

MAHARASHTRA BUDGET 2025

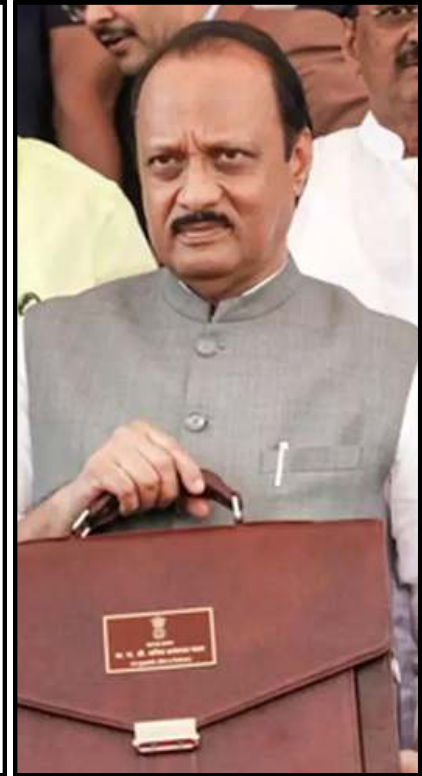
MUMBAI TO HAVE \$1.5 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2047: AJIT PAWAR

Diary Times Desk : At least seven business centres of international standard will be established in Mumbai to boost the city's economy from the present USD 140 billion to USD 1.5 trillion by 2047, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar announced in the state budget on Monday.

Ajit Pawar, who tabled the budget for the fiscal 2025-26 in the state assembly, said the Mumbai Metropolitan Region will be developed as a growth hub and an international-standard economic development centre. He said business centres will be established at the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), the Kurla-Worli area, Wadala, Goregaon, Navi Mumbai, Kharghar and the Virar-Bhoisar area.

The minister further said that the state government has a 26 per cent share in the Vadhavan port, which is being constructed at the cost of Rs 76,220 crore. The port will have an annual cargo handling capacity of approximately 300 million metric tonnes, three times the capacity of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), he said.

"The Vadhavan port is expected to commence cargo operations by 2030," Mr Pawar said, adding that the third airport for Mumbai and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train station will be established near the port. He said the port will also be connected to the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway. The state government will also announce a policy to provide financial incentives for modern and well-equipped boats to ensure safe travel from the Gateway of India to Mandwa and Elephanta. Mr Pawar said the metro project, connecting the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai to Navi Mumbai International Airport, is set to commence soon.



PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION : RAHUL GANDHI DEMANDS DISCUSSION IN LOK SABHA ON VOTERS' LIST



Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday sought a discussion on voters list after TMC MP Sougata Roy raised the issue during the Zero Hour in the ongoing Budget Session on Monday.

Roy, while raising the matter in the Lower House, said that after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee flagged concern over duplicacy in elector photo identity card numbers, the Election Commission decided to resolve what it has described as a "decades-long" problem within three months.

The TMC MP levelled allegations of duplicate voter cards discovered from some constituencies in West Bengal and also Haryana, and raised questions on the recently held Assembly elections in Maharashtra. As Roy was speaking, Speaker Om Birla quipped, "Does the Central Government prepares voters list?"

Amid protests from Opposition members on his remarks, Rahul Gandhi stood and said though the Speaker is right in saying that the government does not prepare voters list, however the entire Opposition wants a discussion on the matter in the House. The Congress MP's demand was echoed by several Opposition members.

Earlier, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said he has taken back his comments made on the Tamil Nadu government during Question Hour, which had led to protests by DMK members leading to the adjournment of Lok Sabha for half-an-hour. Pradhan, while responding to a question on fund allocation for Tamil Nadu to implement PM-SHRI schools scheme, had called the state government "dishonest, uncivilised and undemocratic" for playing politics.

PM MODI TO EMBARK ON 2-DAY VISIT TO MAURITIUS ON TUESDAY

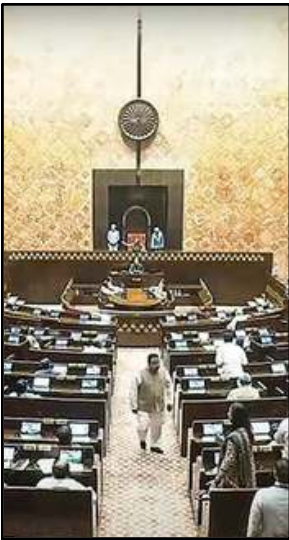
Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday will embark on a two-day state visit to Mauritius, where he will be the chief guest at the archipelago's National Day celebrations on March 12. Ahead of his visit, the PM in a statement on Monday said, "At the invitation of my friend, Prime Minister Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, I am embarking on a two-day state visit to Mauritius to participate in the celebrations of the 57th National Day of Mauritius. Mauritius is a close maritime neighbour, a key partner in the Indian Ocean, and a gateway to the African continent. We are connected by history, geography and culture." This will be PM Modi's second state visit to Mauritius. He visited Mauritius in March 2015 also to attend the Mauritius National Day as the chief guest. The PM said that during his visit, he looked forward to the opportunity to engage with the Mauritius leadership to elevate the partnership in all its facets and strengthen the enduring friendship for the progress and prosperity of our peoples, as well as for security and development in the Indian Ocean Region, as part of our Vision SAGAR. Deep mutual trust, a shared belief in the values of democracy, and celebration of our diversity are our strengths.



SUPREME COURT ORDERS STATES, UTS TO NOTIFY POSTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS BY MARCH 28

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court has ordered states and union territories to notify by March 28 the number of sanctioned posts of teachers to educate children with special needs. "Each state and UT shall come out with notifications with the number of posts that they have sanctioned for teachers who have to impart education to children with special needs," a bench of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice K Vinod Chandran said while hearing a petition filed by Rajneesh Kumar Pandey and others, highlighting the dearth of special educators in Uttar Pradesh and other states. The top court made it clear that the selection and appointment should be made of qualified or competent or eligible teachers only. Noting that despite its 2021 judgment, none of the states or UTs made appointments on such sanctioned posts, the bench pointed out that a large majority of the states didn't even identify the sanctioned posts.

