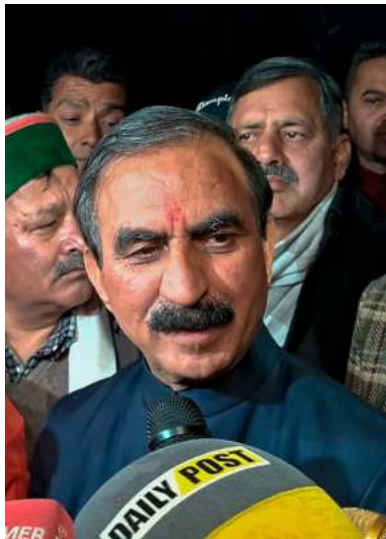


## Himachal: CM Sukhu said- Every woman in Kupvi block will get Rs 1500 each, rules will be changed



**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu on Friday distributed an amount of Rs 97,69,500 to 2171 eligible women of Kupvi area under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana during a function held at Kupvi Sub Division of District Shimla. The Chief Minister dedicated developmental projects worth Rs 81.23 crore to the people of the area in Kupvi. He inaugurated 40 meter long bridge over Katli Khad constructed at the cost of Rs 2.32 crore, bridge over Lohana Khad constructed at the cost of Rs 2.65 crore, bridge over Bhrot Khad on Basadhar-Gyankot road constructed at the cost of Rs 3.04 crore, bridge over Kuthar-Kanodi road constructed at the cost of Rs 85 lakh and Bajrauli bridge on Sainj-Deha-Choupal road constructed at the cost of Rs 7.72 crore. He inaugurated Sadnada-Khagana road at the cost of Rs 8.67 crore, Neri-Thundal road at the cost of Rs 6.08 crore, Bhadavg to Dasholi road at the cost of Rs 3.48 crore, Majholi to Baag road at the cost of Rs 2.72 crore, Haripurdhar to Majholi road at the cost of Rs 7.68 crore, Kothi to Kanah road at the cost of Rs 8.38 crore, Kupvi to Dhotali road at the cost of Rs 10.02 crore, Saranh to Jona road at the cost of Rs 6.28 crore and matting and tarring works of Kupvi to Mashot road at the cost of Rs 11.34 crore. The Chief Minister distributed Rs 4,000 each to six beneficiaries under Sukh Aashray Yojana, Rs 1 lakh each to two beneficiaries for house construction, financial assistance to 13 beneficiaries under Mukhyamantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana, FD of Rs 21,000 each to six beneficiaries under Beti Hai Anmol Yojana. Sukhu said that the state government is working with the aim of system transformation. He said that due to being a difficult area, the rules of Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana will be changed in Kupvi. All the women who are not working will be given Rs. 1500 per month. The Chief Minister announced to make efforts to make Kupvi a separate ward of the Zila Parishad and to provide the powers of Executive Engineer to SDO, IPH and PWD in Kupvi.

## In Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2' Stampede Death Bail Case, SRK And 'Raees' Mention



**Agencies:** Telugu actor Allu Arjun's bail hearing in the Telangana High Court - after his arrest Friday in the 'Pushpa 2' stampede case - featured a parallel to a similarly tragic incident involving Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan and his film 'Raees', in which also one person died. Arguing for bail for his client, Allu Arjun's lawyer recalled the 'Raees' stampede and argued the main question before the court was "... is somebody doing a rash or negligent act?" In that context he spoke about the stampede involving SRK, and said the Bollywood actor "threw clothes at the station, which led to a stampede". In that case he was not found criminally liable, Mr Arjun's lawyer said. It was also argued that Allu Arjun was on the first floor of Hyderabad's Sandhya Theatre when the stampede occurred on the ground floor. And the lawyer also rubbished claims by the police that they had not been informed of the actor's plan to attend a special screening of his film. "The actor was coming... everybody knew that. Even the police knew. Here the actor was not even doing anything whereas, in SRK's case, the actor threw balls and crowds jumped to grab them."

## 'Not part of this circus anymore': Magnus Carlsen's shocker, says not interested in challenging D Gukesh

**Agencies :** Gukesh Dommaraju might have become the youngest world champion after defeating Ding Liren, but Magnus Carlsen is not interested in challenging the 18-year-old Indian for the throne. Magnus who relinquished his title in 2022 due to a "lack of motivation", said that he is not a "part of this circus anymore" hence he has no interest in having a match with Gukesh for the ultimate title. However, Magnus did congratulate Gukesh for showing a stellar performance against Ding Liren in the World Chess Championship. He also said that Gukesh was always the favourite for him to win the match. "It's not going to be me. I mean, let's talk about Gukesh and the match and so on. I'm not part of this circus anymore," Carlsen said on the Take Take YouTube channel.

## BPSC 70th prelims 2024: Commission refutes question leak rumours, chairman calls it mischief

**Agencies :** Amid viral posts on social media about possible question leak in the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) 70th combined competitive examination held today across the state from 12-2 pm and protests at one centre in Patna, BPSC chairman Ravi Manu Bhair S Parmar said it was a mischief as "there has been no complaint regarding the conduct of exam from anywhere. At the Bapu Exam Centre, the examinees alleged that the question paper along with OMR answersheet had reached outside and the exam's sanctity had been compromised. They also alleged mismanagement at the centre and delayed distribution of question papers. At other centres also, there were complaints from students that questions had been distributed late, while some also reported instances of candidates running away from the examination hall with question paper and OMR sheet. "The sanctity of exam is important. If that is compromised, nothing is left," the students at the Bapu exam centre said.

