

MAMATA BANERJEE

"ANTI-INDIA RHETORIC": BJP AS MAMATA BANERJEE DIFFERS ON ECONOMY PREDICTION

Diary Times Desk : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, during her official visit to the United Kingdom, disagreed with a prediction that India would become the world's largest economy by 2060, drawing flak from the BJP, which accused her of tarnishing the nation's image on foreign soil.

Mamata Banerjee made the remarks during a conversation at Kellogg College, Oxford University, late on Thursday.

The interviewer mentioned that India had already overtaken the UK to become the fifth-largest economy and was projected to become the third-largest soon, with predictions indicating that the south Asian nation would top the global economic rankings by 2060.

In response, Mamata Banerjee said, "I will differ from that. There are so many things about which I should not speak here... internal and external affairs matters... I cannot disclose. I have some other opinions."

She went on to explain, "Because every country is facing trouble after COVID-19, and with the turmoil going on in the world... if an economic war-like situation is underway in the world, how do we expect that we will gain? Let us hope for the gain, we can only hope. It is our dream to see my country our best. But it depends..." BJP leaders criticised the Trinamool Congress supremo's remarks, accusing her of tarnishing India's reputation on foreign soil. Union minister and BJP's state unit president Sukanta Majumdar expressed his disapproval, calling her response an "insult" to the office.



ASADUDDIN OWASI

'NARENDRA MODI IS FIRING BULLETS AT OUR CHEST': ASADUDDIN OWASI ON WAQF BILL

Diary Times Desk : AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday voiced his vociferous opposition to the Centre's Waqf (Amendment) Bill, saying the proposed legislation is a direct assault on Muslims as it would snatch away their properties.

Wearing a black armband in response to a call by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) to protest against the Bill, Owaisi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to target mosques and dargah with the proposed amendment to the law.

"(Prime Minister) Narendra Modi is firing bullets at our chest through the Waqf Bill—targeting our mosques and dargahs," he said. Owaisi questioned how non-Muslims could become members of the Waqf Board when only Hindus and Sikhs can be members of temple and gurdwara boards respectively.

"You (Centre) intend to take away the properties of Muslims. This is part of the Hindutva agenda to prevent us from following our Shariat and our religion. We are telling the government that this law is unconstitutional and violates Articles 14, 15, 26, and 29," he said, adding that Muslims "cannot stay silent" on the Bill. Owaisi also attacked the BJP's NDA allies like N Chandrababu Naidu (TDP), Nitish Kumar (JD-U), Chirag Paswan (LJP-Ram Vilas), and Jayant Chaudhary (RLD), saying Muslims would "never forgive" them for "giving permission" to the BJP to attack the Shariat. Meanwhile, home minister Amit Shah declared that the bill will be reintroduced in the ongoing session of the parliament.

We will introduce the Waqf Bill in Parliament within this session," Shah said at the "Times Now Summit 2025". He claimed the opposition is misleading Muslims and their rights will not be snatched away. "They are just telling lies after lies," he added.



CENTRE NOTIFIES JUSTICE VARMA'S TRANSFER TO ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT; NOT TO BE ASSIGNED JUDICIAL WORK

MADRAS HIGH COURT GRANTS INTERIM ANTICIPATORY BAIL TO COMEDIAN KUNAL KAMRA

Diary Times Desk : Amid the raging controversy over alleged discovery of unaccounted cash at the residence of Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court during a fire on March 14, the Centre on Friday notified his transfer to the Allahabad High Court – his parent high court. "In exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of Article 222 of the Constitution of India, the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, is pleased to transfer Shri Justice Yashwant Varma, Judge, Delhi High Court, to be a Judge of Allahabad High Court and to direct him to assume charge of his office in the Allahabad High Court," a Department of Justice notification read. However, Justice Varma will not be assigned any judicial work in the Allahabad High Court. "The Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court for the time being has been asked not to assign any judicial work to Mr Justice Yashwant Varma, when he assumes charge as a Judge of the Allahabad High Court," the Supreme Court said in a press release. Almost four months after the Supreme Court Collegium recommended repatriation of Justice CD Singh of the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court, the Centre on Friday also notified his transfer to his parent high court.



Diary Times Desk : The Madras High Court on Friday granted interim anticipatory bail to comedian Kunal Kamra, who is facing the heat over his jokes on Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The court granted Kamra the relief on the condition that he should execute a bond to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu. Justice Sunder Mohan also issued notice to 2nd Respondent (Khar Police) and posted the matter for April 7. Kamra had submitted that he moved to Tamil Nadu from Mumbai in 2021 and had been "ordinarily a resident of this state since then" and that he feared arrest by the Mumbai police. Twice summoned by the Mumbai police, the 36-year-old stand-up comic's caustic comments on Shinde during his latest show in Mumbai have landed him in trouble and triggered a huge row. The controversy stems from Kamra's show at the Habitat Comedy Club in Mumbai's Khar.

MERE RECITAL OF POEM CAN'T LEAD TO HATRED, SAYS SC; QUASHES GUJARAT POLICE FIR AGAINST CONGRESS MP IMRAN PRATAPGARHI



Diary Times Desk : Holding that mere recital of poetry can't lead to animosity amongst different communities; the Supreme Court on Friday emphasised the need to protect free speech as it quashed an FIR registered by the Gujarat Police against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi for allegedly posting a clip of a provocative poem on a social media platform. "75 years into our republic, we cannot be seen to be so shaky on our fundamentals that the mere recital of a poem or for that matter, any form of art or entertainment, such as, stand-up comedy, can be alleged to lead to animosity or hatred amongst different communities. Subscribing to such a view would stifle all legitimate expressions of view in the public domain which is so fundamental to a free society," a Bench led by Justice AS Oka said. "Literature including poetry, dramas, films, stage shows including stand-up comedy, satire and art, make the lives of human beings more meaningful. The courts are duty-bound to uphold and enforce fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India," said the Bench which also included Justice Ujjal Bhuyan.

