

Shimla Public Toilet Charges: After the embarrassment, the Municipal Corporation took a U-turn, now both men and women will not be charged urine fee



Diary Times Desk : In Himachal's capital Shimla, the Municipal Corporation has withdrawn the decision to charge Rs 5 as urine fee from men in public toilets. There was a lot of uproar over the decision to charge urine fee from men in public toilets and the Municipal Corporation was facing embarrassment, after which the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation said that there will be no fee charged. While talking to the media, Municipal Corporation Mayor Surendra Chauhan said that the Municipal Corporation will not charge any kind of fee in public toilets. The maintenance of public toilets in the city is done by Sulabh International and the Municipal Corporation pays them Rs 2 lakh 44 thousand every month in return. Sulabh International had filed a petition in the High Court regarding the fee, which is being heard, but the Municipal Corporation is going to put forth its side in the court that no fee should be charged from anyone in public toilets. He said that women are also not being charged for urine. In such a situation, men will also not have to pay any fee.

HPBOSE Board Exams 2025: Himachal Board class 10th-12th datesheet released, exams will be held from March 4

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education (HPBOSE) has released the timetable for Himachal Pradesh Class 10th and 12th board exams 2025. As per the schedule, the HPBOSE 10th exam for regular and State Open School (SOS) students will be held from March 4 to March 22. Students who are going to appear for the Himachal Board 10th and 12th board exams 2025 can download the date sheet through the official website (hpbose.org). The Himachal Pradesh Class 10th and 12th board exams will be held from March 4 to March 29. HP Board Class 10th, Class 12th exams will be held from 8.45 am to 12 noon. The exam for students of Fine Arts stream including Painting.

After Biren Singh says 'sorry', Congress asks why can't PM go to Manipur and apologise

Agencies : After Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday apologised for the ethnic conflict in the state, the Congress asked why can't PM Narendra Modi go there and do the same even though he travels across the country and the world. In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the people of Manipur cannot understand their neglect by the prime minister, whom he accused of deliberately avoiding a visit to Manipur. "Why can't the PM go to Manipur and say the same thing there? He has deliberately avoided visiting the state since May 4, 2023, even as he jets around the country and the world," Ramesh said in his post. "The people of Manipur simply cannot understand this neglect," he said. His comments came hours after Biren Singh apologised for the ethnic conflict in Manipur, which claimed over 250 lives and rendered thousands homeless since May 2023, appealing to all communities to forget and forgive past mistakes and live together in a "peaceful" and "prosperous" state.



Bangladesh Chief Adviser pays tributes to Manmohan Singh in Dhaka

Agencies : Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday visited India's High Commission in Dhaka and paid tributes to former prime minister Manmohan Singh. Professor Yunus visited the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and placed a floral wreath at the portrait of the late Indian Prime Minister. He also wrote a message in the condolence book opened at the High Commission, "the chief adviser's press wing said in a statement. Indian High Commissioner Pranay Kumar Verma received the chief adviser at the High Commission. Yunus spoke briefly with the envoy and shared his memories with his "long-time friend Manmohan Singh", a fellow economist. How simple he was! How wise he was!" he said, recalling his friendship with the late Indian prime minister.

Govt forfeits medal awarded to CBI inspector who was arrested in bribery case

Agencies : The government has "forfeited" the Union Home Minister's medal for Excellence in Investigation awarded to CBI Inspector Rahul Raj in 2023 who was later caught by the agency red-handed, allegedly receiving Rs 10 lakh bribe and dismissed from the service, officials said. The action comes on the recommendation of CBI director Praveen Sood who has cracked down on corrupt elements detected in the agency's internal vigilance process. Raj, a recipient of a prestigious medal in 2023, was caught "red-handed" on May 19 while allegedly accepting an illegal gratification of Rs 10 lakh from Malay College of Nursing chairman Anil Bhaskaran and his wife Suma Anil, an official alleged. The couple were also arrested. CBI swung into action after inputs and surveillance by its internal vigilance unit indicated that one of the support.

In a first, Army, Navy, Air Force Chiefs to get ADC from sister services

Agencies : In a significant administrative reform aimed at enhancing jointness within the Indian Armed Forces, the personal staff officers, known as Aides-de-Camp (ADCs), to the Chiefs of the Army, Navy and the Air Force will now be appointed from services other than their own. This change, effective from January 1, has been voluntary accepted by the three service chiefs, symbolising a commitment to inter-service integration. Previously, service chiefs selected their ADCs from within their own branches, often choosing officers from units with which they had a special connection. The new arrangement, part of a comprehensive 200-point reform agenda outlined by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, represents a modest yet meaningful step towards fostering jointness among the services. The role of an ADC is pivotal, encompassing the management of the chief's daily affairs, attendance at official events.

Kejriwal launches Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana

Agencies : AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday launched the Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana, registering the priest of Marghat Wale Baba temple near Kashmiri Gate ISBT here. Under the scheme announced ahead of the assembly polls in February, Kejriwal said all the Hindu temple priests and granthis of Gurudwaras will be paid a monthly honorarium of Rs 18,000 if the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) returns to power in Delhi. "Today I visited Marghat Baba's temple (ISBT) and launched the Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana. Today is the birthday of the Mahant ji here. I also celebrated his birthday with him," he said in a post on X. The former Delhi chief minister alleged that the BJP tried its best to stop the registration process for the scheme but no one can stop a devotee.

Himachal News: CM Sukhu said- Digitization of milk purchase will be started in 10 societies on pilot basis

Diary Times Desk : While chairing a review meeting of the Animal Husbandry Department, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the present State Government is strengthening the rural economy by providing remunerative prices to the milk producers. He said that Himachal Pradesh is the first State in the country to implement Minimum Support Price for milk procurement which is the highest in the country. He said that cow milk is being procured from farmers at Rs 45 per litre and buffalo milk at Rs 55 per litre. He said that several initiatives would be taken in Budget 2025-26 to further strengthen the rural economy. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the State Government is going to spend Rs 100 per litre on milk procurement. The Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure quality milk products to the consumers and conduct seasonal study on the availability of milk from farmers. He also asked to adopt high technology in its operation to provide maximum benefit to the farming community. He said that digitalisation of milk procurement is going to start in 8-10 societies on a pilot basis. He also directed to focus on personalized milk testing, real-time data management with web and mobile interfaces.



