

CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

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Diary Times Desk : Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna has officially recommended Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as his successor, forwarding his name to the Union Law Ministry for approval. The recommendation sets the stage for Justice Gavai to become the 52nd Chief Justice of India.

Justice Gavai is slated to take oath as the 52nd CJI on May 14. CJI Khanna is due to retire on May 13. Justice BR Gavai will be the Chief Justice of India for about six months as he is due to retire in November 2025.

After Justice KG Balakrishnan, who was elevated to the country's top judicial post in 2007, Justice BR Gavai will be the second Dalit to hold the Chief Justice position. As a senior Supreme Court judge, Justice Gavai has been involved in several landmark judgments, including the verdict upholding the Modi government's 2016 demonetisation decision and declaring the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional.

Justice Gavai began his legal career in 1985. He initially worked with the late Raja S Bhonsale, former Advocate General and High Court Judge, before starting independent practice at the Bombay High Court in 1987.

Justice Gavai focused on Constitutional and Administrative Law and represented several civic and educational bodies, including the Municipal Corporations of Nagpur and Amravati, Amravati University, and state-run corporations such as SICOM and DCVL.



DELHI SCHOOL

'DESERVES TO SHUT DOWN': HIGH COURT SLAMS DELHI SCHOOL AMID FEE HIKE ROW



Diary Times Desk : The Delhi High Court on Wednesday pulled up Delhi Public School Dwarka for treating students over fee with "indignity" by confining them in a library and not allowing them to attend classes. Justice Sachin Datta said the school, which was treating students like "chattel", deserved to be shut down. The court said some safeguards were required to ensure students were not "tortured" by the school, which was running the institution merely as a "money making machine".

In dramatic scenes, several students in their school uniforms, with books and bags, were present during the court proceedings along with their parents. "I am concerned that you treated the students in a shabby and inhuman way... Inability to pay fees does not give the school the licence to treat students with such indignity," the judge said.

The high court, perused an inspection report of an eight-member inspection committee led by district magistrate (southwest) that flagged several discriminatory practices against students amid the fee hike row. Parents of such students claimed the school authorities harassed their children on the non-payment of the "unauthorised fee". The committee's report revealed "an alarming state of affairs" in the school, the court said.

It directed the institution to refrain from confining the students in the library, allowing them to attend classes and not segregating them from other students or preventing them from interacting with their friends in school aside and not to prevent them from accessing amenities. "One should criminally prosecute the principal of the school for this behaviours," the court said. It was hearing an application filed on behalf of the students. While the counsel for the students claimed that they were ready to pay the approved fee amount, the school's lawyer contended that showcause notices were issued.



SUPREME COURT CONSIDERS INTERIM STAY ON PARTS
OF WAQF ACT, CENTRE PUSHES BACK

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court's intention to issue an interim order on the amended Waqf law was put on hold at the last minute today after the Centre and the states requested more time to marshal their arguments on the three points the court raised. The three-judge bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna will hear the matter again tomorrow. The top court, hearing a bunch of petitions challenging the amended law, had expressed concern about the violence sparked during protests. It also questioned if Muslims would be included in Hindu religious boards. At the end, the judges raised three points, indicating their intention to pass an interim order, putting some provisions of the amended law on hold. For all three procedures -- on which the rules have been amended -- the court expressed its intention to maintain status quo. Whatever property has been declared as Waqf by the user, or declared by the court, will not be notified, the judges said. Secondly, the Collector can continue the proceedings, but the provision will not be applicable. Third -- while ex-officio members can be appointed regardless.



PRIYANKA GANDHI DROPS OFF
ROBERT VADRA ON DAY 2 AT
PROBE AGENCY ED OFFICE

Diary Times Desk : Accompanied by his wife and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Robert Vadra reached the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office for the second consecutive day in the Gurugram land case. He entered the office but only after exchanging a hug with Ms Gandhi. Mr Vadra, a businessman and brother-in-law of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, is appearing before the ED for his questioning in a 2008 Haryana land deal linked money laundering case. He was questioned for about five hours on Tuesday and his statement was recorded by the federal probe agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), official sources said. The probe against Mr Vadra is linked to a land deal in Haryana's Manesar-Shikohpur (now sector 83) in Gurugram. The land deal of February 2008 was done by a company named Skylight Hospitality Pvt Ltd, where Mr Vadra was a director earlier.

AIADMK BACKTRACKS ON BJP COALITION?
ALLIANCE ONLY FOR ELECTIONS, HINTS EPS



Diary Times Desk : Last week the BJP and AIADMK unveiled an alliance for the 2026 Tamil Nadu election. This week the Dravidian party seemed to throw a spanner into its ally's plans for the southern state, in the event the alliance manages to defeat the ruling DMK-Congress combine. Comments by AIADMK boss Edappadi K Palaniswami, or EPS, suggest the Tamil party will not accept a coalition government and that the alliance with the BJP is "only for the election". The BJP has played down EPS' remarks, insisting the focus remains on defeating the ruling DMK. But it is unlikely that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party will be impressed. The PM had earlier expressed his happiness - "stronger together..." he posted on X - over the AIADMK's decision to join his party-led national alliance. EPS' comments also contradict those made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with whom he shared the stage last week while announcing the AIADMK-BJP alliance. Mr Shah had said the two parties will contest next year's election "together" and that no "conditions" had been made by the Tamil party. "... have decided that AIADMK, BJP and all alliance parties will contest the upcoming Vidhan Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu together as NDA," he said.

