

DONALD TRUMP'S TARIFFS

RAHUL GANDHI ON DONALD TRUMP'S TARIFFS: 'WILL COMPLETELY DEVASTATE INDIAN ECONOMY'

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said that the reciprocal tariffs or import duties imposed by US President Donald Trump will "completely devastate" the Indian economy.

He also claimed that China had taken over 4,000 square kilometres of Indian territory and demanded answers from the government over these issues. "Our ally has suddenly decided to impose a 26 per cent tariff, which is going to completely devastate our economy – our auto industry, pharmaceutical industry, and agriculture are all in line," Rahul Gandhi said.

"...What are you doing about our land, and what will you do about the tariff our ally has imposed on us?" Donald Trump on Wednesday announced new reciprocal tariffs on several countries, including India, saying that the US has been "looted, pillaged, raped, plundered" by other nations.

While the US announcement lists 26% as the tariff levied on India, other documents, including those received by the ministry, show that the rate is actually 27%. The Indian government has said that it is carefully examining the implications of Trump's announcement. The commerce ministry said it was engaged with all stakeholders, including Indian industry and exporters, taking feedback on their assessment of the tariffs and assessing the situation keeping in view the vision of a developed India. Speaking during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, Gandhi criticised the Narendra Modi-led government over the celebration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and China.



EPFO NEWS

EPFO EASES PROVIDENT FUND WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

Diary Times Desk : Retirement fund body EPFO on Thursday said applicants seeking withdrawal from provident funds online do not have to upload the image of a cancelled cheque and their bank accounts need not be verified by employers.

The move is expected to fast-track claim settlement process for nearly eight crore members and ensure ease of doing business for employers. At present, members of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), while applying for withdrawal of funds from PF accounts online, need to upload image of cheque leaf or attested photo copy of the passbook of the bank account seeded with the UAN (Universal Account Number) or PF number. The employers are also required to approve the bank account details of the applicant.

The EPFO has completely dispensed with the requirement of uploading an image of a cheque leaf or attested bank passbook while filing online claims, the labour ministry said in a statement. These two steps have been done away with to ensure 'ease of living' for EPF members and 'ease of doing business' for employers. These measures will significantly streamline the process of claim settlement and reduce grievances related to claim rejections, it stated.

These requirement were initially relaxed on a pilot basis for certain KYC-updated members. Since the pilot launch on May 28, 2024, the move has already benefited 1.7 crore EPF members. Following the successful pilot, EPFO has now extended this relaxation to all members, the ministry said. Since the bank account is already verified along with the EPF members' details at the time of seeding of bank accounts with the UAN, this additional documentation is no longer necessary, it said, adding, this will eliminate the possibility of claim rejections due to poor-quality/unreadable uploads and reduce associated grievances.



'UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AIMED AT TARGETING MUSLIMS': OPPOSITION SLAMS WAQF BILL IN RAJYA SABHA

Diary Times Desk : INDIA bloc parties on Thursday opposed the Waqf Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha, alleging that it was "unconstitutional" and aimed at targeting Muslims. Leaders of several opposition parties, including the Congress, TMC, DMK, AAP, Shiv Sena (UBT), Samajwadi Party, RJD, and Left parties also alleged that the Bill was brought by the government with mala fide intentions. Leader of the House and BJP leader JP Nadda, however, said the Bill is not against Muslims and claimed that it is aimed at helping the poor and protecting the rights of Muslim women. Nadda also accused the Congress of making Muslim women second-grade citizens during its rule, and said the Modi government brought Muslim women into the mainstream by banning the practice of triple talaq. "We believe in real service, not in lip service...I stand in support of the (Waqf) Bill as its sole purpose is to bring reforms in managing the Waqf properties," Nadda said, emphasising that the current amendment in the Bill tries to bring accountability.



GOVERNMENT IS EYEING WAQF LAND, MAY TURN TO TEMPLE TRUST PROPERTIES NEXT: UDDHAV

Diary Times Desk : Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday claimed that the Union government has its eye on the land of the Waqf boards, and it may turn its attention to the land of temples, churches and gurdwaras next. His party opposed the BJP's stand on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and "its ploy to take away (Waqf) land and give it to its industrialist friends," Thackeray said at a press conference here, hours after the bill was passed by the Lok Sabha. The Sena (UBT), a former BJP ally now part of the Opposition's INDIA grouping, has opposed the bill. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who heads the rival Shiv Sena, said by opposing the bill Thackeray committed a greater "crime" than by joining hands with the Congress. "The concern about the Muslim community shown by the BJP and its allies supporting the bill will put (Pakistan founder Muhammad Ali) Jinnah to shame," Thackeray told reporters. His remarks came as the BJP and the Shiv Sena led by Shinde.

RAHUL GANDHI SLAMS GOVT OVER 'CHINA OCCUPYING LAND', ANURAG THAKUR SAYS 'NOT A SINGLE INCH LOST'




Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed that China had taken over 4,000 square kilometre of Indian territory and that reciprocal tariffs or import duties imposed by the US would "completely devastate" the Indian economy, as he demanded answers from the government over these issues. The BJP hit back at Gandhi over his remarks during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, saying "not an inch of land" had been given to China under BJP rule and it was under Congress rule that China had occupied Indian territory. The ruling party also said it is the country's good fortune that the PM of this country is Narendra Modi before whom the world bows. Speaking during the Zero Hour, Gandhi slammed the government over the celebration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties by India and China. "China is sitting on 4,000 square kilometre of our territory. I was shocked some time back to see that our foreign secretary (Vikram Misri) was cutting a cake with the Chinese ambassador. The question is -- what exactly is happening to this territory of 4,000 sq km that China has taken?" the former Congress president said.