FARMERS ASSURED OF RS 37,216-CRORE KHARIF SUBSIDY ON FERTILISERS

Diary Times Desk : The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilisers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for kharif season (April 1, 2025 to September 30) on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers. The budgetary requirement for kharif season 2024 would be approximately Rs 37,216.15 crore. This is Rs 13,000 crore more than the budgetary requirement for rabi season 2024-25. The move will ensure availability of fertilisers to farmers at subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices and rationalisation of subsidy on P&K fertilisers in view of recent trends in the international prices of fertilisers and inputs. The subsidy on P&K fertilisers, including NPKS grades will be provided based on approved rates for kharif 2025 to ensure smooth availability of these fertilisers to the farmers at affordable prices.



YOUR HOROSCOPE
 29-03-2025

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



HP RAJYA CHAYAN AAYOG: THERE WILL BE NO RECRUITMENT OF JOA IT, FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO MORE THAN ONE LAKH CANDIDATES

Diary Times Desk : The State Selection Commission has withdrawn the recruitment of 319 posts of JOA (IT) under post code 965. The commission has also issued a public notice in this regard. The fees of more than one lakh applicants who applied for all these posts will be refunded. Its paper was leaked two days before the written examination of JOA IT recruitment. After various investigation processes, this recruitment has now been withdrawn. According to the information, the Selection Commission had invited applications for 198 posts in May 2022. In October, 121 more posts were added to it. A total of 1,03,344 candidates had to appear for the examination in 476 examination centers for 319 posts. The paper was leaked two days before the written examination was to be held. At that time, the woman who was accused of leaking the paper was working for a long time as a senior assistant in the confidential branch of the Selection Commission. However, after that the Vigilance had made several arrests. The examination was also canceled by the commission. Now the recruitment has been withdrawn by the Selection Commission.



HIMACHAL: ILLEGAL KHAIR CUTTING IN TRILOKPUR FOREST, 5000 TREES CUT, EVEN THE ROOTS UPROOTED

Diary Times Desk : A case of illegal Khair felling has come to light in the Trilokpur forest of Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. It is feared that about 5,000 Khair trees have been felled here. Not only this, the Khair mafia has uprooted the roots. Trees have been cut by digging up to three feet from the ground. Tree felling was going on here for about 8 months. Contractors from not only Himachal but also Haryana are said to be involved in this Khair felling. According to sources, thousands of green Khair trees have been felled from the forest at a short distance from the Range Officer's office of the Forest Department and the famous Balasundari Temple Trilokpur in Trilokpur. The trees have been cut by digging up to three feet from the ground. But the remains and roots of the trees are present on the spot. Apart from this, hundreds of pits have been formed in the forest after cutting the trees. If sources are to be believed, this illegal business has been going on for the last 8 months. Here, keeping the rules aside, about 5 thousand Khair trees have been cut and disposed of in collusion on about 35 thousand bighas of land. According to sources, trees are being sold to factories or other places overnight. It is surprising that this illegal business has been going on at such a large scale for many months.

ASSEMBLY QUESTION HOUR: CM SUKHU SAID- METROPOL BHAWAN DECLARED UNSAFE, ACCOMMODATION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOTTED TO MLAS AND EMPLOYEES

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that MLA Bhawan Metropol has been declared unsafe. The Vidhansabha Secretariat should not allot accommodation to MLAs and employees here. If any incident occurs, the Vidhansabha Secretariat will be responsible. The Chief Minister said that within two months, the Metropol Bhawan will be completely vacated. Rs 38 crore has been sanctioned to build a new building. If 100 crore more has to be spent, then it will be done. The Chief Minister said that a plan has also been made to give house rent of Rs 10 to 15 thousand for shifting the house from Metropol. On the question of BJP MLA Vipin Singh Parmar, the Chief Minister said that if there is any land near the Vidhansabha Secretariat, then inform us. The government will build a building there. Four-room flats will be built in the new building. Vehicle parking will also be made inside the building itself. Employees living in Metropol will be allotted.

HIMACHAL : ELECTRICITY RATES REDUCED BY 12 TO 20 PAISE IN HIMACHAL, DOUBT ON SUBSIDY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMERS

Diary Times Desk : Electricity rates in Himachal have been reduced by 12 to 20 paise per unit. On Friday, the State Electricity Regulatory Commission released new rates by reducing the energy tariff for the financial year 2025-26. Domestic rates have been reduced by 15 paise per unit, commercial rates by 12 paise and rates for small, medium and large industries by 20 paise. There is no mention of subsidy to domestic consumers in the new rates. If subsidy is not received from the government, domestic consumers will get expensive electricity up to Rs 1.73 per unit. The commission has not made any change in the fixed demand charge of electricity. The new rates will come into effect from April 1. The Electricity Board had filed a petition with the Commission citing an annual expenditure of Rs 8403 crore. The Commission, while hearing the petition of the board, has fixed the average supply of electricity in the state at 6.76 paise per unit. The commission has abolished one slab of electricity consumers. Earlier there were two slabs of 126 to 300 and more than 300 units. By merging these, a single slab of consumption of more than 126 has been created. Now, electricity rates for domestic consumers will be in only two slabs, zero to 125 and more than 126.

