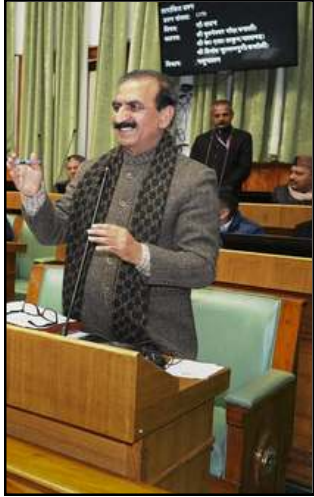


HP Assembly Session: Winter session of the assembly in Tapovan, question hour and zero hour could not be held on the first day



Diary Times Desk : Question hour and zero hour could not be held on the first day of the assembly session. All work has been adjourned due to the adjournment motion brought under rule 67. When the proceedings of the house resumed, BJP MLA Balveer Singh Verma presented his views. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the matter should be presented with facts. The opposition's strategy is lacking. It is necessary for the Leader of the Opposition to be here so that it is known what Randhir Sharma said. The CM said that the adjournment motion on corruption is being discussed and Jairam Thakur is not in the house. He said that some letters from the time of Jairam Thakur are also to be placed here. On this, Randhir Sharma said that Jairam will also come. The speaker said that the talk is going on without sufficient documents. After this, the speaker again adjourned the meeting of the house for ten minutes. During the discussion on the adjournment motion, BJP MLA Randhir Sharma accused the government of scam in liquor tender in the Excise Department, selling land to HRTC at higher rates, irregularities in Tourism Corporation, purchasing substandard cruise in Bilaspur. Meanwhile, Jairam Thakur has again left the House. Vipin Parmar is already at the rally site.

'1 Nation, 1 Poll' Panel Decided, To Include Priyanka Gandhi, Anurag Thakur

Agencies : BJP leaders Anurag Thakur and Anil Baluni, and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be part of the new Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) that will look into the 'One Nation One Poll' matter. The JPC will have 21 MPs from the Lok Sabha, and 10 MPs from the Rajya Sabha. The new JPC has to give a report to parliament by the first day of the last week of the next session. Some of the names in the JPC are Sambit Patra, Supriya Sule, Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Manish Tewari, and Kalyan Banerjee, among others. The JPC will be formed to determine whether the Constitution can be amended to hold national and state elections simultaneously.

"Congress Anti-Ambedkar, Twisted My Words": Amit Shah Amid Massive Row

Agencies : Home Minister Amit Shah – at the centre of a ferocious Congress-led maelstrom following his "Ambedkar is the fashion" quip in Parliament last night – counterattacked Wednesday evening by accusing his rivals of being "anti-Ambedkar" and "anti-Constitution", and "spreading lies". A combative Amit Shah – Prime Minister Narendra Modi's No 2 and one of the most powerful figures in the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party – declared his rivals had "distorted facts" after being stung by "examples of how the Constitution was attacked and wounded by the Congress (when it was in power)". "They (the Congress) have distorted the comment I made in the Rajya Sabha. They made edited versions of Modi's speeches. I request the media to put my full statement in front of the people... I come from a party which follows the ideals of Ambedkar," Mr Shah told reporters.



Muslim residents in Sambhal raze their homes near newly found temple: Report

Agencies : In response, the district administration has deployed CCTV cameras at the site and initiated a widespread anti-encroachment drive, it has been learnt from a Times of India report. This comes amid the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation's continued crackdown on power theft in Sambhal's minority-dominated areas. On Tuesday, a smart meter was installed at the residence of Samajwadi Party MP Zia-Ur Rahman, who had recently been served a notice for alleged illegal construction. The power department has detected power theft in several homes, imposing fines totaling Rs 1.3 crore. The discovery of the Shri Kartik Mahadev Temple, also known as the Bhasma Shankar Temple, took place on December 13 during an anti-encroachment operation. The temple, which houses a Shivaling and an idol of Lord Hanuman, had been locked since the 1978 communal riots that displaced the local Hindu community. The authorities are also planning to reopen a nearby well associated with the temple, known as Amrit Koop. The district administration has also requested the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct carbon dating of both the temple and the well to determine their historical age. The Bhasma Shankar Temple, located in Khaggu Sarai near the Shahi Jama Masjid, is believed to be over 500 years old. Vishnu Shankar Rastogi, an 82-year-old patron of the Nagar Hindu Mahasabha, stated that the temple was once central to the Rastogi community before the 1978 riots forced around 25-30 Hindu families to migrate. This reopening comes as part of a larger administrative push to address encroachments and other issues in the area.

Musk denies Starlink use in Manipur, says satellite beams turned off in India

Agencies : Elon Musk, SpaceX founder, said on Tuesday that "Starlink satellite beams are turned off over India," responding to claims that the device was being used in India's violence-torn northeastern state of Manipur. This follows a raid by combined security forces, during which a Starlink satellite antenna and router were seized, along with advanced rifles. 'Starlink' is a satellite-based internet service developed by SpaceX, designed to provide connectivity to underserved areas worldwide, but it is currently illegal in India. According to a police statement issued on December 13, the Starlink antenna and router were abandoned by armed miscreants when security forces conducted raids in the Keirao Khunou area of Imphal East. "The authorities reported the seizure of one satellite antenna, one internet satellite router.

Farmer who attempted suicide at Shambhu border dies at Patiala hospital: Report

Agencies : A 57-year-old farmer, who allegedly attempted suicide at the Shambhu border during the farmers' protest on December 14, died at the Government Rajindra Hospital on Wednesday, reported news agency PTI. Ranjodh Singh, who hails from Ratanheri village in Ludhiana district, reportedly died by suicide as he was troubled by the deteriorating health of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, farmer leaders claimed. Dallewal has been fasting unto death at the Khanauri border since November 26. Singh is survived by his parents, wife, daughter and a son. He had been participating in the ongoing protest by Punjab farmers at the Shambhu border in support of various demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP for crops. Farmers under the groups of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 after their multiple marches to Delhi were stopped by security forces.



