

**AMIT  
SHAH**

## **AMIT SHAH RECALLS JAIL TIME DURING CONGRESS GOVT IN ASSAM: 'WAS BEATEN UP'**

**Diary Times Desk :** Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that during the Congress government in Assam, he was beaten up and had jail food for seven days, adding that the party "did not allow peace in the state".

Amit Shah was recalling his detention during Hiteswar Saikia's tenure as Assam chief minister on Saturday while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in Dergaon.

"I have also been beaten up by the Congress government in Assam. Hiteswar Saikia was the chief minister of Assam and we used to raise slogans against former PM Indira Gandhi that 'Assam ki gaaliyan suni hai, Indira Gandhi khooni hai'", news agency ANI quoted Amit Shah as saying. Hiteswar Saikia served as the chief minister of Assam for two terms - from 1983 to 1985 and then from 1991 to 1996.

"I too had jail food for seven days in Assam and people from all over the country came to save Assam. Today Assam is moving ahead on the path of development," Shah added. Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the first phase of the revamped police academy named after Lachit Barphukan in Assam's Golaghat district. The Home minister was accompanied by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, among others.

Amit Shah also thanked Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for naming the police academy after Lachit Barphukan, who he called a "brave warrior" who helped the state "to be victorious against the Mughals".



**PM MODI  
NEWS**

## **PM MODI TO VISIT SRI LANKA NEXT MONTH TO FINALISE AGREEMENTS ON COOPERATION**



**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Sri Lanka early next month to finalise agreements reached during President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's visit to Delhi last year, a minister said on Saturday.

Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath made the statement while responding to a question on budget allocation debate in the parliament here.

"We have maintained a close relationship with our neighbour India. Our first diplomatic visit was to India, where we reached several agreements on bilateral cooperation," Herath said.

"Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive here early April," he added. Herath said that during Mr Modi's visit, several new memoranda of understandings will be signed, in addition to the opening of the Sampur solar power station.

In 2023, the state power entity Ceylon Electricity Board and India's NTPC agreed to build a 135 MW solar power plant in Sampur town of eastern Trincomalee district.

Herath said the National People's Power (NPP) government's goodwill policy towards India has resulted in many benefits to the island nation, including several ongoing Indian projects. We will remain neutral in our foreign policy without taking any sides while working to maintain national interest," Herath said. This will be Mr Modi's fourth visit to the island nation since 2015.

## 'FREQUENT REFERENCES' TO J-K WILL NOT VALIDATE PAKISTAN'S CLAIM ON TERRITORY: INDIA AT UN

**Diary Times Desk :** India has slammed Pakistan for its "unjustified" reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the UN General Assembly, with New Delhi asserting that such remarks will neither validate the country's claim nor justify its practice of cross-border terrorism. "As is their habit, the former foreign secretary of Pakistan today has made an unjustified reference to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P Harish, said in remarks on Friday in the General Assembly at the informal meeting of the plenary to commemorate the International Day to combat Islamophobia. Harish said frequent references by Pakistan will "neither validate their claim nor justify their practice of cross-border terrorism". "The fanatical mindset of this nation is well known, as also its record of bigotry. Such efforts will not change the reality that Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always be an integral part of India," he said. Harish's strong retort came after Pakistan's former foreign secretary, Tehmina Janjua, made references to Jammu and Kashmir in her remarks at the informal meeting to commemorate the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.



## JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI TO BE SWORN IN AS SUPREME COURT JUDGE ON MONDAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Justice Joymalya Bagchi of the Calcutta High Court will be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge on Monday. Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna will administer the oath of office to Justice Bagchi in the presence of other Supreme Court judges at a ceremony on the top court premises. The Centre on March 10 notified the appointment of Justice Bagchi as a judge of the Supreme Court. Currently, the Supreme Court is functioning with 32 judges against its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges, including the CJI. Once Justice Bagchi takes oath of office, the actual strength of the top court would reach 33 judges. The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna had unanimously recommended Justice Joymalya Bagchi for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. Justice Bagchi would be in line to be CJI after the retirement of Justice KV Viswanathan on May 25, 2031. He would have a tenure of more than six years.

## AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES FIRST PHASE OF REVAMPED POLICE ACADEMY IN ASSAM'S GOLAGHAT

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the first phase of the revamped police academy at Dergaon in Golaghat district. He also laid the foundation stone for the next phase. After the inauguration, Shah was apprised of the facilities at the 'Lachit Barphukan Police Academy' by DGP Harmeet Singh. Shah then took a tour of the building, where senior officials also clicked photographs with the home minister. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, among others. Shah arrived in Dergaon on Friday evening for a three-day tour of Assam and Mizoram. Spread over 340 acres, the academy is being refurbished at an estimated cost of Rs 1,024 crore in two phases, officials said. The Rs 167.4-crore first phase includes a five-story building housing smart classrooms, weapon simulator, research labs and administrative offices, among other facilities, besides a museum and a modern parade ground. "This modern infrastructure is designed to give the trainees both theoretical and practical aspects of police training seamlessly," an official said.

## WILL NOT TOLERATE DIVISION OF SOCIETY FOR ELECTORAL GAINS, SAYS SAMYUKT KISAN MORCHA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Samyukt Kisan Morcha — an umbrella organisation of farmers — on Saturday said it would not tolerate division of society for electoral gains, as it condemned statements against minority communities by an Uttar Pradesh police officer and some BJP leaders in the state. In a statement, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha referred to mosques in Uttar Pradesh being covered on Holi and condemned Sambhal Deputy Superintendent of Police Anuj Kumar Chaudhary over his remarks against Muslims. Kicking up a row, Chaudhary had said that those who felt uncomfortable with colours on Holi should stay indoors as the festival came once a year while Jumma Namaz (Friday prayers) took place 52 times. BJP leader Raghuraj Singh had suggested that Muslim men should cover themselves if they wanted to avoid being sprinkled with colours while stepping out for prayers on Holi as the festival coincided with the second Friday of the Islamic holy month of Ramzan.