## "How Can I Respect You?": Mallikarjun Kharge Vs Jagdeep Dhankhar Showdown In Parliament

**Agencies :** The Rajya Sabha on Friday witnessed huge chaos after the opposition moved a no-trust motion against Vice President and Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. The move also led to a war of words between the Leader of Opposition and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Mr Dhankhar, leading to the adjournment of the Upper House for the day. "I am a farmer's son. In no situation will I be weak, I have tolerated enough," the Rajya Sabha Chairman told the opposition as they moved the no-confidence motion. To this, Mr Kharge replied, "If you are the son of a farmer, then I am too, the son of a labourer." "I have faced more challenges than you...You are insulting our party leaders, you are insulting the Congress. We have not come here to listen to your praises, we have come here for discussion," he added.

## Champions Trophy 2025: ICC 'gives nod' to Pakistan-proposed hybrid model

**Agencies :** The controversy surrounding the next year's Champions Trophy has come to an end as the International Cricket Council (ICC) reportedly greenlighted a "tit-for-tat" hybrid model proposed by Pakistan over India's refusal to send its team to the neighbouring country, Indian media claimed on Friday. The development - deemed as a victory of Pakistan's stance - came following an agreement between the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), according to a report published in India Today. The eight-team tournament hit a snag last month when the BCCI told the ICC that their side would not compete in Pakistan over security fears and political tensions.



## "Heartbroken": Kolkata Rape Victim's Parents After Key Suspects Get Bail

**Agencies :** Expressing disappointment with the CBI investigation, the parents of the doctor who was raped and murdered at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital said on Friday that they were heartbroken with the two key suspects in the case getting bail and it seemed like the "system" was failing them. A court in Kolkata's Sealdah granted bail to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's ex-principal Sandip Ghosh and former officer-in-charge of the Tala police station Abhijit Mondal in the rape and murder case of the on-duty doctor. The CBI, which was handed the investigation into the case by the Calcutta High Court, failed to file a chargesheet against the accused within the mandatory 90-day period, leading to their release on bail. "We thought the CBI would speed up the investigation and bring those responsible to justice. But now, with the accused being granted bail, it feels like the system is failing us," said the mother of the victim whose body was found in the hospital on August 9.



## Bengaluru suicide shocker: Atul Subhash's wife gets police notice - 'You have 3 days time to ...'

**Agencies :** Karnataka Police has issued summons to the wife and family of Bengaluru software engineer Atul Subhash, 34, who died by suicide on Sunday. Police have given them three days time to appear before Marathahalli Police Station. The notice was issued to Atul's wife Nikita Singhanian, her mother Nisha Singhanian, her brother Anurag Singhanian and her uncle Sushil Singhanian. According to an NDTV report, based on a complaint by Atul's brother, Bikas Kumar, a four-member team of Bengaluru Police arrived in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur, which is the residence of the Atul's wife, and pasted a notice. "There are reasonable grounds to interrogate you to ascertain the facts and circumstances. You are directed to appear before the investigating officer at Bengaluru within 3 days," reads the notice. Detailing his allegations in a 90-minute video and a 24-page suicide note, Atul had accused his wife, mother-in-law, brother-in-law.

## Bachpan se yahi dekha hai, Rajnath Singh's dig at Rahul Gandhi

**Agencies :** In a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said it was natural for some Opposition leaders to roam around with copies of the Indian Constitution in their pockets. "Today many leaders of the Opposition roam around with the copies of the Constitution in their pockets. Inhone bachpan se yahi dekha hai...This is what they have learnt from their childhood days. For generations they have seen their family members keep the Constitution in their pockets only," Singh said as he opened the debate on the 75th anniversary of the adoption of Indian Constitution in Lok Sabha on Friday. Rahul Gandhi and several Congress leaders have been flaunting red covered copies of the Constitution while on campaign trails in a series of recent elections, especially 2024 Lok Sabha polls, where they accused the BJP-led NDA of seeking 400 seats to change the Constitution. Today in the Lok Sabha, Rajnath Singh recalling the Congress stalwarts -- late Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi -- said the Congress leaders always used the Constitution as tool to advance their political interests. Singh said for the BJP, the Constitution is a sacred document to be revered with the head bowed and for the Congress it is a copy to be kept in a pocket.

## Bengaluru airport road toll records ₹308 crore revenue; Mohandas Pai questions 'unfair' charges

**Agencies :** The Devanahalli toll plaza near Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) recorded a revenue of ₹308 crore in the financial year 2023-24, making it Karnataka's highest-earning toll plaza. According to an Indian Express report, the plaza has generated a total of ₹1,577 crore over the past decade, driven by its prime location on NH 44, the main highway linking Bengaluru to KIA, India's third-busiest airport. In 2023-24, KIA witnessed record-breaking passenger and cargo traffic, handling 37.53 million passengers and over 439,000 metric tonnes of cargo. This surge played a significant role in the toll plaza's earnings. Additionally, NH 44 serves as a vital corridor for commercial vehicles traveling between Karnataka and neighboring states, ensuring a consistent flow of traffic and revenue. However, the high toll charges have drawn criticism from prominent voices, including former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai. Taking to X, Pai questioned the necessity of toll collection on the airport route.

## 'I didn't want to join government,' a miffed Eknath Shinde tells Shiv Sena leaders

**Agencies :** In a closed-door meeting with his party functionaries on Thursday, deputy chief minister and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde revealed that he was reluctant to join the Mahayuti government, and that he accepted the DyCM's post only because party leaders had forced him to do so, HT has learnt from people in the know from the party. Shinde's meeting with his colleagues was part of a first round of prep for the upcoming civic elections. The meeting was attended by several sitting and former MPs, MLAs and former corporators. Shiv Sena will have a steering committee for the BMC polls, which will showcase Shinde's achievements in his tenure as chief minister, prominently, the inauguration of Atal Setu, parts of coastal road, several metro routes and aapla dawakhana. At the meeting Shinde also said while many from Shiv Sena (UBT) were ready to join him, he had stopped the entries prioritising tickets for his own party workers in the BMC election.