LOK SABHA PROCEEDINGS DISRUPTED AS DMK MEMBERS PROTEST OVER PRADHAN'S REMARKS



Diary Times Desk : Lok Sabha proceedings were on Monday adjourned for about half an hour after DMK MPs staged protests against the Centre over alleged diversion of funds meant for setting up PM-SHRI schools in the state, even as union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan called Tamil Nadu government "dishonest and uncivilised", while blaming it for playing with the future of students. As the protests continued for some time, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House till 12 pm. The protests started after DMK MP T Sumathy alleged during Question Hour that funds worth of Rs 2,000 crore meant for setting up PM-SHRI schools in Tamil Nadu were diverted by the Centre and sought an assurance from the central government that funds for states which are not ready to accept central schemes legally not binding on them, won't be stopped. Replying to her question, Pradhan claimed that the Tamil Nadu Government was initially willing to set up PM-SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) schools in the state and many of its MPs had also met him regarding this.

'COW IF BOY, RS 50,000 IF GIRL': TDP MP ON EVERY 3RD CHILD IN VIZIANAGARAM CONSTITUENCY

Diary Times Desk : A TDP Lok Sabha member from Andhra Pradesh has pledged to dole out Rs 50,000 for every third child who turns out to be a baby girl in his constituency here. Vizianagaram MP K Appala Naidu said he will deposit the money in favour of the newly born girl child in the form of a fixed deposit, which could compound up to Rs 10 lakh by her marriage age. "If the third child is a boy, we will give a cow and a calf. Will make a fixed deposit of Rs 50,000 if the third child is a baby girl. The Indian population has to rise," Appala Naidu told PTI on Sunday. The parliamentarian said he was inspired by the calls given by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to raise India's population. Promising to extend this offer to every woman in his constituency, Appala Naidu recalled that he was encouraged by several women in politics and life, who included his mother, wife, sisters and daughter. Further, he observed that encouraging women is also the need of the hour as they go through discrimination. According to the MP, he announced this offer during the International Women's Day celebrations in his constituency.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 11-03-2025

<p>Aries Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.</p>	<p>Taurus Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.</p>
<p>Gemini Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.</p>	<p>Cancer Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.</p>
<p>Leo Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.</p>	<p>Virgo Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.</p>
<p>Libra Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.</p>	<p>Scorpio Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.</p>
<p>Sagittarius Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.</p>	<p>Capricorn Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.</p>
<p>Aquarius Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.</p>	<p>Pisces Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.</p>



HPBOSE 12TH ENGLISH EXAM UPDATE: THE DATE HAS COME, ON THIS DAY THE 12TH CLASS ENGLISH EXAM WILL BE HELD IN HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will now conduct the 12th class English subject examination which was cancelled on 8 March on 29 March. This examination will be held in the second session from 2 pm to 5 pm at 2,300 examination centers across the state. The School Education Board has released the schedule for this examination. During this examination, around 93,494 students from regular and state open schools will appear for the examination across the state. According to the information, on March 7, during the 10th class English subject examination at Government Senior Secondary School Chuwari, falling under District Chamba, the examination center staff opened the question paper of the 12th class English subject examination to be held on 8 March. The board management received a complaint about this through e-mail. After this, the education board also confirmed it with a video uploaded on the Exam Mitra mobile app. Due to this, Himachal Pradesh School Education Board had cancelled the 12th class English subject examination of 12th class.



SHIMLA: SUKHU SAID- EDUCATION SYSTEM WILL BE WORLD CLASS IN FIVE YEARS, CLASSES OF THREE MORE SUBJECTS IN KOTSHERA

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu attended the annual prize distribution function of Kotshera College in Shimla as the chief guest on Monday. During this, the CM announced to start classes of English, Economics and Political Science in Kotshera College from the next academic session, to fulfill the demands of central heating facility and construction of boundary wall. He said that the state government is laying the foundation of self-reliant Himachal. Important decisions are being taken towards qualitative improvement in education. The support of the youth is needed in this system change. In the coming four to five years, the education system of the state will be world class. The lack of money for education and health will not be allowed to come in the way. Students of educational institutions being closed with low numbers will be given transport facility by reserving seats in big colleges and schools from the next session. The government will start 10 fully equipped Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding Schools from the next session. In this, qualitative education, sports and all kinds of activities will be conducted from pre-nursery to 12th class.

HIMACHAL : DEMAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL FOR PANGI VALLEY, MP SIKANDAR KUMAR RAISED THE ISSUE IN RAJYA SABHA

Diary Times Desk : The demand for construction of a tunnel to keep the people of the extremely remote Pangi Valley of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh connected to the district headquarters throughout the year echoed in the Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha MP from Himachal Pradesh Dr. Sikandar Kumar raised this important issue during Zero Hour on Monday and appealed to the Government of India to take concrete steps in this direction. MP Dr. Sikandar Kumar said in the House that the Pangi Valley of Chamba district is a very inaccessible area geographically. The people here have to face great difficulties in commuting to the district headquarters Chamba. At present, to come to Chamba from Pangi, people have to cross the Sach Pass pass located at an altitude of 14,500 feet, which remains open only for 4-5 months in a year due to heavy snowfall. During the rest of the time, people have to come via Jammu, Lahaul-Spiti, Atal Tunnel.

RAJEEV BINDAL: BJP STATE PRESIDENT SAID- SUKHU GOVERNMENT IS BENEFITING PRIVATE SCHOOLS BY CLOSING GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Diary Times Desk : BJP's state president Dr. Rajiv Bindal accused the government of shutting down government schools to benefit private schools. Somewhere it seems that the present government is in collusion with private schools. Wherever schools are closed, a new private school opens there. Addressing a press conference at BJP office Una, Bindal said that when Congress was in power, it used to say to the public that the government will give five lakh permanent government jobs. Where did these jobs go? The unemployed are suffering on the roads in the state and the government is happy. He said that the Congress government is telling another lie that they have fulfilled the five guarantees. The Congress government should bring a white paper on this. If the opposition raises the question of jobs in the assembly, then the only answer that comes is that information is being collected, it means you do not have any data. Dr. Rajiv Bindal said that the Central Government sent Rs. 265 crores for each medical college and funds are being continuously sent to many institutions like Mother-Child Institute and Cancer Hospital, but small Congress leaders, ministers, Deputy Chief Minister.

