

Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhu said- If the Center does not give 9,977 crores for the disaster, the government will go to the Supreme Court



Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that if the central government does not give Himachal Rs 9,977 crore of Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA), then the state government will go to the Supreme Court. The Chief Minister said this in the House on Saturday. He was responding to the discussion brought in this regard under Rule 130. During the discussion on the proposal, amid the bickering between the Chief Minister's reply, the opposition walked out of the House shouting slogans and did not return to the meeting. On the other hand, in response to BJP MLA Rakesh Jambal raising the issue of putting flags on the vehicles of MLAs during the Zero Hour, the CM clarified the situation and said that this will be considered in the upcoming budget session. The Chief Minister said that in the matter of disaster funds, he will go to Delhi and meet the central leaders and demand to give Himachal its rights. Despite the request, if the central government does not release the amount, then the state government will have no option but to go to the Supreme Court. The CM said that no alms are being sought from the Center, but the rights of Himachal Pradesh are being demanded. He said that Himachal has suffered the biggest disaster in history. Hundreds of people died.

ISRO To Study How Crops Grow In Space On PSLV C60 Mission

Agencies : Demonstration of seed germination in outer space, a robotic arm to catch a tethered debris there, and testing of green propulsion systems are some of the experiments planned on the POEM-4 -- the fourth stage of ISRO's PSLV rocket that remains in orbit after launching a satellite. The PSLV-C60 mission, slated for an yearend launch, is scheduled to place the twin satellites 'Chaser and Target' to demonstrate the space docking technologies that are crucial for building India's space station. The PSLV Orbital Experiment Module (POEM) will carry 24 experiments -- 14 from various ISRO labs and 10 from private universities and start-ups -- to demonstrate various technologies in space.

PM Narendra Modi receives Kuwait's highest honour, 20th international award by a country

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Sunday awarded Kuwait's highest honour 'The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer'. It is the 20th international award bestowed upon him by a country. 'The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer' is a knighthood order of Kuwait. It is awarded to Heads of State and foreign Sovereigns and members of foreign royal families in sign of friendship. "I am honoured to be conferred the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Order by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah. I dedicate this honour to the people of India and to the strong friendship between India and Kuwait," PM Modi posted on X. It has been previously awarded to foreign leaders like Bill Clinton, Prince Charles and George Bush. Last month, PM Modi was conferred with the highest national award of Guyana, 'The Order of Excellence' during his visit to nation. "I express my heartfelt gratitude to my friend President Irfaan Ali for conferring upon me Guyana's highest award. This is a living proof of your deep commitment to our relations which will continue to inspire us to move forward in every field," PM Modi had said.



"Everyone Heard His Remarks": Siddaramaiah Slams CT Ravi

Agencies : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has slammed words used by CT Ravi on minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar as "condemnable". "The word used by CT Ravi for minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar is condemnable. It is a criminal offence. CT Ravi, who was the national general secretary of BJP, said such a thing which is shameful," Siddaramaiah said, adding other Vidhan Parishad members heard CT Ravi use that word.

4-Year-Old Boy Run Over By Speeding Creta In Mumbai, Teen Driver Arrested

Agencies : A four-year-old boy has been killed after a speeding car, driven by a 19-year-old man, hit him in Mumbai, police said today. The accident took place near the Ambedkar College in the Wadala area. Police said the family of the victim, identified as Ayush Laxman Kinvaade, lives on the footpath and his father is a worker. Sandeep Gole, who was driving the Hyundai Creta, is a resident of Vile Parle. Further investigation is underway. The incident comes days after a driver in Mumbai lost control of the electric bus operated by the civic-run Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking and rammed into pedestrians and vehicles, killing seven people and injuring 42 others. More than 20 vehicles were also damaged in the crash, which took place in Kurla on December 9 and was captured on CCTV. The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways last week said Maharashtra was among the states that have witnessed the highest number of road accidents in the last five years.

Viral Video Exposes Shocking Hygiene Violations At This Popular Hyderabad Cafe

Agencies : When it comes to dining out, hygiene is a non-negotiable priority. No matter how exciting the menu or chic the decor, the cleanliness of a restaurant's kitchen is the foundation of trust between diners and the establishment. But what happens when that trust is shattered? A recent video exposing alarming hygiene issues at La Vie En Rose Cafe, a popular eatery in Hyderabad, has sparked significant concern among food lovers and social media users alike. The footage, shared on Instagram by content creator Urvasi Agarwal, shows unsettling scenes from the kitchen of this popular cafe in the city. The video highlights numerous food safety hazards, raising concerns about cleanliness and hygiene. The video, which has gone viral on social media, shows flaking ceilings, questionable used oil.

BJP Leader Who Lost To Priyanka Gandhi Challenges Election, Congress Reacts

Agencies : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Navya Haridas has moved the Kerala High Court challenging the election of Congress Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in the last month's bypoll. Ms Gandhi Vadra made her successful maiden electoral debut from the Wayanad seat after her brother and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat, choosing to retain family bastion Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Ms Gandhi defeated her rival, Navya Haridas, by over five lakh votes in the November 13 bypoll. In her petition, Ms Haridas has claimed that the Congress MP did not correctly disclose her and her family's assets in the nomination papers and provided "false information". This is against the Model Code of Conduct and amounts to corrupt practices, Ms Haridas claimed. "We filed an election petition yesterday in the High Court against Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.



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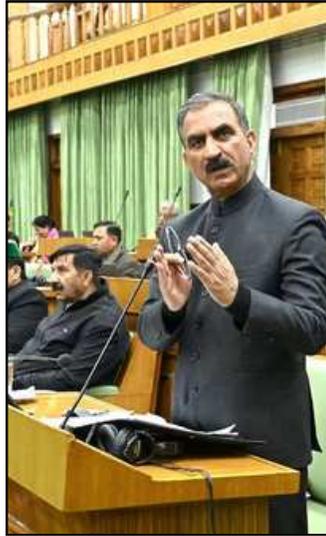
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Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said- Attic will be regularized as per rules

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that after a complete study, the state government will give one-time relief to the operators of hotels and buildings on encroachment. He said that a complete study will be done of those who have built attics. It will be seen what can be done for them. This can be considered only by staying within the ambit of law. Earlier, retention policy has also come in this regard. The court has also given its verdict on this. If an attic has been built, then the work of regularizing it will be done as per the rules. Shahpur MLA Kewal Singh Pathania brought a motion of attention on the loss of tax to the government due to encroachment of hotels and buildings in the state and providing one-time relaxation for their regularization. Referring to Naddi and McLeodganj, Pathania said that some hotels are paying tax for four rooms, while they are running 20-22 rooms. Arrangements for electricity and water have also been made for them. This arrangement is being given according to the rooms shown by them. He said that to build a hotel, NOC has to be taken from 14 different departments.



