

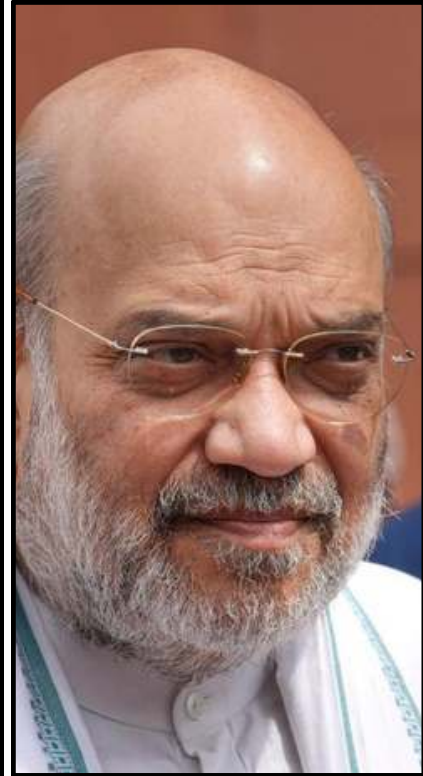
**AMIT  
SHAH**

## **BY 2027, EVERY CAPITAL OF NORTHEAST WILL BE CONNECTED BY RAIL, ROAD, AIR: SHAH**

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that every capital in northeast India would be connected by rail, road, and air within the next two years. The biggest achievement of the BJP government is that it has reduced the distance between the Northeast and the rest of India. By 2027, every capital of the Northeast will be connected by train, plane, and road," the Home Minister said while addressing the Northeast Students' and Youth Parliament organised by ABVP.

Shah, in his address, said that violence has significantly reduced in northeast India under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. The number of violent incidents has decreased by 70 per cent from 11,000 between 2004 and 2014 to 3,428 between 2014 and 2024," he said. Additionally, the number of security force fatalities has dropped by 70 per cent, while civilian deaths have reduced by 89 per cent over the past decade.

The Home Minister said that the BJP government has signed 12 important agreements in the past decade. "We have signed agreements with all armed groups and more than 10,500 insurgents have laid down their arms and joined the mainstream," said Shah. He said that in the past 10 years, PM Modi has taken care of the Northeast so much that he has decided that every month, one minister will stay overnight in some state of the Northeast. I want to tell you that the total number of visits of all the prime ministers to the Northeast since independence is 21, except Assam, and the number of visits of Narendra Modi alone to the Northeast is 78, which shows how much importance has been given to the Northeast," Shah said.



**DELIMITATION**

## **DELIMITATION WILL INCREASE SEATS EVEN IN TAMIL NADU, SAYS RAJNATH SINGH**



**Diary Times Desk :** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has sought to allay concerns raised by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin over the proposed delimitation exercise in 2026, asserting that the process will lead to an increase in seats across all states, including Tamil Nadu.

Speaking to IANS, Rajnath Singh said, "I believe that delimitation should proceed as planned. If MK Stalin has any objections, he is free to raise them. The relevant authorities will deliberate on the matter, and the judiciary will have the final say." "People should rest assured that, whether for the Legislative Assembly or the Lok Sabha, the number of seats will naturally increase after delimitation in every state. I firmly believe that Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Kerala will also see an increase. The claim that only North India will benefit is not justified," he further told IANS.

Rajnath Singh's remarks came a day after CM Stalin wrote to seven Chief Ministers, urging them to oppose the proposed delimitation exercise, which he termed a "blatant assault on federalism." We are forming a Joint Action Committee to ensure that our states are not silenced. Let us stand together -- not as separate political entities, but as protectors of our people's future," Stalin emphasized in his letter.

Earlier Stalin had described delimitation as a looming threat to the southern states. In a lighter vein, he has even suggested that Tamil Nadu's residents have more children to counter the potential reduction in parliamentary seats. He has often argued that southern states are being penalized for their success in population control and economic management. "We controlled our population, built our economy, and now they want to take our voice away?" he said at a recent public meeting.

## TRUST MANAGING MUMBAI'S LILAVATI HOSPITAL SAYS RS 1,500 CRORE MISAPPROPRIATED BY EX-TRUSTEES



**Diary Times Desk :** The charitable trust that runs Mumbai's well-known Lilavati Hospital on Tuesday alleged that funds of over Rs 1,500 crore were misappropriated by its former trustees and other related individuals. The Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust (LKMMT) has lodged separate complaints with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and at the Bandra police station. It has also claimed that black magic was performed on the hospital premises by erstwhile trustees and related individuals. The complaints allege the misappropriation, uncovered during a forensic audit of Lilavati Hospital's financial records, has impacted the trust's operations and health care services provided by the leading private medical facility located in upscale Bandra area. "We filed complaints which translated into FIRs due to the orders of the Bandra Magistrate Court. Three FIRs have been filed against the former trustees and other related individuals. A fourth proceeding against these individuals is now pending before the magistrate, which is based on our complaint filed in the Bandra police station for black magic and occult practices," LKMMT Permanent Resident Trustee Prashant Mehta told reporters.

## MANIPUR MP ARTHUR SLAMS BUDGET AS "ANTI-PEOPLE" FOR IGNORING 60,000 DISPLACED CITIZENS

**Diary Times Desk :** Outer Manipur MP Alfred Kangam Arthur has strongly criticised the Manipur Budget, labeling it "anti-people" for failing to address the needs of over 60,000 people displaced due to ethnic clashes in the state. The MP emphasised that the budget neglects those who have lost their livelihoods, homes, and suffered damage worth over Rs 20,000 crore. "I implore the conscience of this House once again. Give me the privilege of relinquishing my seat, and I will not return. It is painful to come here, speak repeatedly, and not be heard. It is equally painful to see that my words are not translated into action on the ground. To return home to an empty house, knowing that today's budget fails to address the needs of those affected, is unbearable," Arthur said. The MP also pointed out that the budget lacks a separate section for the hills and valley, a mandatory provision. He questioned how the allocation of funds would be determined.