"RESTORE 100 ACRES OR...": SUPREME COURT ON
HYDERABAD UNIVERSITY LAND ROW

Diary Times Desk : It was a rough day in the Supreme Court for the Telangana government. A bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih made searing observations about the rushed deforestation of an estimated 100 acres in Hyderabad's Kancha Gachibowli area, adjacent to the Hyderabad Central University campus, "without permission of authorities". "We are only concerned with presence of bulldozers and the erasing of forest spread over 100 acres. If you wanted to build something... you should have taken required permission." Significantly, the judges also went to bat for animals whose habitats were disturbed, pointing to videos showing "herbivorous animals running to seek shelter... bitten by stray dogs". The state was also asked about claims it "self-exempted" animals from lists of protected species. The court ordered the state's wildlife warden to take immediate action to safeguard the animals, calling the state out particularly for threats to protected species in the area.



YOUR HOROSCOPE
17-04-2025

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

Taurus
Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

Gemini
Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

Cancer
Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

Leo
Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

Virgo
Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

Libra
Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Scorpio
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

Sagittarius
Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

Capricorn
Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

Aquarius
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

Pisces
Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.



HIMACHAL: TWO CRORE HINDU FAMILIES WILL BE UNITED, PRAVEEN TOGADIA SAID- ONE LAKH HANUMAN CHALISA WILL BE STARTED IN THE COUNTRY

Diary Times Desk : A target has been set to start one lakh Hanuman Chalisa in the country. Through which a target has been set to connect two crore Hindu families. This idea was expressed by Praveen Bhai Togadia, founder of International Hindu Parishad, while addressing the workers' meeting conference at Jagannath Temple in Nahan. During this, he also took a pledge to make several laws in the country to protect Hindus. He said that the majority of Hindus will be maintained by law or stick. Emphasis was laid on making a law for population control and uniform civil code. He said in the resolution that five crore Bangladeshi Muslims should be driven out of the country. Apart from this, a resolution was taken that employment will be given only to Hindus. During this, he raised the slogan of three children Hindu sacche and said that Hanuman Chalisa will be run in every village of India. He said that through Hanuman Chalisa, security, prosperity, respect, service of Hindus, free food grains to the poor every month, private doctors and lawyers will be made available to the patients for free. During this, he also gave detailed information about the Hindu helpline service.



NATIONAL HERALD CASE: CM SUKHU SAID- WHOEVER BOWS DOWN TO BJP, HIS HANDS WILL BE CLEAN, IF HE RAISES HIS VOICE THEN ED WILL COME AFTER HIM

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against Congress MP Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in a money laundering case related to the National Herald newspaper. Special Judge Vishal Gogne took cognizance of the chargesheet filed on April 9 and fixed April 25 as the date for hearing the case. Congress is attacking the BJP on the matter. In this episode, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has attacked the BJP. Chief Minister Sukhu wrote on social media that 'ED is no longer an Enforcement Directorate but has become an Intimidation Department. The central government does not have answers to questions on public issues, so those who ask questions are being targeted. The action being taken against our leader, CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is a clear proof that the BJP government is badly afraid of the voice of the opposition and the truth.'

SPORTS NEWS: FLOWERS WERE SHOWERED FROM HELICOPTER BEFORE THE WRESTLING, DEEPU OF ZIRAKPUR WON THE CHOTI MALI

Diary Times Desk : Deepu wrestler from Zirakpur Punjab won the title of Choti Mali in the Dangal organized at the stadium located at Nalti Mor in Maihari Kathla. The match for the title of Bharat Samrat ended in a draw between Mirza Iran and Dinesh Gulia. Around 50 famous wrestlers from across the country showed their strength in the Dangal organized by Mahavir Dangal Committee Maihari Kathla. Among them, title holders like Vishal Mayur, Mohit, Rohit, Anirudh, Bharat Kesari, Bharat Kumar and Himachal Kesari were the center of attraction. The Dangal was started by hoisting a chaadar and flag at Lakhdata Sthan. On Monday evening, a procession was taken out with drums from Shiv Shakti Durga Mandir Parnal, which reached the Nalti Mor Arena site. Dubai businessman and Luhnu Maihari Kathla resident Sunil Kumar Sharma arrived as the chief guest. He greeted the wrestlers and spectators by showering flowers in the Arena.

NATIONAL HERALD CASE: JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- CONGRESS WANTS TO THREATEN INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES AND THOSE WHO RAISE THEIR VOICE

Diary Times Desk : While addressing the 'Active Member Conference' organized by BJP in Janjheli of Mandi, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the Sukhu government of Congress now wants to intimidate the investigation agencies of the country. Congress wants that the investigation agencies of the country should give Congress a free hand to do any kind of corruption and do not take any action against them. Similarly, in the case of the death of Congress leaders Vimal Negi, they want to intimidate BJP leaders and common people by threatening them. If the government has so much problem with the allegations of the people, then hand over the investigation of the case to the CBI, because the people of the entire state, the family of Vimal Negi, the people of the Power Corporation want this. Today, ED offices are being surrounded by Congress across the country. This siege is being done because ED has filed a charge sheet against Congress supremo Rahul and Sonia Gandhi in the case of money laundering. In which their names have been included. In this way, the siege of the offices of the investigation agencies cannot be justified in any way.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: THREAT TO BLOW UP DC OFFICE IN MANDI, NOTHING FOUND YET IN INVESTIGATION

Diary Times Desk : The administration and security agencies became alert after the Deputy Commissioner's office located at the district headquarters Mandi received a bomb threat through e-mail on Wednesday morning. As a precaution, the Deputy Commissioner's office complex, Superintendent of Police office and court complex were immediately evacuated. Security agencies started a search operation, which continued till noon. There are five-storey buildings here. The threatening mail was received on the e-mail ID of the Deputy Commissioner Mandi. Immediately after this, the administration informed the police and action was started under SOP. The employees were evacuated from the offices by sounding the siren. As a precaution, all the gates of the complex were closed and no one was allowed entry. During this time, there was an atmosphere of panic among the people who reached the Deputy Commissioner's office for various works. The bomb squad, dog squad, SDRF and other agencies jointly conducted a thorough search of the premises. Although no suspicious object was found in the investigation till noon, security has been maintained.