Dharamshala: Religious leader Dalai Lama will visit Karnataka on January 2, will stay there till Tibetan New Year Losar

Diary Times Desk : Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader Dalai Lama will leave for Karnataka from his residence in McLeodganj on January 2. He will reach the Tibetan Buddhist temple in Belakuppe, Karnataka by January 4. It is believed that he will stay there till the Tibetan New Year Losar. Losar will be celebrated from February 28. Actually, in June this year, Dalai Lama had reached the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York for the treatment of his knees, where he had a successful knee replacement surgery. He stayed abroad till July for health benefits and reached his residence in McLeodganj in August. Here he also organized teachings in between, but he has been staying at his residence for a long time. Now, after the knee operation, he is going to the Tibetan Buddhist temple in Belakuppe, Karnataka in January. The Dalai Lama office has also uploaded this information on its official website.

"The Spectacle I Witnessed...": Rajya Sabha Chairman After Chaotic Session

Agencies : Days after MPs clashed outside parliament over Amit Shah's alleged 'insulting' remarks against BR Ambedkar, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar today stressed that parliamentarians should be held accountable, adding people have learnt to take "disorder as order". The Vice President, who said he had not seen such scenes before, underscored that for any democracy to succeed, expression and dialogue must go hand in hand with great responsibility on both sides. "It is time for every thinking Indian to reflect deeply and hold those with obligations accountable—especially parliamentarians. In the last quarter of the century of our independence and adoption of the Indian Constitution, the kind of spectacle I witnessed should be a cause of concern. Yet, there seems to be no concern. People have learned to take disorder as order. There is no sense of revulsion," said Mr Dhankhar, who is also the Rajya Sabha Chairman, addressing awardees of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Awards 2024 in Delhi. Both the Congress and the BJP have alleged that members from the opposite side attacked and pushed their MPs when legislators from the Opposition party were entering Parliament House on Thursday morning. While the Congress was protesting against Mr Shah's "taking Ambedkar's name has become a fashion" remark.

Union minister slams 'bouncer' Rahul Gandhi for 'attacking', injuring BJP MPs

Agencies : Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi "behaved like a bouncer" during Thursday's Parliament scuffle between members of the ruling BJP and opposition INDIA bloc MPs, Union minister Giriraj Singh said on Sunday. Giriraj Singh said he was told so by the two BJP MPs injured allegedly by Rahul Gandhi. "They told me Rahul Gandhi attacked them like a bouncer. This is very shameful. He deliberately wanted to indulge in a scuffle," Giriraj Singh told ANI. The BJP has accused Gandhi of pushing its parliamentarian Mukesh Rajput, who fell on Pratap Sarangi, leaving both seriously injured. The LoP and his party have rejected the charge, and accused BJP leaders of "pushing" Congress members during the episode. Rajput and Sarangi were rushed to RML Hospital and are yet to be released. Singh noted that both were still to recover. "There is a swelling on the back of Mukesh Rajput's head and Pratap Sarangi is feeling dizzy. They are not feeling well and the next decision will be taken by the doctors," the parliamentarian from Bihar stated. Both sides have lodged complaints against each other.

Himachal Pradesh: The session in Tapovan was short, but the heat of the attacks was high, the proceedings of the Vidhan Sabha lasted for this long

Diary Times Desk : The four-day winter session of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly held at Tapovan in Dharamshala was very heated. The BJP and the ruling Congress were aggressive inside and outside the House. The CM countered the arrows of the opposition and also became the shield of his ministers. He did not miss the opportunity to attack the BJP. The opposition started making an issue a week before the winter session began that if the Chief Minister goes to Jaisalmer for two days to attend the meeting of Finance Ministers and GST Council, then the meetings of the session should be increased. But neither did the CM go to Jaisalmer nor was he absent from the House. Nor did the opposition put pressure to increase the meetings inside the House. On the last day, the opposition got angry and walked out before the end. The ruling party also passed a resolution condemning this for breaking the tradition of staying till the end. On the first day itself on December 18, the opposition revealed its aggressive strategy by not attending the all-party meeting. Due to this, the ruling party kept a close eye on the next stance of the opposition. In the beginning, the BJP made a strategy to surround the government inside and outside the House, but by accepting the opposition's adjournment motion on corruption, the Chief Minister broke this circle and kept the opposition entangled inside and outside. The government got the land transfer bill passed by organizing Radhaswami Satsang at Bhota. The opposition kept talking in a hushed voice about the dangers of tampering with the Land Ceiling Act, but failed to convince the government to send it to the Select Committee by talking about the respect for this institution. Despite the opposition of 28 members.

Rahul Gandhi's Family Lunch At Iconic Delhi Restaurant

Agencies : After months of gruelling election campaigns from Lok Sabha polls 2024 to Assembly elections, Sunday marked a relaxing and refreshing weekend for the Gandhi family. Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka, Congress MPs from Rae Bareilly and Wayanad Lok Sabha constituencies, respectively, took a break from their official engagements and assembled at the city's iconic Kwality restaurant, to spend some 'family time' together. They were accompanied by mother Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka's husband Robert Varda, daughter Miraya Varda and also her mother-in-law. The whole Gandhi family gathered at the Kwality restaurant to gorge on chole-bhature and other lip-smacking dishes. Rahul Gandhi also shared some photos of the family sitting and dining together, on his WhatsApp status. The images, as landed on social media, also elicited many likes and comments from the netizens, many of whom hailed the family sharing some special moments on the dining table. In the photos, Rahul and family could be seen sitting in a cozy space of the restaurant and flaunting broad smiles on their faces. Sonia Gandhi is also seen sharing a smile while Robert Varda flaunting.



Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition said- Sukhu government's anti-employee face has come to the fore



Diary Times Desk : Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the real face of the Congress government, which came to power on the basis of false guarantees, has now come to the fore. In the name of restoring the old pension, the government is now going to strangle the employees by creating such complications, which have affected lakhs of employees. Despite opposition, the Congress government, in the name of majority, has passed the Recruitment and Service Conditions Amendment Bill related to government employees in the Assembly. This will now give a blow to the seniority and increment of contract employees. The financial benefits of employees who have had less regular government service will be reduced. Contract employees also come after passing the interview of Public Service Commission and State Selection Commission. Under the government policy, they are regularized after two years. Jairam Thakur said that this period of these employees should be considered for seniority and other benefits, the employees have taken advantage of this by going to the court, but now by bringing amendment in the bill.

Shimla: Fire broke out in a two-storey house in Krishnanagar, Shimla, loss of lakhs of rupees

Diary Times Desk : A terrible fire broke out in a two-storey building at Lavkush Chowk in Krishnanagar, Himachal Pradesh's capital Shimla, late on Saturday evening. There was a danger of the entire area being engulfed in fire due to this fire in the residential area. Fortunately, people and firefighters controlled the fire in time, which averted a major accident. It is being told that this house was very old. Due to this, no one lived in it. According to the information, the fire department received information around 6:00 pm that a fire broke out in a building in Krishnanagar. After this, fire engines left for the spot but due to the narrow road, the fire vehicles could not reach the spot. The firefighters did not even find hydrants here. Due to this, the firefighters and local people tried to control the fire by filling buckets with water. For two hours, people kept filling water from the tanks installed on the roof of the house near the incident site and throwing it on the fire from buckets. During this time, the power supply of the area also had to be stopped due to the electricity wires passing over this house. People present at the spot said that some items were kept in the house which got destroyed in the fire.

Himachal Weather: Chances of rain and snowfall in many parts of Himachal for three days, minimum temperature in minus at 10 places

Diary Times Desk : Weather may change due to the activation of western disturbance in Himachal Pradesh. According to Meteorological Center Shimla, western disturbance will affect the western Himalayan region and surrounding plains on 22 and 27 December. Due to its effect, rain and snowfall is forecast in many plain, middle and high mountainous parts of the state on 23-24 and 27 December. Weather will remain clear in the entire state on 25 and 26 December. Cold wave is likely to continue for the next four days in some places of the lower hilly and plain areas of the state. On the other hand, dense fog will prevail in the reservoir area of Bhakra Dam (Bilaspur) and some parts of Balh Valley (Mandi) in the morning and evening on 24 and 25 December. Even today people faced problems due to fog in these areas.

Shimla News: Chitta was being sold in a rented house, three arrested; Police raided on the basis of secret information

Diary Times Desk : Police have caught a case of chitta smuggling in a rented house in Cemetery area of the capital Shimla. Police have arrested three accused in this case. The team of Special Cell arrested the accused by raiding on the basis of secret information. In the preliminary investigation, 9,350 grams of chitta has been recovered from the possession of the accused. During the police raid, one accused managed to escape from the spot, who was later caught by the police. The accused have been identified as Trilok Negi resident Chidgaon Rohru, Suraj Prakash resident Malyana Shimla and Anupam resident Rohru. According to the police, the team of Special Cell received secret information on Friday evening that chitta is being sold in a house in Cemetery area. On this basis, the police raided the spot. During this, the police caught two accused on the spot, while Anupam managed to escape from the spot.

Shimla News: Car overturned in Jubbal, Shimla, passenger died in the accident; Police engaged in investigation

Diary Times Desk : A person died after a Maruti car crashed on Hatkoti Jubbal Shimla road under Police Station Jubbal late Saturday night. Police handed over the body to the family for last rites after postmortem. Police is investigating the cause of the accident. According to information, Dharmendra Singh, a resident of Dochi, told the police late Saturday night that he was going towards his room at night. During this time, he heard the sound of a car falling from the road nearby. After that, when he reached the spot, a person was lying in the car in an injured condition. The injured was taken out with the help of people and taken to Jubbal hospital for treatment. Doctors declared the injured person dead in Jubbal hospital. The deceased has been identified as Lahori Singh, resident of Badhal Dochi Tehsil Jubbal Shimla. It is being told that the deceased was going from the market to home in his car at night. Police has registered a case of accident on the basis of people's statement. DSP Rohru Ravindra Negi said that police is investigating the cause of the accident. In the preliminary investigation, the accident is believed to be due to the negligence of the driver. After post-mortem from Jubbal Hospital.

CAG report: Lack of specialist doctors in hospitals, two patients on one bed; 15% less specialists in IGMC

Diary Times Desk : There is a huge shortage of specialists in other hospitals including medical colleges of Himachal Pradesh. There is a shortage of 15 percent doctors in the state's largest hospital IGMC and 49 percent in Chamyana Hospital. Apart from this, many posts of paramedical staff and nurses are also vacant. This has been revealed in the CAG report. Health Minister Dhaniiram Shandil has placed the CAG report on the assembly table. According to CAG, in the year 2023, apart from IGMC, there is a shortage of 33 percent specialist doctors in district hospitals. There are many hospitals in which OPD has not run due to shortage of doctors. Maternal mortality and neonatal mortality were not reviewed during the year 2016 - 17 to 2020-21. CAG has revealed that during 2016-21, two maternal deaths and 37 newborn deaths occurred. At the same time, in 2016-21, 20.39 percent of mothers were not given adequate.

Shimla Mosque Case: Mosque committee sought additional time from MC court to demolish illegal construction

Diary Times Desk : The Commissioner Court has reprimanded the Masjid Committee for not demolishing the illegal construction within the stipulated time limit in the Sanjauli Masjid of the capital. The Masjid Committee has now been issued strict orders to demolish all the illegal construction of the Masjid within the next two months by 15 March. The matter was heard in the court of Municipal Corporation Commissioner Bhupendra Atri on Saturday morning. The Commissioner asked how much illegal construction has been demolished so far. On this, the Junior Engineer of the Corporation presented a report in the court that orders were issued to demolish three illegal floors of the Masjid. So far only about 50 percent work has been done on the spot. All illegal construction has not been demolished yet. On this, Commissioner Bhupendra Atri asked that when the Masjid Committee itself had said to remove the illegal construction within two months, then why has it not been implemented till now. Why has the entire illegal construction not been demolished? What kind of joke is this?

