

FINANCE MINISTRY

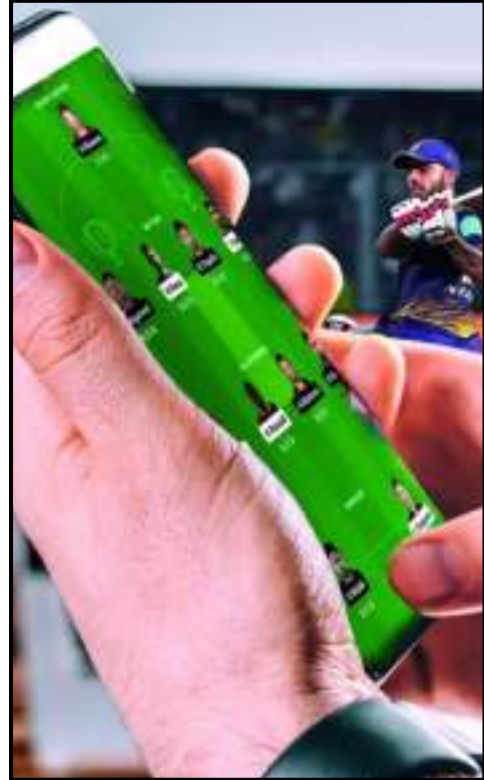
357 OFFSHORE GAMING PLATFORMS BLOCKED, ₹126 CRORE FROZEN: FINANCE MINISTRY

Diary Times Desk : Offshore online money gaming platforms endorsed by Bollywood actors, cricketers and social media influencers are under the government's scanner for financial and national security issues as finance ministry's tax enforcement agency blocked 357 illegal offshore gaming entities and frozen ₹126 crore and blocked 2,400 bank accounts.

"It has been observed that many Bollywood celebrities and cricketers along with YouTube, WhatsApp, and Instagram influencers, are found endorsing these platforms, and therefore the public is advised to remain cautious and not engage with offshore online money gaming platforms as it may jeopardize their personal finances and indirectly support activities that undermine financial integrity and national security," the finance ministry said in a statement.

With the upcoming IPL season, enforcement actions will be more stringent to curb illicit gaming operations. Staying informed and choosing regulated platforms is crucial for responsible gaming, it said.

Besides foreign entities, the enforcement agency – The Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI) – has also launched operations against some Indian nationals running online money gaming platforms from outside India, it said. "These individuals were facilitating online money gaming to Indian customers through various such online platforms including Satguru Online Money Gaming Platform, Mahakaal Online Money Gaming Platform and Abhi247 online money gaming platform.



DELIMITATION

'SOUTH NOT LOSING SEATS DOESN'T MEAN NORTHERN STATES WON'T GAIN': KTR ON DELIMITATION



Diary Times Desk : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao raised concerns over what he called the possibility of a "disproportionate increase in number of seats" in the Lok Sabha and assemblies of some populous northern states after delimitation.

KT Rama Rao, or KTR, alleged a huge discrepancy in the exercise prescribed by the government decades ago to prevent a demographic crisis.

"Firstly, I think the biggest challenge is the whole intent of family planning which was prescribed by the government of India in late 70s and 80s was to ensure that the country doesn't suffer from a demographic challenge. So, those states that have done exceptionally well in population control today, if you go back in time and start penalising them, then that's certainly a travesty of justice," KTR told NDTV today after a meeting on the delimitation exercise held in Chennai got over.

The Telangana MLA cautioned that after a population-based delimitation, three-four states could end up determining the political roadmap for the whole country.

"Those states that have had explosive population growth despite the government of India's prescription, today cannot be asked to run the country and decide the future course of action for the country. What we are proposing is a fair delimitation," KTR said. "What we are proposing is a consultative approach. What we are proposing and requesting is that the government of India does not act in a unilateral fashion. Instead, go in a consultative way," he added. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured southern states that they won't lose even a single seat, rather they will gain seats on a pro-rata basis. KTR, however, expressed doubt over Mr Shah's assurance.

DELIMITATION MEET: STALIN FAVOURS LEGAL FIGHT AS WELL, PINARAYI LIKENS EXERCISE TO 'SWORD OF DAMOCLES'

Diary Times Desk : In the first Joint Action Committee meeting of states hosted by Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK over the proposed delimitation of Parliamentary seats by the Centre, Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday made it clear that the fight is likely to be taken forward through the legal route also. Stalin warned that if the delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies is carried out based on the upcoming census, the voices of several states will be overlooked, much like the ongoing crisis in Manipur, where concerns have been ignored. The meeting witnessed the participation of 14 leaders from at least five states and they deliberated on the 'threat' posed by the Lok Sabha seats delimitation exercise to states with high economic growth and literacy. The Chief Ministers of Kerala, Telangana, and Punjab--Pinarayi Vijayan, Revanth Reddy and Bhagwant Singh Mann-- were among the leaders who took part in the meeting. Former chief ministers Jagan Mohan Reddy (Andhra Pradesh) and Naveen Patnaik (Odisha) also attended the meet. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats was hanging like the "sword of Damocles," and alleged the BJP government was going ahead on the issue without any consultation.



CBI FILES CLOSURE REPORT IN ACTOR SUSHANT RAJPUT DEATH CASE

Diary Times Desk : The CBI has filed a closure report in the late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case. Rajput was found hanging at his residence in Mumbai's Bandra on June 14, 2020. According to sources, the closure report was filed in two cases before a court in Mumbai on Saturday. The two cases include the allegations made by Rajput's father against his then girlfriend and actor Rhea Chakraborty and Chakraborty's allegations against Sushant's family. The Mumbai police had registered an accidental death report and launched an investigation. Later, the CBI had filed an FIR taking over the probe from the Bihar Police into the alleged abetment-to-suicide case filed by the actor's father, KK Singh, in Patna against Rajput's girlfriend and her family. KK Singh, in his complaint, had alleged that Chakraborty, along with her family members, misappropriated Rajput's wealth, a claim denied by Chakraborty in TV interviews.