HIMACHAL NEWS: TWO MORE FLIGHTS WILL START ON DELHI-GAGGAL AIR ROUTE IN SUMMER SEASON

Diary Times Desk : In the summer season, passengers will get the facility of two additional flights on the Delhi-Gaggal air route. A new flight will also start from Gaggal to Chandigarh. Spice Jet is going to start flights on the Delhi-Gaggal route. Spice Jet will start a new flight after March 30. After this, Spice Jet will have three flights between Delhi-Gaggal. Currently, two Spice Jet flights are running on the route. Under the new schedule, three Spice Jet flights, two Indigo flights and one Alliance Air flight will land at Gaggal Airport. At the same time, there will be a facility of two flights a day from Gaggal to Chandigarh. While the number of flights from the capital Delhi to Gaggal Airport will increase, flights from Gaggal to Delhi will also start in the second shift. Gaggal Airport Director Dharendra Singh said that there will be a change in the schedule of flights after March 30. During this time, while there will be an increase in some flights.

HIMACHAL BUDGET SESSION 2025: BUDGET SESSION OF HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS WITH THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Diary Times Desk : The budget session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly began with the national anthem at 2 pm on Monday. Before starting his address, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla congratulated India on its victory in the ICC Champions Trophy. He thanked the people of the state for supporting the campaign against drugs. After this, the Governor started his address. During this, the Governor presented the achievements of the government in the House. The Governor said that my government has fulfilled six guarantees. Earlier, on reaching the Assembly, the Governor was welcomed by Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Pathania, CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshvardhan Chauhan. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that in the current financial year, the government has increased the honorarium of people working.

HP POLITICS: CM SUKHU SAID- NINE CHAMPIONS WHO LEFT CONGRESS ARE RUNNING THE BJP, THE PARTY IS DIVIDED INTO FIVE FACTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, while targeting the BJP, said that the BJP is being run by 9 champions who have left the Congress. The BJP is currently divided into five factions. There is a difference between the words and actions of the BJP leaders. The BJP is troubled in itself. The players who have left the Congress are state level players and the BJP leaders are district level players, who are not letting them play. Talking to the media after the Congress Legislature Party meeting, the CM said that the idiom 'the thief scolds the policeman' fits the opposition party BJP. If the BJP is ready to sit in the House and discuss, then the government is also ready to extend the time of the session. The Chief Minister said that it is a matter of happiness that this time the opposition party has participated in the all-party meeting regarding the assembly budget session. The BJP Legislature Party had earlier boycotted the all-party meeting as well. On the opposition's demand to extend the session, the Chief Minister said that the BJP's job is to walk out of the assembly.

AIR INDIA MUMBAI-NEW YORK FLIGHT, WITH 322 ONBOARD, RETURNS AFTER HOAX THREAT

Diary Times Desk : An Air India flight travelling from Mumbai to New York returned eight hours after take-off after the crew received a threat. The Boeing 777 aircraft, with 303 passengers and 19 crew members on board, was flying over Azerbaijan when it changed course and returned to Mumbai. Following its landing, bomb-detection procedures were carried out. The threat alert was found to be a hoax. The flight took off from Mumbai around 2 in the morning and returned to Mumbai around 10.25 am. Flight number AI-119, from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai to John F Kennedy airport in New York, takes about 15 hours to complete the journey. The flight will now take off at 5 am tomorrow, Air India has said. Air India said in a statement that the decision to return to Mumbai was taken after a potential security threat. It said the passengers have been provided accommodation, meals and other support. A potential security threat was detected mid-flight on AI119 operating Mumbai-New York (JFK) today, 10 March 2025. After following the necessary protocols, the flight air-returned to Mumbai, in the interest of the safety and security of all on board. The flight landed safely back in Mumbai at 1025 Hrs (local time)," the airline said.

TWO YOUTH GO MISSING IN J&K'S KATHUA DAYS AFTER THREE BODIES FOUND

Diary Times Desk : Following the shocking incident where bodies of three youth were found by security forces days after having gone missing, another two teenagers went missing in Kathua raising serious concerns in the area. The missing teenagers, identified as Mohammad Din and Rehman Ali, were last seen in the Rajbagh area, reported India Today. Authorities have registered a case and launched a search operation to locate them. Three civilians Yogesh Singh, 32, Darshan Singh, 40, and Varun Singh, 15, went missing on March 05 while traveling to a wedding in Lohai Malhar. They were found dead in the Billawar area of Kathua two days after they went missing. The bodies were found in a deep gorge on Saturday. A probe has been ordered to investigate the deaths, believed to have been carried out by militants. The incident has caused ruckus in the assembly. CM Omar Abdullah termed the killings as "barbaric". "Deeply shocked and saddened by the barbaric murder of three innocent civilians.

"VERBAL, NOT PHYSICAL TORTURE, I'M TRAUMATISED": RANYA RAO BREAKS DOWN IN COURT



Diary Times Desk : Kannada actor Ranya Rao, who was caught smuggling gold bars worth Rs 14.56 crore last week, on Monday alleged she is "traumatized and emotionally broken" as she was "verbally tortured and threatened" in the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)'s custody. Ms Rao made the submissions before a special court, in Bengaluru, which sought to know if she was physically tortured in custody. The actor ruled out any physical torture. "I was verbally tortured and threatened. I am traumatized and emotionally broken," she said, breaking down in court. The DRI dismissed the charge and said the entire procedure (involving arrest and interrogation) has been recorded on CCTV. The developments came against the backdrop of speculation that Ms Rao might have been assaulted during or after her arrest, after a widely-circulated image showed her with swollen eyes and bruises on her face. Karnataka State Commission for Women Chairperson Nagalakshmi Chaudhary earlier said that a probe into the actor's possible assault cannot be conducted until a formal complaint is filed.

