

Former Prime Minister and senior Congress leader Manmohan Singh passes away at 92



Agencies : Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi on Thursday evening after his health deteriorated. The hospital is yet to release details about his sudden demise. Following Singh's death, Delhi unit of the Congress took to social media platform X and confirmed the news and called him an irreparable loss to Indian politics. "The demise of renowned economist and former Prime Minister of the country, respected Manmohan Singh ji is an irreparable loss to Indian politics. May God give peace to the departed soul and strength to his family to bear this sorrow. The Delhi Congress family pays homage to the memories of respected Manmohan ji and expresses gratitude for his contribution to nation building. Om Shanti," the grand old party wrote.

Delhi air pollution: AQI remains 'very poor' as IMD issues yellow alert; trains delayed

Agencies : Delhi's air pollution levels on Thursday stayed in the "very poor" category despite showing a declining trend. According to reports, the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 341 at 8 am. However, it is expected to improve further due to favourable weather conditions. Earlier, the Centre's panel on Delhi-NCR's air quality revoked Stage IV curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan amid a dip in pollution levels. Stage IV curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) included a ban on all construction activities, entry of non-essential polluting trucks into Delhi, and mandatory shifting of school classes, except for classes 10 and 12, to hybrid mode.

"Shameful": BJP On Warpath Over "Distorted" Kashmir Map, Congress Responds

Agencies : The Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party - fresh off ferocious squabbles last week, over Rahul Gandhi's alleged shoving and injuring of two MPs and George Soros-Sonia Gandhi issue - went head-to-head Thursday over claims the former "distorted" a map of India before its Karnataka event. The BJP's state unit posted a photo of the poster with the "distorted" map on X, and slammed the Congress for showing "utter disrespect (to) India's sovereignty... by portraying Kashmir as part of Pakistan". "All of this just to appease their vote bank. This is shameful!" the BJP's post raged. The response was swift. The BJP was accused of lying and trying to derail a "historic" meeting of the Congress Working Committee, which will hold an extended session in Karnataka's Belagavi today and tomorrow, to mark 100 years since Mahatma Gandhi chaired a meeting of the committee.



52-year-old TMC worker killed in Nandigram

Agencies : A Trinamool Congress worker was killed in East Midnapore district's Nandigram area on Thursday, police said. This is the second murder of a TMC functionary in Nandigram in a month. On December 9, a TMC booth president Bishnupada Mondal was murdered and his brother was injured. Police said 52-year-old Mahadeb Bishoi, who used to sell meat, was found dead in his shop on Thursday morning. There were some injury marks on his body. "Bishoi was found dead inside his shop at Brindaban Chowk. We have probably beaten to death. We have sent the body for post mortem. No one has been arrested," said a district police officer. Local TMC leaders alleged that Bishoi, a long-term party worker, was beaten to death by Bharatiya Janata Party-backed goons. "There have been attacks on him earlier too. Yesterday he was abducted by BJP goons and beaten to death. Later his body was dumped in his shop," said Sheikh Sufiyan, a TMC leader from Nandigram.

Delhi BJP Lashes Out At Arvind Kejriwal Over "Fraudulent" Mahila Samman Yojana

Agencies : The Delhi BJP Mahila Morcha staged a peaceful protest outside AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal's residence on Thursday against recently announced 'Mahila Samman Yojana' demanding strict action against him for allegedly deceiving women with 'fraudulent promises.' The scheme, which promised Rs 2,100 per month to women if AAP comes back to power, has been labelled as "fraudulent" by the BJP, accusing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of misleading and exploiting women for electoral gains ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections.

Kashmiri singer Ayan Sajad honored with 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' award

Agencies : Ayan Sajad, a young prodigy from Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, has achieved a remarkable milestone by being awarded the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024 for his outstanding contributions in the field of Art and Culture. News agency KINS reported that the award, considered one of the highest honors for children in India, recognizes extraordinary accomplishments in innovation, social service, scholastic achievements, sports, bravery, and art. Ayan's journey in the field of art and culture has been nothing short of inspiring. Ayan has already established himself as a beacon of creativity and dedication, captivating audiences with his exceptional talent.

Penalty imposed on coaching Institutes for misleading advertisements

Agencies : The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 7 lakh each on Vajirao & Reddy Institute and StudyIQ IAS for advertising misleading claims regarding the results of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Exam (CSE) 2022 and 2023, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution stated on Thursday. The CCPA also imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Edge IAS for advertising misleading claims about the same year's results. The authority has issued an order against these coaching centres to discontinue the misleading advertisements with immediate effect. These actions are taken to protect and promote the rights of consumers and to ensure that no false or misleading advertisements are made for any goods or services that contravene the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), headed by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare.



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DIARY TIMES

2

Shimla | Friday | 27-12-2024

Apple Production Himachal: Apple production in Himachal Pradesh has decreased by 50% per hectare in 13 years

Diary Times Desk : There has been a steady decline in apple production in Himachal Pradesh in the last 13 years. This shocking revelation has been made in the data of the Horticulture Department. According to the department, apple production in Himachal has declined by 50 percent per hectare. While the state produced 8.7 metric tonnes of apples per hectare in 2010-11, this figure has come down to 4.3 metric tonnes per hectare in 2023-24. The main reason for this is believed to be the loss of fertility of the soil due to changes in the weather and excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. According to scientists, sometimes excessive rain and hail and sometimes continuous drought for two to three months is having a profound effect on crop production. Fruit production in Himachal takes place in about 76 percent of the area. Apple is cultivated in 46 percent. Due to increasing population and awareness about balanced diet, the demand for fruits in India is increasing rapidly. To meet this demand, it is necessary to improve production in existing gardens. Apple productivity in the state has declined significantly in a few years. Poor management practices, over-reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides along with the adverse effects of climate change have posed serious challenges to the once thriving apple industry of Himachal Pradesh. Vinay Singh, Director Horticulture Department said that climate change is the main reason for the decline in apple productivity. The department is promoting high density orchards under HP HDP and its results will come soon. Appropriate guidelines are issued from time to time for proper management.

