

DELHI JUDGE CASH ROW

"IMPACTFUL, TRANSPARENT...": JAGDEEP DHANKHAR'S PRAISE IN DELHI JUDGE CASH ROW

Diary Times Desk : Rajya Sabha Chair Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday lavished praise on Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Kumar and the Supreme Court's handling of the Justice Yashwant Varma controversy - the Delhi High Court judge at whose home a pile of burnt cash was discovered on Holi.

Mr Dhankhar said the Chief Justice's reaction to the storm - to release the full (with the exception of some names being redacted) report of the Delhi High Court - was "a step in the right direction".

"For the first time since independence a Chief Justice has put all material in the public domain and shared it without keeping anything with the court. This is a step in the right direction. Institutions like the judiciary and legislature serve the public best when it upholds public trust."

The Chief Justice, he continued, had acted in "a very impactful (and) transparent manner..." and called on all stakeholders to await the outcome of the three-member panel's inquiry. "I have indicated firmly that these steps taken by the Chief Justice of India are unprecedented," he said, adding also that he had spoken with the Bharatiya Janata Party's JP Nadda and Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of the House and of the Opposition, respectively, in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr Dhankhar - who last week said he would work with the BJP's JP Nadda and Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of the House and of the Opposition, to hold a structured discussion in the Rajya Sabha - also said that discussion would be scheduled soon.



KUNAL KAMRA ROW

"BRUISED MY SPIRIT": ON KUNAL KAMRA JOKE ROW, FILM-MAKER RECALLS OWN ORDEAL



Diary Times Desk : Film-maker Hansal Mehta today came out in support of comedian Kunal Kamra, who is being targeted over his comments on Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. In a post on X, Mr Mehta recalled an incident 25 years ago, when, he said, he was similarly targeted by the undivided Shiv Sena over an innocuous line in one of his movies.

Mr Kamra had sparked a massive controversy over the weekend, referring to the Deputy Chief Minister as a "traitor" (Gaddar) during a performance at the hotel, located in Mumbai's Khar -- an allusion to the 2022 rebellion that split the Shiv Sena and pulled down the government led by Uddhav Thackeray. The Shiv Sena demanded his arrest and supporters and members of the party vandalized the office of the "The Unicontinental Mumbai", where the show was held.

Mr Mehta today recalled that he had got worse backlash and was forced to apologise. Loyalists of the same (then undivided) political party stormed into my office. They vandalised it, physically assaulted me, blackened my face, and forced me to apologise publicly-by falling at the feet of an elderly woman-for a single line of dialogue in my film," his post read.

"That incident didn't just bruise my body. It bruised my spirit. It blunted my filmmaking, muted my courage, and silenced parts of me that took years to reclaim," Mr Mehta wrote. Asserting that intimidation and humiliation "can never be justified" he added that "we owe ourselves dialogue, dissent, and dignity". Mr Kamra has pointedly refused to back down. In a post on X, he said today that he would "cooperate with the police and courts for any lawful action taken against me". At the same time, he questioned if the law will be 'fairly and equally deployed against those who have decided that vandalism is the appropriate response to a joke".





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RECOVERY OF CASH: SC COLLEGIUM RECOMMENDS TRANSFER OF JUSTICE VARMA TO ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk : Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court – who has been in the eye of a storm over alleged recovery of unaccounted cash from his residence during a fire on March 14 – was on Monday recommended to be transferred to the Allahabad High Court – his parent high court. The decision was taken by the five-member Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna after considering the issue for the second time on Monday. The other four members of the Collegium are Justice BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice AS Oka and Justice Vikram Nath. "The Supreme Court Collegium in its meetings held on 20th and 24th March 2025 has recommended repatriation of Mr. Justice Yashwant Varma, Judge, High Court of Delhi, to the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad," a Collegium resolution published on the Supreme Court website said. The Supreme Court had on Friday sought to dispel "misinformation and rumours" about the proposal to transfer him, saying it was still under consideration and that it was not linked to the in-house inquiry initiated by the Delhi High Court Chief Justice.



ARMY DEVELOPING SMART COLLARS AND BULLETPROOF VESTS TO PROTECT MILITARY DOGS

Diary Times Desk : With military dogs being regularly employed in counter-terrorist operations as well as disaster relief missions, the Army is developing new protective devices like bulletproof vests and smart collars for its canine warriors that would help mitigate casualties. Operational deployment exposes the dogs to extreme weather conditions, strenuous physical exertion and toxic environment, which can result in heat stress, fatigue, respiratory disorders and cardiac health issues. A smart collar would monitor the dogs' physical parameters such as body temperature, pulse, respiration, heart rate variability and calorie expenditure, just like a smart watch or similar wearables used by humans, and alert the handler in case of any abnormality, an officer with the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) said. At present, dog handlers rely on their judgment and experience to assess the health of the dog.

'CASH AT JUDGE'S HOUSE': RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN PRAISES CJI FOR QUICKLY SETTING UP 3-JUDGE PANEL



Diary Times Desk : Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday praised Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna for quickly setting up a three-judge panel to probe allegations of unaccounted cash seizure at the house of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court during a fire on March 14, terming it as a step in the right direction. After a meeting with Leader of the House JP Nadda and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge on the issue, the Rajya Sabha chairman welcomed the handling of the controversy in a transparent manner using the in-house mechanism and emphasised that such kind of malaise needed to be eradicated. On March 21, the issue was raised by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh in the Rajya Sabha and chairman Dhankhar had expressed shock and assured a structured discussion on the issue. Lamenting that the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2015, the Rajya Sabha chairman had said, "If the malaise had been dealt with perhaps we would not have countenanced such kind of issues."

