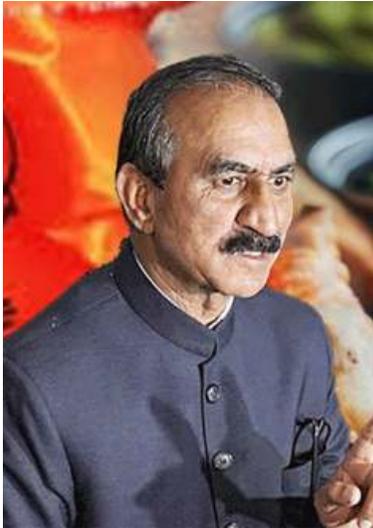


Himachal: Politics heated up over serving wild chicken at dinner in CM's program in Kupvi, BJP raised questions



Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu stayed overnight at Tikkar village in Kupvi tehsil of Chaupal subdivision of Shimla district on Saturday under the state government's ambitious initiative 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar'. Local cuisine was served to the Chief Minister and other guests at dinner. During this, wild chicken was also served in the food, over which politics has now heated up. However, the Chief Minister did not eat it. Now the video of wild chicken being served at the CM's program is going viral on social media. Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur and other BJP leaders have raised questions that preserved wild chicken was served at the CM's program. Leader of Opposition and former CM Jairam Thakur shared a video of CM's dinner program at Tikkar on his social media account and wrote, 'Those who were upset with Jan Manch's phulkas, our plan to go door to door and solve people's problems, are today going from village to village and celebrating picnics and the public is watching what they are doing. Those who eat protected wild chicken are jailed and fined but the Chief Minister first prints a menu for serving chicken and then feeds it to his ministers in front of him with great relish. Is this the system change?'

'One Nation, One Election' Bills To Be Introduced In Lok Sabha On December 16

Agencies : The government has listed two bills related to "one nation, one election" for introduction in the Lok Sabha on Monday. Union Law Minister Meghwal will introduce The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill in the Lower House. The ruling BJP took a major step towards implementing its key plank of "one nation, one election" on Thursday as the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the constitutional amendment bill to roll out the concept of simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assembly polls. Two draft legislations, including one simple bill to amend provisions in laws dealing with three Union territories.

'Nehru amended Constitution, attacked freedom of expression': PM Modi in Lok Sabha

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hit out at Pandit Jawaharalal Nehru, accusing India's first PM of "changing constitution". "This country didn't have an elected government from 1947 to 1952. A temporary system, a selected government was in place. Elections were not held. An interim government was in place until the elections. Before 1952, Rajya Sabha was also not formed. There were no elections in states as well," the PM said in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the 'Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India'. "There was no mandate by the people...In 1951, when there wasn't an elected government, he amended the Constitution through an Ordinance. Right to Freedom of Expression was attacked...This was an insult to Constitution makers." "As soon as he saw an opportunity, he dealt a blow to Right to Express. This was a grave insult to Constitution makers. What could not be facilitated in the Constituent Assembly, he facilitated through the back door, and that too when he was not the PM of an elected government. He committed a sin," the prime minister said.



CBI summons senior IAS officer in connection with bribery case investigation

Agencies : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has summoned senior Odisha cadre IAS officer Bishnupada Sethi and his drivers for deposition as part of its investigation into an alleged bribery case, sources said on Saturday. In a letter to the IAS officer, CBI inspector Gurjinder Singh on December 10 said: "It is learnt that you are acquainted with some important and relevant facts and circumstances of the instant CBI case, which are required to be ascertained from you." Sethi was summoned to join the investigation at CBI's Bhubaneswar office on December 11, sources said, adding that the bureaucrat sought more time through his lawyers.

Gujarat Man Chops Off Own Fingers To Avoid Working As Computer Operator

Agencies : In a bizarre incident, a man chopped off four fingers of his left hand with a sharp knife to make himself unfit for his job as a computer operator at his relative's diamond firm, police in Gujarat's Surat city said on Saturday. Mayur Tarapara (32) had earlier told police a story about finding his fingers missing after falling unconscious by the side of a road, though a probe into the chain of events revealed that the harm was self-inflicted, the officials added. In a statement, Surat Crime Branch said Tarapara took this step as he did not have courage to tell his relative that he no longer wanted work at his firm Anabh Gems, located in Varachha Mini Bazaar. The victim works as a computer operator in the accounts department at this firm and loss of fingers would have made him unfit for the job, the statement pointed out. Earlier, Tarapara had told police that he was on his way to a friend's house.

Akasa Air Pilots Accuses Management of Unfair Practices and Safety Concerns

Agencies : The Late Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air (QP) is again in trouble as Pilots accuse the airline of harassment, unfair practices, and safety concerns. Mumbai-based carrier pilots wrote a letter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on December 10, 2024, about their problems. According to the letter, a total of 84 pilots and many others have resigned from Akasa Air on short notice, citing the airline's problematic management under Captain Floyd Gracious and his associates. The pilots allege that Akasa Air's management, led by Captain Gracious, has contributed to a "demoralizing and hostile training environment" through biased and unprofessional conduct. The pilots express confidence that the Minister's intervention will help restore fairness, transparency, and safety within Akasa Air. This will help uphold the integrity of India's aviation industry.

UPI achieves record 15,547 crore transactions worth Rs 223 lakh crore by November 2024

Agencies : The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has reached a major milestone, processing 15,547 crore transactions worth Rs 223 lakh crore from January to November 2024, according to the Finance Ministry. The ministry shared the figures in a social media post on X. With the hashtag #FinMinYearReview2024, the ministry noted the growing prominence of UPI, which is gaining recognition worldwide. Currently, UPI is operational in seven countries, including major markets like the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius, showcasing India's expanding digital payments footprint. Launched in 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI has revolutionized India's payment system by integrating multiple bank accounts into a single mobile platform. This has enabled users to perform instant money transfers, merchant payments, and peer-to-peer transactions seamlessly, driving India's transition towards a cashless economy.