## YOUR HOROSCOPE

16-03-2025



### Aries

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

### Gemini

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

### Leo

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

### Libra

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

### Sagittarius

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

### Aquarius

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

### Taurus

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

### Cancer

Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

### Virgo

Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

### Scorpio

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

### Capricorn

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

### Pisces

Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.



## HIMACHAL: SIT FORMED IN BAMBER THAKUR FIRING CASE, INDISCRIMINATE FIRING WAS DONE ON FORMER CONGRESS MLA

**Diary Times Desk :** SIT has been formed in the case of firing of former Congress MLA Bamber Thakur. The team has been formed under the leadership of ADGP Gyaneshwar. DIG Soumya has been made the chairperson. Two more officers including SP Bilaspur are included in the team. Four accused fired bullets at former Congress MLA Bamber Thakur on Holi Friday, injuring Bamber and a policeman deployed for his security. Bamber was shot in his left leg, after which he was admitted to Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) and Hospital. Two bullets hit the security personnel. Police have recovered a Bolero vehicle from Chakra in Mandi district. A pistol has been recovered near the same place. Five people including the driver of the vehicle have been taken into custody and are being questioned. The attackers carried out the incident when Bamber was meeting people at his wife's government residence in VIP Changar Sector of Bilaspur city at 3:00 pm. According to eyewitnesses, the attackers fired 22 to 24 rounds. Bamber hid behind the Innova car parked nearby. Other people also started hiding behind cars parked here and there. Meanwhile, the attackers kept firing bullets indiscriminately. The security personnel also fired back with his pistol. After this, the attackers fled. Meanwhile, a bullet hit Bamber's leg. Two bullets hit Bilaspur resident policeman Sanjeev Kumar.



## HIMACHAL: JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- IT IS CLEAR FROM BILASPUR FIRING INCIDENT THAT LAW AND ORDER IS COMPLETELY DESTROYED IN THE STATE

**Diary Times Desk :** In a statement issued from Mandi, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the law and order situation in the state has completely collapsed. The Sukhu government is not serious about improving the law and order situation. Due to this, the firing incident in Bilaspur has come to the fore. This is not the first time that bullets were fired in broad daylight in Bilaspur. Earlier also, similar incidents took place in which no strict action was taken by the police. If strict action had been taken by the police in time, both the firing incidents would not have come to light and such criminal activities in the state would have been curbed. The government should take strict action in this matter so that the criminal elements in the state can be curbed. Jairam Thakur said that the job of the police in the state is to maintain the security system. The job of the CID is to collect intelligence information, so that any kind of criminal conspiracy.

## BUMBER THAKUR: BAMBER THAKUR'S STATEMENT CAME FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER THE SHOOTOUT, SAID THAT CHITTA SMUGGLERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ATTACK

**Diary Times Desk :** After the shootout in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, former MLA Bamber Thakur, who is undergoing treatment at IGMC Shimla, spoke to the media for the first time. Bamber Thakur said that chitta smugglers have attacked me. He alleged that they are under the protection of local BJP MLA Trilok Jamwal. Bamber, admitted in IGMC, while talking to the media on Saturday said that if there was a BJP government in the state today, I would have been killed. He said that the Chitta smuggler's mansion in Bilaspur is as big as the mansion of the Chief Minister. Such people's property should be confiscated and they should be encountered. Bamber Thakur is making false allegations. The former MLA's son is the mastermind in the shootout that took place outside the court last year. He is on bail in that case. Actually, this is a gang war, the product of which is Bamber Thakur and his son. -Trilok Jamwal, MLA, Sadar Bilaspur. Bamber Thakur, admitted in IGMC Shimla, alleged that if BJP MLA Trilok Jamwal does not give them protection, such an incident will never happen. Bamber said, they came to my house and attacked me in spite of our government.

## FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE COLONY OF THE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN CHANJU, EMPLOYEE BURNT ALIVE

**Diary Times Desk :** An employee was burnt alive in a fire that broke out in the residential colony of the 48 MW hydro power project under construction in Changju of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. The deceased has been identified as Bindu son of Dharamchand resident of village Sanged, post office Rajera. This employee was working in the company building the power project. The police has conducted the post-mortem and handed over the body to the family. The police is investigating the cause of the fire. On Friday, he celebrated Holi with other employees of the company. In the evening, he went to his room to rest. Suddenly a fire broke out in the colony at night. In a few minutes, the fire spread throughout the colony. Other employees living in the colony came out of there before getting engulfed in fire, but when Bindu did not come out of his room, other employees tried to open his door.

## HIMACHAL WEATHER: SNOWFALL IN HIGH ALTITUDE AREAS, LANDSLIDE IN CHAMBA, AVALANCHE ALERT IN KULLU AND LAHAUL

**Diary Times Desk :** Amidst the yellow alert in Himachal Pradesh, there was snowfall on the mountains in five districts Lahaul-Spiti, Kullu, Kinnaur, Chamba, Sirmaur and rain in many areas including Shimla-Kangra. The rain and snowfall which started on Friday afternoon at many places continued on Saturday as well. This has increased the cold in the state. Due to snowfall on Jalori Jot, NH 305 Ani-Kullu has come to a standstill for vehicular movement. Movement is taking place through Atal Tunnel Rohtang. An alert has been issued for avalanches in Jammu and Kashmir including Kullu, Lahaul Chamba, Kinnaur. The weather changed in the capital Shimla after Friday afternoon. Rain continued in the city throughout the night. The rain continued on Saturday as well. The Meteorological Center Shimla has forecast light to moderate rain and snowfall at most places in the state on March 15. Heavy rain may occur at some places. Light to moderate rain and snowfall is expected at some places on March 16. On 17, 19 and 20 March, light rain and snowfall is expected at one or two places in Lahaul and Spiti and Kinnaur and higher areas of Chamba, Kangra and Kullu.