Tourists In Himachal: Tourists enjoyed Shimla, Manali on Christmas, advance booking in hotels till New Year

Diary Times Desk : Tourists flocked to Himachal Pradesh on Christmas. After a long gap, business worth crores was done in the state. After snowfall, a large number of tourists visited the tourist places of Himachal on Christmas. Advance booking of rooms in hotels is going on till January 4. Tourists made a great splash at Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala, Khajjiar, Kasauli, Chail, Kufri and Narkanda and other tourist places on Christmas. Shimla, Kasauli and Chail had 90 to 100 percent occupancy on Christmas, while hotels in Manali and Dharamshala were packed up to 80 percent. On Christmas day, about 4 thousand tourist vehicles reached Manali while more than 3000 tourist vehicles entered Shimla city. Tourists had a lot of fun in the Winter Carnival in Shimla. The Ridge ground and Mall Road were packed with tourists after 12 noon.

How Allu Arjun's arrest over fan death turned into a political slugfest

Agencies : Pushpa 2: The Rule has been soaring ever since it was released on December 5, and it has crossed a stupendous ₹1700 crore gross at the box office. However, the success of this Allu Arjun-starrer has been overshadowed by the unfortunate tragedy that took place on December 4 at Sandhya Theatre in Hyderabad. Tollywood star Allu Arjun visited the theatre for the Pushpa 2 screening and in the stampede that ensued, a 35-year-old woman died and her young son has been admitted as critical in hospital. What followed the tragedy has been the arrest of Allu Arjun, accusations by Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and allegedly conflicting statements from the police. The Telugu star was arrested on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and for voluntarily causing hurt and is out on bail. But CM Revanth Reddy decided to take the issue up in the Assembly and called the actor 'inhuman' as he reportedly didn't care for the woman's death and continued to celebrate his film. The Pushpa star, in turn, spoke about this 'character assassination' and called the entire incident an accident. On Tuesday, he was summoned by the Hyderabad police for questioning in the case. Meanwhile, Pushpa 2 producers Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar, director Sukumar and Allu Arjun collectively handed over ₹2 crore to the victim's family.

Intense cold wave conditions in Kashmir, Srinagar records minus 7.3 degrees Celsius

Agencies : Minimum temperatures decreased at most places in Kashmir as the valley continued to reel under intense cold conditions, leading to the freezing of several water bodies and water supply lines in many areas. Srinagar recorded a low of -7.3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night -- down from the previous night's -6.6 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said on Wednesday. It has predicted a dip of two to three degrees in the minimum temperatures in Kashmir over the next two days. Except in Gulmarg, the night temperatures plummeted across all other weather stations in the Kashmir valley. Currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan', the harshest winter period of 40 days that started on December 21, the Kashmir valley is experiencing below-normal maximum as well as minimum temperatures for this time of the season, the officials said. The fall in the mercury has led to the freezing of water supply lines even as a thin layer of ice covered the surface of several water bodies, including the Dal Lake.

'Congress's history is country's history': Karnataka Dy CM Shivkumar ahead of CWC meeting in Belgavi

Agencies : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday highlighted the significance of his party, saying that "Congress's history is the country's history". Speaking to ANI, the Karnataka Deputy CM stated that Congress takes care of all sections of the country, even when it's out of power. "Congress's history is the country's history; Congress has kept this country united. Whether Congress is in power or not, it takes care of all the sections of the country," he said. Shivkumar and Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah arrived in Belgavi ahead of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, 'Nav Satyagrah Baithak, to be held on Thursday. Both the leaders paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and the 'Charkha' in Belgavi. "100 years back, on this day at 3 pm, Mahatma Gandhi was elected as Congress president; at the same time, the CWC meeting will begin... This is a message for the country regarding the directions of Mahatma Gandhi and Congress," Shivkumar stated. Earlier, the Karnataka CM highlighted the reason behind organising the CWC meeting in Belgavi. "To mark the 100 years of the 1924 Congress session, we are holding this convention here and AICC has taken the decision to hold a CWC meeting in Karnataka under the chairmanship of Mallikarjun Kharge." Congress is holding its CWC meeting on December 26 and 27 in Belgavi to celebrate the centenary of the 1924 session of the party. Meanwhile, Congress leaders have started arriving in Belgavi for the CWC meeting. On the occasion, Sachin Pilot said, " This centenary is special. Congress is doing a very good job in the government, but this working committee meeting will set the pace.

BPSC Row: Bihar Police Deny "Injury" To Students Protesting In Patna

Agencies : After Bihar Police resorted to "lathi-charge" on Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) aspirants who gathered to "gherao" the commission's office in Patna, demanding the cancellation of the examination on Wednesday, police department authorities issued a clarification, claiming that they used "mild force" and denied any injuries to the protesting aspirants. Officials also claimed that coaching teachers were instigating aspirants to protest and named several social media accounts that were allegedly misleading the students. "To cancel the preliminary examination of BPSC, aspirants have been continuously protesting at the Dharna Sthal in Gardaniabagh since December 18. These students are being instigated, both directly and indirectly, by some teachers. Additionally, many social media handles are misleading and inciting the students," DSP Anu Kumari said. On December 23, a candidate vandalized the Gardaniabagh Hospital. Today, on December 25, hundreds of BPSC aspirants surrounded the BPSC office. Law and order issues were created without permission, causing inconvenience to the public.



Himachal Weather : Orange alert for heavy snowfall in Himachal, good news for tourists



Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, the Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for heavy snowfall and rain in some areas of Himachal from December 27 for the next 48 hours. There is a possibility of light rain/snowfall at some places on 29 and 01 January 2025. Let us tell you that not only the tourists are happy with the snowfall, but the tourism business of the state is also getting its benefit. The Meteorological Department has issued an alert regarding cold wave in the lower and plain areas of the state. At the same time, as far as the minimum temperature is concerned, the mercury of seven cities of the state is in minus. Tabo was the coldest in the state with a minimum temperature of -12.1 degree Celsius. Apart from this, minimum temperature was recorded at -7.8 degree Celsius in Kukumseri, -8.5 in Samdo, -0.9 in Bhuntar, -0.7 in Bajaura, -1.6 in Kalpa, -1.8 degree Celsius in Manali. Thousands of tourists who reached Manali after years celebrated White Christmas this year. Even though there is no snow in the city, tourists visiting Solanganala, Atal Tunnel, Sissu and Koksar enjoyed White Christmas amidst the snow.