## MAURITIUS NOT JUST PARTNER COUNTRY, IT IS FAMILY, PM MODI TELLS DIASPORA



**Diary Times Desk :** Terming Mauritius as a bridge between India and the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the island nation is part of India's family and not just a partner country. Mauritius is like 'Mini India,' Modi told the Indian diaspora at a community event in Port Louis, which was also attended by Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, his wife and cabinet ministers. Modi said that Mauritius is not just a partner country. "For us, Mauritius is family!", he said. "This bond is deep and strongly rooted in history, heritage and the human spirit." Mauritius is also a bridge connecting India to the wider Global South. A decade ago, in 2015, on my first visit as the PM, I announced India's SAGAR vision. SAGAR means Security and Growth for All in the Region. Today, Mauritius is still at the heart of this vision," he added. At the beginning of the event, Modi handed over the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards to Ramgoolam and his wife Veena. He said the decision had been made to extend the OCI Card to the seventh generation of the Indian diaspora in Mauritius.

## SUPREME COURT SEEKS CENTRE'S RESPONSE ON PLEA FOR BETTER FACILITIES FOR DISABLED PRISONERS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has issued notice to the Centre on a petition seeking adequate facilities for disabled prisoners and implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, in prisons across India. Acting on a petition filed by activist Sathyan Naravoor, a bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta asked the Centre and others to file their responses in four weeks. Naravoor contended that even after more than eight years since the enactment of the Act, most state prison manuals do not include the mandatory provisions for ramps and other essential accessibility measures. This ongoing failure severely impacts the basic mobility of disabled prisoners within prison premises, directly violating the statutory requirements of the Act," the petitioner submitted. Naravoor said due to lack of infrastructural facilities such as ramps and accessible toilets, prisoners with disabilities often depended on others for assistance with their daily tasks.



## YOUR HOROSCOPE 12-03-2025

<p><b>Aries</b> 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><b>Taurus</b> 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><b>Gemini</b> 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><b>Cancer</b> 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><b>Leo</b> 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><b>Virgo</b> 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><b>Libra</b> 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><b>Scorpio</b> 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><b>Sagittarius</b> 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><b>Capricorn</b> 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><b>Aquarius</b> 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><b>Pisces</b> 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>





## HP HIGH COURT: THERE WILL BE NO RECOVERY FROM EMPLOYEES WHO AVAIL SENIORITY BENEFITS OF CONTRACT SERVICE PERIOD, RELIEF FROM HIGH COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh High Court has stayed the recovery from employees who have taken seniority benefits of contract service period. More than 500 employees who received recovery notices from the Directorate of Education have got a big relief from the court. The government has sought three weeks' time to file a reply in this matter. The next hearing of the case will be on April 1. The division bench of Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Sushil Kukreja has stayed the recovery order of financial benefits received during the contract service period issued by the government on February 27. The government has issued a notification to withdraw the contractual benefits given to contract employees after the year 2003. The Director of Education has issued notices to all school principals on March 3 in compliance with this order. Now, after the court's order, recovery will not be made from those who have taken seniority benefits. On the other hand, Advocate General Anoop Ratan sought time from the court to respond to this. The court gave three weeks' time to file a reply. The petitioners have challenged the government's recruitment conditions, the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) notification dated February 27, 2024, and the orders dated March 3, 2025.



## HAMIRPUR NEWS: VIDEO CALL WITH WIFE AT NIGHT, BODY FOUND NEAR RAVINE IN THE MORNING

**Diary Times Desk :** The body of a person was recovered near Shukkarkhadd bridge under Police Outpost Bhota on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Arun Kumar son of Dhaniram, age 45 years, resident of village Talasi Post Office Kirvin. Police have also recovered half a bottle of country liquor near the body of deceased Arun. According to the family members, late on Monday, Arun Kumar also talked to his wife on video call. In the video call, he told his wife that he was drinking alcohol in Salouni market and would return home by late night, but after not reaching home till morning, when the family members started investigating in the neighborhood, they came to know about the death of Arun Kumar from Police Outpost Bhota. The police took the body in their possession, got the post-mortem done and handed it over to the family in the afternoon. The body was cremated in his native village.

## HIMACHAL COMMISSION RECRUITMENT PAPER LEAK CASE: FIR AGAINST ACCUSED UMA FOR HAVING ASSETS DISPROPORTIONATE TO HER INCOME

**Diary Times Desk :** An FIR has been registered against Uma Azad, accused in the paper leak case, in the disproportionate assets case. Uma Azad was posted as a senior assistant in the confidential branch of the dissolved Staff Selection Commission. So far, she is named in 16 FIRs registered in the paper leak case. The 17th FIR has been registered against her. After the paper leak case was disclosed in December 2022, the Vigilance investigated the properties of accused Uma Azad. In this investigation, the properties have been found to be more than the income. In such a situation, now an FIR has been registered in this case. The family members of the accused are also under investigation in this case. During the disclosure of the paper leak case, the Vigilance team recovered more than six lakh cash and jewellery worth lakhs of rupees from the house of accused Uma Azad. The accused also owns a luxury car.

## IN HAMIRPUR, YOUTHS FRAUDULENTLY CHANGED ATM AND WITHDREW 50 THOUSAND FROM THE ACCOUNT, OLD MAN DIED OF HEART ATTACK

**Diary Times Desk :** A case of cheating an old man has come to light in the Mahere branch of PNB Bank situated in the headquarter of sub division Barsar. The youths fraudulently changed the ATM card and withdrew 50 thousand rupees from the old man's account. Shortly after, the victim died suddenly. It is suspected that the death was due to a heart attack. The deceased old man Ashok Kumar, a resident of Samoh, went to the ATM on Monday afternoon with his debit card to withdraw money from the bank's ATM. When the money did not come out of the ATM after continuous attempts, he took help from two youths standing outside the ATM. The youths first swiped their ATM card and then swiped the old man's ATM card and replaced it with the ATM card on the pretext that the money was not coming out. After the old man left, the youth went to another ATM and withdrew Rs 50,000 from his account. As soon as the old man received the message of Rs 50,000 being withdrawn from his account, he went to the PNB branch in Mahere and informed the bank officials about the matter. After giving a complaint in the bank, as soon as he left for the police station.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: MELLIFERA BEES WILL ADD SWEETNESS TO STONE FRUITS, 300 BOXES REACHED HIMACHAL FROM RAJASTHAN

