

SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT FLAGS RATION CARD MISUSE, SAYS ITS NOW A "POPULARITY CARD"

Diary Times Desk : Observing that ration cards have become a "popularity card", the Supreme Court on Wednesday wondered if the benefits meant for the poor percolated to undeserving persons.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said the benefit of subsidies should reach the genuine beneficiaries. "Our concern is... are benefits meant for the genuinely poor persons percolating to those pockets who do not deserve it? Ration card has become a popularity card now," said Justice Surya Kant.

The judge went on, "These states just say we have issued these many cards. There are some states who when they have to show their development they say our per capita income is growing. And then when we talk of BPL, they say 75 per cent of the population is BPL. How can these facts be reconciled? The conflict is inherent. We have to ensure that benefits reach the genuine beneficiaries." The top court observed that states showed a high per capita growth when asked to highlight the development index but claimed 75 per cent of their population was below poverty line when it came to subsidies.

The bench was hearing a plea in a suo motu case initiated during the COVID19 pandemic to address the miseries of migrant labourers. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for some intervenors, said the anomaly stemmed from the inequalities in the income of people. There are a handful of people, who have huge wealth as compared to other population and per capita income figure is average of total income of the state.



AKHILESH YADAV

'1000 HINDU DEVOTEES MISSING FROM MAHA KUMBH', CLAIMS AKHILESH YADAV

Diary Times Desk : Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday claimed that about 1,000 Hindu devotees who had gone to the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj were missing. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister asked what was the budget allocated by the Centre for the Maha Kumbh.

"Can anyone imagine that the chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were just deciding where the vehicles will be parked. There were a number of IPS officials who were stopping people from going for the 'snan', saying that they do not have the capacity to facilitate them," PTI quoted Yadav as saying outside the Parliament premises.

"People were being stopped at the borders. The Centre would have given a budget for the Maha Kumbh to the state government -- that should be mentioned. At a time when pages of history are being turned, the biggest loss of lives has been of Hindu devotees," he said.

"The BJP and its people should help the families of those who lost their loved ones in the Mahakumbh. Even now, 1000 Hindus are missing from the Kumbh whose whereabouts are not known. The BJP should provide information on the 1000 people who are missing," Yadav said.

"The government should find the Hindu brethren who are missing and unite them with their families. People put up posters of missing people and the government is even getting those removed," Yadav added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the recent Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj was a "defining moment in India's history". People put aside their egos and gathered in Prayagraj with the feeling of 'we' and not 'I'. The Maha Kumbh demonstrated that there was no distinction between big and small -- it reflected India's immense strength.





RSS DISTANCES ITSELF FROM AURANGZEB CONTROVERSY; CONDEMNS NAGPUR VIOLENCE

Diary Times Desk : In the midst of active investigations into the communal clashes in Nagpur over the tomb of Aurangzeb on Monday evening, the ruling BJP's ideological mentor organisation, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, said on Wednesday that the sixth Mughal emperor was not relevant in current times. Speaking to reporters ahead of the three-day All India Pratinidhi Sabha, convening in Karnataka between March 21 and 23, RSS communication chief Sunil Ambekar said violence of any kind was unhealthy for society, and Aurangzeb was not relevant today. Signaling its disapproval, although in a veiled manner, about the removal of the tomb of Aurangzeb, located 500 km from Nagpur in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, the RSS functionary advocated peace and said, "Any kind of violence is unhealthy for society." On a direct question, whether Aurangzeb was even relevant to current times, Ambekar said, "Not relevant." Importantly, the campaign for the removal of the tomb of Aurangzeb was being led by RSS-linked organisations, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal, when the violent clashes broke out in Nagpur on Monday.



SC DEFERS HEARING ON PILS AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF CEC, ECS UNDER 2023 LAW TO APRIL 16

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would take up on April 16 PILs challenging a 2023 law on appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) that replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet Minister in the three-member selection panel. A Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh deferred the hearing after advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted on behalf of the petitioners that the matter was unlikely to be taken up today as it's listed at number 38. We will fix it on April 16, so that the matter is finally heard," Justice Kant said after Bhushan requested an urgent hearing, saying it went to the root of democracy and the issue was covered by a 2023 Constitution Bench verdict. Noting that the court understood his point, Justice Kant pointed out that a lot of urgent matters were listed every day. The top court is seized of several PILs, including those filed by the Association.

VICE PRESIDENT DHANKHAR PROPOSES NATIONAL POLICY ON FREEBIES, ADVOCATES DIRECT FARM SUBSIDIES



Diary Times Desk : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has called for a national policy on freebies, emphasising the need for a structured debate on the issue in the house. Dhankhar stressed that investments must be targeted and yield desired results, terming freebies a "very serious issue" that has become a recent political phenomenon during election times. "This House needs to deliberate on placatory mechanisms and appeasement, often referred to as freebies. The country's growth relies heavily on the availability of capital expenditure (capex). However, the electoral process has led to these freebies becoming allurements to voters. Consequently, governments that come to power find themselves in an uncomfortable position, prompting them to reconsider their stance." Addressing members during Zero Hour, Dhankhar highlighted the need for a national policy to ensure that government investments are utilised effectively for the greater good. He also advocated for direct subsidies without intermediaries, citing the example of the US, where farmers receive direct subsidies, resulting in higher average incomes compared to general households.

DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH HAILS MAJOR KHATHING'S ROLE IN SECURING TAWANG IN 1951 FROM CHINESE FORCES

Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday hailed Indian Army officer Major Ralengnao 'Bob' Khathing, who established Indian sovereignty in Arunachal Pradesh and 'saved Tawang' from the Chinese forces in 1951, for his contributions to the North-East region and national security. The minister was addressing the fifth edition of Major Bob Khathing memorial event, which is jointly organised by the Indian Army, Assam Rifles and a think tank, United Services Institution of India (USI), at the Delhi Cantonment. In January 1951, Major Khathing was tasked by Assam Governor Jairamdas Daulatram to reach Tawang in 45 days and establish control. In those days, there was no road connectivity to Tawang. Major Khathing was given an allowance of Rs 25,000 and 200 soldiers to secure Tawang, a feat he accomplished by mid-February. Notably, China had already invaded Tibet and there was a fear about Beijing setting its eyes on Tawang when he undertook the expedition.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 20-03-2025

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.

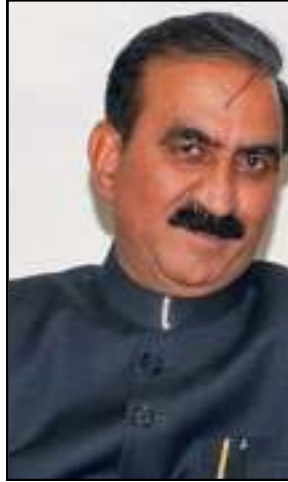
Pisces

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 ASSEMBLY: CM SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- WE WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES IN MEDICAL COLLEGES ON THE LINES OF DELHI AIIMS

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that within a year, doctors will be made available in every PHC of the state. Posts of doctors and nurses will be created. Rationalization of doctors will also be done. Facilities will be provided in medical colleges on the lines of Delhi AIIMS. The Chief Minister said that there are challenges in system change. We are changing 40-year-old systems. Para medical staff will be reorganized in the next 15 days. During the Question Hour on Wednesday, BJP MLAs Janak Raj and Randhir Sharma raised the issue of vacant posts in health institutions. They asked when will the vacant posts of MBBS and BDS be filled in the state. Sri Naina Devi MLA Randhir Sharma also raised the demand to fill the vacant posts of MBBS doctors. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that earlier there was a provision of walk-in interview from the campus as well. We created 500 posts at once, filled 300 posts. Started the process of filling 200. Not a single doctor has been posted in the present government. On this, Health Minister Dr. Dhaniiram Shandil said that governments are in continuity. All have made efforts to fill the posts. I had seen in Tandhi that a fourth class employee was in charge of the health institution. The minister said that the process of filling all the posts is going on.



HIMACHAL NEWS: RAMDAS ATHAWALE SAID- 330 ADARSH GRAMS DECLARED UNDER PM AJAY YOJANA IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, 330 villages have been declared as Adarsh Grams under the PM Scheduled Caste Abhodaya Yojana (PM-Ajay). Under this scheme, 450 villages have been identified from across the state. This information was given by Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Wednesday in response to a question by MP Dr. Sikandar Kumar. Athawale said that PM-Ajay Yojana has been implemented from 2021-22. These villages have received the status of Adarsh Gram under the Adarsh Gram component, one of the three components of this scheme. Apart from this, 7 projects have been approved for 4800 beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh in the last two years under the grant assistance component. He said that a dedicated portal has also been set up for the PM-Ajay Yojana, through which the scheme is being monitored in real time. States and Union Territories submit online applications on the portal and utilization and completion certificates are also uploaded there. Details of funds released under the scheme are also available on the portal.

VIMAL NEGI DEATH CASE: ACS OMKAR SHARMA WILL INVESTIGATE VIMAL NEGI CASE, WILL SUBMIT REPORT IN 15 DAYS

Diary Times Desk : The body of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited Chief Engineer Vimal Negi was found in Gobindsagar Lake near Gah Ghori on Tuesday. Kinnaur resident Negi was missing since March 10. On Wednesday, the post-mortem of Negi's body was conducted at AIIMS Bilaspur. During this, the employees of the corporation protested against the management in the AIIMS campus. The employees raised slogans of Harikash Meena Murdabad. People from Kinnaur also joined the protest. After the post-mortem, the employees sent off Vimal Negi's body from Bilaspur in an ambulance decorated with flowers. During this, slogans of Vimal Negi Amar Rahe were raised. Along with this, a demand was raised for strict action against the culprits. The forensic team is also investigating. How the death happened will be known after the investigation. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, while presenting a statement in the Vidhan Sabha House.

HIMACHAL CONGRESS PRESIDENT PRATIBHA SINGH SAID- GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO HORTICULTURE AND TOURISM

Diary Times Desk : State Congress President Pratibha Singh said that the state government has given priority to the election promises in the budget. But the government should do more work in the field of horticulture and tourism. There should have been special provision for both of these in the budget. Tourism is the economic backbone of the state, while horticulture is an important source of income in development. She was talking to journalists in Sundarnagar on Wednesday. She said that the state government is making efforts to improve the economy of the state. Apart from this, ideas will be shared with the workers to strengthen the organization. Complete feedback will be taken before forming every executive. Only after that, the responsibility will be given to the fighting leaders of the party. When asked about the absence of MP Kangana Ranaut from Mandi parliamentary constituency. He expressed concern over the tourists coming from Punjab spoiling the law and order.

JAIRAM THAKUR: LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID - THERE SHOULD BE A CBI INQUIRY INTO VIMAL NEGI'S DEATH CASE

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that many facts have come to light in the case of death of HPPCL Chief Engineer Vimal Negi. After his disappearance, the family members had made many allegations against the senior officials of HPPCL management. Such a situation is very dangerous. Along with this, now the employees of the Power Corporation have also written a letter to the Chief Minister demanding the removal of senior officials in this case and an impartial investigation of the case. Talking to journalists in the Assembly premises on Wednesday, Jairam Thakur said that the kind of allegations being made is very unfortunate. Since the Sukhu government came to power, all kinds of allegations were being made against the Power Corporation. This matter is very serious. Such incidents have never happened before in the history of Himachal Pradesh. The victim should get impartial justice. For this, the entire case should be investigated by the CBI. The truth should come out. This is very important for the victim's family to get justice. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that drug addiction is increasing uncontrollably in the state.

HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY: DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MUKESH AGNIHOTRI SAID- IN JAL JEEVAN MISSION, ONLY 37 CRORES WERE RECEIVED FROM THE CENTER INSTEAD OF 916 CRORES

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that the Himachal government was to get Rs 916 crore from the Central Government in Jal-Jeevan Mission during the year 2024-25, out of which only Rs 37 crore has been received so far. The state government is making efforts to get the remaining amount. Responding to the question of BJP MLA Balveer Verma, the Deputy Chief Minister said that works worth Rs 152 crore are going on in the Jal Shakti Department in Chaupal assembly constituency. Works worth Rs 65 crore are proposed in Jal Jeevan Mission. Rs 100 crore is required to complete the pending works in the area. These works will be completed as soon as the amount is available. Agriculture Minister Chandra Kumar Choudhary said that MLAs of the concerned area will be included in the committees to be constituted for JICA.

HIMACHAL NEWS: VIREASH SHANDILYA SAID - WITH THE HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE THINKING OF KHALISTAN AND BHINDRANWALA

Diary Times Desk : National President of Anti Terrorist Front India, Veeresh Shandilya has said that vehicles with posters of Bhindranwala will not be allowed to enter Himachal Pradesh. He warned that if any vehicle moves with posters of Bhindranwala, the workers of Anti Terrorist Front India will remove the posters from them. He demanded that such elements who are glorifying Bhindranwala should be arrested immediately. Veeresh Shandilya announced that the flag of Khalistan will be burnt in Himachal Pradesh's capital Shimla, so that a befitting reply can be given to the Khalistani mentality. He said that the Khalistani movement is more dangerous than AIDS, cancer, corona and termites, which has become the biggest threat to the integrity and security of the country. Shandilya demanded from Home Minister Amit Shah that a big decision like 370 against Khalistan should be taken in the Lok Sabha and a resolution should be passed to officially declare Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale a terrorist. He said that whoever raises the flag of Khalistan or raises slogans.

"HE LOVED BLINDLY, OUR DAUGHTER WAS PROBLEM": MURDERED MEERUT MAN'S IN-LAWS

Diary Times Desk : The parents of Muskaan Rastogi, arrested for allegedly murdering Merchant Navy officer Saurabh Rajput with her lover's help, want her to be hanged till death and stress that they are firmly with Saurabh's family in their fight for justice. According to police, Saurabh Rajput, a Merchant Navy officer working for a US-based company, came home last month for his six-year-old daughter's birthday. On March 4, his wife Muskaan and her lover Sahil Shukla stabbed him to death, chopped up his body in 15 pieces and sealed them with cement in a plastic drum. Following the murder, Muskaan and Sahil left for the hills and used Saurabh's phone to post pictures to mislead people. The grisly murder came to light after Saurabh's family, unable to reach him over the phone, filed a complaint with the police and Muskaan and Sahil were grilled. They confessed to the crime and have been arrested. The cement-filled drum was drilled through and pieces of Saurabh's body were recovered and sent for autopsy.

RAISINA DIALOGUE: S JAISHANKAR EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER WEAPONISATION OF TRADE

Diary Times Desk : The weaponisation of tariffs and export controls is forcing India to find trade partners who are more trustworthy, reliable and transparent, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geopolitics, the EAM made no direct reference to US President Donald Trump's threat to use tariffs against a range of partners and said the focus should be on bolstering business while navigating the weaponisation of financial flows and technology. Tariffs, sanctions, export controls – whether we like it or not, they are a reality, countries use them. If one looks at the last decade, we have seen a much greater weaponisation of pretty much any kind of economic activity," Jaishankar said at a session with the theme 'Commisars and Capitalists: Politics, business and new world order'. His remarks came against the backdrop of Trump threatening to hit trade partners with reciprocal tariffs from April 2. India is currently negotiating with the US to finalise the first tranche of a bilateral trade deal by the fall. New Delhi has also continued buying large volumes of oil from Russia, which has been hit with Western sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine.

"BJP LIKES CONGRESS POLICIES": DK SHIVAKUMAR'S JAB ON 4% QUOTA



Diary Times Desk : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar brushed off the BJP objections to the 4 per cent minority quota in government contracts, saying the BJP loves Congress policies even though they officially oppose them. Asked about the quota, he said the party's intention was to boost deprived sections. "They (BJP) always oppose Congress policies, but they like Congress policies, and they will follow them...They love Congress principles; they enjoy it," Mr Shivakumar said. "The Congress party wants to see that every section of the society should be respected... We want to see those who have been deprived get uplifted economically, this is our intention," he added. On Saturday too, Mr Shivakumar had dismissed criticism of the state government's 4 per cent reservation in contracts for Muslims, claiming that the quota applies to all backward classes and minorities, not just Muslims.

ARE BENEFITS FOR POOR REACHING GENUINE BENEFICIARIES? SC ASKS

Diary Times Desk : Observing that ration cards have become a "popularity card", the Supreme Court on Wednesday wondered if the benefits meant for the poor percolated to undeserving persons. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said the benefit of subsidies should reach the genuine beneficiaries. Our concern is... are benefits meant for the genuinely poor persons percolating to those pockets who do not deserve it? Ration card has become a popularity card now," said Justice Surya Kant. The judge went on, "These states just say we have issued these many cards. There are some states who when they have to show their development they say our per capita income is growing. And then when we talk of BPL, they say 75 per cent of the population is BPL. How can these facts be reconciled? The conflict is inherent. We have to ensure that benefits reach the genuine beneficiaries." The top court observed that states showed a high per capita growth.