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AIIMS Bilaspur: Second successful kidney transplant in AIIMS Bilaspur, a young man from Kullu got a new life

Diary Times Desk : AIIMS Bilaspur gave a new life to another patient by performing the second successful kidney transplant surgery in just two months. The patient's health has improved after this surgery. The patient's creatinine level became normal after the operation, which shows the success of the surgery and post-operative care. Actually, 22-year-old Prem Singh of Kullu was suffering from a serious kidney problem. AIIMS experts examined him and found that he needed a transplant. After this, the process of his kidney transplant started. His 50-year-old father Mangal Singh donated his kidney to him. The donor's nephrectomy (procedure of removing the kidney) was done using laparoscopic technique. This process is not only safe for the donor, but it also speeds up their recovery. This technique is being used regularly in AIIMS. The medical team of various departments showed excellent coordination in making this surgery successful. Especially in this transplant, the nephrology and urology team worked hard along with other faculty. Along with Bilaspur AIIMS, experts from Delhi AIIMS were also present in this team. The efforts of the hospital team proved that complex health problems can be resolved through cutting-edge technology and dedication. The use of laparoscopic nephrectomy played a key role in the success of this surgery, which made recovery simpler and faster for both donor and patient. The surgical team included Dr. V. Seenu, Dr. Uma Kant Dutt, Dr. Sandeep Singh Sen, Dr. Adarsh, Dr. Nikhil, Dr. Rahul, Dr. Ankit, Dr. Akash. The nephrology team comprised Dr. Sanjay Vikrant, Dr. Ajay Jariyal, Dr. Sridhar, Dr. Shayma who completed the surgery. The anesthesia team comprised Dr. Vijay Laxmi, Dr. Sunil, Dr. Pooja, Dr. Vajiyanti. The OT scrub nursing team comprised Sonal, Apoorva, Nisha, Tabia, Aparna, Deepak.

Big worry for India as Donald Trump issues strong warning, threatens to impose...

Agencies : Donald Trump, the upcoming President of the United States, has threatened to impose reciprocal taxes on India. He stated that if India imposes taxes on American products, the U.S. will impose equivalent taxes on Indian products. Trump reiterated his intention to introduce reciprocal tariffs in response to what he described as "high tariffs" levied by India on certain U.S. imports. While speaking to the media, Trump said, "Reciprocal. If they tax us, we will tax them equally. They tax us. We will tax them." He further added, "They impose taxes on us, in almost every case. They tax us, and we don't tax them." Trump said the US is liberal when it comes to tariffs, but countries like China, Brazil and India impose high tariffs. He said India imposes the highest tariffs and American businesses have cited high tariffs as a challenge in the Indian market.

Amit Shah's 'next 15 years' prediction for Mallikarjun Kharge: 'My resignation won't change...'

Agencies : BJP leader Amit Shah on Wednesday reacted to Mallikarjun Kharge's demand for his resignation as the union home minister, saying it won't make a difference to the Congress's poll prospects. "Kharge ji is asking for my resignation. If it would have made him happy, I would have resigned, but it will not end his problems because he will have to sit in the same place (in the opposition) for the next 15 years. My resignation will not change that," he said. Kharge demanded Amit Shah's resignation over the latter's remark on Dalit icon BR Ambedkar in Rajya Sabha. During a debate in the Rajya Sabha, Amit Shah said the Congress had made it a fashion to take Ambedkar's name repeatedly. "If they had taken the name of God so many times instead of Ambedkar, they would have got heaven for seven lives," he said, triggering a massive row. The Congress chief asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sack Amit Shah by midnight if he respects BR Ambedkar. "We demand that Amit Shah should apologize, and if PM Modi has faith in Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, then he should be sacked by midnight... He has no right to remain in the cabinet, he should be sacked only then people will remain silent, otherwise, people will protest.

Rahul Gandhi claims 2 Cong workers killed due to 'excessive police force' in UP, Assam

Agencies : Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday alleged that two Congress workers died due to "excessive police force" in Uttar Pradesh and Assam, both currently ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "Democracy and Constitution have been murdered again in BJP ruled Assam and Uttar Pradesh. The Congress party is conducting satyagraha in support of Babasaheb and the Constitution across the country. During this, the death of our Congress workers Mridul Islam in Guwahati and Prabhat Pandey in Lucknow due to excessive police force is very sad and condemnable," Gandhi claimed in an X post. "I offer my deepest condolences to their grieving loved ones. These families deserve full justice. The lions of Congress will continue to fight for truth and the Constitution," he added. According to a PTI report, the Congress was staging protest against several issues including Manipur violence and bribery charges against Gautam Adani in Guwahati.

Himachal High Court: CBI will investigate the matter of demanding bribe to settle the Chitta case

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh High Court has ordered a CBI inquiry against police officers for demanding money to settle the chitta case in Balh of Mandi district. Serious allegations have been made against senior police officers in the petition. The court has directed the CBI Superintendent of Police to immediately register a criminal report on FIR number 106/2024 and take the investigation to its logical conclusion. A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Tarlok Singh and Justice Satyen Vaidya ordered the DGP to hand over all the records related to the case to the CBI within three days. The court has also asked the Chief Secretary to take action against the concerned police officers. The court has said in its decision that the police has not complied with the guidelines issued by the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court in Lalita Kumari vs UP. The petitioner's advocate showed the video of the incident in the court. In this, some police officers in plain clothes are found keeping chitta in the car and taking the accused.



Betting App Promoted By Indian Celebs Owned By Pak National: Sources

Agencies : A betting app racket being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is owned by a Pakistan national, sources have said. This is for the first time the ED discovered a Pakistani angle in the Magicwin betting app case. Money was sent from India to Pakistan via Dubai, sources said. Actors and celebrities from both big and small screens had promoted Magicwin on social media. The ED has already questioned actors Mallika Sherawat and Pooja Banerjee. Two other celebrities have been summoned by the ED this weekend, sources said, adding that in the coming week at least seven more celebrities will be summoned. The investigators found that Magicwin is a betting website which has been shown as a gaming website. It is being operated by Indian nationals living in Dubai, sources said, adding the betting games available on the website were run in the Philippines and other countries where betting is legal. The API of the games is copied from other sources and rebroadcast on Magicwin, sources said. This betting app has many social media accounts which it uses to promote itself in India.



