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CEASEFIRE AT LOC

PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE AT LOC IN POONCH, INDIAN ARMY RETALIATES

Diary Times Desk: Pakistan violated the ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch, suffering heavy casualties as the Indian Army retaliated appropriately. The Indian Army has confirmed the ceasefire violation by Pakistan for the first time, while similar cross-firing incidents were reported in the Krishna Ghati sector earlier in February this year.

On Tuesday, an infiltration attempt by the Pakistan Army in the Krishna Ghati area of Poonch district was successfully foiled. Pakistani soldiers and infiltrators opened fire, prompting a retaliatory response from the Indian Army.

According to sources, four to five infiltrators from the Pakistan Army were reportedly killed, although there has been no official confirmation of this yet. The Indian Army stated that there was no loss of life or property on its side. The firing continued intermittently throughout the day, and the Indian Army remains fully deployed in the Krishna Ghati area.

Over the past two months, there has been a sharp increase in cross-border firing incidents along the LoC in the southern Pir Panjal region, with reports of sniping, firing, and Border Action Team (BAT) attempts by Pakistan. Sources within the Indian Army indicate that these incidents are being dealt with swiftly and effectively at the local level, as Pakistan continues to violate the ceasefire agreement. According to Army sources, Pakistani forces and terrorists have made multiple failed intrusion attempts in the Krishna Ghati sector of Jammu and Kashmir, suffering heavy losses in the process.



WAQF BILL

"ENTIRE BLOC TO VOTE AGAINST WAQF BILL TODAY": MP AFTER INDIA MEET





Diary Times Desk: The opposition has unanimously decided to have a full discussion on the Waqf Amendment Bill tomorrow and will vote against it in parliament. The decision came at a meeting this evening, which was attended by all Opposition parties.

"We have decided to actively participate in the discussion of the bill and strong opposition will be there in passing the bill tomorrow," RSP's NK Premachandran told NDTV in an exclusive interview, pointing out that the Opposition has been against the bill at every stage. There will be no walkouts, demonstration or disruption will be there, he said. "We will point out the flaws and demerits of the bill. It will be a very academic discussion," he added.

"Along with the INDIA alliance, we are requesting the like-minded parties also, because this is clear-cut violation of the constitution," said senior Congress leader KC Venugopal.

The AIADMK has already said that it would vote against the bill. Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal and K Chandrasekhar Rao's Bharat Rashtra Samithi are yet to make their stance known.

The controversial bill - which seeks to improve the management and administration of Waqf properties in India - will be taken up for discussion and passage in the Lok Sabha tomorrow. Roughly eight hours have been allotted for the debate, Union minister Kiren Rijiju has said, though the opposition has asked for 10 hours.

The Opposition has condemned the proposed law as unconstitutional. While introducing the bill last year, the government had proposed referring it to a joint committee of the two Houses. After its report came, the Cabinet had approved certain changes based on the committee's recommendation.

SHOWDOWN ON WAQF BILL LIKELY AS INDIA BLOC HOLDS MEETING TO FORMULATE JOINT STRATEGY

Diary Times Desk: The Opposition INDIA bloc on Tuesday presented a united face as they discussed their joint strategy to oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament which will be taken up for discussion and passage in the Lok Sabha first. The opposition parties held a meeting in the Parliament House to discuss and formulate their strategy as a showdown over the contentious bill is imminent. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and KC Venugopal, Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav, NCP leader Supriya Sule, TMC's Kalyan Banerjee, and AAP's Sanjay Singh attended the meeting. DMK's TR Baalu, Tiruchi Siva and Kanimozhi, RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha, CPI-M's John Brittas, CPI's Sandosh Kumar P, RSP's NK Premchandran and Vaiko were also present in the meeting.



INDIA'S GOT LATENT' ROW: SC REFUSES TO RELEASE RANVEER ALLAHBADIA'S PASSPORT

Diary Times Desk : Podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia can't travel abroad as the Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to release his passport during the probe into cases lodged against him over his controversial comment on parents and sex on Samay Raina's YouTube show 'India's Got Latent'. "Since the petitioner might be required to join the ongoing investigations, his prayer for release of passport and to allow him to travel abroad will be considered after the investigations are complete," a Bench of Justice Surva Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted on behalf of the Maharashtra government that the probe will take two more weeks. Senior advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, representing Allahbadia, said the YouTuber's livelihood was being affected as he was unable to travel abroad to meet guests lined up for interviews for his show. "His livelihood is interviewing personalities.

ANNAMALAI MAY STEP DOWN AS TAMIL NADU BJP **CHIEF AMID ALLIANCE TALKS WITH AIADMK**



Diary Times Desk: The political buzz in Delhi suggests that K Annamalai, BJP Tamil Nadu chief, may be asked to step down, considering the caste factor and making way for a more acceptable saffron leader to ally with AIADMK for the upcoming assembly election. Reports indicate that Home Minister Amit Shah conveyed this decision to Annamalai during their meeting last week, which followed discussions between Shah and AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami on a potential alliance. Annamalai, an engineer, MBA holder, and former IPS officer, is believed to be one of the primary reasons for the BJP-AIADMK fallout in 2023. Despite this, he has received significant support on social media and was trending in the political segment on X. Apart from having a strained relationship, Annamalai and AIADMK chief EPS share a commonality - they both belong to the Gounder community, a powerful backward community in Tamil Nadu. This shared caste affiliation may not serve the interests of either party, as having two top leaders from the same caste could be counterproductive.