## UNA: 20 DEVOTEES WHO REACHED MATA CHINTAPURNI AND SHRI NAINA DEVI FROM HYDERABAD BECAME VICTIMS OF FOOD POISONING

**Diary Times Desk :** Out of 35 devotees who came from Hyderabad to visit Mata Chintapurni and Shri Naina Devi Temple in Himachal Pradesh, 20 got food poisoning and were admitted to Civil Hospital Amb. One of them was referred to Regional Hospital Una as his condition was serious. Dr. Rahul Katana told that some devotees ate their own cooked food while some ordered chowmein and Maggi from outside. After eating this, the health of 20 people deteriorated. After first aid, 18 devotees are healthy. Devotee Aarti Singh has thanked the hospital administration for the facilities.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: INTER-STATE GANG BUSTED, 7 SMUGGLERS ARRESTED WITH CHITTA, ACTION ALSO TAKEN IN KUMARSAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Taking major action against Chitta smugglers, police has arrested seven people including three smugglers from Punjab in Hatkoti and Kumarsain. In the Hatkoti case, an interstate Chitta smuggler gang has been busted. This gang used to bring Chitta from Punjab and supply it in Rohru. More arrests can be made in this case. It is being ascertained who is the kingpin of the gang. In both the cases, police has recovered 282 grams of Chitta. Police has started investigation by registering a case under various sections of NDPS Act. The first case has come under Hatkoti police station. Here, on the basis of information, police stopped a Honda Cruise car with Punjab number near Parhat bridge near Hatkoti for search. During this, 252 grams of Chitta was recovered from the car during the search of the vehicle. In this case, police has arrested Rajkumar, Jagdish and Jatindra resident of Mohan K Hithar, Tehsil Guru Harsai District Firozpur Punjab, who were travelling in the car. When the police started investigating the case, the accused revealed that they were going to deliver the consignment of chitta to Kapil Rajta in Rohru. During this time, Kapil Rajta was continuously calling the accused on their mobile. The police asked the accused to pick up the phone and talk, in which it was revealed that the supply was to be delivered to Kapil Rajta. After this, the team of SHO Jubbal raided Kapil's hideouts. Here the police recovered about Rs 4.5 lakh cash, foil paper.

## PAWAN KALYAN SAYS DMK ALLOWS TAMIL FILMS' DUBBING IN HINDI, PARTY RESPONDS

**Diary Times Desk :** Diary Times Desk : The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) today responded to remarks made by actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan over the ongoing language debate. The Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister had accused Tamil Nadu politicians of hypocrisy, questioning why they opposed Hindi imposition while allowing Tamil films to be dubbed into Hindi for commercial benefits. DMK spokesperson Dr Syed Hafeezullah dismissed Mr Kalyan's argument, calling it a "hollow understanding" of Tamil Nadu's stance on linguistic policies. "Tamil Nadu has never opposed individuals learning Hindi or any other language. What we oppose is the imposition of Hindi or any language on the people of our state," he said. The rebuttal comes amid debate on the National Education Policy (NEP) and the Centre's push for Hindi, which Tamil Nadu has historically resisted. DMK leaders insist that equating language policy with business decisions - such as dubbing films - was an oversimplification that ignored the state's longstanding linguistic position.

## "THUMKA LAGAO OR GET SUSPENDED": TEJ PRATAP YADAV'S ORDER TO COP SPARKS ROW

**Diary Times Desk :** Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tej Pratap Yadav celebrated Holi with party workers at his official residence in Patna on Saturday. A video from the event, which has since gone viral on social media, has sparked controversy as it shows Mr Yadav instructing a policeman to dance during the celebrations. In the viral clip, Mr Yadav is seen seated on a stage, addressing a uniformed police officer. Mr Yadav can be heard saying: "Ae sipahi, ae Deepak, ek gana bajayenge uspe tumko thumka lagana hai. Bura mat mano Holi hai. Aaj nahi thumka lagaoge toh suspend kar diye jaoge (Hey, Deepak, I will play a song, and you will have to dance. Don't mind, it's Holi. If you don't dance today, you will be suspended). The video has triggered a sharp reaction from RJD's political opponents, with BJP and JD(U) leaders strongly criticising Mr Yadav's actions. Both parties took aim at the RJD leader, drawing a parallel between Tej Pratap and his father, Lalu Prasad Yadav, the former chief minister of Bihar. "Like father, like son. First, the father - as the then chief minister - used to make the law dance to his tunes and turn Bihar into 'Jungle Raj.'

## HAD JAIL FOOD FOR SEVEN DAYS AND WAS BEATEN UP BY CONGRESS GOVT IN ASSAM: AMIT SHAH



**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah recalled an incident when he was put in jail in Assam while inaugurating the first phase of the revamped police academy at Dergaon in the Golaghat district. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Amit Shah attacked Congress and said that the Congress did not allow peace in Assam. "I have also been beaten up by the Congress government in Assam. Hiteswar Saikia was the Chief Minister of Assam and we used to raise slogans against former PM Indira Gandhi that 'Assam ki gaaliyan suni hai, Indira Gandhi khooni hai'. I, too, had jail food for seven days in Assam, and people from all over the country came to save Assam. Today, Assam is moving ahead on the path of development," news agency ANI quoted Amit Shah as saying. Hiteswar Saikia served as the Chief Minister of Assam for two terms from 1983 to 1985 and then from 1991 to 1996. Amit Shah arrived in Dergaon on Friday evening for a three-day tour of Assam and Mizoram.

## ISRO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS FLIGHT ACCEPTANCE HOT TEST FOR LVM-M6 CRYOGENIC ENGINE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot testing of the cryogenic engine for the LVM-M6 mission, the space agency said. The hot testing is part of acceptance for the flight of Cryogenic engines for every mission. "On March 14, 2025, ISRO successfully conducted the flight acceptance hot testing of the cryogenic engine identified for the sixth operational mission of LVM3 launch vehicle (LVM-M6) at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri," the space agency said. Notably, hot tests for the indigenous cryogenic engine (CE20) used in the Cryogenic Upper Stage of LVM3 were so far performed at the High-Altitude Test (HAT) facility at IPRC. At IPRC, vacuum conditions are simulated with complex installations, limiting the maximum hot test duration to 25s. However, in the new test, the engine was tested for a longer duration.