New Year to begin with heavy snowfall in J&K, rain in North India

Agencies : The new year is set to begin on a freezing note with Jammu and Kashmir expected to witness heavy snowfall and rain in parts of North India starting from January 4, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday. The Met Department said this was due to a Western Disturbance over Pakistan and adjoining areas. "We are expecting an active Western Disturbance from January 4, which may cause light to moderate rain in Northwest India, heavy snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir, and light to moderate snowfall in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand," IMD scientist Naresh Kumar said. He said there was no expected change in the temperature in the next 24 hours, but a spike of 2 to 4 degrees was likely in North India thereafter. A cold wave may be experienced in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh in the next 24 hours. Cold day conditions are expected over Punjab.

Himachal: Rs 21.40 crore to border areas with strict conditions, along with this the Centre gave a warning to the state government

Diary Times Desk : The central government has released the budget with strict conditions for the areas of Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti bordering China. The Center has released Rs 21.40 crore to the state government under the Border Area Development Program (BADP) and has also given clear instructions that if the budget is not spent as per the rules, it will be reduced from the next budget. The Border Management Department of the Union Home Ministry has released this budget to the state government with these instructions. The central government has released this amount as the central share, while the Himachal Pradesh government has been asked to spend its share of Rs 2 crore 37 lakh 80 thousand for this. If any kind of income or interest etc. is taken on this budget, then it will have to be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of the Government of India. It has also been said that while spending this budget, there will be no overlapping with any other scheme. Whether that scheme is of the central government or of the Himachal government. Any capital under this budget will be raised only on the land of the Government of India. If in future it is found that the budget has not been spent as per the conditions laid down under this scheme.

Quad renews pledge to work towards free and stable Indo-Pacific

Agencies : India and other Quad member nations on Tuesday reaffirmed the grouping's steadfast commitment to work towards a free, open and peaceful Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region. The foreign ministers of the member nations of the grouping made the pledge in a joint statement commemorating the 20th anniversary of "Quad cooperation". India, the US, Australia and Japan came together 20 years ago to extend assistance in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, and that coalition subsequently took form of the Quad. In the last few years, the Quad has rolled out a number of initiatives addressing some of the most pressing needs and challenges of the Indo-Pacific region, including in areas of maritime security, infrastructure and connectivity. India is scheduled to host the next Quad Summit that is likely to take place in the second half of 2025. The foreign ministers of the four nations said the Quad will work together in responding to the future needs of the Indo-Pacific. As four partners, we share a vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific that is peaceful, stable and prosperous.

Himachal News: 25 crores were demanded for clean chit in scholarship scam, second FIR against ED officer

Diary Times Desk : One layer after another is being revealed in the much talked about scholarship scam of Rs 181 crore in Himachal Pradesh. In the year 2019, the Assistant Director of ED, who was investigating the scholarship scam in Himachal, had demanded bribe from the accused of private educational institutions. It is alleged that the Assistant Director of ED and two others demanded Rs 25 crore from 29 private educational institutions in the name of arresting the operators of private educational institutions. The private educational operators complained about this to the Chandigarh CBI office. After this, the CBI laid a trap to catch the accused with the help of the operators of private educational institutions. However, Assistant Director Vishal Deep Singh is still out of the reach of CBI. His brother Vikas Deep and aunt's son Neeraj have been arrested. Both of them are in jail. Himalaya Group of Institutes Chairman Bhupinder Sharma, Devbhoomi Himalaya Group Chairman Rajneesh Bansal, ICL Group of Institutes Chairman Sanjeev Prabhakar, Vidya Jyoti Group of Institutes Chairman DJ Singh and others alleged in a joint press conference in Shimla on Monday that ED officials had demanded Rs 25 crore in lieu of not arresting them. Along with this, they were called to the ED office to pressurize them to give bribe and were mentally tortured by making them sit outside for 8-8 hours. The names of 3 officers working in ED's Shimla office were also disclosed. Some staff members were also claimed to be involved in the bribery case. Rajneesh Bansal said that the ED assistant director showed him a fake arrest warrant. Once Sanjeev Prabhakar was about to commit suicide due to harassment. Then we went to the lawyer. After that it was decided to go to the CBI. Sanjeev Prabhakar said that he was beaten with sticks.

UP start-up dedicates 2 butter varieties to Jimmy Carter

Agencies : Thousands of miles away from his home in Georgia where he breathed his last, former US president Jimmy Carter will live on - in the form of two new varieties of peanut butter dedicated to the "champion of peanut farming" from Unnao-based startup Nutty Village. Carter, who was elected in the wake of the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War, died at his home in Plains, Georgia, on Sunday at the age of 100. Nutty Village has decided to honour Carter for his "commitment to agriculture", Aman Kumar, who started the company in 2020, told PTI. "As a tribute to the former president of the United States of America, considered a champion of peanut farming and rural development, we will be dedicating our upcoming range of coffee-flavoured peanut butter and barbeque-flavoured peanut butter in his honour," the 29-year-old entrepreneur said. The two new flavours - coffee and barbeque -- are being added to the existing dark chocolate, jaggedy and unsweetened varieties. Carter was the third American president to visit India. A village in Gurugram district, Daulatabad Nasirpur, was named Carterpuri at the suggestion of the then Indian prime minister Morarji Desai.