FADNAVIS SEEKS KUNAL KAMRA'S APOLOGY FOR 'INSULTING' SHINDE

Diary Times Desk : Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday sought stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra's apology for "insulting" Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, while police arrested 12 workers of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena for ransacking the venue in Mumbai where Kamra made the "traitor" jibe. A local court later released Shiv Sena functionary Rahul Kanal and 11 others on bail. Slamming Kamra's remarks against Shinde, Fadnavis asserted that "urban Naxals" and "Left liberals" supporting such acts will be taught a lesson. Mumbai police registered an FIR against Kamra for making defamatory remarks against Shinde, officials said. The police also registered a case against 40 Shiv Sena workers for vandalising the Habitat studio in Khar area, where Kamra's show was filmed, and a hotel where the studio is located. Several Shiv Sena workers on Sunday night gathered outside Hotel Unicontinental, where the Habitat is located. They allegedly ransacked the studio and the hotel premises, the police said. The CPI (M) condemned the targeting of Kamra and the vandalism of the studio over his alleged defamatory remarks against Shinde.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 25-03-2025

<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>



HP ASSEMBLY SESSION: SUKHU SAID, JAIRAM-BINDAL WENT TO DO POLITICS IN KINNAUR, UPROAR, OPPOSITION WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the case of death of Chief Engineer of Power Corporation Vimal Negi is being seriously investigated. The culprits will not be spared. He said that Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur and BJP State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal went to Kinnaur to take political advantage instead of sympathizing with the victims. The Chief Minister said this while responding to the discussion on the cut motion brought by the opposition on the issue of police and related organizations. The opposition opposed his statement. After the uproar in the House, BJP MLAs walked out of the House. On this, the Speaker of the Assembly made an arrangement that after the Chief Minister's statement on the cut motion is completed, the opposition can be given a chance to speak. One cannot go out on the cut motion. He asked the Leader of Opposition why a CBI inquiry was not conducted in the suicide case of former BJP MP Ramswaroop. His wife had demanded a CBI inquiry. A student died in Sundarnagar Nursing Hostel, why was there no CBI inquiry in this also. When a government official went to stop illegal construction in Kasauli, a female officer was shot dead, why was this also not investigated by a central agency.



DALAI LAMA: DALAI LAMA JOINED THE PRAYER FOR HIS LONGEVITY, IT STARTED WITH THE INVOCATION OF GURU PADMASAMBHAVA

Diary Times Desk : Monks and supporters of Nechung Monastery prayed for the long life of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama. The ceremony, presided over by Khochen Rinpoche, director of Mindrolling Monastery, took place in the hall of the spiritual leader's old residence. Rinpoche presented a silk scarf to the spiritual leader. The prayer began with an invocation to Guru Padmasambhava composed on behalf of the Dalai Lama. Jamyang Khyentse Chokyi Lodro prayed for his long life. A mandala with symbols of the body, speech and mind of enlightenment was offered. Five monks representing goddesses in brocade costumes wearing five-leafed crowns entered the hall ringing bells. The medium of the Nechung Oracle offered the Dalai Lama symbols of the body, speech and mind of the Buddha. Khochen Rinpoche presented the Dalai Lama with eight auspicious symbols and seven majestic symbols. He was requested to live long and continue teaching. This was followed by the recitation of the prayer to the Fifth Dalai Lama, the 'Prayer of True Words Invoking the Three Jewels', the prayer to Gotsangpa and auspicious verses.

HP BOARD: SUPERINTENDENT AND DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT REMOVED FROM BOARD EXAM DUTY, A CASE OF CHEATING WAS REPORTED IN A SCHOOL IN HAMIRPUR

Diary Times Desk : The superintendent and the deputy superintendent have been removed from duty due to cheating in the government school of the district headquarters Hamirpur. Taking action in the cheating case, the State School Education Board has assigned the duty of two other teachers from the school to inspect the examination. The superintendent and the deputy superintendent have been removed for negligence during duty. Both the officers have been removed from the examination centre and instructed to work in the school. The board has instructed the school to remove the superintendent and the deputy superintendent from duty through mail. After this, the school management has appointed other teachers in place of both the officers. On 15 March, during the 12th class Mathematics examination, the team of the State School Education Board caught cheating material from three students in the examination centre.

HIMACHAL NEWS: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- SAHARA SCHEME WILL BE AMENDED, ALL ELIGIBLE PEOPLE WILL GET BENEFIT

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the Sahara scheme will not be closed. Some amendments will be made in it and some more diseases will also be included. A committee of SDM and CMO level will verify the cases. Every person who is bedridden or helpless will be helped. The state government has released Rs 140 crore for the scheme. During the Question Hour on Monday, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur raised the issue of eligible people not getting monthly pension of Rs 3,000 for many months. BJP MLA Satpal Singh Satti also raised the issue of pension being stuck under the scheme. Health Minister Dhaniram Shandil said that the scheme has been started for cancer and muscular dystrophy patients. Many times the documents are not complete. It is very important to upload life certificate and other documents. These come from Asha workers, due to which the cases get pending. MLA Randhir Sharma said that about 1,100 people have applied, when will their pension be started. The Health Minister said that everyone will be given pension.

