

Himachal: Himachal's 'Children of the State' set out on a 13-day tour, CM Sukhu said – they also have the right to travel

BSF helping infiltrators enter West Bengal, claims Mamata Banerjee

Agencies : West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the Border Security Force (BSF) of helping "infiltrators" enter India to destabilise the state. Mamata Banerjee said illegal intruders were being pushed into the state and the Trinamool Congress was being blamed for it. "People are entering through BSF Islampur, through Sitai, through Chopra, we have news. Why are you not protesting? The border is in the hands of the BSF. If anyone thinks that they are intruding into Bengal and maligning the Trinamool, let them be warned that the Trinamool Congress does not do these things. Don't abuse Trinamool by supporting the wrongdoings of BSF," she said at a press conference.

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu flagged off the first group of 22 Children of the State on a 13-day tour. The Chief Minister flagged off the Volvo bus of the children and wished them all the best for this tour. The Chief Minister said that the present State Government has adopted 6000 orphan children of the State as Children of the State by making a law. To ensure their welfare, the Chief Minister Sukh Ashray Yojana has been implemented, under which provisions have been made to take care of orphan children, provide them education and make them self-reliant. These 22 children were sent on a tour to Chandigarh, Delhi and Goa under this scheme. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that among the 22 children who went on the tour, there are 16 girls and 6 boys. He informed that these children will visit Chandigarh from 2 January to 4 January and will stay at Himachal Bhawan Chandigarh. After this, on 5 January, they will go to Delhi by Shatabdi train and will stay in Delhi till 8 January and will visit various historical places there.



'Name DU college after Manmohan Singh instead of Veer Savarkar': NSUI's appeal to PM Modi

Maharashtra: Speed breaker shakes 'dead' man back to life in Kolhapur

Agencies : A man in Maharashtra's Kolhapur was declared dead but reportedly came back to life after the ambulance carrying his "body" hit a speed breaker, shaking him back to life. The man was again taken to a hospital, from where he walked back home a fortnight later. The family of Pandurang Ulpe, 65, noticed his fingers moving after the ambulance hit the speed breaker, according to a news agency PTI report. On December 16, Ulpe, a resident of Kasaba-Bawada in western Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, suffered a heart attack and was rushed to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead. An ambulance then began the journey with his "body" from the hospital to his home, where neighbors and relatives had gathered upon hearing the news of his demise, and were preparing for his last rites.

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the University of Delhi's upcoming college on Friday, named after Veer Savarkar. The institution in Najafgarh was approved by the university's executive council in 2021. The prime minister will also lay the foundation stones for two campuses in East and West Delhi. "It is a matter of great pride for us that Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation for three new Delhi University projects tomorrow. The first project is the East Delhi campus, followed by the West Delhi campus and Veer Savarkar College in Najafgarh," PTI quoted DU vice chancellor Yogesh Singh as saying. "Through these additional infrastructure projects, we aim to create more seats and new opportunities, which will be ready within 1.5 to two years. I would like to express our gratitude to the government for investing in these projects," Singh added.

Mumbai Pilot Who Died By Suicide Didn't Complain About Boyfriend: Court

Agencies : A court, while granting bail to a man booked for abetting the suicide of his girlfriend and Air India pilot, held that the victim had not complained to her family member or any authority about their strained relationship and his acts. Pilot Srishti Tuli (25), who lived in a rented flat in Marol area of Mumbai was found dead in the early hours of November 25. A day later, police arrested her boyfriend Aditya Pandit (27), and charged him with abetment of suicide. Additional sessions judge (Dindoshi court) T T Aglawe on December 27 granted bail to the accused. In the detailed order made available on Thursday, the court noted that the FIR points out three instances of strained relationship between the applicant and the deceased.



Supreme Court to hear plea by Asaduddin Owaisi to implement Places of Worship Act

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear a plea filed by All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) head Asaduddin Owaisi seeking the implementation of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. A Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar ordered for the plea to be tagged with a related petition filed by Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind. Advocate Nizamuddin Pasha appeared for Owaisi. The matter likely to come up for hearing in February. The Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind had earlier approached the Supreme Court seeking to be added as a party in the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, which challenges the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

Himachal CM: CM Sukhu gave up electricity subsidy, ministers and Congress MLAs will also give up; made this appeal to the public too

Diary Times Desk : On the first day of the new year, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu announced to give up subsidy on electricity meters installed in his government and private residence. The CM said, I have five electricity meters in my name. I am getting 625 units of electricity as subsidy. This subsidy should be given to the poor man. The CM said that all the members of the cabinet and Congress MLAs have also agreed to give up subsidy. The CM has appealed to the capable people to voluntarily give up electricity. The board has prepared a format and it has to be filled. Sukhu filled a form and handed it over to the Chairman of the Electricity Board to give up subsidy. The CM gave this information in a press conference at Oakover Shimla on Wednesday. He said that if capable people give it up, there will be a monthly saving of Rs 200 crore.



