

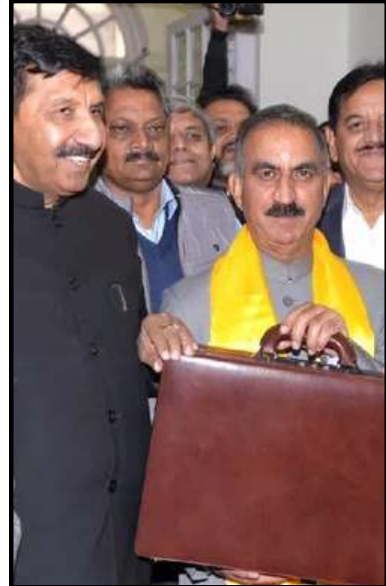
HIMACHAL BUDGET 2025

CM PRESENTED A BUDGET OF RS 58,514 CRORE, ANNOUNCED 10 NEW SCHEMES

Diary Times Desk : In the budget of Himachal, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has given a gift to every section by showering happiness. The CM on Monday presented a budget of Rs 58,514 crore for the financial year 2025-26.

- The size of the budget is only Rs 70 crore more than the current financial year. Despite limited resources, the government has taken care of all sections including employees-pensioners, youth, women, farmers-animal herders, businessmen and public representatives in the budget. It has been announced to give three percent dearness allowance (DA) to the employees and the pending arrears of revised pay scale to pensioners of 70 to 75 years from May 15.
- Announcement has also been made to **increase the honorarium of temporary workers** like Anganwadi workers-helpers, Asha workers, mid-day meal workers, water guards, pump operators, watchmen, sewing teachers, multi-purpose workers, SMC teachers, IT teachers and outsourced workers.
- Along with **starting ten new schemes**, the daily wages of daily wage earners and MNREGA workers have also been increased. With a focus on self-employment, it has also been announced to provide 25 thousand government jobs in the next financial year.
- **A new home stay policy** will be introduced to promote tourism along with incentives to small traders. In the budget speech of about three hours (from 11 am to 1:55 pm), it was announced to bring 37 thousand new people under the ambit of social security pension.
- Taking forward the **third guarantee of Congress**, it was also announced to give Rs 1,500 per month to young women who complete 21 years between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2026, women working in other people's houses, their daughters and daughters of widows.

To strengthen the economy of farmers, announcements were made like giving minimum support price for growing turmeric in a natural way, opening a potato processing unit in Una, running drone taxis. While giving relief to industries, the CM said that electricity subsidy will be given at the rate of 40 paise per unit. The Chief Minister announced to start ten new schemes and to form a board to deal with drug addiction and another board to solve the problems of industries. He said that an act will be brought to crack down on organized crime and illegal activities.



ANURAG THAKUR

CONGRESS' BUDGET IS DIRECTIONLESS AND FULL OF EMPTY PROMISES: ANURAG SINGH THAKUR



Diary Times Desk : Former Union Minister and MP Anurag Singh Thakur has termed the budget presented by the Congress government of Himachal as directionless and a box of hollow promises. In the press release issued, Anurag Singh Thakur said that the Chief Minister has only completed formalities in the name of budget. Along with presenting the budget, the Chief Minister should also tell that after imposing economic emergency in the state, from where will he bring the money to fulfill these announcements. In the name of presenting the budget, the Congress government has once again deceived the people of Himachal. The Congress government seems to be running away from responsibilities by leaving Himachal completely at the mercy of the central government. The Chief Minister spoke about the DA of the employees but he remained silent about the previous installments. The Chief Minister could not say anything even on the sixth pay commission, while the Chief Minister has considered it better to maintain silence on the interests of PD Multi Task Worker, Veterinary Assistant, Chowkidar, MDM Worker. While asking questions, he said that what provision has been made in this budget to fulfill the promises and guarantees that the Congress had made to the people.

CHINA MIRRORS PM MODI'S OPTIMISM ON BILATERAL TIES, CITES 'ELEPHANT-DRAGON BALLETT' AS SOLE OPTION

PAKISTAN TERMS AS 'MISLEADING AND ONE-SIDED' MODI'S REMARKS ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Diary Times Desk : China has mirrored Prime Minister Narendra Modi's positive stance on restoring Sino-India relations, emphasising that a harmonious "ballet" between the elephant and dragon is the sole viable option for both nations. In a recent podcast with Lex Fridman, PM Modi expressed optimism about the restoration of ties between India and China. China appreciated Modi's remarks, noting that a cooperative pas de deux between the two nations is essential for global stability and prosperity. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning highlighted the 2,000-plus years of friendly exchanges and mutual learning between India and China, contributing to civilisational achievements and human progress. She added that a successful meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of BRICS Summit in Russia's Kazan provided strategic guidance for the improvement and development of bilateral ties. PM Modi emphasised that India-China cooperation benefits not only the two nations but also the world. He noted that the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has normalised, and both countries are working to restore the pre-2020 status along the border. Speaking to Fridman, Modi said, "The 21st century is the Asian century."



Diary Times Desk : Pakistan on Monday rejected as "misleading and one-sided" the remarks made on Jammu and Kashmir by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a podcast. The Indian leader said during the interview with American podcaster Lex Fridman on Sunday that "every attempt to foster peace with Pakistan was met with hostility and betrayal" and that he hoped that "wisdom would prevail on the leadership in Islamabad to improve bilateral ties". Pakistan Foreign Office issued a statement in response to media queries regarding the remarks made by Modi and rejected his assertions. The remarks are misleading and one-sided. They conveniently omit the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which remains unresolved for the last seven decades despite India's solemn assurances to the United Nations, Pakistan and the Kashmiri people," according to the statement. It alleged that India was involved in fomenting trouble on Pakistani soil.

