

HP Assembly Session: Unsatisfied with the Chief Minister's reply, opposition staged a walkout



Diary Times Desk : On the second day of the winter session of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, the opposition walked out of the House on Thursday expressing dissatisfaction with the Chief Minister's reply. The BJP Legislature Party led by Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur walked out of the House shouting slogans. The opposition got agitated when the Chief Minister was responding to the liquor scam on behalf of the BJP. The Chief Minister said that in the liquor contract, it is like the thief scolding the police officer. The present government has increased the income of the Excise Department. The state's wealth was saved from being looted. Angered by this, the MLAs of the opposition started sloganeering and walked out of the House creating a ruckus. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the raw reports that are coming out now are all against Jairam Thakur. This is to tarnish his image. The confirmed report will come now. Jairam ji, you hold on to your chair. I am also your well-wisher. I am giving you a suggestion. Sukhu said that the office of BJP MLA Janak Raj was found involved in the letter bomb case. The MLA apologized to him. When the investigation was done, MLA Janak Raj was called to the police station. He said that his supporter had uploaded it. Chief Minister Sukhu said that the person named Amol Thakur who wrote it is actually nobody.

People Seeking Justice For Atul Subhash Chase Rahul Gandhi. He Does This

Agencies : A group of activists demanding justice for techie Atul Subhash chased Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's cavalcade on Delhi streets to draw his attention to the issue. The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha heard them and responded by throwing a chocolate. Thirty-four-year-old techie Atul Subhash died by suicide on December 9 after accusing his estranged wife Nikita Singhanian and her family members of harassing him and his family by filing false cases. In an 80-minute video and 24-page suicide note, Atul alleged that Nikita had slapped multiple cases to extort money and also refused to let him meet their son. While Atul's death made national headlines.

"BJP's Bid To Distract From Ambedkar Row": Rahul Gandhi On Parliament Tussle

Agencies : Hitting out at the BJP and clarifying the party's stance on the tussle that took place at the Parliament complex on Thursday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the chaos was engineered to distract from Union Home Minister Amit Shah's 'fashion' remarks on BR Ambedkar that ignited a massive row between the Opposition and the ruling party. Keeping a copy of the Constitution in front of him while addressing a press conference, Mr Gandhi said the BJP has been trying to distract from the issues since the Parliament session began and the Congress has always said that the ruling party's thought process is "anti-constitutional and anti-Ambedkar" and that it wants to erase Ambedkar's memory and contribution. "The Home Minister exposed this mindset (with his remarks). We called for an apology and a resignation, which did not happen. Today, they began a new distraction. Opposition MPs were heading to Parliament House from Ambedkar ji's statue and BJP MPs were standing near the stairs with sticks in their hands, refusing to let us go in," Mr Gandhi said in Hindi.



RG Kar rape and murder case: Victim's parents move Calcutta HC with fresh appeal

Agencies : Parents of the RG Kar Hospital rape and murder victim moved the Calcutta high court on Thursday seeking a more in-depth investigation into the case. This comes just days after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) failed to submit the charge sheet against two accused persons - Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the medical college, and Abhijit Mondal, the former officer-in-charge of the Tala police station, within the 90-day period. "We have moved the Calcutta high court seeking a further in-depth investigation into the case. The plea was mentioned before the bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh. As the victim's parents have made the plea, the court allowed it. It is likely to be heard on Monday," Gargi Goswami, the advocate representing the victim's parents, said on Thursday.

CAT Result 2024 Released at iimcat.ac.in; Download scorecard

Diary Times Desk : The Indian Institute of Management Calcutta has released the CAT 2024 results on its official website, iimcat.ac.in. The results have been announced in record time. The scorecard link is now available on the official website mentioned above. Aspirants must use their registration number and password to access their CAT scorecard. The scorecard provides section-wise percentile scores and the overall percentile score. A total of 14 candidates have achieved a perfect 100 percentile score, with Maharashtra having the highest number of such candidates, followed by Delhi and Andhra Pradesh.

Trouble Mounts For Rahul Gandhi: Case Against Congress MP After BJP Accuses Him Of Assault

Agencies : Hitting out at the BJP and clarifying the party's stance on the tussle that took place at the Parliament complex on Thursday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the chaos was engineered to distract from Union Home Minister Amit Shah's 'fashion' remarks on BR Ambedkar that ignited a massive row between the Opposition and the ruling party. Keeping a copy of the Constitution in front of him while addressing a press conference, Mr Gandhi said the BJP has been trying to distract from the issues since the Parliament session began and the Congress has always said that the ruling party's thought process is "anti-constitutional and anti-Ambedkar" and that it wants to erase Ambedkar's memory and contribution. "The Home Minister exposed this mindset (with his remarks).

"Human Error" Caused Chopper Crash That Killed CDS Bipin Rawat: Panel Report

Agencies : Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat died in a Mi-17 V5 helicopter crash on December 8, 2021. A total of 12 people died in the crash, including General Rawat's wife, Madhulika Rawat. The helicopter crashed in the mountains near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. Three years later, a Standing Committee on Defence report tabled in the Lok Sabha the day before yesterday stated that the Mi-17 crash, which took place on December 8, 2021, occurred because of "Human Error". The Standing Committee report of the 18th Lok Sabha stated that during the 'Thirteenth Defence Period Plan' from Financial Years 2017 to 2022, a total of 34 IAF accidents took place. During FY 2021-2022, a total of nine accidents took place and the one on December 8, 2021, was because of "Human Error". In 2022, sources told NDTV that pilot error was the likely cause of the chopper crash that led to Chief of Defence Staff General Rawat's death. Now, the report from the Standing Committee on Defence confirms.



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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.