'CASH AT JUDGE'S HOUSE': CJI CONSTITUTES 3-JUDGE PANEL TO PROBE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA



Diary Times Desk : Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Saturday constituted a three-judge committee to probe allegations of recovery of unaccounted cash at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma—a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court—during a fire incident on March 14. The CJI has also asked Delhi High Court Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya not to assign any judicial work to Justice Yashwant Varma for the time being. The three-member committee, which will conduct an inquiry into the allegations against Justice Varma, consists of Punjab & Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice G.S. Sandhawalia and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court, the Supreme Court said in an official statement. The decision was taken by the CJI after receiving a report from the Delhi High Court Chief Justice on the allegations against Justice Varma's residence, sources said, adding further course of action would be decided after submission of report by the three-judge panel.

CRPF JAWAN KILLED, 1 INJURED IN BLAST DURING ANTI-NAXAL OPERATION IN JHARKHAND

Diary Times Desk : A CRPF personnel was killed and another was injured in a blast in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Saturday, police said. The IED blast took place around 2.30 pm near Vangram Marangponga forest in Chotanagra police station area when an anti-Naxal operation was under way, they said. The Improvised Explosive Device (IED), planted by Maoists to target security forces exploded during a search operation, Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said. CRPF personnel Sunil Kumar Mandal and Partha Pratim Dey were injured in the blast, he said. They were airlifted to Ranchi for treatment, he added. "Mandal, a sub-inspector in CRPF's 193 battalion, succumbed to his injury during treatment," Shekhar said. Chief Minister Hemant Soren expressed grief over the death of the CRPF personnel. "Sad news has been received about the death of CRPF jawan Sunil Kumar Mandal ji, who was injured in the IED blast in Chaibasa, during treatment. May Marang Buru grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family members to bear this hour of sorrow," he posted on X.



YOUR HOROSCOPE
 23-03-2025

<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: HIMACHAL BUSES VANDALISED AGAIN IN PUNJAB, KHALISTAN WRITTEN ON THEM, NIGHT HALT PROHIBITED

Diary Times Desk : After Bhindranwale's flags were removed from bikes in Himachal, Himachal buses are being continuously targeted in Punjab. On Friday night also, Khalistan was written with black spray on four buses of Himachal Path Parivahan Nigam (HRTC) parked at Amritsar bus stand and their windows were broken. Posters of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale were also pasted. HRTC Una's DDM Suresh Dhiman reached Amritsar on Saturday and got an FIR registered at the police station. Meanwhile, the Himachal government has banned the night halt of HRTC buses in Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana and Jalandhar till further instructions. Information has been issued to all the depots in this regard. The issue of attack on HRTC buses was raised in the Himachal Assembly on Saturday also. 10 buses of HRTC stop for night halt in Amritsar, 4 each in Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur and 2 in Jalandhar. On Friday night, buses of Hamirpur, Dehra, Una and Bilaspur depots parked at Amritsar bus stand were targeted. Dinesh Kumar, bus conductor of Dehra depot, said that the bus which went from Jwalaji to Amritsar was parked at the bus stand at night. When he reached in the morning, he found the glass of the bus broken and something written on it in black colour in Punjabi language. Despite the presence of a police post inside the bus stand, such an incident has created an atmosphere of fear among the drivers and conductors.



SIRMOUR: RAKESH SINGHA SAID- HIMACHAL PRADESH IS GOING THROUGH A BIG CRISIS, THE CENTER IS NOT GIVING THE RIGHTS

Diary Times Desk : All the resources of Himachal Pradesh are under the control of the Government of India. Despite this, the Government of India is not giving the money due to Himachal Pradesh. The situation is such that Himachal is now going through a period of great crisis. Former MLA Rakesh Singha said this while addressing the media after the meeting of CPIM in Nahan. He said that ever since the formation of the state, this crisis has been in Himachal from the very beginning. When Himachal became a state, it was envisaged that the development of this state is impossible without the help of the Centre. He said that every statistic is a witness to this. He said that every year the deficit in the income of Himachal was met by the revenue deficit grant from the Central Government. He said that this time the grant that the state is going to get in this direction is Rs 3000 crores but the monthly liabilities of the state are Rs 26,000 crores. He also strongly opposed the matter of vacating the possession of the farmers' lands. He said that if the possession of the farmers is vacated, then a movement will be started at the state level from April 28. He said that farmers will not be allowed to be deprived of their rights.

HIMACHAL: GOVERNOR SAID- LAW AND ORDER HAS DETERIORATED IN HIMACHAL, GOVERNMENT SHOULD TELL HOW TO FIX IT

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has said that the law and order situation in the state has deteriorated. He wants to know from the state government how it will fix it. The Governor was talking to journalists during the convocation of Shoolini University. He said that even though Himachal is a small state, the law and order situation here should be good. Regarding this, the Leader of Opposition also met him with his MLAs and also submitted a memorandum on the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. On the basis of this memorandum, he also wants to know from the state government what it is doing to fix the law and order situation. He said that Himachal is a tourist state and people from outside will come here. Their security is the responsibility of the state government and it should do this. In response to a question, the Governor said that now voices are being raised against drug abuse from every village.