MANIPUR ETHNIC VIOLENCE CASES WILL BE TRIED IN GUWAHATI, SAYS SUPREME COURT



Diary Times Desk : The trial of Manipur ethnic violence cases probed by the CBI would be conducted in Guwahati, where it has already been transferred to, the Supreme Court said on Monday. "We clarify that the trial of transferred cases will be held before the courts at Guwahati," a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna said after noting the submissions of a lawyer over the fate of the trial in the cases were transferred to Guwahati for pre-trial proceedings by the top court on August 25, 2023. The Bench also extended the tenure of a panel headed by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal till July 31 and posted the matter for further hearing in the week of July 21. The top court had set up the panel, which also included former Bombay High Court judge Shalini P Joshi and former Delhi High Court judge Asha Menon, on August 7, 2023, to oversee relief and rehabilitation of the victims of ethnic violence in the state. Keeping in mind the "overall environment in Manipur and the need for ensuring a fair process of criminal justice administration", the top court transferred to Assam, 27 cases, having various offences, including the sexual assault case of the two women seen in a viral video being paraded naked.

INDIA, NEW ZEALAND TO LAUNCH FREE TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AIM FOR 2025 DEAL

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India and New Zealand have decided to start detailed negotiations on a mutually beneficial free trade agreement (FTA). Announcing this after holding talks with his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon in New Delhi, Modi said the agreement is expected by the end of 2025. The development assumes significance as India's exports to New Zealand are aggregated to \$682 million in 2023, while New Zealand's shipments to India totalled \$369 million in the same year, as per the data visualisation platform Observatory of Economic Complexity. External Affairs Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar said free trade agreement is a process which has been initiated, in a time-bound manner. "Perhaps by the end of this year we hope to conclude (the) free trade agreement," he added.



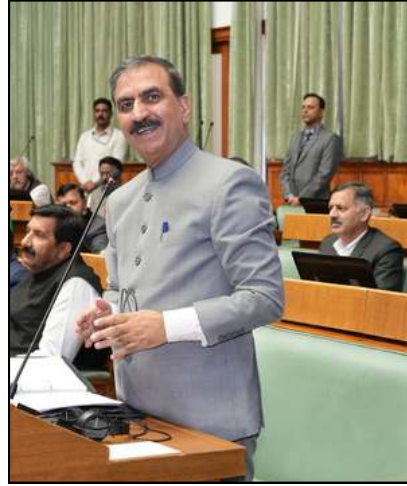
YOUR HOROSCOPE 18-03-2025

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



HIMACHAL PRADESH: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU SAID- STATE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING GUJARAT MODEL FOR APPOINTMENTS

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has said that the state government is studying the Gujarat model for appointments in the government sector. He said that the government is gradually reducing the recruitment of outsourced employees, so that the youth are not exploited. The government is going to bring such a policy that those who want to change the e-vehicle will be able to change it. The CM said this during a press conference after presenting the budget for the financial year 2025-26. Sukhu said that the state will be self-reliant. The money of the public will be distributed among the public. The wealth of the state is in the hands of a few people. The doors of corruption are being closed. He said that no scheme is brought for one year. They are being taken forward in a phased manner. He said that many sections had not asked for an increase in honorarium, but the government took care of them in the budget. At the beginning of his budget speech, the Chief Minister surrounded the previous government, accusing it of economic mismanagement.



HIMACHAL BUDGET 2025: PRATIBHA SINGH SAID- THE BUDGET IS GOING TO MAKE THE STATE SELF-RELIANT

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Congress President Pratibha Singh has described the budget presented in the Assembly as a meaningful step towards making the state self-reliant. Reacting to the budget, Pratibha Singh described it as employment-oriented and development-oriented in the interest of the state and congratulated the Congress government and the people of the state for this. She said that every section of the society has been taken care of in the budget. Rural economy, MNREGA and daily wage workers, increase in the daily wages of outsourced employees, DA installment to employees, relief to farmers and gardeners are commendable decisions. The budget will provide a new direction and speed to the development of the state.

HIMACHAL BUDGET 2025: ANNOUNCEMENT OF 40 PAISE PER UNIT CHEAPER ELECTRICITY TO INDUSTRIES, APPROVAL OF 149 INDUSTRIAL PROPOSALS

Diary Times Desk : In his budget speech, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has announced a subsidy of 40 paise per unit of electricity consumption to provide relief to industries running on supply voltage of 66 kV and above. This subsidy will be given through DNT twice a year in the months of October and March. Last year, the subsidy given to industries was withdrawn at the rate of one rupee per unit. In the year 2024-2025, 149 industrial proposals were given in-principle approval. An investment of Rs 3 thousand 84 crore will be made in this. 15 thousand people will get employment in these. The CM said that fundamental changes will be made in the industrial policy of the state during 2025-2026. All formalities for investors will be kept at the minimum level. All necessary clearances will be given within 2 months. The government will play the role of enabler in creating a friendly environment for investors.

HIMACHAL BUDGET 2025: ANNOUNCEMENT TO SPEND RS 345 CRORE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 6 ROADS AND BRIDGES

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has announced in his budget speech that Rs 345 crore will be spent for the construction of 6 roads and bridges. These include Navgaon-Beri, Sujampur-Tehra, Sandhol, Hawal-Hadsar-Dehri-Panalth-Dhar Jarot-Nagrota Surian-Bariyal-Dehra-Jwali and bridge over Gaj Khad, Bakhrot-Karsog-Sanarali-Sainj, Tikkar Jarol-Ghan-Nankhari-Khamadi, Kufri-Chail etc. The Chief Minister has also obtained approval for projects of 50 roads and bridges at a cost of Rs 498 crore 62 lakh under NABARD. E-tender has been made effective for purchase in all works. In this, the period of publication of tenders has been reduced from 14 days to 7 days. The total time for awarding works, which was earlier an average of 37 days, has now been reduced to 12 days, which will speed up work allocation and execution. A provision of Rs 100 crore has been made under the Chief Minister Road Scheme for the year 2025-2026. The matter of the proposed airport in Balh will be raised before the Airports Authority of India. The government will spend Rs 3,000 crore on the expansion of Gaggal Airport in Kangra. At the same time, the matter will be raised before the Airports Authority of India for further action regarding the proposed airport in Balh, Mandi.