PRESIDENT HIMACHAL VISIT: BEFORE MURMU'S ARRIVAL, FLOWERS BLOOMED IN RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN, TOURISTS ARE COMING TO SEE THE DECORATION

Diary Times Desk : Before the President's Shimla visit, flowers have bloomed in The Retreat (Rashtrapati Bhavan). The Bhavan premises are fragrant with more than 60 varieties of flowers including tulips, roses, lilies and hydrangeas. Garden festival has started in Rashtrapati Bhavan from Tuesday. It will continue till 20 April. A large number of tourists are also coming to see the flower decoration. Apart from this, five types of tulips have been planted to welcome the President. These are in full bloom. Before the visit of President Draupadi Murmu from 5 to 9 May, the entire Rashtrapati Bhavan has been painted. Repair work is also being done in the building. Repair work has been done on the road. Rashtrapati Bhavan manager Sanju Dogra said that tourists are arriving for the garden festival. All preparations are being done before the arrival of the President.

HIMACHAL NEWS: CM LISTENED TO PUBLIC PROBLEMS UNDER THE OPEN SKY TILL 11 PM, PEOPLE KEPT MEETING WITH DIFFERENT DEMANDS

Diary Times Desk : Despite the severe cold, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu kept listening to the problems of the people till late night in Kilad. The CM's court was decorated by lighting a bonfire in the severe cold. People from remote areas of Pangi met the CM with their problems. A large number of women were also included in this. A pile of applications from the public regarding the problems started coming in. Although, the CM was first meeting people one by one in the room of Kilad rest house, but later he came out of the rest house and kept listening to the problems of the people till late night under the open sky. The administrative staff was present during this time. Most of the people met the CM with the demand of road, school, doctor and teachers. An elderly woman told that the road has not been built for her village yet and neither is there a facility of kuhl for irrigation. Therefore, she has informed the Chief Minister about these problems in writing. CM Sukhu said that honest efforts are being made to solve the problems of the people of the tribal areas of the state on priority basis. As soon as he became the Chief Minister.

"NO INJUSTICE WILL HAPPEN TO ANYONE": SIDDARAMAIAH AMID ROW OVER CASTE CENSUS

Diary Times Desk : Amid growing opposition to the Socio-Economic and Education Survey report, popularly known as the 'caste census', from various sections of society, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday assured that his government will not let any injustice happen to anyone. The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes' report was placed before the cabinet on April 11, and it will be discussed at a special cabinet meeting scheduled on April 17. Karnataka's two dominant communities -- Vokkaligs and Veershaiva-Lingayats -- have expressed reservations about the survey that has been done, calling it "unscientific", and have demanded that it be rejected and a fresh survey be conducted. Objections have also been raised by various sections of society and there are also strong voices against it from within the ruling Congress. "We have called a meeting. We will discuss in the cabinet tomorrow. This is the only subject that will be discussed in the cabinet. It is actually a socio-economic survey, not a caste census. We will discuss it and take a decision," Siddaramaiah told reporters in Kalaburagi in response to a question.

DELHI TO SEE HEATWAVE CONDITIONS UNTIL APRIL 18, AQI REMAINS 'MODERATE'

Diary Times Desk : Delhi witnessed clear skies on Wednesday morning, with mercury expected to soar later in the day. Maximum temperatures are expected to gradually rise by 3–4 degree Celsius until April 18 owing to ongoing weather patterns, according to regular forecasts. Delhi is likely to start the day with mainly clear skies, turning partly cloudy by evening. Heatwave conditions are expected in isolated pockets. The maximum temperature in the national capital is likely to hover between 39 and 40 degrees Celsius on April 16, while the minimum is expected to settle between 23 and 25 degrees Celsius. Weather updates indicate a gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 3–4 degree Celsius until April 18 due to current weather patterns. Relief is expected after April 19, as a Western Disturbance is predicted to bring a 2–4 degree Celsius drop in daytime temperatures. As temperatures increase, residents of Delhi and NCR are advised to take necessary precautions to stay safe and hydrated, particularly during the peak afternoon hours. According to the IMD, parts of West Rajasthan are likely to experience heat wave.

"WILL MUSLIMS BE ON HINDU BOARDS? SAY IT OPENLY": SUPREME COURT TO CENTRE



Diary Times Desk : Hearing the bunch of petitions challenging the Waqf Amendment Act, the Supreme Court today asked the Centre tough questions on multiple provisions of the new law, especially its provisions for 'Waqf by user' properties. The court also flagged the provision to include non-Muslims on the Central Waqf Council and asked the government if it would allow Muslims to be part of Hindu endowment boards. The bench, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice KV Vishwanathan, was hearing 73 petitions challenging the new Waqf Act, which has sparked protests in several parts of the country. At the outset, the Chief Justice told the petitioners that two questions needed to be addressed. The first was whether the Supreme Court would send the petitions to a high court and what points the petitioners intend to argue. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the petitioners, said many provisions in the new law violate Article 26 of the Constitution.