HP VIDHAN SABHA: ROHIT THAKUR SAID- VACANT POSTS IN REMOTE AREAS WILL BE FILLED SOON, PRINCIPALS WILL BE PROMOTED

Diary Times Desk : Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that most of the vacant posts will be filled in remote areas. He said that the posts of teachers will be filled in schools with high enrollment. He said that the principals will be promoted. Their number has crossed 600. They will be promoted soon. The department will make promotions on priority basis. 550 PGT posts will also get appointments. The rationalization work is in its final stage. Appointments will be made as soon as this session ends. Education Minister Rohit Thakur said this in response to questions from Rakesh Kalra, Pawan Kajal and Randhir Sharma during the Question Hour. BJP MLA Randhir Sharma said that there are many vacancies in the state for various posts. It is fine to do recruitment on batch basis and by the commission, but the posts are not being filled even on the basis of promotion. Congress MLA Rakesh Kalra said that how many PGT posts have been filled and how many are being filled. Congress MLA Sanjay Awasthi asked that lecturers were appointed in 1999, but did not become principals, while headmasters moved ahead. On this, Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that this matter will be investigated.

HPU SHIMLA: IF AWARDS ARE NOT SUBMITTED IN COLLEGES BY 24TH, THEN ADMIT CARDS WILL BE STOPPED

Diary Times Desk : The annual exams of Himachal Pradesh University's BA, BSc, BCom, Shastri and OTMIL will begin after five days, i.e. from March 27. There are still many colleges in the state that have not submitted the internal assessment awards of the students. Due to this negligence of the colleges, the students will have to remain deprived of the examinations. The university has already made it clear that the admit cards of those students whose internal assessment entry and verification process is not completed will not be issued. No student will be allowed to sit in the exam without an admit card. The colleges have time till the 24th to submit the internal assessment awards. According to the university, only 34 out of 152 colleges have completed the process of award entry verification. While there are 56 colleges which have done the award entry, but the verification has not been done by the college principals.

SHIMLA: BHARAT MATA POSTERS PUT UP IN PUNJAB BUSES, SLOGANS RAISED AGAINST KHALISTAN

Diary Times Desk : In protest against putting up of Bhindranwala's posters and vandalism on Himachal buses, Anti Terrorist Front India stopped Punjab buses at ISBT Shimla and put Bharat Mata's posters on them. Punjab Roadways buses were stopped under the leadership of Anti Terrorist Front India's National President Viresh Shandilya. Bharat Mata's posters were also put up on buses parked at ISBT. During this, slogans were also raised against Khalistan. On this occasion, Shandilya said that if Khalistani supporters put up Bhindranwala's posters or damage the buses of Himachal Path Parivahan Nigam, we will not tolerate it. He will meet Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday and talk about this. Earlier, Shandilya said in a press conference that the people of Himachal are being intimidated by Khalistanis. In this regard, he submitted a memorandum.

HIMACHAL: CM SUKHWINDER SUKHU MET UNION MINISTER AMIT SHAH, SOUGHT COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES CAUSED BY THE DISASTER

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday. The Chief Minister urged the Home Minister to release compensation for the heavy losses suffered by the state during the severe natural disaster in the monsoon of the year 2023. He said that the state government has requested to provide financial assistance after the disaster requirement assessment but the relief amount has not been provided by the central government yet. He told the Union Minister that drinking water, irrigation schemes, infrastructure, roads and bridges were severely damaged during the natural disaster. He said that the state government carried out relief and rehabilitation work to normalize life using its resources. The Chief Minister also discussed various matters related to the state's interest with the Union Minister. The Union Home Minister assured to provide all possible assistance to the state. Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Omkar Chand Sharma was present.

HEAVY RAINS, THUNDERSTORMS LASH BENGALURU; 20 FLIGHTS DIVERTED TO CHENNAI, COIMBATORE

Diary Times Desk : Bengaluru, on Saturday, found much-needed relief from the scorching heat as heavy rains and thunderstorms lashed the city. Several areas witnessed intense downpours accompanied by strong winds, following the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast of light rain and thundershowers for March 22 and 23. The adverse weather conditions, however, disrupted air travel, with at least 20 flights bound for Bengaluru diverted to Chennai, airport officials have confirmed. BIAL sources told Moneycontrol that 20 flights were diverted from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) due to operational reasons, including two international and 18 domestic flights. The international diversions involved IndiGo flights from Mauritius and Malé to Bengaluru. Among the 18 domestic flights, diversions included services from Bagdogra, Hyderabad, Goa, Port Blair, Agatti, Shirdi, Tiruchirappalli, Mumbai, Delhi, Durgapur, Visakhapatnam, and Aizawl, operated by IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, and Akasa Air.

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REPORT OF PROBE AGAINST CASH PILE JUDGE, HIS RESPONSE TO BE MADE PUBLIC: SUPREME COURT



Diary Times Desk : A report submitted by the Delhi High Court Chief Justice into allegations that a huge pile of cash was found at the house of a judge of the high court is being uploaded on the Supreme Court website. The response by Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, at whose house in the national capital the cash stash was allegedly found, will also be uploaded on the website, the Supreme Court said in a press note today. "The report submitted by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi, response of Justice Yashwant Varma, and other documents are being uploaded on the Supreme Court website," the top court said. Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna consulted collegium members Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice AS Oka, and Justice Vikram Nath on making the documents public, and they all agreed on it for transparency.

'DRANK 2 BOTTLES A DAY': DRIVER ON MEERUT MURDER ACCUSED'S HIMACHAL VACATION

Diary Times Desk : Muskaan Rastogi and her friend Sahil Shukla regularly purchased alcohol, ordered a birthday cake and even visited a gurudwara during their 15-day trip to the hills from March 4, hours after they murdered a former Merchant Navy officer and dismembered his body in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut. According to the cab driver who was hired to take the accused around in Shimla, Manali and Kasol in Himachal Pradesh, Muskaan and Sahil barely spoke to one another as they left for the trip. "I did not know about the murder. The cab, a Swift Dzire, was booked on the morning of March 4. I reached the given address in the evening to pick up the two people for the 15-day tour. They ate food but barely spoke on the way. The woman would always get down from the car each time her mother called," the driver, Ajab Singh, told NDTV. Mr Singh said that during their stay in Shimla, Muskaan had sent him an audio.