HIMACHAL BUDGET 2025: DRUG DEPENDENCY CAUTION, DE-ADDICTION AND REHABILITATION BOARD WILL BE FORMED, REHABILITATION CENTERS WILL ALSO OPEN

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal government is concerned about the increasing cases of drug abuse in the state. The government is working seriously to deal with this problem. The CM said that children should be considered victims rather than criminals. The CM said that there is a need to put more emphasis on the rehabilitation of children. The CM has made several announcements for this. A Drug Dependence Caution, De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Board will be formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to prevent drug abuse.

HIMACHAL BUDGET 2025: 500 E-BUSES WILL BE PURCHASED TO PROMOTE GREEN TRANSPORT, CHARGING STATIONS WILL ALSO BE BUILT

Diary Times Desk : To promote green transport in Himachal Pradesh, the government will buy 500 new e-buses. New charging stations will also be built for charging these buses. HRTC has started the facility of making online bus passes in Shimla city, this facility will be started in the entire state. Taradevi-Shimla ropeway project will be started with 1546 crores, whose work will be completed in 4 years. To solve the traffic problem in Shimla city, there is a plan to run luxury vehicles on selected routes for businessmen and tourists, so that the use of private vehicles can be reduced. A provision of 5 crores has been made in the budget for this. The state government is bearing 1150 crores for land acquisition of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur rail expansion project. So far 848 crores have been released. 348 crores have been released for land acquisition of Chandigarh-Baddi rail line.

HIMACHAL BUDGET 2025: 4 TO 5 PERCENT SUBSIDY ON LOAN FOR BUILDING HOMESTAYS AND HOTELS, WILL BE ABLE TO START SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Diary Times Desk : To connect the youth with self-employment and promote tourism in rural areas, the government has launched the Chief Minister Tourism Startup Scheme in the budget. Under this, the youth of the state will be given up to 4 percent interest subsidy on taking loan to build homestays and hotels. The youth of tribal areas will get 5 percent loan subsidy under this scheme. This scheme will provide new employment opportunities along with self-employment for the youth. Along with this, tourism will also be promoted in rural areas. This scheme of the state government has given great relief to the youth looking for self-employment opportunities in the field of tourism. Also, local youth will get employment due to opening of hotels and homestays in rural areas. With this, the youth of the state can become prosperous by running hotels and homestays in their village and district itself. The government believes that instead of the major tourist destinations of the state, people are now preferring to go to rural and such places where they can spend peaceful moments.

HIMACHAL BUDGET: FROM JANUARY 2025 TO MARCH 2026, 21 YEAR OLD DAUGHTERS WILL GET RS 1500 EACH

Diary Times Desk : The CM said that every eligible daughter who attains the age of 21 years between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2026 will be given Rs 1500 every month. Under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana launched by the government, Rs 1500 per month is provided to eligible women in the age group of 18 to 59 years. The government is determined to benefit all the sections deprived of the benefits of the state's wealth. For this purpose, it has been decided to expand this scheme in a phased manner in the coming financial year.

VADODARA CRASH ACCUSED SWAPPED SEATS WITH FRIEND: WHAT NEW FOOTAGE SHOWS

Diary Times Desk : Rakshit Chaurasia, the accused in the Vadodara crash that left a woman dead and seven others injured, may have insisted that he would drive the car and convinced his friend Pranshu to shift to the seat next to the driver, CCTV footage from before the accident has indicated. The 23-year-old law student, who is from Prayagraj and has been studying at MS University, Vadodara, has been arrested and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder after the Volkswagen Virtus sedan driven by him crashed into three vehicles. Hemali Patel (35) died on the spot and seven others were injured. A CCTV camera shows Rakshit and his friend Suresh reach the latter's house on a scooter. Rakshit is seen riding the scooter as Suresh sits pillion. The two reach Suresh's house around 10.30 pm on Thursday and Rakshit parks the scooter. The two then take the stairs to enter Suresh's house. Rakshit is seen holding a bottle in his hand, but it is unclear what it contains. About 15 minutes later, Pranshu Chauhan reaches Suresh's house in the sedan. He parks the car outside and takes the stairs. At 11.25 pm, Rakshit and Pranshu are seen walking down and getting into the car. As Pranshu takes the driving seat, Rakshit walks towards him.

"BALLET DANCE BETWEEN DRAGON, ELEPHANT": CHINA REACTS TO PM MODI'S COMMENTS

Diary Times Desk : The mutual respect between New Delhi and Beijing is openly on display. The latest being Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "positive" remarks on the ties between the two countries, which China has "appreciated", saying that a "dragon-elephant dance" cooperation is the only correct choice for the two neighbours. Let me stress that in the 2000 plus years' history of interactions, the two countries have maintained friendly exchanges" and both the countries learned from each other contributing to civilisational achievements and human progress," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters. The statement follows PM Modi's interaction with US-based podcaster and computer scientist Lex Fridman where he said normalcy has returned to the India-China border after his recent talks with President Xi Jinping to defuse tensions ignited by the 2020 clashes between the two armies in eastern Ladakh. The Prime Minister said that his government is focused on ensuring that differences do not escalate into disputes.

INDIA, NEW ZEALAND DISCUSSED PRO-KHALISTAN ELEMENTS IN BILATERAL TALKS: MEA



Diary Times Desk : India and New Zealand, during their bilateral talks in New Delhi, discussed the matter of Khalistan, said Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar. Addressing a press conference, Mazumdar said that India does alert its friends about the activities of anti-India elements in their countries. "About Khalistan, this was an issue that came up... We do alert our friends to the activities of anti-India elements in their countries and their abuse of freedom of speech and other democratic freedoms to glorify terrorism and to threaten attacks against our diplomats, our parliament or our events in India. So these were also conveyed. The government of New Zealand has been receptive and has taken our concerns on board in the past as well," he said. The remarks came just hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon delivered a joint address and noted their shared concern over terrorism.