## Kangra: Service rules will be changed in Kangra Cooperative Primary Agriculture and Rural Development Bank, decision taken in the meeting

**Diary Times Desk :** The 42nd Ordinary Annual Meeting of Kangra Cooperative Primary Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Limited was held in the District Council Auditorium, Dharamshala. Many major decisions have been taken in the Annual General Meeting of the bank. The biggest proposal in the meeting was passed to change the bank service rules. After this proposal, officers above the post of manager and up to the post of general manager will go to a different cadre from the common cadre. Which they will get the benefit of. At the same time, a proposal to merge daily deposit collector services in the bank has also been passed. Apart from this, in the meeting, apart from approving the income and expenditure of the year 2023-24, the estimated income and expenditure of the year 2024-25 was approved. Along with this, the balance sheet was also placed in front of everyone. It was told that the bank is running on dividend. In the Annual General Meeting, three branches Palampur, Haroli and Gangth, which have been running on dividend for the last three years, were honored.





### Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said- Jairam should play the role of positive and constructive opposition



**Diary Times Desk :** Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri hit back at Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur and said that those who have been rejected by the public are demanding resignation. On the occasion of inauguration of SC Commission office in Una, Agnihotri said that the public has thrown the BJP out of power. It would have been better if Jai Ram Thakur had created so many cells while being the Chief Minister so that he could get the right information. Taking the former CM to task, he said that even if someone remains an MLA once in the government, he knows the inside story. If lies had been told, he would have definitely resigned. 67.5 crores have been given to the employees of HRTC for salary and pension. There is no case related to salary and pension. He advised the former CM to sit comfortably for three years and play the role of a positive and constructive opposition. Jai Ram Thakur tried from every side, but he did not succeed in his intentions. Power is not gained by lying, nor by doing Operation Lotus, nor by removing CPS.

### HP Assembly Winter Session 2024: Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania will visit Tapovan on December 16

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania will visit Tapovan Assembly Complex on December 16, 2024 at 11:30 am. Pathania will inspect the ongoing repair work in the Tapovan Assembly Complex and will also take stock of the security arrangements being made by the district administration for the winter session. On this occasion, all the senior officers of District Kangra will also be present in the complex. Some officers and employees of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat have left for Dharamshala from Shimla yesterday in view of the preparations for the session. Due to the closure of the e-Vidhan system, this time the entry passes are being prepared offline (handwritten) instead of online in the Assembly Secretariat Tapovan. This time we are going to leave the e-Vidhan system and adopt the National e-Vidhan Application, the work of which is going on continuously. As soon as the work is completed, we will again come from offline to online mode. The office in Tapovan Assembly Secretariat will remain open on 14 and 15 December and the work of making entry passes will continue smoothly.

### Shimla News: A person arrested with 1.10 kg of hashish in Shimla, secret information was received; Case registered under NDPS Act

**Diary Times Desk :** Police have arrested a person with more than one kg of hashish in Darbhog area under Dhali police station. Police have taken this action on the basis of secret information. Police have registered a case against the accused under various sections of NDPS Act and arrested the accused. The accused has been identified as Dayal Chand. According to the police, when the accused was searched on the basis of suspicion, 1.010 kg of hashish was recovered from him. Police have registered a case against the accused under various sections of NDPS Act and arrested him. SP Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said that strict action is being taken against drug smugglers under Mission Clean. Police have raided a house in Sangti area under Baluganj police station and recovered 321 grams of hashish from a youth. Police have registered a case in this regard and arrested the accused. This action was taken by the team of Special Cell of Police against the accused Dinesh Kumar, resident of Rampur.

### Himachal: Professor accused of sexually harassing two girl students at IIT Mandi fired from job

**Diary Times Desk :** The professor accused of sexually harassing two B.Tech girl students at IIT Mandi has been fired from his job. After the report of the internal complaint committee constituted to investigate the sexual harassment case, the Board of Governors (BOG) has taken action against the accused professor. According to the information, the case was handed over to the ICC for investigation on the complaint of two B.Tech girl students. The allegations made by the girl students were found to be true in the investigation. The ICC had demanded strict action against the professor. After this, the report of the case was placed in the BOG meeting. After this, the chairman and other members of the BOG took cognizance of the matter and decided to remove the professor from the job. On the other hand, the professor has challenged the decision of the BOG. The matter will now be sent to the President. On the other hand, IIT Mandi Registrar KS Pandey said that the professor accused.

### Dharamshala: After Hindi in class 8th, Maths paper also out of syllabus, Sangh raised objection



**Diary Times Desk :** Board exams for class 3, 5 and 8 are being conducted in winter schools of Himachal Pradesh. In these exams, candidates are being asked out of syllabus questions. In the Hindi exam of class 8 held on December 10, 12 marks questions were asked from outside the taught syllabus. On the other hand, in the maths exam of class 8 held on Thursday, 20 marks questions were asked from such courses which were removed by the education board. Out of syllabus questions were asked in two consecutive exams of class 8. It is being told that during the maths exam of class 8 held in winter schools, four marks were asked from chapter 10, two from 1, three from 4, three from 8 and three from chapter 16, while questions of five marks from chapter 15 were asked from the removed courses.

### Himachal: Number of children in government schools decreased, 54 thousand less admissions this year, revealed in report

**Diary Times Desk :** Amidst the government's claims of qualitative improvement in the field of education in Himachal, there is a decline in admissions in government schools every year. There have been 54 thousand fewer admissions in the government schools of the state as compared to last year. The figures revealed in the U Dice Plus report of admissions from pre-primary to class VIII have increased the concern of the government. In the academic session 2023-24, the enrollment of students in government schools was 4.80 lakh. This time the enrollment has come down by 54 thousand to 4.26 lakh. There have been 71 thousand admissions in pre-primary, 2.36 from first to fifth, 1.90 lakh from sixth to eighth class. The officials of the Education Department have started brainstorming on how to remove the deficiencies found in the U Dice Plus report released for the academic session 2024-25.