Himachal: Bhunda Maha Yagya in Rohru after 39 years, water arrived with drums

Diary Times Desk : For Sapaal Valley's religious ritual Bhunda Maha Yagya, the holy water of five bawdis reached the temple of Devta Bakralu on Wednesday. With this, Bhunda will begin in the temple premises on Thursday. The ritual will begin with the opening of the havan kund after 39 years. However, Bhunda rituals will begin publicly from January 2. Thousands of people from nine villages have completed all the preparations from the temple to their homes. On Wednesday, the holy water was carried on the shoulders of Brahmins to the temple of Devta Bakralu in Dalgaon with drums. After the worship, the villagers cleaned the temple from outside. The Kardar and the havan committee will be present in the temple throughout the night. The havan kund will be opened according to the fixed muhurta in the temple. The havan will continue here continuously till the end of the ritual. The real rituals of Bhunda Maha Yagya will begin from January 2. Guests and deities will be welcomed here on January 2. On January 3, Shikha puja will be held in the temple of the deity with worship on the roof of the temple. On January 4, the main ritual will be to make a man cross the ditch on a dam on a rope. This is called Beda in the local language. On January 5, the program to send off the deities will be Uchhad Pachhad.

Shimla News: Fire broke out due to cylinder explosion in Kashapat, woman burnt

Diary Times Desk : A woman has been burnt due to cylinder explosion in Sari village of remote Panchayat Kashapat of sub-division Rampur. The kitchen and all the items kept in it have been burnt to ashes due to the fire. The administration has provided immediate relief to the victim's family. According to the information, the Pradhan of Kashapat Panchayat of sub-tehsil Takech informed through phone that the kitchen of Nand Lal, son of late Madhu Ram in Pat village Sari of the Panchayat has been damaged due to fire, while his wife has been burnt in this fire. It is being told that on Tuesday morning, Nand Lal's wife Bresti Devi was working in the kitchen. During this time, there was a sudden loud explosion due to cylinder explosion and fire broke out in the kitchen.

Himachal CBI Raid: CBI raids ED office, Deputy Director accused of bribery absconded

Diary Times Desk : In a corruption case, the CBI Chandigarh team raided the ED office in Strawberry Hills, Shimla. The ED Deputy Director, accused of bribery, fled with a middleman before the CBI raid. After searching the Deputy Director's office for hours, the CBI has seized several files and other documents. It is being told that the accused have also taken the illegal extortion money with them. CBI teams are now raiding various places in search of the accused. The Deputy Director's residence in Shimla has also been raided. Till late Tuesday evening, the CBI team kept searching the ED office in Shimla. A case related to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was being investigated with the ED Deputy Director in Shimla. It is alleged that the Deputy Director had demanded lakhs of rupees from the accused through a middleman in exchange for settling the case. A written complaint was given to the CBI in Chandigarh by the accused in this regard.

Neither posts will be created nor new institutions will be opened in Himachal for three months, orders to the departments of the Finance Department

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, under normal circumstances, no post will be created, no new institutes will be opened and no upgradation will take place for the next three months. These are being postponed till the next budget. The finance department of the state government has taken this decision due to economic management for the fourth quarter of this financial year, running from January to March. Opening of new institutes, upgradation or creation of new posts will depend only on the special approval of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu. The finance department has issued instructions to the departments to send details in this regard for the next budget. If budget provision is made in the last quarter for opening new institutes, their upgradation and creation of new posts, then it can be spent in the current financial year itself. In such a situation, the government's target is more on those schemes, which can be implemented in the current financial year itself and for which budget provision.

CRPF jawan who came home on leave, his health deteriorated, died, last farewell given with military honors

Diary Times Desk : In subdivision Jogindernagar, the last rites of Inspector Gyan Chand, a Central Reserve Police Force jawan, were performed with full state and military honours at Mokshadham in Chauntra block. During this, hundreds of people, along with local politicians and administrative officials, registered their presence and paid their emotional tributes. Wife Subhadra, weeping in her Suhaag attire, bid her last farewell to her husband. Slogans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai and Gyan Chand Amar Rahe also reverberated during the last rites. The atmosphere was also grief-free at the time of the soldier's last farewell. Wife Subhadra appeared shocked at the death of her husband. She also kept fainting while crying. Along with the family members present on the spot, people of the area kept coming till late evening to console the family members.

Una Double Murder Case: Last farewell to father and son in a sad atmosphere, vehicles are parked in the middle of the road

Diary Times Desk : After the shootout in Bhadasali village on Monday, the bodies of the father and son were brought to their residence in Lower Bhadasali late on Tuesday night. As soon as the bodies arrived, there was screaming and crying everywhere. The entire village is shocked as to how such a big and tragic incident happened in their village. How a fight over a piece of land took the lives of a father and son. The two young daughters of the deceased Ravindra Kumar have no idea that their father has gone away from them. At the same time, even the tears have dried up from the eyes of Ravindra's wife. No one is able to understand how the happiness of the family can suddenly turn into mourning. Ravindra's elder brother, who is posted in the army, reached home on Tuesday and performed all the formalities of the last rites on Wednesday. During this, Ravindra's elder daughter also completed the rituals related to the last rites of her father with her uncle. The last rites of father Sanjeev Kumar and son Ravindra Kumar were performed.