PM MODI, MUHAMMAD YUNUS SEATED TOGETHER AT BIMSTEC DINNER


Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus were seated together at the dinner hosted by Thailand Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for leaders of the BIMSTEC grouping here. Yunus' office shared photographs of the Bangladesh Chief Adviser seated next to Modi at Hotel Shangri-La on the banks of the Chao Phraya river. Modi is likely to meet Yunus on Friday on the sidelines of the sixth summit of the leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Since the interim government headed by Yunus stepped in following the ouster of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024, the ties between India and Bangladesh have seen a slump amid Delhi's concerns over the violence targeting Hindus and a rise of hardline Islamist forces there. During his visit to China last week.





YOUR HOROSCOPE

04-04-2025



<p>Aries Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.</p> <p>Gemini Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.</p> <p>Leo Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.</p> <p>Libra Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.</p> <p>Sagittarius Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.</p> <p>Aquarius Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.</p>	<p>Taurus Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.</p> <p>Cancer Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.</p> <p>Virgo Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.</p> <p>Scorpio Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.</p> <p>Capricorn Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.</p> <p>Pisces Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.</p>
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HIMACHAL NEWS: AGRICULTURE MINISTER SAID- GOVERNMENT TEACHERS DO NOT HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES

Diary Times Desk : Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Chandra Kumar said that most of the teachers of government schools prefer to teach their children in private schools because they do not have faith in themselves. He said this during a meeting with the school heads of Jawali, Nagarota Surian and Kotla Shiksha Khand at Lok Nirman Vishram Griha Jawali. However, he also praised those government teachers who are teaching their children in government schools. During this, Chandra Kumar said that to increase the number of students in government schools, teachers should go door-to-door and run a campaign. He bluntly said that the decline in the number of students in all the schools of the area is a matter of concern. At present, teachers are not taking their work seriously. Even their attire is not in accordance with the dress code. It will be the responsibility of the school head to implement proper dress code in schools.



RATIONALIZATION: 26 JBT TEACHERS TRANSFERRED FROM SCHOOLS WITH LOW STUDENT NUMBERS, 417 NEW LECTURERS APPOINTED

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh government has accelerated the process of rationalization in the education department. On Thursday, 26 JBT teachers from primary schools with 20 or less students were transferred to other schools in Mandi district. In this regard, office orders have been issued by the Deputy Director Primary Education Mandi. These are schools which have three or more teachers (including the centre head teacher). According to the department, transfer orders have been issued with immediate effect to prevent further disruption in the academic progress of students. On the other hand, on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, the education department has got 417 new lecturers in eight different subjects. Lecturers have been appointed in English, Economics, Chemistry, Biology, Commerce, Political Science, History and Mathematics. These candidates who passed the recruitment examination of the State Public Service Commission have been given appointments in schools by the Directorate of Higher Education.

HP HIGH COURT: STATE GOVERNMENT PRESENTED THE LATEST STATUS IN THE HIGH COURT ON THE EXPANSION OF GAGGAL AIRPORT

Diary Times Desk : The state government presented the latest status report on the expansion of Gaggal Airport of Kangra in Himachal High Court. The division bench of Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Sushil Kukreja has ordered the Airports Authority of India to submit its report within a week after a thorough analysis of the government's techno-economic feasibility report. The next hearing in this case will be on April 10. The Advocate General said that the techno-economic feasibility report has been submitted by the government on March 30. The division bench had ordered the state government to submit a revised report to the Airports Authority of India within 10 days in its previous order. The work of expansion of Gaggal Airport has been decided to be done in two phases. The advocate of the petitioners said that according to the technical report, this area is sensitive from the earthquake point of view.

HIMACHAL: MASSIVE FIRE IN LUNA OF BHARMOUR, FOUR SHOPS AND A CAR BURNT TO ASHES, LOSS WORTH LAKHS

Diary Times Desk : Five shops and a jeep were reduced to ashes after catching fire in Luna on Chamba-Bharmaur NH. The fire broke out in the shops at around 10:30 pm on Wednesday night. Due to this, the shops and all the goods kept inside were burnt to ashes. The loss in the massive fire is estimated to be Rs 5 lakh. A jeep parked on the roadside also caught fire. As soon as the people around saw the fire in the shops, they informed the fire department about the incident. The fire department team from Kharamukh reached the spot. The team extinguished the fire in the shops and the jeep. By the time they extinguished the fire, the shops and the jeep were completely burnt. The shops that caught fire belonged to Naresh Kumar, Pritam Chand, Paramjeep and Purushottam. The revenue department team inspected the spot on Thursday and prepared its report and submitted it to the Tehsildar. In this, they have mentioned the burning of shops and the jeep. They said that the shops that were burnt to ashes in the fire were built on government land. Till now, no relief money has been provided to the affected people by the administration. Investigation is also being done as to how the shops caught fire. Tehsildar Dharwala Roop Singh Negi said that shops and jeeps have been burnt due to fire in Luna.

HIMACHAL NEWS: FIVE OUT OF SIX MLAS REMOVED FROM THE POST OF CPS GOT PLACE IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Diary Times Desk : Five out of six Congress MLAs who were removed from the posts of Chief Parliamentary Secretaries have been given command and membership of Vidhan Sabha committees. While former CPS Kishori Lal has been made the Chairman of the Public Undertakings Committee, Sanjay Awasthi will be the Chairman of the Human Development Committee. Former CPS and MLAs who left Congress and joined BJP have also been included in other Vidhan Sabha committees. Sudhir Sharma will be the member of the Public Accounts Committee headed by BJP MLA Anil Sharma. Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania approved the formation of these committees and its notification was issued by the Vidhan Sabha Secretary. Anil Sharma will be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Rakesh Kalra will be the Chairman of the Estimates Committee. MLA Sudhir Sharma, who left Congress and joined BJP, has also been made its member. Former CPS Kishori Lal has been made the Chairman of the Public Undertakings Committee.

LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- ALL THE GUARANTEES OF CONGRESS ARE GONE, NOW THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur has said that for the first time in the state, a government has come with the goal of 'find the institutions and close them'. All the guarantees of the Congress government have gone in vain, now the government itself is about to disappear. Addressing a public meeting organized in Thachi of Seraj Assembly constituency, he said that wherever you go in the state, you get to see stories of the government's failures. This government feels happy in closing schools and hospitals too. The government that came to power in the name of giving jobs is feeling proud in snatching jobs. The Chief Minister says that the previous government distributed the resources of the state as revdi. Schemes like Ayushman, Sahara Shagun, Ujjwala, Kanyadaan, Beti Hai Anmol, Swavalamban, Jan Manch, Social Security Pension were run.

HIMACHAL NEWS: TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE CAUGHT STEALING OFFERINGS AT NAINA DEVI, 1500 RUPEES AND DOLLARS WERE HIDDEN HERE

Diary Times Desk : A temporary employee was caught stealing the offerings in Shaktipeeth Shrinayanadevi temple. He was specially appointed for counting the offerings. During the counting, he hid the offerings in the knee cap worn inside the lower, but his act was noticed by another employee. The clerk of the temple trust complained about the matter to the local police station. Puneet Kumar, working as a clerk in the Nayanadevi temple trust, said that these days he has been assigned duty to count the amount received as offerings in the temple during Chaitra Navratri. Counting work was started on Wednesday morning. Dharampal, a temporary employee appointed for counting, hid the offerings in the lower. His act was noticed by another employee. He informed the security employee Pritam Singh posted there about this. When the security employee searched Dharampal, three notes of 500 rupees and two Australian dollars of 50 each were recovered, hidden in the knee cap worn inside the lower.

BENGALURU WEATHER FORECAST: CITY BRACES FOR HEAVY RAINFALL AS IMD ISSUES YELLOW ALERT

Diary Times Desk : Bengaluru residents can expect heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning on April 3, 2025, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for the city. Temperatures are predicted to drop by 3 to 4 degrees Celsius, accompanied by gusty winds. The rainfall is attributed to a cyclonic circulation in the Bay of Bengal, which has intensified into a depression off the coast of Odisha. The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) forecasts continued cloudy weather, thunderstorms, and moderate to heavy rainfall across several regions of Karnataka over the next five days. An orange alert has been issued for numerous districts in North Interior Karnataka, warning of thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. According to a press release issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), this trend of sporadic rainfall is expected to continue. Chikkamagaluru and Hassan's maximum temperatures were nearly 7.5 degrees and 6 degrees below normal, respectively.

"MANIPUR FACING SEVERE CHALLENGES FROM ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION": SHASHI THAROOR

Diary Times Desk : After the Lok Sabha confirmed the imposition of President's rule in Manipur, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said he hopes peace and normalcy will be restored in the border state soon. "The Manipur discussion was essentially to approve the proclamation of the President's rule and that happened peacefully without any fundamental disagreement... Let us hope that peace and normalcy will be restored," Mr Tharoor said. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved the resolution for the Lok Sabha's clearance for President's rule in the state where ethnic violence began nearly two years ago. Mr Tharoor asked the house why it took up the Manipur issue at 2 am. "The biggest crisis we are facing today is that there has been an erosion of public trust in the State, the State of India, the state of Manipur and its institutions. And that legitimacy has to be regained during this period of President's rule," Mr Tharoor said. "On top of that we are seeing the state facing severe challenges from illegal immigration and drug trafficking, exacerbating the social and economic conditions I have mentioned," the MP said.

"BASED ON CONSCIENCE": NAVEEN PATNAIK'S PARTY EASES OPPOSITION TO WAQF BILL



Diary Times Desk : Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal has apparently had a change of heart about the Waqf Amendment Bill. After categorically saying it was against the bill ahead of its presentation in the Lok Sabha, the party, shortly before the voting in the Upper House, has tweaked its stand. In a post on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, senior party leader Sasmit Patra announced that there would be no party whip this time. "The Biju Janata Dal has always upheld the principles of secularism and inclusivity, ensuring the rights of all communities. We deeply respect the diverse sentiments expressed by different sections of the Minority communities regarding the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024," his post read. "Our Party, having taken these views into careful consideration, has entrusted our Hon'ble Members in the Rajya Sabha with the responsibility of exercising their conscience in the best interest of justice, harmony and the rights of all communities, should the Bill come up for voting. There is no Party Whip," he added.

US MAN ARRESTED FOR ENTERING RESTRICTED NORTH SENTINEL ISLAND IN ANDAMANS: COPS

Diary Times Desk : A US national was arrested in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for allegedly entering the prohibited tribal reserve area of the North Sentinel Island, police said on Wednesday. Mykhailo Viktorovych Polyakov (24), arrested by the CID on March 31, had allegedly entered the North Sentinel Island without any authorisation, they said. He arrived in Port Blair on March 26 and ventured to North Sentinel Island from the Kurma Dera beach, they said. He launched his boat from Kurma Dera beach around 1 am on March 29, carrying a coconut and a can of cola as "offerings for the Sentinelese", police said. Polyakov reached the northeastern shore of North Sentinel Island by 10 am. Using binoculars, he surveyed the area but saw no inhabitants, they said. He remained offshore for an hour, blowing a whistle to attract attention, but received no response. He landed briefly for about five minutes, left the offerings on the shore, collected sand samples, and recorded a video before returning to his boat, police said.