HP ASSEMBLY SESSION: ROHIT THAKUR SAID- COMPUTER TEACHERS WILL BE RECRUITED FROM LDR QUOTA

Diary Times Desk : Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that computer teachers will also be recruited under the LDR (Limited Direct Recruitment) quota. 1308 computer teachers have been serving in government schools for a long time. BJP MLA from Dharamshala Sudhir Sharma raised the issue of recruitment of computer teachers during Question Hour. In response, Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that just as SMC teachers are being brought into the government under the LDR quota, computer teachers will also be kept in the same way. He said that the government is seriously considering the matter of these teachers. 1806 posts of computer teachers are sanctioned in schools. Out of this, 1006 posts are vacant. A proposal to fill 924 posts has been sent to the Public Service Commission in March 2024. Those with five years of teaching experience will be given priority. The proceedings of the state assembly began at 2:00 pm on Monday. Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan was also present to watch the proceedings.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION SAID- POLICE OFFICERS WERE PUT ON SURVEILLANCE OF MLAS, LAW AND ORDER WAS DISRUPTED

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that some police officers have been put on surveillance of MLAs. They are being asked to find out who is meeting whom. In two years, law and order has been torn apart in Himachal Pradesh. There is no coordination among police officers. Such a situation has never been seen before. The police department is known for discipline, but it is not so here. There is one top officer who has been given charge of not just the district but the entire state. Wherever the opposition is needed against drugs, he is ready to work together. While starting the discussion by bringing a cut motion before the discussion and voting on the budget grant demands in the House, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that action should be taken as per the law. It is not right to take action only for the purpose of harassing. What is the need to make MLAs sit for 8 hours.

HIMACHAL NEWS: HIGH SECURITY REGISTRATION PLATE MANDATORY FOR ALL VEHICLES IN HIMACHAL, E-DETECTION SYSTEM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

Diary Times Desk : Now it will be mandatory to have high security registration plate on all types of private and commercial vehicles. Now a challan will be issued if there is no high security number plate. For this, the state e-detection system is going to be implemented. Under this, if caught for the first time, there will be a challan of Rs 3,000 and for the second time it will be Rs 7,000. If there is no high security number plate, no work related to the vehicle will be done. This system checks the documents of every vehicle passing through the toll plaza using CCTV cameras and other technical equipment. In the state, it was made mandatory to install HSRP in all vehicles from the year 2011-12. Its specialty is that this plate is made of quality aluminum. It has a laser code and a permanent identification number and registration mark. Reflective sheet is used in the plate, which ensures visibility at night and in low light conditions. It is useful from the point of view of road safety. Its color matches the type of vehicle and its registration category, which helps in quick visual.

PUNJAB TO RELEASE 450 FARMERS FROM POLICE DETENTION, 800 FREED EARLIER

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab government has decided to immediately release 450 more farmers from police detention, it was announced on Monday. Sharing details, Inspector General of Police, Headquarters, Sukhchain Singh Gill on Monday said the government has already released approximately 800 farmers from police custody. He said the Chief Minister has directed the immediate release of farmers, including women, differently-abled individuals, those with medical conditions, and those above the age of 60. "In line with the directives of the Punjab government, we are prioritising the release of such farmers and about 450 farmers are being released today," he said. Addressing another grievance of the farmers related to their belongings, he said the government has issued strict directions in this regard and nobody will be permitted to misappropriate the belongings of farmers. To address the concern about belongings of farmers, the Patiala district police has also appointed SP-rank officer Jasbir Singh as the nodal officer and farmers facing issues related to their possessions can directly contact Jasbir Singh at the mobile number 90713-00002 for immediate assistance," said Gill, while adding the Patiala police has already registered three first information reports (FIRs) in this regard.

AUTO DRIVERS, TRADERS JOIN "KHEER" CEREMONY AHEAD OF DELHI ASSEMBLY SESSION

Diary Times Desk : Ahead of the Delhi Legislative Assembly that convenes for its first budget session under the newly elected BJP government on Monday, auto drivers, traders and shopkeepers gathered at the Vidhan Sabha to participate in a 'Kheer' ceremony. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta arrived at the Delhi Assembly this morning ahead of the commencement of proceedings. The Delhi State budget is scheduled to be presented tomorrow. BJP MLA Karnail Singh stated, "People from all sections of society, including traders and shopkeepers, have been invited. Today marks the first day of the budget session. 'Meethi kheer, meetha budget.'" Delhi CM Rekha Gupta will be moving a motion for the election of financial committees, marking an important step in the assembly's financial governance, according to the List of Business of the House.

'MYSTIFIED BY JUDGE'S TRANSFER': TOP LAWYER MUKUL ROHATGI ON CASH CASE



Diary Times Desk : Former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi called for a thorough investigation into allegations that a cash stash was found on the premises of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma. Mr Rohatgi, in an interview to NDTV, said the matter "does not look like an open and shut case". Referring to the Supreme Court confirming the transfer of Justice Varma to the Allahabad High Court, Mr Rohatgi said he was "mystified" by the announcement. The Supreme Court in a press note on Friday said the transfer process of Justice Varma was unrelated to the inquiry into the alleged cash stash row. "Everything is now in public domain and I think hats off to the Chief Justice of India for taking such a courageous stand for showing everything to the public," former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi told NDTV.

CHENNAI TECHIE ACCUSES WIFE, COPS OF HARASSMENT, SHE CALLS HIM 'SEX PREDATOR'

Diary Times Desk : A co-founder of a multi-billion dollar company, Prasanna Sankar, has accused his estranged wife of harassment amid a divorce and a bitter custody battle of their son. He also claimed that the Chennai police are trying to extort him of Rs 25 lakh as they are allegedly probing a "kidnap" complaint filed by his wife, Dhivya. In a series of posts on X on Sunday evening, Sankar - the co-founder of Rippling, an HR-tech startup - who has now left the company, claimed that he was "on the run" from Chennai law enforcement after his estranged wife filed a complaint alleging that he "kidnapped" their son. However, he said, that the cops are "illegally without any FIR" tracking his cell phone location, car, UPI, and IP address. Sankar claimed that his wife was having an affair, following which they had been going through a divorce. They were negotiating the terms of the amount he had to pay her, over which she was unhappy, he claimed.