**Diary Times Desk :** These days, flowers are blooming in plum plants in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh and the adjoining areas. To ensure proper setting after flowering, gardeners will take the help of bees for pollination. Mellifera bees brought from Rajasthan will not only do the work of pollination, but will also add sweetness to the stone fruits. In the initial phase, 300 bee boxes have reached the state from Rajasthan. These will be given to the gardeners as per the demand. In the coming days, more consignments of bees will also reach the district. Bees are considered a better option for pollination, so bee boxes are kept in the gardens for setting during flowering. After stone fruits, there will be flowering in pears and then in apples. In such a situation, bees will remain in the apple belt of the state till April-May. Bees are brought for pollination from the neighboring states of Himachal. The special thing is that mellifera bees from Rajasthan have been sent to the valleys of Kullu for pollination. About 300 boxes have reached Kullu. These bee boxes will be given to the visitors for pollination at reasonable prices.

## JAIRAM THAKUR: LEADER OF OPPOSITION SAID- ACCUSING JP NADDA IS A SIGN OF CONGRESS'S ANTI-DEVELOPMENT MENTALITY

**Diary Times Desk :** LOP Jairam Thakur said that the Central Government is giving full support to Himachal Pradesh. Every time BJP National President and Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda comes to Himachal Pradesh, he brings gifts worth hundreds of crores for the state. It is because of his efforts that today Himachal Pradesh has an institute like AIIMS equipped with world-class health facilities. Where people are getting maximum facilities. But the leaders of the anti-development thinking of the Congress are raising questions on AIIMS today. When the Congress leaders were not allowed to commit corruption, they are raising the issue of corruption. This is indicative of the anti-development thinking of the Congress. Jairam Thakur said that an institute like AIIMS for Himachal Pradesh could not even be imagined. Thanks to the efforts of Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, every facility is being provided in AIIMS today.

## TIBETAN BUDDHISM'S SPIRITUAL LEADER DALAI LAMA SAID- MY SUCCESSOR WILL BE BORN OUTSIDE CHINA

**Diary Times Desk :** The spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, Dalai Lama, has said in his new book that his successor will be born outside China. The religious leader has written this in the book Voice for the Voiceless. A foreign news agency has mentioned this written by religious leader Dalai Lama in a review of the book. For the first time in his book, the Dalai Lama has clarified that his successor will be born in the free world, which he describes as outside China. Earlier, he had only said that he could be reborn outside Tibet. Possibly in India, where he lives in exile. The Dalai Lama writes that the purpose of reincarnation is to carry forward the work of the predecessor. Therefore, the new Dalai Lama will be born in the free world, so that the traditional mission of the Dalai Lama, that is, to be the voice of universal compassion, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism and the symbol of Tibet embodying the aspirations of the Tibetan people, continues. This statement of the Dalai Lama will trouble the Chinese government. The Chinese government has been opposing this from the beginning. China insists that it will choose his successor, but the Dalai Lama has said that any successor nominated by China will not be respected.

## US' TULSI GABBARD, CANADA'S CSIS CHIEF IN INDIA NEXT WEEK FOR SECURITY CONCLAVE

**Diary Times Desk :** Top intelligence and security officials from around the world, including US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard, will gather in the Indian capital next week for a security conclave on the margins of the Raisina Dialogue, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. Gabbard will be the first high-ranking White House official to travel to India after President Donald Trump's inauguration in January. UK National Security Adviser (NSA) Jonathan Powell and Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) director Daniel Rogers are also expected to attend the security conclave, the people said on condition of anonymity. India's National Security Council Secretariat has hosted the security conclave on the margins of the Raisina Dialogue, the country's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, since 2022. This year's edition is set to be held on March 16, a day ahead of the Raisina Dialogue. Senior security officials from Australia, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are also expected to attend the security conclave, which will focus on long-standing concerns such as terrorism, trans-national and financial crimes, cyber-security and emerging technologies, as well as the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia.

## DELHI COURT ALLOWS FIR AGAINST ARVIND KEJRIWAL OVER ALLEGED FUNDS MISUSE

**Diary Times Desk :** In a setback to Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday okayed a petition seeking an FIR against the AAP chief and others for allegedly misusing public funds to put up large hoardings in Dwarka in 2019. The case pertains to a complaint filed back in 2019, claiming that Kejriwal, along with former AAP MLA Gulab Singh and Dwarka Councillor Nitika Sharma, misused public funds by installing large hoardings across the area. In September 2022, a metropolitan magistrate dismissed the complaint. However, the sessions court overturned the lower court's decision and sent it back to the magistrate for reconsideration. Following a special judge directing the magistrate court to decide the case afresh, the magistrate has now entertained a plea for an FIR to be registered in the case. On January, Special Judge Vishal Gogne said that the order passed by the magistrate dismissing the complaint earlier did not seek to find.

## "WE ARE LIKE ONE FAMILY": PM MODI TO INDIAN COMMUNITY IN MAURITIUS



**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the Indian community in Mauritius with folded hands. He recalled, "I visited Mauritius 10 years ago, on the same day. It was a week after Holi... This time, I will take the colours of Holi with me to India." "We are like one family," said PM Modi in his address to the Indian community. "With this emotion. Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and others are present here. I welcome you all," he added. Whenever I come to Mauritius, it feels like I am among my own. Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam announced its highest award 'The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean' for PM Modi. During his address, PM Modi wholeheartedly accepted the award. "The people and the government of Mauritius have decided to confer upon me their highest civilian honour. I humbly accept this decision with great respect. This is not just an honour for me, it is an honour for the historic bond between India and Mauritius," he said. Talking about India and Mauritius relationship, PM Modi said, "When the Pran Prathista ceremony took place in Ayodhya and celebrations erupted in India, we saw similar celebrations in Mauritius."