BRS IT CELL BOOKED FOR SPREADING FAKE NEWS ON HYDERABAD UNIVERSITY LAND ROW

Diary Times Desk : The Cyberabad police have registered an FIR against members of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) IT Cell for allegedly spreading misleading content about Hyderabad Central University land, aiming to provoke public unrest. According to the FIR filed at Gachibowli Police Station, the complaint was lodged by Bagannagari Arundawaj Reddy, a resident of Serilingampally. He alleged that BRS IT Cell members, including incharges Kontam Dileep and DR Krishank, used the party's official Instagram handle to alter photos and videos with unverified information about Hyderabad Central University land. These manipulated posts were allegedly circulated on various social media platforms to incite students and protesters. The complaint, filed on April 2, 2025, at 8.30 pm, states that the petitioner discovered the fabricated content earlier that day at 2 pm. As evidence, he provided ten attested copies of posts from the BRS's.

RAHUL GANDHI RAKES UP TARIFFS, CHINA BORDER ROW IN LOK SABHA, GETS BJP REBUTTAL

Diary Times Desk : Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, went on a warpath against the Centre over the border row with China and the imposition of steep tariffs by the US in Parliament, inviting a rebuttal from the BJP's Anurag Thakur. Speaking in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, Rahul said bowing its head before foreigners was in the BJP's history and culture. "Somebody once asked Indira Gandhi ji - 'In the matter of foreign policy, you lean left, or you lean right?' Indira Gandhi answered, 'I don't lean left or right, I stand straight'," Rahul said. "The BJP and the RSS have a different philosophy. When they are asked whether they lean left or right, they say we bow our head in front of every foreigner that comes in front of us. This is something that is in their culture, in their history," he further said. Referring to the India-China border issue, the Raebareilly MP claimed that Beijing was now "sitting on over 4,000 sq km of our territory" and sought the status quo. "20 jawans attained martyrdom in 2020.

"IF YOU FIND MONEY AT JUDGE'S HOME...": MAMATA BANERJEE AFTER COURT SETBACK

Diary Times Desk : Hours after her government faced a big setback in the teachers' recruitment case, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she does not accept the Supreme Court judgment personally, but her government will implement it and repeat the selection process. She also questioned if Opposition BJP and CPM wanted Bengal's education system to collapse. As a citizen of this country, I have every right, and I cannot accept this judgment, with due respect to the judges. I am expressing my opinion from a humanitarian perspective. Don't misinform or create confusion," she told the media this afternoon. The government, she said, accepts the ruling and has already asked the School Service Commission to repeat the recruitment process. The Supreme Court today upheld the Calcutta High Court order, cancelling the appointment of more than 25,000 teachers and non-teaching staff under the West Bengal School Service Commission. The Supreme Court said the entire selection process is "vitiated by manipulation and fraud" and its credibility and legitimacy "denuded".



CHINA OPPOSES TRUMP'S RECIPROCAL TARIFFS, VOWS "COUNTERMEASURES"

Diary Times Desk : China on Thursday said it "firmly opposes" sweeping new US tariffs on its exports and vowed "countermeasures to safeguard its own rights and interests". US President Donald Trump has ignited a potentially ruinous global trade war after imposing 10 percent levies on imports from around the world and harsh extra duties on key trading partners. The Commerce Ministry in Beijing said in a statement that those tariffs "do not comply with international trade rules and seriously harm the legitimate rights and interests of the relevant parties". It urged Washington to "immediately cancel" them, warning they "endanger global economic development", hurting US interests and international supply chains. It also accused the United States of a "typical unilateral bullying practice". Trump unveiled particularly stinging tariffs of 34 percent on China, one of its largest trading partners, while a 10 percent base tariff on all countries will also apply to China. That comes on top of a 20 percent rate imposed last month. Beijing responded to those tariffs with levies of up to 15 percent on a range of US agricultural goods including soybeans, pork and chicken.

INDIAN GETS 35-YEAR JAIL TERM FOR EXPLOITING MINORS IN US, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Diary Times Desk : A 31-year-old Indian has been jailed in US for sexually harassing several children through a social media app. Authorities said the man used to pose as a teenager to gain trust of children on the app and would then threaten and extort them with child pornography when they refused his requests. Sai Kumar Kurremula, 31, an Indian national living in Edmond, Oklahoma has been sentenced to 35 years in jail. Kurremula had been living on an immigrant visa. US Attorney Robert Troester in a statement said, "He has been sentenced to serve 420 months in federal prison for the sexual exploitation of three children and transportation of child pornography." After serving his term in a federal prison, he will also have to undergo a lifetime term of supervised release. In announcing his sentence, US District Judge Charles Goodwin noted that these offences are among those that society considers the most serious because they involve such vulnerable.

THAILAND RELEASES SPECIAL STAMP BASED ON RAMAYAN MURALS DURING PM MODI'S VISIT



Diary Times Desk : Thailand on Thursday released a special stamp based on the Ramayan mural paintings from the 18th century to commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country. PM Modi is in Thailand for the BIMSTEC summit being held from April 2-4. The mural shows scenes from the 18th century 'Ramakien', Thailand's national epic, influenced by the Valmiki Ramayan. PM Modi, while expressing gratitude to the Thai government for introducing the commemorative stamp, highlighted how both India and Thailand have a "centuries-old relations connected through our deep cultural and spiritual ties." "India and Thailand's centuries-old relations are connected through our deep cultural and spiritual ties. The spread of Buddhism has connected our people. From Ayutthaya to Nalanda, there has been an exchange of intellectuals. The tales of Ramayana are a part of Thai people's lives," PM Modi said. "The influence of Sanskrit and Pali are reflected in language and traditions even today. I am grateful to the Thailand government that during my visit, a commemorative stamp, based on Ramayana mural paintings from 18th century, was issued," he added.