Karnataka's Waqf Policy Treating Hindus As "2nd-Grade" Citizens, Says BJP

Agencies : Karnataka BJP said on Wednesday that it will continue its fight against the Congress government's Waqf policy of seeing Hindus as second-grade citizens in the state. Speaking to media persons at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha after the walkout over the Waqf issue, Leader of the Opposition, R. Ashoka, said that the fight against the Waqf land acquisition policy has been raised in the Assembly session and it will continue on the streets as well in future. He further said, "Withdrawing the Waqf-related notices will not solve the problem. It is merely a tactic to deceive the people. We have informed the Chief Minister that there will be no benefit unless the 1974 gazette notification issued by the state government is withdrawn. However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has refused to withdraw the notification, claiming he supports Muslims."

Himachal: Congress MLAs sit on dharna in the assembly premises under the leadership of CM Sukhu, know the reason

Diary Times Desk : Congress MLAs held a dharna outside the Himachal Vidhan Sabha during the lunch break with pictures of Constitution maker Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. The Congress Legislature Party, led by Chief Minister Sukhu, gathered in the Vidhan Sabha premises and protested against the statement made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Ambedkar. It was termed as an insult to the Constitution maker. The Congress Legislature Party demanded that the central leaders and the state BJP leaders should apologize in this regard. Sukhu said that whatever was said in honor of the Constitution maker is wrong. The Vidhan Sabha is in session, otherwise we would have protested through a rally. Congress State President Pratibha Singh has said that Home Minister Amit Shah has insulted the Constitution maker Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in Parliament. This is intolerable. Due to this, he does not have the moral right to remain in the post of minister. The Home Minister should apologize to the people of the country and resign from his post. The central government is against the Constitution maker Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Pratibha Singh said in a press conference at the state party headquarters Rajiv Bhawan on Thursday.

Samajwadi Party Sambhal MP Zia Ur Rehman Barq Charged For Alleged Electricity Theft

Agencies : The Uttar Pradesh Electricity Department has filed an FIR against Samajwadi Party MP from Sambhal Zia Ur Rehman Barq for alleged electricity theft. This morning, the state electricity department arrived at Mr Barq's residence to check the meter readings and load of various electrical appliances including air conditioner and fans. The state electricity department found that the available electricity connection was one-eighth of the load. Following this, the electricity board cut the power connection. For the last six months, the electricity bill of the MP's house has been zero. The State Electricity Department reported that Mr Barq has taken a 2 kilowatt connection whereas, the load is 16.5 kW. The new smart meters installed two days ago showed a power load of 5.5 kW. According to the people associated with MP family, two electricity meters of 2 kW each are installed in the house. Apart from this, a 10 kW solar panel and 5 kW generator are installed in the house. With this, Barq house can take up 19 kW electricity load.

Himachal: Opposition protested in the assembly premises with chicken cutouts in their hands, raising slogans against the government

Diary Times Desk : There was a lot of heat inside and outside the House on the second day of the winter session going on in Tapovan. On Thursday, both BJP and Congress parties protested outside the Assembly. In the morning, BJP MLAs protested with cutouts of chicken in their hands before the proceedings of the Assembly began, while Congress MLAs protested outside the House during the lunch break with pictures of Constitution maker Bhimrao Ambedkar. At 11:00 am, the proceedings of the Assembly began with a discussion on the adjournment motion under Rule-67. There was also a tussle between the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Both sides hurled allegations and counter-allegations of corruption. Neither Question Hour nor Zero Hour could start on Thursday, the second day. First thing in the morning, the BJP Legislature Party gathered in the Assembly premises under the leadership of Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur. BJP MLAs protested outside the House with cutouts of chicken. Jairam said that action should be taken against those who ate wild chicken. Wild chicken is protected under the Wildlife Act. He said that action is being taken against the media or other people. During this, BJP MLAs raised slogans of Sukhu Bhaiya-Sukhu Bhaiya, who ate the wild chicken.... Talking to journalists in the assembly premises, Jairam Thakur said that during the CM's Kupvi tour, there was mention of wild chicken at number 12 in the dinner menu. The CM himself mentioned wild chicken during dinner. But it is surprising that an FIR was registered against the MLA and some media persons for sharing the video of CM's dinner on social media, this is very unfortunate.

No let-up in biting cold in Kashmir, Shopian shivers at -7.8 degree Celsius

Agencies : As the cold wave continues, Shopian reeled under intense cold as night temperature dropped to -7.8 degree Celsius. Srinagar also witnessed another cold night with night temperature recorded at -4.5 degree Celsius. MeT office has predicted cold wave to continue for couple of more days and light snowfall in the upper reaches of Kashmir by the end of this week. The meteorological centre in Srinagar said that there was a slight improvement in Srinagar's temperature as it recorded a minimum temperature of -4.5 degree Celsius on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, as against previous night's -5.3 degree Celsius. On December 10, the city had witnessed a low of -5.4 degree Celsius, the lowest temp of the season so far this winter. However, the day temperature was recorded at 6.5 degree Celsius. Shopian in South Kashmir was the coldest place in Kashmir as night temperature dropped to -7.8 degree Celsius followed by tourist resort of Sonmarg where night temperature dropped to -7.7 degree Celsius. Tourist resort Pahalgam recorded -5.8 degree Celsius.



Himachal: Devika Kanthala of Shimla topped the NDA in the women's category, will become an army officer after taking training



Diary Times Desk : Devika Kainthala of Dhamod Panchayat Sehal of Narkanda, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh has secured the first rank in the All India NDA women category. She has secured the 29th rank in the merit list of 641 students, both men and women. After Devika Kainthala topped, she has been selected for NDA training. She will take training in Pune. Advocate father Durga Singh Kainthala, housewife mother Sharmila Kainthala and younger sister Araadhya Kainthala have expressed happiness over this achievement of their daughter. Devika Kainthala studied till 10th standard from Convent of Jesus and Mary. She passed 12th from DAV New Shimla. Devika topped the North Zone in the Arts Faculty in the 12th class of CBSE. Devika has brought laurels to the state by defeating the 12th toppers in medical and non-medical in the NDA examination. Father Durga Singh Kainthala said that the daughter's dream was to become a big officer in the army and police. For this, she worked hard day and night and secured the top rank in NDA. Devika has given the credit of her achievement to her father and mother. They always motivated her to move ahead. They boosted her morale at every step.