AJIT DOVAL HOSTS GLOBAL SPY CHIEFS AT TOP DELHI MEET, FIVE EYES MEMBERS JOIN

Diary Times Desk : In a major step for cooperation on global security, intelligence chiefs and national security advisers of several countries including three members of the Five Eyes alliance have gathered in New Delhi. Besides key meetings, the intel chiefs will attend The Raisina Dialogue - a multilateral conference organised by the Observer Research Foundation and India's Ministry of External Affairs. Five Eyes is an international intelligence alliance comprising the US, UK, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada. The alliance originally evolved from a secret World War II partnership between cypher and code breaking teams from Britain and the United States. Three of the Five Eyes members - US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, UK's National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell and New Zealand's intelligence chief Andrew Hampton - are in New Delhi for the three-day summit, which will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. New Zealand's PM Christopher Luxon is also in New Delhi.

TTD TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION LETTERS FROM TELANGANA PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Diary Times Desk : Amid a row over Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) officials not accepting the darshan requisition letters from public representatives (MLAs & MPs) of Telangana, the board has announced that devotees furnishing the recommendation letters will be allowed VIP darshan from March 24. Devotees relying on letters for VIP break darshan of Lord Sri Venkateshwara Swamy at Tirumala, will be allowed into the shrine only on Monday and Tuesday every week henceforth. Devotees with the recommendation letter for the Rs. 300 special entry darshan will be allowed on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It may be noted that only one recommendation letter per day will be considered on the designated days of the week. A maximum of six devotees will be allowed per letter. The announcement comes following Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's directions.

"HID GOLD WHEREVER SHE HAD...": BJP MLA'S VULGAR REMARKS AGAINST RANYA RAO

Diary Times Desk : A BJP legislator in Karnataka known for his outspoken comments has set off a new controversy with vulgar remarks about Ranya Rao, the Kannada actor facing a gold smuggling probe after being caught at the airport two weeks ago. Basangouda Patil Yatnal, an MLA from Bijapur City, made the remarks over an alleged gold smuggling attempt by the actor and claimed he knew which ministers were involved in the case. Ms Rao was arrested with 14-kg gold bars hidden in her clothing after arriving from Dubai at the Bengaluru airport with preliminary probe hinting at the collusion of airport staff. A video has gone viral showing Mr Yatnal telling reporters that all found guilty must be held accountable. Can someone be defended because they are a central government employee, he asked, referring to a senior IPS officer, the stepfather of the actor. Ramachandra Rao, the DGP-level officer who had denied any link.

HIGH SECURITY AT AURANGZEB TOMB IN SAMBHAJINAGAR AFTER HINDU OUTFIT'S 'BABRI-LIKE FATE' THREAT

Diary Times Desk : Heavy security deployed at Aurangzeb's tomb in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar amid Hindu outfits Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal's have threat of a "Babri Masjid-like fate" if its demand to remove the structure is not met by the state government. Security personnel were seen stationed at the Aurangzeb tomb on Monday. Bajrang Dal members also staged protest in front of Nagpur District Collector's office on Monday over their demand to remove Aurangzeb's tomb. Bajrang Dal leader Nitin Mahajan on Sunday demanded the removal of the tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Maharashtra's Sambhajinagar, warning that if the government does not act, the tomb will face the same fate as the Babri Masjid. The Babri Masjid, a mosque located in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, was demolished on December 6, 1992, by a large group of Hindu activists called 'Kar Sevak'. The demolition was led by VHP, Bajrang Dal and other organisations.



"SIGNIFICANT NUMBER" OF NATIONS CAN SEND PEACEKEEPING TROOPS TO UKRAINE: UK

Diary Times Desk : A "significant number" of countries are willing to provide peacekeeping troops in Ukraine in the event of a peace deal with Russia, a spokesperson for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday. More than 30 countries are expected to be involved in the so-called 'coalition of the willing' to support Ukraine, the spokesperson said. "The contribution capabilities will vary, but this will be a significant force, with a significant number of countries providing troops," the spokesperson told reporters.

RUSSIA REJECTS POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF NATO PEACEKEEPERS IN UKRAINE

Diary Times Desk : Russia has rejected the possible deployment of NATO peacekeepers in Ukraine, suggesting unarmed observers or a civilian monitoring group sent there to oversee a potential peace deal. Discussions on peacekeeping efforts in Ukraine remain premature and should only take place after a formal peace agreement has been reached, said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko in an interview with Russian daily Izvestia on Sunday. Grushko emphasised that NATO's involvement in peacekeeping operations is fundamentally contradictory, Xinhua news agency reported. "NATO and peacekeeping are entirely incompatible. The real history of the alliance consists of military operations and unprovoked aggression to assert its global and regional dominance," he said. He reaffirmed Russia's stance that the deployment of NATO forces in Ukraine — whether under the banner of the EU, NATO, or individual national forces — would effectively place them in the conflict zone, making them direct participants with all the consequences that entail. As a possible alternative, he said that an unarmed observer mission or a civilian monitoring group could be considered to oversee certain aspects of a potential peace deal. "Such mission could ensure compliance with specific provisions and serve as part of a broader guarantee mechanism," he added. "It is because that only through their formation it will be possible to achieve lasting peace in Ukraine and generally strengthen security in the region," he said.

DONALD TRUMP DEPORTS HUNDREDS AS FEDERAL COURT ORDER FAILS TO TURN AROUND PLANES

Diary Times Desk : A US federal judge's order blocking the Donald Trump administration's move to deport hundreds of alleged illegal immigrants under the 1798 Alien Enemies Act failed to yield an immediate result as the verbal instruction to turn the planes around was not specified in a written order. The US government deported over 200 Venezuelans to a sprawling prison in El Salvador. Another aircraft was headed for Honduras. The White House, which has already labelled Tren de Aragua a terrorist organisation, had prepared to transfer about 300 suspected members to detention in El Salvador, AP reported. The Donald Trump administration had agreed to pay El Salvador \$6 million to imprison about 300 alleged members of the gang for one year. US District Judge James E Boasberg was hearing a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and Democracy Forward, which preemptively sued Donald Trump late Friday, saying five Venezuelan men being held at an immigration detention centre in Texas were at "imminent risk of removal" under the Alien Enemies Act.