### Himachal News: If free coaching is left midway, stipend will have to be returned, candidates will have to give affidavit

**Diary Times Desk :** If the candidate leaves the free coaching at Himachal Pradesh Central University by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) without approval, then he will have to return the stipend given to him. Before getting free UPSC coaching, the candidates will also have to give an affidavit. In this, they will have to tell the reason for not leaving the course midway. Himachal Pradesh Central University will provide free UPSC coaching to 125 candidates by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. For this, the CU administration has sought applications till December 16. In these, 100 seats will be free for SC and OBC category candidates, while 25 seats have been kept in the paid category including general category. During this time, candidates whose annual income is less than eight lakh rupees are eligible for this free coaching. The candidates getting coaching for these seats meant for SC and OBC candidates will have to give an affidavit before the coaching. In this affidavit, they will have to state that if the candidate leaves the free coaching course without any valid reason, then he will have to return the stipend.

Ex-RG Kar principal, police officer given bail in trainee doctor rape case

**Agencies :** The Sealadah court in Kolkata on Friday granted bail to Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, and Abhijit Mondal, former officer-in-charge of Tala police station, as the central bureau of investigation (CBI) failed to submit the charge-sheet against them within the 90-day period. The federal agency is probing the rape and murder of a trainee female doctor at RG Kar Hospital on August 9 and had arrested Ghosh and Mondal. They were accused of "tampering with evidence" and "facilitating the hasty cremation of the woman doctor," while her family had specifically demanded a second autopsy. "The public prosecutor of CBI has laid down that the CBI is not going to file any prayer of remand. The CBI is not going to file the charge-sheet for the time being though investigation is going on regarding the involvement of both the accused. The counsel of both the accused are praying for release on bail popularly known as 'default bail' on the ground that no charge-sheet has been filed," the court order stated.

Delhi-Dehradun, Delhi-Mumbai Expressway completion soon: Nitin Gadkari



**Agencies :** Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said that the Delhi-Dehradun expressway, which is expected to reduce travel time between the two cities to two hours, will be completed within the next three months. Currently, the travel time between the two cities is five to six hours. Addressing a media event, Gadkari further said that construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is expected to be completed within two months. With the completion of the motorway, the current 24-hour travel time between the two major cities is expected to be reduced to 12 hours. There are two packages for the Delhi-Dehradun highway project, according to the minister of road transport and highways. "A ₹10,000 crore project has been approved for Delhi's Kalindi Kunj, extending to Faridabad. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the project within the next 15-20 days," Gadkari said at the event by Times Network.

India wants good ties with Pakistan, but terrorism must end first: S Jaishankar in Lok Sabha



**Agencies :** External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Thursday informed the Lok Sabha that India would like to have good ties with Pakistan, like with any other neighbour, but those ties must be free of terrorism. "We have made it very clear that it is for the Pakistani side to show that they are changing the behaviour of the past, and if they don't, of course, there will be implications for the relationship and for them. The ball is very much in Pakistan's court," Jaishankar replied to a query on improving ties with Pakistan during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha. On the steps being taken to improve trade and commerce with Pakistan, the external affairs minister said that some of the disruptions that took place were due to decisions made by the government of Pakistan in 2019.

ISKCON has its back to wall in Bangladesh: Kolkata spokesperson

**PTI :** ISKCON Kolkata vice-president Radharamn Das on Friday said that the organisation has its back to the wall in Bangladesh due to the ongoing attacks against minorities there. Speaking to reporters here, Das voiced concern over no abatement in atrocities on minorities and jingoistic statements by several Bangladeshi leaders, wishing that such rhetoric is not peddled anymore to bring back normalcy and hoping that the interim government performs its role of governance. "Several ISKCON properties in Bangladesh have come under attack.

India's Constitution not rule of the Sangh: Priyanka in maiden Lok Sabha speech

**PTI :** India's Constitution is not the rule of the Sangh, Wayand MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said in her maiden speech in the Lok Sabha on Friday, mounting a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party, and declared that the country has never remained in the "hands of cowards" for a long time. She said the BJP has learnt the hard way in the 2024 Lok Sabha election that the Constitution can't be changed and reiterated her party's allegations of collusion between the government and the Adani Group.

Scheme to give ₹1,000 to Delhi women to be rolled out in 10-15 days: CM Atishi

**PTI :** Delhi CM Atishi on Friday announced that the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana, to provide monthly assistance of ₹1,000 to women in the city, will be rolled out in the next 10-15 days as the government is working on the registration process. Atishi stated that before the end of the current financial year by March 31, 2025 women will receive one or two installments under this scheme. A supreme Arvind Kejriwal had announced the launch of the scheme on Thursday and promised that the amount would be raised to ₹2,100 if his party returns to power.

'Mahakumbh 2025 to take country's spiritual identity to new heights': PM Modi in Prayagraj



**PTI :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday arrived in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, where he extended his best wishes for the upcoming Mahakumbh 2025, which will take place in the city next month, saying that the event would take the country's cultural and spiritual identity to new heights. Modi said that crores of people from across the country will assemble in the city for the Mahakumbh 2025 with their own beliefs, faiths and thoughts. He added that they will unite on the banks of Sangam (the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the Saraswati rivers), presenting a unique and beautiful representation of the country before the world. "Mahakumbh is a divine festival of our faith, spirituality and culture. I feel fortunate to be on the holy land of Prayagraj to review its preparations and inaugurate various development works," PM Modi said "It is the blessings of Prayagraj and its people that I have had the honour of visiting here time and time again. I had come and taken a dip in the holy waters of sangam in 2019 also," he added.



