDRAWN

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana Government will withdraw the Haryana Registration and Regulation of the Travel Agents Bill, 2024, on Monday, following Centre's objections. The Bill was passed unanimously by the Vidhan Sabha on February 28, 2024, to check the illegal migration of youth through the 'donkey' route. It had provisions for the confiscation of property, and compensation for the victims, while the punishment ranged from three to 10 years, and fines from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. When it was sent to the Governor, he reserved it for the consideration of the President of India under Article 201 of the Constitution. The Bill was then sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the President's assent. As per the official resolution to be placed before the House on Monday, the Ministry of Home Affairs had sought "comments from the state government on the observations of the Ministry of Home Affairs", the Ministry of Tourism, and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. "The matter was under consideration by the state government. In the meantime, three new criminal laws—namely, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

MUSIC PRODUCER PINKY DHALIWAL ARRESTED FOR EXPLOITING SINGER SUNANDA SHARMA

Diary Times Desk : Punjabi music producer Pinky Dhaliwal has been arrested after singer and actress Sunanda Sharma filed a cheating, forgery and criminal intimidation complaint against him. Sunanda alleged that despite earning Rs 250 crore over the years, no payment had been made to her. In her complaint to the Mohali police, Sunanda also alleged that Pushpinder Dhaliwal exploited her on the pretext of marrying her to his son Gurkaran Dhaliwal. The accused was arrested from Sector 70 on Saturday and a case has been registered at Mataur police station. Punjab Women's Commission chairperson Raj Lalli Gill took the case after Sunanda posted her ordeal on social media. She also tagged Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann in her post. Sunanda had alleged that the music company 'Mad4Music' had been withholding her dues for years and bonded her to the company.

CONGRESS LEADERS SLAM AAP FOR FAILING TO CURB DRUG MENACE IN PUNJAB



: Punjab Pradesh Congress Times Desk Committee (PPCC) president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and CLP leader Partap Singh Bajwa today blamed the AAP government in Punjab for not making serious efforts to curb the drug menace in the state. Addressing a massive rally on 'Naukari Devo Nasha Nahi' organised here today by Punjab Youth Congress, Raja Warring hailed Punjab Youth Congress president Mohit Mohindra for taking initiative against drugs and unemployment in the state. He said that 40 deaths due to drug overdose were reported every month and many even as unreported in Puniab. Underlining the role of Youth Congress in state politics, he said that at least 60 seats should be allotted to youth in the 2027 Assembly elections. The PPCC president alleged that he felt sorry that former CM Capt Amarinder Singh "failed the Congress in taking action against drug lords". He added that Singh had betrayed the Congress and the party would prepare a road map to end the drug menace in the state. Leader of opposition Partap Singh Bajwa said that Arvind Kejriwal was preparing ground to grab the Rajya Sabha seat from Punjab and that's why they have fielded Rajiv Arora from Ludhiana south seat.

PANIPAT MC ELECTIONS: VOTING STARTS AT SLOW PACE; SNAG ENCOUNTERED IN SOME EVMS

Diary Times Desk: Polling to elect the Mayor and 26 councillors of the Panipat Municipal Corporation (MC) began on a slow note on Sunday morning. However, long queues of voters were witnessed at some polling booths in the city. The voter turnout by 10 am was recorded at 5.3 per cent. Sources said voting was affected at some polling booths in Ward 4, two booths in Ward 21 and Ward 14 due to technical snag in EVMs. A total of 107 candidates, including four candidates for the mayoral post and 103 candidates for councillor's posts, are contesting. Komal Saini of the BJP, Savita Garg of the Congress, Preet Pal Singh Khera of AAP and Independent candidate Kewal Singh are in the fray for the Mayor's post. A total of 4.11.038 voters - 2.18.861 male voters. 1,92,164 female voters and 13 transgender voters - are eligible to cast their vote for the MC elections. As many as 365 polling booths have been set up at 119 locations.