Assam man held for killing 1-yr-old daughter, wife, and faking accident

Agencies : A 24-year-old man from Assam's Cachar district was arrested for allegedly killing his one-year-old daughter and wife and staging their deaths as an accident, police said. The accused, Rois Uddin Barbhuiya, a resident of Mohanpur in Borkhola, initially claimed that his wife and daughter died when their car fell into the river on December 17, while he, who was driving, survived. However, the investigation revealed that he had killed them before pushing the vehicle into the river, said Numal Mahatta, the superintendent of police (SP) of Cachar. "The locals too said that Barbhuiya had called them after allegedly plunging the car into the river and claimed that he had managed to escape. We found the incident suspicious and started investigating," added Mahatta.

Mohali building collapse: 2 dead, rescue operation ends, magisterial probe ordered

Agencies : The collapse of a three-storey building in Punjab's Mohali has claimed two lives, with rescuers pulling out the body of a man and a fatally injured woman from under the rubble during a multi-agency 23-hour rescue operation that concluded Sunday evening, officials said. A magisterial probe has been ordered into the incident which, according to a preliminary inquiry, occurred during alleged unauthorised digging in the adjacent plot belonging to one of the owners of the building. Drishti Verma, 20, from Himachal Pradesh, was rescued from the rubble in critical condition and was rushed to a hospital, where she succumbed to injuries on Saturday night, while the body of Abhishek Dhanwal, 29, was pulled out on Sunday. The two owners of the building and the contractor undertaking the digging work have been booked, the officials said, adding strict action will be taken against anyone found responsible.

Chillai Kalan Begins In Kashmir, Srinagar Sees Coldest December Night In 50 Years

Agencies : Chillai Kalan, the 40-day period of harshest winter, commenced in Kashmir on Saturday with Srinagar experiencing its coldest December night in five decades at minus 8.5 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department. Minimum temperatures dropped several notches below the freezing point in other parts of the valley as well. In Srinagar, the temperature came down to minus 8.5 degrees Celsius on Friday night.

Tea For ₹ 10 At Kolkata Airport Soon, Raghav Chadha Says "Change Brewing"



Agencies : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha said his efforts have led to lowering of food and water prices at airports after the government launched affordable Udaan Yatri Cafe. Mr Chadha had in parliament raised the issue of overpriced food and beverages at airports, prompting the government to launch the Udaan Yatri Cafe, Mr Chadha said in a statement. The first Udaan Yatri Cafe has been launched at Kolkata airport, offering water, tea, and snacks at reasonable prices. Mr Chadha reminded the government of its promise to make air travel affordable, highlighting that rising costs have made it challenging for the common people to fly. "Glad to see the change brewing! After I highlighted the issue of food affordability at airports during this Winter Session of Parliament, tea prices at Kolkata Airport have been reduced. This is a win for us citizens, and I take pride in being the catalyst for this change. Hope more airports will follow this example and price food items more reasonably. Which issues should I raise in the next session?" the AAP MP said in a post on X.

Man in flames walks 600m for help after Jaipur tanker blast, bystanders shoot videos

Agencies : A motor mechanic reportedly walked 600 metres while being engulfed in flames while seeking help after a gas tanker explosion on the Jaipur-Ajmer highway on Friday. Radheshyam Chaudhary, 32, was a motor mechanic with the National Bearings Company Limited. He left his home on his motorbike early on Friday. Later, visuals of the aftermath of the incident showed a burning man struggling to walk as he looked for help. A stranger called Radheshyam Chaudhary's brother Akheram at around 5:50am that morning, asking him to come to bus terminal.

'Some are unhappy': NCP chief Ajit Pawar on portfolio allocation in Maharashtra

Agencies : Acknowledging the high number of ministers and the restrictions in assigning portfolios to each of them, Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar said on Sunday that some members are obviously not happy. A day after portfolios were allocated by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Pawar said the work on pending projects would begin soon. The NCP chief led a road show in his constituency, Baramati, and attended felicitation programmes. "As the number of ministers is high, CM Fadnavis had to give each.

Woman, Her Friend Check Into Delhi Hotel, Both Found Dead Days Later

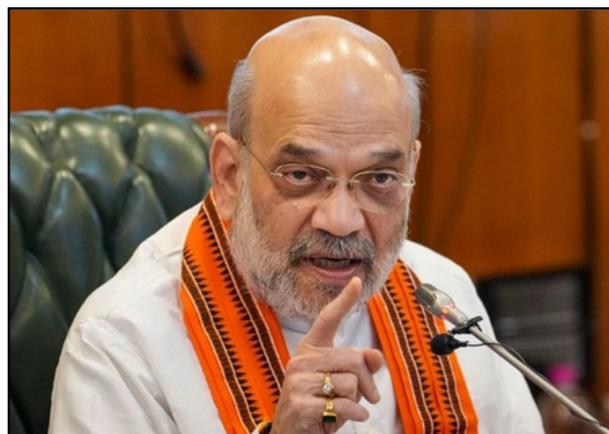
Agencies : The body of a missing 22-year-old woman was found in a hotel in Delhi she had visited with a friend, who was also found dead on a railway track, earlier this week, police said on Sunday. The cause of the woman's death could not be immediately ascertained but the man (23) is suspected to have died by suicide, the police said, adding that a detailed probe is underway. "Her body was found in a hotel on December 17. Following the recovery of her body, authorities conducted a postmortem examination," a senior police officer from the outer district of Delhi was quoted as saying by PTI. According to Outer Delhi Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Amit Verma, the woman's family alleged that she left her residence in Raj Park in Mangolpuri on December 14 but did not return. The family claimed a person, who they could not identify, called the woman and she went along with him. After she did not return home, the family registered a complaint.

'Don't Confuse India's Independence With Neutrality': Foreign Minister S Jaishankar

Agencies : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday reiterated India can "never" permit others to have a veto on its choices. Addressing a function in Mumbai virtually, Mr Jaishankar also said "Bharat" - a Sanskrit word that refers to India - will do whatever is right in the national interest and for the global good without being intimidated to "conform". "Independence should never be confused with neutrality. We will do whatever is right in our national interest and for global good without being intimidated to conform.