## Terrible tragedies, says India on murder of 3 Indian students in Canada

**Agencies :** India on Friday described the recent murder of three Indian students in Canada as "terrible tragedies" and urged Canadian authorities to carry out a thorough investigation into the crimes against the backdrop of a sharp deterioration in bilateral ties. "In the last week or so, we have had unfortunate tragedies in Canada – three Indian students have been murdered in violent crimes," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a regular media briefing without giving details of the incidents. "We are saddened by these terrible tragedies that have struck our nationals in Canada," he said, adding that the Indian high commission in Ottawa and consulates in Toronto and Vancouver are following up with Canadian authorities for a thorough investigation into the matter.

## Indian-origin trader in Denmark gets 12-year jail for \$1.2-billion tax fraud

**Agencies :** A 54-year-old Indian-origin British hedge fund trader has been sentenced to 12 years in prison in Denmark after being found guilty of tax fraud that cost the Danish government over \$1.2 billion. The fraud involved a so-called "cum-ex" tax scheme. The sentencing of Sanjay Shah is one of the longest prison sentences in Denmark's history for tax fraud. Shah has appealed in the Danish High Court but will be in custody. Shah, founder of London-based hedge fund Solo Capital Partners, was also handed a permanent entry ban to Denmark and will have assets worth \$1 billion (Danish Krone (DKK) 7.2 billion) seized, including several properties, according to the BBC. Shah, who wore a navy hooded sweatshirt and a red Santa Claus hat in court, remained calm as the judge read out the verdict. The court heard that Shah played a "completely central and controlling role" in the scheme, leading to unjust payments. The crime was described as meticulously planned and organised. However, Shah repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, arguing that he had used legal loopholes, reported the BBC.

## H-1B Visa Approvals For Indian IT Firms Drop By Half Since 2015, More Denials Likely: Report

**Agencies :** The H-1B visa approvals for Indian IT firms have dropped by more than half since 2015, a new study has found. According to an analysis of US data by the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) – a US-based non-partisan think-tank – India's top seven IT firms had only 7,299 H-1B petitions for new employment approved in fiscal year 2024 as opposed to 14,792 approvals in FY15. The Economic Times reported. The H-1B visa is a temporary nonimmigrant visa allotted through a lottery system that offers a route for graduates and skilled workers to work in the US in specialty occupations. Nearly half of the approved H-1B petitions in FY24 (49.1%) were in professional, scientific and technical services, followed by educational services (11.9%), manufacturing (9.3%), health care and social assistance (6.5%). Amazon, which remains the biggest sponsor of H-1B visas, saw 3,871 approvals in FY24, lower than 4,052 in the previous year. Similarly, Indian IT giants like Cognizant (2,837), Infosys (2,504), TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) (1,452) and others also saw a significant drop in H-1B visa approvals, the report stated.

## Dozens killed in Israeli air strike on Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp



**Agencies :** More than 30 Palestinians have been killed and 50 others injured in an Israeli air attack on the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. Medics told the Reuters news agency that a post office sheltering displaced Palestinian families was hit, as well as nearby houses. Photographs from the scene show young children coated with dust and blood in the rubble of a collapsed building. Nuseirat is one of the Gaza Strip's eight historical refugee camps established in 1948 after the forced expulsion of Palestinians from nearby areas, often called the Nakba or "catastrophe".

## Trump invites China's Xi Jinping to his Jan 20 inauguration

**Agencies :** U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has invited Chinese President Xi Jinping to attend his inauguration on January 20, according to his spokesperson. "This is an example of President Trump creating an open dialogue with leaders of countries that are not just our allies but our adversaries and our competitors too," the incoming White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News in an interview on Thursday. "We saw this in the first term. He got a lot of criticism for it, but it led to peace around the world. He is willing to talk to anyone. He will always put America's interest first," she said. Leavitt, however, did not say if the invitation had been accepted by the Chinese president. The White House preferred not to comment on the merit of the invitation. "It is going to be up to President-elect Trump to decide who's going to sit with him there at that inauguration, who's going to be there," John Kirby from the White House told reporters. "We have worked really hard on this most consequential of bilateral relationships. The president met with Xi Jinping a number of times, including recently.

## Trump 'won't do business' with countries that refuse to take back illegal immigrants

**Agencies :** Donald Trump is putting his foot down on mass deportation plans. In his Time magazine's Person of the Year interview published Thursday, the president-elect promised to expel illegal immigrants to their origin countries by military force. The 78-year-old made his decision clear by declaring he "won't do business" with those countries that refuse to take back migrants. "I'll get them into every country, or we won't do business with those countries," the future president said of migrants as he was named Time's 2024 Person of the Year. "I want them out, and the countries have got to take them back, and if they don't take them back, we won't do business with those countries, and we will tariff those countries very substantially," he added.

## US colleges ask foreign students to get to campus before Trump takes office



**Agencies :** With students at many colleges wrapping up final exams this week and preparing for their winter break, a number of schools, including Harvard, USC and Cornell, are advising their international students to return to campus before President-elect Donald J. Trump is inaugurated on January 20. During his last administration, Trump imposed restrictions on entry to the United States from seven majority-Muslim countries. Later in his term, Trump added more countries to the restricted travel list. And he has spoken of wanting to reimpose those restrictions once he is back in the White House. "A travel ban is likely to go into effect soon after inauguration," Cornell's Office of Global Learning warned students on its website late last month, advising them to be back in the United States before the start of spring-semester classes on January 21. "The ban is likely to include citizens of the countries targeted in the first Trump administration: Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Myanmar, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and Somalia. New countries could be added to this list, particularly China and India."