KARNATAKA BANDH TODAY OVER BELAGAVI BUS CONDUCTOR ATTACK, SECURITY TIGHTENED

Diary Times Desk : Pro-Kannada groups have called for a 12-hour statewide shutdown in Karnataka today to protest last month's alleged assault on a bus conductor in Belagavi for not knowing Marathi. According to officials, elaborate security arrangements have been made across the state by deploying home guards and the city armed reserve units for the shutdown from 6 am to 6 pm. The statewide shutdown is likely to disrupt transport services as some auto-rickshaw, cab, and private driver unions have extended their support. However, state-run transport corporations such as Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL), will remain operational. While hotel associations, malls, bars, and restaurants have only offered "moral support", essential services-including pharmacies, hospitals, ambulances, petrol pumps, and metro services.

KERALA: ONE ARRESTED, TWO IN CUSTODY IN MAN'S MURDER IN IDUKKI

Diary Times Desk : One person was arrested, and two others were detained on Saturday in connection with the discovery of the body of a man who had been missing since Thursday morning in this hill district. The investigation has revealed it to be a planned murder, police said. The deceased has been identified as Biju Joseph, 50, a native of Chungam in Thodupuzha, police added. Joseph's body was found in a manhole inside a godown of a catering firm in Kalayanthani, near Thodupuzha. He had been missing since early Thursday after leaving home for a morning walk. His relatives filed a missing person report with the Thodupuzha police on Friday. According to the police, Jomon, 50, a resident of Kalayanthani near Thodupuzha and a former business partner of the deceased, has been formally arrested. Addressing the media in Thodupuzha, Idukki District Superintendent of Police Vishnu Pratheep stated that the arrests of the two detained suspects will be recorded soon. He also mentioned that a fourth accused is already in judicial custody after being arrested under the Kerala Anti-Social Activities Act.



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LEBANON WARNS OF "NEW WAR" AFTER ISRAEL'S RETALIATION

Diary Times Desk : Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam has issued a stark warning that his country is teetering on the brink of a new conflict, following Israel's vow to retaliate against rocket attacks launched from Lebanese territory. The prime minister's concerns are rooted in the risks associated with renewed military operations along the southern border, which could potentially plunge Lebanon into another devastating war. Salam warned of renewed military operations on the southern border, because of the risks they carry dragging the country into a new war, which will bring woes to Lebanon and the Lebanese people," he said in a statement. This warning comes on the heels of a statement by Israeli army chief Eyal Zamir, who pledged that the military would respond severely to the intercepted rockets. Zamir emphasised that Lebanon bears the responsibility of upholding the agreement. The Lebanese prime minister's statement served as a stern reminder that his country will not be drawn into another conflict without a fight, asserting that "all security and military measures must be taken to show that Lebanon decides on matters of war and peace."

US REVOKES TEMPORARY STATUS OF 5 LAKH MIGRANTS, TO FACE DEPORTATION SOON

Diary Times Desk : The Department of Homeland Security said Friday that it will revoke legal protections for hundreds of thousands of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans, setting them up for potential deportation in about a month. The order applies to about 5,32,000 people from the four countries who came to the United States since October 2022. They arrived with financial sponsors and were given two-year permits to live and work in the US. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said they will lose their legal status on April 24, or 30 days after the publication of the notice in the Federal Register. The new policy impacts people who are already in the US and who came under the humanitarian parole program. It follows an earlier Trump administration decision to end what it called the "broad abuse" of the humanitarian parole, a long-standing legal tool presidents have used to allow people.

INDIA'S ADVICE TO STUDENTS IN US AS TRUMP'S DEPORTATION POLICY GAINS PACE

Diary Times Desk : The Indian government has advised its citizens studying in the US to comply with American laws after a researcher was arrested and another student had to self-deport to Canada. Badar Khan Suri, a postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University, has been accused by US authorities of spreading " Hamas propaganda" while Columbia University student Ranjini Srinivasan's visa was revoked for participating in pro-Palestine protests. The two Indians did not contact the Indian embassies in the US for assistance, said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the External Affairs Ministry. Mr Suri and Ms Srinivasan are among the latest academics targeted in the US crackdown on pro-Palestine campus protests. President Donald Trump, who has termed such individuals "terrorist sympathizers", has threatened to cut university funding and deport such students. Trump's policy has shaken the academic world and students now fear losing their residency permit. US authorities insist on deporting Mr Suri, who has claimed that his wife's Palestinian roots led to his arrest, but a court recently blocked his removal from the country.



INVESTIGATION CALLED INTO POWER OUTAGE NEAR HEATHROW



Diary Times Desk : Energy Secretary Ed Miliband has ordered the National Energy System Operator (NESO) to "urgently investigate" the power outage caused by a substation fire that shut Heathrow Airport on Friday. The investigation by the body that operates Britain's electricity grid would build a "clear picture of the circumstances surrounding this incident" and the UK's "energy resilience more broadly" to prevent it "from ever happening again", the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero said. We are determined to properly understand what happened and what lessons need to be learned," Miliband said. The fire at the North Hyde substation in west London that supplies power to the airport led to thousands of cancelled flights and stranded passengers across the world.