HP Assembly: Employees will not get seniority and financial benefits of contract service, bill introduced

Diary Times Desk : Employees in Himachal Pradesh will not get seniority and financial benefits of contract service period. This system is going to be implemented from the year 2003. On Wednesday, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu placed the Himachal Pradesh Government Employees Recruitment and Service Conditions Bill on the table of the House in this regard. This bill will be passed after discussion in the House on Thursday. A major concern behind bringing this bill is the possible financial burden on the state. By giving the benefit of contract service period, not only will a huge allocation of additional resources have to be made to the employees, but the seniority list for the last more than 21 years will also have to be amended. The Congress government of the state is going to make important changes related to the employees of the state through this bill. After the bill is passed, the employees will not get seniority and financial benefits from the date of joining. The seniority of the employees will now be decided after their regularization. Contract service period will not be added to it. This change is especially for those employees whose seniority was earlier ordered by the court. Due to these orders, the burden on the state treasury was likely to increase.

Himachal: Now constables will have state cadre, police board will do the recruitment, amendment bill introduced in the assembly

Diary Times Desk : Now constables in Himachal Pradesh will also have state cadre instead of district. Their recruitment will also be done by the Police Board in the state cadre. For this, Himachal Pradesh Police Amendment Bill 2024 was introduced in the House on Wednesday. After its passage, now police constables can be transferred from one district to another. On the first day of the winter session of the state assembly on Wednesday, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu introduced a bill to amend the Himachal Pradesh Police Act 2007 in the House. After the implementation of the new amendment, the recruitment of non-gazetted police officers will now be done by the Police Recruitment Board.

Himachal Weather: Alert of cold wave continuing in these districts till December 25, chances of rain and snowfall from this day

Diary Times Desk : An alert has been issued that cold wave will continue for the next six days in many lower hilly and plain areas of Himachal Pradesh. Meteorological Center Shimla has issued an orange-yellow alert of severe cold wave in many areas of Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Chamba, Kangra and Mandi districts till December 25. Cold wave was recorded in Una, Chamba and Sundarnagar during the last 24 hours. Minimum temperature has been recorded in minus at three places in the state. On the other hand, due to the activation of western disturbance in some high mountainous parts of the state, rain and snowfall is forecast in some parts of Chamba, Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur districts on 23 and 24 December. However, the weather is likely to remain clear on 25 December. In such a situation, the hope of White Christmas may remain unfulfilled. At the same time, a fresh western disturbance is likely to become active in the state.

Dharamshala: Unemployed youth roared in Zorawar ground, raised demand for recruitment of guest teachers and outsourcing

Diary Times Desk : On Thursday, unemployed youth demonstrated at Zorawar ground against the non-recruitment after the year 2022 through Himachal Pradesh State Selection Commission. The youth demanded that regular recruitments should be started through the State Selection Commission. During their demonstration, the youth tried to go towards the Vidhan Sabha, but the police force stopped them at the barricade. Ghanshyam and Shrey Awasthi, officials of the Unemployed Trained Association and Himachal Berojgar Yuva Mahasangh, said that every time only assurances are being given to start recruitments through the Selection Commission. There have been no recruitments after the Corona period. The commission has been dissolved for the last two years. Outsourced recruitments are being done even after the orders of the Supreme Court. Does the government not trust its system that it is not conducting examinations on OMR sheets? He said that during the elections, the Deputy Chief Minister had said that the Congress government would make regular recruitments. Talking about recruitments on outsource.

HP Assembly Session: Rajesh Dharmani said- BJP government changed the rules to make former minister's wife a spokesperson

Diary Times Desk : During the discussion on the adjournment motion brought under Rule 67 on the second day of the winter session of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani said that the BJP government changed the rules to make the wife of a former minister a spokesperson. This decision played with the future of the students. He said that the Congress government has decided to appoint only those who have scored more than 60 percent marks in higher education as guest teachers. Taking a dig at the BJP, he said that the current government has a zero tolerance policy against corruption. The previous BJP government gave protection to corruption. He said that during the tenure of the BJP government, big scams took place in Himachal. Such material worth thousand crores of rupees was purchased.

Himachal: Street vendors in Mandi city will have to install name plates, no business without registration

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh's Mandi city, no person will be able to do business by putting up a hawkers without registration. Along with this, the Municipal Corporation Mandi has made it mandatory for all hawkers to put up name plates. The corporation will distribute name plates within a day or two. Those who set up hawkers illegally will be identified and action will be taken against them as per rules. The Municipal Corporation had 350 hawkers, but during a recent survey in the vending zone, many hawkers were found that had no owner. Some hawkers were not doing business. On this, the Municipal Corporation has cancelled about 100 licenses. Now the number of registered hawkers has come down to 250. The Municipal Corporation Mandi has decided to issue name plates to eligible hawkers. Name plates have already been issued to 50 hawkers, while the remaining 200 name plates have reached the corporation office. They will be distributed soon. The customer will be able to easily get the name and address of the hawker from the name plate.