Himachal News: SP Afroz will present her side in the police headquarters after 18

Diary Times Desk : The Police Headquarters has started investigating the allegations of spying leveled by MLA Ram Kumar against SP Baddi Ilma Afroz. SP Baddi is on leave till 18 December. After this she will present her side before the senior officials at the Police Headquarters. Congress MLA from Doon Ram Kumar has accused the SP of spying on him and said that this is a case of violation of the privilege of the MLA. In such a situation, the Assembly Secretariat has sought a reply from the Home Department on this. Sources reveal that after returning from leave on 18 December, Afroz will also meet senior officials at the Police Headquarters. After the Dharamshala Assembly session, she will also seek time to meet the Chief Minister.



After techie, Bengaluru cop dies by suicide, blames wife and father-in-law in note: Report

Agencies : A Bengaluru policeman was found dead on railway tracks near Baiyappanahalli, just days after the suicide of a techie sent shockwaves through the city. According to a report by Deccan Herald, the body of 33-year-old cop, a head constable at Hulimavu police station, was discovered near Baiyappanahalli. In a suicide note, Alugur accused his wife and father-in-law of harassment and threats, prompting authorities to launch an investigation. Originally hailing from Bijapur, the cop reportedly faced persistent personal turmoil, the report further added. His note alleged that his father-in-law had threatened his life, compounding the emotional strain caused by his wife's actions. The Baiyappanahalli Railway Police have registered a case and initiated a detailed probe into the matter, the report added. This incident closely follows the death of a 34-year-old Bengaluru techie, who also accused his wife.

Uproar in Lok Sabha after NDA cites Indira Gandhi's letter on Savarkar

Agencies : Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde on Saturday invoked a letter written by former prime minister Indira Gandhi praising V D Savarkar, triggering heated exchanges in the Lok Sabha between the treasury benches and Congress members. Referring to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's earlier criticism of Savarkar, Shinde read out Gandhi's letter: "Veer Savarkar's daring defiance of the British government has its own importance in the annals of our freedom movement. I wish success to the plans to celebrate the birth centenary of this remarkable son of India." Shinde then questioned Rahul Gandhi, "Was your grandmother, Indira Gandhi, also against the Constitution in praising Savarkar? We take pride in Savarkar ji and his contribution to the nation." The remarks sparked uproar, with Congress MPs storming the Well of the House, demanding that Rahul Gandhi be allowed to respond. However, Shinde refused to yield. Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was presiding over the session, said that Gandhi would be permitted to speak only after Shinde concluded his speech. Accusing the Congress of ignoring constitutional matters, Shinde said, "Rahul ji has talked about everything except the Constitution. But he forgot that in 1984, the Congress was responsible for non-stop violence against Sikh brothers."

Doctors, political parties stage protests after RG Kar case suspects get bail

Agencies : A day after two key suspects in the rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar hospital were granted bail, the Left parties and Congress organised protest rallies across Kolkata on Saturday, accusing the CBI of "failing" to deliver justice. They also alleged a "tacit understanding" between the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal and the BJP-led Centre. Congress took out a procession from Rabindra Sadan to the CBI office at Nizam Palace in southern Kolkata, where they criticised the agency for its alleged failure to frame charges against the accused. The protesters were seen holding party flags and chanting slogans like "We demand justice" and "Bichar Chai Tilottoma". Police stopped the Congress activists from entering the Nizam Palace, which led to a scuffle between the protesters and police personnel. A rally organised by the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front (WBJDF) also took place, with hundreds of participants marching from Karunamayee to another CBI office at CGO Complex in Salt Lake, protesting the "delay in framing charges" against the conspirators involved in the rape-murder of the woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah demands restoration of statehood: '2 power centres are recipe for disaster'

PTI : Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday raised the issue of statehood for the Union Territory and termed the dual governance model as a "recipe for disaster". In an interview with PTI, Abdullah urged the Centre to keep its promise and restore statehood to the region at the earliest. He also cited repeated promises made by PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during election campaigns regarding the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir. "Let me just say this, having two power centres anywhere is a recipe for disaster... No organisation works well if there are multiple power centres.... there is a reason why our sports team has one captain. You don't have two captains," Omar Abdullah told PTI. "Similarly, you don't have two prime ministers or two power centres in the government of India. And most of India has one elected chief minister who is empowered with their cabinet to take decisions," he added. Abdullah further cited the example of Delhi where the Aam Aadmi Party-led government shares power with the lieutenant governor.



Eknath Shinde has no reason to be upset, no issues in deciding Cabinet: Amit Shah

Agencies : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday dismissed claims suggesting that Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde was upset with the BJP over not being reappointed as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and assured that there were no disagreements regarding the allocation of Cabinet portfolios in the state. "There is no reason for Eknath Shinde to be upset with us. The BJP holds a greater number of seats in Maharashtra. Even in the previous government, despite having more seats, we made Eknath Shinde the CM. We have supported him steadfastly for the past two and a half years," Amit Shah said while speaking at Agenda Aaj Tak in his first media interaction after the BJP's Lok Sabha win. Speaking on the Mahayuti alliance's seat-sharing arrangement and its strategy for the Maharashtra elections, Shah said that it was pre-determined that the CM would be chosen based on the poll outcome. "There is absolutely no issue in Maharashtra Cabinet berth allocation. Everything is happening as planned. We are days ahead in terms of government formation compared to the Maha Vikas Aghadi government," the Home Minister said.