## Sukhbir Badal, other 'guilty' Akali leaders reach Akal Takht after completion of 'tankhah'



**Agencies :** After successfully undergoing religious atonement for 10 days, the former Deputy CM and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and other 'guilty' Akali leaders paid obeisance at the Akal Takht on Friday. Heavy police force and SGPC task force have been deployed for security in and around the Golden Temple complex. In another update on the security aspect, the security was being supervised by the police personnel from other districts. On December 2, five-high priests headed by Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Ragbir Singh pronounced the 'tankhah' from the faseel (podium) of the Akal Takht, as the centuries old precedent goes. The 'guilty' Akalis were made to wear a plaque with Gurbani's inscription pertaining to 'admittance of guilt' on their neck. Sukhbir, other leaders, including SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder and former ministers Gulzar Singh Ranike and Daljit Singh Cheema, performed 'ardas' of penance and offered 'bheta', 'deghe' of karah parshad as per the directions of the Akal Takht. Sukhbir was in a wheelchair as he suffered a hairline fracture on his foot.

## Aujla show organisers fined Rs 1.15 cr by MC

**Agencies :** The Municipal Corporation has slapped a fine of Rs 1.15 crore on event organising firms for violating norms during the December 7 concert of Punjabi singer Karan Aujla at Sector 34 ground. According to the notice issued to Scope Entertainment and Team Entertainment Innovation, nine boards, banners or hoardings of different sizes, measuring total area of 916 sq ft, were displayed at the exhibition ground, Sector 34, without prior permission from the competent authority, which was in violation of the norms of the Chandigarh Advertisement Control Order, 1954. According to clause number 4 of the order, no person shall without the written permission of chief administrator erect, exhibit, fix or retain any advertisement, whether now existing or not, upon any land/building, wall, holding or structure. "As such you are liable to pay the advertisement fee, along with penalty and interest, and the consequences arisen due to this violation," the notice stated.

## BJP's Rekha Sharma elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Haryana

**Agencies :** Former National Commission for Women chairperson and BJP leader Rekha Sharma was declared elected unopposed in the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana after the deadline for withdrawal of nomination ended at 3 pm on Friday. Sharma had filed her nomination for the bypoll from Haryana here on Tuesday. She was the lone candidate in the fray. The BJP had on Monday announced Sharma's name for the December 20 Rajya Sabha bypolls. Accompanied by Haryana minister Mahipal Dhanda and former Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta, Sharma was given certificate by the Returning Officer after being declared elected unopposed. The opposition had not fielded a candidate for the bypolls. In the 90-member Haryana Assembly, the BJP enjoys a majority having 48 members, the Congress has 37 seats, the INLD two while three are Independents. The Independents also support the Nayab Singh Saini government.

## Haryana EVM verification petition should go to Bench that gave verdict in April: SC



**Agencies :** The Supreme Court on Friday said the petition seeking a policy for verification of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the recent Haryana polls should go to the Bench that rejected the demand for re-introduction of paper ballots. "Why doesn't this matter go before the same Bench?" a Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Punjab Varale told senior counsel Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who represented the petitioner. As Sankaranarayanan said the April judgment was on petitions over EVMs, the Bench said, "That is what I am saying. It (plea) should go before the same Bench."

## Bomb threat in 6 Delhi schools triggers panic, second incident this week

**Agencies :** Six schools in Delhi received bomb threats early on Friday, leading to panic and chaos as parents rushed to pick their children up from the schools. This latest wave of threats follows a similar incident on December 9, when at least 44 schools received bomb threats by email. Police had later declared those threats to be hoaxes. A Delhi Fire Services official said the first call regarding the threats came in at 4:21 am, with subsequent calls received throughout the morning. The fire department, police and bomb detection teams, along with dog squads, have reached the schools and are conducting checks, he said. Many parents arriving to drop off their children were seen taking them back from the school gates, while those whose children were already on campus returned to pick them up. The school authorities, meanwhile, shifted to online classes for the day. Rajiv Solanki, chairman of Venkateshwar Global School in Rohini, said, "When we received the email, the first thing we did was inform the police. However, by that time, the students had already started arriving. We immediately dispersed them, informed their parents, and shifted today's classes online from 11 am."

## SC urges medical help for fasting farmer leader Jagjit Dallewal

**Agencies :** Amid deteriorating health parameters of Punjab farm leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal — who has been on fast-unto-death for the last 17 days — the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Punjab Government and the Centre to take immediate steps to ensure that his life was not in danger. Dallewal has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 to press for the acceptance of farmers' demands. "He (Dallewal) must be provided medical aid immediately without forcing him to break his fast...Please have a direct dialogue and communication. His life is more precious than agitations. He is providing leadership...other farmers should support you..." a Bench, led by Justice Surya Kant, told Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

## ISI-backed terror module run by BKI operatives busted: Punjab Police

**Agencies :** The Punjab Police on Friday said it had busted a terror module backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and run by operatives of the proscribed outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). "In a major breakthrough, @PunjabPoliceInd has disrupted a #Pakistan-#ISI-backed terror module run by Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) operative Harvinder Rinda and Harpreet Singh @ Happy Passia and executed by foreign-based gangster Gurdev Singh @ Jaisel @ Pehalwan, a native of village Chambal in #TarnTaran," Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X. He added that acting on intelligence inputs, Jashandeep Singh of Amritsar and a juvenile were nabbed.

## 68 arrested for gambling after raid at Kalka casino

**Agencies :** Panchkula police detective staff, crime branch and anti-narcotics cell arrested 68 people for gambling after conducting a joint raid at a casino in Kalka. The police party recovered 22 bottles of liquor, Rs. 3.69 lakh and 20 vehicles from the site. Sharing further information, police officials said the team of Inspector Nirmal Singh from the detective staff had received a tip-off about the party at The Divine — Once in Nature hotel's casino in Kalka. The joint team raided the location and found people gambling. Police arrested a total of 68 people, including residents of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Nepal. Officials said the organisers did not have the licence or permit to serve liquor and hosting a casino party. During the search, police teams also recovered 22 bottles of liquor.