"TRUMP FOCUSED ON PEACE": US INTEL CHIEF TULSI GABBARD ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR



Diary Times Desk : "The ties between our two countries go very far back. We are continuing to see a strengthening of that partnership and recognizing the mutual interest of both the countries, centred around peace, prosperity, freedom and security. We have two leaders of two great countries who are very good friends and very focused on how we can strengthen the shared objectives and shared interests." "Trump remains very committed to combating and defeating the threat of Islamist terrorism. He redesignated the Houthis in Yemen as a terrorist organisation after Biden took them off the terrorist list." "Trump is also taking action where the previous administration failed. Houthis have been destroying maritime trade and passage for a very long time and no serious effort has been taken to stop that destruction."

BIDEN FACES UNCERTAINTY AS TRUMP DECLARES PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS "NULL, VOID"

Diary Times Desk : Former US President Joe Biden faces uncertainty after his successor Donald Trump has declared that Biden's last-minute presidential pardons, including one to his son Hunter Biden, are "null and void". President Trump said that Joe Biden may not even have been aware of what all was being signed in his name as an autopen was used to sign these documents. President Trump made this announcement on his social media platform Truth Social late on Sunday night. An autopen is a robotic instrument that is used by government officials, including the US President, to sign documents on behalf of the said authority, keeping in mind the sheer volumes of correspondence they have to sign. Such signatures are usually communicated to the person in-charge as they need not necessarily be aware of such signatures. US Presidents have used the autopen for decades. "The 'pardons' that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect Committee of political thugs.

INDIAN GREEN CARD HOLDERS FACING SCRUTINY, EXPULSION THREAT IN US

Diary Times Desk : Strip search, intense interrogation and hawkish scrutiny is what Green Card holders are facing in the US with President Donald Trump walking his talk on immigration policy. A US Green Card was the ticket to a comfortable stay in the US and the closest one could get to being an American citizen without citizenship itself. That doesn't seem to be the case any more, and Indians are among those facing a tough time with American officials, according to multiple reports. One such example is Fabian Schmidt, a German national and Green Card holder, was detained and "violently interrogated" by the US immigration authorities when he returned to the US on March 7, according to a Newsweek report. There's a spike in the number of secondary inspections, including overnight detention, for Green Card holders, including Indians, at airports, according to a report in The Times of India. Top politicians, including US Vice-President JD Vance, have warned that Green Card holders do not have an indefinite right to stay in the US and can be deported at the administration's discretion.

SUNITA WILLIAMS' COUSIN IN INDIA 'SCARED' OVER HER RETURN FROM INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Diary Times Desk : As NASA astronaut Sunita Williams is all set to return to Earth after being stuck on the International Space Station for more than nine months, her cousin back in India on Monday expressed fear over her health. "I may seem happy, but I am scared," he said. Dinesh Rawal, a cousin of NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, told news agency PTI that both of them used to live and study together like one family. He said, "We want her to come back to earth as soon as possible. I may seem happy, but I am scared, we just want her to be back on earth and in sound health." His remarks came in the backdrop of concerns over Williams and her colleague Barry 'Butch' Wilmore's chances of facing significant bodily changes upon their return to Earth after such a long journey. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on Sunday confirmed that Williams and Wilmore will return on Tuesday, March 18, evening (GMT). The two astronauts are flying back home along with a Russian cosmonaut aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon craft, which arrived at the ISS early Sunday. The NASA astronauts duo has been on the space station since June last year after travelling up to space.

SAD LEADER BIKRAM MAJITHIA QUESTIONED FOR 8 HOURS IN DRUGS CASE, SUMMONED AGAIN ON TUESDAY

Diary Times Desk : The Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar today questioned SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia at Patiala Police Lines for over eight hours today. The four-member SIT has again summoned Majithia for another round of questioning on Tuesday. Addressing mediapersons, SIT member Varun Sharma said they are doing professional and scientific investigation, which takes time. "There are four accused in the same FIR, which is under probe, and three of the accused are abroad. We are already in the process to get the accused back to join the probe," he said, adding that the SIT is also probing some "financial transactions related to the case". "Some suspicious financial transactions in some firms is under probe and we are corroborating the same. Certain cash deposits in bank accounts and abnormal rise in assets needs detailed answers," Sharma said. Addressing the media after the SIT questioning, Majithia said he came to answer the questions following the Supreme Court orders. "The Punjab Government wants to ensure that I am put behind bars, but I have full faith in the judiciary," he said.



CHANDIGARH COURT ACQUITS SIX DERA FOLLOWERS IN 2017 RIOTING CASE

Diary Times Desk : A local court in Chandigarh has acquitted six Dera followers who were arrested in connection with an 8-year-old rioting case. The prosecution failed to prove the charges against the accused, who were alleged to have planned violence in Chandigarh after the conviction of Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim in Panchkula. The acquitted individuals include Maninder Singh, Ranjit Kumar, Dharminder, Krishan Pal, Anup Singh, and Sukhwinder Singh. The case dates back to August 25, 2017, when the Chandigarh Police registered an FIR under Sections 147, 148, 149, 188 and 120-B of the IPC, and Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act at the Manimajra police station on the statement of SI Rohit. He said on August 25, 2017, three outer police checkpoints were set up in Chandigarh at Mansa Devi Road, Dhillon Barrier and Housing Board light point to maintain law and order during Ram Rahim's court appearance in Special CBI Court, Panchkula. However, after his conviction was announced, six private security guards, dressed in safari suits, attempted to forcibly enter Chandigarh with a Gypsy vehicle, allegedly intending to incite violence.