KARNATAKA MLA URGES FREE LIQUOR FOR MEN, CONGRESS TELLS NDA TO WIN AND DO SO

Diary Times Desk : A proposal by JD(S) legislator MT Krishnappa in the Karnataka Assembly on Tuesday stirred a controversy and a heated debate on the floor on the state government's financial policies. During the session, Krishnappa suggested that the Congress-led government should distribute two free liquor bottles per week to men, given its ongoing welfare initiative of giving Rs 2,000 for women. "At their cost, you're giving Rs 2,000 per month to women, free electricity, and free bus travel. That's our money anyway. So, for those who drink, give them two bottles of liquor free every week. Let them drink. How can we give men money every month? Instead, give them something, two bottles a week. What's wrong with that? The government can provide this through societies," the Janata Dal (Secular) legislator said, commenting on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently increasing the excise revenue target to Rs 40,000 crore from Rs 36,500 crore.



WILL LEAVE RAHUL GANDHI RED-FACED: BJP AS SHASHI THAROOR PRAISES PM MODI AGAIN

Diary Times Desk : The BJP had a field day in taunting the Congress after its MP Shashi Tharoor said he was left with an "egg on his face" for opposing India's neutral stance towards the Ukraine-Russia war, saying it would leave Rahul Gandhi "red-faced". BJP leaders said it was "good to see" Congress leaders acknowledging PM Modi's global stature and hoped that the party would not "act against" Tharoor for his candid praise of the Centre's foreign policy. Firing the first shot at the Congress, BJP leader and former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said PM Modi's vision for India and the world was even being admired by leaders from rival parties. "Congress men, including Rahul (Gandhi), Chidambaram, Raghuram Rajan, are all having to eat their words on economy, UPI, manufacturing and so much more," Chandrasekhar tweeted without elaborating on his charge. Noted economist Raghuram Rajan is not part of any political party.

'PERVERSE LOGIC': WHY TELANGANA'S RS 200-CRORE ALLOCATION FOR MISS WORLD 2025 HAS SPARKED UPROAR

Diary Times Desk : While reigning Miss World Krystyna Pyszkova's visited Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Telangana, the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi questioned the Revanth Reddy government on why it was organising the Miss World Pageant show despite the financial woes. "Visiting the YadagiriGutta temple brought me joy and peace of mind... And this is just the beginning! I can't wait to see more of Telangana and its hidden gems!" the Czech beauty queen posted on Instagram. The 72nd Miss World pageant is scheduled to take place in Telangana from May 7 to 31. The final event is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad. According to the BRS, the Congress government led by Revanth Reddy allocated Rs 200 crore for hosting the 72nd Miss World pageant. However, the BRS has expressed its concerns over the event's cost and the state's pressing financial obligations.

ATMOSPHERIC CO2 LEVELS REACH 8,00,000 YEAR-HIGH IN 2023:

REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels reached 420 parts per million in 2023, the highest in the last 8,00,000 years, according to the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) State of the Climate report published on Wednesday. The report said long-term global warming is currently estimated to be between 1.34 and 1.41 degrees Celsius compared to the 1850-1900 baseline. It said that tropical cyclones, floods, droughts and other disasters in 2024 led to the highest number of new displacements recorded in the past 16 years. These events also worsened food crises and caused massive economic losses. Carbon dioxide levels in 2023 (the latest year with complete global data) were 420.0 ± 0.1 parts per million (ppm), 2.3 ppm higher than in 2022 and 151 percent of the pre-industrial level (1750). The WMO said 420 ppm corresponds to 3,276 gigatonnes (or 3.276 trillion tonnes) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The report said the past 10 years (2015-2024) were the warmest on record, with each of the last eight years setting new highs for ocean heat content.

"THINK TWICE": INDIAN STUDENT CALLS UK A "TRAP" FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN REDDIT POST

Diary Times Desk : A PhD student from India, currently in the UK, has shared a cautionary tale on Reddit, advising international students to reconsider studying in the UK. In a post titled "The UK is a Trap for International Students - My Personal Experience," the student described the environment as "extremely tough" for international students, citing concerns such as subpar food quality, unaffordable housing, unpredictable work schedules, unfavourable weather, and even experiences with racism. If you're considering coming here, please think twice- you might end up wasting your money, time, and energy. Many students force themselves into part-time jobs that barely support a decent quality of life. I've seen friends who finished their Masters and even extended their post-study visas become extremely thin, lose their hair, and eventually return to India because they simply couldn't cope, " the student wrote in the post.

"ONE OF THE NASTIEST COUNTRIES": TRUMP AMID TRADE WAR WITH "51ST STATE" CANADA

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that Canada is "one of the nastiest countries to deal with" as trade tensions between the two historically friendly countries continue to escalate. The trade war started with the US imposing tariffs on Canada, which in turn slapped retaliatory tariffs, with Canadians even boycotting US products. Speaking to Fox News, answering why he is tougher with Canada than other big adversaries, he said, "I deal with every country, indirectly or directly. One of the nastiest countries to deal with is Canada". He continued: "Canada was meant to be the 51st state because we subsidise Canada by \$200 billion a year," exaggerating the estimate of the US trade deficit with Canada, which is actually placed at \$63.3 billion for 2024, by the U.S. Trade Representative's Office. Apart from the ongoing trade war, Trump has continuously referred to Canada as the 51st state and even called Canada's former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, "Governor Trudeau".