To place an advertisement

CALL +91 97361 15050

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

Akansha Building, VPO Ghanahatti, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, 171011

Himachal: Daughters created history, Divyang women team won T-20 Cup; defeated Delhi in the final of the competition

Delhi's air quality worsens, AQI remains in 'poor' category for 3rd day

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh's Divyang women's team has created history by winning the national T-20 competition. Himachal's team defeated Delhi's team in the final match. Himachal won the trophy by defeating Delhi by 9 runs. The third Divyang cricket competition was organized at the Cantonment Football Ground in Ramgarh city of Jharkhand under the aegis of Divyang Parivartan Foundation, an organization working for the disabled. In this, Himachal gave Delhi a target of 83 runs in the stipulated 12 overs. Delhi team could score only 74 runs in 12 overs. Himachal's team included Captain Rachna Kumari, Ranjana Thakur, Hemlata, Sapna, Meena, Tripta Devi, Renu Kumari from Bilaspur, Soma Devi from district Hamirpur, Vice Captain Nisha Bhatia from Kangra, Kanta, Jyoti from Kullu, Mala Bhagati from Kinnaur. Teachers from Bilaspur Sangeet Chauhan Mandi and Kanta Devi from Kullu were present to take care of the team. International Divyang player Jyoti from Kullu said that in the first match, Himachal Pradesh gave a tough fight to Jharkhand and won. Defeated Odisha in the semi-final and the final match was with Delhi.



Agencies : Delhi began Thursday, 2 January, with air quality in the "poor" category. The Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 283, marking a decline from Wednesday's reading of 239 and Tuesday's 236. Earlier in the week, on Monday, the capital saw a temporary improvement in air quality, with levels shifting to the "moderate" category after heavy rainfall over the weekend. Throughout 2024, Delhi faced a severe air pollution crisis, recording the highest number of "severe" AQI days since 2022. A total of 17 days exceeded an AQI of 400, representing dangerous pollution levels. Additionally, there were 70 days classified as "very poor", the most since 2022, reflecting the persistent air quality challenges. Significantly, Delhi did not experience a single "good" air quality day (AQI 0-50) in 2024, making it the first time since 2018 that this benchmark was not achieved.

Shimla Winter Carnival: Shimla Winter Carnival started, Punjabi singer Satinder Sartaj will rock

Disputes between LG, Delhi govt should end once and for all: Supreme Court

Diary Times Desk : Winter Carnival will start again from Thursday. Due to the death of former PM Manmohan Singh, the program was postponed for 6 days. Now the program is starting again, the Municipal Corporation has completed the preparations for it. Punjabi singer Satinder Sartaj will rock the Star Night on Thursday. Satinder Sartaj will give his performances from 7:45 pm. Before this, laughter fame Rajiv Malhotra will make people laugh. Many more cultural programs will be held during the day. According to the Municipal Corporation, the Winter Carnival was postponed for 6 days. The cultural activities to be held during these 6 days will now be conducted from January 3 to 8. During this time, competitions like Voice of Shimla, Miss and Mr. Junior, Himachal Strongest Man Competition, Miss Winter Carnival will also start from Friday. Himachali folk singers will also give performances from Friday itself. With the start of Winter Carnival, Shimla city will once again shine with colorful lights. The Municipal Corporation has completed preparations for this on Wednesday. Due to national mourning, no cultural program was organized in Shimla city for the last 6 days. Thousands of tourists who reached Shimla on New Year will now be able to enjoy.

Agencies : The disputes between the lieutenant governor (LG) and the Delhi government should end once and for all, the Supreme Court said on Thursday as it closed a petition seeking operationalising of the Farishtey scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims. A bench of justices Bhushan R Gavai and KV Viswanathan allowed the Delhi government to withdraw the petition after senior advocate Shadan Farasat informed the court that payments were released after the notice over the plea was issued in December 2023. Farasat said the tussle between the LG and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is essentially for control over services. A Supreme Court constitution bench in May 2023 ruled in favour of the Delhi government having control over transfers and posting of officers. The Union government issued an ordinance within a week of the judgment. A law that followed later restored to the Union government power over services. It made significant amendments to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act, 1991. The AAP government challenged the move which is pending.