HIMACHAL WEATHER: WEATHER IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN CLEAR IN HIMACHAL FOR A WEEK, MERCURY IS RISING IN THE PLAINS

Diary Times Desk : The weather is expected to remain clear in Himachal Pradesh for a week. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, the weather will remain dry in the state from March 28 to April 3. In such a situation, there is a possibility of increase in temperature during this period. Today, the sun is shining in all the areas of the state including the capital Shimla. On Thursday, the maximum temperature in Una reached around 35 degrees. Along with the plains, the heat has increased in the mountains. On the other hand, due to snowfall in the past few days, the movement of vehicles is still closed on about 40 rural roads of Lahaul-Spiti. The weather is expected to remain clear in the state for a week. According to Meteorological Centre Shimla, the weather will remain dry.

HIMACHAL NEWS: HIMACHAL PRADESH CONGRESS PRESIDENT PRATIBHA SINGH SAID- EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO UNITE TO PREVENT DRUG ABUSE

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Congress President Pratibha Singh has said that the increasing drug addiction among the youth is a matter of concern. Everyone will have to unite against it. She said that the Congress government of the state is committed to end it. The state government has now made strict laws to crack down on drug smuggling and drug dealers. Pratibha Singh said that no one should do any politics on this. There is a great need to make the youth aware of the ill effects of drug addiction. Collective efforts are necessary for this. She said that due to the promptness of the police, it has been curbed to a great extent and the crackdown on its dealers is also continuing. Pratibha Singh said that BJP is doing politics on this complex problem. Increasing drug addiction among the youth is not a problem of today.

HIMACHAL NEWS: ATTACK ON CHITTA, HIMACHAL PRADESH ORGANIZED CRIME, PREVENTION AND CONTROL BILL-2025 PASSED IN THE ASSEMBLY

Diary Times Desk : Now chitta smugglers will get death penalty in Himachal Pradesh. The government passed the Himachal Pradesh Organized Crime, Prevention and Control Bill 2025 in the Assembly to take strict action against other crimes including chitta smuggling. BJP MLA Trilok Jamwal suggested sending the bill to the Select Committee of the Assembly to make it more effective. On which the Chief Minister said that we have already added other crimes including mining in the bill. If any change is needed in future, it will be done in the Assembly. After this, the House passed the bill unanimously. Under the provisions made in the bill, if someone dies due to chitta smuggling, selling fake liquor and other such organized crimes, then the culprits can get life imprisonment or death penalty. Along with the punishment, the culprit will also have to pay a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh. Property acquired from drugs will also be confiscated. The bill also provides for a minimum of one year imprisonment which can be extended to life imprisonment for those who incite, attempt, conspire.

"EVEN INDIRA GANDHI COULD NOT...": S JAISHANKAR ON PAKISTAN'S "FANATICAL MINDSET"

Diary Times Desk : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today appraised Parliament about the rising incidents of attacks on minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The minister cited ten major incidents involving brutal attacks on Hindus in Pakistan in the month of February alone, while updating MPs about the atrocities. "New Delhi tracks the treatment of minorities in Pakistan very closely," Mr Jaishankar said, adding that India has made its position regarding action on Pakistan "well known". During his address to parliamentarians, Mr Jaishankar highlighted Pakistan's "fanatical and bigoted mindset" towards minorities. Among the ten gruesome incidents he mentioned, seven of them were related to abductions, disappearances, and forced conversions to Islam, two others were about kidnappings, and one even involved police brutality on students for merely celebrating Holi. Not just Hindus, but Sikhs were targeted to, the minister said. He narrated three incidents related to atrocities against members of the Sikh community. In one instance, a family of Sikhs were attacked and brutalised allegedly for resisting forced conversion.

MUSLIM LAW BOARD URGES TO PROTEST WAQF BILL BY WEARING BLACK ARMBAND

Diary Times Desk : The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has urged Muslims to wear a black armband on their right hand when they go for Juma prayers on the last Friday of Ramzan as a mark of their protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. AIMPLB general secretary Maulana Mohammed Fazlur Rahim Mujaddidi issued a video appeal posted on the Board's X handle in which he urged people to wear a black armband on their right hand when they go for prayers. "Protests by the AIMPLB against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill continue. In that context, register your protest on the occasion of Juma Tul Wida (last Friday of Ramzan)," he said. He urged Muslims to put a black armband on their right hand and share a video of it while also sending it to the online desk of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB). The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) had earlier on Sunday announced a nationwide agitation against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, with large sit-ins planned in front of the state assemblies in Patna and Vijayawada on March 26 and 29, respectively.

JUSTICE YASHWANT VARMA TRANSFERRED TO ALLAHABAD HC, WON'T GET JUDICIAL WORK FOR NOW



Diary Times Desk : The Union government on Friday notified the repatriation of justice Yashwant Varma to the Allahabad high court, acting on the Supreme Court collegium's March 24 recommendation. The move comes in the wake of an in-house probe initiated against him following the alleged discovery of large amounts of cash at his official residence in Delhi. Justice Varma, who has been a judge at the Delhi high court since 2021, found himself at the centre of controversy after firefighters responding to a minor fire at his Tughlak Road residence on March 14 reportedly found stacks of cash, some of which were allegedly charred. The incident led to widespread speculation and calls for a formal investigation into the matter. On March 20, the Supreme Court collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, decided to move justice Varma back to his parent high court, the Allahabad high court. Three days later, the CJI set up a three-member in-house inquiry panel to examine the circumstances surrounding the cash discovery.

KUNAL KAMRA REQUESTS PROTECTION FROM ARREST IN ROW OVER EKNATH SHINDE PARODY

Diary Times Desk : Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra approached the Madras High Court, seeking transit anticipatory bail in connection with an FIR lodged against him after he performed a parody song allegedly targeting Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The zero FIR was filed against Kamra after a complaint by Shiv Sena MLA Murji Patel, and was later transferred to Khar police in Mumbai. The FIR cites Sections 353(1) (b), 353(2) (public mischief) and 356(2) (Defamation) of the Bharat Nyay Sanhita. Kamra approached the court as he is a permanent resident of Tamil Nadu's Villupuram town. The development comes a day after Mumbai police asked Kamra to appear before it on March 31 in connection with the case. Kamra was asked to appear before police on Tuesday but he had sought seven days time. Offended by Kamra's remarks, Shiv Sena workers had gone on a rampage at the venue Habitat Club in Khar.