ZELENSKY DIALS TRUMP AFTER PUTIN AGREES TO PARTIAL CEASEFIRE FOR 30 DAYS



Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke with US President Donald Trump to discuss the recent phone call between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin regarding a partial ceasefire in Ukraine. The leaders also reviewed potential next steps as diplomatic efforts continue. White House deputy chief of staff Dan Scavino said in a post on X that Trump was conducting the call from the Oval Office. Zelenskyy, who has repeatedly called for stronger US support, said he expected to hear more details about Trump's phone call with Putin. The US and Russian leaders agreed to a pause in attacks on energy infrastructure as part of a limited ceasefire in Russia's ongoing war on Ukraine. However, Putin rejected Trump's proposal for a broader 30-day ceasefire, highlighting the persistent divide between the warring sides.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RELEASES JOSHUA RIIBE, LAST PERSON SEEN WITH SUDIJKSHA KONANKI

Diary Times Desk : Joshua Steven Riibe, the last person seen with Indian student Sudiksha Konanki who went missing from a beach in the Dominican Republic, has been released after days of detention. This came a day after Ms Konanki's parents asked authorities to declare their daughter officially dead. Ms Konanki, a student at the University of Pittsburgh, was on spring break in Punta Cana when she disappeared two weeks ago. Mr Riibe, a 22-year-old Iowa resident and a student at St Cloud State University in Minnesota, said that the authorities detained him without any formal charges, adding he was treated unfairly during the investigation. He filed a habeas corpus petition, a legal action people can take if they believe they are being held unfairly, last week. According to the court documents, he claimed that Dominican authorities and even the hotel staff where he stayed violated his rights. They restricted his movements without charges filed against him, he added.

ZELENSKY WARNS OF RUSSIAN BUILDUP, VOWS TO HOLD KURSK AS LONG AS NEEDED

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Russia is amassing troops along the Sumy front and preparing fresh offensives on the Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, and Kharkiv fronts to escalate pressure on Kyiv in the coming months, Al Jazeera reported on Wednesday. He also noted that Ukrainian troops were continuing operations in Russia's Kursk region, despite recent Russian offensives. "Ukraine is fulfilling its task in the Kursk region. The Ukrainian military is there, and they will be there as long as we need this operation," he said, as quoted by Al Jazeera. Earlier in the day, French President Emmanuel Macron alongside German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, weighed in on the continuing negotiations for peace in Ukraine. The first steps are put in place, but the objective must remain the same: to have a solid ceasefire, measurable and verifiable," the French president said after meeting the German Chancellor in Berlin. "That is not conceivable without having the Ukrainians at the table," Al Jazeera quoted Macron.

CARIBBEAN LEADERS SEEK CLARITY AS US MULLS SWEEPING TRAVEL BANS

Diary Times Desk : Leaders from across the Caribbean are seeking clarity after a draft of a U.S. government list of over 40 countries which could face sweeping travel restrictions was made public, a move which could mark the latest in President Donald Trump's crackdown on migration. U.S. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce disavowed the list on Monday, but stipulated "there is a review through the president's executive order for us to look at the nature of what's going on to keep America safer and dealing with the issue of visas and who's allowed into the country." President Trump's administration has vowed mass deportations of migrants in the U.S. illegally. Half of the countries on the list in circulation are African, while seven more are located around the Caribbean. The small island nations of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia were also listed in the draft for partial travel suspensions if their respective governments do not address unspecified "deficiencies" within 60 days. Leaders from those nations have responded saying they have received no communication from the United States on the potential ban, nor on concerns raised about their governance. In a Saturday letter seen by Reuters, Antigua.

OVER 200 FARMERS, INCLUDING DALLEWAL AND PANDHER, DETAINED; BULLDOZER ACTION BY POLICE AT SHAMBHU, KHANAURI

Diary Times Desk : Two farmer leaders — Sarwan Singh Pandher and Jagjit Singh Dallewal — were detained while they were en route from Chandigarh to the Shambhu border, official sources confirmed. Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a hunger strike since November last year, is likely to be hospitalised. The decision to take action against the protesting farmer unions was reportedly made on Monday night, following a meeting between top AAP functionaries and industrialists. The industrialists expressed concerns that the protests were incurring significant costs. Pandher was detained after being picked up from the Zirakpur barrier. Meanwhile, Dallewal, Kaka Singh Kotra, and Abhimanyu Kohar were apprehended near Bestech Mall in Mohali. Sources indicate that further action is expected soon at Shambhu and Khanauri borders. Pandher has been taken to Bahadurgarh Fort Commando Police Training Centre in Patiala. The centre has been transformed into a makeshift detention center, as a majority of farmer leaders and protesting farm women, except Dallewal, are being apprehended and taken to the complex. Reacting to the police action, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema said that the step was necessitated for the economic growth of the state. It is important that we fight against unemployment too, he added.



KARNAL DC CALLS FOR TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS; DEAD VOTER REMOVAL

Diary Times Desk : Karnal Deputy Commissioner has emphasised the importance of removing the names of deceased persons from the voter list to ensure accuracy and transparency in the electoral process. Besides, Uttam Singh also stressed on household survey to determine the migration of voters as well as deceased voters. Singh, while chairing a meeting with the officials and representatives of political parties at Mini Secretariat on Wednesday, also advocated linking data of dead persons with election commission as well as with Aadhar card. This meeting was organised following the guidelines of the Election Commission of India to seek suggestions from political parties to make the election process more transparent, simple and smooth. During the meeting, discussions were held on voter list revision, polling station arrangements, appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLAs), Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), polling parties, and other election-related matters. Political representatives suggested that the voter list should be regularly updated and that names of deceased voters should be promptly removed. They also proposed that any new voter registration or election-related updates should be widely publicised to benefit the public. Additionally, a door-to-door survey was recommended to keep voter lists updated.