SC ORDERS PRAYAGRAJ BODY TO COMPENSATE OWNERS FOR 'ILLEGAL' DEMOLITIONS

Diary Times Desk: Slamming the Prayagraj Development Authority for "inhuman and illegal" demolition of houses in the city, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the authority to pay Rs 10 lakh compensation in six weeks to aggrieved house owners - which included a lawyer and a professor. "The manner in which the demolition has taken place shocks our conscience. Residences of the appellants have been high-handedly demolished. There is something called the right to shelter... due process of law," a Bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said. Maintaining that residential structures can't be demolished in such a fashion, it underlined the importance of "rule of the law in the country". The "highhanded" manner of the demolitions showed insensitivity on the part of authority, it said. Contending that illegality couldn't be compensated, Attorney General R Venkataramani, representing the state government, opposed the grant of compensation on the grounds that affected individuals had alternative the accommodations.



YOUR HOROSCOPE



Today, you will meet old friends, which Today you will get success as your long 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.

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.

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will 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.

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

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 iob in the workplace. Due to financial pain and headache may bother you.

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.

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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.

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 increased difficulties ue to arguments v business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a

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

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.

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 face difficulties in repaying ess loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

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.

POLICE CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT: 129 WOMEN CANDIDATES PASSED THE PHYSICAL STANDARD AND EFFICIENCY TEST ON THE FIRST DAY

Diary Times Desk: On the first day of Police Constable (Female and Male) recruitment in Shimla district, 403 female candidates participated in the physical standard and physical efficiency test. 129 candidates have passed the examination. The female candidates were so eager to join the police that they reached outside the ground at 5 am. After the verification of documents, physical standard and efficiency were tested. Police recruitment will be from 1st to 11th April. For female candidates, the date till 4th April has been released on the basis of roll number. After this, the recruitment of male candidates will start from 5th April. For the candidates giving the examinations, the recruitment committee has provided the exemption to participate in the recruitment on holidays or other days by showing the date sheet. According to the district police, if needed, dope test of any candidate can also be done. 12,793 candidates have applied for constable recruitment from Shimla district.



DEPUTY CM MUKESH AGNIHOTRI SAID- WE ARE NOT PAKISTANIS, WE KNOW HOW TO TAKE OUR RIGHTS FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk: We are not Pakistanis. There is a federal system. Whatever we are getting from the central government is the right of the state. We have the power to get money from the centre and good relations also matter. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said this in a press conference in Una. He said that he does not feel the need to answer anyone's questions in the matter of development. He has achieved every position in politics only with the blessings of the people of Haroli. Development of the area is his moral responsibility. In such a situation, no one should have any objection to development of Haroli. He said that some people are feeling pain due to the development of Haroli. They are making statements here and there to hide their embarrassment. But facts do not change by someone's shouting. He quipped that those who are having problems with development should understand that this pain will increase further, because big projects will be brought one after the other for the area.

PMGSY: 21 BRIDGES TO BE BUILT IN HIMACHAL, UNION RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY APPROVES RS 140.90 CRORE

Diary Times Desk: 21 bridges destroyed in the disaster in Himachal in the year 2023 will be rebuilt. These bridges will be built under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Phase-3. The Union Rural Development Ministry has approved an amount of Rs 140.90 crore for the construction of these bridges. Out of this, Rs 126.81 crore will be borne by the Rural Development Ministry and Rs 14.09 crore by the state government. 6 bridges will be built in Hamirpur district, 7 in Kangra, 2 in Kullu, 5 in Lahaul Spiti and one in Mandi. The state government will calculate the catchment hydraulic data, geotechnical investigation and verify structural designs before bridge construction. Apart from this, a bridge management cell consisting of experts will be formed to monitor the project implementation.

HIMACHAL WEATHER: HEAT WILL TORMENT HIMACHAL, HEAT WAVE WILL INTENSIFY, 54TH LOWEST RAINFALL RECORDED IN MARCH SINCE 1901

Diary Times Desk: This year, heat will haunt Himachal. There is a possibility of 10 to 20 percent more heatwave days in the state. From April to June, the average temperature is forecast to be above normal in most parts of Himachal. This year, people will have to bear more heatwayes in the summer season as compared to the year 2024. In the bulletin issued by the Meteorological Center Shimla, it has been clarified that except for the high hill areas, the number of heat wave days will be 10 to 20 percent more in the lower hilly, plain and mid-hill areas. Sandeep Kumar Sharma, scientist of Meteorological Center Shimla, said that in April, the temperature will be normal in Una, Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Kinnaur, while in other districts the temperature will be above normal. The average minimum temperature will also be above normal in most parts. During April, the number of heat wave days will be normal in many parts of the state. In April, most parts of the state will receive less than normal rainfall. The mercury will rise further in May and June. Due to this, most of the plains will be in the grip of heatwave. There is a possibility of light rain and snowfall on April 3 in some areas of Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba and Kullu, the high altitude areas of the state.

HPU SHIMLA: SFI PROTESTED AGAINST THE INCREASE IN SALARY OF MLAS, SAID-MLAS ARE POOR AND HELPLESS, DONATE MONEY TO THEM

Diary Times Desk: SFI protested at Himachal Pradesh University on Tuesday against the decision of not giving special relief to the common people to get relief from inflation and increasing the salary of MLAs by 26 percent in the budget session. The university unit of SFI protested this decision by collecting donations by writing on the posters in the campus, "Donate for poor MLAs". SFI unit president Ankush Rana and secretary Ritesh said that the entire state is facing economic crisis. In the assembly, the MLAs only increased their salaries and allowances, neither the ruling party nor the opposition was able to do anything to give relief to the common people. He said that our MLAs are poor and helpless, due to which they have faced a lot of problems in their daily life, it is becoming difficult for them to survive, so he appealed to the students to donate for the MLAs. Ankush said that this is SFI's way of protesting, through which he wants to explain to the common students and people that his government.