INDIA, SRI LANKA TO SIGN DEFENCE AGREEMENT DURING MODI'S VISIT

Diary Times Desk : A framework agreement on defence cooperation, marking the first refresh in ties in this sector since the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) intervention in the 1980s, and measures to support Sri Lanka's economic recovery will be among the centrepieces of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the island nation next week. PM Modi's visit, a follow-up to Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's trip to New Delhi last December, will be an opportunity for the Indian government to bolster relations in crucial areas ranging from defence and security to energy and infrastructure, people familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity on Friday. PM Modi will be the first foreign leader to be hosted by President Dissanayake. The two sides commenced work on the framework agreement on defence cooperation soon after Dissanayake's visit, his first foreign trip after becoming President in September last year, the people said. In recent days, the Sri Lankan side suggested some technical amendments to the draft agreement.

AMID ROW OVER KUNAL KAMRA JOKE, SUPREME COURT'S FREEDOM OF SPEECH MESSAGE

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court today dismissed an FIR lodged against Congress Rajya Sabha MP Imran Pratapgarhi for his Instagram post featuring a poem titled "Ae khoon ke pyase baat suno" and said "courts must be at the forefront to protect freedom of speech and expression." A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan held that no offence was made out, criticising the overzealousness of the Gujarat Police in initiating action against Mr Pratapgarhi. The Supreme Court said that restrictions on speech must be "reasonable, not fanciful," stressing that Article 19(2) of the Constitution cannot overshadow the freedoms guaranteed under Article 19(1). "Without freedom of expression of thoughts and views, it is impossible to lead a dignified life as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. In a healthy democracy, differing views must be countered with counter-speech, not suppression," the Court said.

PAKISTANI TERRORISTS EXPLOIT LACK OF 'RECEPTION AREA' IN KATHUA

Diary Times Desk : The ongoing 'seek and destroy' operation launched by varied security force formations in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir (JK) has bared the "security vacuum" prevalent in the hinterland plains of the International Border (IB) and the upper reaches beyond. A district notorious for infiltrations, at least two groups of the Kashmir Tigers, a shadowy front of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Toiba, breached the IB in the last week. They made headway into the upper reaches of Kathua before some were shot in the Jakhole-Juthana area on March 27, 2025, at great cost to security force personnel. Unlike the hinterland of the LoC, there is in Kathua no "reception area", or a tight, networked grid spearheaded by the counter-insurgency force, the Rashtriya Rifles (RR), to detect, ambush and eliminate Pakistani terrorists who sneak past the regular Infantry formations placed on the LoC. This is because Kathua, which sits at the trijunction of JK, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, is not under the operational command of the Nagrota-headquartered 16 Corps (a Northern Command formation) responsible for the LoC in Jammu division.



PUTIN SAYS RUSSIA WON'T INTERFERE IN TRUMP'S PLAN TO TAKE OVER GREENLAND

Diary Times Desk : The Arctic is heating up, not just in terms of Climate Change, but also in terms of geopolitics. With US President Donald Trump pressing to annex Greenland and Canada, Russia isn't to be left behind. President Putin today visited Murmansk – the largest city north of the Arctic circle where he pledged to "strengthen Russia's global leadership in the Arctic". The Russian President however, did not make any territorial claims, nor spoke of expansionism. What came as a surprise though, was President Putin's no-objection to President Trump's plan to annex Greenland and make it a US territory. "Geopolitical competition in the Arctic region is intensifying," President Putin said, giving Donald Trump's plan to take over Greenland as a primary example of it. Speaking about the significant shift in US foreign policy, President Putin said, "America's plans in relation to Greenland are serious. These plans have deep historical roots. And it is clear that the US will continue to systematically pursue its geo-strategic, military, political, and economic interests in the Arctic region."

AMID INDIA-BANGLADESH DIPLOMATIC ROW, CHINA'S XI VOWS DEEPER TIES WITH DHAKA

Diary Times Desk : Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday vowed to strengthen bilateral relations with Bangladesh as Dhaka continues to navigate rising frosty ties with neighbouring India. This reflects the deepening geopolitical shifts in South Asia. Xi told Yunus on Friday that Beijing was "willing to work with Bangladesh to push bilateral cooperation to a new level," Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported. "China insists on remaining a good neighbour, good friend and good partner to Bangladesh, based on mutual trust," Xi said, according to CCTV. According to AFP, the Chinese leader reportedly said Beijing and Dhaka should "firmly support each other" on core interests and backed Bangladesh on issues including safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. During their meeting, both leaders discussed several avenues for cooperation, including economic and technical assistance, as well as potential agreements on cultural, sports, and media exchanges. Talks are also expected to touch on Bangladesh's immense population of Rohingya refugees.

2 DEAD AS COPS USE TEAR GAS, STICKS TO BREAK UP PRO-MONARCHY RALLY IN NEPAL

Diary Times Desk : Nepali riot police lobbed tear gas, fired water cannon and used rattan sticks on Friday to break up a protest rally demanding the restoration of constitutional monarchy, and at least two people were killed in the violence, police said. Authorities said they had to use force to stop thousands of protesters breaking into an area where demonstrations and protest rallies are banned, and they later imposed a curfew in the affected area to stem further escalation of the violence. The two people killed included one of the protesters and a journalist who was covering the rally, a police spokesman, Dinesh Kumar Acharya, told Reuters. Avenues TV said one of its journalists had died when a house he was in was set ablaze. Another Nepal police spokesman, Shekhar Khanal, said protesters had set fire to a private house and a vehicle, adding that 17 people including three police personnel were injured. Three protesters are in police custody, he said.