"We Resettled 40,000 Bru Reang Refugees": Amit Shah In Tripura

Agencies : At the inauguration of key cooperative initiatives in Tripura's capital Agartala, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the previous government did not care about Bru Reang refugees. "Earlier, there was a government which was known as the government of tribals, poor and marginalised people, but that government never cared about the Bru Reang refugees. The BJP government was formed here (in Tripura) in 2018 and Narendra Modi ji became prime minister for a second time in 2019. In 2020, the BJP did the complete arrangement of rehabilitation of these refugees," Mr Shah said.



32 dead, many injured after bus collides with truck in Brazil

Agencies : At least 32 people were killed in a bus crash in southeastern Brazil on Saturday, officials said, adding that the death toll could still rise. The accident in Minas Gerais state involving a bus that was travelling from SŁo Paulo left "between 32 and 35" people dead, a spokeswoman for the local fire department told AFP by phone. "It was not yet possible to specify the exact number due to the state of the bodies," she added. Officials gave conflicting accounts of the events. Firefighters initially said the bus had blown a tyre near the town of Lajinha, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle and hit a truck. Another vehicle also hit the bus from behind, officials said, but its occupants survived. However, firefighters later cited witnesses as saying that a granite block had collapsed on the bus in an apparent landslide, which may have caused the vehicle to collide with the truck and catch fire.

Trump accuses Panama of exploiting US vessels, threatens to capture the canal

Agencies : President-elect Donald Trump took to Truth Social, where he threatened to reclaim control of the Panama Canal, constructed by the United States in the early 20th century. Trump accused Panama of exploiting American vessels by imposing "exorbitant prices" to access the waterway, which serves as a vital shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Without the canal, ships would face the arduous journey around South America's treacherous Cape Horn. Trump's comments referenced the 1977 treaty that transferred control of the canal from the United States to Panama. The treaty, widely regarded as one of President Jimmy Carter's landmark achievements, marked the end of US administration over the canal in the late 20th century. However, Trump criticized Carter's decision, saying, "Our Navy and Commerce have been treated in a very unfair and injudicious way. The fees being charged by Panama are ridiculous, especially knowing the extraordinary generosity that has been bestowed to Panama by the U.S." "If the principles, both moral and legal.

US Navy ship shoots down its own jet in friendly fire incident over Red Sea; pilots eject to safety



Agencies : A US Navy ship accidentally shot down a F/A-18 F Super Hornet in a case of friendly fire, forcing the two pilots to eject in the Red Sea late Saturday evening, a statement by the American Central Command said, adding that the pilots were safe. "The guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64), which is a part of the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group, mistakenly fired on and hit the F/A-18, which was flying off the USS Harry S. Truman," the statement from the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said. The two pilots were safely recovered, with one suffering minor injuries. An investigation is underway, it said. On 15 December, the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group came under Central Command's area of responsibility, according to its statement.

Germany Refused To Extradite Saudi Suspect? Suicidal Empathy, Says Elon Musk

Agencies : Tech billionaire Elon Musk, who is set to join President-elect Donald Trump's administration, has ripped into the German government over the Friday night car attack at a Christmas market in Magdeburg, questioning the competence of Chancellor Olaf Scholz in leading the European country amid a series of extremist incidents. At least five died and nearly 70 others were injured after a Saudi Arabian doctor barreled his BMW into a crowd of revellers during the busy hours of the Christmas holidays. He has been living in Germany since 2006, officials said yesterday but did not share further details. After German media identified the suspect as Taleb Abdulmohsen, 50, a self-described "Saudi atheist" with permanent residence status, several reports pointed out he not only held critical views against Islam but also believed Germany had a permissive attitude towards refugees from Muslim countries.

Turkey: Four killed after helicopter crashes into hospital

Agencies : At least four people were killed on Sunday after a helicopter crashed into a hospital in southwestern Turkey, AFP quoted the governor as saying. According to Mugla provincial governor Idris Akbiyik, the chopper fell to the ground after colliding with the fourth storey of a hospital during take-off. Two pilots, a doctor, and an employee on board the vehicle were killed. "There was intense fog," Akbiyik said, adding that the authorities were investigating the accident's cause. According to the AFP report, the helicopter took off amid poor visibility from the roof of Mugla's hospital en route to the city of Antalya. Images by the NTV television network show the chopper drifting in the fog several times after taking off, before it crashed into an empty field next to the hospital it struck.

Mark Cuban claps back at Elon Musk by investigating X owner's AfD comments with AI Chatbot

Agencies : Billionaire Mark Cuban examined Tesla CEO Elon Musk's remarks, equating the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party to the US Democratic Party of 2008. He reacted to the X owner's comments, which were made following the fall of the German coalition government this week, using Grok, the artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot on X. The German party, according to Cuban's AI-generated post, is more akin to the Republican Party than the Democratic Party. Meanwhile, X users noted Cuban failed to inform Grok that Musk's analogy was a reference to the Democratic Party of 2008, the year that then-President Barack Obama assumed office. In recent years, the AfD has gained popularity, becoming the first far-right political party to emerge victorious in a state election in Germany since World War II in September. The judiciary of the country has classified the party as a "suspected extremist" organisation since 2021, and it upheld the categorisation in its most recent verdict in 2024. On Monday, Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a vote of confidence, and the AfD is probably going to strive to win over a good number of supporters in the country's impending snap elections. Musk asserted the AfD is "the only hope for Germany" and that "only the AfD can save Germany" in a recent post endorsing the party on X. Responding to Connecticut Democrat Senator Chris Murphy's statement on CNN's Dana Bash that Musk is effectively endorsing.

Donald Trump's Daughter-in-law Lara Withdraws From Senate Bid, Hints At 'Big Announcement'

Agencies : US President-elect Donald Trump's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, on Saturday said she has withdrawn her name from consideration for a seat in the Senate. Ms Trump, who is married to Donald Trump's son Eric Trump, stepped down this month as co-chairwoman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), fueling speculation that she might replace outgoing Florida Senator Marco Rubio. Incoming President Trump has picked Mr Rubio to serve as secretary of state. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is set to pick Mr Rubio's replacement, who is expected to resign as senator when Trump takes office on January 20. Taking to X, Lara Trump wrote that she had decided to remove herself from consideration "after an incredible amount of thought, contemplation, and encouragement from so many." She said she wished Florida Governor DeSantis luck in picking a replacement to serve the remainder of Mr Rubio's six-year term ending in 2026.