"I AM FREE": MYANMAR TEACHER PULLED OUT OF RUBBLE 5 DAYS AFTER EARTHQUAKE

Diary Times Desk : Entombed under his hotel bed for five days in the debris, two things enabled teacher Tin Maung Htwe to survive Myanmar's devastating earthquake: old school lessons and his own urine. The primary school headmaster was on a training course in Sagaing, the closest place to the epicentre, when the 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck. The 47-year-old remembered a decades-old school lesson to shelter under a bed if the world starts to shake. "As soon as I went under the bed, the whole hotel fell down and was blocked. All I could afford was to say 'save me'," he said. "I was shouting 'save me, save me'." The Swal Taw Nann guesthouse where he was staying was reduced to a pile of bricks and twisted metal strips, the broken shell of its top storey resting on the remains of those below.

US EMBASSY IN ROMANIA ANNOUNCES UPDATED VISA REQUIREMENTS AFTER SUSPENSION DECISION

Diary Times Desk : The United States Embassy in Bucharest has announced an update to visa requirements for Romanian citizens wishing to travel to the US, following president Donald Trump's decision to suspend Romania's entry into the Visa Waiver Program. According to the announcement, starting April 7, 2025, all temporary visa applicants must present a printed copy of the confirmation page with the barcode to demonstrate that they used the same DS-160 application form to schedule their interview. Moreover, before the interview, applicants must verify that they have completed and submitted the online DS-160 form and ensure that the barcode number on the DS-160 confirmation page matches the one used for scheduling the interview. "If the numbers do not match, applicants who scheduled their interview using an incomplete or incorrect form will not be allowed to proceed with the interview and will be required to reschedule their appointment through ustraveldocs.com/ro/, using the correct DS-160 barcode number.

RUSSIAN WOMAN WHO ASKED SOLDIER HUSBAND TO RAPE UKRAINIAN WOMEN JAILED

Diary Times Desk : A Russian woman has been sentenced to prison after urging her husband, a Russian soldier, to rape Ukrainian women during the ongoing war, according to Russian newspaper Pravda. The sentence comes amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has been marked by widespread atrocities, including death, destruction, and numerous war crimes. The woman's actions have drawn significant attention as part of the broader human rights violations taking place in the region. The newspaper reported, quoting Radio Liberty, that Olga Bykovskaya, a Russian citizen who urged her husband, a Russian soldier, to rape Ukrainian women, has been convicted in absentia of violating the laws and customs of war and sentenced to five years in prison by the Shevchenkivskyi District Court of Kyiv. In April 2022, the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) released audio of an intercepted conversation between a Russian soldier and his wife. The woman gave her husband permission to rape Ukrainian women as long as he "uses protection". Journalists from the Ukrainian and Russian services of Radio Liberty identified the couple as Olga and Roman Bykovsky.

WHO FACES 2.5 BILLION DOLLAR FUNDING GAP AFTER US' WITHDRAWAL

Diary Times Desk : The World Health Organization (WHO) is facing a budget gap of 1.9 billion dollar for 2026 and 2027, along with a 600-million-dollar deficit through 2025, according to media reports. The 1.9-billion-dollar funding gap accounts for nearly 45 per cent of its already slashed budget for the two-year period until 2027, Health Policy Watch, a non-profit independent global health news outlet, reported on Wednesday. The report, citing WHO officials at a Tuesday meeting, said the United States owes WHO 260 million dollars in dues for 2024 and 2025. Raul Thomas, WHO's assistant director general of business operations, revealed at the meeting that the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden never paid the US 2024 dues of 130 million dollars owed before leaving office, reports Xinhua news agency, citing the Health Policy Watch report. Speaking to WHO staff via Zoom at the meeting, Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus forecasted staff reductions.



'OUR YOUNG GIRLS, KIDS TOO HOOKED': PUNJAB GOVERNOR LAUNCHES ANTI-DRUG 'PAD YATRA' TO COMBAT BORDER MENACE

Diary Times Desk : "No government can eradicate menace of drugs that has been plaguing the border state until every section of society contribute and join their hands with government and police forces for the cause," said Punjab governor, Gulab Chand Kataria while launching the 'Pad Yatra' from Kartarpur Corridor here on Thursday. Aimed at spreading awareness against the peril of drugs, he urged the people to make it a "Jan Andolan" (public movement). Hundreds of children from various schools participated in yatra that culminated at St Francis Convent School after passing through various streets and bazaars of the border town. He pointed out that during his previous visits to the border village he observed that the drug abuse has assumed alarming propositions and smuggling of narcotics from Pakistan via drones remained a bigger challenge. He said that what is unfortunate is that our young girls and children were also getting hooked to deadly scourge. While terming it a big conspiracy by Pakistan he said that the neighboring nation was trying to weaken our young generation unleashing a narco-terror war against us and thereby making our country weak.



5 OIL TANKER BOGIES DERAIL NEAR LALRU, TRAINS DELAYED ON AMBALA-CHANDIGARH STRETCH

Diary Times Desk : Several trains on the Ambala-Chandigarh route are running behind schedule after five oil tanker bogies derailed near the Lalru railway station earlier today around 2 pm. To avoid this stretch, a few trains have been diverted, according to the railway authorities. A major mishap was narrowly averted since the tankers were transporting inflammable liquid to an oil depot in Lalru. As a precautionary measure, fire tenders were deployed at the scene, and repair work began after a delay of about two hours. "Efforts are underway to restore the track, but it may take several more hours before traffic resumes," railway authorities said. A team of railway officials from Patiala rushed to the site to remove the derailed bogies from the Ambala-Chandigarh upline and restore train movement. "No technical fault or negligence has been detected so far, but a detailed inquiry will be conducted soon," they added.