NEW TRAVEL AGENT BILL INTRODUCES STRICTER PUNISHMENT, OMBUDSMAN FOR COMPLAINTS

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana Government has introduced a revised version of the Haryana Registration and Regulation of Travel Agents Bill, which increases the minimum punishment for offenders from three years to seven years. It has also introduced an ombudsman to handle grievances against travel agents and refer cases to the police. The ombudsman, to be appointed by the state government, will provide a platform for individuals to file complaints regarding misconduct by travel agents. The revised Bill was introduced after the earlier 2024 version was withdrawn following objections from the Union Home Ministry. Under the new Bill, investigations will be conducted by a police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector, with a DSP/ACP-level officer verifying the probe. This is a step up from the previous version, where an ASI could investigate. A Superintendent of Police or Deputy Commissioner of Police will serve as the Nodal Officer.

EXPECT DESTRUCTIVE PUNJAB KINGS THIS IPL SEASON, SAYS COACH RICKY PONTING

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Kings (PBKS) will be destructive, dynamic and determined from the very first game of the Indian Premier League (IPL) this season, stated Ricky Ponting, former Australian skipper and the new coach of the Punjab franchise. "I have clearly told them (players), we have nothing to lose...so they shouldn't be afraid of anything," said Ponting at Maharaja Yadavindra International PCA Stadium in Mullanpur here today. The PBKS will be playing their first game of this IPL season against Gujarat Titans at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on March 25. Ponting is looking forward to the new edition of India's showpiece event by forgetting the past performance of the PBKS. "See, we are starting afresh, playing a new season and with a brand new quality of cricket. I wanted a really strong coaching challenge," said the Aussie. He added, "We are having some very fine quality players. We won't be having any excuse of not giving our best on the field and against any given team."

UT MULLS EASING REGULATIONS TO CREATE BIZ- FRIENDLY ECOSYSTEM

Diary Times Desk : In a bid to create a business-friendly environment, the Central Government has initiated measures to relax zoning norms, simplify land use change procedures and digitise regulatory approvals in the UT. The first meeting of the Chandigarh Compliance Reduction and De-Regulation Task Force, spearheaded by the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, was held today to streamline business regulations, enhance the ease of doing business and improve urban planning frameworks in the city. The meeting was co-chaired by SCL Das, Secretary, Ministry of MSME, and Rajiv Verma, Chief Secretary, Chandigarh. Das, who has been tasked with driving the de-regulation initiative for Chandigarh, highlighted the government's focus on reducing compliance burdens across key areas such as land use, building regulations, labour laws, utilities and permissions.

EVEN A FLEETING MOMENT IN CUSTODY CAN CAST A LIFELONG SHADOW: PUNJAB AND HARYANA HC

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that an arrest, even for a short duration, can inflict an indelible stain on a person's social standing. Making it clear that reputation was an invaluable asset intrinsically linked to an individual's right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Bench observed that mere detention is often equated with guilt in public perception, causing irreversible damage to one's dignity despite subsequent acquittal. The assertion came as the Bench emphasised the importance of adherence to procedural safeguards in criminal cases "when the fundamental rights of an individual are at stake". The court ruled that such safeguards were "not merely desirable but a constitutional mandate". Referring to the Supreme Court ruling in the case of Sukhwant Singh versus the State of Punjab, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar asserted the stigma attached to an arrest would linger, while legal consequences might fade away. "Unlike a legal acquittal, which is confined to the court records, public perception is shaped by the spectacle of arrest itself, fuelling suspicion and causing irreversible damage to one's dignity. In this way, even a fleeting moment in custody can cast a lifelong shadow," the court asserted.

HC DECLARES ARREST OF MUSIC PRODUCER PINKY DHALIWAL ILLEGAL, RAPS PUNJAB POLICE FOR VIOLATING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Diary Times Desk : In a major embarrassment for Punjab Police, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has declared the arrest of music producer Pushpinder Pal Singh Dhaliwal, also known as Pinky Dhaliwal, illegal, while citing serious violations of constitutional and procedural safeguards. Justice Harpreet Singh Brar held that Dhaliwal's detention by Mataur police in Mohali was in "direct contravention of Article 21" of the Constitution and an "incurable illegality" that vitiated the entire proceedings against him. The court found that Dhaliwal was subjected to custodial interrogation even before an FIR was registered against him. Referring to official records, the court noted that he was picked up from his residence at 7:30 pm on March 8 under the pretext of questioning. A daily diary report entry was recorded at 7:48 pm upon his arrival at Mataur police station, but the FIR was not lodged against him at that stage. Justice Brar noted that officials failed to provide a copy of the FIR or the arrest memo when the Warrant Officer arrived at the police station. It was only at 2:26 pm on March 9 that the Station House Officer handed over a copy of the FIR along.

LOP SEEKS CBI PROBE INTO NEGI'S DEATH

Diary Times Desk : Even as Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the probe into the death of Vimal Negi, Chief Engineer of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL), will be done by an Additional Chief Secretary level officer, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur sought a CBI inquiry into the matter. It may be recalled that Negi had gone missing on March 10, and his body was recovered from Gobind Sagar Lake in Bilaspur on Tuesday. Negi's family and HPPCL employees have leveled allegations of an unfriendly work environment at the office. Making a statement in the House over Negi's death, the Chief Minister said the government would take strict action if someone is found responsible for Negi's death in the inquiry. The Leader of Opposition, however, demanded a CBI inquiry to ensure a fair and transparent probe. "There are talks that he was under intense pressure in his office. We need to find out what kind of pressure he was under. We have been hearing about the work environment of HPPCL for quite some time now. We need to get to the bottom of the matter, and give the probe to the CBI," said Thakur.