"OUR SOLE INTENTION...": KASHMIR FASHION SHOW ORGANISERS' APOLOGY AMID ROW

Diary Times Desk : The organisers of the fashion show in Jammu and Kashmir, in which men and women posed in skimpy attire, have apologised after pictures from the event sparked a massive row and drew strong political reactions from key players in the Union Territory. Shivan and Narresh, a luxury brand that specialises in holiday wear, said in a statement that it deeply regretted the hurt caused by the event in Gulmarg. "We deeply regret any hurt caused by our recent presentation in Gulmarg during the holy month of Ramadan. Our sole intention was to celebrate creativity and the ski & apres-ski lifestyle, without any desire to offend anyone or any religious sentiments," it said. "Respect for all cultures and traditions is at our heart, and we acknowledge the concerns raised. We sincerely apologise for any unintended discomfort and appreciate the feedback from our community. We remain committed to being more mindful and respectful.

MISSING KERALA TEEN, NEIGHBOUR FOUND HANGING IN FOREST 3 WEEKS LATER

Diary Times Desk : The bodies of a 15-year-old girl and a 42-year-old man who had been missing from Kerala's Kasaragod district were discovered hanging from a tree in a forested area near their homes. The discovery was made after an extensive search operation involving the police and local residents. The deceased man, identified as Pradeep, a driver and the family's neighbour, had gone missing on the same day as the girl, February 12. The girl's mother had lodged a missing person complaint with the Kumbala police on the same day. Initial investigations, aided by the cyber cell, revealed that both their mobile phones had been switched off near the area, but search efforts using drones and police dogs yielded no immediate results. As the girl remained untraceable, her family approached the High Court, prompting a renewed search effort. With the help of locals, police combed through the forest.

2018 TELANGANA HONOUR KILLING: HIRED KILLER GETS DEATH, OTHERS JAILED FOR LIFE

Diary Times Desk : A Telangana court on Monday pronounced the sentence in the 2018 Miryalaguda honour killing case. The hired killer, Subhash Sharma, was given the death penalty, while all others accused were sentenced to life imprisonment. The verdict was pronounced by the SC/ST Sessions Second Additional Court. The accused were convicted under IPC Sections 302 (murder), 120B (criminal conspiracy), 109 (abetment), 1989 (SC/ST Act), and provisions of the Indian Arms Act, 1959. The case dates back to September 14, when 23-year-old Pranay Perumalla, a Dalit Christian, was brutally hacked to death in the Miryalaguda area of Nalgonda district. He was walking out of a hospital with his pregnant wife, Amrutha Varshini, when a hired assassin struck him from behind with a machete. The murder was caught on CCTV, sparking nationwide outrage. Pranay had married Amrutha.

"RUINING STUDENTS' FUTURE", "ARROGANT": CENTRE VS TAMIL NADU ON HINDI ROW

Diary Times Desk : The Tamil Nadu vs centre 'language war' - over the National Education Policy and its three-language formula, which the southern state views as 'imposition of Hindi' - exploded inside and outside Parliament Monday with Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan criticising the latter's ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam for "ruining the future of students (from the state)". He also used a pejorative - to describe Tamil Nadu - that he later withdrew and was then expunged from the Lok Sabha's records. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, who has called 'Hindi imposition' as the act of "entitled bigots" delivered a feisty response; on X he told Mr Pradhan to "mind his words" and said, "The Union Education Minister, who thinks of himself as a king and speaks arrogantly, needs to be disciplined!" "They (the DMK) are being dishonest. They are not committed to Tamil Nadu students. They are ruining the future of Tamil Nadu students. Their only job is to raise language barriers. They are doing politics... mischief. They are undemocratic," Mr Pradhan raged in the Lok Sabha.



EUROPEAN ARMS IMPORTS SOARED BY 155% IN PAST FOUR YEARS: SWEDISH THINK THANK

Diary Times Desk : European arms imports rose 155 per cent in 2020-24 and Ukraine has become the world's biggest arms importer following Russia's 2022 invasion, according to a report released by a leading conflict think tank on Monday. Data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) showed the United States continued to dominate the global stage, with U.S. companies increasing their share of global arms exports to 43 per cent in 2020-24, from 35 per cent in the 2015-2019 period. U.S. arms exports amounted to about the same share of the global market as the next eight countries combined. Europe as a whole accounted for 28 per cent of global arms imports from 2020-24, up from 11 per cent between 2015 and 2019, SIPRI said. Ukraine alone accounted for 8.8 per cent of global arms imports from 2020-24, and just under half of those imports were from the U.S., which under President Donald Trump has paused military aid to Kyiv.

US TO CANCEL 83 PERCENT OF USAID PROGRAMS, SAYS MARCO RUBIO

Diary Times Desk : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Monday the United States was cancelling 83 percent of programs at the US Agency for International Development (USAID). President Donald Trump signed an executive order in January demanding a freeze on all US foreign aid to give his administration time to assess overseas spending, with an eye to gutting programs not aligned with his "America First" agenda. "After a 6 week review we are officially cancelling 83% of the programs at USAID," Marco Rubio said on social media platform X. The 5,200 contracts that are now cancelled spent tens of billions of dollars in ways that did not serve, (and in some cases even harmed), the core national interests of the United States," he added. USAID distributes US humanitarian aid around the world, with health and emergency programs in around 120 countries. The State Department, which oversees USAID, had announced on February 26 its intention to cut 92 percent of the agency's program funding, identifying 5,800 grants to be eliminated. Marco Rubio on Monday notably thanked the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

SYRIA ANNOUNCES END OF MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST AL-ASSAD LOYALISTS



Diary Times Desk : Syria's government has ended a security operation in the country's western coastal region, home to loyalists of former leader Bashar al-Assad, the Ministry of Defence in Damascus reported. Spokesperson Hassan Abdul Ghani made the announcement on Monday, saying in a statement on X that security threats had been neutralised in Latakia and Tartous provinces. Thousands, including many civilians, are reported to have been killed in days of deadly violence that prompted international concern. "Having achieved [the neutralisation of the security threats] we announce the end of the military operation," Ghani said. "We were able ... to absorb the attacks of the remnants of the toppled regime and its officers" and push them from "vital" locations. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday that nearly 1,500 people had been killed in the violence since Thursday.