## STALIN'S ANTI-HINDI STAND GETS TROLL TREATMENT WITH 'YAPPA YAPPA STALIN APPA'

**Diary Times Desk :** It's not often that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin is trolled. But, it's definitely the first time that any chief minister has been trolled for their stand against "Hindi imposition". But something is brewing in Tamil Nadu. Stalin is being roasted on social media like never before. The BJP is, of course, enjoying this new turn of events, though some might think it is the one doing this trolling. State BJP president K Annamalai gleefully shared a 180-second parody video that takes potshots at Stalin and his extended DMK family for their alleged hypocrisy on the three-language policy enshrined in the NEP. The video, posted on X has amassed over 1 lakh views on the social media platform; it uses a popular Tamil song, 'Yappa Yappa Ayyappa' from Prabhu Deva's iconic film 'Yezhaiyin Sirippil', to take a dig at DMK leaders, MK Stalin, Udhayanidhi Stalin and Kanimozhi. The modified lyrics in the video contrast.

## BEING A GOOD PERSON MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING SUCCESSFUL: PRESIDENT MURMU

**Diary Times Desk :** President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday asserted that morality is the foundation of a meaningful life, saying being a good person is more important than being a successful person. The president was addressing the convocation ceremony of the Central University of Punjab here. Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria and state Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian were also present on the occasion. She told the students that whatever opportunities they choose in their personal lives or work should not be based on immediate gain but on the possibility of using their abilities and interests in a lasting way. Ms Murmu said the convocation ceremony is an occasion about the completion of one phase in the students' lives and the beginning of another. She expressed confidence that all the students, through their conduct and contribution, would bring glory to this university, their families and the country. Advising the students to make five good things -- curiosity, originality, morality, farsightedness, and spontaneity -- a part of their lives. "Curiosity keeps a person eager to gain new information. Curious people keep learning new things throughout their lives," she said.

## ACTOR RANYA RAO'S FRIEND WHO WENT TO DUBAI WITH HER ARRESTED IN GOLD CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** A friend of actor Ranya Rao, who accompanied her to Dubai, has now been arrested in the gold smuggling case as the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) expands its investigation. Tarun Konduraju, who belongs to a prominent business family in Bengaluru, was produced in court. The thirty-three-year-old actor was arrested last week when a DRI team searched her luggage at Bengaluru airport and found her allegedly smuggling 14 kg of gold from Dubai. Ranya Rao, who started her career with 2014 Kannada film Maanikya, had flown in on an Emirates flight on Monday. She is the stepdaughter of senior IPS officer K Ramachandra Rao. The Karnataka government has now ordered an investigation into reports that police personnel accompanied the actor at the airport. Ranya Rao allegedly used VIP privileges to bypass security checks during her smuggling operations. The actor allegedly made frequent trips to Dubai and smuggled in gold bars.

## KARNATAKA ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR HOMESTAY OWNERS AFTER 2, INCLUDING TOURIST, GANG RAPED

**Diary Times Desk :** The Karnataka government issued a circular on Tuesday outlining guidelines for owners of homestays and resorts operating in tourist destinations across the state to ensure the safety of tourists. This comes in the wake of the horrific gangrape of an Israeli female tourist and an Indian homestay owner near the Tungabhadra Left Canal in Gangavathi town, Koppal district, close to the UNESCO heritage site Hampi. The circular, issued by the Karnataka government, states that homestays must take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of all tourists, including foreign nationals. Whenever tourists are taken to remote or isolated locations, the jurisdictional police must be informed, and prior permission must be obtained. If tourists are taken to such locations without police permission, the homestay owners will be held responsible for any attacks by anti-social elements or wild animals.





## PAKISTAN LEFT RED-FACED AS ITS SENIOR DIPLOMAT DEPORTED BY US DESPITE VISA

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major embarrassment for Pakistan, a senior diplomat was denied entry into the US despite having a valid visa and necessary documents, reported The News, a Pakistani media outlet. KK Wagan, the ambassador of Pakistan to Turkmenistan, was stopped by the US immigration on his arrival in Los Angeles and deported. Quoting an unnamed official in the Pakistan foreign ministry, the report said the envoy had an "immigration objection". Mr Wagan, a seasoned diplomat, was on a personal trip to Los Angeles. The report said he had a valid US visa and other travel documents. Immigration authorities stopped Mr Wagan after he arrived in Los Angeles with officials flagging concerns over diplomatic protocol. The US officials flagged "controversial visa references" of Mr Wagan, though there is no clarity over the specific concerns, the report said citing diplomatic sources. He was then asked to return from where he had arrived in Los Angeles. Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and other top officials have been briefed on the issue, according to the report. Mr Wagan is likely to be summoned to Islamabad to give an explanation over the incident.

## DEEPSEEK FOUNDER'S VILLAGE TURNS INTO TOURIST HOTSPOT, UNDERGOES RAPID TRANSFORMATION

**Diary Times Desk :** A small, rural village in southern China has been transformed into a thriving tourist destination, thanks to its connection to the successful Chinese AI company, DeepSeek. The village's claim to fame lies in being the hometown of DeepSeek's founder, Liang Wenfeng. Born and raised in Milling village, Liang's humble beginnings have inspired locals and attracted visitors from afar. The village's newfound popularity has prompted local authorities to invest in renovations, giving the village a fresh new look, as reported by the Southern Countryside Newspaper. According to the South China Morning Post, Mr Wenfeng, 40, comes from a family of educators and both his parents are teachers at the local primary school in Milling village, located in Wuchuan, a small city within the prefecture-level city of Zhanjiang, Guangdong province.

## CHAIR IN HAND, TONGUE STICKING OUT: JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S PARLIAMENT EXIT IS VIRAL

**Diary Times Desk :** After resigning as Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau was captured exiting Parliament in a playful style -- carrying a chair and with his tongue sticking out. As per convention Canadian lawmakers are allowed to take their chairs with them when they leave Parliament, Brian Lilley, Political columnist for the Toronto Sun noted in a post on X. When any MP leaves the Commons, they are allowed to take their chair, their seat with them. I find it a great tradition, one that I support. That said, this is a weird photo of Trudeau leaving with his. Also, perhaps another sign of a looming election", he wrote on X. Justin Trudeau had in his remarks while stepping down highlighted the 'achievements' of the Liberal Party over the past decade while looking towards the future, hours ahead of the announcement of his successor as the leader of his party as per CBC News. In his speech at the Liberal Leadership Convention, Justin Trudeau said, "I am damn proud of what we've done over these past 10 years for the middle class and the people working hard to join it."