Himachal Weather: Severe cold in Himachal, threat of avalanche, weather will change in the new year

Diary Times Desk : Himachal is in the grip of severe cold. On Sunday night, the mercury was recorded at minus 15.5 degrees Celsius in Tabo. This is the lowest mercury recorded this season. The risk of avalanche has increased due to sunshine in the state. 227 roads are closed across the state. Tourists going to Atal Tunnel Rohtang, Jalori Pass and Lahaul have been asked to be cautious. The weather is expected to remain clear in most parts of the state till January 1. Western disturbance will be active from January 2. There is a forecast of rain and snowfall at many places from January 2 to 5. On Sunday night, the mercury was also recorded in minus in Manali, Kalpa, Kukumseri, Bharmour and Samdo. On Monday, the weather remained clear in most parts of the state including the capital Shimla. Dense fog prevailed in many areas of the plains Bilaspur, Sundarnagar, Mandi and Una on Monday morning and evening. The Meteorological Center Shimla has predicted fog in these areas till January 1. Vehicular movement has come to a halt on 14 roads along with two highways in Kullu district. Traffic has come to a halt on around 130 roads in Lahaul valley also. Darkness has descended in around 8 to 10 villages due to the shutdown of 10 power transformers in Manali. The Pathankot-Bharmour National Highway from Kharamukh to Bharmour has been restored for the movement of small vehicles. Chamba Jot Marg has also been restored for small vehicles. Due to fog, Una recorded the lowest maximum temperature of this season on Monday. The temperature in Una was 12.8 degrees. 29 power transformers are disrupted in Chamba district. The state received 36 percent more rainfall than normal in December. From 1 to 30 December, the state received 49.1 mm rainfall. 36.2 mm rainfall during this period is considered normal.

Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhu said- Modern PET scan, MRI machines will be installed in IGMC, Tanda

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that Rs 1,570 crore would be spent on the purchase of ultra-modern medical equipment and machinery for the benefit of the people of the state. He said that 9.50 lakh patients go out of the state every year for disease diagnosis and treatment, which results in a loss of Rs 1,350 crore in the GDP. This is a serious issue. While chairing the review meeting of the Health Department, Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that medical colleges are being upgraded with the facility of robotic surgery in Neurology, Oncology, Orthopaedics and other departments. This will reduce the workload of doctors and the patients undergoing treatment will also be benefited. He said that the process of installing ultra-modern PET Scan and MRI machines is underway in IGMC and Tanda Medical College. The Chief Minister said that a Cancer Care Centre of Excellence equipped.

Himachal News: Criteria for BPL selection will change in Himachal, preparations to increase income limit

Diary Times Desk : The criteria for selection in the BPL list will change in Himachal. The income limit for eligible families may increase. For this, the government has instructed the officials to set the criteria from January 5. These will be approved in the cabinet meeting. The process of revision of the list of BPL families will start from April. To verify the lists, the CM has instructed to form a committee of SDM and BDO. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, in a review meeting of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department in Shimla on Monday, instructed the officials to ensure that only eligible families are included in the BPL list. The new guidelines will be shared with the general public in the Gram Sabha to be held in January. He said that the state government is considering revision of the annual income for selection of BPL families.

Himachal News: Father convicted of sexually abusing minor daughter sentenced to 25 years rigorous imprisonment, fined Rs one lakh

Diary Times Desk : The court of Special Judge Hamirpur has convicted the father accused of sexually assaulting his daughter. The court has sentenced him to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 lakh. In case of non-payment of the fine, an additional six months of simple imprisonment will have to be suffered. On the complaint of the minor victim under Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), a case was registered against the accused in the Women Police Station Hamirpur in FIR No. 35/2023 on 20 July 2023. The accused is a driver by profession. After filing the charge sheet, the case was conducted in the court. Special Public Prosecutor Sandeep Agnihotri argued the case. He said that 20 witnesses were examined in support of the allegations. After hearing the arguments, the court convicted the accused and sentenced him. Apart from this, the court has also given compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the victim. The court of Chamba District and Sessions Judge Chamba Jaswant Singh has sentenced the father to life imprisonment, declaring him guilty in the case of raping a minor.

Heart Attack: Himachal Pradesh has the highest number of deaths due to heart disease; Heart patients increased by 111% in the last 31 years

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal, which has a clean climate and peaceful environment, the number of heart patients is increasing continuously. Earlier, mostly elderly people used to suffer from heart attack and other cardiovascular diseases. But now, youth in the age group of 20 to 40 are also getting caught in its grip. According to the Global Burden of Disease (IHME) report, heart disease is the cause of 14.29 percent deaths in the state, which is more than the national average of 13.20 percent. According to the report, Himachal ranks fifth in the country in terms of heart disease, while it ranks second in cases of high blood pressure and cholesterol. Rapidly changing lifestyle, urbanization, changes in diet have increased this challenge further. According to global health parameters, cardiovascular disease (CAD) has become the main cause of death in Himachal. At the same time, cases of heart disease have increased by 111 percent in the state in the last 31 years. These figures are also a big warning for the youth.

China has evil eye on Larung Gar Buddhist Academy of Tibet, deployed 400 Chinese soldiers, landed helicopters

Diary Times Desk : The issue of Tibet has been a thorn in China's throat for almost 74 years. It has been claiming its territory since 1951 after attacking it. Now, to tighten control over the region, it has deployed 400 soldiers as well as sent helicopters to the Larung Gar Buddhist Academy, the world's largest Buddhist study center located in Sartar County of eastern Tibet. This information has been given by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) quoting reports from Tibet. This move of China is being considered as a strategy to further strengthen Chinese control in the region and an attempt to keep a strict eye on religious activities in the academy. According to the CTA, the deployment of Chinese soldiers and sending helicopters on 20 December 2024 indicates that China will keep a strict vigil here and will tighten its grip on the Tibetan Buddhist study center. Larung Gar was established in 1980. It has been a center of spirituality for Buddhist monks for a long time. It is of great importance for Buddhists who wish to immerse themselves in the depths of spiritual education. However, the Chinese government views the academy as a center of Tibetan identity and autonomy and has been constantly restricting it. China has also shown its dominance here in the past. In previous repressions by China, especially in 2016-2017, thousands of monastic residences were demolished and many practitioners were forcibly evicted.