CM PRESENTS 'BEST VILLAGE' AWARD TO BARWALA FOR BEST SEX RATIO

Diary Times Desk : Addressing blood donors and women attending the Nari Shakti Blood Donation Camp in Panchkula on the occasion of International Women's Day today, CM Nayab Singh Saini said the day served as a reminder of the struggles and significant achievements of women in their fight for equality and rights. He also honoured women donors with certificates of appreciation. A total of 138 women participated in the camp. Women from various sectors, including ITBP jawans, officers, doctors, teachers, and 'swachhata praharis' participated actively. Saini honoured the three most talented daughters from the 'Best Village', Barwala, in Panchkula district. The CM presented cheques for Rs 75,000 to Mehak, Rs 45,000 to Aarju, and Rs 30,000 to Latika Bhati. He said the title of 'Best Village' was awarded to a village with the best sex ratio. Barwala village stood out with a remarkable sex ratio of 1059. The government had launched several initiatives to improve the sex ratio, including the annual 'Best Village' award, which was given to villages with a population of 5,000 or more, and a sex ratio of 1,000 or higher. Listing various welfare schemes, Saini said the government was giving special attention to the prevention of anaemia in women. As a result of the efforts, Haryana had secured the first position in the country under the Anaemia Mukt Bharat programme.

PRINCIPAL SECY, SIRMAUR DC FINED IN GREEN DAMAGE CASE

Diary Times Desk: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken action strict against government officials in a case pertaining to alleged environmental damage caused by a limestone company in Sirmaur district. The tribunal has imposed a fine of Rs 10.000 on Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests, and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Sirmaur for failing to appear before it. Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi, in a recent order, directed the Deputy Commissioner to be present at the next hearing with necessary documents related to the case. The penalty was imposed due to the continuous absence of both officials from the tribunal's proceedings, despite multiple notices. The case originated from a petition filed by residents of Kuner village in Kamrau tehsil, who alleged that Giri Lime and Chemical Private Limited was causing heavy environmental degradation through its limestone mining activities. The petition, filed in July 2023, stated that construction and demolition waste from the mining company had damaged local structures, obstructed water streams and pathways and negatively impacted agricultural fields.

UP SPEAKER VISITS HIMACHAL VIDHAN SABHA

Diary Times Desk: Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana visited the Himachal Vidhan Sabha and held discussions with his counterpart Kuldeep Pathania today. Pathania welcomed Mahana by presenting him with a shawl and a cap. He said that Mahana was the Speaker of the country's largest Legislative Assembly and had been a member of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha nine times. The two discussed the working and procedures of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and the legislative work and the democratic system in the two states. Mahana visited the historic Council Chamber Assembly where the Himachal Vidhan Sabha holds its sessions. Pathania told Mahana that the Council Chamber was a historic building constructed between 1920 and 1925 at a cost of Rs 10 lakh. "This building was the first National Assembly.

RAJIV GANDHI PROVIDED 33% QUOTA TO WOMEN IN PANCHAYATI INSTITUTIONS: CM

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today credited former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with providing 33 per cent reservation to women in panchayati raj institutions (PRIs). Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was the first to support the Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha to provide reservation to women in the Vidhan Sabha and Parliament, he claimed. The state government was also in favour of reservation to women, he said while addressing a public rally in the Chambi area of Kangra district on International Women's Day. Sukhu said that the state government amended the land law to give equal rights to daughters. Besides, the state government increased the reservation for women in recruitment in the Police Department to 30 per cent. Under the Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojana, the state government was bearing the entire cost of education of the children of widows so as to facilitate their studies, he added. He took a jibe at Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda and said, "What kind of doctor is he who treats but cannot give foresight. Had you treated the vision of the Jai Ram Thakur government at the right time, you could have saved the wealth of Himachal Pradesh from being looted.



SUKHU LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF RS 30.9 CRORE PROJECTS IN KANGRA'S SHAHPUR

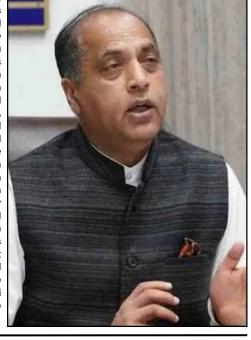
Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today laid the foundation stone of several development projects worth Rs 30.9 crore in the Shahpur Assembly segment of Kangra district. The projects included a link road from Laleta to Banu Mahadev to be constructed at a cost of Rs 11 crore, another link road from the National Highway-154 to Dhanotu via Bad Basti for Rs 4.41 crore and the upgrade of the Bhanala-Rulehr road at a cost of Rs 19.86 crore. The Rirkmaar-Kutharna road would be upgraded at a cost of Rs 5.47 crore and a pavilion block would be constructed at the stadium at Rait (Chambi) for Rs 1.16 crore. He also performed puja for Maharana Pratap Bhawan being constructed by the Rajput Sabha. The Chief Minister reiterated the commitment of the state government to improving road connectivity, boosting and enhancing local development infrastructure. He said that strengthening the rural road network was a priority of the government to ensure better accessibility to residents. He added that these initiatives were part of the state government's vision to enhance infrastructure, promote economic growth.