## BALUCH MILITANTS HIJACK PAKISTAN PASSENGER TRAIN WITH 400 ON BOARD



**Diary Times Desk :** Militants opened fire on a passenger train in southwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, injuring the train driver and causing panic among passengers, reports news agency Reuters. The Jaffar Express, with around 400 passengers on board in nine bogies, was on its way from Quetta in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province to Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when it was fired on, railway officials said. Authorities have yet to provide details on the extent of the damage or whether additional injuries were reported among passengers. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), a militant separatist group, has claimed responsibility for the assault. In a statement, the BLA also claimed to have taken hostages from the train, including security personnel. According to reports on local media, the militant group claimed that six military personnel were killed in the attack. The group also stated that hundreds of passengers were being held captive. In a ominous warning, the BLA threatened to execute all hostages if Pakistan attempted to launch a military rescue operation.

## CHINA SLAMS DALAI LAMA, SAYS BEIJING WILL CHOOSE BUDDHIST LEADER'S SUCCESSOR

**Diary Times Desk :** China's foreign ministry has criticised the Dalai Lama after he claimed in his new book 'Voice for the Voiceless' that the next spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism would be born outside China, reported news agency Reuters. Addressing the leader's claims, it said, "He has no right to represent the people of Tibet. Reincarnations of the living Buddha, including the Dalai Lama, should abide by the regulations of the country." They added, "Reincarnation is a special tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and the name of the living Buddha of Dalai Lama was identified by the central government." When asked about the book at a press conference on Monday, the spokesperson for China's foreign ministry had called the Dalai Lama "a political exile."



## RUSSIA SAYS RETAKEN 12 SETTLEMENTS FROM UKRAINE IN WESTERN KURSK REGION

**Diary Times Desk :** Russia's army said Tuesday it had retaken 12 settlements from Ukraine in the western Kursk region, where Moscow has launched a rapid counteroffensive to take back land seized by Kyiv last year. Ukraine has been losing ground in the Russian border region -- swathes of which it has held since August 2024 and which it hoped to use as leverage in peace negotiations -- for several weeks. The announcement came as Ukrainian and US diplomats sat down for talks on how to end the conflict in Saudi Arabia. The units of the 'North' group of troops during the offensive liberated 12 settlements ... and more than 100 square kilometres of the Kursk region territory," Russia's defence ministry said in a statement. Moscow said it had retaken the villages of Argonom, Bogdanovka, Bondarevka, Dmitryukov, Zazulevka, Ivashkovsky, Kolmakov, Kubatkin, Martynovka, Mikhaylovka, Pravda and Yuzhny.

## INDIA SAYS "NO COMMITMENTS" TO TARIFF CUTS AFTER TRUMP'S TAX CUT CLAIM

**Diary Times Desk :** India says it has not committed to slashing import duties on US products, days after President Donald Trump announced that New Delhi had agreed to "cut their tariffs way down". Only weeks into his second term, Trump has upended global trade, targeting friends and foes alike. He has also blamed all trading partners of "unfair" practices, and has announced reciprocal tariffs on many countries, including India, to begin from next month. Trump once again railed at India's "massive tariffs" last week. You can't sell anything into India, it is almost restrictive," Trump said. They have agreed, by the way, they want to cut their tariffs way down now because somebody is finally exposing them for what they have done," he added. But the Indian government told a parliamentary panel that "no commitments had been made to the US on the issue," a report in The Times of India newspaper said Tuesday. The government "has sought time until September to address the issue that is being repeatedly flagged by the American president," it added. India's commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal "said that India and the US were working towards a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement, focusing on long-term trade cooperation instead of merely seeking immediate tariffs adjustments".

## 6 KHALISTAN ZINDABAD FORCE TERRORISTS GET LIFE TERM FOR SMUGGLING ARMS IN PUNJAB

**Diary Times Desk** : A special NIA court in Mohali has sentenced six terrorists linked to proscribed Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) to life imprisonment for smuggling explosives and arms through drones in Punjab for launching a terror attack in 2019. Besides KZF, the convicts are also linked to designated individual terrorists — Germany-based Gurmeet Singh alias Bagga and Pakistan-based Ranjeet Singh alias Neeta, officials said Tuesday. Three other persons have been sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in the case by the NIA special court, they said. "While Akashdeep Singh, Balwant Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Balbir Singh, Maan Singh and Gurudev Singh have been sentenced to life imprisonment, accused Shubhdeep Singh, Sajjanpreet Singh and Romandeep Singh have been sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for their roles in the case," an NIA spokesperson said in a statement. The court has also imposed fine on all convicts, the statement said. The spokesperson said the court found the accused guilty under various sections of the IPC, UAPA, Arms Act and Explosives Substances Act in the case, linked with the proscribed terrorist organisation KZF. The NIA had taken over the investigation from Amritsar police in October 2019.



## POLICE SEARCH PINKY DHALIWAAL'S HOUSE, SEIZE ELECTRONIC DEVICES, DOCUMENTS

**Diary Times Desk** : Music producer Pinky Dhaliwal was taken to his house by the police to conduct a search today. The police seized electronic devices and documents from Dhaliwal's house in Sector 71 in the Sunanda Sharma cheating case. The cops said another police complaint had been filed against Dhaliwal. He is stated to be in custody at Mataur police station in Mohali. Dhaliwal's son filed a habeas corpus petition against Dhaliwal's unlawful detention by Mataur police. Acting on the petition, the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered to immediately release detainee Pushpinder Singh Dhaliwal. The high court made it clear that he was ordered to be released, if his custody was not required in connection with any other case. Dhaliwal's two-day police remand ended today. Addressing the media for the first time after the controversy broke out, Dhaliwal's family members rejected all allegations and said Sunanda was like their family member and was living in their house for the last six years.