"Anna University Sexual Assault Case Being Politicised": Madras High Court

Hyderabad College Students Allege Filming In Hostel Washrooms, Cops Probe

Agencies : The Madras High Court today said that the alleged sexual assault case at Anna University is "being politicised". The remark came during a hearing where Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK)'s counsel raised concerns about the denial of police permission for a planned protest in Chennai over the incident. "Anna University sexual assault case is being politicised. There is no genuine concentration on women's safety," the High Court observed. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has formed a two-member fact-finding committee including retired IPS officer Praveen Dixit. Over a two-day investigation, the committee visited the university, met with the victim, her family, authorities, and NGOs, and assessed campus security. In a post on X, the NCW stated: "To ensure accountability, the NCW assessed security at Anna University, met the SIT, and engaged stakeholders... A detailed report with actionable recommendations was prepared." The incident occurred on December 23, when a 19-year-old engineering student was allegedly sexually assaulted on the Anna University campus.



Agencies : After massive protests by female students of a private engineering college over alleged video recording in hostel bathrooms, police on Thursday registered a case and began investigations. CMR Engineering College at Medchal, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, was rocked by protests on Wednesday night and this continued till 2 a.m. Medchal police registered a case after taking a complaint from the students and picked up five mess workers on suspicion. Assistant Commissioner of Police Srinivas Reddy said they seized 12 mobile phones of these workers. "We have so far found no evidence that they recorded videos. We have not found any obscene videos on their phones. However, we are verifying if any videos were deleted," he said. The ACP said they took a complaint from the students and registered a case. A case of negligence has also been registered against the management of the college as the rooms were given to mess workers next to the bathroom and they had access to the ventilator of the bathroom. "We have found no evidence so far but there is room for suspicion," the ACP said.



Himachal News: Himachal government sought proposals for allocation of 22 new hydropower projects

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the state government is going to allocate 22 new hydropower projects. Their total power capacity is 828 MW. He said that these projects include projects ranging from 6.5 MW to 400 MW. These projects have been identified in the state's Kullu, Chamba, Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Shimla districts. Of these, the maximum of 595 MW capacity nine projects are proposed to be set up in Chenab river basin, eight projects of 169 MW capacity in Sutlej river basin, four projects of 55 MW capacity in Ravi and one project of nine MW capacity in Beas basin. In a statement issued on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that for the first time the state government has decided to allocate these projects to other states and union territories of the country and other state and central undertakings on the basis of upfront premium of Rs 10 lakh per MW for 40 years. He said that in this regard, a letter has also been sent by the Energy Directorate to all the state secretaries and central undertakings. Advertisements are also being issued to gain maximum publicity for the allotment of these projects.



Himachal News: Murder for 40 rupees in Himachal Pradesh, died during treatment, police registered a case

Diary Times Desk : A case of murder of a fellow laborer for just 40 rupees has come to light in Bhoranj. The incident is said to have taken place on 26 December in Sammutal of Bhoranj. Sandeep Kumar was seriously injured during the fight. After six days, Sandeep died last night during treatment at AIIMS Bilaspur. On the basis of the complaint of the wife, the police have registered a case of murder. In the complaint given to the police, Aarti Devi, resident of village Netwapur, post office Umariya Bazar, Tehsil Dhanghata, District Sant Kabirnagar, Uttar Pradesh, currently resident of village Sammutal Tehsil Bhoranj, said that on 26 December at 7:00 pm when she was at home with her children, loud screams were heard outside. Ramdarsh, a resident of UP, was holding her husband Sandeep near the petrol pump on the road. During this time, Ramdarsh's brother-in-law Amarjeet hit her husband on the head with a bamboo stick and fled from the spot. The woman said that during this time her maternal uncle Samarjeet and petrol pump employees were also present at the spot. The complainant took her injured husband to Bassi Hospital on foot along with her uncle Samarjit. The police also reached the spot. During this time, the police was informed that Sandeep was injured due to a fall. In such a situation, a case was not registered.