India may cut duties on some products to avoid Trump tariff war: Report

Agencies : India is getting ready for possible tariff increases by the Trump administration on exports to minimise the impact, The Economic Times reported on December 19. Various ministries and departments are reviewing different situations and undertaking sector-wise analysis of a possible hike in tariffs, the report said. To address US president-elect Donald Trump's concerns, India may look to reduce import duties on certain products from the US, it said. Moneycontrol couldn't verify the report independently. Trump, who takes office on January 20, has again threatened reciprocal tariffs on nations such as India and Brazil, accusing them of levying steep duties on American goods. Speaking at a news conference at Mar-a-Lago on December 16, Trump stressed the need for fairness in trade and vowed to address what he described as long-standing imbalances. "If they tax us, we tax them the same amount," Trump said. "India charges us 100 or 200 percent on some products. If they send us a bicycle and we send them a bicycle, they tax ours heavily while we charge them nothing. That's going to change," a PTI report quoted him as saying.

'Against Society's Rules': Nitin Gadkari On Live-In Relationships, Same Sex Marriages

Agencies : Union minister Nitin Gadkari said live-in relationships are wrong and against the rules of society, while adding that same-sex marriages would lead to the collapse of social structure. In a podcast on YouTube, Mr Gadkari recalled his visit to the British Parliament, where he was told that the UK's biggest problem was people opting or live-in relationships as opposed to marriage. "If you don't marry, how will you have children? What will be the future of such children? If you go against the societal structure, what impact will it have on people?" he asked. Mr Gadkari said that the society will ultimately decide its own norms, but emphasised that a balanced sex ratio has to be maintained in the country. "If there are 1,500 women and 1,000 men, we may have to allow men to have two wives," he remarked. While he denied the need to ban divorces in the "ideal India", the minister reiterated that "live-in relationships are not good".

'Mukesh Rajput's BP still high, Pratap Sarangi a cardiac patient': Doctors on injured BJP MPs



Agencies : Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs who were admitted to Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital following injuries sustained during an altercation outside Parliament, have been hit on the head, said doctors adding that they were monitoring their health closely. Ajay Shukla, Medical Superintendent at RML Hospital, revealed that both the MPs had sustained head injuries and there are blood pressure-related issues as well. "Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput had head injuries. Both have been given medication. Rajput ji's blood pressure is still high. We are doing our best possible. Sarangi ji is an elderly person, and when there is pushing and shoving, the BP could shoot up. This could lead to a heart arrest or stroke. Sarangi ji had been a cardiac patient. We are evaluating the situation," said RML MS Dr Ajay Shukla. Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who visited the MPs at the hospital, confirmed that both Sarangi and Rajput would remain in hospital for two days.

Mumbai boat crash: Navy's rescue efforts continue for 2 missing passengers

Agencies : The Indian Navy intensified rescue operations on Thursday following a deadly collision between a Navy speedboat and a passenger ferry near Mumbai that claimed at least 13 lives. Extensive search and rescue operations continue as two passengers still remain missing. Rescue teams, including eight Navy vessels, a helicopter, and an Indian Coast Guard ship, have been combing the waters near the accident site off Karanja since the crash occurred on Wednesday. A Navy spokesperson said the safety of passengers and crew remains the top priority. "The safety of all personnel on board remains our utmost priority, and efforts are being intensified to locate the missing people," said a Navy spokesperson. The accident occurred on Wednesday when a Navy speedboat lost control due to an alleged malfunction and collided with a ferry carrying 110 passengers travelling from Elephanta Island to the Gateway of India in Mumbai.

'Entitled To Relief': Vijay Mallya On Banks Recovering ₹ 14,131 Crore Assets

Agencies : Fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya on Wednesday said that banks have recovered ₹ 14,131.60 crore from him "against the judgement debt of ₹ 6,203 crore" but he continues to be "an economic offender". He said in a post on X that unless the Enforcement Directorate and banks can legally justify how they have taken more than two times the debt, he is entitled to relief. "The Debt Recovery Tribunal adjudged the KFA (Kingfisher Airlines) debt at ₹ 6,203 crores including ₹ 1,200 crores of interest. The FM announced in Parliament that through the ED, Banks have recovered ₹ 14,131.60 crores from me against the judgement.

Disrobing of women a blot on constitutional spirit, says Supreme Court

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Thursday decried the disrobing and public humiliation of two women in Bihar on accusations of witchcraft, describing the incident as a "blot on the constitutional spirit" and a grave affront to human dignity. A bench of justices CT Ravikumar and Sanjay Karol castigated the Patna high court and the Bihar government for allowing the trial in the case to remain stayed, emphasising the critical role of the judiciary and state in safeguarding basic human rights.

'His life is hanging by a thread': Doctors on fasting farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal

Agencies : Punjab's farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death entered the 24th day on Thursday, fell down and fainted for eight to 10 minutes, PTI reported. The doctors attending him at the Khanauri border have described the 70-year-old farmer leader's health condition as critical, adding, "His life is hanging by a thread." Dallewal is also at risk of cardiac arrest and multi-organ failure, the doctors added. The 70-year-old farm protester, also a cancer patient, had been on fast-unto-death.

Delhi Imposes Complete Cracker Ban, Top Court Asks Haryana, UP To Do It Too

Agencies : The Delhi government has decided to impose a round-the-year ban on firecrackers in the national capital, the Supreme Court was informed on Thursday, prompting the top court to direct the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana government to enforce a similar move until further orders. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih passed the directive as the Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh governments mentioned their varying positions on the ban of firecrackers, despite a dip in the air quality in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). "For the time being, we direct Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to impose a similar ban which is imposed by Delhi," the bench was quoted as saying by Bar and Bench. The top court has been hearing pleas seeking directions for the implementation of curbs to check air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region. The region's air quality has largely varied between the "very poor" and "severe" category due to unfavourable meteorological conditions in recent days.