NEETU SINGH AND KAPIL SHARMA WILL COME TO SHIMLA FOR THE SHOOTING OF THE FILM, THE SHOOT WILL GO ON FOR 40 DAYS

Diary Times Desk : Bollywood actress Neetu Singh and famous comedian Kapil Sharma are coming to Shimla for the shooting of the film Hills Queen. Both the stars will reach Shimla on 15th April. They will shoot the film in Shimla for 40 days. The natural beauty of Shimla will be shot in the film. Apart from this, shooting will also be done in other areas of the city including Mall Road, Ridge Ground and Chota Shimla. Both the big stars of Bollywood will be seen together for the first time in a new film. In this, actress Neetu Singh, wife of actor Rishi Kapoor, will play the role of grandmother and comedian Kapil Sharma will be seen playing the role of grandson. The film will be directed by Ashish R Mohan. He himself is also a resident of Shimla. Ashish R Mohan is a resident of Kvarkoti area of Saniauli. The place has been selected for shooting the film in Shimla. Most of the scenes of the film will be shot in the mountains of Upper Shimla. Deepak Bhagda, line producer of Deepak Bhagda Film Production House, said that the film will be shot mainly in Shimla. Some scenes will also be shot in Chandigarh, Delhi and Mumbai

HIMACHAL NEWS: WHEAT PROCUREMENT IN HIMACHAL FROM APRIL 8, 10 CENTERS ESTABLISHED

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Food Supply Corporation will buy wheat from farmers at high prices this time. This year wheat will be bought at a higher price than last year. Last year the corporation bought wheat at Rs 2275 per auintal. This time wheat will be bought at Rs 2425. The state government has decided to buy 3000 metric tonnes of wheat this time. The government has set up 10 centers in five districts of Hamirpur, Kangra, Una, Sirmaur and Solan. Purchase will start in the centers from April 8. Farmers will have to reaister to sell wheat. Food Supply Corporation will buy wheat from farmers and get it ground in mills. Its flour will be made available to ration card consumers at the depot. Registration of farmers on the portal has started in the state. After buying wheat, money will be deposited in the accounts of farmers. Registration of farmers on the portal has started. After buying wheat, money will be deposited in the accounts of farmers. Food Supply Corporation has to buy wheat.

YOGI ADITYANATH JUSTIFIES BANNING NAMAZ ON STREETS: 'ROADS ARE MEANT FOR WALKING'

Diary Times Desk: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath described the state administration's decision to ban namaz on roads as right, adding that people should learn discipline from devotees who came to Prayagraj during Maha Kumbh. In an interview with PTI, Yogi highlighted how 66 crore devotees attended the Maha Kumbh without any incidents of violence, harassment, or disorder. "Roads are meant for walking and those who are saying.... should learn discipline from Hindus. 66 crore people came to Prayagraj... there was no looting anywhere, no arson anywhere, no molestation anywhere, no vandalism anywhere, no kidnapping anywhere, this discipline, this is religious discipline. came with reverence, participated in the 'Mahasnan', and then moved towards their destination Festivals celebrations or any such events should not become a medium for insolence. If you want convenience, then learn to follow that discipline as well," he told PTI. Last week, Meerut police had issued a directive saying this year's Eid namaz in the city will be restricted only to designated places such as the nearest mosques and the ground at Faiz-e-Aam inter college.

MEGHALAYA CM REBUKES BIREN SINGH FOR DRAGGING SANGMA'S NAME INTO MANIPUR CRISIS

Diary Times Desk: Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma on Tuesday termed former Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh "dragging" his father P A Sangma's name into the political discourse Manipur's crisis "unfortunate" and said at this time, everyone's efforts should be towards the restoration of peace and harmony in Manipur and not indulae in "political posturing". Reacting to Biren Singh's post on X earlier on Monday, Conrad Sangma wrote, "It's unfortunate that N. Biren Singhji has dragged the name of (L) P. A. Sangmaji. Sangmaji always fought for the people of the Northeast. He was a strong advocate for different issues and the rights of the people of the Northeast. At this time, everyone's efforts should be towards the restoration of peace and harmony in Manipur and not indulge in political posturing." He further appealed for unity, stating, "We all have to work together. I once again appeal to everyone to work for the betterment of the people of Manipur. This is what (L) P.A. Sangma ji would have wanted." Biren Singh, in his post, alleged P A Sanama.

INDIA, CHILE ANNOUNCE START OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE TRADE PACT



Diary Times Desk: India and Chile on Tuesday announced they will begin negotiations for a comprehensive trade pact as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chilean President Gabriel Boric explored new avenues for cooperation in defence, critical minerals and technology. The proposed comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) will build on a Preferential Trade Agreement that India concluded with Latin America's fifth-largest economy in May 2017. The move is also in line with New Delhi's focus on South America, where India has expanded its diplomatic footprint in recent vears. At a media interaction after his talks with Boric, Modi described Chile as India's "valued friend and partner country" in Latin America and said there is untapped potential in trade and investment. "Today, we have instructed our teams to initiate discussions on a mutually beneficial comprehensive economic partnership agreement," he said, speaking in Hindi. Boric cited India as a priority partner in the global economy and said the diversity of Chile's economy and the country's natural resources such as lithium.

"ENTIRE BLOC TO VOTE AGAINST WAQF BILL TOMORROW": MP AFTER INDIA MEET

Diary Times Desk: The opposition has unanimously decided to have a full discussion on the Waaf Amendment Bill tomorrow and will vote against it in parliament. The decision came at a meeting this evening, which was attended by all Opposition parties. "We have decided to actively participate in the discussion of the bill and strong opposition will be there in passing the bill tomorrow," RSP's NK Premachandran told NDTV in an exclusive interview, pointing out that the Opposition has been against the bill at every stage. There will be no walkouts, demonstration or disruption will be there, he said. "We will point out the flaws and demerits of the bill. It will be a very academic discussion," he added. "Along with the INDIA alliance, we are requesting the like-minded parties also, because this is clear-cut violation of the constitution," said senior Congress leader KC Venugopal. The AIADMK has already said that it would vote against the bill. Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal and K Chandrasekhar Rao's BRS.