## ON CAMERA, EXPLOSIVE THROWN AT AMRITSAR TEMPLE, COPS HINT PAK ISI LINKS

**Diary Times Desk :** A powerful explosion took place at a temple in Amritsar late Friday night, shattering window panes and damaging the structure's walls. CCTV footage captured two unidentified individuals arriving on a motorcycle at the Thakur Dwara Temple in the Khandwala area, stopping briefly, and then throwing an explosive towards the temple before fleeing. Amritsar Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar confirmed that the police were alerted to the attack at approximately 2 am by the temple's priest. Senior officials, along with forensic teams, rushed to the site to collect evidence. Commissioner Bhullar suggested a possible link to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). "We got information at 2 am. We reached the spot right away. The forensic team was called. We checked the CCTV and spoke to the nearby people. The thing is that Pakistan's ISI lures our youth into creating disturbances in Punjab. We will trace this case within days and take appropriate action. I warn the youth not to ruin their lives. We will catch the culprits soon," he said. The attack has triggered strong political reactions, with opposition parties and local leaders condemning the deteriorating law and order situation in the Aam Aadmi-Party-ruled Punjab.

## RANYA RAO'S FATHER AND DGP RAMACHANDRA RAO SENT ON COMPULSORY LEAVE

**Diary Times Desk :** Gold smuggling accused Ranya Rao's father, Ramchandra Rao, a DGP-rank officer in Karnataka, was sent on compulsory leave on Saturday. The IPS officer currently serves as the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation. Ranya Rao was arrested at Bengaluru Airport on March 3 with 14.2 kg of gold worth Rs 12.56 crore while returning from Dubai. The Protocol Officer who assisted the actor had told investigating officers that he had done so under specific instructions from Karnataka DGP Ramachandra Rao. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), which is investigating the case, informed the special court on Friday that the probe has so far uncovered a "sophisticated methodology" for gold smuggling, using the State Police Protocol Officer to bypass security, engaging in hawala transactions to transfer funds from India to Dubai for purchasing gold, and the involvement of a larger syndicate.

## "ONLY HAD BHAANG": GUJARAT LAW STUDENT BLAMES AIRBAGS FOR DEADLY CRASH

**Diary Times Desk :** The 20-year-old law student, whose car rammed nearby vehicles and passersby, causing the death of one person and injuring several others in Vadodara, told the police he could not see the road as airbags had opened inside the vehicle. The driver, Rakshit Chaurasiya, and his friend were returning from Dera Circle after dropping a friend with whom they had gone to witness Holika Dahan, a bonfire lit on the eve of Holi. "We were going ahead of a scooty, we were turning right and there was a pothole on the road. There was a scooty and a car parked near the right turn. Our car touched the scooter and the airbags opened. After that I couldn't tell where the car went," he said, adding that the car was at the speed of 50-60 kmph at the time of the accident. He also first said he had not consumed any intoxicants, but later admitted to consuming bhaang (cannabis).



## "SHE MADE TELEVISION TONIGHT": TRUMP AS REPORTER BUMPS MIC INTO HIS FACE

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump found himself at the centre of an unexpected and awkward moment during a press briefing at Joint Base Andrews on March 14. A reporter accidentally bumped a microphone into his face, prompting a noticeable reaction. The incident, caught on camera, has since gone viral. Mr Trump was addressing the press before departing from Washington D.C., when the mishap occurred. As the journalist leaned in, the microphone — fitted with a fuzzy windscreen, commonly known as a 'dead cat' — accidentally struck Donald Trump's mouth. Momentarily taken aback, Donald Trump responded with a raised eyebrow and a death stare before breaking into a bemused expression as the microphone was hastily retracted. Always quick with a remark, he said, "She made television tonight; she just became a big story tonight." As the moment played out, Mr Trump appeared visibly amused, laughing and asking, "Did you see that?" The footage quickly spread online. A user wrote, "And, she didn't even apologise the moment it happened."

## POWERFUL STORM TRIGGERS TORNADOES, FATAL CRASHES, AND WILDFIRES ACROSS CENTRAL US

**Diary Times Desk :** A powerful storm system swept across the central US on Friday, causing deadly crashes, tornadoes, and extensive damage. The storm triggered over 100 wildfires, evacuation orders, and severe tornadoes in Missouri and Arkansas, with fatalities reported in Texas due to dangerous conditions. In Oklahoma, nearly 150 wildfires were reported, and gusty winds led to vehicle accidents, including overturned tractor-trailers. The situation remains critical, with further tornado threats predicted for Saturday. "This is terrible out here," Charles Daniel, a truck driver hauling a 48-foot trailer, told CBS News of the high winds whipping up dust. "There's a lot of sand and dirt in the air. I'm not pushing it over 55 mph. I'm scared it will blow over if I do." According to CNN, governors of Alabama, Kansas and Missouri have issued emergency declarations due to the threat of severe weather and fires. Winds greater than 80 mph whipped across the Southern Plains.

## BALUCH REBELS CLAIM THEY KILLED 214 ARMY HOSTAGES, BLAME PAK'S 'STUBBORNNESS'

**Diary Times Desk :** The Baloch insurgents who hijacked a Pakistani passenger train claimed to have killed all the 214 military hostages as their 48-hour deadline for a deal to swap them with Baloch political prisoners ended on Friday. The Baloch Liberation Army, which rejected the Pakistani army's claim that the siege had ended, said the government's "stubbornness" in not heeding its ultimatum forced their hand. On Wednesday, the militants gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to release Baloch political prisoners and activists who it claimed were abducted by the Pakistani military in exchange for the hostages. "However, Pakistan, displaying its traditional stubbornness and military arrogance, not only avoided serious negotiations but also turned a blind eye to the ground realities. As a result of this stubbornness, all 214 hostages have been executed," the BLA said in a statement.