Google Maps Captures Man Loading Body Into Car Boot, Suspects Arrested

Agencies : A man and a woman were arrested on charges related to the murder of a 32-year-old Cuban man in a small village in northern Spain. A dramatic twist in the case was found when Google Street View took a picture that became the only clue the investigators needed. The victim, identified as Jorge Luis Perez, was allegedly killed in the village of Andaluz, where part of his dismembered body was later discovered buried. Authorities suspect the arrested individuals are a Cuban man seen on camera and his ex-wife, who was also once married to the victim. The male suspect resides in the nearby village of Tajueco, which locals describe as a quiet place where "nothing ever happens," according to El Pais. The arrests have sent shockwaves through the region, raising questions about the role of technology in solving crimes. Police continue to investigate the chilling case as the rural community grapples with the tragic revelations.

Pakistan Tries To Arm-Twist China Over Gwadar Port. The Plan Backfires.

Agencies : Nations, like people, often reflect behavioural patterns. They have a reputation, depict habitual traits, and usually find the essence of their identity in their nature. So is the case with Pakistan - a country which never fails to find itself on the wrong side of history for its conduct - with friends and foes alike. The latest in its series of antics, the nation, mired in a worrisome concoction of terrorism, poverty, inflation, rigged elections, civil unrest, political instability, and economic misery tried to arm-twist its "all-weather ally" China. As one would guess correctly - it didn't end well, with Islamabad getting snubbed, yet again. A high-level meeting was organised recently between senior government and military officials of Pakistan and China. Deliberations and negotiations over the future use of the strategic port of Gwadar in Balochistan was being discussed in accordance with the so-called 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor'. At this point, Pakistan, which perhaps.

"Difficult Ordeal, Thinking Of My Kids": Gisele Pelicot After Mass Rape Trial



Agencies : Gisele Pelicot's ex-husband was jailed on Thursday for 20 years over her drugging and mass rape by strangers recruited online, in a case that shocked France and resonated around the world. After the trial was closed, Gisele Pelicot emerged to give a full statement to reporters, speaking about the trial itself, the verdict and her hopes for the future. After over three months of hearings regarded as historic, here is Gisele Pelicot's statement in full. "It is with great emotion that I am speaking with you today. This trial has been a very difficult ordeal. And at this moment, I am thinking first and foremost of my three children: David, Caroline, and Florian. I am also thinking of my grandchildren because they are the future. I also led this fight for them, as well as for my daughters-in-law, Aurore and Celine.

Putin plans to meet Bashar al-Assad, says Russia not defeated in Syria

Agencies : President Vladimir Putin says Russia has not been defeated in Syria after rebel groups ousted his ally and longtime leader, Bashar al-Assad, earlier this month. In his first public comments on the subject on Thursday, Putin said he had not yet met the former Syrian ruler who fled to the Russian capital, but that he "will definitely talk to him" and planned to meet him in Moscow. He mentioned he would ask al-Assad about the fate of missing United States reporter Austin Tice, whose release was described by the White House as a "top priority". Speaking at his annual end-of-the-year news conference, Putin also dismissed claims that Russia, which intervened in Syria in 2015 and turned the tide of the civil war there in al-Assad's favour, had suffered a loss with the fall of the former regime. "You want to present what is happening in Syria as a defeat for Russia," Putin said.

Indian Gets Jail Term In US For Trying To Engage Minor In Sex Act

Agencies : Indian national Kiran Patel (24) has pleaded guilty to attempting to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity, a US attorney said on Wednesday. Patel, who lives in Florida, faces a minimum penalty of 10 years, up to life, in federal prison. A sentencing date is yet to be set. According to the plea agreement, between May 22 and May 24, Patel communicated online with someone whom he believed was a 13-year-old girl. The person, however, was an undercover Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agent. Patel engaged in a sexually-explicit conversation with the undercover agent. Ultimately, Patel was arrested when he travelled to a location in Marion County to engage in sexual activity with the child, US Attorney Roger B Handberg said.

"Reckless": North Korea Slams US-Led Criticism Of Involvement In Ukraine

Agencies : North Korea on Thursday lashed out at "reckless provocation" by the United States and its allies for criticising Pyongyang's support for Russia's war in Ukraine, including the deployment of troops. In a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, a foreign ministry spokesman said the 10 nations and the European Union (EU) were "distorting and slandering" Pyongyang's "normal cooperative" ties with Moscow. Pyongyang has sent thousands of troops to reinforce Russia's war effort, including to the Kursk border region, where Ukrainian forces seized territory earlier this year. On Monday, those nations and the EU said North Korea's growing involvement in the war in Ukraine in support of Russia constituted a "dangerous expansion of the conflict, with serious consequences for European and Indo-Pacific security". The foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and the high representative of the European Union signed the statement, released by Washington. "We urge the DPRK to cease immediately all assistance for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including by withdrawing its troops", the statement said. But Pyongyang's foreign ministry fired back, with the spokesman offering its "serious concern and protest.

Russia Detains Uzbek Man For Killing General On Orders Of Ukraine's SBU

Agencies : Russia has detained a suspect in the killing of the head of the army's chemical weapons division, investigators said Wednesday, a day after the general and his aide were killed in a brazen blast in Moscow claimed by Ukraine. Igor Kirillov and his assistant were killed when an explosive device attached to a scooter went off Tuesday morning outside an apartment building in southeastern Moscow. The Kremlin said the attack proved "the Kyiv regime does not shy away from using terrorist methods". Kirillov, 54, was the most senior military figure assassinated in Russia since Kremlin sent troops in Ukraine nearly three years ago. An Uzbek citizen, born in 1995, was arrested on suspicion of having committed the attack, the Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes in Russia, said in a statement. The detained suspect said he had been "recruited by Ukrainian special forces", it added. The handcuffed man was shown in video footage confessing to the attack, with several cuts on his face.