To strengthen health sector, govt to spend Rs 1,570 crore, says CM

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu today said the state government will spend Rs 1,570 crore to acquire state-of-the-art medical equipment and machineries to strengthen the health sector in state. Annually 9.50 lakh patients travel to other states for diagnosis and treatment, resulting in a loss of Rs 1,350 crore of GDP per year," he said while chairing a review meeting of the Health Department. He said Rs 300-crore Cancer Care Centre of Excellence, with ultramodern facilities like cyclotron machine, radiation and nuclear medicine therapy, would be set up at Government Medical College, Hamirpur. The Chief Minister said medical colleges were being upgraded with the facility of robotic surgery in neurology, oncology and orthopaedics.

'Biwi Bhaag Jayegi...': Gautam Adani On 70-Hour Work Week Debate

Agencies : Weighing in on the work-life balance debate, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said the balance is felt when one does things they like doing. He added that life becomes simple when one accepts the fact that they are mortal. In a conversation with news agency IANS, Mr Adani said, "Your work-life balance should not be imposed on me, and my work-life balance shouldn't be imposed on you. Say, someone spends four hours with family and finds joy in it, or if someone else spends eight hours and enjoys it, that's their balance. Notwithstanding that if you spend eight hours, biwi bhaag jayegi (wife will run away)." Mr Adani added that the essence of work-life balance lies in one's own happiness and that of loved ones. "Your work-life is balanced when you do things which you like doing... For us either it is family or work, we don't have a world out of this... Our children also notice that only and take note of it... No one has come here permanently. When one understands this, life becomes simple," Mr Adani said.

No Evidence Of Paper Leak In BPSC Exam: Bihar Minister

Agencies : Amid the stalemate over demand for cancellation of a recent competitive exam in Bihar, a close aide of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday asserted that it has received no evidence, so far, of question paper leak. The averment came from Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, one of the senior-most ministers in the state cabinet, a day after the chief secretary spoke to a delegation of protesters, in a gesture aimed at breaking the deadlock. Speaking to reporters, Mr Chaudhary said, "The government could not have acted with greater clarity. The top official gave a patient hearing to the aggrieved party. But, to my information, no evidence of question paper leak has been furnished so far." "So, as of now, we hold that there has been no paper leak. This is also the stand of the public service commission. One examination centre had witnessed some disturbances and a re-examination has been ordered for the candidates who were affected," the minister said. "But obviously, there was a conspiracy. Rumours of question paper leak were spread, but nobody knew where was it leaked, and to whom. Those behind this played with the future of young students. They must be unmasked," he said. The minister's statement was in line with the stand taken by the BPSC over the matter.

India extending all help to Indian woman sentenced to death in Yemen



Agencies : The Indian government is extending all possible help in the case of Nimisha Priya, an Indian national on death row in Yemen, the external affairs ministry said on Tuesday hours after the Yemeni president approved her death sentence. Priya, 36, who is from Palakkad in Kerala, was arrested in July 2017 in connection with the murder of a Yemeni citizen. She was sentenced to death by a Yemeni court in 2020. After efforts to secure her release through the Islamic tradition of "diyat", or paying "blood money" to the victim's family, failed, Yemen's President Rashad al-Alimi approved her death sentence on Monday. Responding to the development, external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government is extending all help in Priya's case while her family explores "relevant options". Jaiswal said: "We are aware of the sentencing of Ms Nimisha Priya in Yemen. We understand that the family of Ms Priya is exploring relevant options." He added, without giving details, "The government is extending all possible help in the matter."

Delhi LG's office replies to Atishi's letter on religious structures: 'CM playing cheap politics'

Agencies : A fresh war of words erupted on Tuesday between Delhi lieutenant governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and chief minister Atishi over the alleged order to demolish religious structures in the capital. According to an ANI report, Atishi in a letter to the LG claimed that the religious committee on his directions and approval had decided to demolish multiple religious structures. "It has been decided by the Religious Committee on your directions, and with your approval to demolish multiple religious structures across Delhi. As you can see the list of religious structures to be demolished includes many temples and Buddhist places of worship that are revered by the Dalit community," the letter said. Demolition of these structures would hurt the religious sentiments of these communities. On behalf of the people of Delhi, I would like to request you not to demolish any of these temples and places of worship in the list enclosed,"

GSLV mission in January to mark 100th launch from Sriharikota: ISRO chief

Agencies : The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief S Somanath revealed on Monday that the country's space agency is gearing up to achieve a significant milestone with a Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) mission scheduled in January set to become the 100th launch from the Sriharikota spaceport. The 99th launch from Sriharikota was Monday's PSLV-C60 mission which successfully placed two spacecraft for conducting the Space Docking Experiment in a circular orbit. "So, all of you have seen the majestic lift-off and the launch of the SpaDeX rocket, and for us.

Pinarayi Vijayan Responds To BJP Leader's "Kerala Mini Pakistan" Remark

Agencies : Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has slammed Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane's "mini Pakistan" remark on the southern state. He has described the remark as "deeply malicious" and "utterly condemnable" and said it reflects hate campaigns against Kerala. The derogatory remark by Maharashtra Fisheries and Ports Minister @NiteshNRane, labelling Kerala as 'mini-Pakistan', is deeply malicious & utterly condemnable. Such rhetoric reflects the hate campaigns orchestrated by the Sangh.

Pranab Mukherjee's daughter Sharmistha slams Rahul Gandhi's 'bhakt-chelas'

Agencies : Sharmistha Mukherjee, the daughter of former president Pranab Mukherjee, has slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's loyalists and also, hit back at own brother, Abhijit Mukherjee on Monday, days after she alleged that no CWC meeting was convened after her father's demise. Sharmistha Mukherjee also challenged Rahul Gandhi's "Bhakt-chelas", who allegedly called Pranab Mukherjee "Sanghi" for his visit to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh office in Nagpur, to the Congress MP hugging PM Narendra Modi.

On Manipur violence, CM Biren Singh says 'feel regret, want to say sorry to people of state'

Agencies : Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh apologised to the people of the state and expressed "regret" for ethnic violence that has rocked the state since May 2023. "This entire year has been very unfortunate. I feel regret and I want to say sorry to the people of the state for what is happening till today, since last May 3. Many people lost their loved ones. Many people left their homes. I really feel regret. I would like to apologise," ANI quoted Singh as saying. "Now, I hope after seeing the last 3-4 months' progress towards peace, I hope that with the New Year 2025, normalcy and peace will be restored in the state. I want to appeal to all the communities of the state that whatever happened has happened. We now have to forget past mistakes and have to start a new life. A peaceful Manipur, a prosperous Manipur, we should all live together," Singh added.