POPE TO MAKE FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE HOSPITALISATION ON SUNDAY

Diary Times Desk : Pope Francis will make his first public appearance on Sunday with a blessing and a wave from Rome's Gemelli hospital where he was admitted on February 14 with breathing problems. The 88-year-old pontiff has been battling pneumonia in both lungs after being hospitalised. "Pope Francis intends to wave and offer a blessing from the Agostino Gemelli hospital in Rome after Angelus prayers," The Vatican said Saturday. The pope has missed the Angelus prayers for five straight weeks for the first time since his election in March 2013. The Angelus prayers are normally recited by the pope at midday (1100 GMT) every Sunday. The pope has made public appearances from the Gemelli hospital earlier -- on July 11, 2021 he recited the Angelus prayer from his balcony on the 10th floor of the hospital following colon surgery. The current hospitalisation is the longest in Francis's papacy and has raised questions over who might lead the busy schedule of religious events leading up to Easter, the holiest period in the Christian calendar.

ICELAND MINISTER QUILTS AFTER CONFESSING TO HAVING A CHILD WITH TEENAGE BOY

Diary Times Desk : Asthildur Loa Thorsdottir, Iceland's minister for children, abruptly resigned after admitting that she had a baby with a teenage boy over three decades ago. Ms Thorsdottir, now 58, disclosed the relationship began when she was a counsellor at a religious group the boy attended. At the time, she was 22, while he was 15, BBC reported. While she has stepped down as the minister for children, Ms Thorsdottir, a member of the centre-left People's Party, has no plans to leave the Parliament. The two met when Ms Thorsdottir worked at Tru og lif (Religion and Life), where Eirik Asmundsson took refuge amid difficult circumstances at home, Icelandic news agency RUV reported on Thursday. She gave birth to the child at 23, while the boy turned 16. In Iceland, the age of consent is 15, and it is illegal to get physical with a person under 18 if you are their mentor or teacher or they remain financially dependent on you or even work for you. Those found guilty can get a maximum sentence of three years in jail.

IS BRICS "DISINTEGRATING" AFTER TRUMP'S TARIFF THREAT? S JAISHANKAR SAYS...

Diary Times Desk : Meetings and discussions in the BRICS grouping are aimed at finding common ground and working together to shape the global order while their common thread is the "commitment to multi-polarity", the Centre told Parliament on Friday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said this in a written response to a query on the current status of BRICS and whether it is true that the grouping has now "started disintegrating" post the "tariff threat by America". In his response, Jaishankar outlined the history and evolution of the influential grouping of which India is a member. "From time to time, regional political issues such as peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, the permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the situation in Lebanon, the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and Haiti, situation in and around Ukraine, territorial integrity of Syria, have also been deliberated upon by BRICS members," he said. BRICS, a platform founded in 2006, has been "progressing steadily" since its inception, he said, adding that it reflects the "common concern" of its members and seeks to make global debates and leadership more representative and inclusive. While originally founded with four members.

ASSAULT ON ARMY COLONEL: FAMILY DIGS IN HEELS; DEMANDS CBI PROBE, TRANSFER OF PATIALA SSP

Diary Times Desk : The wife of the Army Colonel, who has accused 12 Punjab Police personnel of assaulting him and his son over a parking dispute, started a sit-in protest along with ex-servicemen outside the Patiala Deputy Commissioner's office on Saturday to press for a CBI probe. The incident had snowballed into a major controversy after Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath's wife Jasvinder Kaur Bath accused the police of refusing to file an FIR on their complaint. Amid outrage, Punjab Police went into damage control mode on Friday — setting up a high-level SIT, filing a fresh FIR based on the Army officer's statement and suspending 12 personnel allegedly involved in the episode. However, the family of the Colonel was on Saturday adamant about their demands for a CBI probe and the transfer of Patiala SSP Nanak Singh. Jasvinder had accused Singh of failing to take action on their multiple requests to file an FIR. Despite Patiala DC Preeti Yadav assuring them of a fair and transparent probe, the family refused to lift the 'dharna' and said it would continue until their demands were met. Referring to the assault incident, Yadav said it was unfortunate. "It is a matter of investigation. Whatever I could do, I did. The purpose of my visit to you is that the message should go across that whatever will happen, it will be in a fair and transparent manner.



PALSORA LIQUOR VEND GOES FOR RS 14 CR

Diary Times Desk : A liquor vend at Palsora village bordering Mohali has received the highest bid of Rs 14 crore at the first e-auction of the Excise Policy 2025-26 today. The UT Excise and Taxation Department had received a total of 228 bids online for 96 liquor vends out of a total 97 with a reserve price of Rs 439.29 crore. The department has collected a total of Rs 606.43 crore, which includes licence fee and Rs 4.56 crore participation fee. The total amount was 36% more than the reserve price. The highest bid of Rs 14 crore was received for the liquor vend at Palsora village against a reserve price of Rs 10.22 crore. The only liquor vend in Sector 20 remained unsold this year. In the first round of e-tendering under the Excise Policy 2024-25, only 50 licensing units were sold. According to officials, the changes made in the policy — allowing bars to procure liquor from retail vends, permitting inter-vend stock transfers within the same entity and rationalisation of liquor quota — led to a good response to auction. All bidders submitted their bids online and no manual bids were accepted.

ACQUITTAL IN ACCIDENT CASE NO GROUND TO DISMISS CLAIM PETITION FOR COMPENSATION

Diary Times Desk : The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT), Chandigarh, has directed an insurance company to pay compensation to the family members of a woman who died in an accident seven years ago. The Tribunal ruled that the findings of the criminal court are not binding on the Tribunal in such cases. The Tribunal relied on a judgment by the Himachal Pradesh High Court, which stated that while a criminal conviction is enough to establish that a driver operated a vehicle rashly and negligently, an acquittal in criminal court cannot be used to dismiss a compensation claim. This ruling came in response to a claim petition filed by the woman's six-year-old daughter and other family members. The petition stated that on May 17, 2018, the woman was riding her Activa scooter on Ramgarh Road via Panchkula when a truck, driven rashly and negligently at high speed.