US COURT REJECTS CLAIM OF SUMMONS BEING SERVED ON AJIT DOVAL

Diary Times Desk: A US court has said that no complaint was delivered to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during his visit to Washington in February, dismissing a claim by Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun that court documents, including a summons, had been served on the top Indian official "The Court has reviewed the above letter and attached exhibits... and finds that service was not completed. The Complaint was not delivered to a member of the hotel management or staff or any officers or agents providing security for Defendant, as required by the Court's Order," US District Judge Katherine Polk Failla said in the recent order. Pannun has filed a civil lawsuit against Mr Doval and another Indian national, Nikhil Gupta. Gupta has been accused by federal prosecutors of working with an Indian government employee in a foiled plot to kill Pannun on American soil. Pannun claimed in court papers that when Mr Doval was in Washington, accompanying Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the visit to meet US President Donald Trump.

ANANT AMBANI HALTS SACRED PADYATRA TO RESCUE HENS FROM CAGES

Diary Times Desk: Industrialist Mukesh Ambani's son Anant Ambani, who began a sacred padyatra from Jamnagar to Dwarka ahead of his 30th birthday, stopped his pilgrimage to rescue a flock of hens. Over the last 5 days, Anant Ambani has been covering 10-12 kilometres every night under tight security to reach the Dwakadhish temple in Dwarka and seek blessings before his birthday on April 10. In the video, he can be seen holding a hen infront of a large cage with multiple birds trapped inside. Surrounded by security, Anant Ambani is seen instructing someone off camera to save all the birds and keep them as rescued animals. He also instructs the man to pay the owner of the birds so they can be rescued without any trouble. During his pilgrimage, Anant Ambani has been stopping at temples along the route and offering prayers and seeking blessings to continue on his journey. The distance from Jamnagar to Dwarka is over 140 kilometres and Anant Ambani has covered over 60 kilometres so far. "I would like to tell the youth to have faith in Lord Dwarkadhish.

INDIA-CHINA TIES SHOULD TAKE FORM OF ELEPHANT-DRAGON TANGO: XI JINPING

Diary Times Desk: China and India should work more closely together, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Indian President Droupadi Murmu, saying their relationship should take the form of a "Dragon-Elephant tango" - a dance between their emblematic animals. The Chinese and presidents exchanged congratulatory messages on Tuesday, the 75th anniversary of the start of their diplomatic ties, as tensions ease after a 2020 clash between their troops along their shared border in the Himalayas. Xi said the neighbours should find ways to coexist peacefully and that he was ready to deepen communication and coordination in major international affairs, and jointly safeguard peace in border areas.



4 DEGREE CELSIUS RISE IN TEMPERATURE MAY CUT GLOBAL GDP BY 40%: STUDY

Diary Times Desk: A team of Australian researchers on Tuesday said that 4-degree Celsius rise in global temperatures would cut world GDP by around 40 per cent by 2100 - a sharp increase from previous estimates of around 11 per cent. New projections by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Institute for Climate Risk and Response (ICRR) published in the journal Environmental Research -- fixes an oversight in the current economic model underpinning global climate policy, toppling previous carbon benchmarks. According to the analysis, the results support limiting global warming to 1.7-degree Celsius, which is in line with significantly faster decarbonisation goals like the Paris Agreement, and far lower than the 2.7-degree Celsius supported under previous models. "Economists have traditionally looked at historical data comparing weather events to economic growth to cost climate damages," said lead researcher Dr Timothy Neal, a 'Scientia Senior Lecturer' in the School of Economics and also the ICRR. What they fail to account for, he said, are interruptions to the global supply chains currently buffering economic shocks.

42-YEAR-OLD INDIAN MAN THREATENS TO KILL CABIN CREW ON SINGAPORE FLIGHT, ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk: An Indian man was arrested after he threatened to kill a cabin crew member on a Singapore-bound flight and otherwise engaged in unruly behaviour while under the influence of alcohol. According to a report in news website Mothership, Singapore police will be charging the 42-year-old Indian national in court on April 1. According to the police, the man started behaving in a threatening manner while onboard the flight on February 27. Details of the incident were shared in a police statement released on March 31. Police said that the Indian man caused a disturbance on the flight to Singapore by grabbing a passenger seated next to him. He also annoyed other flyers by forcefully pushing the seat in front of him. He was believed to be acting under the influence of alcohol. His aggressive behaviour continued when flight attendants attempted to calm him down. He later grabbed the wrist of a male cabin crew member and verbally threatened to kill him.

'INDIA GOING TO DROP TARIFFS SUBSTANTIALLY': TRUMP'S BOLD CLAIM AHEAD OF 'LIBERATION DAY'



Diary Times Desk: US President Donald Trump, in a press conference on Tuesday, said that he has heard India is planning to cut tariffs on American goods substantially. "I think I heard that India just a little while ago is going to be dropping its tariffs very substantially and I said why didn't somebody do this a long time ago," he said. The comments come just before Washington unveils reciprocal tariffs on April 2, which has kept policymakers around the world on edge. The White House also listed India among nations which are being "unfair" and damaging US exporters with high charges. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said India imposes a 100 per cent tariff on American agricultural goods, making it "virtually impossible" for US products to reach certain foreign markets. "These countries have been ripping off our nation for far too long," a news agency PTI report quoted Leavitt as saying, adding that they've shown clear disdain for American

TAIWAN COAST GUARD WARNS OF CHINA USING 'PRETEXT' TO LAUNCH WAR GAMES THIS YEAR

Diary Times Desk: China could find a "pretext" to stage new war games around Taiwan this year, coinciding with sensitive dates such as the anniversary in May of a year since President Lai Ching-te took office, a senior Taiwan coast guard official said. China, which views democraticallygoverned Taiwan as its own territory, regularly holds exercises around the island, including one begun on Tuesday it said was to "serve as a stern warning and powerful deterrent against Taiwanese independence". However, China did not give a name to those drills, unlike two war games last year that it dubbed "Joint Sword-2024A", held in May, following Lai's inauguration, and then "Joint Sword-2024B" in October, after his national day speech. Beijing's pretext could include "special occasions" such as diplomatic events or incidents related to Taiwan's sovereignty, Hsieh Ching-chin, the deputy head of its Coast Guard Administration, told a small group of reporters.