ED QUESTIONS ROBERT VADRA FOR 5 HOURS IN HARYANA LAND DEAL CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) grilled businessman Robert Vadra for the second consecutive day on Wednesday regarding a money laundering case linked to a 2008 Haryana land deal. The grilling on Wednesday went on for about five hours, PTI reported. Vadra, who is the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law, termed the ED action a "political vendetta" and claimed that the people of the country "do not trust the probe agencies". Vadra reached the ED office around 11 am. He was accompanied by his wife, Congress MP from Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who hugged him before he entered for the grilling. The grilling session was divided into two parts, with Vadra briefly going home to have lunch. He re-joined the questioning session after the meal and only left the office after 6 PM, along with his wife, who had stayed for the entire time in the visitors' room. According to the sources mentioned in the PTI report, Robert Vadra has been confronted with about a dozen questions.

"RESTORE 100 ACRES OR...": SUPREME COURT ON HYDERABAD UNIVERSITY LAND ROW

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IAS OFFICER GETS NOTICE FOR REPOSTING AI IMAGE OF KANCHA GACHIBOWLI LAND

Diary Times Desk : The Cyberabad Police have issued a notice to a senior IAS officer over the reposting of an AI-generated image of a 400-acre land parcel in Kancha Gachibowli, adjacent to the University of Hyderabad (UoH). Smita Sabharwal, on March 31, reposted an image featuring earthmoving machines, two deer, and a peacock, which was originally shared by another social media handle on 'X'. "A notice was issued under Section 179 BNSS on April 12 to the IAS officer," a police official told PTI. A notice under Section 179 of the BNSS is issued by a police official to call a person as a witness. The Telangana cadre officer is currently the Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture. The Telangana government's plan to auction this ecologically sensitive land for the construction of urban infrastructure and an IT park has triggered protests by the UoH Students' Union. Student groups and environmental activists have voiced opposition to the proposed development at the site, citing ecological conservation concerns. The Telangana government earlier stated.



"SISTER KILLED IN FRONT OF ME": SURVIVOR ON BACK-TO-BACK NIGERIA MASSACRES

Diary Times Desk : People were hacked to death with machetes. Gunfire erupted everywhere, seemingly at random. No one was spared, including a nine-month-old baby. Two attacks in as many weeks in Nigeria's Plateau state have left more than 100 people dead in a region known for intercommunal conflict and land disputes between herders and farmers. But the back-to-back massacres -- more than 50 people killed in two districts -- represent a serious escalation, with authorities scrambling to contain the attacks in a state where ethnic tensions have long simmered. "There was no specific target. They were just shooting," said Peter John, a survivor from Sunday night's attack on the village of Kimakpa, some 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the state capital Jos. John, 25, who spoke to AFP while receiving treatment at a nearby hospital, said he escaped the attackers, who burst into his family's home around 10:00 pm, by climbing onto the roof. His sister and her daughter, as well as his older brother and nine-month-old niece, all died from gunshot and machete wounds as the unidentified men rampaged from house to house.

DONALD TRUMP ORDERS CRITICAL MINERALS PROBE THAT MAY BRING NEW TARIFFS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump ordered a probe Tuesday that may result in tariffs on critical minerals, rare-earth metals and associated products such as smartphones, in an escalation of his dispute with global trade partners. Trump has upended markets in recent weeks with his sweeping on-off levies, and this investigation could see him impose further tariffs if it shows that imports of critical minerals and their derivatives endanger US national security. China dominates global supply chains for rare metals. Without naming any other countries, the order says that the United States is dependent on foreign sources that "are at risk of serious, sustained, and long-term supply chain shocks." It states that this dependence "raises the potential for risks to national security, defense readiness, price stability, and economic prosperity and resilience." The imports targeted include so-called critical minerals like cobalt, lithium and nickel, rare-earth elements, as well as products that partly require these resources.

US JUDGE STOPS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FROM CANCELLING INDIAN STUDENT'S VISA

Diary Times Desk : A US federal judge has barred the Trump administration from deporting a 21-year-old Indian whose student visa was cancelled just weeks before he was set to graduate. Krish Lal Isserdasani is an engineering student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. The April 15 order prevents the Department of Homeland Security from revoking the student visa or detaining Isserdasani who was expected to graduate with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering in early May. Krish Lal Isserdasani's student visa was cancelled on April 4. The request for a temporary restraining order was brought by Madison attorney Shabnam Lotfi after Isserdasani's record was terminated in the government's Student and Exchange Visitor Programme (SEVIS) database, the report added. "He was given no warning, no opportunity to explain or defend himself, and no chance to correct any potential misunderstanding before his F-1 student visa record was terminated in SEVIS," the order said.

**"HARVARD TEACHES HATE, CAN NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED...": TRUMP UPS ATTACK**

Diary Times Desk : Harvard University rejecting his demands has infuriated Donald Trump so, that the US President seems determined to destroy America's premier academic institution. A day after he ordered a \$2.2 billion freeze in funding for Harvard, President Trump went on the offensive on social media. "Harvard has lost its way," said the US President, who has made the top university a focal point of his war against "woke" and "anti-Semitic" educational institutions, most of which have a proven track record in education and are elite and globally recognised. But in President Trump's understanding, "Harvard is a joke", teaches hate and stupidity, and should no longer receive federal funds". In a tirade on his social media platform Truth Social, President Trump wrote, "Harvard can no longer be considered even a decent place of learning, and should not be considered on any list of the World's Great Universities or Colleges."