CENTRE URGED TO RELAX CRITERIA FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF CITIES

Diary Times Desk: Himachal has urged the Central Government to relax the criteria fixed in the Urban Challenge Fund for the redevelopment of cities keeping in view geographical constraints and smaller population in most places in the hill sate. Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Vikramaditya Singh raised the issue with Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi last evening. He urged the Union Minister to reconsider and relax the criteria fixed in the Urban Challenge Fund for the redevelopment of cities. He requested Khattar to fix the criteria of 90:10 funding for the state keeping in view its hilly terrain. "Due to tough geographical conditions and small population, the cities in the state do not fulfil the criteria fixed in the Urban Challenge Fund," he said. Vikramaditya sought Rs 70 crore for the implementation of the Citizen Service Portal under the National Urban Digital Mission for five years. He added that the funds allocated by the state government for its implementation would exhaust this month.

WOMEN MUST GET EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES: JAI RAM

Diary Times Desk: Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today said that the Central Government was committed to women empowerment and had launched many schemes for their welfare. Thakur, while participating in a programne organised by the BJP Mahila Morcha here on the occasion of International Women's Day, said, "Women are excelling in every field and in educational institutions, I see girls are the toppers and win the maximum medals and trophies," he added. He said that during his tenure as Chief Minister, the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme was launched to give equal opportunities to daughters and it was being replicated across the country. He added that the fact that the President, Union Finance Minister and other Union Ministers were women was a symbol of women empowerment. Thakur said, "Women are excelling in every field due to their hard work, dedication and sincerity towards their duties. Even today, some people do not feel happy at the birth of a girl child which is not right, though the mindset of society has undergone a tremendous change." The former Chief Minister emphasised that daughters should get equal opportunities in every field like available to boys. Thakur said that many schemes like the Grihini Suraksha Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Ek Boota Beti Ke Naam, Shagun and the Kanyadan Yojana were launched for the welfare of women.



INDIA WIN CHAMPIONS TROPHY, PREVAIL OVER KIWIS BY 4 WICKETS

Diary Times Desk: Skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front with an excellent half-century as a resolute India held their nerve to win an unprecedented third Champions Trophy title with a four-wicket victory over New Zealand in the final here on Sunday. Bowling first after Rohit lost his 12th straight toss, India's spinners restricted New Zealand to 251 for seven in the allotted 50 overs, with Kuldeep Yadav (2/40) and Varun Chakaravarthy (2/45) making significant contributions with the ball. India completed the chase of 252 with six balls to spare after Rohit (76 off 83 balls) and Shreyas Iyer (48 off 62 balls) shone with the bat. For New Zealand, Daryl Mitchell (63 off 101 balls), Michael Bracewell (53 not out off 40 balls), and Rachin Ravindra (37 off 29 balls) were the main contributors with the willow. While chasing, India faced some anxious moments when they lost two wickets after being well paced at 183 for three after 38 years, but KL Rahul (34 not out off 33 balls) showed great composure to see his team through after Hardik Pandya's breezy 18-run knock



"DIDN'T EXPECT TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS, DREAM COME TRUE": CHAKRAVARTHY ON HIS MEMORABLE CT CAMPAIGN

Diary Times Desk: Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy admitted he didn't expect his campaign to turn out like it did as India experienced jubilation and euphoria scripting a memorable win against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy final in Dubai on Sunday. The winning runs came off Ravindra Jadeja's bat. He didn't even turn to look at the ball heading towards the fence. Virat Kohli roared in jubilation and shared a warm embrace with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar and then head coach Gautam Gambhir. Gambhir, known for his aggression, wore a beaming smile as Jadeja stretched his hands and blew flying kisses towards the dressing room. Behind India's daunting story of success, Chakravarthy pulled the strings and weaved spin traps to lift India to a famous title. Chakravarthy, a prime force in India's talented pool of spin attack, was a late admission in India's 15-player squad. He ended the tournament as the joint second-highest wickettaker, boasting nine scalps in three matches, a "dream come true" campaign for him. "I didn't expect to turn out like this, a dream come true.