TRUMP SAYS CONVICTION OF FRANCE'S FAR RIGHT LEADER IS "BIG DEAL", SIMILAR TO HIS CASE

Diary Times Desk: US President Donald Trump said on Monday that French far-right leader Marine Le Pen's conviction and resulting prohibition from running in the 2027 presidential election was a "very big deal." A French court on Monday barred Le Pen from running in the 2027 presidential election after she was convicted of embezzlement. "That's a very big deal," Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday evening when asked about that conviction. Rights advocates have drawn comparisons over the years between Le Pen and Trump over their anti-immigration views and charged rhetoric against minorities. The French court's ruling was a setback for Le Pen, 56. The National Rally (RN) party chief is one of the most prominent figures of the European far right, and a front-runner in polls for France's 2027 contest. "I know all about it, and a lot of people thought she wasn't going to be convicted of anything," Trump said.



TRUMP EXPECTS PUTIN WILL "FULFILL HIS PART" OF UKRAINE DEAL

Diary Times Desk: Donald Trump on Monday said he expects Russian President Vladimir Putin "to fulfill his part" of a deal to end the Ukraine war, after the US president voiced doubts over Moscow's commitment. "I want to make sure that he follows through," Trump told reporters in the White House. "I think he's going to live up to what he told me, and I think he's going to fulfill his part of the deal now." Trump on Sunday criticized both Putin and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, as he pushes to end more than three years of conflict in Ukraine. Trump told NBC he was "very angry" at Putin for questioning Zelensky's credibility as someone to negotiate with and for calling for new leadership in Ukraine. Putin earlier this month rejected a US proposal of an unconditional ceasefire in Ukraine -- that Zelensky backed -- and has upped his rhetoric on Moscow wanting to install new leadership in Ukraine. On Sunday, NBC News journalist Kristen Walker said Trump had called her to say he was "pissed off" with Putin and threatened tariffs on firms dealing with Russian oil.

EU HAS 'STRONG PLAN' TO RESPOND TO TRUMP'S TARIFFS, BLOC'S CHIEF SAYS

Diary Times Desk: European Union executive head Ursula von der Leyen has said the bloc has a "strong plan" to retaliate against United States President Donald Trump's tariffs, although its preference is a "negotiated solution". Speaking before Trump's planned announcement of reciprocal tariffs later this week, von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, said Europeans were "utterly disheartened" at the trade salvoes coming from the US. "Let me be clear: Europe did not start this confrontation, we think it is wrong. But my message to you today is that we have everything we need to protect our people and our prosperity," von der Leyen told a session of the European Parliament on Tuesday. "We have the largest single market in the world, we have the strength to negotiate, we have the power to push back, and the people of Europe should know that together we will always promote and defend our interests and our values, and together we will always stand up for our Europe." Von der Leyen said while there were issues to address in global trade, such as unfair subsidies and denial of market access, "across the board" tariffs would make the situation worse. "I hear Americans when they say some others have taken advantage of the rules. I agree. We also suffer from it.

PUNJAB COLLECTED RECORD EXCISE REVENUE THIS YEAR: HARPAL CHEEMA

Diary Times Desk: Puniab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema on Tuesday announced that the state's Excise and Taxation Department has reported a record-breaking excise revenue of Rs 10,743.72 crore for the financial year 2024-25, marking an impressive annual growth rate of 16.36 per cent compared to the previous fiscal year. He said the state's total revenue collection from VAT, CST, GST, PSDT and excise during 2024-25 stood at Rs 42,289.97 crore, showcasing a growth rate of 12.47 per cent crossing the Rs 40,000 crore threshold for the first time in the state's history. Announcing this in a press communiqué, the Finance Minister attributed the remarkable growth in excise collection to the successful excise policies implemented by the Punjab government. He said the state witnessed a notable rise of Rs 598.72 crore in excise revenue, surpassing the target of Rs 10,145 crore for 2024-25. In March 2025, Punjab achieved a remarkable 30.67 per cent growth rate in excise revenue, collecting Rs 1,477.04 crore, a significant increase from Rs 1,130.37 crore in March 2024. He said this achievement marks the first time the state has crossed the five-digit mark in excise revenue.



12 SCO SITES GO FOR RS 45 CRORE IN MAIDEN SEC 39 MANDI AUCTION

Diary Times Desk : The UT Agricultural Marketing Board has managed to auction 12 shop-cum-office (SCO) sites at the new mandi in Sector 39 for Rs 45 crore on a leasehold basis. According to officials, the bids ranged from Rs 3.72 crore to Rs 3.85 crore against the reserve price of Rs 3.70 crore. An applicant submitted bids for six shops, but ultimately bought only two. The board had received 34 bids for 16 SCOs, out of a total of 23 sites. The auction concluded today. After the delay of nearly two decades, the UT Administration had decided to auction 23 SCOs at the new mandi in the first phase, as part of the relocation of the Sector 26 mandi. For the first time, the auction was open to the general public as well. Each shop, measuring 120 square yards, has a reserve price of Rs 3.70 crore. Unlike the previous system, where shops were sold on a freehold basis, these will be allotted on a leasehold basis for 99 years. In the first phase, 23 out of the proposed 92 SCO sites were to be auctioned. The existing commission agents had demanded sites on a freehold basis.