Himachal News: Three migrants died due to coal gas, a brazier was kept burning in the room



Diary Times Desk : Three workers have died due to coal gas in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh. According to the information, three migrant workers died due to coal gas in Rihun village of Anhech Panchayat adjacent to Dagshai under Thana Dharmpur of the district. The deceased have been identified as Suresh Kumar, Arbaaz and Suraj, residents of Rampur Uttar Pradesh. The age of all three was between 20 to 28 years. It is being told that last night all three had slept in their room. When they did not wake up in the morning, the landlord knocked the door repeatedly, but there was no sound from inside. After this he informed the Panchayat representatives and the police. The police team that reached the spot broke the grill of the window of the room and opened the latch of the door from inside. All three persons were found dead in the room and the coal brazier was also burnt. According to the police, prima facie the case is being told to be of death due to coal gas. SP Solan Gaurav Singh said that the nuclear police is on the spot. The bodies have been taken into custody. Further investigation is underway.

IMA Pop 2024: Akshit Sharma is a lieutenant in the army, tears of joy flowed from the eyes of his parents as they decorated stars on his shoulders

Diary Times Desk : Akshit Sharma of Bijhari village of Dhatwal area of Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh has been selected for the post of Lieutenant in the Indian Service. After the passing out parade on Saturday at IMA Dehradun, Akshit Sharma was dedicated to the service of the country by his parents by placing stars on his shoulders. During these proud moments, family members Neelam Sharma, Naman Sharma, Riddhi and Ridul Sharma were also present. Not only the family but the entire area is proud of the son's success. Akshit did his schooling from Sainik School Sujampur. In the year 2021, he passed the NDA exam and took admission in National Defense Academy Khadakvasla Pune. After three years of rigorous training, he came to IMA Dehradun in January 2024. Akshit's father Kewal Sharma is serving as a chemistry lecturer in RVMP Bijhari. Mother Anju Kumari is a teacher in a private school. Akshit attributed his success to the right guidance of parents.

Himachal: ITBP jawan Vinod Kumar immersed in the five elements, while lighting the funeral pyre, the elder son said- my father is immortal

Diary Times Desk : ASI Vinod Kumar posted in ITBP of Bagli Panchayat of Dharamshala Assembly constituency of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh was cremated with military honors on Saturday. Vinod died of cardiac arrest four days ago in Guwahati during duty. The body reached his native village on Saturday morning. As soon as the body of the soldier reached home, there was an atmosphere of screaming and crying everywhere. Tears were not stopping from the eyes of the soldier's wife, sons and other relatives. The son of the soldier kept hugging the dead body and saying 'Papa, wake up once, talk to me once...'. The soldier was cremated with military honors at Moksha Dham on Saturday morning. 12 ITBP soldiers gave the last farewell to the soldier's dead body covered with tricolor by offering flowers and saluting.

Himachal Weather: Weather is expected to remain clear in Himachal for seven days, minimum temperature is in minus at 11 places

Diary Times Desk : The weather is forecast to remain clear in Himachal Pradesh for the next seven days. On the other hand, cold wave continues in many parts of the state. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, the weather will remain dry in all parts till December 20. The minimum temperature has been recorded in minus at 11 places in the state. According to the department, there is a possibility of gradual increase of 3-4 degrees Celsius in many parts of the state during the next three days. This is expected to provide relief from the cold wave. According to the department, light rain and snowfall may occur in the high mountain areas of Chamba, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti tonight. The effect of heavy cold in December is being seen in Lahaul-Spiti including Kullu district. More than 50 percent of the building construction work in Kullu has been put on hold for the time being. Due to the bone-chilling cold, most of the private workers have stopped their work. Government work is going on at many places. The effect of cold will remain till January. In such a situation, the same situation is expected to remain till January 15.

HPBOSE: Education Board has released the provisional answer key of TET, objections can be filed till this date

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh School Education Board has released the provisional answer key of the Teacher Eligibility Test held in November. The Education Board has given time till 19 December to the candidates to register any objections regarding the answer key. The State School Education Board had organized the Teacher Eligibility Test for JBT, Shastri, TGT Arts, Medical, TGT Non Medical, LT, Punjabi and Urdu subjects from 15 to 26 November. The Education Board released the provisional answer key of the examination held in four different series on Friday. Board Secretary Dr. Major Vishal Sharma said that the provisional answer key has also been uploaded on the Board's website. He said that if any candidate has any objection regarding the answers recorded in the answer keys related to these examinations, then he can send the facts to the Section Officer Question Paper Setting Branch by 19 December on the Board's e-mail hpbosepapersetting.43@gmail.com. He said that the candidates can also submit the objections manually on any working day.

HPU EC Decisions: Deprived students will get admission in graduation, teachers will be recruited on the basis of marks

Diary Times Desk : The Executive Council (EC) of Himachal Pradesh University has decided to give one more chance to the students to take admission in the undergraduate degree course. Now the appointment of teachers in HPU will be done on the basis of marks. The results of the stopped law course examination of Balasundari College of Sirmaur district will also be released soon. In the EC meeting held on Friday under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. SP Bansal, it was also decided to continue the services of about 188 personnel deployed on outsource in the university. There is news of relief for the students who were deprived of taking admission in the undergraduate degree course in Himachal. Now the deprived students will be able to take admission in graduation. On the demand being raised by the student organizations, the EC has decided to give one more chance to the students who were deprived of taking admission. The admission process will be started soon. The EC decided to declare the stopped examination results of the students doing law course in Balasundari College of Sirmaur from the year 2013 to the year 2022 in the interest of the students.

Himachal : Directorate changed the schedule, now counseling from January 6; 187 JBT posts will be filled from Divyang quota

Diary Times Desk : The counselling schedule has been changed to fill 187 posts of JBT in Himachal for Divyang quota. Counselling will now be held from January 6 to fill the posts. According to the Directorate of Elementary Education, counselling will be held from January 6 to 8 by forming three groups of four districts each. The counselling will be held at the Directorate of Elementary Education, Shimla. Now, those doing D.El.Ed along with B.Ed will also be eligible to participate in the counselling. Only those who have passed TET will be able to participate in the counselling. Those aged between 18 and 45 years can apply. The maximum number of posts will be filled in Mandi (37), Kangra (28), Bilaspur (16), Chamba (15), Hamirpur (9), Kinnaur (1), Kullu (10), Shimla (20), Sirmaur (23), Solan (20) and Una (8). Counselling will be held in Mandi, Lahaul-Spiti, Kullu and Kinnaur districts on January 6. Counselling for filling the posts will be held on the 7th in Kangra, Hamirpur, Chamba.