PUNJAB POLICE ARREST AMRITPAL'S AIDE AMANDEEP SINGH FROM FARIDKOT

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Police have arrested Amandeep Singh, an associate of pro-Khalistan leader and MP Amritpal Singh, from Faridkot district. Amandeep, a resident of Panjgaryian village in Kot Kapura, was produced before the Ajnala court, which granted a three-day police remand for further investigation. According to the police, Amandeep was nominated in the FIR registered in connection with the Ajnala police station attack. He was present during the incident, which occurred in February 2023. Harinder Singh Gill, SP (Detective), Amritsar Rural Police, confirmed the arrest. The arrest follows the questioning of seven aides of Amritpal Singh, who were brought from Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam after the withdrawal of the National Security Act against them. Amritpal Singh, his close associate Pappalpreet Singh, and Varinder Singh Johal are still in Assam Jail. More arrests are likely in the coming days as the police identify additional individuals involved in the Ajnala police station attack. The incident occurred when Amritpal Singh and his followers stormed the police station to release their associate Lovepreet Singh Toofan, who was arrested in an attempt to murder case. Several police personnel, including the then SP Jugraj Singh, were injured in the clash.

ED ARRESTS SON-IN-LAW OF FORMER PEARLS GROUP CHIEF BHANGOO IN RS 48,000 CRORE PONZI SCAM

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Harsatinder Pal Singh Hayer, the son-in-law of the former Pearls Group chairman and managing director Nirmal Singh Bhangoo, on money-laundering charges. He was arrested on March 21 and remanded in ED custody by a Delhi PMLA court. The case is based on a FIR registered by the CBI against PACL India Limited, PGF Limited, Nirmal Singh Bhangoo (who died in August 2024), and others. "They were involved in operating fraudulent investment schemes to deceive investors. Through these schemes, PACL and its directors defrauded investors of approximately Rs 48,000 crore," said the agency. After Bhangoo was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2016, Hayer, his wife Barinder Kaur and mother-in-law Prem Kaur looked after the business. They reportedly formed new firms, the directors of which were their relatives, servants and drivers. Punjab Agro Company Limited (PACL), a subsidiary of the Pearls Group, and Bhangoo, had allegedly cheated 5.5 crore investors through a network of 2.3 million agents by promising them agricultural plots and a high return on investments. In 2016, the Supreme Court restrained PACL and its directors, promoters and associate companies.

5 ILLEGAL MINING CASES DAILY SINCE 2019 IN HARYANA

Diary Times Desk : Haryana witnessed over five illegal mining cases per day since April 1, 2019, leading to the recovery of Rs 345.74 crore in penalties. A total of 10,676 cases were registered from April 1, 2019 to October 31, 2024, according to the Economic Survey of Haryana. The maximum number of cases were seen in 2020-21 and 2021-22, with 3,515 and 2,192 cases being registered, respectively. The Economic Survey-2024-25, tabled in the Vidhan Sabha on March 17, says that apart from checking by the Department of the Mines and Geology, officials of the Forest and Transport departments, Pollution Control Board and the police also take steps to curb illegal mining. Even vehicles used for the transportation of minerals from the adjoining states without valid supporting documents are dealt with as per provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, by imposing penalties. From August 28, 2019, to November 30, 2024, as many as 13,118 vehicles were seized, implying a seizure of close to seven vehicles per day in the state. A penalty of Rs 185.81 crore has been realised. The maximum number of vehicles — 2,815 — were seized from Yamunanagar, followed by Gurugram and Nuh (1,637), Faridabad and Palwal (1,366), Mahendragarh (1,309), Panchkula (1,054) and Ambala (979).

FARMERS PROTEST AGAINST AAP GOVT IN AMBALA; NH COMMUTERS RELIEVED

Diary Times Desk : Angered by the Punjab Government's recent crackdown on agitating farmers, groups under the banner of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) staged protests against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in Ambala on Friday. Following a call for protest by farmer unions, demonstrators gathered in Ambala City and Naraingarh, raising slogans against the AAP government and burning effigies of CM Bhagwant Mann. BKU (SBS) leader Manjeet Singh criticised the Punjab Government's actions, stating, "The AAP government in Punjab has betrayed the farmers. Our leaders were arrested after a meeting with the ministers, and the protesting farmers at Shambhu and Khanauri borders were forcefully evicted. While the Central government ministers claimed they were serious about addressing farmers' demands, such actions by the AAP government are unacceptable. We fail to understand the reasons behind using force against farmers.

POLICE ARREST 9 MEMBERS OF SONU GANG INVOLVED IN DRUG SMUGGLING

Diary Times Desk : As many as nine associates of 'Sonu gang', an inter-state drug-trafficking syndicate operating in the upper regions of Shimla district, have been arrested, police said here on Saturday. The accused have been identified as Adital Rathore (35), a resident of Paljara village in Rampur tehsil, Shimla; Gagan (31), a resident of Rampur Bushahr; Naveen Chauhan (26), a resident of Kalmog village in Nankhari tehsil, Shimla; Rajan Mehta (33), a resident of Lailan village in Nankhari, Shimla; Mohit Agarwal (32), a resident of Rampur Bushahr; Ujjwal Pandit (30), a resident of Rampur Bushahr; Sanjeev Kumar (30), a resident of Lalsa village in Rampur; Kushal Chauhan (21), a resident of Karali in Rampur; and Rajkumar (31), a resident of Matreved village in Rampur. According to police, the accused were actively involved in buying and selling of 'chitta' in the Rampur region. A case under relevant Acts of the NDPS Act has been registered against the accused and further investigation is going on, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Rampur Naresh Sharma said. Police have identified 60 to 70 individuals involved in the purchase and sale of heroin.