ALLEGED BANK FRAUD CASE: CBI FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST DIRECTORS OF LAKHANI SHOES LIMITED

Diary Times Desk: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet in an alleged bank fraud case of over Rs 53 crore. The case was registered four years ago against Lakhani Shoes Limited and its two directors before the Court of Special Judicial Magistrate CBI Chandigarh. The CBI registered a case on October 4, 2021, for the offences punishable under Sections 120 B, 420, 468, 471 and 13 (2) read 13 (1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act on the complaint filed by Chief Regional Manager of Indian Overseas Bank, Chandigarh. The complainant said the company's main business is manufacturing and trading of different types of footwear. The officer said that the company took a loan from the bank at different times. The loan was declared Non Performing Asset (NPA) on December 12, 2021. Later, the outstanding amount over Rs 53 crore was declared fraud.

YOUTH'S FATAL OVERDOSE IN AMRITSAR SPARKS OUTRAGE, DEMANDS FOR STRONGER ACTION AGAINST DRUGS

Diary Times Desk: A youth's fatal overdose has sparked outrage in Amritsar, despite the state government's claims of waging a war on drugs. The victim, Jatinder Singh, a resident of the Dhapai area, was a hardworking labourer who succumbed to drug addiction, spending all his earnings on substances. His family, including his father Jagir Singh and brother Kashmir Singh, are now demanding stronger action from the government to eradicate drug abuse in the area. Jatinder's struggle with addiction had severe consequences, forcing his children to drop out of school due to financial difficulties. The family and local residents are calling upon the government to dismantle the drug network operating in the state, stressing that unless stringent measures are taken, more families will lose loved ones to addiction. Interestingly, this incident is not an isolated one. Just a few days ago, on March 27, two people, including a Jatinder Singh from Beas village, died of drug overdose in Amritsar district. The authorities have registered an FIR under Section 105 of the BNS at the Islamabad police station and are investigating the matter, but the family has refused to file a complaint, alleging that the authorities only offer assurances but fail to take concrete action against drug suppliers.

NOW, 5TH SIT TO HOLD INVESTIGATION AGAINST MAJITHIA IN DRUGS CASE

Diary Times Desk: Drawing a flak for little headway in the investigation into the drugs case against former Akali minister Bikram Singh Majithia, the Punjab Police today again replaced the head of the special investigation team (SIT) and two other members. This is now the fifth SIT that will carry out the probe against Majithia. As per the orders, a copy of which is with The Tribune, the office of the Director, Bureau of Investigation, has ordered that "on administrative grounds, the SIT constituted to investigate case FIR No. 2/2021 cited in the subject above is hereby reconstituted comprising the following officers". Varun Sharma, AIG (Provisioning), who was a member of the outgoing SIT, today replaced DIG HS Bhullar as the SIT chairperson. SSP, Tarn Taran, Abhimanyu Rana and SP, NRI, Patiala, Gurbans Singh Bains are the other two members, read the orders, dated March 31. Interestingly, all earlier SITs were headed by the rank of DIG and above and it is the first time that it is being headed by an AIG-rank officer. Majithia was booked during the Congress regime in December 2021. The first SIT was headed by AIG Balraj Singh. After the AAP government took over, it replaced AIG Balraj with IG Rahul S.

'LAWYERS' CHAMBERS HAVE BECOME 'ADDAS' OF PROPERTY DEALERS': SC ON HARYANA DISTRICT BAR BODIES

Diary Times Desk: Lamenting that district bar councils in Punjab and Haryana indulged in "shameful acts", "malpractices" and "massive corruption", the Supreme Court on Tuesday hinted at an SIT probe into affairs "The offices and the chambers of lawyers of these state bar councils have become a hub of property dealers and corruption. They are indulging in all kinds of shameful acts and malpractices. It has come to our notice and we will not leave them lightly. They have brought disrepute to the profession," a Bench led by Justice Surya Kant said. The Bench - which also included Justice N Kotiswar Singh said it would constitute a special investigation team (SIT) to look into their affairs and scrutinise the bank accounts of the bar bodies, especially in Haryana, if needed. As senior counsel Narender Hooda referred to allegations against bar leaders, Justice Surya Kant said, "These allegations may be correct... We have no doubt at all in our mind that all these office-bearers are involved in such shameful acts and are bringing disrepute to the profession. I have seen so many district bars associations, they are indulging in all kinds of malpractices and corruption. The Government of Haryana has pampered them. These chambers of advocates have become 'addas' (den) of property dealers. No serious professional is sitting there."

OLD CRIMINAL CASES TO CONTINUE UNDER CRPC, RULES HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk: The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that criminal cases initiated before July 1, 2024, will continue to be governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), even after implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). This decision resolves the legal uncertainty regarding whether pending cases should transition to the new procedural framework. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Harpreet Singh Brar settled the matter after two single Benches of the high court issued conflicting rulings. While one Bench had opined that BNSS had replaced CrPC entirely and should govern all post-July 1, 2024, proceedings, the other maintained that cases registered before the new law's enactment must continue under the CrPC framework

REPORT SUBMITTED, NO PROGRESS YET ON SNOW, RAIN CONSERVATION PROJECT WORK

Diary Times Desk: The Rs 1,269 crore project report prepared by the Jal Shakti Department for the conservation of snow and water hasn't seen much progress over the past two years. The report was submitted to the Department of Environment, Technology Scientific and Climate Change of the state government in February 2023. "We have not received any update on the report yet. Once funding for the project is finalised, the project will progress," says Anju Sharma, Engineer-in-Chief, Jal Shakti Department. In view of the declining rain and snowfall over the past few years, the project report proposes building of 461 rainwater harvesting structures, renovation of 194 snow-fed lakes, building of 145 ice stupas, 1,130 snow bridges/snow racks and 244 snow pits. "Our executive engineers have sent proposals for rain and snow conservation from different parts of the state," he adds. Meanwhile, the government has launched a 'Catch the Rain' campaign to harvest rainwater. In response to a question on reducing water level in various sources in the state, the Water Resources Minister has said that the aim of the initiative is to construct 7,388 check dams and rainwater harvesting structures across the state.