RUSSIA PROPOSES UKRAINE BE KEPT UNDER UN-SPONSORED EXTERNAL GOVERNANCE



Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed to put Ukraine under external governance monitored by the United Nations as part of efforts to reach a peaceful settlement. Putin said that any agreement that is signed with the current Ukrainian government could be challenged by its successors and added that new elections could be held under external governance, reported AP. He made the remarks while speaking to the crew of a Russian nuclear submarine. "Under the auspices of the United Nations, with the United States, even with European countries, and, of course, with our partners and friends, we could discuss the possibility of introduction of temporary governance in Ukraine," Putin said, adding that it would allow the country to "hold democratic elections, to bring to power a viable government that enjoys the trust of the people, and then begin negotiations with them on a peace treaty."

US VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE AND SENIOR OFFICIALS VISIT AMERICAN MILITARY BASE IN GREENLAND, ASSERTS 'INTEREST

Diary Times Desk : US Vice President JD Vance, his wife Usha Vance, and other senior US officials visited America's Pituffik Space Base in Greenland on Friday, March 28. "I've never been to Greenland. Apparently I'm the first vice-president to ever visit Greenland," said JD Vance, reported BBC. According to news wire AP, the trip was scaled back following an uproar among Greenlanders and Danes, who were upset that the original itinerary had been planned without consulting them. JD Vance's Greenland visit coincides with the formation of a new government in the semi-autonomous Danish territory, which excludes the hardliners pushing for fast independence. Greenland's new prime minister, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, who won the March elections, had previously announced that 'Greenland is not for sale.' Ahead of the trip, Donald Trump had asserted that the Greenland visit was about 'friendliness, not provocation' and that the US team was 'invited'. "They're calling us. We're not calling them."

"IF YOU ARE UNDER 40, LEAVE UK": INFLUENCER'S VIDEO ON WEALTH OUTFLOW GOES VIRAL

Diary Times Desk : A video by social media influencer 'Prudishfish' discussing the exodus of wealthy individuals from the UK has gone viral. In the video, she highlights the increasing difficulty for people to afford living in the UK, with a rising number of affluent individuals leaving the country each year to settle elsewhere. Towards the end of the video, she advises viewers under the age of 40 to consider leaving the UK and relocating for a better future. Her views were also validated by Instagram users, with the video garnering nearly a million views, along with numerous likes and comments. "Blame this government and the previous one; they destroyed the UK," commented a user. "I left in 2016. Switzerland is awesome, and I'm on track to be a millionaire in a year or so," wrote another user.

GYMGOER DIES DUE TO HEART ATTACK, MOTHER BLAMES PRE-WORKOUT DRINKS

Diary Times Desk : Katie Donnell, a Florida resident who often drank three energy drinks a day and a caffeine supplement before hitting the gym, has died at the young age of 28 from a heart attack. Her devastated mother, Lori Barranon, 63, has now blamed energy drinks for her sudden death. As per Ms Barranon, her daughter, who worked as a teacher, would gulp up on energy drinks and caffeine to ensure she had the 'buzz' during the workout. "She thought it'd help her work out and give her more energy. She was working out, working full-time and going to school. I think she got used to the buzz," Ms Barranon was quoted as saying by the New York Post. However, on a fateful day in August 2021, as Ms Donnell was hanging out with friends, she suddenly collapsed. As per Ms Barranon, all the friends thought she was having a stroke when actually she was having a heart attack. "The ambulance got there and couldn't intubate her. She was without oxygen for too long and it caused brain damage," she said. All efforts from the medical emergency workers were futile despite them continuing to operate on her for three hours. Such was the pre-workout and energy drink addiction of her daughter that Ms Barranon found her car filled with cans when she went to clean it after her death. "Her boyfriend said she would buy a four-pack [of energy drinks] every two to three days. Not to mention she was drinking a lot of coffee," said Ms Barranon.

HIGH COURT SUMMONS PUNJAB'S TOP OFFICIALS OVER JAIL SECURITY STEPS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court today asked Punjab's Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), and Additional Chief Secretary (Jails) to remain present in the court explain the failure to implement jail security measures. The division bench of Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal and Justice Deepak Manchanda also expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of progress: "We are not satisfied with the measures taken by the state government for strengthening jail security. Many affidavits have been filed on behalf of the state, but there has been a lack of progress in the areas enumerated," the court asserted. The assertions came during the hearing of a suo motu or court on its own motion case on monitoring jail security measures. The bench made it clear that Punjab failed to execute the steps proposed by its senior officers to fortify prison security despite granting sufficient time. The bench took strong exception to Punjab's failure to procure 438 walkie-talkie sets deemed essential for patrolling vulnerable areas in jails. The amicus curiae or friend of the court Tanu Bedi told the bench affidavit filed in January 25, 2024, had stated that these would be procured within two or three months.



HOCKEY LEGEND CREDITS PU GIRLS HOSTEL FOR 1975 WORLD CUP VICTORY

Diary Times Desk : Former hockey stalwart, Brigadier Harcharan Singh (retd), the attacking left-winger from the 1975 Indian Hockey World Cup-winning squad, was clearly carried away as he credited a Panjab University girls hostel for the feat. Speaking to young male and female sportspersons at a felicitation ceremony organised by the Punjab Government at the Panjab Municipal Bhawan in Sector 35-A, Brigadier Harcharan, in a lighter vein, explained that the preparatory camp for the squad was held at PU, and the team stayed at one of the hostels right across the girls hostel. Dubbing the lodging the "best thing", the 75-year-old joked, "It was a big motivation for playing well. And, whenever I attribute a factor in the team's win...I count the presence of the girls in that hostel right at the top." As the room burst into laughter, Singh shifted focused to the hardships and concerns of triple Olympian Balbir Singh (Senior)—who was the manager of the World Cup winning squad. "It was a tough ask of him."