BILASPUR FIRING CASE: SHOOTER NABBED FROM DELHI'S NAJAFGARH

Diary Times Desk : One of the four shooters who opened fire on former Congress MLA Bamber Thakur and his personal security officer on March 14 have been arrested, police said on Saturday. Thakur was attacked by four assailants when he was sitting in the courtyard of his wife's government residence in Bilaspur on March 14. He had sustained a bullet injury in his leg during the firing, while his personal security officer Sanjeev Kumar received multiple bullet injuries. One of the accused, identified as Sagar, was apprehended from Najafgarh in New Delhi and was produced in a local court that remanded him to 14 days of judicial custody, Bilaspur Superintendent of Police Sandeep Dhawal told PTI on Saturday. After identification by the eye witnesses, Sagar would be questioned about the details of other shooters and the conspiracy behind the crime, Dhawal said. The other accused are hiding in multiple places and a search is on, he added.

AFTER KHARAR, 4 HIMACHAL ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION BUSES DAMAGED IN PUNJAB'S AMRITSAR

Diary Times Desk : The windshields of four buses of the Himachal Road Transport Corporation were smashed at the bus stand here by some unidentified persons on Saturday, police said. Pro-Khalistan slogans were also found written on the buses. The vehicles were parked at the parking lot of a bus stand here and nobody was present inside them when the incident took place. Police said an investigation in the matter was underway. The incident came days after the windshield and some windows of a HRTC bus were damaged by two unidentified persons in Mohali's Kharar. These incidents came close on the heels of a row which had erupted after some locals in Himachal Pradesh removed flags bearing the image of slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from the bikes of a group of youths from Punjab. To vent their anger, Dal Khalsa and Sikh Youth of Punjab activists pasted the image of Bhindranwale on HRTC buses, as well as some private ones, in Hoshiarpur.



CM SUKHU SEEKS COMPENSATION FOR 2023 MONSOON DAMAGES FROM CENTRE

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi today, urging him to release compensation for damages incurred during the 2023 monsoon season. The state had claimed financial assistance under post-disaster needs assessment, but relief is still pending from the central government. Sukhu informed Shah that the state suffered significant losses due to devastating rains, affecting drinking water, irrigation schemes, and causing substantial damage to infrastructure, including roads and bridges. The Chief Minister emphasised that the catastrophe required large-scale relief and rehabilitation measures, which the state has managed with its own resources so far. The meeting also discussed various other state-related issues. Union Home Minister Amit Shah assured Sukhu of all possible assistance. Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary Revenue Onkar Chand Sharma was also present during the meeting. The state had claimed financial assistance under post-disaster needs assessment, but relief is still pending from the central.

HRTC BUSES WON'T BE PARKED IN PUNJAB IN NIGHT UNTIL ASSURED OF SAFETY: HIMACHAL DY CM

Diary Times Desk : In the wake of sporadic attacks on Himachal Pradesh buses in Punjab and scribbling of pro-Khalistani slogans on them, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said on Saturday HRTC buses will not be parked in Punjab at night until the AAP dispensation ensures their safety and that of passengers. The windshields of four Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses were smashed at the Amritsar stand on Friday night by some unidentified persons, while Pro-Khalistan slogans were written on some others. Similar incidents were reported in past as well. HRTC Divisional Manager Raj Kumar Pathak said the buses that were vandalised were supposed to go to Bilaspur, Dehra and Una. Slogans were written on a Hamirpur-bound bus, he said. He said the department is in contact with HRTC bus staff and has informed higher authorities about this. Talking to mediapersons here about such incidents, Agnihotri, who also holds the Transport portfolio, said the HRTC buses ply on 600 routes in Punjab.

HIMACHAL GOVT COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OLD PENSION SCHEME: DEPUTY CM AGNIHOTRI

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri reaffirmed the Himachal Government's commitment to providing the old pension scheme (OPS) to state government employees. However, he noted that the Centre has not returned the Rs 9,242 crore contribution lying with it under the earlier new pension scheme (NPS), despite repeated requests. Agnihotri stated that the state government has fulfilled its promise to restore OPS, made ahead of the 2022 Assembly election. So far, 1,17,521 government employees have opted for OPS, while 1,356 prefer to continue with NPS. The Deputy CM explained that the Rs 9,242 crore fund, comprising 50 per cent contributions from the state government and employees, is currently invested in bonds by the Centre. He emphasised that the state government is continuously requesting the Centre to return this deposited money to facilitate its distribution to retiring employees. Agnihotri also mentioned that the Centre has imposed a cut of Rs 1,700 crore on the loan raising limit by Himachal after the restoration of OPS by the Congress government. The issue of granting OPS to employees of boards and corporations is currently under consideration, with HRTC employees already benefiting from the scheme.



IPL 2025: VIRAT KOHLI, PHIL SALT FIRE UP RCB'S TITLE HUNT IN STYLE, DECIMATE KKR

Diary Times Desk : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) got their campaign in the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) off to a winning start, beating Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by 7 wickets on Saturday, March 22 at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. After being put in to bat first, KKR posted 174/7 in their allotted 20 overs as captain Ajinkya Rahane led from the front with a brilliant half-century (56 off 31). In reply, RCB chased down the target in 16.2 overs as Philip Salt (56 off 31) and Virat Kohli (59* off 36) led the charge with the bat. As a result, they managed to end their four-consecutive loss streak against KKR. RCB's chase got off to a fine start as Philip Salt drove Vaibhav Arora for a boundary through covers. Kohli also got into the groove by getting off the mark with a boundary through his trademark flick shot as the duo scored 12 runs in the opening over. Salt further pressed the accelerator as he smashed Arora for two fours and a six in his second over. Seeing the game getting out of hand, captain Rahane brought in his main strike bowler Varun Chakravarthy. However, Salt was in no mood to stop as he treated even KKR's mystery spinner with utter disdain, clobbering him for four consecutive boundaries, including a sixer.