BJP mock Rahul Gandhi's speech in Lok Sabha: 'Such knowledge comes from George Soros'

Agencies : Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday mocked the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for some of the comments in the Congress leader's speech. BJP spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra and the party's IT department head Amit Malviya posted bits of the video of Gandhi's speech on X to mock him. They criticised Gandhi for saying that "tapasya" is meant to "generate heat in the body" during his speech. Gandhi's reference to Eklavya, an archer in "Mahabharat", as a boy aged six-seven years, and saying that Dronacharya cut off his thumb were two other points from the speech highlighted by the BJP leaders.

BPS hit with question paper leak claims after chaos in Patna centre, chairman denies

Agencies : Bihar Public Service Commission (BPS) has dismissed allegations of a question paper leak during the 70th combined competitive examination (CCE) held on Friday. Social media posts claiming the leak at the BPS 70th CEE exam and protests by students at one exam centre in Patna sparked controversy. However, BPS Chairman Ravi Manu Bhai S Parmar called it "mischief," asserting the exam was conducted fairly across 911 of 912 centres. The trouble began at the Babu Examination Centre in Patna, where students alleged that question papers and OMR sheets had been leaked. The aspirants also claimed mismanagement, including delayed distribution of question papers and insufficient seating arrangements.

'Justice for Wayanad': Priyanka leads protest, demands relief package for landslide-hit constituency

Agencies : Opposition MPs from Kerala including Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra staged a protest at Makar Dwar of Parliament demanding a relief package for landslide-hit Wayanad. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, and CPI(M) MP John Brittas among others were seen holding banners that read "Justice for Wayanad. Provide relief package for Wayanad" and "Wayanad ko nyay do, bhedbhav na karein" (Justice to Wayanad, there should be no discrimination).

Is it Pakistan border?: Bajrang Punia on police-farmers standoff at Shambhu



Agencies : Congress leader Bajrang Punia questioned the use of tear gas on protesting farmers by police and asked why the border at Shambhu is being treated like a border with Pakistan. The wrestler also attacked the Centre for its claim and asked if politicians are under the same conditions to protest in Delhi. Punia also urged the Centre to fulfil its promises to the protesting farmers. "On one hand, the government is saying that we are not stopping the farmers, but on the other hand, they are using tear gas and other things. It is being treated as if it is the Pakistan border. When leaders go to Delhi to protest, do they get permission? Farmers only want MSP for their crops. We will always support the farmers. The government should fulfil its promises," Punia told news agency ANI.

Hemant Soren's JMM slams One Nation, One Election bill: Undemocratic, detrimental

Agencies : CM Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand Mukti Morcha on Saturday strongly opposed the 'One Nation One Election' Bill, which was listed by the BJP for introduction in the Lok Sabha next week. The contentious bill has sparked a political slugfest, with JMM leaders labelling it as "undemocratic and detrimental" to the federal structure of India. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will introduce The Constitution Bill and The Union Territories Laws Bill in the Lower House. The proposed constitutional amendment bill would deal with making provisions for holding Lok Sabha and state legislative Assembly elections together.

'Our children are brave servants of Allah', read Delhi schools' bomb threat email

Agencies : Day after 30 schools in the national capital received bomb threats, several schools in Delhi were once again sent similar threats via email on Saturday, police said. These schools included Delhi Public School, RK Puram, and Ryan International School, Vasant Kunj. Police said that a search operation was underway, adding that nothing suspicious had been found from the school premises yet. The group email to these schools was sent from childrenofallah@outlook.com and signed under the name of Barry Allah, ANI reported.

Delhi now capital of crime, people worried: Arvind Kejriwal writes to Amit Shah

Agencies : Former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, requesting a meeting to discuss concerns related to law and order in Delhi. Kejriwal expressed his concerns, highlighting that despite Delhi's law and order being under the control of the central government, the city is increasingly being referred to as the "crime capital" both within India and abroad. He cited alarming statistics, including Delhi's ranking as the top city in crimes against women and murder cases among 19 major metro cities in India.

"Attention Seeking Divas...": Mahua Moitra's Dig At DY Chandrachud

Agencies : TMC MP Mahua Moitra accused the BJP-led Centre on Friday of "bleeding the Constitution from a thousand cuts" and said it is crystal clear that the political executive has "systematically eroded democracy" over the last 10 years. Participating in a debate in the Lok Sabha on 75 years of the Constitution, Moitra asserted that the need of the hour is to ensure that the idea of India survives in its purest form. For a significant part of her speech, the Trinamool Congress MP trained her guns on former chief justice of India D Y Chandrachud, without naming him, and said what troubles the opposition is that some members of the higher judiciary appear to be doing their best to compromise the independence and integrity of the country's constitutional courts. "The outgoing CJI waxed eloquent on how the right to bail has been granted during his tenure.... From A for Arnab to Z for Zubair, his alphabets (sic) seem to be abbreviated because it did not include G for Gulfisha Fatima, did not include H for Haney Babu, did not include K for Khalid Saifi, did not include S for Sharjeel Imam, U for Umar Khalid and countless others," she said.



Indian students in Canada being asked to resubmit essential documents: Report

Agencies : Indian students studying in Canada are being asked to resubmit essential documents like study permits, visas, and educational records, triggering a panic among them, Times of India reported. The request coming from Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), a government department dealing with foreign students, caused distress among international students, many of whom have visas with up to two years of validity. This development is IRCC's latest attempt as it is making its policies stricter to regulate the inflow of international students. The department also introduced the requirement of stricter finances, while exploring potential caps on student intake. "I was a bit shocked when I received the email. My visa is valid until 2026, yet I was asked to submit all my documents again," Avinash Kaushik, a postgraduate student from Hyderabad studying in British Columbia's Surrey told Tol.