Himachal News: After controversy, men's volleyball team trials cancelled, selection to be done afresh

Diary Times Desk : After questions were raised on the selection process, the Youth Services and Sports Department has cancelled the trials for the men's team six days before the Senior National Volleyball Championship. The Sports Department issued orders to cancel the trials on Wednesday and claimed that a new team will be selected soon. The competition is starting from January 7 in Jaipur. The team has to leave for Jaipur on the 5th, so selecting players is no less than a challenge for the department. The trials for the men's and women's teams for the national competition were held on December 26 at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Shimla. When the list of players selected for the men's team was revealed, some players who participated in the trials questioned the selection process. Accusing the selectors of rigging, they accused them of excluding players who had played in the national earlier.

Shimla Car Accident: Car fell in Matiyana, three youths including brother-in-law and brother-in-law died on the spot; were going home on New Year

Diary Times Desk : While people were busy celebrating the new year, three youths died in a road accident in Matiyana, Theog. An Alto car fell into a deep gorge in the accident that took place late on Tuesday night. Three youths died on the spot. The police have registered a case and are investigating the accident. Three youths were going from Shimla to Rampur in an Alto HP 02AA 0619. As soon as the car reached the petrol pump at Matiyana at around 11 pm, the driver lost control of the car. Due to this, the car fell into a deep gorge about 150 feet below the road. In this accident, car driver Sajan, son Rakesh, resident of Sungra, Tehsil Nichar, District Kinnaur, Prashant, son Shiv Kumar, village Kashmir Kalpa, District Kinnaur and Sahil, son Bittu Pratap, village Kapti, Tehsil Nirmand, District Kullu died on the spot. All three were going from Shimla to their home. According to eyewitnesses, the accident took place around 11 pm. Villagers reached the spot after hearing the sound of the car falling but by then all three youths had died. Villagers informed the police. Police and local people took the dead bodies out of the spot. Police took all three bodies to Theog hospital.

Himachal News: SSB SI who left for UP from Jogindernagar is missing in Bareilly, family members appealed for help

Diary Times Desk : The sudden disappearance of SSB sub-inspector belonging to Jogindernagar in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh has created a sensation in the area. The family members have expressed the fear of kidnapping and looting. They have also written a letter to the local police administration and have requested the Himachal Pradesh government and the Director General of Police for help. According to the information received from the family, Sub Inspector Dharam Singh (57), a resident of Chalgarg, Jogindernagar, after taking a month's leave, left Jogindernagar for Chandigarh by bus on the morning of 31 December. From here, he completed the further journey by train and reached Bareilly at around 4 am on the first of January. From there, SSB sub-inspector Dharam Singh called his family members in Jogindernagar.

Himachal News: Sukhu government gave six months extension to Animal Husbandry Director, he retired on 31 December

Diary Times Desk : The state government has given six months' extension to Animal Husbandry Department Director Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sharma on the second day of his retirement. On Thursday, Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena issued a notification for six months' extension to Pradeep Sharma. Some officials of the department itself were opposing Pradeep's extension. The officials had raised the issue with the state government and the chairman of the National Scheduled Caste Commission. Despite this, on the request of the Agriculture Minister, the Chief Minister gave the green signal to extend Pradeep's service. On the other hand, Agriculture Minister Professor Chandra Kumar says that livestock census has been started in the state to effectively implement the scheme started for the purchase of milk and cow dung manure and to increase the income of livestock farmers. The entire process is going on under the supervision of the Director of Animal Husbandry. The Chief Minister was requested to give six months' extension to the Director.

Himachal Weather: Weather will change in Himachal from today, rain and snowfall alert till seven; decrease in temperature will be recorded

Diary Times Desk : Weather will change in Himachal Pradesh from Thursday. Rain and snowfall alert has been issued in many areas of the state from January 2 to 7. Due to western disturbance being active in most areas on January 5 and 6, the intensity of rain and snowfall is forecast to be high. During this time, the temperature is also likely to decrease. Dense fog prevailed in many areas of the plain districts Una, Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur and Bilaspur on Wednesday morning and evening. An alert has been issued for fog on Thursday as well. Weather remained clear in most areas of the state including capital Shimla on Wednesday. Maximum temperature increased by three to four degrees as compared to Tuesday. The maximum temperature was recorded at 23.3 degrees Celsius in Chamba.