US SAYS CHINA FACES UP TO 245% TARIFF ON IMPORTS DUE TO RETALIATORY ACTION

Diary Times Desk : China now faces tariffs of up to 245 per cent on import of goods into the United States "as a result of its retaliatory actions", the White House said Tuesday afternoon (India time) as the trade war between the two countries appears to run further and further off road. The announcement came as Donald Trump authorised an investigation into "national security risks posed by the US' reliance on imported, processed critical minerals", which includes cobalt, lithium, and nickel, and rare-earth metals used to manufacture batteries, such as those used in electric vehicles. The order points out the US is "dependent on foreign sources... at risk of serious, sustained, and long-term supply chain shocks", and this dependence "raises potential for risks to national security". Until now tit-for-tat tariff exchanges had seen the US levy a 145 per cent tax on Chinese imports and China slap a 125 per cent duty on American goods. There is, however, some confusion about the tariff on China being ramped up by 100 per cent.

'BALL IS IN CHINA'S COURT': DONALD TRUMP CALLS ON BEIJING TO MAKE TARIFF DEAL WITH US

Diary Times Desk : As trade tensions between US and China continue to escalate, President Donald Trump said that it was now up to Beijing to make a tariff deal with him. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt read a statement she said Trump dictated, "The ball is in China's court. China needs to make a deal with us. We don't have to make a deal with them." "There's no difference between China and any other country except they are much larger, and China wants what we have, what every country wants, what we have -- the American consumer -- or to put another way, they need our money," the statement added. This comes in the backdrop of the growing battle over the reciprocal tariffs between China and the US. Beijing recently ordered airlines not to take further deliveries of Boeing Co. jets, marking its latest salvo against Trump's decision to hike levies on Chinese goods to 145 per cent. In a post on his Truth Social network Tuesday, Trump said that China "reneged on the big Boeing deal, saying that they will 'not take possession' of fully committed to aircraft".

CHINA OPEN TO TALKS IF TRUMP SHOWS RESPECT, NAMES POINT PERSON

Diary Times Desk : China wants to see a number of steps from President Donald Trump's administration before it will agree to trade talks, including showing more respect by reining in disparaging remarks by members of his cabinet, according to a person familiar with the Chinese government's thinking. Other conditions include a more consistent US position and a willingness to address China's concerns around American sanctions and Taiwan, said the person, who asked not to be identified to discuss internal thinking. Beijing also wants the US to appoint a point person for talks who has the president's support and can help prepare a deal that Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping can sign when they meet, the person said. The fate of the global economy and financial markets hinges in large part on whether the US and China can find a way to avoid a protracted trade war. Trump has hit China with tariffs of 145% on most goods since taking office, prompting Beijing to retaliate and threatening to wipe out most trade between the world's biggest economies. The rapid onslaught of US tariffs has engendered broad public support in China for retaliation, giving Xi a political incentive to rebuff Trump's.

HIGH COURT ASKS PUNJAB NOT TO ARREST PARTAP BAJWA TILL APRIL 22

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Punjab government and directed it not to arrest Congress leader Partap Bajwa till the next date of hearing on April 22 in connection with his "50 bombs have reached Punjab" statement. Bajwa had moved the court seeking quashing of the FIR registered against him over his statement. The Congress leader's counsel APS Deol told reporters after the hearing that the court directed Punjab not to arrest Bajwa till the next date of hearing. Bajwa, the Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, had been booked on charges, including misleading information that endangers the country's sovereignty and unity, after being quizzed over his claims. He has been booked under Sections 197(1)(d) (false and misleading information that endangers country's sovereignty and unity) and 353(2) (false statements intend to create enmity and hatred or ill will) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Bajwa, through his counsel, has filed a petition seeking quashing of the FIR registered against him.



PARTAP BAJWA MOVES HC, SEEKS QUASHING OF FIR

Diary Times Desk : Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court today seeking quashing of an FIR registered against him over his "50 bombs have reached Punjab" remark. In his petition, Bajwa has contended that the case against him arises out of political vendetta unleashed by the state and stems from his public criticism of the Aam Aadmi Party government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. The FIR amounts to abuse of process and is intended to muzzle dissent, he has averred. The case is expected to come up for hearing on April 16. The Mohali police had booked Bajwa under Sections 353 (2) and 197 (1) (d) (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) of the BNS on April 13 for allegedly providing misleading information with the intention to disturb peace. The FIR, lodged the cybercrime police station, accuses Bajwa of promoting fear and disharmony and endangering the country's sovereignty by saying during a TV show aired on April 9 that "50 grenades had reached Punjab, of which 18 had already been used and 32 were still to be detonated". Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court today seeking quashing of an FIR registered against him.

DELHI POLICE ARREST 3 AGENTS FOR TRYING TO SEND PUNJAB MAN TO CANADA ON FAKE PASSPORT

Diary Times Desk : Delhi Police has arrested three travel agents for attempting to send a Punjab resident to Canada using a fake passport, an official said on Wednesday. On April 10, a man holding an Indian passport in the name of Kamaljeet Singh attempted to board a flight to Toronto from Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, the official said. During immigration checks, officials grew suspicious when the photograph on the passport did not match the individual presenting it. Upon questioning, the passenger revealed his real identity as Manpreet Singh (40), a resident of Punjab's Mohali, the Delhi Police in a statement said. Manpreet confessed that he had paid Rs 20 lakh in advance to an agent, Rupender Singh (29), for facilitating his travel to Canada using a forged passport. He disclosed that the total deal was fixed for Rs 32 lakh, they said. According to his statement, Manpreet was introduced to Rupender through a friend and later met his associates — Harish Chaudhary (24) from Gujarat and Vishal Dhiman (27) from Uttar Pradesh — at a hotel in Delhi's Mahipalpur. There, the agents handed Manpreet the fake passport and escorted him to the airport, he said.