10-YEAR-OLD CORRUPTION CASE: CBI COURT CONVICTS FORMER DSP RAM CHANDER MEENA, BUSINESSMAN AMAN GROVER

Diary Times Desk : The CBI Court, Chandigarh, has convicted Ram Chander Meena, former Deputy Superintendent of Police, EOW Branch, Chandigarh Police, and businessman Aman Grover in a corruption case registered 10 years ago by the CBI. The court will pronounce the quantum of sentence on March 29. The CBI registered the case on August 13, 2015, on the basis of a complaint filed by a woman Guneet Kaur. She told the CBI that one woman Deepa Duggal had got an FIR registered against her parents Gurkirpal Singh Chawla, Jagjit Kaur Chawla and brother Harmit Singh Chawla in the Economic Offences Wing, UT Police, Sector 17, Chandigarh, in an alleged cheating case. Sub Inspector Surinder Kumar was the Investigating Officer of the case under the supervision of Ram Chander Meena, Deputy Superintendent of Police.

SC ASKS EX-HC JUDGE NIRMALJIT KAUR TO EXAMINE GRIEVANCES OF PUNJAB CIVIC POLLS CANDIDATES

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court has appointed Justice Nirmaljit Kaur, a former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, to examine the grievances of the candidates who were denied the opportunity to contest the 2024 civic body polls. "It goes without saying that the appointment of the fact-finding commission will not be a precedent. We appoint Justice Nirmaljit Kaur, former Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, to perform the above illustrated task, preferably on a day-to-day basis and submit a report at the earliest," a Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said, without expressing any opinion on merits of the issues involved. The order came on petitions challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court's orders on issues related to the civic body elections held last year. The petitioners alleged that several candidates were not allowed to file the nomination papers and could not participate in the elections. "Both sides have fairly agreed to deviate from the settled prescribed procedure so that a fact-finding commission can be constituted limited to the sub-judice constituencies," the Bench noted.

WITH BRUTE MAJORITY, BIASED CONDUCT OF SPEAKER, AAP STIFLED OPPOSITION'S VOICE: LOP BAJWA

Diary Times Desk : The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, on the concluding day of the ongoing Budget session, accused the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government of escaping without answering the questions raised by the opposition. "With the brute majority in the house and biased conduct of Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, the AAP government managed to stifle the voice of the main opposition party — the Congress, which is highly undemocratic," Bajwa added. Bajwa stated that Congress MLAs raised several genuine issues, including the alleged beating of serving Army Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath, the betrayal of farmers and their eviction, deteriorating law and order, and the promised Rs 1,100 monthly allowance for women. The opposition party held the AAP government accountable for these issues, but their questions were left unaddressed. "Former Cabinet minister and senior Congress leader Tript Rajinder Bajwa spoke about the organised loot of farmers in the last paddy procurement season. He sought a fair probe into the issue, yet, the AAP government seemed reluctant to get the matter probed," Bajwa said. Addressing the media, Bajwa said that the Punjab CM had promised to initiate construction of the Malwa canal.

CM SAINI DEFENDS LOANS FOR DEVELOPMENT, CITES LORD RAMA ON TAXATION

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini defended the state's borrowing practices while responding to the budget discussion, invoking Lord Rama's conversation with Bharat on taxation and taking poetic jibes at Opposition leaders. Over a session spanning eight hours and 36 minutes, he addressed various concerns raised by the Opposition, particularly on state debt, power sector liabilities, and welfare spending. Highlighting the newly launched 'Lado Luxmi' scheme, under which women will receive Rs 2,100 per month, he described it as a crucial step for women's empowerment. When former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda questioned why only Rs 5,000 crore was allocated for the scheme, Saini replied, "The terms will be revealed when the scheme is rolled out." Defending the Budget, Saini called it the "voice of the people", pointing out that 27 of the 78 pages in his Budget speech were dedicated to citizens' suggestions.

AHEAD OF HIS RE-NOMINATION, BADOLI MEETS MODI, SHAH

Diary Times Desk : Ahead of speculation for his imminent re-nomination as the state BJP chief, Mohan Lal Badoli today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah to discuss organisational matters. Badoli's meeting is seen as the party's willingness to extend his tenure, given his 'excellent' performance in last year's Assembly polls and recently-concluded municipal elections. The meeting with Modi and Shah comes close on the heels of his meeting with BJP chief JP Nadda yesterday. Recently, Badoli got a shot in the arm after the HP Police filed a closure report in the gangrape case filed by a New Delhi-based woman, bringing him in contention for another term as the BJP chief. Badoli took over as BJP chief from CM Nayab Singh Saini in July last year. The BJP high command had already initiated the process to elect its Haryana chief with the appointment of party general secretary Arun Singh as supervisor for the organisation polls. Arun Singh would soon come out with the election schedule inviting prospective candidates to file their nomination. The electoral process, including filing of nominations, scrutiny and withdrawal of candidature will last three days. The 27 district presidents and 90 Vidhan Sabha chiefs would form the electoral college for the elections. Though a proper electoral procedure is followed.