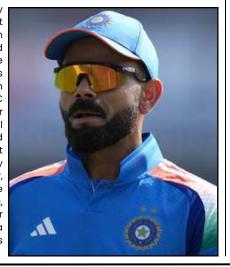
PROUD OF OUR CRICKET TEAM FOR BRINGING HOME ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY: PM MODI



Diary Times Desk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the Indian cricket team for winning the ICC Champions Trophy and said they have played wonderfully through the tournament. Skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front with an excellent half-century as a resolute India held their nerve to win an unprecedented third Champions Trophy title with a four-wicket victory over New Zealand in the final in Dubai. "An exceptional game and an exceptional result! Proud of our cricket team for bringing home the ICC Champions Trophy," Modi said in a post on X. "They've played through tournament wonderfully the Congratulations to our team for the splendid all around display," the prime minister said.

"WE'VE GOT A SQUAD THAT IS READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD...": VIRAT FOLLOWING INDIA'S CT 2025 WIN

Diary Times Desk: Following India's ICC Champions Trophy win, star India batter Virat Kohli expressed happiness at Men in Blue's win and performances by several team members, particularly Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya and Shreyas Iyer, saying that the squad is "ready to take on the world for next eight overs". "I feel we have a squad that is ready to take on the world for the next 8 years," Kohli said in the post-match ceremony. India secured their third ICC Champions Trophy title, defeating New Zealand by four wickets in a nail-biting final at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday. This victory marks India's second successive white-ball title win. India witnessed standout performances from several players in the final, particularly Varun Charkavarthy, skipper Rohit Sharma, Kuldeep Yadav, Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul. Talking after the match in the post-match proceedings, Virat said, "It has been amazing, we wanted to bounce back after a tough Australian tour (Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25), and wanted to win a big tournament, so to win the Champions Trophy is amazing."



PUNJAB FC, MOHAMMEDAN SC STRIVE TO SIGN OFF CONVINCINGLY FROM TESTING ISL CAMPAIGN

Diary Times Desk: Punjab FC will travel to take on Mohammedan SC at the Kishore Bharati Kriranaan in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 for their respective final matches of the season on Monday. Punjab FC and Mohammedan SC are the two promoted teams in the ISL since the process began in 2023-24, and they have 27 and 12 points to their name from 23 games, respectively. While the Panagiotis Dilmperis-coached side made a strong start to the campaign before faltering later on, their Kolkata-based opponents have secured significant learning from their maiden run in the top-tier. Punjab FC defeated Mohammedan SC by 2-0 in the reverse fixture, and they will be looking to make them just the second team after Hyderabad FC, against whom they register consecutive clean sheets in the competition. Punjab FC notched a 3-1 victory in their last away game against Hyderabad FC, and they previously scaled their longest streak of consecutive wins on the road in the ISL with three triumphs between February and March 2024. Can they at least make it two in a row before this season closes out?

IPL 2025: MATTHEW WADE RETURNS TO GUJARAT TITANS AS ASSISTANT COACH

Diary Times Desk: Former Australia wicketkeeper batter Matthew Wade has returned to the Gujarat Titans (GT) for the cash-rich Indian Premier League 2025, this time as an assistant coach. The former southpaw has joined the franchise's support staff, which includes Ashish Nehra (head coach), Parthiv Patel (batting coach), Aashish Kapoor, and Narender Negi (assistant coaches). As a player, Wade represented GT in 12 matches over two seasons and amassed 161 runs Wade announced his retirement from international cricket in October last year, bringing the curtain down on his career, which spanned over 13 years and 225. The 37-year-old featured for his country at three editions of the T20 World Cup, with his most memorable achievement coming in 2021 when he helped guide Australia to their inaugural 20over title in Dubai in his role as vicecaptain. Wade starred at that tournament, with his innings of 41* from just 17 deliverers in a thrilling semi-final victory over Pakistan among his many career highlights. The keeper-batter also made 36 Test appearances for Australia, scoring 1,613 runs with four Test centuries and five fifties at an average of 29.87, with a career-best score of 117 coming in the fifth Ashes Test.