SHIMLA CIVIC BODY TO IMPOSE GREEN TAX ON VEHICLES FROM OTHER STATES

Diary Times Desk: The Shimla Municipal Corporation (SMC) is set to implement a green tax on vehicles from other states entering the capital city. A proposal to this effect was passed during the SMC's monthly general house meeting recently. During the meeting, discussions were held on implementing the green fee in the city. It was mentioned that vehicles with number plates from other states can register for an ID with the SMC to claim exemption from the tax. The funds collected through the green fee will be used for environmental conservation. Shimla Mayor Surender Chauhan said that the corporation intended to charge the green fee on vehicles entering Shimla from other states and had sought approval from the state government for its implementation.

NEW TENDER IN WORKS, OBEROI TO RUN WILDFLOWER HALL FOR 3 MORE MONTHS

Diary Times Desk: The Oberoi Group will continue to manage the luxury Wildflower Hall hotel for the next three months under a new arrangement with the Himachal Pradesh Government, even as the original deadline for handing over the property expired on Monday. The High Court had set March 31, 2025, as the deadline for the property's return to the state government, marking the end of a two-decade legal battle that ruled in Himachal's favour. However, the court has been informed that both parties have agreed to extend the Oberoi Group's operation for another three months. The decision stems from the state government's lack of expertise in managing a high-end hotel of this stature - one of the top properties being run by the Oberoi Group. Reliable sources indicate that the government aims at preventing revenue losses until the property is leased out to a new operator. Meanwhile, the state has appointed a consultant to draft global bidding documents for leasing the property. Facing financial constraints, the government is exploring all avenues to boost revenue, with tourism being a key focus.



CENTRE CLEARS RS 140-CRORE BRIDGE PROJECTS PROPOSED BY HP GOVT

Diary Times Desk: Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh today informed that the Ministry of Rural Development had accorded clearance to the bridge projects proposed by the state under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III), batch-I of 2024-25. The approval follows the recommendations of the empowered committee and the compliance report submitted by the state government. The approved projects include the construction of 21 bridges of a total length of 970.772 meters, amounting to Rs 140.90 crore. Of this, Rs 126.81 crore will be provided by the Ministry of Rural Development, while the state government will contribute Rs 14.09 crore. These projects are expected to significantly enhance rural connectivity, particularly in districts such as Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti and Mandi. Vikramaditya Singh has expressed gratitude to Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan for approving these projects. "The clearance comes with specific conditions to ensure the highest quality standards. The state government will verify hydraulic data, catchment area calculations, geo-technical investigations and structural designs before tendering," he said. Additionally, he said, a Bridge Management Cell with expert manpower.

SOLAN COURT ADMITS PLEA CHALLENGING CANCELLATION REPORT IN GANG RAPE CASE AGAINST BADOLI

Diary Times Desk: A Sessions Judge in Solan, Dr Arvind Malhotra, admitted a plea on April 1 filed by a gang rape victim, challenging a lower court's order that accepted a cancellation report submitted by the Kasauli police on March 12. The accused in the case are Haryana BJP state president Mohan Lal Badoli and singer Rocky Mittal, alias Jai Bhagwan. The Kasauli police had booked Badoli and Mittal for gang rape and criminal intimidation based on a complaint filed by the woman on December 13, 2024, nearly a year-anda-half after the crime occurred on July 3, 2023. Lawyers AS Gujral, Manjot Gujral, and Gaurav Charaya, representing the victim, argued that the Kasauli court accepted the cancellation report without ensuring the complainant's presence and without giving her an opportunity to file objections. They further stated that the magistrate should have sent the final report to the special court, which is the only competent court for the trial. The victim has sought to set aside the lower court's orders dated March 12, accepting the cancellation report. The sessions court has listed the case for April 22 and sought the record of the lower court.

INDUSTRY RUES WITHDRAWAL OF REI PER UNIT CONCESSION ON POWER

Diary Times Desk: The Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (HPERC) has abolished the night concession of Re 1 per unit of power, effectively increasing cost. This is a severe blow to the state's industry, which is already suffering losses due to various state-level levies. The decision has widened the cost gap with Punjab, where the industries still enjoy a night concession of Rs 1.20 per unit, making Himachal's power tariffs costlier by 50 paise per unit. Investors, who are fearing that this decision will lead to a decline in industrial productivity, opine, "If this disparity persists, factories will shut down or move out of the state in the next two or three years, leading to massive job losses and economic decline." They demand immediate restoration of the Re 1 per unit night concession to match benefits granted in Punjab and the adoption of a transparent and fair tariff rationalisation. Rajiv Singla, general secretary, Himachal Pradesh Steel Industries Association, says that it is a sly attempt to increase power tariff. "The decision to do away with the Re 1 per unit night concession from April 1 has resulted in a 35 paise per unit increase in effective power cost, further straining the industries."



IPL 2025: RS 26.75 CRORE SHREYAS SLAMS 50, TAKES PBKS TO BACK-TO-BACK WINS

Diary Times Desk: Punjab Kings (PBKS) beat Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) by eight wickets, chasing down 172 in just 16.2 overs in their IPL 2025 clash. Prabhsimran Singh slammed 69 and captain Shreyas Iyer hit a half-century to guide PBKS to victory. LSG captain Rishabh Pant failed to score big yet again, as LSG managed a total of 171 in 20 overs against PBKS in their IPL 2025 clash at the Ekana Stadium on Monday. Put into bat by Shreyas Iyer, LSG were reduced to 35/3 in the powerplay. Nicholas Pooran (44) and Ayush Badoni (41) topscored for LSG, to take them to a respectable total.