'BE HUMBLE': SC CAUTIONS JUDICIAL OFFICERS AGAINST MISCONDUCT, REINSTATES PUNJAB JUDGE

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Monday said judicial officers ought to be humble, polite and exhibit a humane approach after it noted incidents of misconduct towards bar members, litigants, among others. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh made the remarks when ordered the Punjab and Haryana High Court to provisionally reinstate a judicial officer, whose services were terminated after she allegedly misbehaved with the doctors of PGIMER Hospital in Chandigarh. "Institution should be large hearted," the bench said. The top court, however, said the reinstatement of Nazmeen Singh, an officer of Punjab Judicial Services, would be subject to an undertaking, of behaving properly with bar members, to the high court.

"WILL TEACH GOOD LESSON TO ISI...": PUNJAB DGP WARNS PAKISTAN'S INTEL AGENCY

Diary Times Desk : Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav issued a stern warning to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) on Monday, stating that the Punjab Police will teach a good lesson to the ISI and the terrorists and gangsters it supports in the state. The DGP alleged that the ISI is attempting to divert police attention from the ongoing "war against drugs" by orchestrating grenade attacks at police stations and sensitive locations in Punjab. "We will not allow this to happen," Yadav emphasised. To improve policing effectiveness, the tenure of a Munshi at a police station will be limited to two years. Although the DGP did not provide a reason for this decision, police sources suggest it aims to prevent corruption and compromised investigations due to extended stays at one police station. During a press conference, Yadav revealed that the anti-drug campaign has forced drug couriers and smugglers to retreat, resulting in a decline in heroin supply from Pakistan. Intelligence inputs indicate that the campaign's success has rattled the ISI, prompting them to devise strategies to destabilise Punjab and disrupt the anti-drug drive. Yadav assured that the Punjab Police will not allow the ISI to destabilise the state and will ensure severe punishment for those attempting to disturb the peace.

AS STUDY FLAGS DROP IN CROP PRODUCTION DUE TO MICROPLASTICS POLLUTION, IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA

Diary Times Desk : A unique study undertaken by a group of 17 experts has suggested that growing levels of microplastics pollution across the world are adversely affecting photosynthesis – the process by which plants produce food – leading not only to significant decrease in the production of key crops but also to overall ecosystem instability. The study has estimated a global reduction in photosynthesis by 7 to 12 per cent in terrestrial plants and algae resulting in lowering of production by 13.52 per cent for main crops and up to 7.24 percent for global aquatic net primary productivity. "By analysing a comprehensive dataset of 3,286 records, we quantify the reduction in photosynthesis caused by microplastics across various ecosystems. This reduction is estimated to cause an annual loss of 109.73 to 360.87 million metric tons (MT) for crop production and 1.05 to 24.33 MT for seafood production," the researchers state. "These findings underscore the urgency for effective plastic mitigation strategies and provide insights for international researchers and policymakers to safeguard global food supplies in the face of the growing plastic."

CM NAYAB SAINI PRESENTS HARYANA BUDGET, ANNOUNCES NEW DEPT, ANTI-DRUG AUTHORITY

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini proposed Rs 2.05 lakh crore state budget for 2025-26 fiscal, 13.70 per cent up from revised estimates of 2024-25, during the ongoing session of the Haryana Assembly on Monday. In his maiden budget address, the CM revealed that the government had received 11,000 suggestions regarding budget expectations. He said out of the 217 manifesto promises, 19 have already been fulfilled. He also announced the establishment of a new Department of Future, which will focus on exploring future technologies and their potential benefits and utilisation. Additionally, a new authority will be set up to tackle the spread of drugs in the state, he added. The Substance Abuse Narcotics Knowledge Awareness and Liberation Program (SANKALP) Authority was proposed with an initial allocation of Rs 10 crore. CM Saini also proposed to set up Haryana Artificial Intelligence mission with World Bank assistance of Rs 474 crore. Under this mission, AI hubs will be set up in Gurugram and Panchkula.

CONGRESS LEADER SELJA DEMANDS TWO NEW VANDE BHARAT TRAINS FOR HARYANA

Diary Times Desk : During the discussion on demands for grants under the Ministry of Railways for 2025-26 in Parliament on Monday, Congress leader Kumari Selja demanded two new trains for Haryana. "For Haryana, there is a demand for two Vande Bharat trains. One should be started from Delhi to Bikaner and another between Chandigarh and Sirsa via Bathinda," Selja said in Lok Sabha. Vande Bharat Express is a semi-high-speed train developed by Indian Railways for faster, comfortable, and modern travel. The trains are equipped with top-tier amenities and advanced safety features such as Kavach technology, 360-degree rotating seats, accessible toilets for Divyangjan and integrated Braille signages, among many others. Notably, as of March 2025, 66 Vande Bharat trains are in service in the country, which includes 16 sixteen-car services, seven twenty-car services and 43 eight-car services. The Sirsa MP, during the discussion in Parliament, drew the Railway Minister's attention towards the misutilisation of railway land which is being given on lease of 99 years. "I would like to mention Sirsa, where Railway land was given at mere Rs 32 crore, which was further given at Rs 300 crore."

BUMBER THAKUR SHOULD FOCUS ON HIS TREATMENT INSTEAD OF MAKING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED STATEMENTS: JAI RAM THAKUR

Diary Times Desk : BJP legislators on Monday held a protest against the "deteriorating law and order" in the state ahead of the budget presentation. Leading the protest, Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur stated that the assault on former Congress MLA Bumber Thakur was a consequence of the ongoing gang war in Bilaspur, reflecting the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. While condemning the firing incident that left the former MLA injured, Thakur criticised the "political statements" Bumber Thakur had been making from the hospital. "He should focus on his treatment instead of making politically motivated statements," he said. Claiming that the law and order situation had reached its lowest ebb under the Congress government, Thakur alleged that the government had kept the police busy in surveillance of political rivals, thereby contributing to the deterioration of law and order in the state.