DELHI'S ELECTRICITY TARIFFS LIKELY TO RISE, SAYS POWER MINISTER ASHISH SOOD

Diary Times Desk : Delhi power minister Ashish Sood on Monday warned that the electricity rates in the national capital could rise soon as the discoms were authorised to raise tariffs. The BJP minister, while responding to a question in the assembly, cited a significant ₹27,000 crore debt left by the previous Aam Aadmi Party government as the reason behind the potential hike. "In the coming time, electricity prices will rise, and perhaps some people even want this for their political gains. However, the government remains in touch with DERC and is closely monitoring the situation," Sood added. According to Sood, this debt, accumulated through the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), is now burdening the power distribution companies (Discoms), which have been authorized to raise tariffs to recover the outstanding amount. "The previous government has left a debt of ₹27 thousand crores of regulatory assets with the discoms.

CCTV SHOWS MEERUT MAN ON BIKE WITH FRIEND HOURS BEFORE WIFE, HER LOVER KILLED HIM

Diary Times Desk : CCTV visuals of Saurabh Rajput, who was murdered by his wife and her lover, has surfaced, showing him travelling on a bike with his friend in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut shortly before his death on March 4. The footage showed Saurabh and his friend on a bike entering a street at 11.49 pm on March 3 before he was murdered after a few hours. Saurabh was allegedly murdered by his wife Muskan Rastogi and her lover, Sahil, with his dismembered body sealed inside a plastic drum filled with cement in Meerut, police said. The victim had recently returned to Meerut from London, where he was working. Saurabh, who married Muskan in 2016 after a love marriage, had been living with her and their five-year-old daughter in a rented house for the past three years. According to the police, Saurabh was last seen on March 4, the day he was murdered.



"COME TO TAMIL NADU...": KUNAL KAMRA TO SHIV SENA SUPPORTER IN VIRAL PHONE CALL

Diary Times Desk : As Kunal Kamra battles a fresh controversy over his comments against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, a recording of a purported phone call by a Shiv Sena supporter threatening the stand-up comedian has gone viral and left netizens amused. In the 53-second audio clip, the caller is heard abusing Mr Kamra and saying that he would meet the same fate as the studio in Mumbai, where his show targeting Mr Shinde was recorded. On Sunday evening, both the studio and the hotel in whose premises the studio is located, was vandalised by Shiv Sena workers and supporters. NDTV could not independently verify the authenticity of the clip. The conversation begins with the caller identifying himself as Jagadish Sharma, and confirming if he was speaking to Mr Kamra. Mr Sharma then tries to corner Mr Kamra over the comments against the "Chief Minister" before the comedian points out that Mr Shinde is now the deputy instead. The caller immediately rectifies himself and questions the comedian.

US IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS ISSUE TRAVEL RISK WARNING FOR INDIAN H-1B, F-1 VISA AND GREEN CARD HOLDERS

Diary Times Desk : In light of the growing uncertainty surrounding US immigration laws, legal experts are advising visa holders, including H-1B employees, students from other countries (F-1), and even green card holders, to cautiously think about traveling overseas. The warning coincides with the Trump administration's plans to limit travel for people of 43 nations, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bhutan. While India is not on any planned travel ban lists, Attorneys claim that travellers are nonetheless subject to more stringent security inspections, backlog in visa stamping, and even detention at US airports. Lawyers for immigration caution that travelers departing the United States for employment-related trips or visa renewals may encounter unforeseen administrative challenges. At US consulates in other countries, there are reportedly considerable delays and a rising backlog in visa stamping. A lot of applications get stuck in administrative review for unclear reasons, which causes processing timeframes to be extended. Legal professionals advise holders of H-1B and F-1 visas in particular to carefully consider their travel arrangements before departing the United States.

US TO MEET UKRAINE AGAIN IN RIYADH AFTER TALKS WITH RUSSIAN DELEGATION

Diary Times Desk : United States officials are set to meet with their Ukrainian counterparts again after a round of talks with Russian negotiators on a partial ceasefire in Ukraine. A senior Ukrainian official told the AFP news agency that the meeting would be held later on Monday after US and Russian delegations wrap up their day's talks in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh. Monday's US-Russia talks were primarily focused on ending attacks on Black Sea shipping, with a view to ushering in a broader ceasefire agreement that would bring an end to the three-year Russia-Ukraine war. US officials had already met the Ukrainian team on Sunday to discuss the protection of civilian and energy infrastructure, said Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov.

COUNTRIES BUYING VENEZUELAN OIL WILL FACE 25% TARIFF: DONALD TRUMP



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump on Monday announced a 25% tariff on imports from countries purchasing oil or gas from Venezuela, alongside new tariffs on Venezuela itself. In a Truth Social post, Trump said Venezuela has been "very hostile" to the US and countries purchasing oil from it will be forced to pay the tariff on all their trade to the US starting April 2. Venezuela will face a "Secondary" tariff because it is the home to the gang Tren de Aragua, he said. The Trump administration is deporting immigrants that it claims are members of that gang who illegally crossed into the United States. Trump's latest tariffs threat suggests the administration will take bolder moves against China, Venezuela's largest foreign customer. The Trump administration has already levied universal 20% tariffs on imports from China as an effort to crackdown on the illicit trade in fentanyl.