TRUDEAU'S SUCCESSOR, MARK CARNEY, SIGNALS BIG DIPLOMATIC SHIFT IN INDIA-CANADA TIES

Diary Times Desk : Mark Carney, the new leader of Canada's ruling Liberal Party, who is set to become the next Canadian Prime Minister, wants to "rebuild" the strained ties with India, which deteriorated under his predecessor Justin Trudeau. The 59-year-old former Central banker also wants to diversify Ottawa's trade relationship with New Delhi. Carney won a race to replace Trudeau as Canada's top leader after securing 85.9 per cent of votes in the Liberal Party leadership race. Recently, before his election, Carney addressed the issue of US tariffs on Canada during a media interaction in Calgary, Alberta, and said to deal with it, "What Canada will be looking to do is to diversify our trading relationships with like-minded countries, and there are opportunities to rebuild the relationship with India." There needs to be a shared sense of values around that commercial relationship, and if I am Prime Minister, I look forward to the opportunity to build.

"TOO SOON" TO DISCUSS POPE'S RETURN HOME, SAYS VATICAN: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Pope Francis, in hospital with pneumonia, is showing slight signs of improvement but it is too early to discuss his return home, a Vatican source said Monday. The 88-year-old leader of the world's Catholics was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on February 14 and suffered a series of breathing crises, the last of which was seven days ago. Since then, doctors have described his clinical situation as "stable" and at the weekend said there were "slight improvements... in a complex overall picture". But "it is too soon to talk about his return to Santa Marta", the guest house within the tiny city state where the pope lives, a Vatican source said Monday. Francis spent a quiet night in his suite on the 10th floor of the Gemelli and was spending the day doing physical and respiratory therapy, according to the Vatican. As on previous mornings, he also switched from the oxygen mask he uses nightly to a cannula -- a plastic tube tucking into the nostrils -- which delivers high-flow oxygen, it said. The leader of the world's nearly 1.4 billion Catholics has been working on and off, and following the news where possible -- including deadly floods that have hit his homeland of Argentina. Francis "is close to the people of the Bahia Blanca area in thought and prayer", the Vatican said Monday, referring to the port city where 16 people have died.



WHY NEPAL IS SEEING A CHURN FOR HINDU MONARCHY

Diary Times Desk : "Come back king, save the country", "we want monarchy", and "vacate the royal palace for the king" chants filled the air in Kathmandu as thousands of people lined up to welcome former king Gyanendra Shah on Sunday. Then there were bike rallies with hundreds of participants earlier in the week with the demand -- bring back the Hindu monarchy back in Nepal. Gyanendra was returning to Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, after two months. While away, he was in Pokhara and visiting holy shrines. Pro-monarchy individuals and handles claim almost 4 lakh people had gathered to welcome Gyanendra. An Associated Press report estimated the number to be 10,000. We are here to give the king our full support and to rally behind him all the way to reinstating him in the royal throne," 72-year-old Thir Bahadur Bhandari told the news agency. I can feel the winds of change. Nepal's Third People's Movement to restore the monarchy, Hindu state and scrap federalism has begun," posted Shyamal Krishna Shrestha, a member of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, which is Hindu nationalist party striving for constitutional monarchy, on X.

TURN GAME AROUND: BRAZIL'S COP30 PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE INVOKES SPIRIT OF FOOTBALL

Diary Times Desk : In a vision document presented on Monday, COP30 President-Designate André Aranha Corrêa do Lago outlined plans to revitalise climate efforts amid significant setbacks, including the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and disappointing finance commitments at last year's talks. Together, we can make COP30 the moment we turn the game around, when we put into practice our political achievements and our collective knowledge to change the course of the next decade," the document states. The summit faces unprecedented challenges as it will be "the first to undeniably take place at the epicentre of the climate crisis," according to the Brazilian presidency. January 2025 marked the warmest month on record globally, continuing a trend after 2024 became the first calendar year with average global temperatures exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Adding to the urgency, the Financial Stability Board -- the international body that monitors the global financial system -- reported in January that climate shocks can threaten world financial stability. The summit will also be the first hosted in the Amazon.

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL RECOMMENDS 54-DAY LEAVE FOR DETAINED PUNJAB MP AMRITPAL SINGH

Diary Times Desk : The parliamentary committee tasked with considering leave requests of Lok Sabha MPs Monday recommended a 54-day leave of absence for NSA detainee and Punjab MP Amritpal Singh based on two applications submitted by him in the past. Singh, who has been lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh jail since April 2023 under the National Security Act, submitted two requests to the Lok Sabha Speaker for leave of absence on account of detention in jail. The first was made on November 30, 2024 and the second on December 16, 2024. "The MP sought leave of absence for the following periods — June 24 to July 2 (9 days); July 22 to August 9 (19 days); November 25 to December 20 (26 days). In all, applications were put forward for a 54-day leave of absence," the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House chaired by BJP's Bipla Deb said in its report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday. Earlier, Amritpal Singh, in his petition to the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking permission to attend the Parliament, said that he had submitted a request to the Lok Sabha Speaker on November 30 for permission to attend the parliamentary session and was then informed that he had already been absent for 46 days.