North Korea's Kim hails 'comrade' Putin in New Year's greeting

Agencies : North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has paid homage to Russian President Vladimir Putin in a New Year's message extolling deepening ties between Pyongyang and Moscow, state media has reported. In a letter to mark the New Year, Kim extended his greetings to his "dearest friend and comrade" Putin, the Russian people and Russian military personnel, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Tuesday. Kim wished Putin "greater success in his responsible and heavy state leadership activities and the Russian people prosperity, wellbeing and happiness", KCNA said. Kim expressed willingness to "design and push ahead with new projects" involving Pyongyang and Moscow after their "meaningful journey" in 2024, KCNA said, and hope that Russia would defeat "neo-Nazism and achieve a great victory" in Ukraine. Putin has claimed without evidence that his 2022 invasion of Ukraine was necessary to protect Russian speakers from a "neo-Nazi dictatorship". North Korea and Russia have significantly ramped up ties since the start of the war.

Yemen's Huthis a 'menace' for Israel despite weakened Iran: analysts

Agencies : Israel's devastating campaigns against Iran's regional allies have severely weakened its arch-enemy's ability to project its power, but Yemen's Tehran-backed Huthi rebels remain a stubborn thorn in its side, analysts say. With the ranks of Palestinian group Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah decimated after more than a year of war, and with the fall of Bashar al-Assad in Syria removing a key link in Iran's anti-Israel "axis of resistance", the Huthis have emerged as Israel's most immediate security concern. The Shiite Muslim rebel group controls much of Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, and has proven willing to repeatedly launch missile and drone attacks at Israel from afar, despite posing a limited threat to it militarily. But their location nearly 2,000 kilometres away, combined with their broader destabilising influence especially along vital Red Sea.

Thousands march in Bangladesh to mark student-led uprising that ousted PM Hasina

Agencies : Thousands of Bangladeshis rallied at a 'March for Unity' in the capital Dhaka on Tuesday to mark the student-led uprising five months ago that led to the ouster of longstanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and remember the more than 1,000 killed in the violence. The Students Against Discrimination group that led the protests, dropped a plan to call for changes to the country's 1972 constitution at the rally, after the interim government announced on Monday that it would prepare a proclamation. SAD says a 'Proclamation of the July Revolution' is essential to honour the sacrifice of the protesters who died or were wounded, and to serve as a document reflecting the people's aspirations. Some political analysts had expressed concern that there could be fresh instability if students sought changes to the constitution without broader consensus.

How 2 Crew Members In Deadly South Korea Plane Crash Survived



Agencies : Heartbreaking scenes unfolded at South Korea's Muan International Airport on Sunday after a Jeju Air flight crashed on the runway, killing 179 out of 181 people onboard. Only two people - flight attendants - survived the deadly crash because they were seated at the rear tail section of the aircraft - statistically known to be the safest place on a commercial flight. A 2015 study by TIME Magazine found that rear seats were the safest in case of accidents. The report suggested that the seats in the back of the aircraft had a 32 per cent fatality rate, compared to the middle third (39 per cent) and the front (38 per cent). The two survivors, identified as 32-year-old Lee and 25-year-old Kwon, were pulled from the tail section of the charred aircraft. The crash has reportedly left their recollections of the event shrouded in shock and confusion. After rescue Lee repeatedly asked, "What happened" and "Why am I here", a report by the Korean Times said. According to the hospital authorities, she sustained a fractured left shoulder and head injuries but remained conscious.

"No One Can Stop...": China's Xi Jinping Ends 2024 With A Threat To Taiwan

Agencies : Chinese President Xi Jinping has ended the year with a threat over Taiwan, saying "no one can stop the reunification" with China. He said this while addressing the nation on New Year's eve. Beijing has, for long, stated that the entire nation of Taiwan is part of China. It has also shown an overt and muscular posturing by carrying out air force and naval drills around the island nation. Beijing and Taipei represent two diametrically opposite ways of life. While Taiwan is a democracy, China is a communist country. In recent times, Beijing has intensified pressure on Taipei and has made all possible efforts to isolate the island nation from the rest of the world.

World Population To Reach 8.09 Billion On New Year's Day, India Tops The List

Agencies : The world population is projected to reach 8.09 billion on January 1, 2025, after witnessing an increase of over 71 million people in 2024, as per the estimates by the US Census Bureau. In 2024, India was the most populated country, with an estimated population of 1.41 billion. "The projected world population on January 1, 2025, is 8,092,034,511, up 71,178,087 (0.89 per cent) from New Year's Day 2024," the bureau said. Around 4.2 births and 2.0 deaths are expected worldwide every second during the month of January 2025. The jump of 0.9 per cent this year was a little less compared with 2023 when the total human population worldwide increased by 75 million. The US Census Bureau takes into consideration a revised series of population estimates at the end of every year to update the short-term projections for the population clock. After completing the updation of monthly projections, the daily population clock values are derived by interpolation. "Within each calendar month, the daily numerical population change is assumed to be constant, subject to negligible differences caused by rounding," the statement read. As per the Census Bureau data, the United States was expected to experience one birth every 9 seconds and one death every 9.4 seconds next month. Meanwhile, international migration is expected to add one person to the country's population every 23.2 seconds.

Indian-Origin Doctor, 26, Among 2 Killed In UAE Plane Crash: Report

Agencies : An Indian-origin doctor was among two killed in a light aircraft crash off the coast of UAE's Ras Al Khaimah on Sunday. The crash claimed the lives of both the pilot and co-pilot, the General Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement. Sulaymaan Al Majid was co-piloting the aircraft with a 26-year-old Pakistani woman who also died in the accident. Born and raised in the UAE, 26-year-old Sulaymaan had hired the plane for a sightseeing experience with his family. His father, mother, and younger brother were at the aviation club to watch the flight, according to reports. Sulaymaan's younger brother was scheduled to take the next flight, as per the reports. "We were looking forward to the New Year as a family, planning to celebrate together. Instead, our lives have been shattered. It feels like time has stopped for us. Sulaymaan was the light of our lives, and we don't know how to move forward without him," Sulaymaan's father was quoted.