## MILITARY CHIEFS TO MEET, DISCUSS PLANS FOR UKRAINE PEACEKEEPING FORCE: UK PM



**Diary Times Desk :** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Saturday said military chiefs would meet in the UK on Thursday to discuss plans for a peacekeeping force in Ukraine to protect any eventual ceasefire. "We agreed to accelerate our practical work to support a potential deal, so we will now move into an operational phase," Starmer said after hosting a virtual meeting of some 25 fellow leaders. In a statement released by Starmer's Downing Street office, he added: "We agreed that now the ball was in Russia's court." "President Putin must prove he is serious about peace, and sign up to a ceasefire on equal terms. The Kremlin's dithering and delay over President Trump's ceasefire proposal, and Russia's continued barbaric attacks on Ukraine, run entirely counter to President Putin's stated desire for peace."

## POPE FRANCIS SIGNALS HE WILL CONTINUE, STARTS PROCESS FOR CATHOLIC REFORMS

**Diary Times Desk :** Pope Francis approved a new three-year process to consider reforms for the global Catholic Church, the Vatican said on Saturday, in a sign the 88-year-old pontiff plans to continue on as pope despite his ongoing battle with double pneumonia. Francis has extended the work of the Synod of Bishops, a signature initiative of his 12-year papacy, which has discussed reforms such as the possibility of women serving as Catholic deacons and better inclusion of LGBTQ people in the Church. The synod, which held an inconclusive Vatican summit of bishops on the future of the Church last October, will now hold consultations with Catholics across the world for the next three years, before hosting a new summit in 2028. Francis approved the new process for reforms on Tuesday from Rome's Gemelli hospital, where he is being treated, the Vatican said on Saturday. The pope has been in hospital for more than a month and his prolonged public absence has stoked speculation that he could choose to follow his predecessor Benedict XVI and resign the papacy.

## HOW IRAN IS USING DRONES, APPS TO CATCH WOMEN WITHOUT HIJABS

**Diary Times Desk :** Iran has significantly escalated its efforts to enforce mandatory hijab laws on women, leveraging cutting-edge technology to monitor and punish those who defy the strict dress code. A recent United Nations report sheds light on the alarming extent of Iran's reliance on technology to surveil and control women's behavior. At the heart of this crackdown is the "Nazer" mobile application, a government-backed tool that empowers citizens and law enforcement to report women for alleged violations of the hijab law. This app enables users to upload crucial information, including license plate numbers, locations, and times, which is then used to "flag" vehicles online and alert the authorities. The report reveals that the app also triggers a text message to the registered owner of the vehicle, warning them of the violation and threatening to impound their vehicle if they ignore the warnings. This intrusive surveillance mechanism has been expanded to target women in ambulances, taxis, and public transport, further eroding their freedom and autonomy. In addition to the "Nazer" app, Iranian authorities have deployed aerial drones in Tehran and southern Iran to monitor public spaces and enforce hijab compliance. Facial recognition software has also been installed at the entrance gate of Amirkabir University in Tehran to surveil women students and ensure their adherence to the strict dress code.

## INDIAN STUDENT SELF- DEPORTS AFTER US REVOKES VISA FOR "SUPPORTING" HAMAS

**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian student studying at Columbia University in the US has self-deported themselves from the country, days after their student visa was revoked for participating in pro-Palestine protests. According to the US Department of Homeland Security, Ranjani Srinivasan's visa was revoked on March 5 for "advocating violence and terrorism". Ranjani Srinivasan was involved in activities supporting Hamas, a terrorist organisation. On March 5, 2025, the Department of State revoked her visa. The Department of Homeland Security has obtained video footage of her using the Customs and Border Protection (CPB) agency app to self-deport on March 11," it said in a statement. Self-deporting, or leaving voluntarily before authorities take action, avoids the risk of one being put on a US military aircraft and sent home like the deportees who recently arrived in India.



## POLICE ARREST 3 ACCUSED IN SHIV SENA LEADER'S MURDER CASE

**Diary Times Desk** : Moga police has arrested three accused involved in the murder of Mangat Ram alias Manga, the Moga district president of Shiv Sena Bal Thackeray (Shinda Group), following an encounter in Muktsar district. The arrests came 36 hours after the killing, which took place on Thursday evening in Moga. Following the murder, the police had registered a criminal case under Sections 103(1), 191(3), 190 of the BNS, and 25, 27/54/59 of the Arms Act against several individuals, including Sikander, Virender, Jagga, Sahil Kumar alias Lambi, Arun Singla of Mohalla Angadpura, and Shankar alias Rajput alias Sahil of Mata Wala Vehra, Ward No. 23, Moga. Police claimed that during the investigation, a video uploaded on an Instagram account was discovered, in which three youths were seen claiming responsibility for the murder. Among them, one suspect, Arun alias Singha, had already been named in seven FIRs across Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Two other suspects were identified as Arun alias Deepu and Rajvir Singh alias Lafu. Both the accused were also found to be facing multiple criminal cases in Muktsar, Ludhiana and Moga districts.



## 3 OPERATIVES OF RINDA TERROR MODULE HELD IN PUNJAB'S MOHALI

**Diary Times Desk** : The State Special Operation Cell (SSOC), Mohali, arrested three operatives of a terror module being run by Pakistan-based BKL terrorist Harvinder Singh alias Rinda, on Saturday. The accused have been identified as Jagjit Singh alias Jaggi of Nanded, co-accused in multiple criminal cases in Maharashtra, Shubham Khelbude of Nanded, and Gurdeep Singh alias Deepa of Nurpur Bedi, Rupnagar. Police said Jagjit allegedly played a critical role in facilitating logistics, safehouses, and coordination for the shooters involved in the Nanded murder case on February 10. One pistol with 8 live cartridges and one pump-action gun with 15 live cartridges were also recovered. Investigations have also uncovered the role of jailed gangster Dilpreet Baba, an old associate of Rinda, who arranged shelters in Punjab for the accused, said officials. A case has been registered at SSOC, Mohali police station and further investigations are underway.