HARYANA MOOTS POLICE CELL IN EACH DISTRICT TO CURB ILLEGAL SEX DETERMINATION

Diary Times Desk : To check violations of pre-natal diagnostic techniques (PNDT), the Haryana health department will write to the state police to set up a dedicated police cell in every district headed by a DSP-rank officer, officials said. The health department, which seeks to strengthen the enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, will write to the DGP for setting up these cells with dedicated teams to facilitate raids and filing of FIRs in case violations are found. The decision was taken on Tuesday at a meeting of the State Task Force (STF) set up to take action against people involved in female foeticide. Officials said the health department currently relies on the district police for support when raids are to be conducted, and having a dedicated team for this purpose will be of help. Taking an ultrasound test has been made mandatory at 12 weeks for any medical termination of pregnancy cases while verification of medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) cases will be conducted randomly, the officials said.

JUST ONE GOVT OLD AGE HOME FUNCTIONAL IN HARYANA

Diary Times Desk : Across 22 districts of Haryana, just one old-age home is currently functional in the government sector, which is in Rewari. However, this facility, which has a capacity of 170 inmates, houses just 12 people (nine males and three females). 90 per cent of its rooms remain unutilised. Additionally, the old-age home is in poor shape, with kitchen shelves missing shutters, food items left exposed, and only one sanitation worker responsible for cleaning the entire premises — a task found to inadequately performed during inspection. The facts came to light during a hearing before the Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC) on the construction of old age homes in the state. A bench comprising Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra, Member (Judicial) Kuldip Jain, and Member Deep Bhatia also conducted a virtual inspection of the Rewari old-age home through video call. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, mandates the establishment of old-age homes. Section 19 of the Act says that "the state government may establish and maintain such number of old age homes at accessible places, as it may deem necessary, in a phased manner, beginning with at least one in each district...". The National Human Rights Commission.

BJP COUNCILLORS CALL CHANDIGARH ADMN 'UNDEMOCRATIC', MULL QUITTING

Diary Times Desk : The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) councillors have opened a front against the UT Administration over financial crunch plaguing the Municipal Corporation (MC) as well as its "indifference" towards public representatives. Taking a firm stand over the issue of financial crunch, the councillors today weighed options, including submitting a collective resignation to the Punjab Governor-cum-UT Administrator against what they called as the "undemocratic attitude" of the Administration. The main grievance of the BJP councillors was the city's development works having come to a standstill due to the unavailability of funds. They criticised the Administration for not diverting more funds to help the civic body. The meeting of councillors was held at the BJP office in Sector 33 under the chairmanship of Jatinder Pal Malhotra, president of the party's local unit. A majority of the 16 BJP councillors, including Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla, attended the meeting.



RS 20 CRORE POTATO PROCESSING UNIT TO COME UP IN UNA: AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Diary Times Desk : Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar today said that a potato processing unit would be set up in Una district at a cost of Rs 20 crore. The minister, while speaking during the Himachal Day function in Una, said, "Potato is cultivated at a large scale in Una. The processing plant will help farmers to sell their produce at better prices." He added that the proposed unit would produce a variety of potato-based products, including fingers, chips and glucose. Chander Kumar said that it was the endeavour of the state government to increase the income of farmers as well as to boost the rural economy. He added that more than 70 per cent of the population in Una depends on agriculture for livelihood. He said that the Agriculture Department would procure naturally cultivated wheat and maize crops for Rs 60 and Rs 40 per kg, respectively. He urged the farmers to stop using chemical fertilisers and pesticides on crops so that they could fetch better prices in the market.

ORANGE ALERT FOR HEAVY RAIN, HAILSTORM FROM APRIL 18

Diary Times Desk : The weather department has issued an orange alert for heavy rainfall and hailstorm at isolated places in various districts of the state on April 18 and 19. While the department is expecting heavy rainfall in the districts of Chamba, Kangra and Kullu on April 18 and 19 and in Mandi district on April 19, the alert for hailstorm is for Shimla, Kullu, Chamba and Kangra districts on April 18 and 19. The alert for heavy rainfall and hailstorm has made fruit growers worried, especially in the mid and high altitude areas where apple orchards are going through the flowering phase. Heavy rain and hailstorm, coupled with a slump in temperatures, can have an adverse effect on fruit setting. Meanwhile, there's also a possibility of a thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (40 kmph to 50 kmph) at isolated places in Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Shimla districts from April 18 to 20. There's also a possibility of light to moderate snowfall at many places, with a few moderate-to-intense spells.

FLASH FLOOD IN LAHAUL-SPITI LEAVES 66 SECURITY PERSONNEL STRANDED

Diary Times Desk : A flash flood near Jungle Camp, 8 km from Tindi police post in Lahaul and Spiti, left 66 security personnel—29 women constables and 37 constables—travelling in two IRBN buses and three HRTC buses stranded, officials said on Tuesday. According to Keylong DSP Raj Kumar, the incident was reported by Tindi police post incharge to the SP office on Tuesday. Responding promptly, a rescue team from Tindi police post, along with personnel from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), was sent to the location. "Upon reaching the site, it was found that the water flow was very strong, making it impossible to clear the road or resume vehicular movement during the night. The rescue team ensured that all stranded personnel were safely evacuated using BRO vehicles," he added. "They have been given shelter at the Forest Rest House at Tindi and the BRO Camp," the DSP said. He said that once the road condition improved by morning, they would be sent to their respective destinations.