Himachal: Himachal Pradesh Assembly shifted to national e-Vidhan application NeVA, proceedings can be viewed anywhere

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly has shifted from Tapovan e-Vidhan system to National e-Vidhan Application NeVA. On the first day of winter session on Wednesday, Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur inaugurated the new system in the Vidhan Sabha. Now the proceedings, functioning and activities of the Vidhan Sabha of Himachal Pradesh can be seen at the national level as well. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs 8.13 crore for the establishment of NeVA. The Chief Minister announced the implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in Tapovan Vidhan Sabha. The Chief Minister said that like e-Vidhan, NeVA is also a modern and environment friendly system, which will bring speed, efficiency and transparency in work. The Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha said that with the implementation of National e-Vidhan Application, today our level has become national from state. With the implementation of NeVA, our Vidhan Sabha has also come on the same platform like Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and other Vidhan Sabhas.

Himachal School Education Board: Don't worry if you fail in Mathematics, the result will come soon

Diary Times Desk : The result of the candidates who scored less marks in Mathematics subject in the annual examinations of Himachal Pradesh School Education Board to be held in March 2025 will come near. The School Education Board has given this relief to the candidates who have come to HP Board from CBSE for the academic session 2024-25. After this, no such relief will be provided to the candidates in the next academic session. During the academic session 2024-25, many CBSE candidates have taken admission in class 11th and 12th in many schools affiliated to Himachal Pradesh School Education Board in the state. Many of these candidates are those who have opted for Mathematics subject in class 11th and 12th. Mathematics subject is taught at the basic level in CBSE, which is considered easy. In contrast, the study of mathematics is a bit difficult in schools affiliated to HP Board. In such a situation, CBSE has given relief to the candidates taking admission in schools affiliated to HP Board. Their exam result will be passing. In the next academic session 2025-26, the Education Board will not give this relief, rather the candidates coming from CBSE Board to HP Board will also have to pass the Mathematics subject.

California Almonds: California almonds make Himachal's gardeners rich, the horticulture department has prepared plants

Diary Times Desk : For the first time, the gardeners of Himachal will become rich by planting California almonds. The Horticulture Department has prepared 20 thousand grafted and 36 thousand root stock plants of California almonds. Two years ago, almond plants were imported from California under the World Bank funded Horticulture Development Project. After the completion of the quarantine period, the department is now making these plants available to the gardeners. The gardeners of the state can get these plants from the Fruit Progeny and Demonstration Centers (PCDO) of the Horticulture Department. California almonds start yielding two years after planting. In this variety, flowering starts from the third week of February and the crop is ready by the end of August. The kernels are of medium to large size. Its quality and taste is excellent. Its peel is as thin as paper.



Himachal Weather: Many districts of Himachal are in the grip of cold wave, orange-yellow alert for four days

Diary Times Desk : Many districts of Himachal Pradesh are in the grip of cold wave. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, cold wave is expected at different places in the lower hilly and plain areas for the next six days. Cold wave has been recorded in Una, Hamirpur, Mandi and Sundarnagar during the last 24 hours. The department has issued an orange-yellow alert for severe cold wave in some areas of Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Una, Chamba Kangra and Mandi districts during 19 to 22 December. On the other hand, the minimum temperature has been recorded in minus at seven places in the state and zero at three places. The Meteorological Center Shimla has predicted dry weather in the state for the next seven days. However, light rain and snowfall may occur today at one or two places in the high mountainous areas of Chamba and Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu districts. The weather is forecast to remain clear in other parts till December 24. There will be no major change in the minimum and maximum temperatures for the next 24 hours.

Himachal Tourism: Himachal will be full of tourists, 50 percent advance booking in hotels for Christmas-New Year

Diary Times Desk : Himachal's tourist spots will be bustling with tourists to celebrate Christmas and New Year. Tourists will start arriving on the weekend before Christmas from December 21 itself and will continue till the first week of January. Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala, Kufri, Narkanda, Kasauli, Chail, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti are getting the most inquiries for Christmas and New Year. Up to 50 percent advance booking has been done in the hotels of big groups of the state. Hoteliers and travel agents have started special preparations due to the possibility of a large number of tourists arriving in Himachal during the winter tourist season. Hotel operators have started arranging additional staff for the season that will last for about 15 to 20 days. Travel agents are arranging additional vehicles so that vehicles can be made available for transporting tourists and for site seeing. Private hotel operators and Tourism Development Corporation have made special arrangements for Christmas and New Year parties. Food festivals will be organized in the hotels of Tourism Development Corporation during this period. Additional Volvo buses will be operated from Delhi to Shimla, Manali and other tourist destinations. HRTC will also run additional Volvo buses from Delhi to tourist destination.

Cement Prices Hike: Cement is expensive again in Himachal, prices increased by five to 20 rupees, now it will be available at this price

Diary Times Desk : Cement has become expensive again in Himachal. Dealers have increased the prices by 5 to 20 rupees per bag. However, dealers are saying that the reason for the increase in prices is the discontinuation of discounts by the company. ACC cement seller Pawan Barur said that ACC Suraksha Cement was earlier being sold at Rs 430 per bag, which will now be available at Rs 440. ACC Gold will be available at Rs 485 instead of 480. Ambuja cement seller Rohit Sharma said that earlier Ambuja cement was being sold at Rs 435 per bag. Now the price has increased to Rs 455. According to dealers, earlier companies used to create different zones and give them discounts, due to which they were able to sell cement to customers at discounted rates. Recently the companies have stopped the discounts. Now they have to increase the prices due to reduced profits.