BILASPUR: THE DAY AFTER THE END OF THE EXAMINATION, A CLASS VIII STUDENT HANGED HERSELF

Diary Times Desk : A migrant minor committed suicide by hanging herself in her house in Barthin, Himachal Pradesh. No one has been able to find out why the minor did this. According to the information, Naina (16), daughter of Satish Kumar, a resident of Moradabad, lived with her family in a rented house near the Trimurti temple in Barthin. She studied in class 8 in Barthin school. Her exams had also ended on Monday. On Tuesday morning, her parents left for their work. After this, she was alone in the house. When her parents came to eat lunch in the afternoon, they saw her hanging from the noose. The family immediately took her to Barthin hospital, but the doctors there declared her dead. The team of Police Station Talai reached the spot and started preliminary investigation. The police is collecting evidence to find out the reasons for the suicide.

HRTC SUSPENDS 10 ROUTES TO PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : Even as Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) has suspended 10 routes to Punjab following the targeting of its buses at several places in Punjab over the last two days, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that he had spoken to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Maan, who had assured to take strict action against the miscreants. "The DGP-level officers will discuss to take action on the issue," the Chief Minister said, adding that police security will be provided to the buses if required. In a statement in the House over the matter, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who is also the Minister for Transport, the state government was in touch with the Punjab government and administration over the issue. "The state government has deployed corporation officials at all important bus stands in Punjab to monitor the situation," he said. He further said that an HRTC bus was stopped by a car without number plate on Kharar flyover and the window panes were broken by miscreants. "An FIR has been registered in this regard at Kharar police station and the Mohali SSP has said that security will be provided to our buses," he said. In a similar incident near Sirhind stones were pelted on an HRTC bus.



SC MANDATES DIRECT TRANSFER OF MOTOR ACCIDENT COMPENSATION TO CLAIMANTS' ACCOUNTS

Diary Times Desk : In a significant ruling aimed at eliminating procedural delays and easing the burden on accident victims and insurance companies alike, the Supreme Court has mandated that compensation awarded in motor accident cases should be directly transferred to claimants' bank accounts. The court ruled that the directive, though issued in the context of motor accident claims, could serve as a model for all cases involving monetary awards. Referring to the necessity of adopting a direct transfer mechanism for compensation, the Bench of Justice J.K. Maheshwari and Justice Rajesh Bindal asserted: "We may add that directions are being issued for bank transfer of the amount of compensation in motor accident cases, but the courts/tribunals can always follow this process in any matter, whenever any amount is to be paid by one party to another, however, ensuring proper compliance." The judgment is significant as it seeks to replace the often cumbersome and delay-ridden disbursement process with a more streamlined, transparent, and efficient method, reducing the ordeal faced by accident victims and their families.

HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY : HARSHVARDHAN CHAUHAN GAVE A WRITTEN REPLY, 21,182 CASES OF ILLEGAL MINING CAUGHT IN 2 YEARS

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, 21,182 cases of illegal mining have been caught in the last two years. Giving a written reply to the question of BJP MLA Randhir Sharma, Industry Minister Harshvardhan Chauhan said that this action was taken by the officials of Police, Industry and Forest Department. Police department has caught 13226 cases, Industry Department has caught 7465 cases and Forest Department has caught 491 cases. 1151 cases were caught in Bilaspur district, 1335 in Chamba, 2030 in Hamirpur, 2785 in Kangra, 1930 in Nurpur, 284 in Kinnaur, 1360 in Kullu, 230 in Lahaul-Spiti, 2591 in Mandi, 490 in Shimla, 2617 in Sirmaur, 2197 in Solan and 2182 in Una. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi said that the seniority list of the state cadre of Patwari-Kanungo will be prepared soon. The matter of seniority determination is under consideration. No decision has been taken on this yet. Giving a written reply to the question of BJP MLA Pawan Kumar Kajal, the Revenue Minister said.

HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY: DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MUKESH AGNIHOTRI SAID- IN JAL JEEVAN MISSION, ONLY 37 CRORES WERE RECEIVED FROM THE CENTER INSTEAD OF 916 CRORES

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that the Himachal government was to get Rs 916 crore from the Central Government in Jal-Jeevan Mission during the year 2024-25, out of which only Rs 37 crore has been received so far. The state government is making efforts to get the remaining amount. Responding to the question of BJP MLA Balveer Verma, the Deputy Chief Minister said that works worth Rs 152 crore are going on in the Jal Shakti Department in Chaupal assembly constituency. Works worth Rs 65 crore are proposed in Jal Jeevan Mission. Rs 100 crore is required to complete the pending works in the area. These works will be completed as soon as the amount is available. Agriculture Minister Chandra Kumar Choudhary said that MLAs of the concerned area will be included in the committees to be constituted for JICA. MLAs should be aware of the functioning of the projects. Responding to the question of MLA Neeraj Nayyar, the Agriculture Minister said that the MLAs will be consulted regarding the works. The government will make such arrangements soon. He informed that works worth Rs 7.95 crore are going on in Chamba under JICA. The duration of this project is four years.



SURYAKUMAR YADAV TO CAPTAIN MI IN SEASON OPENER AGAINST CSK

Diary Times Desk : Suryakumar Yadav will lead Mumbai Indians in their IPL 2025 season opener against arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings in Chennai. Regular skipper Hardik Pandya is unavailable for this fixture due to a one-match ban imposed on him at the end of last season due to slow over rate. With Jasprit Bumrah also unavailable due to injury, Suryakumar's candidature isn't a surprise, especially since he has taken over the reins of T20I captaincy in the last year. Hardik confirmed the news of Suryakumar's captaincy for the CSK game at the pre-season press conference that he attended with head coach Mahela Jayawardene. Suryakumar Yadav leads India as well. He will lead Mumbai Indians in the first match," revealed Pandya when asked who the stand-in skipper would be for the marquee clash. Mahela Jayawardene added to Pandya's disclosure. "Yes, we have been officially communicated that he has to miss. Like Hardik said, Surya will lead the team," the MI head coach said. There are three regular captains in the Mumbai Indians camp, all with proven records. Rohit Sharma has captained India across all formats and currently leads the national team in Tests and ODIs. He also led Mumbai Indians for 11 seasons, from 2013 to 2023. Suryakumar is the current India skipper for T20Is, and then there is Jasprit Bumrah, who has captained India in Tests.