CM RELEASES 3-MONTH GRANT OF RS 4,500 TO 1,926 PANGI WOMEN

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today released three monthly installments of Rs 1,500 each, totalling Rs 4,500 each, to 1,926 women under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana for April, May and June. The Chief Minister, who visited Pangi in Chamba district to preside over the 78th Himachal Day function held at Killar, disbursed Rs 86.67 lakh to some of the eligible women. He announced that all remaining eligible women in the Pangi valley would be provided the monthly assistance under the scheme upon the completion of the necessary formalities. The Chief Minister said that to provide Rs 1,500 per month to the eligible women, the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana would also cover women who would attain the age of 21 years between January 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, as well as those working as domestic help. He honoured government employees for rendering outstanding services in the region. The award winners included JBT teachers Devi Charan (Government Primary School, Phindpar), and Surinder Kumar (Government Primary School, Kulal); Surgeon Dr Vishal Sharma of the Civil Hospital, Killar; Bhagwan Das Chauhan, Principal of Government Senior Secondary School, Killar; Tehsildar of Pangi Shanta Kumar.

BOMB THREAT AT MANDI DC OFFICE TRIGGERS PANIC; BUILDING VACATED, BOMB SQUAD DEPLOYED

Diary Times Desk : A major security scare was witnessed in Mandi district this morning after the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office received a bomb threat via email. The alarming message claimed that the DC office building would be blown up, triggering immediate action from the authorities. As a precautionary measure, the entire building was swiftly evacuated, and employees were moved to safety. The bomb disposal squad was called to the scene to conduct a thorough search of the premises. Security forces cordoned off the area, and the entire zone was placed under high alert. Sources said the email was received early on Wednesday morning, creating a wave of concern among officials and local residents. The authorities are treating the threat with utmost seriousness. Cybercrime experts have also been roped in to trace the source of the threatening email. The Deputy Commissioner's office has assured the public that all necessary steps were being taken to ensure the safety of the area. Meanwhile, investigations are under way and law enforcement agencies are closely monitoring the situation.

TEACHERS SEEK CLARITY ON 'DECENT' DRESS CODE

Diary Times Desk : The 'non-compulsory' directive of the state government on a 'decent dress code' for government schoolteachers have left officials and teachers a little confused. The term 'decent' in relation to an attire leaves a big scope for different interpretations by various individuals and that's already showing in how schools are responding to the order. "It's alright to expect teachers to show up in a decent dress at the school. But the top officials should have defined what's decent and what's not, as the order is being interpreted differently at different places," said a teacher posted in Kullu district. "In Kullu, instructions have been passed that female teachers should come to school either in a simple suit-salwar or a saree. We have been asked not to wear pants, palazzo, etc, at the school. Since you can't wear saree every day, all we are left with is suit-salwar," the teacher added. Education Minister Rohit Thakur said the order was not obligatory. "We just want that teachers should come to school in a dignified and decent dress as it will have a positive impact on students," he said. However, some schools have gone beyond the department's demand by introducing a uniform for teachers. Government Senior Secondary School, Lakkar Bazaar, is one such school. "Our principal felt that having a uniform for teachers will set a good example for children. She asked all teachers about it and everyone agreed to have a uniform," said a teacher of the school.



IPL 2025 | DC WIN IN SUPER OVER AGAINST RR

Diary Times Desk : Mitchell Starc bowled a stunning final over as DC forced the first Super over of the season against RR in their IPL 2025 match. Chasing 189, RR were restricted to 188/4 in 20 overs as Starc defended 9 off the final over. Earlier, DC scored 188 for five against Rajasthan Royals in their IPL 2025 match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Asked to bat first, DC were well served by Abhishek Porel's 37-ball 49 at the top of the order. KL Rahul consumed 32 balls for his 38 before skipper Axar Patel (34 off 14 balls) and Tristan Stubbs (34 not out off 18) switched to top gear to help DC go past 175-run mark. Sandeep Sharma bowled a 23-run final over, allowing DC to get close to 190.



ON IPL VS PSL DEBATE, EX-CSK STAR'S CHEEKY "WANT ME TO SAY SOMETHING SILLY" TAKE

Diary Times Desk : England wicketkeeper-batter Sam Billings was asked to name the best franchise based T20 league in the world. Billings, who is currently playing for the Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), suggested the Indian Premier League (IPL) is way ahead of every other T20 league in the world. Billings, who went unsold in the IPL 2025 auction, last played in the tournament in 2022, representing the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). Billings added that PSL is competing with England's "The Hundred" and Australia's "Big Bash League" for the second best T20 league in the world. "You want me to say something silly, don't you? The great thing about cricket is that everywhere you go around the world, you have to adapt to conditions. The conditions - playing in India, Pakistan, Australia, and England - you have to adapt as a cricketer," said Billings, during a press conference. "It's hard to rank all the competitions. But, I think it's hard to look past the IPL as the premier competition."

MS DHONI MASTERSTROKE THAT LED CSK TO WIN OVER LSG REVEALED: "RAVI BISHNOI..."