## BHANGRA IS SO MESMERISING THAT EVEN PATIENTS FEEL LIKE DANCING, SAYS PRESIDENT MURMU

**Diary Times Desk** : Praising Punjab's rich culture, legacy and spiritualism, President Droupadi Murmu today said that Punjab's Bhangra is so mesmerising that if any patient watches it, he would feel like getting up and dancing. Their heart starts racing again, half their illness vanishes there only. Punjab's folk dances have always been very popular across the country. Punjabi singers are doing so well on the national and international stage. Marriage festivities across the country also have a Punjabi flavour these days." "Punjab's food has been adopted by many countries. People throng Punjabi restaurants for lassi, dahi and parantha," she added. President Murmu was addressing a civic reception hosted by the Punjab Government and at the Indian School of Business in Mohali today. President Murmu addressed a civic reception hosted by the Punjab Government in Mohali.

## ED ATTACHES SUKHPAL KHAIRA'S CHANDIGARH HOUSE IN PMLA CASE

**Diary Times Desk** : In a recent development, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached the Sector 5 house of Bholath Congress MLA Sukhpal Khaira in Chandigarh under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The attachment is linked to an investigation revealing that Khaira acquired and utilised proceeds of crime (POC) worth Rs 3.82 crore from an international drug syndicate operated by Gurdev Singh and his associates. The ED alleged that Khaira provided protection for smuggling narcotic drugs, and in return, Gurdev Singh made cash payments of Rs 3.82 crore to Khaira and funded his election campaigns using proceeds from the illegal drug business. Khaira denied the allegations, stating that he received no notice about the attachment of his house and that the news was released to the media instead. He termed the action as "pure character assassination" and alleged that BJP is misusing the ED to target opposition leaders. The ED investigation revealed that Khaira and his family members made expenses worth Rs 6.61 crore between April 1, 2014, and March 31, 2020. An unaccounted expenditure of Rs 3.82 crore was identified, which was revealed from handwritten notebooks seized during searches conducted on March 9 and 10, 2021.

## TAKHT KESGARH JATHEDAR GIANI KULDEEP SINGH GARGAJ TAKES CHARGE AMID PROTOCOL ROW

**Diary Times Desk** : In the backdrop of the controversy over the "arbitrary" removal of Takht jathedars, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj today assumed charge as the Jathedar of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib at Anandpur Sahib and later as the officiating Jathedar of Akal Takht in Amritsar amid opposition from Sikh and Nihang organisations. As per the Sikh tradition of "dastarbandi", the head granthi of the Golden Temple is supposed to present the "dastar" to a newly appointed Jathedar. In case he is not available, he has to appoint a granthi of the Golden Temple as his representative to perform the ritual. This is followed by representatives of various Sikh and Nihang organisations, the SGPC president and top officials presenting the 'dastar' separately to the new appointee as a mark of respect. However, Giani Ragbir Singh and Giani Sultan Singh, who were removed as the jathedars of Akal Takht and Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, respectively, by the SGPC and continue to hold the charge of the head granthi and the granthi of the Golden Temple, respectively, were conspicuous by their absence today. Similarly, there was no representative from Sikh organisations. Though the SGPC had announced the schedule for today's installation.

## DEEPAK HOODA DECLARED PRESIDENT OF ROHTAK BAR ASSOCIATION AMID CONTROVERSY

**Diary Times Desk** : The Election Committee for the District Bar Association Rohtak has declared Deepak Hooda as the new president of the association. This follows the ineligibility of another candidate and outgoing president Arvind Sheoran to contest the election, due to the suspension of his license by the Disciplinary Committee of the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana. The election, initially scheduled for February 28, was postponed until further orders. Only two candidates — Arvind Sheoran and Deepak Hooda — were vying for the president position. On March 8, Deepak Hooda submitted a letter to the Election Committee requesting to be declared the winner unopposed, citing the suspension of Sheoran's license. The Committee sought an explanation from Sheoran regarding the suspension. While Sheoran responded, it was deemed unsatisfactory. Consequently, the committee declared Deepak Hooda as the president of the Bar Association, Rohtak," as confirmed by Gagan Singh, Chief Election Officer. He stated that the date for elections for other posts within the District Bar Association would be announced soon. Several local advocates have raised concerns regarding this development, questioning the legality of the Election Committee's actions.

## HARYANA HUMAN RIGHTS BODY CALLS FOR REPORT FROM OP JINDAL VARSITY ON ANTI-RAGGING MEASURES

**Diary Times Desk** : Terming ragging as a grave violation of human rights that undermines the right to life, liberty, equality, and dignity, the Haryana Human Rights Commission has directed the Registrar of OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat, to appear in person and submit a comprehensive report on preventive and disciplinary measures following an alleged incident of ragging on campus. Taking suo motu cognisance of a report carried in these columns, the full commission—comprising Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia—observed that ragging was not merely a matter of indiscipline but a serious offense infringing upon fundamental rights. The commission asserted that ragging fostered a hostile and unsafe environment in educational institutions, hampering learning and violating the right to education. Acts of physical and psychological abuse, it stated, directly threatened the right to life and liberty.



## HP ASSEMBLY PAYS TRIBUTES TO FORMER PM MANMOHAN SINGH

**Diary Times Desk :** Cutting across party lines, the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday paid tributes to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and other members of the House who passed away in the recent past. "It is due to his farsightedness and vision that Himachal Pradesh got several prestigious institutions including Medical College Ner Chowk, IIT Mandi, IIT Una, Kangra Central University, and NIFT," Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. Dr Manmohan Singh has been honoured for his exemplary work as an economist, politician, and social worker by internationally renowned institutions, the Chief Minister added. The former Prime Minister started MNRREGA to create livelihoods, especially in rural areas. "It is Dr Manmohan Singh who started the practice of setting up technology-based institutions. It is in recognition of his exemplary work that we have named the Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) after DR Manmohan Singh," Sukhu said. The Chief Minister also remembered Dharamsala MLA and former MP Kishan Kapoor, who passed away recently.