CHAHAL COMPLIED WITH DIVORCE CONSENT TERMS: HIGH COURT ON RS 4.75 CRORE ALIMONY

Diary Times Desk : The Bombay High Court directed the Bandra Magistrate Court to decide the divorce case of Yuzvendra Chahal and his estranged wife Dhanashree Verma by Thursday, March 20. A bench of Justice Madhav Jamdar ordered the family court to speed up the process, considering the Indian cricketer's commitments with the Indian Premier League. Yuzvendra Chahal will play for Punjab Kings in IPL 2025, starting March 22. The Punjab Kings will play their opening game in Hyderabad against Gujarat Titans on Tuesday, March 25. Chahal has been training with the Kings in Chandigarh, having joined their pre-season camp as early as the second week of March. The Indian cricketer was seen cheering for the senior national men's team during the Champions Trophy final. He was seen sitting alongside RJ Mahvash at the stands in the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on March 9. Chahal and Dhanashree had filed a divorce petition before the family court on February 5, seeking divorce by mutual consent. However, the family court had refused to waive the six-month cooling-off period on February 20. Chahal and Dhanashree have been living apart since June 2022, 18 months after their marriage.

BCCI BREAKS SILENCE ON BOARD RETHINKING 'FAMILY RULE' AFTER VIRAT KOHLI'S CRITICISM

Diary Times Desk : India batter Virat Kohli's recent criticism of BCCI's policy towards family on overseas tours sparked reports that the Indian board might rethink the rule. However, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia shut the rumours on Wednesday, confirming that the policy, along with the rest of the newly-formulated SOPs for the Indian team "will remain intact." "At this stage, the current policy will remain intact, as it is of paramount importance to both the nation and our institution, the BCCI," Saikia told Cricbuzz. The family rule, part of BCCI's 10-point diktat, was formulated in the wake of India's shambolic Test cricket performance. The Rohit Sharma-led side suffered an unprecedented whitewash at home against New Zealand last October, followed by a loss in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. According to the family rule: "Players absent from India for more than 45 days during overseas tours can be joined by their partners and children (under 18) for one visit per series (format wise) of up to a two-week period." The SOPs were put into effect during the Champions Trophy, however, it left a few players unhappy. Former India captain Kohli was among them, who questioned the logic.

NOT HAVING BUMRAH AT THE START OF IPL 2025 'A CHALLENGE', SAYS JAYAWARDENE

Diary Times Desk : Not having Jasprit Bumrah for the initial few games of IPL 2025 "is a challenge" and "hopefully he can join the team soon", Mahela Jayawardene, the Mumbai Indians (MI) head coach, said at a press interaction in Mumbai on Wednesday. Jayawardene further said that the fast bowler "is in good spirits" as he recovers at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (formerly the National Cricket Academy) in Bengaluru. "[Bumrah] has just started his progress. We have to wait and see what their [BCCI medical team] feedback is on him," Jayawardene said. "At the moment, everything is going well. But, obviously, it is on a day-to-day basis. He is in good spirits. Not having him is a challenge. He is one of the best bowlers in the world and he has been a fantastic pro for us for many years. "We'll have to wait or find an opportunity for someone else to step up. That's how I see it. It gives us an element of trying a few things and see how things work. The early part of the season allows us to do that."



RAHUL DRAVID COACHING WITH BROKEN LEG REFLECTS HIS COMMITMENT: VIKRAM RATHOUR

Diary Times Desk : Rajasthan Royals' batting coach Vikram Rathour said it was no surprise to see Rahul Dravid turning up for their pre-season training camp with a broken leg, heaping praise on his commitment. Rathour highlighted that Dravid has been fully involved in coaching duties in the lead-up to the IPL 2025 season, which starts on 22 March. Dravid oversaw a preparatory camp for the Sanju Samson-led Royals in February before making a surprise return to competitive cricket in Bengaluru. He played in the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) Group III league alongside his son Anvay. However, during a match for Vijaya Cricket Club, Dravid sustained a leg injury that required time on the sidelines. The 52-year-old was seen wearing a cast on his left leg as he re-joined the pre-season camp in Jaipur. Despite his injury, Dravid has been using a special wheelchair to move around the field and oversee the Royals' preparations. Dravid also joined the Holi celebration with the team in Jaipur.

HARDIK PANDYA'S MESSAGE FOR MUMBAI INDIANS FANS AFTER HE WAS RUTHLESSLY BOOED LAST SEASON: 'WHEN I GO OUT FOR TOSS...'

Diary Times Desk : For Mumbai Indians, 2024 season was the one to forget. The side dealt with a major controversy before even the first ball was bowled in the season after it surprisingly appointed Hardik Pandya as captain, succeeding Rohit Sharma. The move sparked outrage among MI supporters, and the team never recovered from the off-field storm, finishing rock-bottom with just four wins in 14 matches – one of their worst campaigns in history. Adding to the misery, Hardik found himself at the receiving end of relentless boos from Mumbai's own faithful at the Wankhede, a reflection of their discontent over Rohit's abrupt removal. But since that forgettable IPL season, Hardik's fortunes have taken a dramatic turn for the better. The all-rounder played a pivotal role in India's dominant T20 World Cup triumph right after the IPL season, slowly winning back the fans who once jeered him. Earlier this month, he further strengthened his redemption story with standout performances in India's victorious Champions Trophy campaign. Now, Hardik enters IPL 2025 with a chance to complete the turnaround with Mumbai Indians. And ahead of the start of the season, Hardik sent a message to the fans who will turn out in numbers to support the franchise.