ISRAEL ATTACKS SOUTHERN GAZA'S LARGEST HOSPITAL

Diary Times Desk : An Israeli military attack on the largest hospital in southern Gaza killed two people, injured several, and sparked a large fire, according to the enclave's Ministry of Health. The attack on Sunday night hit the surgical building of Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis, the ministry reported. The attack came just days after the facility was overwhelmed with the dead and wounded, as Israel resumed its war in Gaza with a surprise wave of air raids last week. Among those killed on Sunday was a 16-year-old boy who had undergone surgery two days earlier. Also killed was Ismail Barhoum, a member of Hamas's political bureau who was receiving medical treatment at the hospital, Hamas said in a statement. Israel's military confirmed the attack, stating it had hit a member of Hamas. Israeli officials have repeatedly blamed civilian casualties on the armed Palestinian group that governs Gaza.

GREENLAND FURIOUS, WILL BOYCOTT US SECOND LADY'S VISIT AMID BUYOUT THREATS

Diary Times Desk : Displeased would be an understatement to describe the way leaders in Greenland are feeling about the planned visit of the Second Lady of the United States, Usha Vance. In less than 24 hours since the high-profile visit was announced by Washington, there has been severe criticism across the semi-autonomous Danish territory that Donald Trump has threatened to annex for national security reasons. Greenland's prime minister and the interim government has decided to boycott the visit. The delegation, led by Usha Vance, will visit the US military base in Greenland. National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and Energy Secretary Chris Wright will be part of the delegation. The visit comes two months after President Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., went to Greenland for what was described as "a private visit". The US delegation visit will be from Thursday, March 27 to Saturday, March 29, 2025. Donald Trump has, on several occasions, repeated his stance that the US aims to "buy Greenland", almost suggesting that there are no other options left. He has not ruled out Washington's use of force to achieve this goal.

EGYPT MAKES NEW PROPOSAL TO RESTORE GAZA TRUCE AS ISRAELI STRIKES KILL 65

Diary Times Desk : Egypt has floated a new proposal aimed at restoring the Gaza ceasefire deal, security sources told Reuters on Monday, as Palestinian health authorities said Israeli strikes had killed at least 65 people in the enclave in the previous 24 hours. The proposal, made last week, follows an escalation in violence after Israel resumed air and ground operations against Hamas militants on March 18, ending a two-month period of relative calm after 15 months of war. Gaza health officials said Israeli airstrikes and shelling have killed nearly 700 Palestinians since then, including at least 400 women and children. Among those killed on Monday were two local journalists, Mohammad Mansour and Hussam Shabat, medics said. The Palestinian Journalist Syndicate said at least 206 journalists have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza since early October 2023, when the conflict erupted. There was no immediate Israeli comment. Islamist group Hamas said several of its senior political and security officials had also been killed.

PENTAGON CHIEF MOCKS JUDGE BLOCKING TRANSGENDER TROOP BAN: 'COMMANDER REYES...'

Diary Times Desk : Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth joined the mounting criticism of federal judges by President Donald Trump and others in his administration on Saturday, mocking the judge who blocked a ban on transgender troops in the US military and suggesting she had exceeded her authority. US District Judge Ana Reyes in Washington ruled that Trump's January 27 executive order, one of several issued by the Republican president targeting legal rights for transgender Americans, likely violated the US Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law. Hegseth in a post on social media platform X mockingly called the judge "Commander Reyes" and suggested she was abusing her power by making decisions about warfighting. "Since 'Judge' Reyes is now a top military planner, she/they can report to Fort Benning at 0600 to instruct our Army Rangers on how to execute High-Value Target Raids," Hegseth wrote. "After that, Commander Reyes can dispatch to Fort Bragg to train our Green Berets on counterinsurgency warfare."



11 HELD, RS 5 CRORE SEIZED AS PUNJAB POLICE BUSTS NARCO-TERROR HAWALA NETWORK

Diary Times Desk : The Anti-Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) of the Punjab Police with the support of the central agencies has arrested 11 persons and seized foreign currencies amounting to Rs 5.09 crore, DGP Gaurav Yadav said here on Monday. With this, the police have busted a narco-terror hawala network and the mastermind of this racket was found to be in contact with Pakistani drug smuggler. Among those arrested are five drug smugglers, three drug hawala money couriers and three hawala traders, he said. This major blow to the narco-terrorism hawala network comes amidst the ongoing anti-drugs campaign 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' launched by the Punjab Government. The arrested drug smugglers have been identified as Harjinder Singh alias Ajay (26) of Ram Talai, Amritsar; Harmanjit Singh alias Harry (27) of Guru Nanak Colony, Amritsar; Sagar (28) of Chheharta, Amritsar; Lavdeep Singh (30) alias Lala of Husanpura Kalan, Batala and Harbhaj Singh (30) alias Bheja of Kakkar, Amritsar, said an official statement.



NEW UNDERPASS BRINGS RELIEF TO PKULA-SHIMLA HIGHWAY USERS

Diary Times Desk : A long-standing traffic hurdle on the Panchkula-Shimla highway has finally been addressed with the opening of a crucial underpass near Amravati Enclave. The infrastructure upgrade is set to significantly reduce congestion, benefiting not only daily commuters but also residents from around 50 villages and a large number of tourists. The underpass is designed to facilitate seamless vehicular movement, minimising delays that were previously common, especially during peak tourist seasons. Now fully functional, the new route ensures quicker and more secure transit for local residents and visitors alike. Enhanced accessibility is expected to boost tourism, making travel more convenient for those who frequent the area.