CHANDIGARH POLICE TO INVESTIGATE COL BATH ASSAULT CASE; PUNJAB POLICE EXCLUDED FROM INQUIRY

Diary Times Desk : Acting on Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath's petition seeking transfer of the assault case probe to the CBI or an independent agency, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday handed over the investigation to the Chandigarh Police. Justice Harpreet Singh Brar made it clear in the open court that an officer from the Punjab Police cadre would not be involved in the investigation. The court, at the onset asked, the State of Punjab to specify whether it wanted a consent-based order or one on merit. The Bench also asked it to specify whether handing over the probe to the Chandigarh Police was acceptable before the order was passed. The State of Punjab was represented by senior advocate Randeep Singh Rai. The case was initially placed before Sandeep Moudgil's Bench, which had questioned the State on the non-arrest of the accused police officers despite the registration of an attempt to murder case against them.

PUNJAB COMPLETES ALLOTMENT PROCESS FOR 207 RETAIL EXCISE GROUPS

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema has announced the successful completion of the allotment process for 207 retail excise groups for 2025-26. The process, which commenced on March 5 and concluded on April 2, has generated an annual licence fee of Rs 9,878 crore, surpassing the projected target of Rs 9,017 crore. This represents a 9.5 per cent rise over the set reserve price. Revealing this in a press release here, Cheema said the excise department had allotted 207 retail groups successfully through online auction and the process saw a good response. Emphasising that the total excise revenue for 2025-26 is set to cross Rs 11,500 crore, the minister said the excise department's consistent year-on-year success is a direct result of strategic policy formulation. He said the state's excise policy ensured the availability of high-quality liquor at competitive prices. Cheema commended the efforts of excise officials in combating the illicit liquor trade and smuggling. He said the excise department remained steadfast in its mission to enhance revenue generation while upholding regulatory integrity and consumer welfare.

BJP'S POLITICS DEPENDS ON 'PAKISTAN, MUSALMAN, AND KHALISTAN': SAD MP HARSIMRAT BADAL

Diary Times Desk : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal accused BJP of communal politics and said that the saffron party's entire politics depends on only three things — Pakistan, Musalman, and Khalistan. "The party whose entire politics is based on Hindu-Muslim polarisation...whose entire politics is based on Pakistan, Musalman, and Khalistan... How come they suddenly thought of judiciously utilising Muslims' money," Badal said in the Lok Sabha during the discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. The Lok Sabha passed the bill with a 288-232 vote in the wee hours of Thursday after a 12-hour debate. Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju tabled the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, today in the Rajya Sabha. Badal accused BJP of not having a single Muslim MP in the Lok Sabha while the 24 parliamentarians, all in opposition, are against the amendment bill. "When I tried to find information on the politics behind introducing this bill, I came across a paper on Waqf asset management that revealed 27 per cent of Waqf land is in Uttar Pradesh, where elections are scheduled to take place within the next year-and-a-half," the MP said. Badal stated that if the government is genuinely concerned about the welfare of minority communities, it should consider amending Article 25B of the Constitution. "The Sikhs, a minority community, have long demanded.

HARYANA TO UPGRADE FIRE SERVICES WITH 250 NEW VEHICLES AND 13 HYDRAULIC PLATFORMS

Diary Times Desk : The Fire and Emergency Services Department of the Haryana Government is set for a major upgrade with the procurement of 250 new firefighting vehicles and 13 hydraulic platforms proposed for the 2025-26 financial year. Additionally, Rs 29 crore will be spent on establishing a state-level fire training institute over 25 acres in Kheri Masania village of Jind district, as announced by Financial Commissioner Revenue (FCR) Sumita Misra. Currently, the department has 504 fire vehicles of various categories and 202 motorcycles with fire equipment available in different fire stations. The fire department merged with the Revenue and Disaster Management Department on January 1, 2023. To provide timely and proper fire emergency services, 3,776 posts of various categories have been sanctioned. These include 43 posts for the Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services, Haryana; 24 posts for the Fire Training Centre, Manesar; and 3,709 posts for various fire stations. Presently, 109 fire stations are functional in the state, with four newly created stations.

POWER SHOCK: CONSUMERS TO PAY UP TO 30 PAISE MORE PER UNIT

Diary Times Desk : Electricity in the state will now cost more as the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) has revised the tariff from April 1. The rates will increase for both domestic and industrial categories from 20 to 30 paise per unit — technically called kWh (kilowatt hours). The tariff for domestic consumers has been hiked by 20 paise per kWh. In a slab of 0 to 50 units, the rate has now been revised from Rs 2 per kWh to Rs 2.20 per kWh. The tariff order was released late on Tuesday night. In the 51-100 unit slab, the rate has been increased from Rs 2.50 per kWh to Rs 2.70 per kWh. Consumers with consumption of over 100 units a month (in the slab of 0-150 units) will pay Rs 2.95 per kWh, up from Rs 2.75. "Further, this new tariff structure delivers immediate relief to households by eliminating the burden of Minimum Monthly Charges (MMC). However, a two-part tariff regime has been introduced in which no fixed charges will be levied on domestic consumers having monthly energy consumption up to 300 units. The tariff for Category-I domestic consumers is still one of the lowest among the neighbouring states.

APPLE GROWERS SLAM HPMC FOR RENTING ITS CA STORES, GRADING & PACKING LINES

Diary Times Desk : The decision of the Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC) to rent its assets like controlled atmosphere (CA) stores and grading and packing lines has not gone down well with apple growers. They have termed the corporation's decision as anti-fruit growers that will lead to monopoly of private players in the sector and increase in the storage and grading and packing costs for growers. "The private players will be concerned about maximizing their profits not the welfare of the growers. If there's no provision for capping the prices of services at these facilities, it will lead to an overall increase in the storage and grading and packing costs," said Lokinder Bisht, president of the Progressive Growers Association. Sohan Thakur, president of the Seb Utpaddk Sangh, questioned the corporation's haste in renting these facilities to private players. "Most of these facilities have become operational only over the past couple of years. Instead of renting these facilities to private parties, why can't the HPMC make efforts to make these sustainable?" he asked.