Farm leader Dallewal ready to take medical aid if Centre agrees to hold talks: Punjab to Supreme Court



Agencies : The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted two more days to the Punjab Government to comply with its directions on shifting farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal -- who is on fast-unto-death since November 26 -- to a hospital. "Taking into consideration the totality of circumstances and keeping the interest of justice in view, we are inclined to accept the request to afford some more time for compliance with the directions issued by this court," a Vacation Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia said, posting a contempt petition against the Punjab Chief Secretary and Director General of Police for further hearing on January 2, 2025. The order came after Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh submitted that negotiators had visited the protest site and efforts were made for implementing the court's order by mobilising about 7,000 personnel. Due to Punjab bandh called by farmers' organisations on Monday, there were traffic blockades.

City to get 500 new smart bikes this week

Agencies : The Smart Bike Mobility Pvt Ltd, the company catering to the Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL) project, has announced to add a fleet of 500 more smart bikes (cycles) to the existing public bike sharing (PBS) system in Chandigarh. Despite facing several challenges, the company decided to increase the fleet in order to promote the venture, claimed the company representatives. "The company has procured 500 new smart bikes and will be deploying these at various dockings stations this week. This is to make up for the 1,400 bikes which have been damaged by miscreants, are under repair or stolen," said Animesh, general manager, operations and marketing of the project. He further revealed that the company is also planning to relaunch the e-bikes (operated with battery) for local residents. Earlier, the Chandigarh PBS project implemented and operated by SmartBike has been adjudged as the best among 100 smart cities in India by the Government of India and this award was presented in September 2023. However, the company faced a lot of challenges in terms of saving these bikes from damage.

PU to approach Manmohan's family over books donation

Agencies : Six years after former Prime Minister and Panjab University alumnus Dr Manmohan Singh had conveyed his wish to donate over 3,500 books from his personal library to his alma mater, the university plans to approach the family regarding this and hopes to accommodate the memorabilia of its one of the most distinguished alumni and a former teacher. Dr Manmohan Singh had passed away on December 26. The university in 2018 itself had identified a three-storey cylindrical area in Guru Tegh Bahadur Bhawan of the campus to house the books. Confirming the development, PU Vice-Chancellor Renu Vig said, "Dr Manmohan Singh was one of the greatest alumni ever.

Hold talks so that things can move forward: Protesting farmers to Centre

Agencies : The protesting farmers on Tuesday called on the Centre to hold a dialogue with them so that the trust deficit between the two sides is reduced and things can move forward. The appeal came as farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's fast over the non-fulfilment of farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops, completed 36 days. Dallewal has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border point, where the protesting farmers have been camping since February when their protest march towards Delhi was stopped by security personnel, between Punjab and Haryana. Asked about the Supreme Court hearing on the farmers' issue, farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohar said, "We are analysing it. We will discuss with Dallewal ji. His fast unto death has completed 36 days... his health is deteriorating." "We hope constitutional bodies of our country will give necessary directions to the Centre to accept farmers' demands," he said.

Over 25,000 cheque bounce cases pending in Chandigarh District Court

Agencies : Chandigarh has recorded second highest pending cheque bounce cases amongst all the union territories in the country. As per the latest figures 25, 437 cheque bounce cases are pending in the Chandigarh District Court. Delhi topped the list with 4,54, 653 cases pending till December 18, 2024. Goa recorded 11,314 pending cases while Puducherry recorded 6035, Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Diu and Daman 1417. Alternatively, Lakshadweep recorded 13 cases. There are approximately one lakh cases pending in the Chandigarh District Court. The cheque bounce cases are highest in all the categories of pending cases, comprising, a 25 percent share in the total. Kanchan Dewan, advocate of District Bar Association Chandigarh, said there is a need to take urgent steps to curb further increase in the pendency of cheque bounce cases. She said, though the District Court has some designated courts to deal with the cheque bounce cases, they are still inadequate in comparison to the increase in the cases. She said that the city has witnessed a surge in cases, recently, as it has become the centre of economic activity of northern India. Rajesh Sharma, another advocate said, to reduce the pendency, proper planning is required at all levels.

Haryana Governor, CM Saini, Nadda pay tributes to O P Chautala during condolence meeting

Agencies : Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Chief Minister Nayab Saini, Union Minister and BJP chief J P Nadda, SAD leader Sukhbir Singh Badal and others on Tuesday paid tributes to INLD patriarch O P Chautala, who passed away recently. At the "shradhanjali sabha" (condolence meeting) in Chaudhary Sahib Ram Stadium in the Chautala village, condolence messages to the Chautala family sent by President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria were also read out. O P Chautala, who was a five-time chief minister, died in Gurugram on December 20. He was 89. Chautala played an important role in Haryana's politics during his long public life and he was always dedicated to the development of the region, Murmu said. The prime minister said that Chautala was an experienced leader and efficient administrator. Addressing the "shradhanjali sabha", BJP chief and Union Health Minister J P Nadda said the demise of Om Prakash Chautala is not just a matter of grief for the family, but it is a sad moment for the entire state.

Biting cold in Haryana, Punjab



Agencies : Narnaul in Haryana was the coldest place in Haryana on Tuesday as biting cold weather conditions continued to prevail at many places in the state and neighbouring Punjab. According to the Met office here, Narnaul's minimum settled two notches below normal at 4.5 degrees Celsius. Among other places in Haryana, Hisar also experienced a cold night at 6.8 degrees. Bhiwani and Sirsa, too, braved the chill recording respective minimum temperatures of 6.7 and 7.4 degrees. Ambala recorded a low of 9.1 degrees. In Punjab, Bathinda was the coldest place in the state recording a minimum temperature of 5 degrees Celsius. Sangrur also experienced a cold night at 5.3 degrees while Faridkot recorded a low of 6 degrees Celsius. Ludhiana, Patiala and Amritsar recorded respective minimum temperatures of 7.4, 8.9 and 9 degrees Celsius. Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, registered a minimum temperature of 9.4 degrees Celsius.