## HOUSES COLLAPSE IN PANGI VILLAGE, FOUR FAMILIES AFFECTED

**Diary Times Desk :** An incident of structural collapse has left several families homeless in Pangi valley. According to the reports, at least four houses in Tikri village of Luj Panchayat — an area bordering Jammu & Kashmir — collapsed on Monday. The collapsed houses belonged to Pratap Chand, Ajay Kumar, Raj Kumar and Pratap Chand. The affected families said cracks had developed in these houses after recent heavy snowfall. With the onset of warmer temperatures, the melting snow further weakened the structures, leading to their collapse. However, the inhabitants had vacated their houses before the collapse, thus averting a major tragedy. Given the severity of the situation, locals have urged the administration to step in immediately. The Forest Rights Committee secretary of Luj, Ajit Rana, said the affected families belong to economically weaker sections.

## 7 INJURED AS ABVP AND SFI ACTIVISTS CLASH IN HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY

**Diary Times Desk :** At least seven activists from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and the Students Federation of India were injured after a clash erupted between the two student groups at Himachal Pradesh University. As a result, students sustained injuries to their heads and hands. ABVP activists have alleged that while some ABVP members were heading to the university, they were ambushed by several SFI activists wielding sharp weapons, including a rod, resulting in injuries to the ABVP activists. Police arrived at the university as soon as they received the information, and a complaint was filed at the Boileauganj Police Station. The injured were rushed to Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) for treatment. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shimla, Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi, confirmed the report and stated that further investigation is underway.



## MUTILATED BODY FOUND ON CHURDHAR PEAK IN HIMACHAL, BELIEVED TO BE OF MISSING HARYANA YOUTH

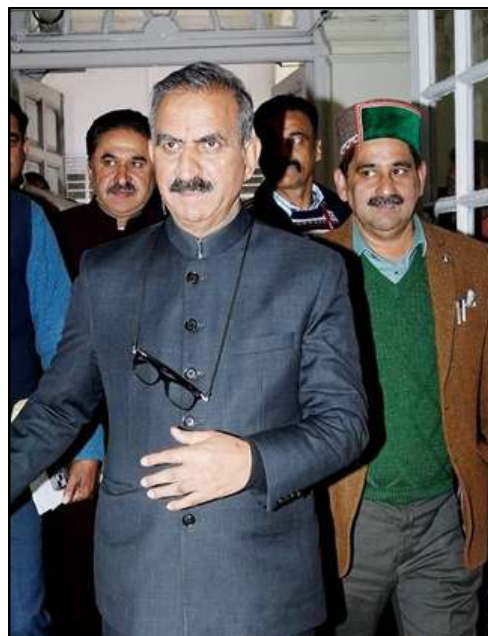
**Diary Times Desk :** The mutilated body of a youth was found in a deep snow-covered gorge along the Churdhar Trek in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district, officials said on Tuesday. A team of local volunteers that spotted the body on Monday evening believe it to be that of Akshay Sahani (28), a resident of Panchkula in Haryana, who went missing on February 26, while trekking to the Churdhar peak on the occasion of Mahashivratri. According to the volunteers from the Nohradhar area, the body was found near the statue of Lord Shiva, close to the last rest point on the trek. No other trekker has been reported missing in the Churdhar region in recent months, they said. Churdhar peak is one of the highest in the Shivalik ranges standing at an altitude of 11,965 feet located in Sirmaur district. SDM Sangrah Sunil Kayath said that the administration cannot confirm the identity of the body to be of the missing tourist from Haryana. However, his parents have been informed and they are on their way to Sangrah to identify the body, he said. The body is being brought to Sangrah where the postmortem examination and other scientific tests would be conducted to ascertain the identity.

## REVENUE DEFICIT GRANT REDUCING BUT DEVELOPMENT NOT AFFECTED: GOVERNOR

**Diary Times Desk :** Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla today said that his government had initiated several welfare schemes and fulfilled six of the 10 guarantees despite financial constraints due to the reduction in the revenue deficit grant (RDG) from the Central Government. Shukla addressed the Assembly on the opening day of the 16-day Budget session of the Vidhan Sabha, which would conclude on March 28. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Speaker Kuldeep Pathania and Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur welcomed him. The Governor delivered a 53-page speech in Hindi in one and a half hour. "The state is facing a financial crunch as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation to states is coming to an end and the RDG will reduce to Rs 3,257 crore during 2025-26. However, this will not impact the pace of development," he said. Being a hilly state with inadequate resources, Himachal was dependent on central grants, he added. Shukla said that for 2025-26, the Budget estimates stand at Rs 6,270 crore, "thus demonstrating that my government has not allowed.

## APPROPRIATION BILL TO MEET ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF RS 2,848.43 CRORE PASSED

**Diary Times Desk :** The Vidhan Sabha today passed the Himachal Pradesh Appropriation (Number 4) Bill, 2024, to meet an expenditure of Rs 2,848.43 crore made on certain services for the financial year 2015-16 in excess of the amount granted for those services in that year. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who holds the finance portfolio, laid the Bill on the table of the House to facilitate the passing of the supplementary budget and authorisation for appropriation of certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund of the state of Himachal Pradesh. "From the Consolidated Fund of the state of Himachal Pradesh, a sum of Rs 28,48,43, 38,113 shall be deemed to have been authorised to be paid and applied to meet the amount spent for defraying the charges during 2015-16, in excess of the amount authorised for these services in that year," the Bill reads. This additional amount spent in excess of the amount granted has been spent on various heads, including Rs 190.95 crore on revenue, Rs 4.65 lakh on education, Rs 63.08 crore on roads and bridges, Rs 185.41 crore on irrigation and water supply, Rs 4.25 crore on forest and wild life, Rs 76.73 lakh on social justice and empowerment, Rs 37.25 crore on power development, Rs 34.73 crore on urban development, Rs 47.13 crore as revenue and Rs 2,319.16 crore as capital in the Finance Department.