Dallewal's 'condition critical', say doctors as farmer leader's fast enters 27th day



Agencies : As Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's fast-unto-death entered its 27th day on Sunday, doctors termed his health condition "critical". Doctors attending to him at the Khanauri border protest site reiterated that Dallewal is at the risk of cardiac arrest and multi-organ failure. Dallewal, 70, has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 to press the Centre to accept the agitating farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP on crops. A statement issued by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha said following the advice of doctors, the veteran farmer leader did not come on stage on Sunday. Due to the continuous hunger strike for 27 days, his immunity has become very weak, putting him at the risk of infection, the statement said. "His hands and feet were cold. Starvation is adversely affecting his nervous system, and vital organs like liver and kidneys," a doctor who examined Dallewal told reporters at Khanauri border. "His reflexes are very slow. His blood pressure is also fluctuating, sometimes dropping sharply, which is a matter of concern," said the doctor, who is part of a team of medics from '5 Rivers Heart Association' -- an NGO.

'I'm still alive': King Charles tells British Sikh well-wisher

Agencies : Britain's King Charles III has made a light-hearted reference to his ongoing cancer treatment during the year when asked by a British Sikh well-wisher about his health. Harvinder Rattan was caught on camera shaking hands with the 76-year-old monarch during a royal visit to east London when he asked him, "How are you?" "I'm still alive," King Charles responded to Rattan, who was representing the Sikh faith at a celebration of community cohesion at Fellowship Square in Walthamstow on Friday. The entrepreneur later expressed his honour at being part of the event, which was a "wonderful celebration of the strength, unity, and resilience of our community" and a "true reflection of the vibrant and diverse communities" that made the London borough of Waltham Forest "remarkable".

AAP wins big in Gharuan nagar panchayat election

Agencies : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) emerged as the big winner in the local elections, with 10 party candidates securing victories in the Gharuan nagar panchayat and bypolls for wards in the Kharar Municipal Council, the Nayagaon Municipal Council and the Banur Municipal Council. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress and independents, meanwhile, bagged one seat each. As many as 6,180 voters sealed the fate of 28 candidates across 11 wards of Gharuan in its first election since being upgraded to a nagar panchayat on Saturday. Former Chief Minister (CM) Charanjit Singh Channi of the Congress and AAP sitting MLA Charanjit Singh had campaigned extensively for their respective sides. Bypolls were held for Ward No. 16 of the Kharar Municipal Council, Ward No. 16 of the Nayagaon Municipal Council and Ward No. 6 of the Banur Municipal Council. AAP candidate Anju Chander walked away with the win in Kharar, while the Banur ward went to Neelam Rani from the Congress party won the elections.

AAP suffers setback in bastion Sangrur

Agencies : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) suffered a major jolt in its bastion Sangrur, as it could win only seven of the 29 seats of the local Municipal Council. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had represented the seat in the Lok Sabha. AAP failed to entice voters in most of the urban areas in Sangrur. This is perhaps for the first time that the party suffered such a defeat in an election here. The AAP candidates won in ward No. 1, 3, 6, 21, 23, 24 and 25. The Congress won in nine wards, while the BJP bagged three seats out of the 20 it had contested. Independent candidates won in 10 wards. AAP failed to perform in the city even as it has been claiming that it offered several concessions to people, especially 300 units of free electricity and thousands of jobs. Meanwhile, AAP candidates emerged winners in 11 of the 13 wards of the Dirba Nagar Panchayat (NP). A BJP candidate and an Independent won a seat each. In 13-ward Cheema NP, eight candidates of AAP and an Independent were already declared unopposed. In the elections to five seats on Saturday, AAP won three while an Independent candidate was declared winner on one seat. In the Sunam byelection, the AAP candidate emerged victorious.

Punjab Police bust drugs smuggling module; arrest 2 with 10 kg heroin

Agencies : The Punjab Police have busted a trans-border narco-smuggling module with the arrest of two individuals and the recovery of 10 kg of heroin in Amritsar district, an official said on Sunday. Director-General of Police Gaurav Yadav stated that the arrested individuals were in contact with Pakistan-based smugglers. "In a major breakthrough, Amritsar Commissionerate Police busts trans-border narco-smuggling module and apprehends two persons—Sukhdev Singh & Avtar Singh—linked to #Pak-based smugglers and recovers 10 Kg Heroin," Yadav said in a post on X. "Preliminary investigations reveal that the arrested individuals were in contact with Pakistan-based smugglers and in 2015, two Pakistan nationals crossed the border with 19.5 kg of heroin, and they, along with the arrested individuals, were apprehended with 2.5 kg of heroin, Rs 65 lakh in drug money, one pistol, and one rifle," he said. While Sukhdev Singh was released from jail last year, Avtar Singh was granted bail in September, he added. A case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act has been registered at Police Station Gate Hakima, Amritsar. The senior officer also mentioned that investigations were under way to establish the backward.

Panchkula lad scores 99.6 percentile in CAT

Agencies : City lad Vipul Agarwal topped the Common Admission Test (CAT) in the tricity, scoring 99.96 percentile. Vipul completed his Class 12 education from the Bhavan Vidyalaya, Sector 27, Chandigarh, and completed his Class 10 from KVDAV. He attributes his success to consistency and hard work, emphasising that achieving any goal requires continuous effort. After pursuing BBA in Management and Marketing from NMIMS Mumbai and a month-long internship, he decided to refocus on his preparations for the CAT exam, with the ultimate goal of securing admission to IIM. He is currently preparing for the IIM interview. CAT is a national-level competitive exam that opens the doors for 21 Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and other top business schools in India. A pass out from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai's BBA course, Vipul said he always followed his teachers' advice and remained committed to his preparation.

Stunts on public roads amount to culpable homicide, not just negligence: HC

Agencies : In a significant ruling aimed at applying brakes to dangerous stunts on public roads and steering clear of preventable tragedies, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that performing motor stunts in public spaces with modified vehicles, endangering lives, travels beyond mere rash and negligent driving. Driving home the importance of commuter safety, the court asserted that such acts would prima facie fall under culpable homicide if they resulted in death, or attempt to commit culpable homicide if no death occurs. "When someone does stunts on a public road, endangering public safety, and when the motor sport is not being conducted with the knowledge of the traffic control authorities and ample time has been given to them to take preventive steps, the acts of public stunt, if lead to death, would fall in the definition of culpable homicide and if death is not caused then an attempt to cause culpable homicide. Such acts would not fall only under section 106 BNS (analogous to 304-A IPC) because of the requisite knowledge that such an act is likely to result into death or cause death," Justice Anoop Chitkara asserted.