18,000 Indians at risk of being deported from US under Trump's watch

Agencies : President-elect Donald Trump is set to take office next month, and his administration is already intensifying efforts to enforce stricter immigration policies. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has released data revealing that nearly 18,000 undocumented Indians are among the 1.45 million individuals facing deportation from the United States. "Deportation of undocumented immigrants is central to Trump's border security agenda," ICE lauded. ICE data published in November 2024 cites that 17,940 Indians are listed on the agency's non-detained docket. This includes individuals with final orders of removal who are not in ICE custody but are awaiting deportation. Many undocumented Indians have found themselves entangled in a complex and lengthy legal process, with some waiting up to three years for their cases to be heard. Notably, the report also names India as one of 15 nations designated as "uncooperative" in the deportation process..

Georgia's turmoil deepens as ex-footballer named president

Agencies : A former Manchester City footballer has been appointed president by Georgia's disputed parliament, after 17 days of pro-EU protests that have swept this country's towns and cities. Mikheil Kavelashvili, now 53, is a former MP from the increasingly authoritarian ruling Georgian Dream party and was the only candidate for the job. On Saturday, 224 out of 225 members of Georgia's electoral college voted for him. The four main opposition groups have rejected Kavelashvili and have boycotted parliament, insisting that the elections held in October were rigged. Large crowds of protesters, facing freezing temperatures, gathered outside parliament from the early hours of Saturday morning ahead of the vote. Georgia's outgoing pro-Western president, Salome Zourabichvili, has condemned Kavelashvili's election as a travesty, insisting she holds Georgia's only remaining legitimate institution.

Donald Trump wants to eliminate 'very costly' daylight saving time in US

Agencies : US President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday said that he will push to eliminate the Daylight Saving Time (DST), terming it as a "very costly" factor to America. Trump, who is set to take charge of the Oval Office in January 2025, said that the DST has a small but strong constituency, something that it "shouldn't" have. "The Republican Party will use its best efforts to eliminate Daylight Saving Time, which has a small but strong constituency, but shouldn't! Daylight Saving Time is inconvenient, and very costly to our Nation," the President-elect said in a post on X. First adopted as a wartime measure in 1942, Daylight saving time affects almost 400 million people across North America. The system becomes the centre of a debate every now and again, with people questioning the necessity to continue it. DST requires changes in clock twice a year, setting one hour forward in the spring and one hour behind in the fall to maximise daylight during summer months. The most recent attempt in advocating for the system was made through a now-stalled bipartisan bill, 'Sunshine Protection Act.

Macron's new PM Bayrou faces budget battle with fractious French parliament

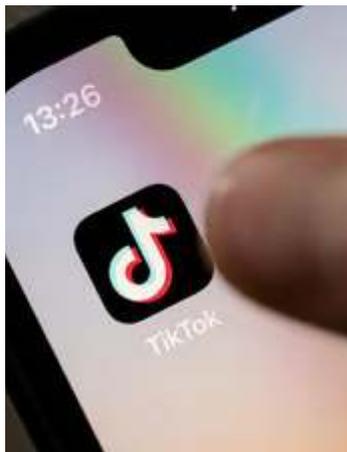
Agencies : New French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou said on Friday he faced a "Himalaya" of a challenge to tackle France's deficit, with opponents' lukewarm reactions to his appointment underlining the difficulty of the job he faces. President Emmanuel Macron earlier named Bayrou as his fourth prime minister of 2024, tasking his centrist ally with steering France out of its second political crisis in six months. He replaces Michel Barnier, who was ousted by lawmakers last week for trying to pass a cost-cutting 2025 budget. Bayrou, a three-time presidential candidate who has long warned of French fiscal profligacy, inherits the same rowdy parliament that felled Barnier. His proximity to the deeply unpopular Macron may also hurt him. In a speech alongside Barnier on Friday, Bayrou acknowledged the challenge. "Nobody knows the difficulty of the situation better than I do... I am not unaware of the Himalaya that stands before us," he said. "I believe that this issue, the deficit and debt, is an issue that poses a moral problem, not just a financial one."

Russian cargo plane departs Syria for Libya, more flights expected, official says

Agencies : A Russian cargo plane departed from Russia's air base in the Syrian port city of Latakia for Libya on Saturday, a Syrian security official stationed outside the facility said, following rebels' overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad last weekend. The official told Reuters that additional Russian departures from the Hmeimim air base in Syria's coastal Latakia province were expected in the coming days. Increased activity has been observed at the air base throughout the day. In addition to the departing cargo plane, an Ilyushin Il-76 cargo plane and an Alligator helicopter were seen landing at the base. Helicopters were also seen flying within the base, and a SU-34 jet landed for refueling. A Zeppelin hovered overhead, and two trucks carrying Russian flags were seen travelling within the base. On Friday, satellite images showed Russia moving military equipment at Hmeimim air base, with two Antonov AN-124 cargo planes visible. Russia, a longstanding ally of Assad, granted the ousted Syrian leader asylum last weekend after helping him to flee his country as the rebels approached Damascus. Moscow has said it hopes to maintain its two bases in Syria - the Hmeimim air base at Latakia and a naval base in Tartous - in order to keep up efforts against.