FARMER LEADER DALLEWAL NOT IN POLICE CUSTODY, FAMILY CAN MEET HIM: PUNJAB TO HC

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Government on Monday told the Punjab and Haryana High Court that farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal was not in police custody and was "free." The leader of the joint forum "Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) KMM" had been admitted to a hospital in Patiala on his own wish. Taking note, Justice Manisha Batra directed the State to ensure his family could meet him within the hospital premises without any hindrance. At the outset, the State counsel submitted that Dallewal had opted for hospitalisation and was free to leave. "He can go. He himself preferred the hospital," he said, adding that the family could meet him subject to security protocols. Citing Supreme Court orders, he emphasised that the State was responsible for his medical care. Dallewal's counsel, however, contended that authorities were not allowing his family to visit him. "He is not even having water, and they are not permitting a single person to see him," he submitted. After hearing both sides, Justice Batra observed in open court: "The State counsel submits that the petitioner is not in police custody."

COLONEL BATH MOVES HIGH COURT ALLEGING POLICE BRUTALITY, SEEKS CBI PROBE

Diary Times Desk : Alleging a brutal assault by Punjab Police officers and subsequent manipulation of the investigation, Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath today moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking a transfer of the probe to the CBI or an independent agency. The matter, along with a related petition, is scheduled to come up for hearing before Justice Sandeep Moudgil of the high court on Tuesday. Col Bath, serving at a "sensitive post under the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India", stated that he and his son were "brutally" attacked on the intervening night of March 13-14 in Patiala. He accused four Inspector-rank Punjab Police officers and their armed subordinates of attacking them without provocation, snatching his official ID card and mobile phone, and issuing threats of fake encounters — all in public view and under CCTV surveillance. The petitioner submitted the local police allegedly failed to take action despite the gravity of the offence. Distress calls to senior officials were ignored. Instead of registering an FIR on his complaint, the police lodged a bogus FIR under 'affray' against unknown persons based on a third-party complaint. The officer's family had to approach senior police officials and even the Governor of Punjab before a subsequent FIR was registered — eight days later.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT JUSTIFIES ACTION AT FARMER PROTEST SITES, CITES INTELLIGENCE ON POTENTIAL VIOLENCE

Diary Times Desk : Justifying its action, the State of Punjab on Monday informed the Punjab and Haryana High Court that intelligence inputs indicated a potential escalation at the farmer protest sites in Shambhu and Khanauri. There were credible warnings suggesting that the protesting farmers might attempt to breach barricades and resume their march toward Delhi. An affidavit, submitted by Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police Nanak Singh, stated that intelligence gathered from various sources, including the State's intelligence wing, pointed that the "farmers were likely to make a violent attempt at breaching the barricading. The situation reportedly worsened after a meeting held on March 19 between leaders of protesting farmer organisations and a Union Government delegation led by the Union Agriculture Minister. It was deemed a "failure" by farmer representatives. Even key protest leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal attended the meeting while being medically monitored in an ambulance provided by the Punjab Government, in compliance with Supreme Court directions."

PM MODI TO INAUGURATE HISAR AIRPORT AND THERMAL POWER PLANT ON APRIL 14

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana on April 14 to inaugurate two major projects: Maharaja Aggarsain International Airport in Hisar and 800 MW Deenbandhu Chhottu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar, worth Rs 7,272 crore. According to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Prime Minister may also participate in the anniversary celebrations of BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. The inauguration of the Hisar airport is expected to improve connectivity between Haryana and the rest of the country.

BOXER SAWEETY BOORA EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY OVER ASSAULT ON HUSBAND DEEPAK HOODA

Diary Times Desk : Former world champion boxer Saweety Boora has been caught in a controversy after a video surfaced showing her assaulting her husband, Deepak Hooda, a former Indian Kabaddi team player, inside the women's police station in Hisar. The incident occurred on March 15 when the police had asked both of them to join the investigation regarding their complaint. The one-and-a-half-minute-long video shows Boora grabbing Hooda by the throat and shaking him aggressively in the presence of police officials and others inside the station. Boora appears visibly agitated, pointing fingers and speaking loudly as bystanders try to separate her from Hooda. Following the incident, the police registered a case of assault against Boora. However, she denied any assault and alleged police bias in favour of Hooda during a press conference held the previous day. The altercation led to Hooda filing a complaint at the Sadar police station on March 16, resulting in an FIR being registered against Boora, her father, and her maternal uncle for assault and intimidation. The couple's marital issues began when Boora filed a complaint with the Hisar police against her husband three weeks ago. Hooda also filed a complaint against her in Rohtak police, and both cases are currently under investigation. Notably, Hooda had contested the last Haryana Assembly election from Maham but lost. Boora had also demanded a ticket but was denied by BJP. It happened after a video surfaced showing her assaulting her husband, Deepak Hooda, a former Indian Kabaddi team player, inside the women's police station in Hisar.

AKAL TAKHT JATHEDAR MEETS HP DELEGATION, CALLS FOR CALM

Diary Times Desk : Officiating Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj on Sunday appealed to people to maintain harmony and brotherhood amid a row triggered by the removal of flags bearing the image of slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from bikes of a group of Punjab youths in Himachal Pradesh. He also called for the direct intervention of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu into the matter, urging him to direct his state police to uphold law and order. His appeal came after a group of 20 students and teachers met him at the Golden Temple. The group has been on a three-day tour of Punjab and reached Amritsar today. They told Jathedar Gargaj that when they were about to leave for Punjab, they were discouraged by their relatives not to undertake the journey in view of deteriorating law and order situation. Jathedar Gargaj assured them that they were completely safe in Punjab. Citing the opening verse of the Guru Granth Sahib, he said Punjab is a land of Gurus and the Sikh philosophy preaches the well-being of all humanity.