MATT HENRY OUT OF LAST TWO PAKISTAN T20IS, TO CONTINUE INJURY REHABILITATION

Diary Times Desk : Matt Henry, who had been included in New Zealand's squads for the fourth and fifth T20is against Pakistan despite an injured shoulder, has been officially ruled out, and will continue "his injury rehabilitation programme," New Zealand Cricket said on Saturday. Zakary Foulkes, who had been selected only for the first three games of the series, has been retained for the last two games as Henry's replacement. Foulkes was persisted with after returns of 1 for 11 (three overs) in the first game and none for 32 (three overs) in the second game, both of which New Zealand won. In another tweak to the squad, Kyle Jamieson, who was Player of the Match in the first T20I for his returns of 3 for 8 but was expensive (none for 54) in the third game, which Pakistan won, has been left out for the last two games. Will O'Rourke, who had originally been picked only for the first three games, has been added to the squad in Jamieson's place. Henry had injured his right shoulder while diving in the outfield during the Champions Trophy semi-final win over South Africa earlier this month, which put him out of the final against India, and has also been managing an ongoing left-knee issue. Of the New Zealand quicks, Jacob Duffy has played all three matches.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS LEAN ON SPINNERS AGAINST DEPLETED MUMBAI INDIANS IN THEIR IPL OPENER

Diary Times Desk : Chennai Super Kings will lean on their formidable spin strength under favourable conditions at the Chepauk as well as recent record against Mumbai Indians sans Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya, when the two sides face each other in their Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign opener in Chennai on Sunday. Five-time winners CSK augmented their spin attack in the IPL mega auction last year by including Ravichandran Ashwin, Noor Ahmad Shreyas Gopal and Deepak Hooda, with India veteran Ravindra Jadeja also in the mix. CSK's pre-season moves indicate how the spin-friendly conditions at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here could be a major factor in their game plan. Starting their season against an equally formidable opponent in Mumbai Indians, this strategy could well deliver the goods right from the beginning. For CSK, MS Dhoni will be the cynosure of all eyes once again, having remained with the team since the inception of the IPL in 2008. On the other hand, the absence of India bowling spearhead Bumrah could be acutely felt in the MI ranks as the right-arm pacer remains on a comeback trail from a back-related issue which has kept him sidelined so far this year. Bumrah is expected to miss the initial stages of this IPL.

"HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO...": EX-ENGLAND CAPTAIN BACKS BCCI'S IPL BAN ON HARRY BROOK

Diary Times Desk : Former England captain Michael Vaughan has backed Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) move to ban Harry Brook after the batter pulled out of the upcoming Indian Premier League season. England star Brook has been banned from the T20 event for two seasons following his last minute pullout from IPL 2025. Earlier this month, Brook had made himself unavailable for the second straight season. Notably, any foreign player who misses the T20 event after getting picked at the auction faces a two-year ban from the the tournament unless he is injured. Brook, who was bought by Delhi Capitals for INR 6.25 crore in the auction held in November last year, opted out of IPL 2025 to focus on his England career. He had withdrawn from IPL 2024 as well, following the death of his grandmother. Vaughan felt it was a right call made the Indian cricket board to ban the player after his decision to pull out despite being fit.



SHOAIB MALIK'S WIFE FACES BACKLASH FOR DISRESPECTING SARFARAZ ON LIVE TV: "SAY SORRY..."

Diary Times Desk : Cricketer Shoaib Malik wife, Sana Javed, has come under heavy scrutiny for her controversial remarks on a television show with former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed. Sana recently appeared on a TV game show 'Jeeto Pakistan' along with Sarfaraz. During one of the segments, Sarfaraz revealed that he preferred facing medium pacers. However, in an attempt to troll Sarfaraz, Sana told him: "You're speaking as if someone has wound you up like a toy." Sarfaraz responded by saying: "I played where I was supposed to." "Aap ko kya takleef hai, main apne miyaan ke saath jaise bhi khelun (I can play play however I want with my husband)," Sana replied, but her comment was deemed disrespectful by fans. A video of the same incident has gone viral on social media with fans blasting Sana for disrespecting Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy-winning captain. Sana and Malik got married last year in January. A report by Samaa TV claimed that Shoaib and Sana had been in a relationship for three years after first meeting each other on the sets of a TV show.

"INDIA WILL SUFFER MORE FINANCIAL LOSS...": PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD'S WARNING AFTER CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025

Diary Times Desk : After the Champions Trophy ended, several reports claimed that Pakistan - the hosts of the tournament faced severe loss. However, on Thursday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) put up a brave front and claimed it is set to earn approximately USD 10 million as profit by hosting the Champions Trophy, where the Indian team emerged champion. PCB spokesperson Aamir Mir and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Javed Murtaza even blamed Indian media for such negative publicity. Aamir Mir went on to warn BCCI that it will earn even more financial loss in the future. "All the decision-making is done by ICC. If India has tried to harm Pakistan, then I can tell you also pay the price. You know India vs Pakistan sell like hot cakes. You know for the next three years Pakistan will not travel to India. So if Pakistan will incur any financial loss, India will suffer more financial loss with Pakistan not travelling to India," PCB spokesperson Aamir Mir said in a press conference. Ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, there was huge confusion over the venue with India refusing to travel to Pakistan. After months of delay.