**Himachal Weather:** Himachal in the grip of cold wave, minimum temperature recorded in minus at 16 places including the plain district Una

**Diary Times Desk :** Due to the fall in the minimum temperature, many plain and mountainous areas of Himachal Pradesh are in the grip of cold wave. Minimum temperature has been recorded in minus at 16 places in the state including the plain district Una. During the last 24 hours, the minimum temperature at most places was 2-3 degrees Celsius below normal. Whereas at some places (middle mountainous areas) it was 1-2 degrees Celsius below normal. Due to a major fall in the minimum temperature, the cold has increased in the morning and evening in most areas of the state. The Meteorological Center Shimla has predicted that the weather will remain clear in all parts of the state till December 19. According to the department, there will be no major change in temperature for the next 48 hours. After this, the minimum and maximum temperatures will gradually increase by 2-3 degrees Celsius in many parts of the state for the next 2-3 days. On the other hand, the third case of death due to cold has come to light in Shimla. In the capital Shimla, a person died due to cold and a woman died due to slipping on ice in the courtyard of the house. The deceased has been identified as Surindra Kumar resident of Bhagwat, Uttarakhand Pradesh.

**Shimla: Vikramaditya Singh met Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, sought cooperation for Bhubhu Jot Tunnel and NH**

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh met Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on Friday.

He thanked the Union Minister for sanctioning Rs 350 crore under CRIF, which will go a long way in improving road connectivity and boosting the economic development of the state.

He also thanked the Minister for the support extended by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for exempting ropeway projects from forest clearance. The Public Works Minister also requested construction of an alternate road up to Ghatasani, Shilha-Badhani-Bhubhujot-Kullu, which will include a tunnel at Bhubhujot, which will reduce the distance by 40 km on NH 144.

## HP High Court: Himachal High Court orders CBI probe in Vaibhav death case, police action also under suspicion



**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh High Court has ordered the investigation of the death of Vaibhav Yadav in Tosh of Kullu district to be handed over to the CBI. Expressing doubts over the investigation of senior police officers, the court has directed the SP and CBI Shimla to immediately register an FIR. A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Tarlok Singh and Justice Satyen Vaidya has asked the DGP to hand over all the records related to the case to the CBI within three days. The court, while scrutinizing all the records, found that the father of the deceased Vaibhav had written a letter to the DGP Himachal informing that his son had been murdered. The police had information about a cognizable offence. Despite that, the police did not register an FIR. The hearing on compliance of the court orders will be held on March 3, 2025. The court has directed the Principal Secretary Home to conduct an inquiry against all those police officers who did not even register an FIR after receiving the complaint. The court said that it is the responsibility of the police officers to register the complaint as soon as it is received and investigate the matter.

### Himachal News: Guest teachers policy not accepted, give permanent employment, youth's anger erupted; submitted a demand letter

**Diary Times Desk :** In the cabinet meeting held on Thursday, the anger of the educated unemployed youth of Himachal Pradesh University erupted against the guest teachers recruitment policy to fill the vacant posts of teachers in schools and colleges. Young students and researchers left the library and protested against the policy for one and a half hours outside the university Vice Chancellor's office. They met Shimla Urban MLA Harish Janartha and Bhoranj MLA Suresh Kumar who had come to attend the university EC meeting. Researchers and youth preparing for competitive examinations also submitted a memorandum to the MLAs. In this, they demanded the state government to immediately withdraw the policy. On this, MLA Harish Janartha told the youth that he himself will talk to the Chief Minister and the Education Minister about this. He will also try to arrange a meeting with the Chief Minister to tell them their objections on this issue. Hundreds of researchers and youth preparing for competitive examinations gathered outside the EC meeting venue outside the university Vice Chancellor's office at around three in the afternoon.

### HP BJP: BJP will roar on 18 December at Zorawar Stadium in Dharamshala, strategy made in the meeting

**Diary Times Desk :** Administrative District Kangra BJP meeting was held on Friday in Circuit House Dharamshala under the chairmanship of State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal. In this important meeting, Kangra-Chamba BJP in-charge, former Assembly Speaker and MLA Vipin Singh Parmar, Himachal Pradesh BJP General Secretary Trilok Kapoor, BJP State General Secretary Bihari Lal Sharma were present. All the major leaders and workers of Administrative District Kangra BJP were present in the meeting. In the meeting, a strategy was prepared to surround Sukhu government on 18 December. All the arrangements were discussed in the meeting. BJP State Vice President and MLA Pawan Kajal, Dharamshala MLA Sudhir Sharma, BJP State Spokesperson Sanjay Sharma, BJP State Media Co-in-charge Advocate Vishwa Chakshu, District Kangra BJP President Sachin Sharma, District Kangra BJP General Secretary Devendra Kohli, former Minister Sarveen Chaudhary, former Rakesh Pathania, BJP candidate Sanjay Guleria, Presidents of all three organizational districts and other BJP leaders and workers were present in this meeting.

## Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said- The government is running away from the opposition, so the session is kept for only four days

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the Sukhu government does not want to talk about the issues of the state. Therefore, it is afraid of facing the opposition. Therefore, the session of the assembly has been kept very short. This time the shortest assembly session in the history of Himachal has been held. How will so many issues of the state be discussed in just four days? How will their issues be resolved. It is being heard that the Chief Minister himself will not be present for two days out of the four days of the session, so what is the session being held for? Shouldn't the session have been held according to the Chief Minister's busy schedule? Public issues are discussed in the House. Solutions to the problems of the state are found, in such a situation, holding a session of the assembly just to complete the quorum is condemnable. Jairam Thakur said that the government should extend the time of the assembly session so that more time can be found. There is a plethora of issues in the state due to the failures of the government. Every section is feeling cheated due to the failures of the government. The government has not been able to fulfill even one of its guarantees. There is looting under the protection of the government everywhere in the state. Power-sponsored corruption is rampant.