DRUGS DESTROY YOUTH, FAMILIES, SPORTS CULTURE VIABLE MITIGATION STRATEGY: GOVERNOR

Diary Times Desk : Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla presided over a symposium on 'Drug Menace and Sports Culture as a Mitigation Strategy' organised by the Shyamla Education and Social Welfare Trust at the Gaiety Theatre here today. He said that intensive coordination between various departments was necessary to deal with this serious problem. The Governor said that drug addiction was destroying the talent of the youth and isolating them from the mainstream of society. "Drug addiction destroys the abilities of a person, breaks families and weakens society. Everyday, children are losing their lives due to drug abuse," he added. He said, "Drugs not only affect the person but also have a negative impact on his family, society and future generations. When a person falls prey to drugs, its effect is not limited to him only, but the entire family is affected mentally, economically and socially."

AIRCRAFT CARRYING HIMACHAL DEPUTY CM AGNIHOTRI, DGP MISSES RUNWAY AT SHIMLA'S JUBBARHATTI AIRPORT

Diary Times Desk : An aircraft carrying over 30 passengers, including Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and Director General of Police Atul Verma from Delhi to Shimla, missed the landing spot at Jubbarhatti Airport Monday morning. According to eyewitnesses, the aircraft crossed the runway and hit the studs on the edge of the airstrip. The flight had taken off from Delhi after routine checks and engineers are inspecting the aircraft to determine if there was a technical glitch, airport authorities said. "The runway is small and we cannot deny this fact. As a layman, I can say that while landing, the plane did not touch the ground where it was supposed to and came to the end of the airstrip," Agnihotri said. The aircraft did not veer off the runway, preventing what could have been a serious disaster. However, the impact of the abrupt landing caused one of the plane's tyres to burst. In the wake of the incident, the authorities decided to cancel the next scheduled flight to Dharamshala as a precautionary measure. The reason behind the aircraft's partial-runway landing remains unclear, and technical teams are currently investigating possible mechanical faults.



SUKHU, PRATIBHA MEET PATIL, DISCUSS HPCC RECONSTITUTION

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, HPCC president Pratibha Singh and Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri are in New Delhi and have met Rajni Patil, AICC in-charge for Himachal, separately. The discussions between Rajni and state Congress leaders suggest that the reconstitution of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC), which is lying defunct for four-and-a-half-month now, could be round the corner. Rajni had held detailed discussions with the state party leaders regarding the HPCC's reconstitution when she visited the state last month. She had even announced that the state organisation would be in place by March 15. "She will have to take a decision sooner than later now, as the party is missing from the ground for over four months now. It will not be possible to have everyone on the same page," said a senior party leader. According to sources, the officer-bearers of the state committee and district presidents will be announced first and the names of the block committee presidents will be announced later. Meanwhile, state leaders are also toying with the idea of increasing the number of district and block units, just like the BJP has done some time ago in the state.

EFFORTS ON TO MAKE HIMACHAL GREEN ENERGY, SELF-RELIANT STATE: CM

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu virtually addressed a three-day brainstorming 'Samridh Himachal 2045', which is being organised at Dr Manmohan Singh Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), from New Delhi last evening. He said the event was aimed at drafting a 20-year roadmap for the sustainable economic development of Himachal Pradesh through expert seminars and discussions. Sukhu said, "The government has been working with a clear vision to make Himachal a green energy, self-reliant and prosperous state. Achieving these long-term goals requires a balanced approach to sustainable development and economic growth, and this exercise will help formulate innovative strategies for the future." The Chief Minister said that the government was committed to the holistic development of the state and the Budget for 2025-26 had been prepared with special focus on strengthening the rural economy, developing the energy sector, promoting tourism and improving infrastructure in the education and healthcare sectors.

SHIMLA SCHOOL WITHDRAWS PRE-EID CELEBRATION DIRECTIVE AFTER THREAT FROM RIGHT-WING GROUP

Diary Times Desk : A private school here in the Himachal Pradesh capital on Monday withdrew its decision asking students to wear 'kurta-pajama' with a small cap and bring 'roti' roll with 'paneer', 'sevaiyan' and dry fruits for Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations after it sparked a row. The school was forced to roll back its decision after a local right-wing organisation, Dev Bhoomi Sangarsh Samiti, warned to hold protest outside the educational institution. Some religious outfits and commoners also expressed their concern over the matter on social media. The private English-medium school issued the directions to the students for March 28, the last Friday before the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations. However, the decision did not go well with the Dev Bhoomi Sangarsh Samiti which termed the directions as against the principle of secularism enshrined in the Constitution. It warned to "gherao" the school and take legal action against it if the decision was not withdrawn. Members of the Samiti alleged that an attempt was "unfortunately" being made to promote Islam in Himachal Pradesh and warned to launch an agitation if the decision was not taken back. The school authorities withdrew its decision and said "safety and well-being of our children is our highest priority".



DC VS LSG, IPL 2025: ASHUTOSH SHARMA HITS 66 AS DELHI CAPITALS BEATS LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS BY 1 WICKET

Diary Times Desk : Delhi Capitals scripted a miraculous run chase against Lucknow Super Giants, chasing down 210 with three balls to spare in their opening IPL 2025 game in Visakhapatnam on Monday. Star finisher Ashutosh Sharma smashed 66 off 31 balls as DC recovered from 65/5 to win by one wicket. DC lost three wickets inside the first 10 balls, and key players kept getting out at regular intervals. Debutant Vipraj Nigam smashed 39 off 15, reviving DC's hopes, before Ashutosh finished off with his heroics. Earlier, LSG made 209/8 in 20 overs, helped by whirlwind knocks by Nicholas Pooran (75) and Mitchell Marsh (72). Rs 27 crore-buy Rishabh Pant majorly disappointed in his first game for LSG, getting out on a six-ball duck. DC had won the toss and elected to bowl.