PRESIDENT MURMU ARRIVES IN CHANDIGARH FOR 3-DAY PUNJAB VISIT

Diary Times Desk : President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Chandigarh on Monday evening for her three-day visit to Punjab and the Union Territory. Upon her arrival at the Chandigarh airport, she was welcomed by Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and his Haryana counterpart Nayab Singh Saini, said officials. She came to Chandigarh after attending two events — convocation ceremony of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology and a state-level campaign 'Spiritual education for holistic wellbeing' of Brahma Kumaris in Hisar. Murmu will attend the convocation ceremonies of the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, and AIIMS-Bathinda on Tuesday. On Tuesday evening, she will attend a civic reception at Mohali to be hosted by the Punjab Government in her honour, said the officials.

SINGER SUNANDA SHARMA LASHES AT DHALIWAL'S 'ROTI PAAYEE' COMMENT

Diary Times Desk : A day after Punjabi music producer Pinky Dhaliwal hinted that Sunanda Sharma was successful because of him, the singer hit back, saying "only God and her hard work had made her successful". When asked by mediapersons for his reaction on the whole controversy, Dhaliwal had used the term 'roti paayee' at the police station. In her latest social media post, Sunanda wrote: They feed on our hard work and fill their pockets, but later treat us like beggars. Kehnde ne roti paayee enhu main, chappalan paa ke ayi si (I made her successful, she had come to me in slippers), she posted without naming anyone. The 33-year-old singer from Fatehgarh Churian claimed she had suicidal thoughts in the past. She thanked Punjab CM for his help. Punjabi music producer Pinky Dhaliwal was arrested on Saturday after Sunanda Sharma filed a cheating, forgery and criminal intimidation complaint against him. Complaint filed against Punjabi music producer Pinky Dhaliwal on cheating.

PUNJAB BANDH CALL AGAINST PASTOR BAJINDER'S ARREST POSTPONED TO MARCH 26

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab bandh call, initially scheduled for March 12, has been postponed to March 26, by Christian groups and supporters of pastor Bajinder Singh. This decision was announced at a press conference in Jalandhar on Monday, attended by representatives of various Christian organisations and Valmiki, Mazhabi Sikh religious groups. The bandh call was initially made in solidarity with the pastor, who is facing a sexual harassment case registered against him at Kapurthala. However, considering the upcoming Holi Mohalla and Holi celebrations in the state, the groups decided to postpone the bandh. Christian groups alleged that they, along with other minorities and churches in the state, were being repeatedly targeted. They termed the case against pastor Bajinder Singh as "false" and demanded a fair inquiry by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the Kapurthala police. The groups also urged the state government to implement the 12.5 per cent reservation for Mazhabi Sikhs and Valmikis in Punjab, as upheld by the Supreme Court of India. Additionally, they sought better representation of Christians and minorities in various state boards, commissions, and bodies.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO AAP IN CLASS 12 PUNJAB BOARD EXAM SPARKS CONTROVERSY

Diary Times Desk : A controversy has erupted in Punjab after the Class 12 exams conducted by the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) included two questions about the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The questions, which appeared in the Political Science paper held on March 4, asked students about the year AAP was established and its policies and programmes. The Punjab unit of BJP has accused AAP of using the education system to influence the political thinking of young minds. "Asking students to describe AAP's policies and programmes implies that they have been taught about them throughout the academic year, which raises concerns about shaping the political perspective of young voters ahead of the 2027 Assembly election," said Vineet Joshi, media head of the Punjab BJP unit. Joshi also questioned why AAP was given exclusive mention in the exam, while other significant political parties, such as the Shiromani Akali Dal, Congress and BJP, were omitted. However, Punjab Education Minister Harjot Bains dismissed BJP's allegations as frivolous. "The question papers are set by well-established experts based on the syllabus, which includes asking questions on all political parties and their policies," he said.

HARYANA BUDGET SESSION: CONGRESS STAGES WALKOUT OVER DADUPUR NALVI CANAL ISSUE

Diary Times Desk : The Opposition Congress MLAs on Monday staged a walkout from the ongoing Budget session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha in protest against what they described as an unsatisfactory reply from the ruling BJP government on the reconstruction of the Dadupur Nalvi canal. Congress MLA Nirmal Singh raised the issue during the Question Hour on the second day of the session, asking whether the Punjab and Haryana High Court had passed a judgment regarding the canal's reconstruction and when the government would take action. In response, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mahipal Dhanda stated that the government had no knowledge of any such order. "We have no information about such an order. If there is one, it should be provided to us," Dhanda said. Led by former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the Congress MLAs expressed their displeasure, questioning why the government had come unprepared and demanded clarity on whether they were willing to reconstruct the canal. Speaker Harvinder Kalyan urged the protesting MLAs to share any information they had regarding the matter.

PANIPAT RECORDS 52.2% VOTER TURNOUT IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Diary Times Desk : A total of 52.2% voter turnout was recorded on Sunday for the Panipat Municipal Corporation (MC) elections, where voters cast their votes to elect a Mayor and 26 councillors at 365 polling booths. The fate of 107 candidates, including four mayoral contenders —Komal Saini (BJP), Savita Garg (Congress), Preet Pal Singh Khera (AAP) and Independent Kewal Singh — is now sealed in the electronic voting machines (EVMs). Out of 4.11 lakh registered voters, 2.14 lakh exercised their franchise. Voting began at 8 am, but technical snags in 60 EVMs caused delays at several booths. Polling was halted at booths 286 and 287 in Sondhapur village (Ward 21) due to EVM malfunctioning, causing voter unrest. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Virender Kumar Dahiya and SP Lokender Singh rushed to the booths, replaced the faulty EVMs, and ensured polling resumed smoothly. In Ward 4, a confrontation occurred between supporters of BJP candidate Pankaj Khushrija and Independent candidate Anjali Sharma. Sharma's supporters questioned the entry of Rudraksh Middha, son of Deputy Speaker Krishan Middha, into Arya College polling booth and demanded his identity verification.