Una: Woman dies during operation in a private hospital in Rakkad Colony, case registered on complaint of family members

Diary Times Desk : A woman from Punjab died during an operation late Tuesday night in a private hospital located in Rakkad Colony adjacent to Una, the district headquarters of Himachal Pradesh. Regarding the woman's death, the family has made serious allegations against a female gynecologist posted at the Regional Hospital Una. On receiving information about the ruckus in the private hospital, SHO Una Sadar Manoj Walia reached the spot with the police team and controlled the situation. The woman's husband Mohinder Singh said that on Monday he had brought his wife Jaswinder Kaur (52) to the Regional Hospital Una for treatment. The gynecologist doctor posted there told that his wife had a tumor in her stomach and said that the operation would be done on Tuesday and gave him his mobile number and asked him to tell the time in the evening. In the evening, when his daughter called the female doctor, her husband picked up the phone and asked her to come to the regional hospital at 10:00 am and also advised her to make only WhatsApp calls.

Starlink Device Found In Manipur Not Working, Incompatible: Forensics

Agencies : A Starlink dish and router recovered by the security forces from insurgents in Manipur are non-functional and incompatible in the state bordering Myanmar, sources in the central intelligence agencies have said based on their investigation. "The devices had definitive markings of Starlink, but when we got it examined, we came to know that it is not compatible in this region," a senior officer told NDTV, requesting anonymity. The army handed over the device to the Department of Telecommunications and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology for forensics analysis, the officer said. "Initial reports suggest that they were not operative. The report is, however, being analysed further." The forensic reports are being tallied by the state and the Centre. Starlink, owned by billionaire Elon Musk's aerospace company SpaceX, is the world's first and largest satellite constellation using a low Earth orbit to deliver broadband internet anywhere in the world where the service is licenced to operate.

Don't delay medical aid, time is critical: Supreme Court on farmer leader's fast

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Punjab government to ensure medical aid for Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on an indefinite fast at the Punjab-Haryana border for 20 days, and said that human life was more precious than anything else. Dallewal, 70, has been on an indefinite fast at the Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 to press the Centre into accepting the agitating farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) on crops. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan also clarified that the farmers can directly place their demands before the court instead of making representation to the high-powered Committee if they want and said, "We have opened our platform to help them be heard." During the hearing, advocate General Gurminder Singh told the bench that meetings were held between Punjab authorities, the Union's representative and Dallewal, but he refused to undergo medical tests and that the farmers declined to interact with the committee. Expressing concern over the age of Dallewal undertaking his fast.

Flights, Border, Trade: India, China Resume Talks To Ease Tensions



Agencies : India, China Special Representatives for the border mechanism, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met here on Wednesday to discuss a range of issues, including management of peace and tranquillity along LAC and restoration of bilateral ties frozen for over four years due to the military standoff in eastern Ladakh. Mr Doval, who is heading the Indian delegation, arrived here on Tuesday to take part in the 23rd round of the Special Representatives' talks being held after a gap of five years. The last meeting was held in 2019 in Delhi. The talks began at 10 am China time. The two officials were expected to discuss a range of issues to rebuild the bilateral ties following the October 21 agreement of disengagement and patrolling in eastern Ladakh between the two countries. On Tuesday, China expressed optimism about the talks saying that it is ready to work with India to implement the commitments based on the common understandings.

Punjab 'rail roko' protest begins; here are the affected routes

Agencies : Protesting farmers halted trains in Punjab on Wednesday to lodge their protest and press their demands for a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops among other things. A group of 100 farmers' representatives who were going to New Delhi to press their demands were recently stopped by the Haryana Police by bursting teargas shells and water cannons and this latest bid to halt trains in Punjab to lodge their protest is bound to lead to more trouble even as passengers are expected to face inconvenience. Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher announced.

Ex JNU Student Leader Umar Khalid, In Jail Since 2020, Granted 7-Day Interim Bail

Agencies : Former Jawaharlal Nehru University student leader Umar Khalid has been granted interim bail by a city court in a "larger conspiracy" case linked to the 2020 Delhi riots. Mr Khalid has been granted a seven-day interim bail to attend a family wedding. He will have to return to jail after the interim bail period ends. The former JNU student leader has been denied regular bail several times. He was arrested in September 2020, seven months after the riots in Delhi that killed 53 and injured over 700. The violence had erupted during the protests against the CAA.

Free Treatment For Senior Citizens At All Delhi Hospitals: Arvind Kejriwal

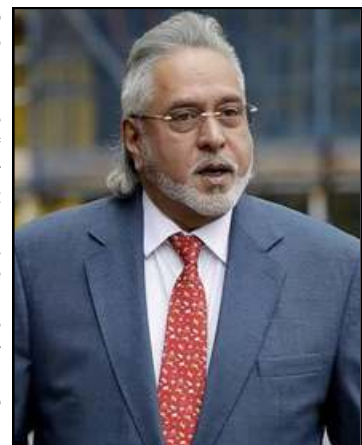
Agencies : Ahead of Delhi elections in February next year, the (AAP) today announced free treatment for senior citizens at all government and private hospitals. Party chief Kejriwal said people above the age of 60 will be treated for free as part of the 'Sanjeevani Yojana' once his party retains power in the national capital. "It is now our duty to take care of you. You people have worked hard to take the country forward," the former Delhi chief minister said. The AAP has released the names of its candidates for all 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly. Mr Kejriwal has confirmed that he will contest from his New Delhi seat in the upcoming polls while Chief Minister Atishi will fight from her Kalkaji constituency. There will be no upper limit on the cost of treatment. Registration for this will start in a day or two. AAP workers will come to your home for registration. They will give you a card, keep it safe. Once we come into power after the elections, this policy will be implemented," Mr Kejriwal said.

J&K: Former DSP among 6 killed after fire breaks out at house in Kathua

Agencies : A house caught fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Wednesday morning, resulting in six people suffocating to death, including a former deputy superintendent of police and his three-year-old grandson, reported PTI. Four other people injured in the incident were undergoing treatment in a hospital. According to police, locals noticed the house on fire around 2:30am and rushed to rescue its occupants. The house was filled with thick smoke, suffocating its occupants in their sleep, according to the news agency.