**"Suspicious, Requires Investigation": Ding Liren Accused Of 'Deliberately' Losing To D Gukesh**

**Diary Times Desk :** Defending world chess champion Ding Liren was made to rue the 'blunder' he made in the 14th and final game against India's D Gukesh on Thursday. Liren's error of judgment turned out to be a costly one as Gukesh pounced on the mistake to become the youngest world champion in the history of the game. While most of the chess fraternity is elated to see the 18-year-old Gukesh make history, Russian Chess Federation chief Andrei Filatov has accused China's Liren of losing the game on purpose.

**Short TAKES****Matthew Potts replaces Chris Woakes as England's only change for third Test**

**Diary Times Desk :** Matthew Potts will earn his 10th Test cap as England make one change for their final Test against New Zealand at Seddon Park. Chris Woakes, who played the first two Tests, will be the one to miss out. Potts has taken 31 wickets at 29.22 since making his debut in the summer of 2022, playing the first five matches of Ben Stokes' tenure as captain. The first three were against New Zealand, with Potts excelling with 14 wickets. However, after being left out for the returning Ollie Robinson for the second Test of the South Africa series that summer, the Durham quick has found his opportunities limited.

**Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli spend 'best day ever' in Brisbane, feast on scrumptious burgers-fries: 'Bandit and chilli'**

**Diary Times Desk :** Actor Anushka Sharma and her husband-cricketer Virat Kohli had a fun day out in Brisbane, Australia. Taking to Instagram on Friday morning, Anushka shared pictures as the duo visited Bluey's World. In the first still, Anushka shared a photo of their scrumptious meals, which included a burger and fries. She simply wrote, "Best day ever (blue heart emoji)." Anushka also posted a selfie featuring herself and Virat. In the photo, the couple posed and smiled for the camera. Virat held a fry while posing for the picture. For their day out, Anushka wore a white outfit. She was seen wearing an ear shaped headband. Virat was seen in a blue T-shirt and denims. He also wore a red cap. Anushka captioned the post, "Bandit and chilli (blue heart and salute emojis)."

**'It is just a mindset change' - Rahane on recent form**

**Diary Times Desk :** Ajinkya Rahane has been on fire in the ongoing SMAT with five fifties from seven innings. Apart from the mind-boggling consistency, it's the veteran's high strike rate that's stood out. Rahane also produced crucial knocks in a game that Mumbai needed to win to qualify for the knockouts, and then followed it up with successive fifties in the quarterfinal and semifinal. The first two games were all high-scoring games with Mumbai needing to chase 220-plus targets and Rahane came to the fore with aplomb. So, what has changed for Rahane this season? The seasoned pro chose to reply with a simple answer. "It's just a mindset change," said Rahane at the post-match press conference after Mumbai's semi-final win over Baroda.

**Rohit Sharma to return as opener as one major change expected in lineup; India's likely XI vs Australia for 3rd Test**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Border-Gavaskar Trophy continues at the Gabba in Brisbane, as the two teams travel to Queensland at a deadlock having split the first two matches of the series. India's comprehensive victory in the first match at the Optus Stadium in Perth seemed to set them in good stead heading to the Adelaide Oval, but Australia's comeback with the pink ball at their disposal was powerful as they won by 10 wickets thanks to five-fers from Mitch Starc and Pat Cummins and a century by Travis Head. Following a topsy-turvy start to the series, the third match now holds a lot of importance in terms of the larger context of the series. The winner of this match will not only be the favourite to seal the Border-Gavaskar Trophy itself, but also put themselves one step closer to sealing a spot in the World Test Championship finals. Rohit Sharma is expected to return to the top of the order after looking slightly out-of-sorts on his return to the middle order, not troubling the scorers much as he was dismissed cheaply and in tentative fashion in both innings. The captain will try to lead from the front alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal, who will look to find some consistency in run scoring.

**'We will treat it as a three-match series' - Shubman Gill**

**Diary Times Desk :** With the series now tied at 1-1, India will now treat this as a three-match Test series, according to Shubman Gill. Speaking ahead of the third Test at the Gabba, a nostalgic Gill also confirmed that Rohit Sharma didn't attend the practice session since it was an optional one. "Definitely very nostalgic when I came here," Gill said on his return to the venue where his 91 set up India's famous win on the 2020-21 tour. "The whole team was coming and just walking to the stadium again after 2021 win, felt very nostalgic. "Adelaide Test, we didn't do well but the series is still 1-1. We will treat it as a three-match Test series and if we win this one, we will have advantage going into Melbourne and Sydney." On his own form, Gill admitted that not being on strike for a brief period contributed to his downfall in the first innings in Adelaide and picking the pink ball under lights proved to be a problem as well. "One of the challenges is whether you can play the game you want to play, irrespective of what's happening at the other end and irrespective of scorecard. I faltered in the first innings because of what happened at the other end and I take that upon myself. And there was a period when I didn't face much - may be one ball in four overs.

**ICC approves hybrid Champions Trophy model, Pakistan won't travel to India in 2026**

**Diary Times Desk :** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved a hybrid model for the 2025 Champions Trophy, with matches to be hosted in Pakistan and Dubai following an agreement between the PCB and BCCI. Additionally, both boards have reached a consensus on the 2026 T20 World Cup, deciding that Pakistan will not travel to India for the league-stage clash against India, which will instead be held in Colombo. While the PCB will not receive any financial compensation for this arrangement, they have secured hosting rights for an ICC Women's tournament after 2027. The agreement has been well-received by all stakeholders, ensuring smooth planning for these marquee events while addressing logistical and geopolitical concerns. The PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) will host the Champions Trophy in 2025, with Pakistan scheduled to host 10 matches of the tournament. However, all three of India's league matches, including the much-anticipated clash against Pakistan, will be held in Dubai. Additionally, the semifinal and final of the tournament are also slated to take place in Dubai. If India is eliminated after the league stage, the semifinal and final will instead be held in Lahore and Rawalpindi in Pakistan.