AAP furious with Ajay Maken, says will ask INDIA alliance to remove Congress if 'no action taken'

Agencies : In a development that could become a major setback to Opposition unity ahead of the Delhi elections, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday threatened to consult other parties within the INDIA alliance about removing the Congress. The AAP is also upset over remarks made by Delhi Congress leaders, including Ajay Maken, which targeted the party. AAP's Sanjay Singh, holding a press conference, said his party will ask INDIA bloc parties to remove the Congress from alliance if no action taken against Ajay Maken. Some media reports earlier claimed that the AAP was angered by the Congress filing a complaint against Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of "misleading and deceiving" the public with promises of "non-existent" welfare schemes. The Delhi Congress on Wednesday released a 12-point "white paper" targeting the AAP and the BJP over their alleged unkept promises and mismanagement on various issues like pollution, civic facilities and law and order.

Services hit as 18 trains running late due to low visibility: Railways

Agencies : Rail services in north India have been adversely hit by low visibility in the region, with over 18 trains running late as of Friday morning. In the Northern Railway region, as many as 18 trains are running late due to dense fog and low visibility. Among the affected trains, the Avadh Assam Express, which was scheduled to arrive at 07:07, is running 278 minutes late, while the Unchahar Express is delayed by 229 minutes. Similarly, the Vikramshila Express, expected to arrive at 07:20, is running 65 minutes behind schedule. Other delayed trains include the S Kranti Superfast Express, now delayed by 83 minutes and expected at 07:55, and the Shiv Ganga Express, delayed by 70 minutes, now expected at 08:30. The Duronto Express, slated to arrive at 06:40, is delayed by one hour 76 minutes, while the Poorva Express faces a delay of 240 minutes. Additional delays have been reported for trains such as the Goda Delhi Express (delayed by 70 minutes), the Bui NDLS Superfast Express (delayed by 65 minutes), and the Sadbhavana Express (delayed by 36 minutes). The Lucknow Mail is delayed by 98 minutes, and the Sapt Kranti Express is delayed by 45 minutes.

'Sankranthi movies, ticket hikes, benefit shows are unimportant now': Dil Raju after meeting Telangana CM Revanth Reddy



Agencies : Producer Dil Raju, recently appointed the chairman of Telangana's Film Development Corporation (FDC), attended a meeting between the Telugu film industry representatives and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy. The producer clarified what was discussed at the meeting to the press, only indirectly hinting at the Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2 stampede case. Raju told the press that given that the Telugu film industry has become a force to reckon with country-wide, the CM wanted to ensure Hyderabad becomes an international hub too. He said, "The Telugu film industry has been growing and garnering the country's respect. The CM wants the film industry to grow exponentially and help it become an international hub. Numerous language films and shows are often shot here, and the CM wants even international content to be shot in Hyderabad soon. The FDC will send him a proposal for that in a few days."

Man On Rs 13,000 Salary Swindles Rs 21 Crore, Gifts 4BHK Flat To Girlfriend

Agencies : A computer operator working with a state-run sports complex in Maharashtra for a monthly salary of Rs 13,000 allegedly siphoned off a huge sum of Rs 21 crore and used it to buy luxury cars and a 4 BHK flat for his girlfriend. Harshal Kumar Kshirsagar, a contractual staff with the divisional sports complex in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, is now on the run. Police have arrested his colleague Yashoda Shetty and her husband BK Jeevan on charges of supporting Harshal. The investigation has revealed the meticulous plan the 23-year-old followed to siphon off money. Harshal used an old letterhead.

Rat Miners Called To Rescue 3-Year-Old Stuck In Borewell For 68 Hours

Agencies : It has been nearly 70 hours since 3-year-old Chetna fell into a 700-foot borewell in Rajasthan's Kotputli. Operations to rescue Chetna, who has been stuck in the borewell since Monday afternoon, are underway. To ramp up the efforts and save the toddler, rat hole miners have been roped in. The team reached the location last night. Rat hole miners will go through the 160-foot-deep pit dug parallel to the borewell. They will then manually dig a 7-foot-long tunnel to bring the girl out. Chetna was playing.

Government may consider tax relief for income of up to Rs 10.50 lakh: Report

Agencies : The government is reportedly considering a tax cut for individuals earning up to Rs 10.5 lakh annually, potentially providing significant relief to middle-class taxpayers. The move, likely to be announced in the upcoming Budget 2025 on February 1, aims to boost consumption and address concerns over rising living costs amid a slowing economy, according to government sources cited in a Reuters report. If implemented, the measure could benefit millions, particularly urban taxpayers grappling with high expenses.

'Mahatma Gandhi's legacy under threat from those in power': Sonia Gandhi slams BJP

Agencies : Veteran Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Thursday claimed that Mahatma Gandhi's legacy is under threat from "those in power in Delhi" and the ideologies and institutions that nurtured them, "It was a transformational milestone in our country's history. Today, we rededicate ourselves to preserve, protect and promote the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. He has been and will continue to be the fundamental source of our inspiration," PTI quoted her message which was read out at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Karnataka's Belagavi. "It was he who moulded and guided all our remarkable galaxy of leaders of that generation. His legacy is under threat from those in power in New Delhi and the ideologies and institutions that have nurtured them," she said in her message. "These organisations never fought for our freedom. They opposed Mahatma Gandhi bitterly. They created a toxic atmosphere that led to his assassination. They glorify his killers," she added.



Syria says 14 policemen killed in ambush by forces loyal to al-Assad

Agencies : Members of the Syrian police have been killed in an "ambush" by forces loyal to ousted President Bashar al-Assad in Tartous governorate in the latest security challenge for the new administration that came to power about two weeks ago. Interior Minister Mohammed Abdul Rahman said on Thursday that "remnants" of the al-Assad government in Tartous had killed 14 police members and wounded 10 others, promising to crack down on "anyone who dares to undermine Syria's security or endanger the lives of its citizens". Security forces launched an operation on Thursday against pro-al-Assad "militias" in Tartous, state news agency SANA reported, with the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reporting arrests of several people in connection with the deadly ambush.