15,000 Crore Of Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi's Assets Restored To Banks: Centre

Agencies : Properties worth ₹ 14,131 crore - that once belonged to Vijay Mallya - have been seized and handed to public and private sector banks to pay off a part of the fugitive businessman's substantial debts, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament Tuesday. Ms Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha the Enforcement Directorate had, in total, restored properties worth ₹ 22,280 crore to pay back debts of wanted individuals like Mr Mallya, Mehul Choksi, and Nirav Modi, and that the fight against economic offenders is set to continue. The restored sum includes ₹ 1,052 crore from Mr Modi and ₹ 2,565 crore from Mr Choksi. A sum of ₹ 17.5 crore in the National Spot Exchange Ltd, or NSEL, case was also restored. "In money laundering cases, the ED has successfully restored properties valued at ₹ 22,280 crore... we have not left anyone. Even if they fled the country, we have gone after them." "... it is important to recognise we have not left (out) anybody. We will make sure the money... which has to go back to banks... will go back," Ms Sitharaman declared.



Biden breaks silence on mystery drone sightings after Trump's scathing allegations

Agencies : Joe Biden has finally addressed the controversy surrounding the mystery drone sightings across the United States, particularly in New Jersey. Upon being queried by reporters at the White House on Tuesday, the president assured that there's "nothing nefarious" about the drones that have been spotted in recent weeks. "Nothing nefarious, apparently, but they're checking it all out," the commander-in-chief said of the unmanned flying objects, adding that while the authorities are "following this closely," there is "no sense of danger" so far. Biden's statement comes a day after Donald Trump accused his administration of covering up the drone mystery amid the puzzling increase in their sightings. During a press conference at Mar-a-Lago on Monday, the president-elect alleged that the "government knows what is happening," referring to the drone controversy. "Look, our military knows where they took off from — if it's a garage, they can go right into that garage. They know where it came from and where it went, and for some reason, they don't want to comment," Trump added.

Turkey-Backed Syria Forces Aim to Push on Against Kurdish Groups

Agencies : Turkey-backed forces are aiming to capture more territory in northern Syria from Kurdish groups, according to Turkish officials familiar with the matter, a move that could stir tensions with the US. Turkey and the Syrian National Army, which is funded and advised by Ankara, are taking advantage of the collapse of the Assad regime, the people said. The SNA will likely try to capture areas to the west of Ayn al-Arab, also known as Kobani by its mostly Kurdish inhabitants, said the people, who aren't authorized to speak publicly. The SNA has seized two northwestern towns since late November from the Syrian Democratic Forces, a Kurdish group that has been a key ally in the US's fight against Islamic State. The military push in the wake of Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad's downfall is in line with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's long-term goals. Erdogan wants to create a buffer zone along the Turkey-Syria border.

US announces H-1B visa overhaul to fill jobs faster; Indians likely to benefit most



Agencies : In what would cheer hundreds of thousands of Indians, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced a final rule to modernise the H-1B visa programme, enabling US companies to fill critical job vacancies more effectively. The updated rule, which takes effect on January 17, 2025, will streamline the approval process, provide greater flexibility for employers to retain top talent, and strengthen the integrity and oversight of the programme. This move is likely to benefit Indians the most. In recent years, Indians have cornered a lion's share of H-1B visas. The update would also benefit Indian students on F-1 visas in the US as the new rules seek to help them transition to jobs.

"We're Out Of Control": Plane Loses Altitude, Crashes Into Building In US

Agencies : A Cessna 208 passenger aircraft lost control and crashed in an industrial area near the Honolulu Airport today in Hawaii, United States. A video showed the aircraft, which was on a training flight, rapidly losing altitude and taking a sharp left before crashing into a vacant building. Preston Kaluhiwa - a passenger - and Hiram deFries, a 22-year-old trainee pilot, died in the incident. The aircraft, operated by Kamala Air, was up in flames after the crash, followed by a large plume of smoke. The Honolulu Fire Department, the cops and the city's emergency management department rushed to the spot. No other casualties were reported. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has opened an investigation into the crash. A witness told the local media that "he heard a loud crash and saw a plane on fire." "I was working and all of a sudden had a loud, one big boom, and I looked out and there were just some freaking clouds of smoke and my coworkers told me a plane crashed right next to our building."

Justin Trudeau Tries To Brush Off Deputy PM Chrystia Freeland's Exit As Festive Family Spat

Agencies : A defiant Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, all smiles at his political party's end-of-year festivities, tried to downplay the most serious challenge yet facing his leadership. "Like most families, sometimes we have fights around the holidays," Trudeau told a gathering for his Liberal Party's 153 lawmakers and their staffers in Ottawa on Tuesday. "But of course, like most families, we find our way through it. You know, I love this country, I deeply love this party, I love you guys, and love is what families are all about." That was a glancing reference to the exit of his longtime trusted Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, one day after she shocked the country by publishing a scathing resignation letter instead of delivering an expected fiscal update. The letter slammed Trudeau for "costly political gimmicks" at the expense of preparing for a tariff war with Donald Trump.

"Not An Ordinary Killing": UnitedHealthcare CEO's Murder Suspect Charged

Agencies : US authorities on Tuesday charged the man suspected of gunning down a health insurance CEO in New York earlier this month with murder, including a charge of second-degree murder "as an act of terrorism." Mangione, 26, is accused of shooting UnitedHealthcare chief executive Brian Thompson on a Manhattan street on December 4, triggering a nationwide manhunt that ended last week when he was spotted at a Pennsylvania McDonald's. The former data engineer remains jailed in that state as he fights efforts to extradite him to New York to face charges there over the killing, which brought into focus widespread public anger against the US health care system. Mangione "is charged with one count of murder in the first degree and two counts of murder in the second degree, including one count of murder in the second degree as an act of terrorism," said Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg. Bragg said the terrorism charge was included because the shooting met the prerequisites for such a determination under New York law. "In its most basic terms, this was a killing that was intended to evoke terror and we've seen that reaction," he said. "This was not an ordinary killing." The maximum penalty for the murder charges Mangione faces is life in prison without parole, Bragg said.