CM INSPECTS UNDERGROUND UTILITY DUCT WORK

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inspected the ongoing construction of the underground utility duct from Chhota Shimla to Willy Park last evening. He directed the officers to ensure adherence to quality standards in the construction of the duct. The state government is spending Rs 146.34 crore on the construction of underground utility ducts in Shimla. This project will strengthen the city's infrastructure and enhance its aesthetic appeal. Essential utilities such as drinking water pipelines, electricity lines, and fiber cables will be laid within the underground ducts. As per the Chief Minister's directions, a comprehensive plan has been formulated to ensure the timely completion of this ambitious project. Every effort is being made to minimise inconvenience to the public during construction work.

PROTEST IN SUPPORT OF FASTING BUDDHISTS IN BODH GAYA

Diary Times Desk : People from Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Ladakh and other Himalayan regions gathered at Rewalsar in Mandi district yesterday to show their solidarity with their fellow Buddhists who are currently fasting at Bodh Gaya. The protest, marked by a peaceful demonstration, was held to express their collective demand for the repeal of the Buddhist Temple Management Committee (BTMC) Act of 1949, which they view as unjust and oppressive. The protesters, who included members of various Buddhist communities from the Himalayas, emphasised the importance of allowing Buddhists to have control over the management of their religious and cultural sites, particularly Bodh Gaya, which holds profound spiritual significance as the land of Lord Buddha's enlightenment. The BTMC Act of 1949, they argued, has hindered their autonomy and proper governance of their religious affairs as it places the management of key Buddhist sites under government control. Phunchog Rai, former minister, who spoke at the protest, highlighted the historical and cultural importance of Bodh Gaya to the Buddhist community worldwide. He stated, "Bodh Gaya must be rightfully and solely managed by Buddhists."

TIBETANS MARK 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPRISING DAY WITH PROTEST IN DHARAMSALA

Diary Times Desk : Tibetan exiles in Dharamsala organised a protest today to commemorate the 66th anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day. The protesters, carrying placards and raising slogans demanding freedom for Tibet, marched from McLeodganj to Dharamsala. At Dharamsala, they staged a dharna, raising slogans for Tibetan independence. In a statement, the Tibetan parliament in exile said that today marks a pivotal moment in the Tibetan history, marking the 66th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising. On that day, Tibetans from all three provinces united in a non-violent, spontaneous action against the Communist Chinese government's violent mentality and actions. This day is deeply ingrained in the Tibetan people's collective memory and remains an integral part of their identity. Today also marks Tibetan Martyrs' Day, honouring the bravery and sacrifice of Tibetan men and women who fought for their nation's religious, political, and national freedom, often giving their lives for the cause. The Tibetan parliament in exile stated that the tragedy of the Tibetan nation began with the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, followed by an armed invasion of Tibet. China then launched various campaigns, including violent ones, against the Tibetan people.



RAISE, DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST: SPEAKER AT ALL-PARTY MEET

Diary Times Desk : Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania today sought cooperation from both the Congress and the BJP during an all-party meeting held today ahead of the Budget Session starting tomorrow. The meeting was attended by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania and BJP Legislative Party Chief Whip Sukh Ram Chaudhary. The BJP had skipped the all-party meeting held ahead of the two last Assembly Sessions. Pathania said the session calendar was discussed in the meeting. He further said that both the parties would discuss whether the session will be held on Saturday, a day after Holi, and the decision will be taken on this in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. Pathania urged the members of both the parties to use the time of the House to raise and discuss the issues related to public interest. Pathania said that he would give ample time to all the members for meaningful discussion and the opposition should fulfil its responsibility and ask questions to the ruling party on issues related to public interest.

POSTAL COVER LAUNCHED TO MARK 100 YEARS OF ST EDWARDS SCHOOL

Diary Times Desk : St Edwards School in Shimla celebrated its Centenary Foundation Day and Investiture Ceremony with enthusiasm today. The school, founded on March 9, 1925, by Bishop Edward Keneally and Columban Doheny, has a rich history of academic excellence. The ceremony was graced by Justice Sanjay Karol, Supreme Court Judge, as the chief guest and Bishop Ignatius Mascarenhas as the guest of honour. Justice Karol, an alumnus of St Edwards School, earned an Honours Bachelor's degree and a Law degree from Himachal Pradesh University. He was appointed as the Advocate General of Himachal Pradesh in 1998, and got the status of Senior Advocate in 1999. Having held many important positions, he was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 6 February, 2023. The event began with flag hoisting, followed by the school anthem and a march past parade by students from all four houses. Senior former Edwardians and alumni were also present, participating enthusiastically in the march past and refreshing old memories. A special postal cover was released.

DESPITE TAPERING RDG, DEVELOPMENT NOT AFFECTED IN STATE, SAYS SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA

Diary Times Desk : Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla today addressed the Assembly on the opening day of the 16-day Budget session of the Vidhan Sabha, which will conclude on March 28. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Speaker Kuldeep Pathania and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur welcomed the Governor in Shimla. He said the government had initiated several welfare schemes and fulfilled six of the 10 guarantees despite financial constraints due to tapering revenue deficit grant (RDG) from the Centre. He delivered his 53-page speech in Hindi in one-and-a-half hour. "With GST compensation to states coming to an end in 2022 and RDG being reduced to Rs 3,257 crore in 2025-26, the state is facing fund crunch. However, this has not impacted the pace of development," he said. My government has fulfilled six of the 10 guarantees made to the people, which includes restoration of the old pensions scheme, Rs 1,500 to women, launch of Rs 680-crore Rajiv Gandhi StartUp Swarozgar Yojana and MSP on natural wheat and maize," he said. "I hope the government will continue to uphold the tradition of accepting my suggestions and recommendations. I am glad that the government has adopted the campaign against drugs to save the youth from falling prey to this menace," he added. He outlined the several schemes launched to promote agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry, including crop diversification, natural farming and crop protection through solar farming. The universal carton packaging has been approved and Rs 78.37 crore has been disbursed as minimum support price for apple.



ROHIT SHARMA CLEARS AIR ON PLAYING 2027 WORLD CUP AFTER CT 2025 TRIUMPH. SAYS: "IT WOULDN'T BE..."