Prepare to remove TikTok from app stores: US lawmakers to Google, Apple

Agencies : Two influential US lawmakers, including Indian-American Raja Krishnamoorthi, have asked Google and Apple to remove TikTok from their app stores ahead of a potential ban on the video-sharing platform next month. A bill signed by President Joe Biden into law in April requires China-based ByteDance, which owns TikTok, to divest from it by January 19 or face a US ban. Ahead of the January 19 deadline, House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Chair John Moolenaar and Ranking Member Krishnamoorthi on Friday wrote to Apple CEO Tim Cook, Google CEO Sundar Pichai and TikTok CEO Shou Chew. The lawmakers asked Cook and Pichai to prepare to remove TikTok from their play stores by January 19. In their letter to the TikTok CEO, they urged Chew to "immediately execute a qualified divestiture". All three letters come after the DC Circuit Court's 3-0 opinion that upheld the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act. In the letters to Cook and Pichai, the lawmakers said, "Today, we sent a letter to TikTok highlighting that Congress has provided ample time—233 days.



'Dilli Chalo': Punjab farmers suspend foot march for the day after 17 injured



Agencies : Protesting farmers on Saturday suspended their foot march to Delhi for the day after some of them suffered injuries in tear gas shelling by Haryana security personnel here along the state's border with Punjab. Farmer leader from Punjab Sarwan Singh Pandher told reporters that the two forums have decided "to call back our 'jatha'". Replying to a question, Pandher said 17-18 farmers have sustained injuries during the Haryana security personnel action. Farmer leader Manjit Singh Rai alleged that rubber bullets were also used by security personnel and one farmer was seriously injured. Both the forums have decided to call back the jatha for today and the next course of action will be taken after a meeting," Rai said. Pandher alleged that "chemical mixed water was used to disperse the farmers and more teargas shells were used this time". Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ambala Cantt, Rajat Gulia, however, refuted the allegation. Pandher said while the debate is going on in Parliament on the 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution, "No one is raising the voice for farmers in Parliament...over here we want to know which Constitution applies to our protest. How can a jatha of 101 farmers pose a threat to the country's law and order".

Patiala DC, SSP meet farm leader Dallewal

Agencies : Following an order of Supreme Court of India, Patiala Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr Preeti Yadav and Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dr Nanak Singh on Saturday met farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death today enters 19th day at Khanauri border. They asked Dallewal about his well-being, and urged him to get medical aid and break his indefinite fast. But Dallewal reportedly remained adamant not to take any treatment or break his fast-unto-death. Talking to Diary Times, Lakhwinder Singh Aulakh, state president, Bharatiya Kisan Ekta, Haryana, said that both officers told Dallewal that they were very much worried about his health condition and urged him to take medical treatment. But Dallewal made it clear to them that his fast-unto-death would continue because as compared to his own life he loved lives of farmers, who have been committing suicides throughout the country due to sale of their crops below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), he added.

Punjab Public Service Commission announces final results for 200 Agriculture Development Officer posts

Agencies : The Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) has announced the final results for the recruitment of 200 Agriculture Development Officers (ADO) (Group A) in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab. The results were declared late on December 13. Sharing the details, Jatinder Singh Aulakh, Chairman, PPSC, stated that a total of 6,820 candidates had applied for the written examination, which was conducted on June 30. The Combined Merit List and Category-Wise Merit Lists have now been uploaded on the official PPSC website: www.ppsc.gov.in. Aulakh further emphasised that the recruitment process was conducted in a completely fair and impartial manner, ensuring transparency at every stage.

Punjab State Women Commission summons SGPC president Dhani

Agencies : The Punjab State Women Commission has summoned Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhani for passing derogatory remarks against ex-SGPC president Jagir Kaur. The commission has directed Dhani to appear at the commission's office in Mohali and submit a written explanation regarding the incident by December 17. Failure to comply with the notice within the stipulated timeframe will result in the commission recommending appropriate legal action under the Punjab State Women Commission Act, 2001, to the relevant authorities. Chairperson Raj Lali Gill has issued a notice to Dhani regarding his offensive comments about former SGPC President and political leader Bibi Jagir Kaur. The commission chairperson said it has taken this matter seriously and reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the rights, dignity and honour of women in Punjab.

HC go-ahead to Diljit concert, but with strict noise-control measures

Agencies : A day before the much-anticipated concert by Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh in the city, the Punjab and Haryana High Court allowed the event, but imposed stringent conditions to ensure compliance with noise pollution regulations. The Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Anil Kshetarpal court directed that ambient air quality standards for noise be strictly maintained, with the maximum permissible limit set at 75 dB(A) at the boundary of the venue for the concert — the Exhibition Ground in Sector 34. The Bench asserted that any breach of the prescribed noise limits would attract penal action. "In case the noise level increases beyond 75 dB(A), the official respondents are directed to take penal action against the organisers as prescribed by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control Rules) 2000," said the court. The court was hearing a public interest litigation filed by an advocate seeking directions to the Union Territory of Chandigarh regarding the management of public events at the Exhibition Ground. Among other things, the petitioner had raised concerns over public safety, traffic disruptions, environmental pollution and fundamental rights violations related to a concert held on December 7, and an upcoming event on December 14. The UT of Chandigarh was represented by senior standing counsel Amit Jhanji.

'Zero-waste' Chrysanthemum Show kicks off

Agencies : The three-day Chrysanthemum Show was inaugurated by Mayor Kuldeep Kumar today in the presence of MC Commissioner Amit Kumar, councillors, senior officers of the MC and others at Terraced Garden in Sector 33. The Municipal Corporation (MC) claims it to be a 'zero-waste' event, besides showcasing its different initiatives and projects and Self-Help Groups registered under DAY-NULM. The Mayor and Commissioner took a round of stalls, including Swachh Bharat Mission where awareness is being created towards segregation of waste in four types from the source, compost of horticulture waste, home composting, Safai Mitra, construction and demolition waste material, fire and rescue services, jute bags, candle making, painting by self-help groups, 'Naya Sa' initiative of MCC to reuse the old clothes by selling them to the people at nominal charges after proper cleaning and ironing.