Baddi roads choked as Punjab bandh forces diversion of New Year traffic

Diary Times Desk : The Pinjore-Baddi highway was choked with traffic due to diversion of vehicles heading towards Kullu and Manali following Punjab bandh today. Tourists hoping to celebrate the New Year in these picturesque destinations were compelled to drive through the Pinjore-Baddi national highway instead of the usual Ropar-Kiratpur-Mandi route. They were also denied an exciting ride through the three tunnels which have been carved out on this route in the newly four-laned highway. The Pinjore-Baddi-Nalagarh highway, which already sees an influx of industrial vehicles, faced an added lot of tourist vehicles today. While 30,000 vehicles already ply on a daily basis in this industrial cluster, several thousand were added today due to the Punjab bandh. "As four-laning work is underway on this highway, the movement of vehicles was partially hit, though additional policemen were deputed to deal with the exigency. However, traffic was diverted smoothly throughout the day," informed Additional SP Baddi Ashok Verma.

In 2 yrs, Rs 1cr fine collected over mining violations

Diary Times Desk : The Paonta Sahib Forest Division has achieved a milestone in its fight against illegal mining activities. Over the past two years, the division has imposed fines amounting to more than Rs 1.03 crore in over 550 cases of illicit mining — a record-breaking achievement for any department in Himachal Pradesh. This year alone, the division realised over Rs 60.5 lakh in penalties, with Rs 9 lakh collected in December, the highest monthly penalty ever imposed. The success is attributed to the unwavering commitment of the division's foresters, who conducted extensive field operations, surprise mining raids and round-the-clock vigilance, including late-night checks and nakas. These measures targeted illegal activities involving tractors, trucks, JCBs and tractor-trolleys across the four key ranges of Paonta, Bhagani, Majra and Girinagar. December's efforts surpassed.

Warning for Manali and Solang Valley adventure loving tourists amid snow chaos



Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh's popular winter getaway spots, Manali and Solang Valley, are facing severe disruption as heavy snow continues to create chaos, leaving many vehicles stranded on snow-covered roads. Social media posts have been buzzing with warnings from travellers who are urging others to reconsider their trips, given the worsening weather conditions. One such traveller, Chlucky Tyagi, shared a video on Instagram this weekend, showing a long line of cars stuck on the Solang Valley-Atal Tunnel route. "Manali and Solang Valley, koi bhi mat aana! (Do not come!)," Tyagi warns in the video, which was filmed in the dark amidst the snowstorm. In his post, Tyagi explained that he had been stuck since morning and was unsure when the situation would clear up. Adding to the urgency, Tyagi revealed that even the Sub-Divisional Magistrate's vehicle was among those trapped. The snow, which has been disrupting life in Himachal Pradesh for the past two days.

Snow-clearance operations on key roads in Lahaul-Spiti dist intensified

Diary Times Desk : The Lahaul-Spiti administration has announced that several key roads have been reopened for traffic. Deputy Commissioner Lahaul and Spiti Rahul Kumar confirmed that with the help of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the Manali-Kelong road has been cleared for small vehicles. Additionally, the road connecting Kaza to Kinnaur is also open. The local authorities continue to work on clearing link roads to ensure connectivity across the valley. The DC highlighted that while the snowfall has brought relief to farmers and gardeners, improving water supply for agricultural purposes, it posed challenges to infrastructure. He said that there remains a high risk of slippery roads due to the ongoing icy conditions, urging both locals and tourists to exercise caution while driving. He specifically advised the use of 4x4 drive vehicles or vehicles equipped with snow chains for safety. Furthermore, he cautioned against travelling during the night as the formation of "black ice" makes driving after dark particularly hazardous. In particular, the road from Kelong to Udaipur-Tindi has been reopened, but only 4x4 drive vehicles are allowed. Tourists planning to visit Lahaul.

Shimla welcomes wave of tourists as New Year celebrations kick off

Diary Times Desk : Thousands of tourists from across the country flocked to Shimla, one of the most popular hill stations, to bid farewell to 2024 and welcome the New Year. Tourists were seen enjoying leisurely strolls at the historic Ridge and Mall throughout the day. According to the police, by 7 pm on Monday, a total of 5,212 vehicles had entered the town. However, many tourists who had arrived over the weekend also began heading back as New Year's Eve fell on weekday this year. As per the hoteliers of the town, an occupancy rate of about 70 to 80 per cent was recorded on Monday. Prince Kukreja, vice-president of the Shimla Hotels and Tourism Stakeholders Association, said the hotel occupancy has increased significantly with the arrival of the New Year season. However, he noted that occupancy was not at full capacity. To make the New Year celebrations more vibrant and attract more tourists, a 10-day winter carnival was organised for the second consecutive year. The carnival included light decorations and various cultural events, along with food stalls at The Ridge.

List of BPL families to be revised from April: CM

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said the exercise to revise the list of BPL families will commence from April, 2025. Presiding over a review meeting of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department here today, the Chief Minister directed officials to formulate a new criteria to ensure that only eligible families are included in the BPL list. He added that the state government was also considering revision of the annual income criterion for selecting BPL families. He instructed the department to formulate this criterion before January 5, 2025, followed by the approval of the Cabinet. The new guidelines will be shared with the general public during the Gram Sabha meetings scheduled in January, he stated. In order to ensure transparency, Sukhu directed the officials to constitute a two-member committee, comprising the SDM and BDO, at the sub-divisional level to verify the lists of BPL families recommended by the Gram Sabha. He emphasised on a robust mechanism to identify eligible beneficiaries to ensure that they are not deprived of the benefits. The Chief Minister said any objections against the final list of BPL families could be submitted to the respective Deputy Commissioner and Divisional Commissioner, who will have the authority to review and address these grievances.