Diary Times Desk : Rohit Sharma gave a big statement after India's Champions Trophy 2025 triumph clearing the air on his future in ODIs. "I am not going to retire from this format. Just to make sure no rumours are spread moving forward. Koi future plan hai nahi, jo chal raha hai chalega (there is no future plan, whatever is going on will continue as it is)," Rohit Sharma said. "There is a lot of hunger even in guys who have played a lot of cricket and it rubs down on even the younger players. We have five to six players who are real stalwarts. It makes the job easier for all of us." That statement assured all that he is not going anywhere soon. However, India captain Rohit Sharma will be 38 in two months' time and with India's next major ODI tournament being the 2027 ODI World Cup, it remains to be seen how long he plays at the top level in the ODI format. A day after the Champions Trophy 2025 triumph, he revealed that he is not yet thinking about the 2027 World Cup.



WHY PAKISTAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE MISSING FROM CHAMPIONS TROPHY CLOSING CEREMONY

Diary Times Desk : The reason why Pakistan representatives were missing from the ICC Champions Trophy closing ceremony has now been revealed. India defeated New Zealand in the final by four wickets to win their third Champions Trophy crown. But during the closing ceremony there were no representatives from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) present on stage to giveaway the medals and jackets to the players despite them being the hosts of the tournament. This led to a lot of backlash, with former Shoaib Akhtar also questioning the absence of the officials from PCB for the ceremony. The medals and jackets were given away by BCCI president Roger Binny and secretary Devajit Saikia with ICC President Jay Shah handing the trophy to Rohit Sharma. Now, an ICC spokesperson has cleared the situation with India Today as to why no representatives from Pakistan were present for the ceremony. The Spokesperson said that PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi was unavailable and didn't travel to Dubai. The ICC spokesperson stated that only PCB office bearers could attend the ceremony and no one was present in Dubai for the event.

MITCHELL SANTNER'S BLUNT 'DUBAI CONDITIONS' REMARK AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL DEFEAT

Diary Times Desk : New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner admitted that his Indian counterpart Rohit Sharma's exceptional knock was the difference between the two teams in the Champions Trophy final, and termed the four-wicket defeat as a "bittersweet end." Rohit made a fluent 76 off 83 balls as India chased down 252 in a close finish here on Sunday. "I think the way Rohit Sharma played kind of took it away from us, I think, obviously, India here understood the conditions in Dubai perfectly and played some good cricket. Yeah I guess it's kind of bittersweet at the end," said Santner in the post-match press conference. Santner said he was "proud" of his side despite the surrender in the title clash. "I think we came up against a good side in the final. We challenged at times throughout this game, which was pleasing and I think there were probably a couple of small moments where we let it get away from us. "But yeah, incredibly proud of this group the way we've kind of gone about it throughout this tournament," he added. Santner said the Kiwis were prepared to tackle the DICS pitch and conditions, which were vastly different from Lahore, the venue of their semifinal win over South Africa.

"IF INDIA PLAYED IN PAKISTAN...": WASIM AKRAM ENDS ALL DEBATE, GIVES FINAL VERDICT AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Diary Times Desk : A huge point of discussion during the Champions Trophy 2025 has been whether Team India got an advantage due to playing all of their games in Dubai. India played all their games at a neutral venue after they did not travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, and several experts stated that it was an unfair advantage given to them. However, Pakistan legend Wasim Akram has stated that it would not have made a difference even if India had travelled to Pakistan for the tournament. "This Indian team would have won it anywhere in the world," Akram said, speaking in the Dressing Room show on the Sports Central channel. Yes, there were a lot of talks once it was decided that India would play all of their matches in Dubai. But had they played in Pakistan, they would have won there as well," Akram stated. Akram pointed to the fact that India won both the T20 World Cup 2024 and the Champions Trophy 2025 without losing a single game, and as such, they were always well-shaped to win the tournament no matter where they played.

FANS ACCUSE R ASHWIN OF TARGETTING ROHIT SHARMA'S CAPTAINCY. EX-INDIA STAR SHUTS DOWN TROLLS

Diary Times Desk : Former spinner Ravichandran Ashwin clarified his statement about bringing mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy early in the attack against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy final and slammed the trolls for misinterpreting his remark. Chakravarthy was introduced into the attack in the sixth over of the first inning. Ashwin took to X and gave his take on India skipper Rohit Sharma's decision. He wrote, "Varun in early! Not ideal." Rohit's gamble paid off as he broke the opening stand by pinning Will Young in front of the stumps. He opened the floodgates, and 'Chinaman' Kuldeep Yadav capitalised on the opening by weaving magic with his mastery in spin. Some fans flooded Ashwin's account and slammed him for his remark about the decision, saying that he was criticising Rohit's captaincy. Ashwin silenced his critics by clarifying that his post was about how New Zealand's early blitzkrieg forced the early introduction of the mystery spinner. "Wonder how this tweet is about captaincy? My god this individual fan fare is madness. That tweet was for how NZ started forcing us to use Varun up front," he wrote on X.

'MAIN JA RAHA HU': GAMBHIR REFUSES TO FALL INTO THE TRAP; SIDHU SOMEHOW FINDS A WAY TO CREATE 'HISTORY' WITH INDIA COACH

Diary Times Desk : Gautam Gambhir and Navjot Sidhu joined the celebrations after India beat New Zealand by four wickets to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. As soon as Ravindra Jadeja hit the winning runs, triggering unparalleled joy within the Indian dressing room, players including Hardik Pandya, Virat Kohli, and Shreyas Iyer were briefly interviewed, but the segment involving Gambhir and Sidhu was pure gold. Such was the euphoria surrounding India's Champions Trophy win that even Gambhir couldn't control his emotions. The India coach, during a post-match interview with Sidhu, broke character – if you will – and summed up India's win in the former cricketer-turned-commentator's very own style – by cracking a 'sher'. Gambhir teased Sidhu into using one of his lines, and while he started it, Sidhu completed it.