FRESH SNOWFALL BLOCKS 124 ROADS IN LAHAUL AND SPITI

Diary Times Desk : Fresh snowfall in Lahaul and Spiti has led to the closure of 124 roads, severely disrupting traffic movement across the region. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the Public Works Department (PWD) have launched snow-clearing operations to restore road connectivity to the affected villages in the district. According to the District Disaster Management Authority, Lahaul and Spiti, 53 roads are located in the Lahaul subdivision, 40 in Udaipur subdivision and 31 in the Spiti subdivision. These road closures have severely impacted local transportation and daily activities as the region is already known for its challenging weather conditions. In addition to the roadblocks, 33 electricity transformers have been disrupted across the district. Of these, 29 transformers are located in Udaipur subdivision, while four are in Spiti subdivision. The ongoing restoration efforts aim to not only clear the roads but also restore essential utilities such as electricity to the affected areas.

HIMACHAL PRESENTS TAX-FREE BUDGET: FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, JOBS

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday presented a tax-free budget of Rs 58,514 crore for the 2025-26 financial year in the Vidhan Sabha, with a focus on strengthening the agrarian economy and improving healthcare facilities. Sukhu, who holds the Finance portfolio, arrived at the assembly to present his third budget, driving his personal Alto car. He read the 98-page budget speech in Hindi, taking two hours and 54 minutes. He announced new schemes in this year's budget, with an emphasis on agriculture and allied sectors and tourism. Sukhu said the total fiscal deficit in 2025-26 is expected to be Rs 10,338 crore, which is 4.04 percent of the state's Gross Domestic Product. The total revenue receipts are estimated to be Rs 42,343 crore, and the total revenue expenditure is projected to be Rs 48,733 crore. The total revenue deficit is estimated to be Rs 6,390 crore.



AKAL TAKHT CONDEMNS VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN LOCALS AND SIKH YOUTH IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Diary Times Desk : Akal Takht has taken strong notice of a violent clash in Himachal Pradesh between local residents and Sikh Punjabi youth, triggered by a dispute over flags bearing the image of 'Sant Jarnail Singh Khalsa Bhindranwale' displayed on their vehicles. Akal Takht officiating Jathedar, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, has directed the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to raise the matter with the Himachal Pradesh government. Jathedar Gargaj also issued an advisory to Sikh youth, urging them to ensure their vehicle documents are in order to avoid complications and to refrain from traveling alone to Himachal Pradesh. "When the police intervened to check the Sikh youth's vehicle documents, there was no reason for local miscreants to reprimand them or raise objections about the flag and the image of Sant Bhindranwale. It is unfortunate that this incident took place in the presence of local police. It was unjustified to question the picture of Sant Bhindranwale," he said. A video from Kullu surfaced, showing locals clashing with the Punjabi youth over the flag. Similar reports indicate another violent altercation occurred in Kullu's Manikaran Valley.

LAW AND ORDER SITUATION HAS COLLAPSED IN STATE: PARMAR

Diary Times Desk : Former Speaker of Himachal Legislative Assembly and BJP MLA Vipin Singh Parmar said today that the Sukhu government has failed to handle law and order situation which has collapsed. Shooting incidents, rape, murders are becoming common in the state which, at one time, was considered the most peaceful state of the country. Due to the failure of the government, an incident of firing on former Congress MLA has come to the fore in Bilaspur. This is not the first time that bullets have been fired in broad daylight in Bilaspur in this manner. Earlier also, a similar incident happened in which no strict action was taken by the police. If the police had taken strict action in time, both the firing incidents would not have happened and such criminal activities would have been curbed, Parmar, BJP in-charge of Kangra-Chamba parliamentary constituency, said in a statement issued here. Parmar said that the government should take strict action in this case so that the criminal elements in the state can be curbed. This matter should be investigated thoroughly and action taken under the law against the guilty. T

US APPLE MAY UPSET HP CART, FEAR ORCHARDISTS

Diary Times Desk : Apple growers are deeply concerned about the US demand to reduce tariffs on American goods, including agricultural products. They are urging the government not to lower the import duty on Washington apples, as it would severely harm local producers. The import duty on Washington apples was already reduced from 70 per cent to 50 per cent in 2023, and any further reduction could significantly shrink the market for premium domestic apples. Local growers view the high-quality and uniformly-sized Washington apples as a major threat. They fear that further reducing the import duty could flood the Indian market with imported produce. A look at the data shows their concerns are well-founded. In 2018-19, before the government raised the import duty from 50 per cent to 70 per cent, apple imports from the US stood at around 1.28 lakh metric tonnes. After the duty hike, imports plummeted to just 4,486 MT by 2022-23. In monetary terms, imports dropped from \$145 million to a mere \$5.27 million over five years. But after the duty was reverted to 50 per cent in 2023, growers report that imports have surged nearly 20-fold in a short period. Any further reduction would make Washington apples available at prices comparable to or even lower than premium domestic apples. This prospect is causing significant anxiety among local growers. Washington apples and local premium apples are primarily consumed by higher-income groups, who are highly brand-conscious.



RISHABH PANT MIMICS SUNIL GAVASKAR'S 'STUPID, STUPID, STUPID' REMARK, SETS INTERNET ON FIRE

Diary Times Desk : Rishabh Pant is undeniably one of India's most important players in Test cricket, but did not have the best time with the bat during the disastrous 1-3 series loss at the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25. In fact, Pant was heavily criticised by legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar for getting out trying to play a fancy shot during the fourth Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Pant has now done a mimicry of Gavaskar's rant, and the video has gone viral on social media. "Stupid, stupid, stupid!" are the words that Gavaskar had aggressively said when Pant got out on 28 in the 4th Test, leaving India wobbling at 191/6. Now, in a promotional video ahead of IPL 2025, Pant himself can be seen trying to mimic Gavaskar's line, with a smirk on his face nonetheless. Rishabh Pant is a man to watch out for ahead of IPL 2025. After nine years with Delhi Capitals (DC), Pant was purchased by Sanjeev Goenka-owned Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the IPL 2025 mega auction, for an IPL record price of Rs 27 crore. Pant was also named captain of the franchise ahead of the start of the new season. Pant currently finds himself out of the reckoning for both the ODI and T20I playing XI for Team India. As a result, he would be hoping to make a big impression with LSG in IPL 2025, taking them to the playoffs as a bare minimum.