Israel, Hamas "Days Away" From Finalising Gaza Ceasefire, Hostage Deal

Agencies : After over a year of deadly war in Gaza, a ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas seems closer than ever before. With talks in Cairo making progress, an agreement to halt the 14-month-old war in the Palestinian enclave and free hostages could be signed in the coming days, according to media reports. For months, Qatar and Egypt along with the United States have been trying to mediate between Israel and Hamas in the quest for a Gaza truce and hostage release. With US President Joe Biden set to leave the office next month, the American administration intensified efforts to broker a deal to halt the conflict. "We believe - and the Israelis have said this - that we're getting closer, and no doubt about it, we believe that, but we also are cautious in our optimism," White House spokesperson John Kirby said in an interview with Fox News. "We've been in this position before where we weren't able to get it over the finish line," he added.



Amid deadlock, farmers give call for 'Punjab Bandh' on December 30



Agencies : As the deadlock persists between the Centre and protesting farmers over various demands, the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha and Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) on Wednesday gave a call for 'Punjab Bandh' on December 30. Train services in Punjab were affected as farmers, who are protesting to press the Centre for accepting their demands, including a legally binding minimum support price for crops, squatted on rail tracks as part of the three-hour 'Rail Roko' protest on Wednesday. Kisan Mazdoor Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said farmers had squatted on rail tracks at many places from noon to 3 pm. The farmers alleged that the Centre is determined to sell the country's agriculture and public institutions to corporate houses. "A call for a Punjab Bandh is being given for December 30, against the atrocities of the Central government. Emergency services will remain operational," reads a statement released by the farmer unions. Meanwhile, farmer Ranjit Singh reportedly died at Shambhu border amid farmers' protest by consuming a poisonous substance, farmer leaders said. The farmers demanded Rs 25 lakh aid for the deceased farmer's family, complete debt waiver, and a government job for a family member.

Anti-drug drive gains momentum, 41% villages, wards drug-free

Agencies : The anti-drug campaign initiated by the Haryana Police is making significant progress, with nine villages in Charkhi Dadri district becoming the latest to declare themselves drug-free. Panchayats in these villages have taken a proactive stand, turning the fight against drugs into a people's movement. Boards reading 'Hamara Gaon Nasha Mukh Hai' have been put up at village entrances as a proud declaration. The villagers are committed to ensuring no youth falls prey to substance abuse and that drug-related activities are eliminated. According to a press note, residents are actively cooperating with the police to monitor and prevent drug use or sales within their communities. Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) Shatrueet Kapur commended the efforts of Charkhi Dadri Superintendent of Police (SP) Arsh Verma and his team for this impactful initiative. Jitender Kumar, sarpanch of Jaishri village, praised the Haryana Police's anti-drug initiative, calling it a unique effort motivating the youth to steer clear of drugs. "The sports activities organised by the police have been instrumental in keeping the youth engaged and physically active," he said.

Badshah's convoy fined Rs 15,500 for wrong-side driving in Gurugram

Agencies : The Gurugram traffic police have issued a challan of Rs 15,500 to a Thar from rapper Badshah's convoy for driving on the wrong side of the road. Although the vehicle is not registered in Badshah's name, the rapper was traveling in it. According to the police, Badshah was attending Punjabi singer Karan Aujla's concert at Airia Mall on Sohna Road on Sunday. Due to a heavy traffic jam, the Thar and two other cars in his convoy used the wrong side of the road to reach the venue. The incident came to light when videos of the convoy driving on the wrong side were posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter). The posts quickly went viral, prompting the Gurugram traffic police to act. In a post on X, the traffic police confirmed the challan, stating, "A challan has been issued and action has been taken for rash driving, playing loud music in the vehicle and driving on the wrong side." Traffic Inspector Sohna Road said, "The challan was issued as per the rules under the Motor Vehicles Act and a fine of Rs 15,500 was imposed."

HC ends 16-year dispute: No right to fell trees on forest land despite ownership

Agencies : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has settled a 16-year-old legal controversy by holding that even if individuals are lawful owners of land classified as protected forest, they cannot fell trees on such land due to overriding environmental concerns and statutory prohibitions. The judgment is significant as it underscores the primacy of environmental protection laws, specifically Section 35 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The dispute began in 2008 when plaintiffs, who claimed to own land marked as protected forest, asked the court to restrain forest authorities from preventing the cutting of eucalyptus (safeda) trees on the land. The trial court dismissed their suit, and the decision was upheld by the first appellate court later that year. The plaintiffs then approached the high court through a regular second appeal, challenging the concurrent findings.

Noise levels breached during Diljit Dosanjh concert, UT submits affidavit in HC

Agencies : The Union Territory of Chandigarh has told the Punjab and Haryana High Court that noise levels exceeded permissible limits during Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh's concert held on December 14. In an affidavit submitted before a Division Bench, the UT said action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the Noise Pollution Rules has been proposed through a letter dated December 16. "During the musical event of performer Diljit Dosanjh held on December 14, the noise levels were monitored at various locations and it was observed that the noise level exceeded the limits prescribed under The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, the 2000. Accordingly, action under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, has been proposed vide letter dated December 16." The affidavit comes less than a week after court directive imposing strict noise control measures for public events.

Dhillon concert venue shifted from Sector 34 to Sec 25

Agencies : Taking note of inconvenience faced by local residents and businessmen during the recent concerts in Sector 34, the UT Administration has decided to shift the venue for Punjabi singer AP Dhillon's show on December 21 to the Rally Ground in Sector 25. Local traders and residents had complained of traffic chaos, noise pollution and loss of business during the live concerts of Punjabi singers Karan Aujla on December 7 and Diljit Dosanjh on December 14 in Sector 34. Permission for holding Dhillon's concert at the Exhibition Ground was already granted by the administration. Keeping in view inconvenience caused to residents by such shows, the administration has decided not to hold huge gatherings in Sector 34 in future. Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said, "We have decided to shift the venue of AP Dhillon's concert from Sector 34 to Sector 25 and also informed the organisers about the change of venue." After two major shows in Sector 34, which is located in the centre of the city, the administration had received several complaints about traffic congestion, noise pollution and loss of businesses, stated that DC.