## 3 KILLED IN SEPARATE ROAD MISHAPS; FATHER, DAUGHTER ELECTROCUTED IN PANIPAT

**Diary Times Desk** : Three persons were killed in two separate accidents in Panipat on Holi on Friday, while a man and his daughter were electrocuted in the city on Saturday. The police handed over the dead bodies of the deceased to their relatives after postmortem examination. Kuldeep, of Meharana village, reported to the Madlauda police that his brother Anoop, along with Jagdeep, was riding a motorcycle on their way to Urlana village. Kuldeep, along with Ramsharan (Jagdeep's brother-in-law), was on another motorcycle. As they reached Adiana village road after crossing Madlauda, a speeding white car came from behind and hit Anoop's motorcycle. Anoop and Jagdeep fell on the road. The car driver stopped the car briefly but then managed to flee the scene. Both Jagdeep Singh (40) and Anoop Singh (38) died at the scene. Both worked as electricians in a spinning mill. The police registered a case and began an investigation.

## DAMDAMI TAKSAL LED 'PANTHIC' LEADERS REJECT SGPC'S TAKHT JATHEDAR APPOINTMENTS

**Diary Times Desk** : The Damdami Taksal-sponsored "Panthic Ekath" (congregation) held in Sri Anandpur Sahib on Friday, in a resounding show of unity, has outrightly rejected the newly appointed Takht Jathedars and demanded the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to "undo" its executive's decision. The Taksal maintains that this decision does not align with Panthic traditions and sentiments. This development comes two days after Giani Kuldeep Singh asserted he would step down if the "Panth" (Sikh community) found shortcomings in his leadership. The Sikh seminary Damdami Taksal, headed by Harnam Singh Khalsa "Dhuma," had called for a "Panthic congregation" at Sri Anandpur Sahib on Friday. Representatives of various Sikh organisations, Sant Samaj, and Nihang Singh Jathebandis attended the event to express their "joint dissent" against the SGPC's "arbitrary" removal of Takht Jathedars and new appointments, claiming they were made in violation of Sikh principles, "maryada," and traditions.

## DESPITE VARIOUS SCHEMES, PUNJAB GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OWE RS 2,324 CRORE TO PSPCL

**Diary Times Desk** : Despite the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) recovering around Rs 363 crore in December 2024 from some government departments, the PSPCL's defaulting amount in 2025 is still high at Rs 2,324 crore. While the PSPCL has been raising loans to meet its important expenditures, four state government departments collectively owe 91.7 per cent of total defaulting amount, as per the data compiled till January 31. The four main defaulter departments that have failed to clear the dues are water supply and sanitation (Rs 957 crore), local government (Rs 698 crore), rural development and panchayat (Rs 340 crore) and health and family welfare (Rs 107 crore). Four other defaulter departments – sewerage board (Rs 54 crore), home affairs (Rs 23 crore), public works (Rs 23 crore) and school education (Rs 21 crore) – collectively owe Rs 121 crore. The populist free power subsidy scheme and delayed payments in lieu of that has forced the cash-strapped PSPCL to seek repeated loans to meet expenses and delay salaries and pension. Last year, the Punjab State Electricity Board Engineers' Association (PSEBEA) – one of the largest bodies of power engineers – had also asked Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) to take suo motu notice regarding pending payments by the state government and its departments.

## SUV FALLS INTO WESTERN YAMUNA CANAL, TWO DEAD

**Diary Times Desk** : An SUV plunged into the Western Yamuna Canal near Dhanora village in Indri block late Friday night, resulting in the deaths of two people travelling in the vehicle. The deceased have been identified as Dalbir (50) and Sandeep (37), both residents of Bhopa Sadhaura. The incident took place around 11 pm on Friday when the two were returning to their village. After receiving information, the police reached the spot and launched a search operation with the help of divers, who retrieved both bodies from the canal. The police sent the bodies for postmortem. Eyewitnesses and local residents claim that the accident occurred due to the bridge being congested and lacking proper railings. They also blamed poor road conditions for the mishap. The car became uncontrollable after hitting a pothole and fell into the canal. This has happened multiple times before, but despite repeated complaints, the administration has not taken any action," said a local villager. Resentment prevailed among locals as no political leader from the ruling party or senior officials visited the site. "No leaders or officials have come here, even though similar incidents have been reported in the past," said another resident.

## 'WILL BLACKLIST...': PWD MINISTER PARVESH VERMA WARNS OFFICIALS, CONTRACTORS

**Diary Times Desk** : Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma on Saturday issued strict instructions to the department officials and contractors to maintain the quality of work while building roads in the city. We are building roads and drainage systems that will last for years. If any compromise in quality is found, the contractor will be blacklisted, and the responsible officials will be suspended," Verma said, while inspecting the Rohtak Road that connects Delhi with Haryana. Notably, the Rohtak Road has been in poor condition for the past some time, and residents have lodged multiple complaints with the authorities in this regard. Taking note of their complaints, the Minister had recently transferred the road's construction responsibility from the Public Works Department (PWD) to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The condition of Rohtak Road was extremely bad, and people often complained that no government representative ever visited. Now, drainage work has started, and the entire road has been handed over to NHAI.

## LOCALS REPRIMAND BIKER FROM PUNJAB DISPLAYING KHALISTANI FLAG IN MANALI

**Diary Times Desk :** A biker from Punjab, displaying a Khalistani flag featuring a photo of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, faced reprimand from locals in Manali on Saturday. The agitated residents removed the flag from the wooden mast attached to the motorcycle. The incident, captured on video, has sparked widespread criticism, with many condemning it as an anti-national act. Manali Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) KD Sharma confirmed that action had been taken against the biker under the Motor Vehicles Act. In a separate incident, a group of tourists from Punjab, riding approximately 20 motorcycles, caused a commotion at SADA barrier in Kasol, located in Manikaran Valley of Kullu. The barrier, which charges a nominal fee for maintenance of the region, became a point of contention as the visitors reportedly refused to pay. The situation escalated when they broke the barrier and proceeded to Manikaran. Kullu SP Karthikeyan Gokulachandran stated that a case has been registered against the group.