'Ukrainians deserve to live in peace, safety': Joe Biden slams Russian attack on Kyiv

Agencies : US President Joe Biden condemned the Russian missile and drone strikes on Ukraine on Wednesday, reiterating the United States' steadfast support for Ukraine. He also said that the US Department of Defence would increase the weapon deliveries to Ukraine and called on the international community to stand with the nation. "In the early hours of Christmas, Russia launched waves of missiles and drones against Ukrainian cities and critical energy infrastructure. The purpose of this outrageous attack was to cut off the Ukrainian people's access to heat and electricity during winter and to jeopardize the safety of its grid," Biden said in a statement. "Let me be clear: the Ukrainian people deserve to live in peace and safety, and the United States and the international community must continue to stand with Ukraine until it triumphs over Russia's aggression," he said. Biden, in his statement, highlighted the US defence supplies to Ukraine and how the US would continue to strengthen Ukraine against Russia. "In recent months, the United States has provided Ukraine with hundreds of air defence missiles, and more are on the way."

Azerbaijan Airlines Plane May Have Been Shot "Accidentally" By Russia: Report



Agencies : The Azerbaijan Airlines plane that crashed near Kazakhstan's Aqtau on Christmas Day - while en route from Baku to Grozny in Russia - may have been "accidentally struck" by a Russian surface-to-air missile or anti-aircraft fire, military experts cited in multiple news reports have suggested. Thirty-eight of the 67 people on board - 62 passengers and five crew - were killed. Among the 29 survivors were two young girls - 11 and 16 years old. An inquiry is ongoing, but aviation experts cited in some foreign media reports, such as those by the Wall Street Journal, Euronews, and news agency AFP, have pointed to holes in the plane's fuselage, and marks on the tail section, as being consistent with damage from shrapnel from missiles. A video posted on X by Clash Report, which covers military conflicts, showed multiple large holes in the plane's fuselage, some several inches wide.

Israel hits broadcast van killing five Palestinian journalists in Gaza

Agencies : Israel has targeted a broadcast van close to a hospital in central Gaza, killing at least five journalists, according to Palestinian authorities and media reports. The journalists from the al-Quds Today channel were covering events near al-Awda Hospital, located in the Nuseirat refugee camp, when their broadcasting van was hit by an Israeli air strike, Al Jazeera's Anas al-Sharif reported early on Thursday morning. Footage from the scene circulating on social media shows a vehicle engulfed in flames. A screenshot taken from a video of the white-coloured van shows the word "press" in large red lettering across the back of the vehicle. The deceased journalists have been named as Fadi Hassouna, Ibrahim al-Sheikh Ali, Mohammed al-Ladah, Faisal Abu al-Qumsan and Ayman al-Jadi.

China Flies Brand New Stealth Fighter Jet, Believed To Be 6th Generation

Agencies : The first video of a brand new Chinese stealth fighter jet, believed to be a 6th-generation machine, has appeared on social media. The large tail-less fighter is believed to be a strike aircraft. Its unconventional design may make the new stealth fighter jet difficult, if not impossible, to detect using conventional radars. When inducted, these Chinese stealth fighter jets would likely become an unprecedented threat along India's frontiers. India does not have a stealth fighter jet yet. In May, NDTV reported satellite images showed China deployed its most advanced J-20 stealth fighter jets less than 150 km from the boundary with India in Sikkim. India counters the J-20 with its fleet of 36 French-built Rafale fighters. Significantly, Shigatse, where the Chinese J-20 has been spotted, lies less than 290 km from Hasimara in West Bengal, where India bases its second squadron of 16 Rafales.

Govt imposes import restrictions on low ash metallurgical coke for 6 months

Agencies : Based on the recommendations of the directorate general of trade remedies (DGTR) in April this year, "...import of low ash metallurgical coke have been placed under restriction as per the country-wise QR for a period of six months, effective from January 1, 2025 up to June 30, 2025," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. It said the imports would be allowed only against an import authorisation issued by the DGFT for the specified country during the six months. However, the coke with high ash content (above 18 per cent) is outside the scope of this restriction. The country wise restrictions are 51,276 tonnes for Australia, 78,646 tonnes for China, 2,49,771 tonnes for Colombia, 66,364 tonnes for Indonesia, 2,09,980 tonnes for Japan, 5,06,336 tonnes for Poland, Qatar (1,620 tonnes), Russia (89,182 tonnes), Singapore 46,478 tonnes), Switzerland (81,774 tonnes) the UK (76 tonnes), and others (45,662 tonnes). Specified QRs are imposed for the imports during two quarters next year -- January-March and April-June. It added that the country-wise QR will be effective from January 2025 and will cease automatically on June 30, next year. "If required, the procedure in regard to seeking import authorisation from the DGFT shall be notified separately," it said, adding that the application for the imports.

Panama Canal, Canada, Greenland - Donald Trump's Christmas Wishlist

Agencies : In his Christmas greetings, US President-elect Donald Trump repeated his call to acquire the Panama Canal and Greenland and annex Canada. In a series of posts on his social media platform 'Truth Social', Trump fired at "radical Left lunatics" and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He began by addressing the issue of the Panama Canal and making it clear that the US would take control. "Merry Christmas to all, including to the wonderful soldiers of China, who are lovingly but illegally operating the Panama Canal, where we lost 38,000 people in its building 110 years ago, always making certain that the United States puts in billions of dollars in 'repair' money, but will have absolutely nothing to say about anything," he wrote. Later in the day, while announcing Kevin Marino Cabrera as the US Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Trump said the country is "ripping" the US off on the Panama Canal, "far beyond their wildest dreams".



SKM seeks meeting with President Murmu to discuss farmer issues, Dallewal continues strike



Agencies : Amid ongoing farmers' protests and an indefinite hunger strike by farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has written to President Droupadi Murmu seeking an appointment with her to discuss their issues. In a statement issued on Thursday, SKM said they wanted to address the situation surrounding Dallewal's hunger strike and other "pressing issues", including the introduction of a National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing. The farmers have been demanding a legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) for their crops. Farmers, under the banner of SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have been protesting at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13, after their march to Delhi was blocked by security forces. A 'jatha' (group) of 101 farmers attempted to march to Delhi on foot three times between December 6 and 14 but were stopped by security personnel in Haryana.

Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang member injured in Jalandhar encounter

Agencies : In an encounter, Jalandhar Police on Thursday critically injured a gangster linked to the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang during an operation to recover arms. The encounter started when the gangster tried to flee custody. Commissioner Swapn Sharma said Vivek Mattu, a local, had been attacked and injured by two gang members, Manjit Singh and Amandeep Singh. Both attackers were apprehended, and a subsequent investigation uncovered a cache of arms. An FIR had been registered at the Sadar police station. Following the arrests, Manjit had revealed the location of the hidden weapons near a petrol pump in Sadar area. However, when police escorted him to recover the arms, he opened fire on the officers with the concealed weapon. It turned into an encounter during which around 15 rounds were exchanged. Manjit was injured in the encounter. Police recovered five .32-bore firearms and eight rounds of ammunition from the site. The Commissioner said the gang members were involved in murder, extortion and ransom. He said multiple FIRs were already lodged against the accused.

2 killed, 1 injured in firing incident in Yamunanagar

Agencies : Two men died and another got injured when some unidentified armed miscreants opened indiscriminate fire on them in a village here on Thursday, police said. As soon as the three men came out of a gym and were about to sit in their vehicle, four-five masked armed assailants arrived there on motorcycle and opened several rounds of fire at them, they said. The incident took place in Lakha Singh Khedi here. While two men died, the condition of the other person is critical and he has been hospitalised. The police said the incident was also captured by a CCTV camera. The miscreants escaped after the incident. An investigation into the matter has been launched. The motive behind the killings was not yet clear, they said, adding that the two deceased were in their mid-30s.

To mark sacrifice of Sahibzadas, 3-day Shaheedi Jor Mela begins

Agencies : The biggest historical event of the state, a three-day annual Shaheedi Jor Mela, began with religious fervour and ceremonies here today. The event is held to commemorate the martyrdom of Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh, two Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru. To mark the beginning of the programme, Akhand Path of Guru Granth Sahib was started at Gurdwara Jyoti Swarup, where the two Sahibzadas were cremated. Bhai Harpal Singh, Head Granthi of Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib, performed the Ardas. Deputy Commissioner Sona Thind, SSP Ravjot Grewal, ADC Geetika Singh and a large number of devotees were present on the occasion. Devotees thronged the two historic gurdwaras, Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib and Gurdwara Jyoti Swarup, on the first day of the Jor Mela. Nearly 30 lakh devotees are expected to pay obeisance at the gurdwaras during the mela. Congress leadership led by Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Fatehgarh Sahib MP Amar Singh and leaders from all major parties thronged Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib to pay reverence to the Sahibzadas.

Simran, radio jockey from J-K with 7 lakh Instagram followers, dies by suicide in Gurugram

Agencies : Simran Singh, a popular freelance radio jockey from Jammu and Kashmir with nearly seven lakh followers on Instagram, allegedly committed suicide in her rented house in Sector 47 here, police said on Thursday. Her body was found hanging in her room on Wednesday night, they said, adding no suicide note was found from the spot. The Instagram profile of Simran, known by her fans as "Jammu Ki Dhadkan", shows she last posted a reel on December 13, police said. According to police, Simran who had 6,82,000 followers on Instagram lived on rent with other friends in House No. 58 of Sector 47 here for the last several months. Sunil Kumar, SHO of Sadar police station, said that they got information around 9:30 pm on Wednesday from a friend of Simran, who was staying in the same house. A police team reached the spot and found the Simran's room locked from inside. The team broke open the door and found her hanging, the SHO said. Her family members, who reached here after being informed about the incident, said she was upset for some time, he said. We handed over the body to the family members after the postmortem today. A probe is under way," the SHO added. Her body was found hanging in her room on Wednesday night, police said.

Punjab and Haryana under grip of severe cold conditions

Agencies : Several places in Punjab and Haryana reeled under severe cold conditions on Thursday, with the common capital of the two states, Chandigarh, recording a low of 7.3 degrees Celsius, MeT officials said. Pathankot and Faridkot in Punjab recorded identical minimum temperatures of 4 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department here. Among other places in Punjab, Amritsar experienced a cold night at 5.7 degrees Celsius, while Gurdaspur recorded a low of 6 degrees Celsius. Ferozepur and Rupnagar also endured intense chill, recording respective minimums of 5.7 and 5.9 degrees, while Ludhiana and Patiala registered identical minimums of 7.4 degrees Celsius. In Haryana, Narnaul shivered at a minimum temperature of 4.5 degrees Celsius, while Sirsa recorded a low of 5 degrees Celsius.

'BJP paying Rs 1,100 per vote in Kejrival's constituency': AAP to lodge complaint with ED

Agencies : The Aam Aadmi Party leaders would officially lodge a complaint with the Enforcement Directorate against BJP leaders Parvesh Verma and Manjinder Sirsa for allegedly distributing cash to voters in the New Delhi constituency where AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal is the sitting MLA. "Senior leader Sanjay Singh will be going to the ED office today around 4 pm and submit a complaint against BJP's Parvesh Verma and Manjinder Sirsa," party sources said. Notably, multiple AAP leaders, including Chief Minister Atishi, had a day back conducted a press conference and levelled allegations against Verma for distributing cash at his official residence, 20 Windsor Place. "Women were brought in from different slums and colonies of the constituency, asked to fill forms featuring Parvesh Verma's photo and were given Rs 1,100 in envelopes after submitting their voter IDs," CM Atishi had said. She stated that several reporters captured video evidence of the incident, which allegedly showed women leaving the premises with BJP pamphlets bearing photos of Parvesh Verma and other senior BJP leaders along with envelopes containing cash. Former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also levelled the same allegations and stated that during his visit to various areas in his New Delhi constituency, residents reported BJP agents openly purchasing votes.