CM: 30% REDUCTION IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that drugs were being supplied via the Ferozepur-Mandi-Seraj-Anni route to remote villages of the state. "Our police have taken strict action against drug traffickers, resulting in 30 per cent reduction in the illicit drug business," the Chief Minister said while replying to a resolution moved by Shahpur MLA Kewal Singh Pathania on a policy to check the spread of drug abuse. "We have adopted a zero tolerance policy in this matter," he added. Sukhu said that the state was opening the first government de-addiction centre in Solan district to help drug addicts get back into the mainstream. "We can't wean away the youth from drugs by confining them to closed rooms. We are making this de-addiction centre over 150 bighas to help them return to the mainstream," he added. He said that his government had implemented the PIT NPDS Act, which had enabled the authorities concerned to confiscate the properties of drug peddlers and put them in preventive detention. "We are working with an end-to-end approach to control the spread of drugs, mainly 'chitta'.

ONLY SITTING MLAS CAN USE ASSEMBLY PRECINCTS: SPEAKER

Diary Times Desk : Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Pathania yesterday said that barring MLAs, no one else was authorised to use the precincts of the Assembly while it was in session. Pathania was responding to a question raised by Naina Devi MLA Randhir Sharma through a Point of Order in the Vidhan Sabha. "It is surprising how a former MLA was allowed to address the media outside the Vidhan Sabha to blame BJP leaders for the attack on him," said Sharma. "I have taken cognizance of the fact that how outsiders were allowed to use the precincts of the Vidhan Sabha while the Assembly session was going on. Only elected members can use the precincts. If a former MLA wants to address a press conference on the Vidhan Sabha precincts, he is not authorised to do so," said Pathania, giving his ruling. He added that he would take a decision on the issue, as per the House rules.

HIMACHAL CHIEF SECRETARY PRABODH SAXENA GETS 6-MONTH EXTENSION

Diary Times Desk : In a surprise move, Himachal Pradesh Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena who was due to retire on March 31, has been given a six-month extension. The development took everyone by surprise as the Himachal IAS Officers Association organised a farewell for Saxena on Friday night. It was at the farewell dinner that Saxena broke the news about getting the extension. Highly placed sources said the letter granting extension had been received from the Union Department of Personnel and Training. The cap and muffler to be presented to Saxena after the cabinet meeting held late in the evening were also sent back. With this, the race for the new chief secretary will come to a halt for the time being. Saxena, a 1990 batch officer, was appointed Chief Secretary on January 2, 2023.



VIDHAN SABHA APPROVES 24% HIKE IN SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF CM, MINISTERS, SPEAKER, AND MLAS

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha passed three bills today, proposing a 24 per cent increase in salaries and allowances of the Chief Minister, ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and MLAs. The hike is linked to the price index, ensuring an automatic increase every five years. This decision comes after a nine-year gap, with the last increase made in 2016. The revised salaries will have a financial implication of approximately Rs 24 crore annually on the state exchequer. An expenditure of Rs 20 to 22 crore is expected to be incurred on account of hike in salary and pension of MLAs and former MLAs, Rs 35 lakh annually for the hike for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and Rs 2 crore for the hike in salary and allowances of ministers. The pension of former legislators has also been increased. The three bills passed include the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 2025, HP Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill, 2025, and Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Himachal Pradesh) Amendment Bill, 2025. Both the Congress and BJP legislators welcomed the passing of the bills by thumping their tables.

WILL AMEND MINING POLICY TO PLUG LOOPHOLES, CHECK REVENUE LOSS: CM

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today assured the Assembly that the state mining policy would be amended to check and plug loopholes that lead to revenue loss. He said that the government was ready to make amendments to the policy and raise the income from mining from current Rs 400 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. "We will not allow anyone to plunder the state's resources and if any mistake has been made, it will be corrected," said Sukhu while responding to a question raised by Bharmour MLA Janak Raj in the Question Hour. The Bharmour MLA had asked the government if there was a plan to lease 165 bighas of government land in Chamba district to an individual, especially when more than five bighas of government land could be given only through auction. Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan, while replying to the question, said that the case the MLA was alluding to pertained to the period before 2018. "This case is from 2015 and the lease was renewed as he had completed all formalities and had the required clearances and no-objection certificates. Post 2018, the government land for mining.

CAG REPORT QUESTIONS RS 94.36 CRORE SPENT WITHOUT BUDGETARY PROVISION

Diary Times Desk : The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has raised questions on the state government spending Rs 94.36 crore without any budgetary provision during the financial year 2023-24. The CAG report for 2023-24 was laid in the Vidhan Sabha today. A sum of Rs 27.85 crore was spent under one major head without a budgetary provision and Rs 66.51 crore was spent against re-appropriation of Rs 0.55 crore under four major heads, where no budgetary provisions were available. An expenditure of Rs 94.36 crore made without budgetary provisions pertained to Forest and Wildlife, Industries and Minerals, Information Technology and Urban Development departments and the Town and Country Planning Department. The funds were required to be obtained through supplementary budget estimates but it was not done. Re-appropriation without budgetary provisions was in contrary to the Budget Manual of Himachal Pradesh, the CAG report has stated. The report mentions that the state government's decision to revert to the old pension scheme (OPS) in 2023-24 would have additional financial impact in future. During the year, there was no transaction from the Contingency Fund, which had a balance of Rs 5 crore on March 31, 2024.



PATIDAR, BOWLERS LEAD RCB TO FIRST WIN OVER CSK IN CHENNAI SINCE 2008

Diary Times Desk : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) ended their Chennai jinx in style, beating Chennai Super Kings (CSK) there got the first time since the first IPL - by a whopping 50 runs, CSK's biggest defeat at home. The contest was so dead that more than half of CSK's chase was all about finding out if and when MS Dhoni would bat. He eventually did so at No. 9, only for the second time in his career. The build-up was all about how RCB would tackle 12 overs of spin, but the conditions rolled out inverted the spotlight: how would CSK handle eight overs of traditional seam and swing from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood? Not very well, as their combined figures of 7-0-41-4 demonstrated. And that after RCB's batters dominated the CSK attack on what was not a straightforward pitch. Like Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar, Khaleel Ahmed drew seam movement and extra bounce, but CSK didn't have any more such bowlers. Rajat Patidar led RCB's innings, full of intent, capitalising on a dropped catch when he was on 17, and finishing with 51 off 32 balls. R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were allowed to bowl only five overs, which were taken for 59 runs.