Diary Times Desk : Chennai Super Kings ended their losing streak in IPL 2025 with a thrilling win over Lucknow Super Giants on Monday. Shivam Dube was the top performer with the bat with skipper MS Dhoni providing the perfect knock to clinch the victory. Chasing 167, Dube and Dhoni stitched together a brilliant partnership that proved to be the difference-maker. Dube has now revealed how Dhoni masterminded the chase and even predicted the tactic that LSG skipper Rishabh Pant may opt for. Pant did not go for spinner Ravi Bishnoi in the death overs despite his good numbers - something that Dhoni predicted. "Some things Mahi bhai told me - there was one over left for Bishnoi - so I was there in the end, because he told me that if you play till the end, he won't bowl, so from our side, he was hitting the fast bowlers really well - and I used that as well," Dube said in the interview. Former India allrounder Sanjay Bangar reflected on MS Dhoni's physical condition and his finishing ability after Chennai Super Kings snapped.

"KYA FAALTU BATTING...": AJINKYA RAHANE'S CHAT WITH SHREYAS IYER STUMPS INTERNET

Diary Times Desk : What a difference one year makes in the Indian Premier League (IPL). From becoming the team to chase down the highest target in IPL history in 2024, Punjab Kings became the side to defend the lowest total in the league this year, incidentally, against the same side - Kolkata Knight Riders. The Ajinkya Rahane-led Knight Riders fell short of reaching the target of 112 runs despite brave efforts by Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Andre Russell. In the end, it was the Shreyas Iyer-led Punjab who triumphed, thanks to Yuzvendra Chahal's 4-wicket haul. On a spicy pitch that offered variable bounce to bowlers, both sets of batters struggled to score runs, producing a low-scoring thriller that went down in the history books. As the match completed, Rahane and his counterpart Shreyas shook hands, with the former admitting that his team's batting unit was pathetic on the day. "Kya faltu batting kari humne (What a disastrous batting effort from us)," Rahane seemingly told Iyer as the two shook hands after the game. Rahane's dismissal was labelled by many as the game-changing moment in the match. The KKR skipper was given LBW while trying to sweep Yuzvendra Chahal. Though the on-field umpire raised his finger as the ball hit Rahane's back leg, it was later found out that the impact was outside off. Hence, had Rahane reviewed the call, he would've been given not-out.

BCCI BREAKS SILENCE ON 'BAT CHECK' DEBATE AS UMPIRE PULLS UP KKR'S SUNIL NARINE

Diary Times Desk : Kolkata Knight Riders' Sunil Narine and Anrich Nortje became the first couple of players to be denied usage of their first-choice bats as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) intensifies its 'bat-check' regime. The KKR duo failed the gauge check during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match against Punjab Kings on Tuesday. A few other batters' bats were also checked, but only Narine and Nortje failed the test. IPL governor Arun Dhimal has broken his silence on the matter, asserting what the 'way forward' is going to be in the T20 league. Bat checks have been in place for a long time, but on-field tests is something the BCCI has introduced this season. Just as certain players prepare to walk onto the field, umpires randomly turn up to give their bats' sizes. Even on the field, Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya once went through a bat check. "Nobody should feel that somebody's got an undue advantage. The BCCI and IPL have always taken all initiatives in this direction so that the fairness of the game is maintained. We have used technology to the maximum to make sure that all decisions can be reviewed so that the games don't get unfairly affected. The idea behind this initiative is to ensure that the spirit of the game is maintained," Dhimal told The Indian Express on the matter. With scores in IPL crossing the 200-run mark more often now.

"SPOKE TO COACH, THERE WAS ARGUMENT": ROHIT SHARMA BREAKS LONG SILENCE ON SYDNEY TEST PULL OUT

Diary Times Desk : India captain Rohit Sharma has recalled his decision to opt out of the decisive Sydney Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy against Australia, saying that he took the call for the betterment of the team. Speaking to former Australia captain Michael Clarke on Beyond23 Cricket Podcast, Rohit recalled his chat with head coach Gautam Gambhir and the chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar before the game, adding that the two had contrasting views after informing them that he won't play in Sydney. Rohit scored just 164 runs in 15 innings, at an average of 10.83, as India lost the Border Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in a decade. Speaking on the decision to drop himself, Rohit suggested he wanted Shubman Gill to play the series decider as the latter had missed the game prior to the one in Sydney. "In the last Test match in Sydney, I had to be honest with myself. I was not hitting the ball well. And I didn't want to put myself there only because we had a lot of the other guys who were struggling as well. When you add yourself in there, it just becomes a little more... And we wanted Gill to play. He is such a good player. He missed out in the previous Test," said Rohit.

FAIRGROUNDS IN POMONA TO HOST CRICKET AT LA28 OLYMPICS

Diary Times Desk : Cricket will be staged at a purpose-built temporary venue at the Fairgrounds in Pomona, Southern California, during the 2028 Olympics Games hosted by Los Angeles, the LA28 organising committee announced on Tuesday. Pomona is about 50km to the east of Los Angeles and the Fairgrounds, officially known as Fairplex, is a 500-acre complex that has hosted the Los Angeles County Fair since 1922. The LA28 Olympics, which will be held from July 14 to 30, sees cricket return to the event for the first time since 1900 when Great Britain played France in a two-day game. There will be a six-team competition for men and women with the sport having been allocated 90 athlete quotas, meaning there will be 15-player squads for each. The qualifying pathway and cut-offs are yet to be determined. "We welcome the announcement of the venue for cricket at Los Angeles 2028 as it is a significant step towards the preparation for our sport's return to the Olympics," Jay Shah, the ICC chair, said. "Although cricket is a hugely popular sport, it will be a fantastic opportunity to expand traditional boundaries when it features in the Olympics."