Deputy CM: Water bill arrears not to be recovered in rural areas

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today directed the officials of the Jal Shakti Department that the outstanding water bills of any person in rural areas should not be recovered. He issued the directive after chairing a meeting of the Superintending Engineers and senior officers of the department at Dharamsala. Agnihotri issued the directive after many people in rural areas complained to him that they were getting inflated water bills due to the previous recoveries by the department. He said that if by mistake a bill with the outstanding amount had been sent to someone, it should be withdrawn immediately. "Officials will not be spared for negligence in this regard. In rural areas, only a Rs 100 bill per month will be taken from people," he added. Agnihotri reviewed various works related to the Jal Shakti Department and took full details of the projects from the officials. He instructed them to complete all pending works related to the department in the state within a stipulated time. Chief Engineer Anju Sharma presented detailed information about the department. She said that in the past two years, the department had completed 546 water supply and 174 irrigation schemes in the state. Besides, five sewage treatment plants and 10 flood protection works had been completed.

MLA denied room in Himachal Bhawan, Sukhu promises inquiry

Diary Times Desk : Bilaspur MLA Trilok Jamwal today said in the Assembly that he was denied a room in the Himachal Bhawan in New Delhi though he had prior booking. "Instead of accommodating MLAs in the Himachal Bhawan, the General Administration Department (GAD) is accommodating officials. GAD officials do not even pick up phone calls made by MLAs," said Jamwal during the Zero Hour on the last day of the winter session. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that it was a serious matter and he would inquire into it. "Officials should accord proper respect to the elected MLAs," he added. Jamwal also raised the issue of the flag code for the MLAs in the state.

BJP walks out over closure of institutions in two years, says govt focusing only on Nadaun, Dehra



Diary Times Desk : The BJP today staged a walkout from the Assembly during the Question Hour after a heated debate over the closure of institutions by the Congress government in the state. The debate was initiated on a question of BJP's Naina Devi MLA Randhir Sharma. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu informed the House that the state government had closed 1,865 institutions in the past two years. He added that the government had notified 103 new institutions in the state and 37 out of these had become functional. Sukhu said that those institutions were closed which the previous BJP government had notified six months before the 2022 Assembly elections. A majority of these institutions were opened without any budgetary provision or deployment of staff. Many schools opened by the previous BJP government had no students and teachers. These schools were opened just on political considerations, he added. Sharma alleged that the Congress government had opened offices in the Dehra Assembly constituency, which Chief Minister's wife Kamlesh Thakur represents, just before the last Lok Sabha elections.

Justice Sandhawalia's appointment as Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice expected soon

Diary Times Desk : More than three months after the Supreme Court Collegium recommended Justice GS Sandhawalia's elevation as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, the path has been cleared for his appointment with the completion of procedural formalities. The Centre is believed to be processing the same and his appointment orders could be signed by the President anytime now. Available information suggests that the last huddle was removed following HP Chief Minister's mandatory concurrence for Justice Sandhawalia's elevation. The matter was delayed as communication seeking the Chief Minister's nod remained pending with the Centre. The post fell vacant after Chief Justice Rajiv Shakti retired on October 18 upon reaching the age of superannuation. Chief Justice Shakti's tenure, too, was brief following prolonged delay in notifying his appointment. His elevation as the Chief Justice was initially recommended by the Supreme Court collegium to the Centre on July 11. But his actual appointment was delayed due to "procedural issues". It was finally confirmed by the Law Ministry on September 21.

Kangra Coop Bank settled 5,461 bad loan cases, waived Rs 185 cr: Sukhu

Diary Times Desk : Kangra Central Cooperative Bank (KCCB) has settled 5,461 loan cases, which had become non-performing assets (NPA), under the One Time Settlement Scheme, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in the House while replying to a question of Una MLA Satpal Singh Satti here today. The Chief Minister said that more than Rs 198.37 crore of loans were settled while Rs 185.38 crore was waived. Of the total 5,461 cases settled under the One Time Settlement Scheme, 4,420 were settled and closed. In settled and closed cases, the beneficiaries had paid around Rs 112.12 crore while Rs 122.15 crore was waived. He said that only interest on bad loans was waived and the principal amount was still payable. He added that before September 9, 2022, the KCCB could settle loans only up to Rs 10 lakh. However, the previous BJP government finished the settlement limit due to rising NPAs of the KCCB, he added. The issue of the KCCB waiving loans was raised in the House as the bank had also settled the loan of former Congress MLA Satpal Raizada. The BJP alleged that the KCCB had waived about Rs 3.5 crore loan of Satpal Raizada under the One-Time Settlement Scheme.

Winter session historic as Zero Hour started, productivity 106%: Speaker

Diary Times Desk : This winter session of the Assembly had four sittings. The proceedings during the session lasted for about 21 hours and 20 minutes and the productivity was 106 per cent. The Congress held meaningful discussions for nine hours and 30 minutes while the BJP utilised eight hours and 30 minutes, said Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania while addressing mediapersons after the end of the four-day winter session at Dharamsala today. He said that December 20 was fixed for private member working day and the members presented three non-official resolutions under Rule 101. The members withdrew one resolution and presented one resolution in the House. Discussion on one resolution would be held in the next session, as it could not be debated due to the lack of time. Pathania said that the session had been historic, as on its first day on December 18, the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) was launched. The Zero Hour was also launched and Lahaul-Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana asked the first question during the session. A total of 26 subjects were highlighted during the Zero Hour, he added. He said that during this session, the government provided answers to 188 starred and 55 un-starred questions. Detailed discussions were held on two subjects under Rule 61, three subjects under Rule 62 and the honourable members gave valuable suggestions.