## YOUTH ATTACKED WITH SWORD IN MANIKARAN

**Diary Times Desk :** A tourist from Punjab reportedly attacked a youth with a sword in Manikaran valley of Kullu today. Allegedly, the accused attacked the youth for being asked to remove the Khalistan flag on his motorcycle. A video of the incident has gone viral, showing the injured youth bleeding from a head wound. The incident caused significant commotion, with locals blocking roads in protest and demanding immediate action against the hooliganism by some visitors from Punjab. On March 5, 2023, over 100 miscreants from Punjab reportedly rioted in Manikaran, vandalising around 20 vehicles and creating panic at night. Two individuals from Punjab were later arrested in connection with the incident. Earlier that day, approximately 100 motorcyclists from Punjab caused a disturbance at the Green Tax Barrier in Manali, engaging in an altercation with staff over the payment of the green tax. Locals have expressed growing frustration with such behaviour. They said visitors from Punjab travel in large groups on motorcycles, and some are accused of brandishing Khalistan flags.

## TRILOK JAMWAL, BJP BILASPUR MLA, GIVING POLITICAL PATRONAGE TO 'CHITTA' SMUGGLERS, ALLEGES BUMBER THAKUR

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Bilaspur Congress leader Bumber Thakur, who was shot at by miscreants at his home during Holi celebrations on Friday, claimed that he had been attacked by "chitta" (heroin) smugglers for speaking out against drug abuse in Bilaspur. While giving interviews to media at Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Shimla, where he is being treated for a bullet wound, Thakur alleged that Trilok Jamwal, the BJP MLA from Bilaspur, had given political patronage to these "chitta" smugglers. Rejecting the allegations, Jamwal said the assault was the result of a gang war that had started under the current government in Bilaspur. "We condemn the incident and do not want to play politics over the issue, but wasn't Bumber Thakur's son in jail for two months in connection with firing in the court complex?" Jamwal said. "If the attackers are not arrested by tomorrow, we will have a 'bandh' (shutdown) in Bilaspur on Monday," he said. Meanwhile, Thakur urged Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to take immediate action as the attackers pose a threat to his own life and his family.



## 'I HAD DREAMS THAT I WOULD LIVE TO BE 110 YEARS OR MORE': DALAI LAMA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Dalai Lama, while delivering teachings at his main temple in Mcleodganj on Saturday, said that he had dreams of living to be 110 years or more. This came after he said in his latest book that he would reincarnate outside of China. The Dalai Lama today concluded his two-day teaching to celebrate the Day of Miracles, when Buddha performed miracles at Shravasti in response to a challenge from six rival spiritual leaders. The celebrations were attended by about 6,000 people. The Dalai Lama said that this event is part of the Great Prayer Festival (the Mönlam Chenmo), established by Jé Tsongkhapa at the Jokhang in Lhasa in 1409. He added that after some time the celebration lapsed, but was revived during the time of Gendun Gyatso, the 2nd Dalai Lama, and has continued to be observed to this day. The Dalai Lama shared a personal experience, saying, "On one occasion, I saw the Buddha in the centre of the space in front of me. He beckoned to me, so I approached him. He seemed very pleased with me, but I was very conscious of not having anything to give him other than a small chocolate sweet, which I offered. I feel that having dreams of the Buddha like this shows that I am sincere disciple of the Buddha."

## AVALANCHE ALERT ISSUED FOR HIGH-ALTITUDE AREAS IN 4 HIMACHAL DISTRICTS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Met office here has issued an avalanche alert for some high-altitude areas in Himachal Pradesh for the next 24 hours. It has also predicted a wet spell in the state till Thursday, barring Tuesday. The Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment, Chandigarh, issued an orange alert on Saturday, with the possibility of avalanches in high-altitude areas of Chamba, Kullu, Kinnaur, and Lahaul and Spiti districts in the next 24 hours. Parts of the state witnessed light snow since Friday evening. Gondla received 8 cm of snow, Kukumseri 4.2 cm and Kalpa 2 cm. Snowfall since February 26 has made life tough for tribals of the Pangi valley in Chamba district. With the closure of roads, the villagers have been forced to carry the sick to hospital on palanquins. It was reported that on Friday, Sham Singh, a patient from Punto village, was taken to Civil Hospital in Killar on a palanquin. Earlier, villagers from Hudan panchayat had carried two patients, Sher Singh and Hira Lal, to the hospital on their backs. Intermittent rain has lashed several places in the state.

## 'MY FAMILY NEEDS PROTECTION': HIMACHAL CONGRESS EX-MLA SAYS DRUG TRAFFICKERS SHOT AT HIM, ALLEGES LOCAL LEADERS INVOLVED

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh, former Congress MLA Bumber Thakur, who was hospitalised after being shot at his home in Bilaspur on Holi, said the attack was the work of "drug traffickers." Thakur, who is recovering at the IGMC Shimla Hospital, told ANI, "Drug traffickers shot at me, it is their work." Thakur further alleged that local leaders were protecting these drug smugglers. The former MLA claimed that these leaders had even tried to involve his sons in drugs, but his son managed to extricate himself from the situation. "Local leaders and drug smugglers in Bilaspur have become akin to major power brokers. Their properties should be confiscated, and they should face the death penalty," Thakur said. "I feel that my family is under threat from these drug traffickers and leaders. I am once again demanding security from the Chief Minister. Although I have been provided security, my family also needs protection. I have applied for a personal arms license with the Home Department, which is still pending with the Home Secretary. Had I been armed, I might have been able to save myself. I urge the Chief Minister to expedite this clearance," he said.