"Ruined My Life": Video Shows Expletive-Laden Chat Between Cafe Owner, Wife

Agencies : A CCTV video has shown Delhi cafe owner Puneet Khurana, who died by suicide, having a conversation with his estranged wife Manika Pahwa. The video of the expletive-laden exchange shows Pahwa accusing Khurana of ruining her life. "I will go to your locality and create a scene. They keep crying on the phone," she is heard saying. Khurana (40) was found hanging in his room in Model Town's Kalyan Vihar area on New Year's Eve. He had spoken to Pahwa on Monday night and recorded the conversation, in which the couple can be heard fighting over issues related to their co-owned bakery 'For God's Cake'. In the 15-minute call recording, Pahwa was heard saying, "Beggars, tell me what have you asked for. I do not want to see your face. If you come in front of me, I will slap you. If the divorce is going on, will you remove me from the business? Then you will say, if you threaten me, I will commit suicide." In response, the man dismissed her grievances, saying, "All of this doesn't matter anymore. Just tell me what you want." Pahwa and Khurana got married in 2016 and started the Woodbox Cafe together. After a year-and-a-half of being married, their relationship soured and by mutual consent, they moved court for a divorce.

Arvind Kejriwal backs protesting farmers: 'Centre planning to implement 3 black laws'

Agencies : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the BJP-led central government is planning to implement the three "black" farm laws it had withdrawn in 2021 after massive protests by farmers. He alleged that the BJP wasn't holding deliberations with the farmers who have been protesting at the Punjab-Haryana border over a host of demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP). "Farmers in Punjab have been sitting on dharna and indefinite hunger strike for many days. Their demands are the same which the central government had accepted three years ago but has not implemented yet. The BJP government has now reneged on its promise. The BJP government is not even talking to the farmers. Talk to them. They are the farmers of our own country. Why is the BJP so arrogant that it does not even talk to anyone?" Kejriwal said in a post in Hindi on X. Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been fasting since November 26. Kejriwal said the BJP would be responsible if something happened.

Prashant Kishor Begins Indefinite Fast To Back Protesting Students In Bihar



Agencies : Election strategist-turned political leader Prashant Kishor has started an indefinite fast, backing the students of Bihar in their demand for a re-test of the 70th Combined Competitive Examination after allegations of paper leak. "I am with these students with all my might... Till this issue is resolved, I'll be sitting on a fast-unto death," said the Jan Suraaj party founder, who has hunkered down with the students at Patna's Gandhi Maidan. Gandhi Maidan is a couple of kilometres from the spot where several candidates have been on a round-the-clock protest for nearly two weeks. Mr Kishor blamed the "arrogance" of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar -- his former boss during his stint in the Janata Dal United -- for the continuation of the students' protest. The Chief Minister has "refused to meet the students in person in the last 16 days," Mr Kishor said. "This government has ditched and deceived students on all fronts... Even Chief Secretary rank officers are feeling helpless in getting appointment with Chief Minister for these students."

Why Suvendu Adhikari says Bengal govt the weak link in border security

Agencies : Amid concerns of the Opposition that West Bengal is becoming a safe haven for fundamentalists, the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari has shared what he calls details of "non-cooperation of the state government" in resolving problems in acquiring land for measures to strengthen the state's borders with Bangladesh. A press note shared on December 30 by the office of Adhikari, who is leader of the Opposition in the legislative assembly, listed out alleged loopholes that had compromised border security. Adhikari's allegations followed Bengal director general of police Rajeev Kumar's remarks.

Blinkit launches 'ambulance in 10 minutes' service, Gurgaon first city to get instant transport

Agencies : Blinkit CEO Albinder Dhindsa has announced a new 10-minute delivery service for the residents of Gurgaon. Blinkit users will now be able to order ambulance services in case of emergencies to their doorstep in just 10 minutes. "We are taking our first step towards solving the problem of providing quick and reliable ambulance service in our cities. The first five ambulances will be on the road in Gurugram starting today. As we expand the service to more areas, you will start seeing an option to book a Basic Life Support (BLS)."

Never Directed Ending Farm Leader's Hunger Strike: Supreme Court

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Thursday said that it has never directed to end the hunger strike of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on a fast unto death, but is only concerned with his health. "There appears to be a deliberate attempt in the entire media where state government officers (of Punjab) are trying to create an impression that there is a persuasion by this court to Mr. Dallewal to break his fast. Our directions were not to break his fast. We only said that let his health be taken care of and he can continue his peaceful protest even when he is hospitalised."