157 roads blocked, snowfall likely from tomorrow evening

Diary Times Desk : As many as 157 roads, including three National Highways, continue to be blocked for traffic across the state following a spell of snowfall and rainfall on last Monday and Tuesday. Maximum roads continue to be blocked in district Shimla (72), followed by 36 in Lahaul and Spiti and 25, including two National Highways, in district Kullu. As many as ten roads are blocked in district Mandi. National Highway 03 is blocked at Rohtang Pass due to black ice, while National Highway 305 is blocked at Jalori Pass due to snowfall. Meanwhile National Highway 505 is blocked at several places in Lahaul and Spiti. Meanwhile, 25 power distribution transformers and 12 water supply schemes continue to be disrupted. As per the weather department, there's a likelihood of another spell of light to moderate snowfall and rainfall in the state from tomorrow evening onwards.

134 roads remain closed for traffic

Diary Times Desk : As many as 134 roads are still closed for traffic across the state following snowfall on Monday and Tuesday. Three National Highways are also blocked at certain points. Besides, 65 power distribution transformers and 18 water supply schemes have also been disrupted. Maximum roads are shut for traffic in Shimla district (77). All these obstructed roads fall in the upper Shimla area. The second highest number of affected roads are in Kullu district (14). Two National Highways – NH 03 Rohtang Pass and NH 305 Jalori Pass – are shut for traffic in this district. In Lahaul and Spiti district, NH 505 is closed from Gramphu to Losar and NH 03 is shut from Deepaktal to Sarchu. Meanwhile, some roads that have been opened for traffic are still slippery, which is hampering the smooth flow of traffic. Locals and tourists encountered traffic jams and slow traffic movement on NH 05 between Dhalli and Kufri today. With a large number of tourists rushing to Kufri and beyond to see snow, traffic moved at quite a slow pace. It took more than four hours for some people to reach Kufri.

CAG report flags acute shortage of specialists, doctors in tribal districts



Diary Times Desk : The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India report on public health infrastructure and management of health services in Himachal has indicated severe shortage of manpower, doctors and medical specialists in the state. The report indicated extra availability of doctors and specialists in Shimla and Solan district and almost 100 percent shortage in tribal districts. The report was presented on the table of the House during the recently concluded winter session of the Himachal Assembly in Dharamsala. There was overall shortage of 41.47 per cent in human resources across all categories in government health institutions in the state as on March 2023. In the doctors category, compared to the state-sanctioned strength, the shortfall ranged from 9 pc to 56 pc in medical colleges and hospitals. The shortage of doctors was the least, seven per cent in Hamirpur district and the highest at 57 per cent in Kinnaur district. There was no dearth of doctors in Kullu district.

Water in short supply, make own arrangement: Industrial houses told

Diary Times Desk : 70 per cent of the water resources in the Nalagarh area have already been used up and barely 30 per cent were left for posterity which was worrisome, said Mukesh Agnihotri, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Jal Shakti Department (JSD) and Transport, today. He said big industrial houses who have availed 10 to 15 connections for exploring ground water should make their own arrangement and efforts should be made to replenish water sources. Expressing concern at the drastic reduction in the level of water, he said almost all natural resources have dried up and there was an urgent need to augment water supply in the industrial belt. "It is ironical that the locals are bereft of adequate drinking water while some people have made a bargain by selling water," he stated, addressing a gathering at Thana village in Baddi today after inaugurating water supply schemes of Rs 12.50 crore. Agnihotri directed the JSD officials to ensure piped water to all households. "Channelisation of khuds should have been undertaken years ago in this industrial belt. Since people are now living in these areas, the khuds can not be channelised anymore," he remarked.

Centre okays metalling of rural roads

Diary Times Desk : Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh today said the Central Government has accepted the request of the state government to allow metalling of roads in rural areas, which are not in good conditions, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana- IV (PMGSY-IV), along with construction and metalling of new roads. The minister said he had requested the Central Minister for Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, to allow the state government to metal these roads under PMGSY-IV. While thanking the Centre for the decision, the minister said it would aid in metalling of around 1,000-1,500 km of roads. He added that the PMGSY-IV would aid in strengthening the rural roads of the state, improving connectivity in the remotest areas. The minister added that efforts were afoot to restore the connectivity in the areas where roads were blocked due to heavy snowfall. He said the department was putting in all efforts to clear the roads as early as possible, and adequate man and machinery had been deployed for the same. Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur also thanked the Central Government for approving the metalling of old damaged roads.

Hotel occupancy goes up from 10 to 70% in Shimla as holiday season begins

Diary Times Desk : A huge crowd of tourists and locals gathered on the historic Ridge to celebrate Christmas and enjoy the Winter Carnival here today. Towards the evening, despite the cold, tourists and locals gathered in huge numbers and danced together to the tunes of the DJ and other musical events with the entire area Ridge Maidan full to capacity. Following the snowfall on Monday, just two days ahead of Christmas, a lot of tourists have arrived in Shimla for Christmas and New Year celebrations. Many have extended their stay in Shimla following the snowfall. "We were not expecting snowfall when we planned our trip to Shimla. It was really wonderful to experience snowfall. We've decided to extend our stay for a few more days," said a tourist from Maharashtra. As a result, hotel occupancy has risen significantly in the city. "The hotel occupancy was just around 10 per cent in the week leading up to the Christmas. This has jumped to 60 to 70 per cent following the snowfall ahead of Christmas," said Mohinder Seth, president of the Shimla Hotels and Tourism Stakeholders Association. Some tour and travel operators said the occupancy was close to 80 per cent.