## ROHIT SHARMA'S CAPTAINCY CALL ALREADY TAKEN BY BCCI BEFORE ENGLAND TESTS? "HE HAS..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Rohit Sharma is likely to remain captain for the upcoming Test series against England after India's brilliant victory at the Champions Trophy 2025. Under Rohit's leadership, the team won all the matches in the competition to clinch the title with a victory over New Zealand in the final. Following a disastrous outing in the Test series against Australia where he scored just 31 runs in 3 matches, there were questions over Rohit's future as skipper. However, according to Indian Express, the Champions Trophy win has prolonged Rohit's career and he now has the backing of BCCI when it comes to captaincy. "He has shown what he can do. Every stakeholder feels that he is the right candidate to lead the Indian side for the tour of England. Rohit too has expressed his eagerness to keep playing red-ball cricket," a source told the Indian Express. Meanwhile, Ricky Ponting said that while Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's experience was the backbone of India's ICC Champions Trophy 2025 success, they had superlative support from their all-rounders, according to the official website of the ICC. Ponting stated in ICC Review, "Their all-rounders right through the tournament were outstanding," as quoted from the official website of ICC.



## NITISH REDDY CLEARED TO JOIN SRH SQUAD AFTER RECOVERING FROM SIDE STRAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Nitish Kumar Reddy has been cleared by the medical team at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru to feature in IPL 2025 from Sunrisers Hyderabad's first fixture - on the second day of competition, March 23, at home against Rajasthan Royals. Nitish is expected to link up with the SRH squad at their pre-tournament camp, which begins on Sunday. A yo-yo test on Saturday morning was the final box Nitish had to tick before returning to action after going through the usual recovery procedure from a side strain that he picked up during the T20I series against England last month. His score was 18; the pass score is 16.5. Nitish featured in a practice game on Friday, where he is understood to have bowled full tilt without any discomfort. The BCCI medical panel had handled Nitish with caution: his rehab took a fortnight longer than the three weeks originally forecast. Nitish remains central to the India team management's Test plans, with a tour of England to follow soon after the IPL season ends in late May. SRH retained five players ahead of the mega auction late last year, and Nitish was one of them. He had a breakout IPL 2024, where he made 303 runs at a strike rate of 142.92. His bowling wasn't as impressive.

## VIRAT KOHLI'S CHEEKY COMMENT ON T20I RETIREMENT U-TURN: "IF INDIA..."

**Diary Times Desk :** Star India batter Virat Kohli on a lighter note has said he could come out of his T20I retirement, but there is a catch. Kohli announced his retirement from the format after the T20 World Cup final, which India won after beating South Africa in Barbados. However, Kohli, in a lighter vein, said he "might just" come out of retirement for one game if India reach the final of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics men's cricket event. For the unversed, cricket will make its return to Olympics after a gap of 128 years at the 2028 Summer Games. "For Olympics? no. If we are playing for a gold medal, I just might sneak in for one game, win a medal, and then return home," Kohli said on the sidelines of Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit, powered by Leaders. Kohli, 36, is one of the fittest cricketers in the world. However, when he first burst on to the scene, Kohli was a chubby teenager. Speaking on what inspired him to embark on his fitness journey, Kohli said the change came after his initial struggles in international cricket. My transformations came after a few tough tours when I saw the guys lasting on the field longer than us. From the team point of view things were not tough but convincing my mum was tough. She thought I was looking sick. I told her that the world is talking about my training methods.

## THIS IS A YOUNG TEAM, AND WE WANT TO PLAY FEARLESS CRICKET: SALMAN AGHA

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan will play a five-match T-20 series in New Zealand, followed by three ODI matches. The series will begin with the T-20 series on March 16 at Christchurch Hagley Oval. Salman Agha, Pakistan's newly appointed T20I captain, has highlighted the necessity of enhancing their mindset and strategy and the importance of playing "fearless" and "high-risk cricket." For repeatedly questioning the strike rate in T-20 cricket, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan are out altogether, eying the T-20 World Cup next year. Saim Ayub is still out due to his injury. Pakistan has a very new team for this series, so it will be difficult for them to play against the CT 2025 runner-ups. New Zealand will also be missing a few key players due to IPL 2025. Fast bowler Matt Henry rejoins the squad after being absent for the Champions Trophy final versus India in Dubai. In the fast bowling lineup, Will O'Rourke and Kyle Jamieson will participate in the initial three matches as Kane Williamson has decided to skip the series.



## 'I MESSAGED GAUTAM GAMBHIR FEW TIMES AND...': DWAYNE BRAVO LEANING ON 2024'S 'SUCCESSFUL FORMULA' FOR KKR

**Diary Times Desk :** Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) mentor Dwayne Bravo admitted to texting India head coach Gautam Gambhir on a few occasions to know more about the "successful formula" the latter managed to create last season to guide the franchise to their third Indian Premier League (IPL) title win. For the uninitiated, Bravo replaced Gambhir as the mentor after the latter took up the role at India's senior men's side. Gautam Gambhir returned to the franchise last season, and his addition to the support staff paid off instantly. He, along with Shreyas Iyer, managed to break the jinx for the franchise, winning the third title after 2012 and 2014. The former India opening batter had captained the team to title wins earlier. KKR has a completely different setup this season. Ajinkya Rahane will lead the side, with Venkatesh Iyer serving as his deputy. Shreyas Iyer has gone to Punjab Kings, and the franchise will also be without Phil Salt and Mitchell Starc. Unfortunately, we lost some players. But I think GG had his style. I have my style. We're both successful in our own ways.

## SAUDI ARABIA PLANS GLOBAL T20 CRICKET LEAGUE WITH \$500 MILLION INVESTMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** A new global Twenty20 cricket league, backed by Saudi Arabia's SRJ Sports Investments, is in the works and could mark one of the most significant changes to the sport in decades. The league is being spearheaded by Australian cricket figure Neil Maxwell and has been in development for over a year, according to The Sydney Morning Herald. The proposed eight-team league is inspired by tennis' Grand Slams, with matches set to be played in four different locations worldwide each year. Saudi Arabia is expected to inject \$500 million (AU\$800 million) into the project, making it the league's largest financial backer. Discussions are ongoing with the International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's global governing body. Maxwell, a former NSW and Victoria all-rounder who now manages Australian captain Pat Cummins, has been a key force behind the proposal. He has worked closely with the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) to develop the league as a new revenue stream that could help sustain Test Cricket beyond the dominant markets of India, Australia, and England. The Saudi government has been aggressively expanding its presence in global sports, investing heavily in LIV Golf, Formula 1.