PCB SUFFERS 85% LOSS IN CHAMPIONS TROPHY AFTER SPLURGING INR 869 CRORE FOR ONE HOME GAME; PLAYERS FACE BRUTAL EFFECT

Diary Times Desk : Champions Trophy 2025 was the first global cricket tournament held in Pakistan in the last 29 years, marking a significant moment in the sport's history in the country. However, it was nothing short of a financial and logistical failure as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) suffered an 85 per cent loss after spending INR 869 crore for playing just one completed home game during the tournament. According to a report in The Telegraph, PCB spent PKR 18 billion (about \$58 million) upgrading each of the three venues—Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Karachi. This was 50 per cent more than their budget. In addition, they spent \$40 million on event preparations. However, they only received \$6 million in return as part of the hosting fee and change from ticket sales and sponsorships. This implies that PCB suffered a loss of about \$85 million. Not to forget, the Mohammad Rizwan-led side played only one game at home, against New Zealand at the Gadaffi stadium in Lahore. Their next match, against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi, was washed out without even the toss. Two other matches of the remaining eight held in Pakistan also ended in the same way. The report further said that the players were made to face.

FAF DU PLESSIS APPOINTED AXAR PATEL'S DEPUTY AT DELHI CAPITALS

Diary Times Desk : Faf du Plessis is going to be Axar Patel's deputy at Delhi Capitals (DC) for IPL 2025. Du Plessis, who was the captain at Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) till the end of IPL 2024, was released by the franchise ahead of the mega auction last year, and was subsequently acquired by DC for his base price of INR 2 crore (US\$0.24 million). He was chosen ahead of KL Rahul, another former IPL captain who moved to DC this year. Du Plessis, a former South Africa captain in all formats, became a part of the IPL in 2012 after Chennai Super Kings (CSK) brought him on board. He remained a part of the team till the end of the 2015 season, moved to Rising Pune Supergiant/s for two seasons when CSK were banned from the IPL, and went back to CSK, staying there till 2021. RCB bought him at the auction in 2022 and, with Virat Kohli stepping down as the team's captain ahead of that season, was given charge of the team. He led them for three seasons, and while RCB reached the playoffs in both 2022 and 2024, they are yet to win the trophy they have chased for 17 seasons now. Overall in the IPL, the 40-year-old du Plessis has 4571 runs from 145 matches at an average of 35.99 and a strike rate of 136.37. He remains active in the franchise cricket circuit, and last turned out.

MUMBAI INDIANS STAR BREACHES PSL CONTRACT TO JOIN IPL, FUMING PCB SENDS LEGAL NOTICE

Diary Times Desk : As the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) decided to announce its schedule parallel to the Indian Premier League (IPL), some clashes were bound to erupt. With players made to decide between the two franchise leagues, IPL was bound to be preferred because of multiple reasons -- ranging from better remuneration to exposure. South Africa's Corbin Bosch ditched his Pakistan Super League contract as 5-time IPL winners Mumbai Indians came calling for his services, as a replacement for the injured Lizaad Williams. But, those in the Pakistan cricketing spectrum are understandably not happy. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has issued a legal notice to Bosch for breaching his contractual obligations with the board. Bosch, who incidentally made his debut for South Africa against Pakistan in the series earlier this year, was picked by Peshawar Zalmi in the Diamond category during the tenth edition of Pakistan Super League Players Draft, held in Lahore on January 13. Earlier this month Mumbai Indians, a leading franchise of the Indian Premier League, announced that it had picked Bosch as a replacement for the injured Lizaad Williams who is also from South Africa.



KHUSHDIL SHAH FINED FOR COLLISION WITH FOULKES IN CHRISTCHURCH

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan allrounder Khushdil Shah has been fined 50% of his match fees for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct during their first T20I against New Zealand in Christchurch. Khushdil has also been handed three demerit points. This was his first offence in a 24-month period. The incident occurred during the eighth over of Pakistan's innings, when Khushdil hit the third ball from Foulkes past mid-on. He ran into the bowler, who had his back turned towards him, with his left shoulder. The umpire had a word with Khushdil after the batters ran two. Since Khushdil accepted the sanctions levelled by the umpires and match referee Jeff Crowe, no formal hearing was needed. Khushdil top-scored for Pakistan with 32 off 30 balls in the first T20I but had little support from the other end as they were bundled out for 91. Openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen then helped New Zealand chase the target in 10.1 overs to give them a 1-0 lead. Pakistan have opted for a new-look side for the tour of New Zealand, with Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan dropped as they look to try out a more 'high-risk' approach.

ANUSHKA SHARMA'S CRYPTIC POST AFTER VIRAT KOHLI'S STATEMENT ON BCCI'S FAMILY RULE

Diary Times Desk : Bollywood star Anushka Sharma has seemingly reacted to husband and cricketer Virat Kohli's viral interview on BCCI's diktat regarding families joining the players during tours. After Kohli shared that the presence of family grounds him during such challenging times, Sharma shared a cryptic post about how a "different" version of a person can exist in everyone's mind. "A different version of you exists in the minds of everyone who knows you. The person you think of as 'yourself' only exists for you, and even you don't really know who that is. Every person you meet, have a relationship with, or make eye contact on the street with, creates a version of 'you' in their heads," read a section of the note. The actor continued, "You're not the same person to your mom, your dad, your siblings as you are to your co-workers, your neighbours or your friends. There are a thousand different versions of yourself out there, in people's minds. A 'you' exists in each version and yet your 'you', 'yourself' isn't really a 'someone' at all (sic)." Earlier, Virat had opened up about the BCCI rule and said, "It's very difficult to explain to people how grounding it is to just come back to your family every time."