Haryana introduces free cashless treatment for road accident victims

Agencies : Following the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the Haryana Police have launched a new initiative under which accident victims will receive free treatment in the initial hour. Under this scheme, treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh per person per road accident is provided free of cost for a maximum period of 7 days from the date of the accident. In this regard, Additional Director General of Police Hardeep Doon has written a letter to all the officials concerned asking them to ensure compliance. Director General of Police Shatruejt Kapur said making the state's roads safe for the common man was a priority. "Therefore, it is necessary to prepare a better and more effective action plan to reduce road accidents. In the same series, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has started providing free treatment facilities to road accident victims." He said the pilot project would be implemented jointly by the National Health Authority in coordination with the local police and hospitals contracted by the state's health department. During this, the accident victim will be provided free treatment up to a limit of Rs 1.5 lakh for a maximum of 7 days under Section 162 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Agnihotri inaugurates SC Commission office in Una

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today inaugurated the office of the HP State Commission for Scheduled Castes at Rampur village near Una. The Commission, recently reconstituted by the state government, is chaired by former minister Kuldeep Kumar from Una district. Agnihotri said that the decision to establish a state-level office in Una reflected the government's efforts to decentralise governance and spread administrative benefits beyond Shimla. "The government is committed to planned development across the state. Municipal Councils are being constituted in Una, Hamirpur and Baddi, while many gram panchayats are being upgraded to nagar panchayats and nagar panchayats to municipal committees to improve facilities for residents," he said. He also announced that the pending results of all examinations conducted by the State Staff Selection Commission would be declared within a month. "The state government is pro-youth. During the BJP regime, almost all examination papers for state jobs were leaked, undermining transparency," he alleged.

Nothing wrong in urging Pratibha to shorten speech: Negi

Diary Times Desk : Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi today said that there was nothing wrong in requesting state Congress president Pratibha Singh to cut short her speech during the function at Bilaspur on December 11. "The function was running a little behind the schedule, so she was requested to shorten her speech a little. What's wrong with that?" he added. Pratibha had lost her cool and composure briefly when a message was sent to her to shorten her speech. She had expressed her displeasure publicly and even reprimanded the messenger. The BJP quickly lapped up the opportunity and termed it as an insult to the Congress chief. "The BJP should look inwards to see who all are being insulted. No one has forgotten the viral video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath not even talking to each other," he added.

NGO files complaint over protected 'Jangali Murga' served at CM Sukhu's dinner



Diary Times Desk : A Dharamsala-based NGO, Kranti, has filed a complaint with the Chief Conservator of Wildlife, North Zone, alleging that red junglefowl, a protected species, was served at a dinner attended by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The incident, which has gone viral on social media, has sparked outrage among environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts. According to Dheeraj Mahajan, president of Kranti Organisation, it is shocking that red junglefowl, also known as 'Jangali Murga', was served at the dinner. The species is protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Mahajan demanded an investigation into the incident and action against those responsible for poaching and consuming the protected species. The NGO has also demanded that a case be registered against the officials who added red junglefowl to the dinner menu and those who consumed the dish. Mahajan warned that the NGO might move court if the government fails to take action in the matter. The incident has been condemned by BJP leaders, who have demanded action against those responsible.

Feast or fiasco? Himachal's political slugfest over 'jungle murga' gets a spicy twist

Diary Times Desk : Strange as it may sound but the political slugfest between the Congress and BJP in Himachal Pradesh has become a gastronomical fight with references to "jungle murga" and "phulkas" (chappatis) being made to hurl accusations at each other. The latest controversy--for the Congress government--revolves around serving of "jungle murga at Kupvi village in Chopal area of district Shimla, where the Chief Minister spent last night with villagers. The video of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu being served "jungle murga" for dinner last night has gone viral on social media. Even as one can hear the CM saying that he does not eat it, he asked the villagers to serve it to his ministerial colleague Dhani Ram Shandil, the Health minister, seated next to him and others while sitting on the floor and eating with everyone. Not the ones to miss the opportunity to hit out at the CM, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur tweeted that those who had objection to serving of "phulkas" at the Jan Manch programme during the BJP rule are today relishing "jungle murga". The Congress had accused the previous BJP regime of spending crores on feeding people "phulkas".

Sukhu disburses Rs 97 lakh to 2,171 women at Shimla's Kupvi

Diary Times Desk : CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today disbursed Rs 97.69 lakh to 2,171 eligible women under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh-Samman Nidhi Yojana at a function held at Kupvi in the Chopal area of Shimla district. He also inaugurated development projects of Rs 81.83 crore to the people of the area. "The rules under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh-Samman Nidhi Yojana will be modified to address the unique challenges faced by the women of Kupvi so that all of them, barring working women, receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500," he added. The Chief Minister said that the government was working with the motto of "Vyavastha Parivartan" and to make Himachal a self-reliant state. He added that the government had implemented many schemes and programmes with the aim of strengthening the rural economy and "it is for the first time that the minimum support price for milk purchase has been fixed". He said that efforts would be made to establish Kupvi as a separate ward in the Zila Parishad and Sub-Divisional Officers of the Irrigation and Public Health and Public Works departments would be granted the powers of an Executive Engineer to ensure.

Bhardwaj pushes for expansion of rail network to boost tourism

Diary Times Desk : Kangra MP Rajiv Bhardwaj met Union Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnav in Delhi yesterday to demand expansion of the railway network and improvement of existing facilities in the Kangra parliamentary constituency. Talking to The Tribune from Delhi, Bhardwaj said he discussed connecting the Vande Bharat train route from Amb in Una district to prominent pilgrimage sites such as Chintpurni, Jawalaji, Chamunda and Brijeshwari temples in Una and Kangra districts. He emphasised that linking these sacred sites would boost tourism in the state, benefitting visitors who also frequent tourist destinations such as Bhagsunag, McLeodGanj and Palampur. Bhardwaj also raised the issue of upgrading the Pathankot-Jogindernagar narrow gauge railway line. He revealed that the Union Minister informed him about the approval for conducting the final physical survey of the track, which was confirmed in the presence of the General Manager, Railways. The MP further pressed the demand to connect tourist hubs such as Dalhousie, Khajjar and Chamba with the railway network, highlighting that the entire Chamba district remains without rail connectivity. "I have urged the minister to ensure a budget allocation.