HC seeks expedited action on encumbrance-free land delivery to NHAI in Punjab

Agencies : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has sought a detailed timeline and expedited measures to address delays in delivering encumbrance-free land possession to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for various highway projects across Punjab. The direction is significant as important stretches of land remain inaccessible due to ongoing litigation, compensation disputes, and administrative issues, despite partial compliance by the state. The Bench of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Kuldeep Tiwari was told during the course of hearing that key projects such as the Beas-Baba Bakala-Batala-Dera Baba Nanak, Amritsar-Ghuman-Tanda-Una, and Southern Ludhiana bypass were facing hurdles. Factors contributing to the delays included unresolved arbitration cases, missing revenue records, and pending notifications under the provisions of the National Highways Act, 1956. The authority, among others, was represented by senior advocate Chetan Mittal. The Bench asserted that NHAI was involved in the construction of pilot projects in the state. It was evident from the reply submitted that the authority was unable to expedite the execution of the pilot projects due to the non-delivery of encumbrance-free possession to it.



Extend PU Senate term, release election schedule: Harsimrat

Agencies : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal has written to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan demanding an extension of the Panjab University (PU) Senate's term and declaring a clear timeline for its elections. Harsimrat said she had apprised the minister of the ongoing agitation in the university and demanded holding of elections to the Senate. The term of the body had ended on October 31 this year. On the delay in holding of the elections, she claimed that it was being done to reduce Punjab's share in the administration of the university. She said the Senate has been the governing body, running the PU administration since 1904 and should remain so. She said 201 colleges of Punjab were affiliated with the university. "The Senate elections are being delayed and attempts are on to centralise the university under the New Education Policy, 2020, thereby threatening its autonomy and heritage," she said.

SC to take up ex-Haryana minister's petition seeking EVM verification policy on Friday

Agencies : The Supreme Court will on Friday take up a petition seeking a direction to the Election Commission to put in place a policy for verification of the original burnt memory/micro-controller of the four components of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in terms of the court's April 26 verdict in Association for Democratic Reforms Case. The four units of EVMs are Control Unit, Ballot Unit, Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and Symbol Loading Unit. The petition filed by former Haryana minister and five-time MLA Karan Singh Dalal and Lakhan Kumar Singla -- a candidate in the recent Haryana Assembly poll -- is listed before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna. A Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath had on December 13 said the matter should go to the Bench (of CJI Khanna) that rejected the demand for re-introduction of paper ballots. It was a Bench led by Justice Khanna that had on April 26 dismissed PILs seeking return to the paper ballot system or a 100% cross-verification of votes cast through EVMs with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips even as it issued certain directions to the Election Commission to strengthen the current EVM system. Giving the thumbs up to the EVM system in the midst of the 2024 Lok Sabha.

Farmers' protest: SC pulls up Punjab Govt for not conducting medical tests on Dallewal

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the Punjab Government for not conducting medical tests on farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal despite doctors attending on him opining that his condition was deteriorating. "We first want him to be provided medical aid. Why is that priority being overlooked? We want to know about his health condition and all health parameters. That can only be after he is subjected to certain tests. Nobody should take us for granted," a Bench led by Justice Surya Kant said. "You (Punjab Government) people are saying he is alright, not the medical doctors... Doctors say he is refusing tests. You want civil/police officers to perform the duty of doctors? How is a doctor able to tell that a person who is sitting there for the last 21 days on hunger strike... of the age of 73-75 years with serious ailments (is alright)...You bring that doctor who gives guarantee that he is absolutely perfect," the Bench told Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh.

'Blast' outside police post in Gurdaspur, 2nd in Punjab this week

Agencies : An alleged blast took place on Wednesday night outside the Bakshiwal police chowki in Gurdaspur district, Punjab police said on Thursday. The police launched a probe on Thursday following reports that a "blast" took place. This is the second incident of blast in Punjab this week and the third this month. The police said a team of forensic experts reached the Bakshiwal police chowki to investigate the Wednesday incident. Asked about reports of any blast outside the police post, Kalanaur Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Gurwinder Singh said, "We had received information. We have launched an investigation. "An FSL (Forensic Science Laboratory) team is on the spot. Once the FSL team gives a report, it will be clear what exactly has happened," said the DSP.

Farmers can directly come to us with demands: Supreme Court

Agencies : As agitating farmers refused to interact with the court-appointed high-powered committee, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said its doors were always open to their suggestions and demands to reach an amicable solution to the problem. "We clarify that the court's doors are always open to any suggestion or demand by the farmers directly or through their authorised representative," a Bench led by Justice Surya Justice Kant said. The assurance came from the Bench after Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh told the Bench that the farmers had refused to interact with the SC-appointed committee, which had invited them for talks on December 17. Singh suggested that the farmers could be allowed to submit their demands directly to the court. The Bench asked the Punjab Government to extend Dallewal immediate medical aid, saying it would have serious repercussions if something untoward happened to him. "He needs to be healthy to agitate... As an elected government and constitutional organ, you would not like to invite the blame that something happened to him... Even farmers should be concerned about saving his life. He's their leader. You tell us something tomorrow. Do something swiftly," the Bench told the Advocate General.

Haryana BJP leader OP Dhankar's son assaulted in Panchkula road rage

Agencies : Senior Haryana BJP leader O P Dhankar's son Ashutosh was assaulted by some people in Panchkula, with police saying preliminary investigations suggest it was a road rage matter. Panchkula police said they have rounded up a few suspects. A police official from Sector 14 police station said the incident took place Wednesday evening near Ashutosh's home. "Ashutosh was headed home in Panchkula in a vehicle when some youths in another vehicle entered into an argument and blocked his vehicle. They came out and hit him with a baseball bat injuring him. Later, they also called a few more of their supporters," acting SHO of Sector 14 police station, Panchkula, Ajay, said. A crowd gathered, prompting the attackers to flee the scene after the incident. "We have rounded up a few suspects, who are locals from Panchkula, and further investigations are on. "As per preliminary investigations, it appears to be a road rage matter," Ajay said. Meanwhile, Haryana Minister Anil Vij visited the residence of O P Dhankar in Panchkula. Dhankar is BJP national Secretary and former Haryana BJP president. Vij inquired about Ashutosh's condition and wished him recovery.