TiE Chandigarh and Chandigarh Angels Network ink MoU to promote entrepreneurship

Agencies : TiE Chandigarh and Chandigarh Angels Network (CAN) on Wednesday entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide start-ups with funding, mentoring, incubating, and educating. The collaboration aims to bridge the gap between innovative start-ups and potential investors while creating a supportive ecosystem for business growth. It also seeks to empower start-ups from diverse sectors, irrespective of their revenue stage—pre-revenue or post-revenue. On the occasion, TiE Chandigarh president Satish Kumar Arora said, "By combining TiE Chandigarh's extensive network with CAN's investment expertise, we aim to create a thriving hub for innovation." The MoU will provide start-ups with access to a network of investors, including chapter members of TiE Chandigarh, enabling them to secure capital for scaling their ventures. Also, an exclusive link will be generated for start-ups to submit their funding requirements, enhancing visibility and accessibility to potential investors. Beyond funding, the collaboration offers start-ups mentorship, networking opportunities, and incubation support to fast-track their journey to success. Chandigarh Angels Network president Ajay Tewari said, "We are thrilled to collaborate."

CA storage capacity of HPMC more than doubled in two years: Sukhu

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that the state government had more than doubled the controlled atmosphere (CA) storage capacity of the Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC), which would immensely benefit fruit growers. Sukhu said that in the past two years, the total CA storage capacity had increased from 3,380 MT before 2023 to 8,260 MT in seven CA stores in the state. "With this initiative, thousands of families associated with the horticulture sector are getting benefited, as they are now getting better prices for their produce during the off-season," he added. This showed the commitment of the state government towards ensuring the welfare of horticulturists and farmers, he claimed. Sukhu said that the HPMC had expanded its infrastructure to support the agriculture sector. The capacity of the Gumma CA store had been increased from 640 MT to 2,017 MT while that of the Jarol-Tikker CA store had increased to 2,062 MT from 640 MT.

Kiratpur-Manali NH to have 27 foot over bridges for safer crossing

Diary Times Desk : In a significant move to enhance pedestrian safety and resolve traffic-related issues, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to construct 27 foot over bridges along the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane highway. The decision aims to provide a safer crossing for pedestrians, especially in densely populated areas, and reduce road accidents. Construction work for 18 of these foot over bridges has already begun with an estimated cost of around Rs 14.60 crore. Due to lack of foot over bridges on this highway, people have to risk their lives to cross the busy highway. The absence of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure is particularly challenging for school children, the elderly and locals who have no choice but to cross the busy highway at unsafe points. The introduction of these foot over bridges will offer a safe alternative and improve the flow of traffic, eliminating the need for long waits and reducing potential accidents.

BJP holds Jan Akorsh rally in Dharamsala



Diary Times Desk : Former CM and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur while addressing a 'Jan Akorsh' rally of BJP at the Zorawar Singh stadium in Dharamsala on Wednesday said that the Congress government has lost moral right to continue in power. Thakur while addressing the rally said that in the last two years of the Congress rule, the party has pushed the state and its people to an edge. The BJP was now ready to push the present government out of power with the support of people. The Congress recently celebrated its two years in power. Despite efforts of the state leadership of the party, none of the senior Congress leaders from the Centre participated in the rally. This clearly illustrated that even they were not happy with the working of the present state government, he said. The BJP leader further said that people are repenting electing the Congress. The state government spent Rs 25 crore on its rally to celebrate its two years in power but it did not have money to pay salaries to outsourced employees in the state. The outsourced employees in the state have not got salary for the past 5 months, Thakur said.

House debates over corruption in Himachal Pradesh

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday debated the issue of corruption in the state with the ruling and Opposition members levelling allegations and counter allegations against each other. As soon as the winter session of Himachal Pradesh Assembly started today at 11 am, the BJP MLA from Naina Devi Randhir Sharma demanded a discussion on an adjournment motion moved by him under Rule 67 of the Himachal Assembly conduct rules. Randhir had moved an adjournment motion demanding discussion of the issue of corruption in the last two years of the Congress rule. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu accepted the proposal. The Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania urged the BJP MLA to take up the issue after Question Hour. Randhir, while initiating the debate, alleged that issue of purchase of private land by two individuals were close to CM at a cost of Rs 2.60 lakh. The land was later acquired by the Himachal Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (HPRTC) at a cost of Rs 6.72 crore. The CM, replying to the allegation, said that the issue was being raised due to infighting in the BJP. He added that people who purchased land were close to a BJP MP. The CM said that the two individuals had purchased the land in question for Rs 2.6 lakh in the year 2015.

Congress protests against 'policies' of Modi-led regime



Diary Times Desk : The Congress on Wednesday staged a protest outside the Raj Bhawan against the Union government's alleged pro-corporate and discriminatory attitude with Himachal Pradesh. The protest was led by Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president Pratibha Singh. The workers raised slogans against the Prime Minister for allegedly favouring corporate houses like Adani. The Congress leader said the Centre was allegedly making changes in the rules just to benefit one corporate house. State Mahila president Janeb Chandel and Municipal Corporation Mayor Surinder Chauhan were also present.

Tourist dies after falling into Chandra river while taking selfie in Lahaul-Spiti

Diary Times Desk : A tragic incident occurred on Tuesday evening when a tourist fell into the Chandra river while attempting to take a selfie near Fumman nullah in Lahaul and Spiti district. The deceased was identified as Nikhil Kumar Vothra (28), a resident of Badmer, Rajasthan. Upon receiving the information, a police team from the Kokasar police check-post immediately rushed to the scene. Despite an extensive search operation by the district police and local rescue teams that lasted until late evening, the missing person could not be located due to darkness. Lahaul and Spiti SP Mayank Chaudhary said a joint team, led by Deputy SP Raj Kumar, was constituted to continue the search. The team comprised district police's quick response team (QRT), Atal Tunnel police, NDRF, local rescue teams, Sissu rescue team, Manali mountaineering rescue team, rafting team and fire brigade. The search operation commenced at 8 am in the freezing temperature of -13°C, after previous efforts were made under -19°C conditions. "After hours of searching, Nikhil's body was found at around 10:30 am. The body was located approximately 500 m from the site in the river. The authorities have initiated further legal proceedings, and the body was sent for post-mortem at Keylong district before being handed over to the family," the SP said.