IPL 2025: HARBHAJAN SINGH TRIGGERS BIG CONTROVERSY WITH 'RACIST' REMARK ON JOFRA ARCHER

Diary Times Desk : Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh, who has been roped in as one of the commentators for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season, found himself in the middle of a controversy on Sunday. Harbhajan, while commenting on the Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals match in the IPL, used a rather bizarre 'kaali taxi (black taxi), reference to make a point on English pacer Jofra Archer. The remarks by the former India spinner, who has himself dealt with racism over the years during his active cricketing days, triggered a huge row on social media. "London me kaali taxi ka meter tez bhaagta hai, Aur yaha pe Archer sahab ka meter bhi tez bhaaga hai (Like the meter of London's black taxis, Archer's meter has also been on the higher side)," Harbhajan was heard saying during his commentary stint in the SRH vs RR match. A number of fans took to social media to lambast Harbhajan on the matter and seek an apology from him. The Turbanator, however, hasn't yet issued a clarification or apologised on the matter. As for the match, the Sunrisers posted a whopping 286 runs on the board, the second-highest total in IPL history, thanks to Ishan Kishan and Travis Head's exemplary performances.

RS 27 CRORE KA DUCK: RISHABH PANT MEMES VIRAL AFTER LSG CAPTAIN OUT FOR 0 VS DC

Diary Times Desk : Rishabh Pant's debut for Lucknow Super Giants ended in disappointment as the wicketkeeper-batter was dismissed for 0. His first outing for LSG came against his former franchise, Delhi Capitals, in their IPL 2025 opener in Visakhapatnam on Monday, March 24. Pant looked completely out of touch as he faced five consecutive dot balls before attempting a big shot on the sixth delivery, only to throw away his wicket in the middle overs. His subdued approach with the bat was in stark contrast to an otherwise explosive innings from Lucknow Super Giants. Walking in at No. 4 in the 12th over, Pant had the responsibility of maintaining the momentum set by Mitchell Marsh and Nicholas Pooran, who had put on a blistering 97-run partnership. Marsh had just been dismissed after a stunning 72 off 36 balls, and LSG were well poised for a massive total. However, Pant struggled from the outset. He played two dot balls against Mohit Sharma in the 12th over before finding himself at the non-striker's end as Pooran tore into part-time spinner Tristan Stubbs, smashing four sixes in a single 28-run over. When Pant took strike against his former teammate Kuldeep Yadav, he failed to rotate the strike.

MS DHONI SAYS 'THERE IS A LINE' BETWEEN HIM AND VIRAT KOHLI, REFUSES TO REVEAL TEXT MESSAGE: 'HE WAS NEVER HAPPY...'

Diary Times Desk : The incomparable MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli played together for 11 years, but despite evolving as friends, there is 'a line' that continues to exist between them. Yes, Dhoni, the former India captain, has opened up on his relationship with his successor Kohli, revealing the nuances of their bond. Kohli debuted in 2008 when Dhoni was already a big name – he had led India to a T20 World Cup and a CB Series win in Australia. Already being touted as the 'greatest captain' India had ever produced, Dhoni mentored Kohli every step of the way as the youngster transformed into the best batter in the world. Till the end, when Dhoni played his last game for India under Kohli in 2019, the camaraderie between the two never doused. In 2022, Kohli put out a random post on X – a picture with Dhoni during the 2016 T20 World Cup semifinal against Australia – referring to him as 'always my captain'. Even during last year's IPL, Kohli and Dhoni shared a hug in the season opener between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, making for a heartwarming visual. But as much of a brotherhood there is, Dhoni says there's always been a junior-senior thing between the two.



TAMIM IQBAL ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER CHEST PAIN IN DHAKA LEAGUE

Diary Times Desk : Former Bangladesh cricketer Tamim Iqbal has been rushed to the hospital after suffering from chest pain during a Dhaka Premier League (DPL) 2025 match. Sources told India Today that the left-handed batter is in critical condition. The incident happened during the match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Shinepukur Cricket Club on Monday, March 24 at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan No 3 Ground in Savar. Tamim went out for the toss before the match, but felt discomfort while fielding during Shinepukur's innings. Thereafter, a medical team rushed for his treatment and a helicopter was also called to fly him out. However, Tamim couldn't be flown out and instead, he was taken to the Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialised Hospital in Dhaka. Tamim wasn't in a condition to board the helicopter. As per Tariqul Islam, a Mohammedan official, "Tamim is currently hospitalised, and his condition was not good enough for him to be airlifted."

BCCI ANNUAL CONTRACTS: SHAFALI RETAINED IN GRADE B; PATIL, REDDY AMONG NEW ENTRANTS

Diary Times Desk : Shafali Verma finds a place in BCCI's annual retainers for 2024-25 despite having last played for the national team in October. Shafali has been placed in Grade B, whose retainer is valued at INR 30 lakh. The BCCI has awarded 16 contracts in all from the 17 they announced previously in April 2023. Contracts for the 2023-24 season weren't made public. Like last time, only three players – Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma – have been offered Grade A contracts (50 lakh). Four of the five members, including Shafali, who were offered Grade B in 2023 remain on the list, with only left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad missing out altogether. Among the new entrants to Grade C (10 lakh) are off-spinning allrounder Shreyanka Patil, seam-bowling pair of Arundhati Reddy and Titas Sadhu, allrounder Amanjot Kaur and wicketkeeper Uma Chetry. Allrounders Sheh Rana and Pooja Vastrakar, who haven't played since the T20 World Cup in October last year, retained their Grade C retainers. Vastrakar continues to recover from a long-standing back injury that also forced her out of WPL 2025, while Rana hasn't played for the national team since 2023. Yastika Bhatia too retains her spot despite having battled her spot and fitness concerns over the past year.