## WASIM AKRAM LOSES COOL DURING LIVE SHOW OVER CHAMPIONS TROPHY CEREMONY ROW

**Diary Times Desk :** The cricketing fraternity in Pakistan was left scratching its heads upon its failure to spot a single Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official at the presentation ceremony after the conclusion of the ICC Champions Trophy final between India and Australia. ICC chairman Jay Shah could be seen on the stage, handing the trophy to the winning captain Rohit Sharma and distributing medals to all players. But, none of the PCB officials became part of the proceedings on the stage at any point in time despite Pakistan being the official hosts for the tournament. Since the ceremony concluded, there's been plenty of outrage in Pakistan over the manner in which it all unfolded. Pakistan legend Wasim Akram admitted being flabbergasted over the absence of PCB officials from the ceremony. Speak on the Dressing Room show live after the final in Dubai, Akram highlighted that PCB COO Sumair Ahmed Syed was at the venue, in place of chairman Mohsin Naqvi as PCB's representative, but he was nowhere to be seen during the ceremony.



## INDIAN DRIVER KUSH MAINI JOINS ALPINE F1 TEAM AS TEST AND RESERVE DRIVER

**Diary Times Desk :** Driver Kush Maini on Tuesday was picked as a Reserve and Test driver by Formula One team Alpine. Following the announcement by Alpine, Kush became the third Indian driver to join a F1 team, joining the elite company of Narain Karthikeyan and Karun Chandok. Kush, who is part of Alpine's academy, joins a big pool of Test and Reserve drivers, including the likes of Franco Colapinto, Ryo Hirakawa and Paul Aron. Australian rookie Jack Doohan will race for Alpine this season, alongside French veteran Pierre Gasly. "Kush Maini. 2025 Test and Reserve Driver. We're delighted to announce, our Alpine Academy driver extends his role to join our pool of Test and Reserve Drivers for the 2025 season," Alpine made the announcement through a social media post. "BWT Alpine Formula One Team is pleased to announce Alpine Academy driver Kush Maini will join the team's pool of Test and Reserve Drivers for the 2025 season," Alpine said in an official statement. "As Test and Reserve Driver, Kush's duties will involve offering valuable support to the team's car development and set-up objectives using the driver-in-loop simulator at Enstone.

## ROHIT SHARMA'S BIG SHOUTOUT TO INDIA'S "SILENT HERO" AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025 SUCCESS

**Diary Times Desk :** After adding another chapter of success to its rich cricketing history, India captain Rohit Sharma gave a special mention to "silent hero" Shreyas Iyer, who has been a source of stability in the star-studded middle order. The sold-out crowd in Dubai and millions of spectators sang verses in praise of India after the team scripted a four-wicket victory in the Champions Trophy final against New Zealand on Sunday. Throughout the tournament, India's middle order has been the silent guardian, protecting the team from adverse situations after a top-order collapse or linking up with them to formulate match-saving partnerships. "I am very proud of this team. We knew the conditions would be difficult, but we adapted well. If you look at all the games, the first game was against Bangladesh. I know it was only 230, but we knew that the wicket was a little slow. We needed partnerships, and the batters made big partnerships," Rohit told reporters in the post-match press conference. While the added batting depth has played to India's advantage, Shreyas has managed to stand out among the rest with his calm demeanour and aggressive intent.

## MCG TO HOST DAY-NIGHT AUSTRALIA-ENGLAND CLASH TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF TEST CRICKET

**Diary Times Desk :** Cricket Australia have announced that the one-off Test between Australia and England at the MCG in March 2027 will be played as a day-night pink-ball match, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of men's Test cricket. Scheduled for March 11-15, the fixture will be the first day-night men's Test at the MCG, which recently hosted the women's Ashes Test, which was also a day-night affair. While the inaugural Test in 1877 and the centenary Test in 1977 were both daytime red-ball matches and were also played at the MCG, this historic fixture will be played under floodlights to enable more people to tune in. Cricket Australia CEO Todd Greenberg said the occasion would be a fitting tribute to both the game's heritage and its evolution. "The 150th Anniversary Test at the MCG will be one of the great cricket events and playing under lights will be a fantastic way to celebrate both our game's rich heritage and Test cricket's modern evolution. "It will also help ensure more people are able to attend and watch what will be a fantastic occasion. The Centenary Test created many iconic performances, including David Hookes' five consecutive boundaries off Tony Greig, Rick McCosker batting with a broken jaw and Derek Randall's defiant century, and I'm sure the 150th Test will create its own lifelong memories.



## KL RAHUL REJECTS DELHI CAPITALS CAPTAINCY OFFER, SAYS REPORT. NEW CANDIDATE IS...

**Diary Times Desk :** After playing a pivotal role in India's 2025 Champions Trophy triumph with his all-round skills, Axar Patel is now likely to be appointed as the new Delhi Capitals (DC) skipper for the 2025 season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The all-rounder had stepped in to be DC's captain in IPL 2024 when his predecessor Rishabh Pant was not allowed to play in a crucial game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) due to an over-rate offence. "Yes, Axar Patel is likely to be named as Delhi Capitals skipper for IPL 2025. The franchise had asked for KL Rahul to be the team's captain, but he very much wishes to contribute for the side as a player in the upcoming tournament," sources told IANS on Tuesday. Axar has been with DC since 2019, and was retained for a whopping Rs 18 crore ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction. In his IPL career of 150 games, Axar has scored 1653 runs at a strike rate of 130.88 while picking 123 wickets with his left-arm spin bowling at an economy rate of 7.28. Axar had been India's vice-captain during their 4-1 T20I series win over England at home this year, but his possible elevation as DC's captain for IPL 2025 is going to be a major test of his leadership skills, especially with the franchise still looking for their first-ever championship win.

## R ASHWIN DISAGREES WITH ICC ON 'PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT' PICK. "HAS TO BE..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin feels mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy was the 'X-Factor' in the Champions Trophy, saying that his performances helped the Rohit Sharma-led side lift the title. Despite not playing the entire tournament, Chakravarthy made the most of the backing given to him by captain Rohit and head coach Gautam Gambhir. For the unversed, Chakravarthy wasn't part of India's initial Champions Trophy squad, and was only added after he impressed in the white-ball series against England. While New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra was named 'Player of the Tournament', Ashwin suggested that Chakravarthy should've been given the award instead. "Whatever said and done, the Player of the Tournament, in my view, was Varun Chakaravarthy. He didn't play the entire tournament. He was such a big difference. If Varun Chakaravarthy wasn't there, I think this game have been very different.