R Ashwin announces retirement from international cricket

Diary Times Desk : Indian off-spinner R Ashwin officially announced his retirement from all formats of international cricket during a press conference at the Gabba on Wednesday. Accompanied by captain Rohit Sharma, Ashwin confirmed that this marked his last day as an Indian cricketer following the conclusion of the third Test in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which ended in a draw. Ravichandran Ashwin had played a significant role in India's previous two series wins in Australia, and although his playing only one of the three Tests this time suggested a great career nearing its end, his retirement announcement in the middle of the series came as a surprise on Wednesday. The 38-year-old, who did not play in Brisbane where India had just fought to draw amid the many rain interruptions, walked into the media conference with skipper Rohit Sharma. Taking the mike first he announced his farewell to international cricket. With Rohit seated beside him, Ashwin said: "I really didn't want to make this about myself. Honestly, it would have been better if Bumrah or Akash Deep was here, but Rohit is unfortunate to have me along his side. "This will be my last day as an Indian cricketer in all formats at international level.



Short TAKES

Mitchell Santner officially appointed New Zealand's full-time white-ball captain

Agencies : Mitchell Santner has officially been appointed captain of New Zealand's white-ball teams. He takes over in full-time capacity from Kane Williamson, who stepped down following the Black Caps' early exit from the T20 World Cup in the USA & West Indies. Santner, who is one of just four players to represent the country over 100 times each in the two white-ball formats, has already led the team in 24 T20Is and 4 ODIs including in the team's last assignment in Sri Lanka last month. His tenure as a full-time captain will begin with the T20I and ODI series against Sri Lanka in late December and early January. The two series begin a heavy run of white ball-cricket for New Zealand, which includes an ODI tri Series in Pakistan in February, followed by the ICC Champions Trophy and a home T20I and ODI series against Pakistan to conclude the home summer. "It's obviously a huge honour and a privilege to be asked," said Santner. "When you're a young kid the dream was always to play for New Zealand but to have the opportunity to officially lead my country in two formats is special.

Samson and Pandey excluded from Vijay Hazare Trophy squads

Agencies : Sanju Samson has been left out of Kerala's squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy beginning December 21. The move comes on the back of an internal decision to include only those players who participated in a preparatory camp in the lead-up to the tournament. Samson had led Kerala in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2024-25, where they narrowly missed out on qualifying for the knockouts, winning four out of their six matches. Samson, who had originally been named in the 30-member probable list, now finds himself out of the 19-member long list. ESPNcricinfo understands Samson had written to the association stating his unavailability for the camp, but the KCA has decided to stick to its original decision. With senior batter Sachin Baby also unavailable due to injury he picked up during SMAT, batter Salman Nizar has been named captain for the 50-over competition. Samson, fresh off two T20I centuries on the tour of South Africa, played in five of Kerala's six games at SMAT, scoring 135 runs including one half-century.

Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior and Barcelona's Bonmati win FIFA Best awards

Agencies : Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior was named the men's player of the year at the world football governing body FIFA's The Best awards, where Barcelona playmaker Aitana Bonmati continued to clean up in the prizes for women's soccer. The 24-year-old Vinicius was so disappointed to lose out to Manchester City midfielder Rodri for the Ballon d'Or in October that he and his Madrid team snubbed the ceremony in Paris in protest. This time, Rodri ended up second to Vinicius by five points. The Brazil forward was at the FIFA ceremony to collect his award, having travelled to Doha on Monday with Madrid for the Intercontinental Cup final against Pachuca. "I don't even know where to begin," Vinicius said in Portuguese. "It was so far away that it seemed impossible to get here. I was a kid who only played football barefoot on the streets of Sao Goncalo, close to poverty and crime. "Getting here is something very important to me. I'm doing it for many children who think that everything is impossible and who think they can't get here." Vinicius echoed those sentiments in an Instagram post, where he took a thinly disguised dig at, presumably, the Ballon d'Or voters.

Rain has final say in Brisbane as both teams head to Melbourne at 1-1

Diary Times Desk : Australia and India will go into the Boxing Day Test level on the scoreline after the third Test in Brisbane ended in a draw after more bad weather reduced play on the fifth day to just 24.1 overs. The decision was made shortly after the Tea break, which was advanced as players went off the field due to poor light and impending rain. India were 8 for 0 in the fourth innings after being set to get 275 in about 54 overs. In all, the Gabba Test saw only 216.1 overs of action, which, in normal circumstances, should have been midway through the third day of the Test. But the game was severely affected by the weather right from the get go with only 13.2 overs of play possible on Day 1, and just 33.1 on the third day. Australia still found themselves windows to push for a series lead after they racked up 445 in their first innings and had India down to 74 for 5 in response. The visitors though were rescued by the weather, and the fact that Australia were down to just two frontline fast bowlers after Josh Hazlewood pulled up with a calf strain. They were also bailed out by crucial half-centuries from KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja as well as a dogged and rousing 47-run 10th wicket stand.

'We're not going to take any risk' - Rohit on Shami's fitness for Australia

Diary Times Desk : India are not going to take a punt on Mohammed Shami unless they are "not 100%, but 200% sure" about his fitness to fly him to Australia, captain Rohit Sharma has said. Rohit has placed the onus of the decision entirely on the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, formerly known as the National Cricket Academy (NCA), for clarity on where Shami's fitness stands. Shami has returned to domestic cricket since his ankle surgery kept him out of action for nearly a year and will next play the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy for Bengal starting December 21. "About Shami, I think it's high time somebody from NCA talks about him, where he is rehabbing," Rohit said at the press conference in Brisbane after the third Test ended in a draw. "Those guys are the ones who need to come up and give us some kind of update. "I understand he's playing a lot of cricket back home, but there have been some complaints about his knee as well. So, look, the last thing you want is the player coming here and then pulling out in the middle of the game. You know what happens when that kind of thing happens.