RCB TERMED 'GAREEB', VIRENDER SEHWAG ROASTS FRANCHISE FOR SITTING TOP OF IPL 2025 TABLE

Diary Times Desk: As the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises get a hang of what the 2025 season might have in store for them, the first few games have painted an intriguing picture. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) hold the No. 1 spot on the points table, having won both of their games so far, while Delhi Capitals also have a 100 percent record from the first couple of games. In a video that has set social media ablaze, former India opening batter Virender Sehwag could be seen openly mocking RCB, calling them 'gareeb (poor)'. Sehwag's comments came in the wake of RCB's brilliant start to the season that sees them placed at the No. 1 spot in the IPL standings. In a remark trolling the Bengaluru side, Sehwag said that poor sides like RCB should also get an opportunity to enjoy such high positions on the points table, as they've never tasted the success of winning an IPL title. "Gareebon ko bhi toh rehne de, photo le le thodi der. Pata nahi kitnin der gareeb log upar rahenge. (Let the poor be on top of the IPL points, let them click photos. Who knows for how long they will be at the top)," Sehwag said in a chat on Cricbuzz. Sehwag, an explosive opening batter during his active days, who also never won an IPL title as a player while featuring for Delhi Capitals.

RCB'S BRIGHT BEGINNING FACES THE CHINNASWAMY CHALLENGE

Diary Times Desk: RCB's return to Chinnaswamy poses a familiar challenge - can they shake off their home-ground woes? Despite a strong start to IPL 2025 with two away wins, their struggles at home remain a concern. With a sub-50% win record in Bengaluru, they've looked to address this through smart auction buys, particularly in the bowling department "I think everybody knows what to expect from a surface here in Bangalore. It's a good wicket, we know it's a pretty short boundary, we know the ball carries and flies, so they're typically high scoring games... We've recruited a team that we think is pretty powerful, we hope we can exploit those batting conditions. And we think we've got a bowling attack that's particularly skilful and that can deal with the challenge of bowling here. Attacking here, but also defending here," explained Mo Bobat, the RCB team director. Having won two games away, RCB are at the top of the points table but as the numbers suggest, they could be in for a ticky challenge on their homecoming where they'd be waiting to see if their judgement pre-season bears fruit. What would ease their nerves is the good form shown by almost all their players over the two games, additionally showcasing a role clarity that is working towards making them a stronger.

ISHAN KISHAN OUT OF BCCI CENTRAL CONTRACTS, SAYS REPORT. THIS TRIO TO EARN MAIDEN ENTRY

Diary Times Desk: Indian batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are all set to retain their A+ grade contract, which is worth Rs 7 crore in the BCCI's annual player contracts. Even after retiring from the T20 format, Rohit and Kohli will continue in the elusive A category. Shrevas lyer, India's leading run-getter in the recent Champions Trophy, is all set to make his comeback in the central contract list," sources told IANS. "Wicketkeeper batter Ishan Kishan, who was notably excluded alongside Iyer last year, still has to wait for his return in central contracts," it added. All-rounder Axar Patel, who played a vital role in India's unbeaten runs in the T20 World Cup and Champions Trophy, also stands a good chance to earn a promotion. Varun Chakaravarthy, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Abhishek Sharma, who have been stellar performers for India in different formats in the last 12 months, also have a great chance to earn their first-ever central contract. Last week. the BCCI announced the annual retainers for the India senior women's team for the 2024/25 cycle.



'DON'T DROP HIM, BUT STOP HIM...': KRIS SRIKKANTH'S BOLD MESSAGE TO CSK FOR LEGENDARY IND CRICKETER AMIDST SLUGGISH FORM

Diary Times Desk: Chennai Super

Kings have been put under the scanner after consecutive losses in the last couple of matches in IPL 2025. Ruturai Gaikwad and Co. have struggled while chasing as the 180run target has turned out to be too much for them. The lack of firepower in the batting line-up has pulled them down in the last two matches. The five-time champions have faced the heat from critics and fans for their approach, while head coach Stephen Fleming defended them, but it seems like they still have to make a few changes to get back on the winning track. 1983 World Cupwinning star Kris Srikkanth has advised CSK to make a few changes in their playing XI and wants them to include Devon Conway at the top of the order. He continues to back under-fire Ravichandran Ashwin in the XI but wants the team management to change his role with the ball. "Conway has to come in place of Jamie Overton and also bring in Anshul Kamboj into the XI. With regards to Ashwin, don't drop him, but stop him from bowling in the powerplay. Between 7-18th over he can be effective, with Jadeja and Noor Ahmad, they can easily slip in 10 overs at least. I will drop Tripathi and bring in Kamboj and then Conway in place of Overton," Srikkanth said on his YouTube channel

"WHEN NOBODY IS THERE...": SACHIN TENDULKAR'S EMOTIONAL MEET WITH ROHIT SHARMA AFTER MI WIN HAS INTERNET'S HEART

Diary Times Desk: Mumbai Indians have always been slow starters in the IPL 2025. The joint-most successful franchise in the IPL often takes a long time to get its first win. However, this time Mumbai Indians tasted its first win of the season in its first match at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday, MI defeated KKR by eight wickets to secure their initial win in IPL 2025. After limiting KKR to only 116, MI successfully pursued 117 in only 12. 5 overs. Debutant left-arm pacer Ashwani Kumar was the star of the show as he picked a four wicket haul. After the win, the MI dugout was clearly a relieved lot. It reflected on the faces of the owners as well as the team. Sachin Tendulkar, who is one of the mentors of Mumbai Indians, could be seen having a special chat with Rohit Sharma. The former MI captain Rohit Sharma did not have the best of matches as he got out for just 13.