WAQF BILL BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF 2006 PANEL: BINDAL

Diary Times Desk : State BJP president Rajeew Bindal today said that the Waqf Amendment Bill was based on the recommendations of a committee set up in 2006 to look into reforms required in the law. In a statement issued here, Bindal said that the proposed amendment Bill should be looked at objectively as it was for the betterment of the Waqf Board. "A committee set up in 2006 had presented a report recommending reforms, which were never undertaken," he added. Bindal said, "The Sachar Committee gave its report in 2006 and after that a Joint Parliamentary Committee presented its report in 2008. It was found that there were huge encroachments on the properties and land of the Waqf Board and its income was continuously on the decline." He said that in 2013, the then Congress government.

CENTRE APPROVES RS 267 CRORE BOOST FOR VARIOUS ROAD PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL: VIKRAMADITYA

Diary Times Desk : Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh announced today that the Union Government has sanctioned Rs 267 crore for various projects in Himachal Pradesh, including national highways. The state had submitted a total capital expenditure request of Rs 1,400 crore for the financial year 2025-26, and Rs 267 crore has been released in the first phase. Singh expressed his gratitude to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari for sanctioning the funds. He had personally raised the matter with Gadkari on multiple occasions to expedite approvals and fund allocations. He said the alignment work for the Jalori Jot tunnel has been completed, and a detailed project report worth Rs 1,452 crore is being prepared. The tunnel will have a total length of 4.156 km and is expected to be finalised within this financial year. He added that the approved projects include the construction of three bridges each in Chamba and Una districts. Additionally, Rs 54.37 crore has been allocated for landslide mitigation on the Nigulsari-Nathpa road, and Rs 40.85 crore for landslide mitigation near the Keru bridge on the Katori Bangra-Banikhet-Chamba-Bharmour road.



GOVT RAISES RS 900-CRORE LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT, FIRST IN 2025-26

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Government has raised a loan of Rs 900 crore in new financial year 2025-26 to meet its development needs. The Finance Department had yesterday issued the notification for raising the loan, the first in this financial year, which would be repaid after 10 years by April 4, 2035. The government has cited the objective of using the amount for its development programme for raising the loan. It had sought the consent of the Central Government before applying for the loan, as required under Article 293(3) of the Constitution. Besides requiring money for development, the biggest committed liability of the state government is the bill of salaries and pension of its employees. The government in 2024-25 had raised loans to the tune of Rs 29,046 crore. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had stated that of Rs 29,046 crore, only Rs 8,693 crore was spent on development and the rest of the money went towards the repayment of the past debt and interest component on the loans raised by the previous BJP government. The annual financial liability of the salaries and pension of serving and retired government employees works out to be about Rs 30,000 crore. The current financial year is likely to be tough for the state government, as the revenue deficit grant (RDG) will come down to Rs 3,257 crore.

CLAIMS UNDER FOREST RIGHTS ACT TO BE SETTLED IN TIME-BOUND MANNER: REVENUE MINISTER NEGI

Diary Times Desk : Directions have been issued for the settlement of claims under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, in a time-bound manner, said Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi in an exclusive interview with The Tribune in Dharamsala today. Negi said that directions had been issued that the sub-divisional level committees (SDLC) and the district level committees (DLCs) formed in the state should settle claims submitted by people within two weeks. "Gram sabhas should settle the claims of people within a month. The government will honour officials who settle the claims of people under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, within a stipulated time while the officials who delay the clearance of claims will be punished," he added. The minister said that many people had an impression that the Forest Rights Act, 2006, was applicable to tribal areas only. However, any person who could prove that he was using forestland traditionally through generations till 2005 could claim its title under the law. Once the title of the forestland under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, was issued to people, they could use and even build houses on it, he added.

POLLUTING INDUSTRIES IN BADDI BAROTIWALA NALAGARH INDUSTRIAL AREA FACE RS 3.2 CRORE PENALTY

Diary Times Desk : In a bid to improve the air and water quality of the Baddi Barotiwala Nalagarh (BBN) industrial area, the State Pollution Control Board has collected an environmental compensation of Rs 3.2 crore in the last five years. The compensation is levied on units that violate environmental pollution norms, in line with the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) directive, which follows the "polluter pays" principle. The amount highlights the negligence of industrial units that violate environmental standards to avoid spending on pollution control measures, thereby evading their social responsibility. From 2019 to 2024, as many as 87 of the 2,919 industrial units in BBN were found violating various pollution control norms. As a consequence, they were fined Rs 3.2 crore, according to a reply provided by the State Pollution Control Board in the recent budget session of the Vidhan Sabha in response to a query from Nalagarh MLA Hardeep Bawa. The BBN industrial area houses 380 red category firms, 1,404 orange category firms, and 1,135 green category firms. Red category industries, such as cement manufacturers, distilleries, and metal extraction units, have the highest pollution potential and are required to adopt stringent environmental controls. Orange category industries, which include bottling of gases and ice cream manufacturing, require moderate pollution control measures, while green category industries, like food processing, bakery and handloom units, have a lower environmental impact and face fewer regulatory requirements.



KKR VS SRH HIGHLIGHTS, IPL 2025: V3 OF KKR SHINES AS DEFENDING CHAMPIONS THRASH SRH BY 80 RUNS

Diary Times Desk : The V3 (Venkatesh Iyer, Vaibhav Arora, and Varun Chakaravarthy) of Kolkata Knight Riders gave exemplary performances as the defending champions beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 80 runs in the IPL 2025 match on Thursday. Earlier, Venkatesh Iyer slammed a 29-ball 60 as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) posted 200/6 against SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their IPL match at Eden Gardens. Venkatesh slammed SRH captain Pat Cummins for 20 runs in the penultimate over, completing his half-century in the process after just 25 balls. Venkatesh and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (50 off 32) did the bulk of the scoring, while Ajinkya Rahane (38) and Rinku Singh (32) also made useful contributions.