Gavaskar savaged over 'ridiculous, pathetic' claim on Jaiswal dismissal: 'He's why Indians are calling Aussies cheats'

Agencies : Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar was savaged on social media by cricket fans after claiming that the deflection was nothing but "optical illusion" in Yashasvi Jaiswal's controversial dismissal on the final evening of the fourth Test between India and Australia in Melbourne. The dismissal helped Australia secure a second victory in the series as they took a 2-1 lead with a final match yet to be played in Sydney. Jaiswal single-handedly led India's chase of 340 against Australia. Having scored a second successive fifty in the march, Jaiswal looked set for a hundred and was India's only hope to escape a defeat with a draw, thus forcing a fitting finale to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series later this week. However, Pat Cummins dismissed Jaiswal for 84, which sparked controversy. On-field umpire Joel Wilson was not convinced when Jaiswal gloved the shorter delivery from Cummins behind to the wicketkeeper. The Australia captain quickly referred it upstairs.



Rohit Sharma Told To Drop Himself From 5th Test, Accused Of Taking 'Selfish' Decision

Agencies : Generally considered one of the most selfless cricketers in the game, India captain Rohit Sharma has been accused of putting his interests over the team's during the defeat against Australia in Melbourne. Rohit, together with the team management, decided to drop Shubman Gill from the side and demote KL Rahul to the No. 3 spot. The changes were made in order to help Rohit open for the side once again. However, the said changes backfired, with both Rohit and Rahul failing to perform at MCG. Coming into the 4th Test against Australia, Rahul was looking like the best batter in the team. But, the changes seemed to have disturbed his rhythm while Rohit himself failed to provide India a fiery start at the top in both innings too. Rohit now faces criticism over his selfish act which was only his self-interest and not the team's. "For the first time in his career, he has taken a call for himself. In the past, calls have been taken for him. MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli took calls for him to move him from middle-order to opener. Dhoni did in ODIs, Virat did in Tests because they wanted Rohit to fire," former India cricketer Aakash Chopra said on his YouTube show.

On Travis Head's Bizarre 'Hole' Celebration vs India, Pat Cummins Offers Hilarious Explanation

Agencies : Australia star Travis Head has not only tormented India with the bat during the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, his bowling kickstarted India's downfall on Day 5 of the fourth Test in Melbourne. With Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant well set and the game heading towards a draw, Head got Pant out. However, after taking the wicket, Head reacted with a rather bizarre celebration, putting his finger into his hole-shaped other hand, and drawing criticism from fans. However, Australia captain Pat Cummins has given an explanation behind it. When asked in a post-match press conference regarding Head's celebration, Cummins, at first, admitted to having not seen it. When he finally learnt the description of the celebration from Australia's team manager, Cummins provided an explanation. "Oh, sorry! Yes, okay! I can explain that. His finger is so hot, that he is going to put it in a cup of ice. Yes, that's what it is," Cummins tried to explain to the media. "That's normally the running joke. Was it at the Gabba or somewhere, where he got a wicket as well and just got straight to the fridge, grabs a bucket of ice, puts his finger in and just walks in front of Lino.

"If Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma Retire, Not A Worry": Ex-Australia Coach's Big Verdict, Gives Reason

Agencies : Indian cricket has produced a generational superstar in Yashasvi Jaiswal and will remain in good health even when Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma decide to call time on their careers, feels former Australia head coach and two-time World Cup winner Darren Lehmann. The 54-year-old, who played 27 Tests and 117 ODIs during his decade-long career, is also captivated by Jasprit Bumrah's skills, claiming to have never seen any player have more impact in a single series. Talking about impending retirements of Rohit and Kohli following their poor show in the ongoing series where India trail 1-2, Lehmann was empathetic and practical about the transition in Indian cricket. "Look whenever they decide to give it away and whatever happens in next few days they have been great players for India over a long period of time," Lehmann, a member of 1999 and 2003 ODI World Cup-winning teams told PTI. "Now actually we see younger players starting to step up for India and play well at next level. There is so much depth in Indian cricket I won't worry too much," Lehmann was pretty matter of fact. "Whenever these two guys decide to retire, there are so many talented youngsters that Indian cricket will be in good stead."



Short TAKES

Vaishali lone Indian to make world blitz knockouts

Agencies : Magnus Carlsen returned to the tournament in jeans and played Hans Niemann, Vassily Ivanchuk audibly sobbed after a loss, 46th seed Aravinth Chithambaram defeated world No.3 Hikaru Nakamura and Daniil Dubov forfeited his game because he reportedly overslept – the penultimate day of the World Rapid and Blitz tournament (blitz section) wasn't short of drama. It was also a day that saw Indian GM Vaishali Rameshbabu dominate the women's standings – with a stellar count of eight wins and three draws – after 11 rounds – to make the knockouts. She will face Zhu Jiner, who qualified for the knockouts in eighth place, in the quarter-finals. The 23-year-old was the only Indian to make the knockouts across the open and women's sections. She did so with a round to spare and is a full point ahead of the rest of the field.

BCCI Told To Have Virat Kohli 'Exit Plan' Ready As Retirement Chatter Intensifies

Agencies : Rohit Sharma could be on the cusp of retirement from Test cricket but an exit might not be too far from Virat Kohli too. The duo's performances in Australia have triggered a big debate over their future in the longest format of the game. For Rohit, an end seems to be inevitable after the conclusion of the Australia tour whereas Kohli's case remains touch-and-go. Former India cricketer Atul Wassan has urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to have an exit plan ready amid the talismanic batter's inability to resolve form issues. Kohli, aged 36, has been struggling to resurrect his career for long. He has already quit T20 internationals and his Test career is hanging by a thread. While Wassan feels Virat's best might just be around the corner, he wants the BCCI to be ready with a successor and an exit plan. "Virat has got runs, but he also knows what's happening. They are very sorted mentally. A player always thinks that 'my best is around the corner'. I'll do it just now.' It's such a long spell; it's hurting the team, and there is questioning, saying you should be dropped. A lynch mob comes after you," Wassan told news agency ANI. "They also know what is going on. I think an exit plan, like a succession policy, must be clear, it's not fair on the management, the team, and the cricketing structure, we don't know what's there in your mind," he added.