Rain plays spoilsport on the opening day in Brisbane

Diary Times Desk : Only 13.2 overs were possible on a rain-hit opening day of the Brisbane Test but Australia's openers Usman Khawaja and Nathan McSweeney emerged through that brief period of play unscathed after Rohit Sharma inserted the hosts into bat. India won a third toss on the bounce in the series, but this time, under overcast conditions, the visitors decided to bowl after having rung two changes to the playing XI from Adelaide. Akash Deep, on of the two players (Ravindra Jadeja was the other) drafted in, had to wait for his turn to get into the contest as the senior pros Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj went searching for the right lines and lengths on the Gabba surface with a smattering of grass over. Interestingly, there was not much swing or seam movement to be had in the early exchanges and Khawaja, in particular, was comfortable in putting away deliveries that were either too short or too straight. While Bumrah beat the left-hander on a couple of occasions, only 1 of the first 33 balls bowled by India before the first rain break were projected to hit the stumps. The curious pattern to the play also saw Bumrah bowl just three deliveries at McSweeney, a player he's dismissed three times in this series, over his six-over first spell.



Viswanathan Anand Responds As Ex-World Champion Criticises D Gukesh's Title Triumph

Diary Times Desk : Legendary chess player Viswanathan Anand on Friday asked D. Gukesh to ignore those questioning the standard of the World Championship title showdown with China's Ding Liren, saying criticism always comes with success. Indian Grandmaster Gukesh made history on Thursday, becoming the youngest-ever to win the world title defeating Liren in the 14th and final game of the championship in Singapore. Former world champion Vladimir Kramnik was not impressed with the quality of chess on display during the match, calling it the "end of chess as we know it." Kramnik expressed his frustration over the game's quality, calling a critical blunder by Ding Liren "childish." In his reaction, Kramnik wrote on 'X', "No comment. Sad. End of chess as we know it." In another tweet, he said, "Never yet has a WC title been decided by such a childish one-move blunder." Five-time world champion, Norway's Magnus Carlsen too has been critical of the quality on display in earlier rounds, saying, "This does not look like a game between two World Championship contenders. It just looks like maybe the second round or third round of an open tournament."

Vinod Kambli Responds After Kapil Dev Offers To Help Him: "Have No Hesitation..."

Diary Times Desk : Former India cricketer Vinod Kambli has agreed to enter rehab amid concerns over his health and financial crisis. Recently, India's 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev offered to bear the expenses of Kambli's treatment, only if the latter is willing to enter rehab. Legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar also came forward and offered to help Kambli, who has already been to rehab 14 times. While admitting that his financial condition is a mess, Kambli credited his wife for managing everything. "Bad (on his financial condition). But the manner in which my wife has handled everything, hats off to her. [Sunil] Gavaskar was the first to react (to Kapil Dev's offer). Sure, I have no hesitation (to enter rehab), because until I have my family with me, I'm not afraid of anything, anybody. I will complete it and return. I will come back," Kambli said on Vicky Lalwani's YouTube channel. In 2022, Kambli revealed his only source of income is BCCI's pension, which amounts to Rs 30,000 per month. However, the former batter is confident that the BCCI will come forward to help him if a situation arises.

Tim Southee equals Chris Gayle's massive six-hitting record in farewell Test for New Zealand

Diary Times Desk : Batting in his final Test match, New Zealand's Tim Southee equalled ex-West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle record of sixes in the format. Ben Stokes leads the pack with 133 maximums, followed by Brendon McCullum (107) and Adam Gilchrist (100). Then its Southee and Gayle in the list, tied at 98 sixes in Test cricket. Southee and New Zealand are currently up against England in the third and final Test of their three-match series, at Seddon Park. Day 1 began with England winning the toss and opting to bowl. Openers Tom Latham and Will Young gave the hosts a strong start. Captain Latham registered 63 off 135 balls and Young smacked 42 off 92 deliveries. Meanwhile, Kane Williamson, at no. 3, added 44 off 87 balls. Also, Mitchell Santner got a half-century, slamming 50 off 54 balls. Meanwhile, Southee hit 23 off 10 balls, including a four and three sixes, as New Zealand reached 315/9 at Stumps. Santner (50*) and Will O'Rourke (0*) remained unbeaten and will resume batting on Day 2. On the opening ball of his innings, Southee faced Stokes and missed it totally. Then he smacked two sixes over mid-wicket and deep square leg in Stokes' next over. For his third six, he smacked Gus Atkinson over mid-wicket.



Short TAKES

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"Nahi Ho Raha...": Jasprit Bumrah's Frustration Caught On Stump Mic During 3rd Test Against Australia

Diary Times Desk : Indian cricket team fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was heard complaining about the lack of swing during Day 1 of the third Test encounter against Australia at The Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday. Only 13.2 overs of play was possible in the first session of the match due to rain and the conditions were predominantly overcast. However, there was very little swing on offer for the fast bowlers and Bumrah was heard complaining about it on the stump mic. During the fifth over of the match, Bumrah tried to alter his length in order to find more movement off the pitch. However, he realised that there was no swing on offer. "Nahi ho raha swing, kahin bhi kar (There is no swing no matter where you bowl)," Bumrah's comment was caught on the stump microphone as he made his way back to the bowling mark. Indian captain Rohit Sharma won the toss and chose to field in the third Test against Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday. The match will begin in overcast and humid conditions with the threat of rain later, which could suit Indian spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. The five-match series is locked at one win apiece after India won the first Test in Perth, before Australia bounced back to claim victory in Adelaide.