IPL 2025: FOCUS ON STARS AS HARDIK PANDYA'S MUMBAI INDIANS TAKE ON RISHABH PANTS LSG

Diary Times Desk : Five-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI) take on Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 in Match 16 on Friday, with all eyes on ex-MI skipper Rohit Sharma and LSG captain Rishabh Pant, as both India stars have failed to impress with the bat so far. The Hardik Pandya-led Mumbai Indians, however, are struggling for form, as they managed to get just one win in three outings and are sitting fifth in the points table. After two losses in a row, MI finally registered their first win when they secured an eight-wicket victory over defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday. The biggest concern for the Mumbai-based outfit is ex-skipper Rohit Sharma's form. The opener is yet to show his magic in the tournament, as he registered a series of low scores (0, 8, and 13), which is his worst IPL start since 2020. Besides Rohit's form, uncertainty over the availability of their premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah is another major concern for the hosts. Reports are suggesting that Bumrah, who is currently undergoing rehab at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (formerly the National Cricket Academy) in Bengaluru for a lower back injury, is not returning to action anytime soon. However, Ryan Rickelton came out as one of the positives.

PAKISTAN FINED FOR SLOW OVER-RATE FOR THIRD TIME IN FOUR ODIS

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan incurred an over-rate offence for a second game in a row against New Zealand after they were found one over short in the second ODI in Hamilton. The players were fined 5% of their match fees after captain Mohammad Rizwan pleaded guilty to the offence. Match referee Jeff Crowe imposed the sanction as per Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which governs over-rate offences. Players are fined 5% of their match fees for each over the team falls short of bowling in the given time. On-field umpires Michael Gough and Wayne Knights, third umpire Paul Reiffel, and fourth umpire Chris Brown levelled the charge. Pakistan were found two overs short in the opening ODI of the three-game series in Napier, where they lost by 73 runs. They went down in the second ODI by 84 runs to concede the series with a match to spare. Pakistan slipped to 72 for 7 in their chase of 293 and only managed to get to 208 because of fifties from No. 7 Faheem Ashraf and No. 10 Naseem Shah. This was after New Zealand wicketkeeper Mitchell Hay scored an unbeaten 99 to help them post 292, and that was followed by fast bowler Ben Sears registering his ODI-best figures of 5 for 59. Pakistan were also fined for a slow over-rate in the opening match of the 2025 Champions Trophy.

SURYAKUMAR YADAV QUITTING MUMBAI TO JOIN GOA? MUMBAI CRICKET ASSOCIATION BREAKS SILENCE

Diary Times Desk : Several reports suggested that Indian cricket team T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav was in talks with Goa for a possible switch from Mumbai in domestic cricket. India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is all set to join and possibly captain Goa in the upcoming season and reports claimed that Suryakumar can also pull off a similar move. However, Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has completely rubbished such rumours and said that Suryakumar remains committed to Mumbai. "The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is aware of rumours circulating on social media regarding Suryakumar Yadav's alleged decision to move players to Goa instead of playing for Mumbai," said MCA secretary Abhay Hadap in a statement according to Hindustan Times. "MCA officials have spoken with Surya this morning and can confirm that these rumours are completely baseless and untrue. Suryakumar Yadav remains committed for Mumbai and takes immense pride in playing for Mumbai. We urge everyone to refrain from spreading misinformation and to support our players as they continue to contribute to Mumbai Cricket Association," he added.



PITCH, TEAM COMBINATION IN FOCUS AS LSG LOOK TO OVERCOME UNHAPPY HOMECOMING

Diary Times Desk : A new squad under a new captain. 40,000 odd in attendance. First home game of the season. The way Lucknow Super Giants tanked against Punjab Kings would have hurt. And it was evident in their newly-appointed mentor Zaheer Khan's short but explosive press conference, where he expressed disappointment at not only the loss but also the playing surface, going as far as saying that it felt like it was prepared by a "Punjab curator". Oops. That Lucknow, with its slow surfaces and large boundaries, isn't a routine venue for 200+ scores has been established over the years. In fact, there's only ever been one total above 200 since it started hosting IPL matches. The disappointment, it's understood, stemmed less from the pitch itself and more from how it was interpreted in the leadup to the match. Perhaps expecting the red-soil pitch to behave a bit differently, LSG played only two pacers and four spin options as opposed to PBKS, who bowled as many as 13 overs of pace and to good effect. Learning things the hard way, LSG are expected to revisit their playing combination for this match against Mumbai Indians, especially on a black-soil pitch that didn't have much in it for the spinners last season.

GUJARAT TITANS PACER KAGISO RABADA RETURNS HOME FROM IPL DUE TO...

Diary Times Desk : South African pace bowler Kagiso Rabada has returned home from the IPL due to personal reasons, his franchise Gujarat Titans announced on Thursday. The Titans, though, have not specified the duration of Rabada's absence from the IPL 2025, where he has played two matches. "Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa to deal with an important personal matter," the Gujarat outfit said in a statement. Rabada appeared against Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians, grabbing 1 for 41 and 1 for 42 respectively in those matches. The 29-year-old was not picked for Gujarat Titans' match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday. Arshad Khan was drafted into the eleven in place of Rabada, and the left-arm pacer picked up the key wicket of Virat Kohli early in the innings. In the absence of Rabada, GT could be relying on his South African teammate Gerald Coetzee or Afghanistan all-rounder Karim Janat. South African pace bowler Kagiso Rabada has returned home from the IPL due to personal reasons, his franchise Gujarat Titans announced on Thursday.