Severe cold wave in plains, lower hills for next 7 days

Diary Times Desk : The plains and lower hills of Himachal Pradesh will experience severe cold wave conditions while dry weather was likely to prevail over most parts of the state in next seven days. As per the state's Meteorological Department, ground frost conditions are very likely at isolated places over Mandi, Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Chamba districts, from late night to morning hours during the next five days; moderate to dense fog in the adjoining areas of the reservoir of the Bhakra Dam (Bilaspur district) and shallow/moderate fog over some parts of the Balh valley in Mandi district and Hamirpur district from late night to early morning hours during the next four days. Meanwhile, the weather was mostly dry across the state in the last 24 hours. A maximum temperature of 18.6 °C was recorded in Shimla while in Dharmasala (24.2°C), Sundernagar (20.3°C), Bhuntar (20.5°C), Kalpa (11.5°C), Nahan (21.1°C), Solan (22.4°C), Manali (15.2°C), Kangra (22.3°C), Mandi (20.6°C), Bilaspur (21.8°C), Hamirpur (23.6°C), Chamba (19.5°C), Kufri (13.3°C) and Reckongpeo (16.2°C).

Army Commander inspects facilities for veterans

Diary Times Desk : Lt Gen Ajay Chandpuria, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 11 Corps, today inspected various facilities set up for ex-servicemen in Una district. He inspected a polyclinic set up under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) at Rampur village near Una city. He later visited the Akash Canteen and the office of the Deputy Director, District Sainik Welfare Department. Akash Canteen manager Commodore Vijay Kumar (retd) apprised Lt General Chandpuria about the need for a mobile canteen to serve the veterans living in remote areas of Una district. He also requested Lt General Chandpuria for a budget for the expansion of the existing canteen, besides for its repair and renovation. Lt Col RS Kalia (retd), Deputy Director of the District Sainik Welfare Department, stressed the need for fixing floor tiles at the office.

Bill to amend land ceiling law, three others tabled in House



Diary Times Desk : The HP Recruitment and Conditions of Services Bill, 2024; HP Police (Amendment) Bill, 2024; HP Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2024; and The HP Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2024, were introduced in the Assembly on the first of the winter session in Dharmasala today. The Bills were introduced amidst objections raised by Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, who said that when Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania had accepted an adjournment motion moved by BJP legislator Randhir Sharma, no business could be transacted in the House till a discussion was conducted on it. The Speaker, however, said that Parliamentary Affairs Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan had made a proposal to introduce the Bills that he accepted. The House accepted the introduction of the Bills with a majority and he accepted the proposal, he added. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Vidhan Sabha complex here. Speaker Kuldeep Sjngh Pathania announced that the House was moving to NeVA from the current session of the e-Vidhan system, which was introduced in 2014. He invited the Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur to inaugurate the NeVA system.

Pekhubela solar project in focus as House debates corruption

Diary Times Desk : A debate over the adjournment motion brought by BJP MLA Randhir Sharma continued on the second day of the winter session, with the focus shifting to the 32 MW solar power plant installed by the Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation in the Pekhubela area of Una district. During the debate, former Industries Minister and BJP MLA from Jaswan Pragpur, Bikram Thakur, alleged that a solar power plant with a 35 MW installed capacity had been set up in Gujarat at a cost of Rs 144 crore. In contrast, he claimed that a similar plant in Pekhubela had been installed at a cost of Rs 220 crore. Thakur accused the state government of a scam in the installation of the solar power plant and called for an inquiry into the matter. In response, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said when comparing the Pekhubela solar project with projects from Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd with capacities of 168 MW, 18 MW, 20 MW and 18 MW, the cost of the Himachal project was more reasonable. The CM added that the Global Horizontal Irradiance (GHI) in Himachal Pradesh is about 25 per cent lower than in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, meaning that electricity production per MW is also 25 per cent less. He explained that while solar power generation.

Govt to regulate operations of homestays, generate revenue

Diary Times Desk : The state government has accepted the recommendations of the Cabinet sub-committee on homestays and is hoping to curb the operations of unregistered units and generate revenue by substantially increasing their registration fee. As expected, the Cabinet sub-committee has recommended that only bona fide Himachalis be allowed to run homestays in their houses. There were reports that many outsiders, who had bought land in relaxation of Section 118 of the Land Reform and Tenancy Act, 1972, were running homestays in violation of norms, as no commercial activity could be allowed when permission had been given for the construction of residential houses. There were complaints that in many cases, the owners of the homestays, who belong to other states, were not even living in the residential buildings and had given their properties to people to run homestays. However, the government would now cancel the registration of all such homestays owned by people from other states. There are 4,289 homestays in Himachal. Kullu district has the highest number of 1,040 homestays, followed by Shimla (805), Lahaul-Spiti (718) and Kangra (431).

HC seeks govt response on filling of posts in Education Department

Diary Times Desk : The HP High Court yesterday granted one week to a Deputy Advocate General for the state to obtain instructions regarding the status of the process to fill the posts of Junior Office Assistant (JAO). During the course of hearing, the court was informed that the Finance Department had already concurred with the Administrative Department's proposal for filling 400 posts of JOA in the Education Department in the first phase subject to the completion of all codel formalities and the approval of the Cabinet. On the other hand, the Deputy Advocate General contended that since the process of restructuring schools was underway, it would not be possible to fill the posts. A Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Satyen Vaidya rejected the submissions of the state counsel and stated that "we do not find any substance in the arguments of the Deputy Advocate General, given the fact that 767 posts are lying vacant and it cannot be disputed that these are functional posts. Furthermore, the process to fill at least half of the total number of posts can be initiated when the restructuring is to take place before the commencement of the new academic session."