"Doesn't Make You Smaller If...": Sunil Gavaskar's Blunt Verdict On Virat Kohli's Altercation With Sam Konstas

Agencies : A physical altercation between India's Virat Kohli and Australia's teenager Sam Konstas turned out to be the most discussed topic on Day 1 of the fourth Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The brief showdown took place after the 10th over of the Australian innings on the opening day of the Boxing Day Test when the players were crossing over. Kohli and Konstas bumped shoulders while moving across the pitch in the face-off that was initiated by the travelling star. Former India batter Sunil Gavaskar has criticised Kohli for his act. "Really, this can be avoidable. I mean, it's like you are walking in a busy pedestrian street, and you see somebody coming at you, you just sway away," said Gavaskar on Star Sports. "There's nothing; it doesn't make you smaller if you move away. That's the thing. And you don't want to see these things on the field. Definitely not," he added. "My first instinct, looking at it without seeing the replays, was that both were looking down, so they didn't see each other coming. Konstas was looking at his bat; Kohli had the ball in his hand, and he was doing something. But with that footage, we'll see who gets fined more this evening," Gavaskar told further.



Short TAKES

Chess champion D Gukesh gets gifts, blessings from Rajinikanth, Sivakarthekeyan.

Agencies : D Gukesh, India's chess prodigy, made history last week by defeating China's Ding Liren in the decisive 14th game of the FIDE World Championship match held in Singapore. He has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from people, including celebrities like Rajinikanth and Sivakarthekeyan, whom he met in Chennai on Thursday. D Gukesh took to his X handle on Thursday morning and first shared pictures from his meeting with superstar Rajinikanth. The actor wore a black kurta and a grey lungi as he posed for pictures with Gukesh and his parents – father and ENT surgeon Dr Rajinikanth, and mother and microbiologist Padmavathi. Rajinikanth also presented a shawl and a book – Paramahansa Yogananda's 1946 spiritual classic Autobiography of a Yogi to Gukesh. Gukesh wrote in his caption, "Thanks Superstar @rajinikanth sir for your warm wishes and inviting ,spending time and sharing your wisdom with us (folded hands emoji)." On the work front, Rajinikanth will be next seen in Lokes Kanagaraj's action thriller Coolie. It's slated to release in cinemas next year.

A Disservice...": On Not Being Given A Farewell, Ravichandran Ashwin Has Final Say

Agencies : Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin has played down the idea of being given a big farewell, following his retirement from international cricket. A talking point after Ashwin's retirement was how it had come without any farewell or prior preparation, but instead was announced abruptly to the cricket world. Former India World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev had even mentioned that had it been upto him, Ashwin would've been allowed to retire with a lot of "respect and happiness". However, Ashwin has maintained his stance in quietly retiring without much of a farewell. "As far as I am concerned, grand farewells are wrong. I don't think you should give grand farewell ceremonies to anyone. Especially, I firmly believe that you shouldn't give me a grand farewell," Ashwin said, speaking to Tamil YouTuber Gobinath C. "I don't want anyone shedding a drop of tear for me. I think grand send-offs are part of a super celebrity culture," Ashwin added. While Ashwin's achievements – 106 Tests, 537 Test wickets and India's second-highest international wicket-taker.

Gill not dropped, 'just unfortunate' says India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar

Agencie : Shubman Gill, who made his debut in the Boxing Day Test at the MCG four years ago, was left out of this one, paying the price for being unable to make the most of his starts in this Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Gill missed the first Test in Perth with a finger injury. He came back for the next one – the day-night Test – in Adelaide, and though he looked solid in both innings he scored only 31 and 28. He fell for 1 chasing a wide half-volley in his only innings in the Brisbane Test. India decided to go into the MCG Test with their captain Rohit Sharma back as opener. KL Rahul has been their best batter on tour. The skill he has shown in negotiating the new ball meant he had to bat up the order. He's slated to come in at No. 3. India could have moved Gill down to No. 6 but they decided to pack their XI with allrounders instead. "Well I think a lot of the decisions when they are made, and the process of it being made, the communication is always there, transparency is there," India's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar said after the first day's play in Melbourne. "Rohit will come up in the order and more likely than not he will open the innings for us.

Paterson, Bosch and Markram put South Africa ahead

Agencies : Through Dane Paterson's five-fer, Corbin Bosch's four-wicket haul on debut and Aiden Markram's gutsy 47*, South Africa ended Day 1 of the first Test against Pakistan in a better position compared to the visitors. They finished at 82 for 3 at Stumps, trailing Pakistan's 211 by 129 runs. Despite Kagiso Rabada being the best bowler in terms of line and length for the hosts, he remained wicketless after testing the batters on both sides of the willow. The hosts quickly managed to pick up the last wicket of Khurram Shahzad three balls into the final session bringing a strange Pakistan innings to an end who were aggressive despite losing regular clumps of wickets. Markram then got South Africa's innings underway with an elegant straight drive to the boundary but Shahzad accounted for his partner Tony de Zorzi as he rattled the stumps. With a peach of a delivery, Shahzad got one to seam inwards and had de Zorzi bowled for just two. Ryan Rickelton survived a review after he shouldered arms to a ball which came inwards but fortunately for him was missing the off-stump. Markram punished two poor deliveries for four off Mohammad Abbas as he moved into double digits but Shahzad scalped his partner, getting him to nick behind to the 'keeper.

Sam Konstas Enters Elite List, Breaks Jasprit Bumrah's Unreal 4483-Delivery Streak

Agencies : It was in 2021 against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground that Jasprit Bumrah was last hit for a six in Test cricket. Coming into the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the marquee India pacer was hit for a six for the first time in three years as Australian debutant Sam Konstas made excellent use of his unreal T20 cricket skills. Konstas paid no respect to Bumrah's reputation and began unleashing ramp shots, both conventional and reverse, to unsettle the dangerous pacer. En route his maiden half-century in Test cricket, Konstas hit Bumrah for some exquisite shots, before being removed by Ravindra Jadeja. It was the first time after 4483 deliveries that Bumrah was hit for a six in Test cricket and the batter to end his illustrious streak was none other than a 19-year-old. In the process, Konstas also became the second youngest player to score a half-century for Australia in Test cricket. Ian Craig holds the top spot on the chart. He smashed his maiden fifty at the age of 17 years and 240 days in 1953. Neil Harvey stands in third place after his half-century at the age of 19 years and 121 days in 1948. Meanwhile, Archie Jackson stands in fourth place with a fifty at the age of 19 years and 150 days in 1929.