KKR-LSG MATCH MOVED TO APRIL 8 AT EDEN GARDENS

Diary Times Desk : Kolkata Knight Riders' match against Lucknow Super Giants at Eden Gardens, originally scheduled for April 6, has been moved to April 8, BCCI announced in a media release on Friday (March 28). The decision to change the date for the match was taken after Kolkata Police and the Cricket Association of Bengal requested the BCCI to reschedule, citing shortage of police personnel who would be deployed across the city for security during the Ram Navami festivities. "The authorities have recommended that the game be moved to Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 3:30 PM (IST), and the request has been accommodated accordingly. The rest of the schedule remains unchanged," stated the release. The KKR vs LSG game on April 6 was supposed to be an afternoon game on a double-header Sunday. But now, only the Sunrisers Hyderabad-Gujarat Titans clash in Hyderabad will be played on Sunday (as per the scheduled time at 7:30 PM). Meanwhile, Tuesday will be a double header with the KKR-LSG game to be played in the afternoon (3:30 PM) in Kolkata, followed by Punjab Kings' match against Chennai Super Kings in Chandigarh at 7:30 PM. The decision to change the date for the match was taken after Kolkata Police and the Cricket Association of Bengal.

EX-BARCELONA FOOTBALLER DANI ALVES HAS RAPE CONVICTION ANNULLED

Diary Times Desk : A Spanish appeals court overturned Friday former Brazil international footballer Dani Alves' rape conviction, arguing his trial was marked by "shortcomings" and "inaccuracies". Alves was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in jail in February last year for raping a young woman in the VIP bathroom of a Barcelona nightclub on December 31, 2022. The 41-year-old, who won the Champions League three-times with Barcelona, was released from jail last March pending his appeal after he posted the one million euros (\$1.1million) bail set by the court. The appeals court said its four judges had "unanimously" accepted the player's appeal and "annulled" his conviction. The court also rejected the appeal filed by public prosecutors, who were seeking a more severe jail term of nine years. Alves' trial contained "a series of gaps, inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and contradictions regarding the facts, the legal assessment, and its consequences," the court said in its ruling. During the trial, the victim, who testified behind a screen to protect her identity, said Alves had violently forced her to have sex despite begging him to let her go, causing her "anguish and terror", according to prosecutors present.

MI, GT LOOK TO NOTCH FIRST WIN AS PANDYA RETURNS POST SUSPENSION

Diary Times Desk : Hardik Pandya is back where the booing first began. Just over a year ago, he faced a hostile reception from the very stands that had cheered him wholeheartedly the previous two seasons of the IPL. His move from Gujarat Titans to Mumbai Indians did not exactly sit well with the fans, and he went on to endure a crescendo of taunts across most of the IPL venues last season. The denouement was far from ideal, as neither he nor his team actually managed to recover, eventually finishing at the bottom. One year on, the big question is has Ahmedabad forgotten and forgiven Pandya? That will be revealed on Saturday night here at Narendra Modi Stadium when MI clash with Gujarat Titans, the home team. Much water has flowed through the Sabarmati since the last clash between these sides. In this period, Pandya has covered himself in glory, playing seminal roles in India's two ICC trophy triumphs - the Twenty20 World Cup in 2024 and Champions Trophy earlier this month. "Fans are fans and the emotions are part of it and I'm sure that everyone's gone beyond that and it's amazing to see how loyalty and everything works even in the IPL which is fascinating. I've enjoyed watching from outside."

'EVERYONE WILL SEE BEYOND WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR' - JAYAWARDENE BACKS RETURNING HARDIK

Diary Times Desk : Mumbai Indians' IPL 2024 campaign was marred by hostile receptions to captain Hardik Pandya, with the side finishing rock bottom. A lot has happened since, with Hardik winning two ICC titles with India, including the T20 World Cup in June last year. MI head coach Mahela Jayawardene expects their fans to "see beyond what happened last season" as Hardik prepares to play his first game in the new season. Hardik had missed MI's season opener against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at Chepauk last weekend owing to an over-rate offence from last season. "I think it's just a game of cricket. Fans are fans and the emotions are part of it and I'm sure that everyone has gone beyond that," Jayawardene said on the eve of MI's match against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on Saturday. "It's amazing to see how the loyalty and everything works even in IPL, which is fascinating, and I've enjoyed that from the outside. Twelve months on, he has achieved a lot more and I'm sure everyone will see beyond what has happened last year. We can enjoy a good game of cricket and everyone can enjoy a good game of cricket."

BCCI CENTRAL CONTRACTS: NO DEMOTION FOR ROHIT SHARMA, VIRAT KOHLI BUT REPORT SAYS IN ISHAN KISHAN'S CASE...

Diary Times Desk : The BCCI is likely to announce its central contract list in the next few days. According to reports, the BCCI is set to convene a meeting on Saturday with BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and India head coach Gautam Gambhir in attendance. There will be a lot of intrigue surrounding big names like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja. The veteran trio now play only two formats after having retired from T20s following the 2024 T20 World Cup win. If a TOI report is to be believed India's ODI and Test captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and allrounder Ravindra Jadeja will continue to be placed in the A+ category of central contracts - the highest level among central contracts. The trio, along with Jasprit Bumrah, will be retained in the category, according to sources, said the report. The report further claimed Shreyas Iyer, who was dropped from the BCCI central contracts for the 2023-24 season for not playing domestic cricket, is set to be back. Wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan was also dropped along with Iyer but there remains doubt over his inclusion.