Champions Trophy 2025 Venue Out But India, BCCI Pay Big Price Due To ICC 'Compromise'

Diary Times Desk : The confusion surrounding the venue of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is over. After months of delay, the International Cricket Council (ICC) finally officially declared the venues for the elite event. "ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 to be played across Pakistan and a neutral venue," the ICC said in a statement. It means India will play its matches in a neutral venue, including the knockout games (if it qualifies). In another major decision, the Jay Shah-led world body has declared that all India vs Pakistan cricket matches in ICC events, hosted by the two countries, will be played at neutral venues till 2027. "India and Pakistan matches hosted by either country at ICC Events during the 2024-2027 rights cycle will be played at a neutral venue, the ICC Board confirmed on Thursday, 19 December," the statement said. "This will apply to the upcoming ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 (hosted by Pakistan), set to be played in February and March 2025, as well as the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 (hosted by India) and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (hosted by India and Sri Lanka)."



Short TAKES

Virat Kohli 'leaving India'; cricketer to move to London with Anushka Sharma, kids Vamika, Akaay soon, confirms ex-coach



Diary Times Desk : Rajkumar Sharma, Virat Kohli's childhood coach, has confirmed that the cricketer, his wife Anushka Sharma, and their children Vamika and Akaay are set to move to London soon. Sharma didn't dwell much on further details but hinted that Kohli would be leaving India and shifting base to the UK, where he eventually plans on spending the rest of his life post-retirement. Over the last couple of years, Kohli has been spotted in London frequently; in fact, their son Akaay was born in the city earlier this year on February 15. The couple owns a property in London and will most likely live there once the move is complete. "Yes, Virat plans to move to London with his children and wife, Anushka Sharma. He is going to be leaving India and shifting very soon. However, right now, Kohli is spending most of his time with his family apart from cricket," Sharma told *Dainik Jagran*.

Keshav Maharaj ruled out of last two Pakistan ODIs

Agencies : South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj is out of the remainder of the ongoing ODI series against Pakistan at home. Maharaj, who was named in the XI for the series opener on December 17, suffered an injury while warming up for it and didn't play the game. Subsequent scans revealed that Maharaj has a left abductor strain, ruling him out of the 2nd and 3rd ODI on December 19 and 22. South Africa have named Bjorn Fortuin as his replacement for those fixtures. This comes a day after South Africa chose to name him in the Test squad, despite his injury, for the two home games - both crucial to their quest to make next year's World Test Championship final. South Africa are currently top of the table for the 2023-25 cycle, with a PCT of 63.330. A CSA release stated that Maharaj will return home to Durban for rehabilitation and will be assessed ahead of the first Test, starting just a week away on December 26 in Centurion.

"My Dad Isn't...": Ravichandran Ashwin Breaks Silence On Father's 'Humiliation Was Going On' Remark

Diary Times Desk : Ravichandran Ashwin has broken his silence on a big comment made by his father - Ravichandran - a day after the spin great abruptly retired from international cricket. With two Tests left in the Border Gavaskar Trophy, Ashwin decided to bid goodbye to international cricket after the third India vs Australia Test ended in a draw in Brisbane. Ashwin, who is the world's highest Test wicket-taker among active players with 537 scalps, announced immediately after the match that he will not longer be continuing in international cricket. His father Ravichandran on Thursday said 'humiliation' may be one of the reasons behind the sudden retirement. Ashwin was picked in only one of the three Tests in the BGT series so far. His father Ravichandran on Thursday said 'humiliation' may be one of the reasons behind the sudden retirement. Ashwin was picked in only one of the three Tests in the BGT series so far. "I too came to know last minute, actually. What was going on in his mind I don't know. He just announced. I too accepted it with full pleasure. I did not have any feelings at all for that."

"With My Kids...": Virat Kohli Involved In Heated Exchange At Melbourne Airport

Diary Times Desk : Indian cricket stalwart Virat Kohli was involved in a heated exchange with a few media persons at the airport, after the conclusion of the third Test against Australia in Brisbane. Kohli, who likes to maintain keep his personal life away from the spotlight that comes with his career, wasn't reportedly happy to see him and his family members being captured by the media. Seeing cameras capturing him and his children at the airport, Kohli reportedly lost his cool. However, it was later discovered that it was only a misunderstanding. It has been reported that a few journalists were interviewing Australian pacer Scott Boland, when Kohli and his family were spotted at the airport. The cameras shifted focus to Kohli, seeing which the India star wasn't happy. Kohli was taken aback by Channel 7 cameras focusing on him and his family. He was involved in a tense conversation with a TV reporter over the fact that his privacy wasn't being respected. "It was upon seeing the waiting cameras that Kohli became a little heated over what is largely a misunderstanding when he thought the media was filming him with his children," a reporter at the airport said on 7NEWS.

Rohit Sharma To Follow R Ashwin's Lead And Retire? India Skipper Says "My Body..."

Agencies : Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma confirmed that he will not be following R Ashwin's lead and retiring from international cricket during the ongoing Test series against Australia. Rohit has not enjoyed a good run of form lately and his horrible show has resulted in a lot of criticism from both fans and experts alike. Ashwin announced his retirement in the post-match press conference after the third Test match against Australia in Brisbane. When asked if Rohit will follow suit, he said that his numbers have not been good lately but as long as his body and mind are moving well, he will keep on playing for India. "I have not batted well. There's no harm in accepting that. But I know what's in my mind, how I'm preparing myself. All those boxes are very much ticked. It's just about spending as much time as possible, which I'm pretty sure I'm just there. As long as my mind, my body, and my feet are moving well, I'm pretty happy with how things are planning out for me." Rohit has not opened the batting in the past couple of matches with KL Rahul taking up the role in his place. However, his move to No. 6 has not worked out well as well as he has not scored a lot of runs.