India Win Inaugural Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup, Beat Bangladesh In Final

Diary Times Desk : Opener G Trisha made a doughty fifty before the left-arm troika of Ayushi Shukla, Sonam Yadav and Parunika Sisodia spun web around Bangladesh batters as India scored a 41-run win to emerge champions in the inaugural Women's T20 U19 Asia Cup here on Sunday. On a spongy pitch, Trisha's 52 off 47 balls (5x4, 2x6) guided India to 117 for seven, but Indian spinners cut through the Bangladesh line-up to bundle them out for 76 in 18.3 overs. The biggest partnership in Indian innings, in fact in the match itself, was between Trisha and her skipper Nikki Prasad — a 41-run alliance for the fourth wicket. India batters struggled against pacer Farjana Easmin, who took four wickets. Despite that, India were restricted to a below-par total, and Bangladesh seemed well on track for a win once they reached 44 for two in the seventh over. However, Ayushi (3/17), Sonam (2/13) and Parunika (2/12) took over from that point as Bangladesh lost remaining eight wickets for a mere 32 runs. Brief scores: India: 117/7 in 20 overs (G Trisha 52; Farjana Easmin 4/32) beat Bangladesh: 76 all out in 18.3 overs (Juairiya Ferdous 22; Ayushi Shukla 3/17, Sonam Yadav 2/13, Parunika Sisodia 2/12).



Short TAKES

Joe Root returns to ODI fold for Champions Trophy

Agencies : Joe Root has returned to the England ODI fold for the first time post the 2023 World Cup as he was named in the 15-man squad for the upcoming Champions Trophy. The same 15-member squad will play the ODI series in India prior to the global event. Ben Stokes, the Test captain, might have also been in line for a recall to the 50-over squad but the ECB confirmed that he wasn't picked as a result of a hamstring injury he sustained recently during the final Test against New Zealand. Root wasn't considered for 50-over cricket post England's poor World Cup defence in India last year where he made only 276 runs at an average of 30.66 with the team handing out opportunities to a younger crop. However, the white-ball series in India will be Brendon McCullum's first as the all-format head coach that has seen the veteran's return to the set-up. Mark Wood and Jofra Archer lead a strong pace attack that also has the likes of Saqib Mahmood, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse and Jamie Overton. Jacob Bethell's rise over the last few months has seen him get picked for his first ICC tournament whereas Jamie Smith has made the cut too with Will Jacks getting overlooked. The same squad has been chosen for the five-match T20I series as well with the only exception being Rehan Ahmed coming in place of Joe Root. The tour kicks off with the T20Is, beginning from January 22 whereas the ODI series will be played between February 6-12.

Sanju Samson Reveals Why Rajasthan Royals Went For 13-Year-Old Vaibhav Suryavanshi

Agencies : One of the standout moments of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega auction was the bidding war for 13-year-old batting wonderkid Vaibhav Suryavanshi. As it turned out, Suryavanshi became the youngest-ever player to be bought in an IPL auction, being sold to Rajasthan Royals (RR) for Rs 1.1 crore. RR captain Sanju Samson has now revealed the thought process that led to the franchise bidding for the 13-year-old, and stated that his purchase goes right in line with the philosophy and principles at Rajasthan Royals. "I have seen his highlights. All of the people in the Rajasthan decision-making group saw him bat at the U19 Test match vs Australia in Chennai, where he scored a hundred of 60-70 balls.

Rohit Sharma uses baseball bat in unique training drill as pressure builds on out-of-form India captain before MCG Test

Agencies : Team India captain, Rohit Sharma, is leaving no stone unturned in his preparations for the high-stakes Boxing Day Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. In an intense training session on Sunday, Rohit was spotted wielding a baseball bat, a unique method to fine-tune his batting technique ahead of the crucial fourth Test of the Border-Gavaskar series. The 36-year-old top-order batter has struggled for form in the series so far, managing a mere 19 runs in three innings. With the series tied at 1-1, the upcoming Test in Melbourne is pivotal not only for India's hopes of taking the lead in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy but also for keeping their World Test Championship (WTC) final dreams alive. As the Indian skipper, Rohit's form is critical, and he knows that he needs to find his rhythm to help steer his team to victory. Interestingly, during the session, he was also seen clutching an ice pack to his knee, raising concerns about a potential injury. Despite the scare, it is evident that Rohit is fully committed to overcoming any physical setbacks to perform at his best.

Smriti Mandhana, Renuka Singh lead rout to put India 1-0 up

Agencies : Smriti Mandhana (91 off 102) registered her fifth successive fifty-plus score in international cricket while Renuka Singh (5-29) got her maiden ODI fiver as India hammered West Indies by 211 runs in the opening game of the three-match series in Vadodara. Smriti's stroke-filled innings led a collective batting effort for the hosts as they piled on a strong total of 314 with all the top six batters making a mark. In reply, West Indies' chase never got going as Renuka picked up four with the new ball, having the tourists at 11/4 and 26/5 after which the procession ceased to end. Earlier in the afternoon, India made the most of good batting conditions after being put into bat. Debutant Pratika Rawal (40 off 69) stitched a century opening stand with Smriti to set the foundation for India's batting line-up. The scoring rate wasn't brisk initially as the visitors were accurate with the new ball. However, as the ball got older and batters got their eye, India upped the ante during the middle overs. Smriti continued to be her fluent self while Harleen Deol (44 off 50) switched gears after a slow start herself. Harmanpreet Kaur (34 off 23), Jemimah Rodrigues (31 off 19) and Richa Ghosh (26* off 13) all produced riveting cameos to propel India well past the 300-run mark.

Ex-BCCI Selector's 'Rohit Sharma' Solution Amid India Batting Crisis

Agencies : Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief selector Chetan Sharma on Saturday said that India skipper Rohit Sharma should open in the upcoming Boxing Day Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia. The 2024/25 Test season, which started with a series against Bangladesh, has been disastrous for Rohit. Not only did he endure a rare home series loss—a 0-3 whitewash against New Zealand, India's first series defeat at home in 12 years—but he has also managed just 152 runs in seven Tests at an average of 11.69, with only one fifty in 13 innings. His highest score this season is 52. In 13 Tests this year, Rohit has scored 607 runs at an average of 26.39, with two centuries and two fifties in 24 innings. His highest score is 131. The series is currently tied at 1-1 ahead of the Boxing Day Test, set to be played at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday. Speaking to ANI, Chetan Sharma reflected on the performance of the Indian bowlers, noting that they are "doing well" in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy. He emphasised that other bowlers need to step up and support Jasprit Bumrah, adding that bowlers must "hunt in pairs" to succeed.