India clears toxic waste from Bhopal gas leak site, 40 years after disaster

Agencies : Indian authorities say they have moved hundreds of tonnes of hazardous waste remaining more than 40 years after the world's deadliest industrial disaster struck the city of Bhopal. The waste from the site of the 1984 disaster, which killed more than 25,000 people and left at least half a million people with severe health issues, was sent to a disposal facility where it will take three to nine months to incinerate, officials said on Thursday. In the early hours of December 3, 1984, methyl isocyanate gas leaked from a pesticide factory owned by American Union Carbide Corporation, poisoning more than half a million people in Bhopal, the capital of the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. More than 40 years later, on Thursday morning, a convoy of trucks transported 337 metric tonnes of that poison to a waste disposal plant in Madhya Pradesh's industrial town of Pithampur, 230km (142 miles) from Bhopal. Swatantra Kumar Singh, director of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department, told Reuters news agency the waste would be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner that would not harm the local ecosystem.



Videos Show How US Army Veteran Ran Through Crowd With Truck, Killing 15

Agencies : Security camera footage has emerged of suspected terrorist Shamsud-Din Jabbar plowing his pickup truck down a packed Bourbon Street in New Orleans on New Year's Day. The attack killed at least 15 people and injured 35 others. Police described Jabbar as a "terrorist," while the FBI said "an ISIS flag was located in the vehicle," using another name for the Islamic State armed group. A video circulating on social media showed Jabbar's white pickup truck, with an ISIS flag, inching through Canal Street traffic before taking a sharp turn down Bourbon Street. In another video, the white Ford pickup truck can be seen speeding through the crowded French Quarter on New Year's Day as partygoers scrambled around to save their lives. At least fifteen people were killed and dozens of others were injured after US Army veteran Jabbar swerved around makeshift barriers and barreled into revellers in New Orleans' crowded French Quarter on New Year's Day. Police officials said 42-year-old Jabbar may have had the help of others to carry out the attack, as three improvised pipe bombs were found nearby in the tourist-drawing French Quarter, including one in Jabbar's truck.

Israel claims strike on Gaza eliminated Hamas Internal Security Forces chief Hassam Shahwan

Agencies : The Israel Defense Forces on Thursday said Israeli Air Force (IAF) has killed the head of Palestinian militant outfit Hamas' Internal Security Forces, Hammam Shahwan, in a strike on the Khan Yunis Humanitarian area on the Gaza strip. Israel has been conducting several intelligence-based military strikes on the Gaza strip targeting Hamas operatives. Hammam Shahwan was "eliminated" in the Humanitarian area in Khan Yunis, according to the IDF. In their statement, posted on microblogging platform X, the IDF said, "The Head of Hamas Internal Security Forces in southern Gaza, the terrorist Hassam Shahwan, was eliminated by the IAF in an intelligence-based strike in the Humanitarian Area in Khan Yunis."

Pakistan Begins 2-Year Term At UN Security Council, To Oppose Reform Sought By India

Agencies : Pakistan today replaced Japan for a seat at the world's topmost diplomatic body - the UN Security Council. Islamabad will occupy one of the two seats from the Asia-Pacific region (South Korea being the other) for two years starting today. Pakistan will also preside over the council in July when it will be the Chair. This will allow Islamabad to set the United Nations Security Council agenda. In addition to this, Islamabad finds itself holding another crucial post after it secured a seat on the Islamic State (ISIS) and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee, which is responsible for designating individuals and groups as terrorists and imposing sanctions. This new two-year tenure as a non-permanent member would be Pakistan's eighth term at the top UN body. It comes at a significant time, when central and west Asia is experiencing political and humanitarian crises - the war in Gaza, crisis in Lebanon, heightened tensions between Israel and Iran, the regime change in Syria, and the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, to name a few.

"Picked Wrong Vehicle": Elon Musk On Cybertruck Explosion Outside Trump Hotel



Agencies : Billionaire Elon Musk claimed that the explosion involving a Tesla Cybertruck outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas was an act of terrorism. Mr Musk said that the electric vehicle's design minimised the blast's impact, sparing the hotel from significant damage. "The evil knuckleheads picked the wrong vehicle for a terrorist attack. Cybertruck actually contained the explosion and directed the blast upwards. Not even the glass doors of the lobby were broken," Mr Musk posted on X. The explosion occurred early Thursday morning when a 2024 Tesla Cybertruck, reportedly rented through the car-sharing platform Turo, erupted in flames outside the Trump International Hotel's main entrance. The blast resulted in one death and seven injuries, according to Las Vegas police. The injured individuals suffered minor injuries, and the hotel was evacuated as a precaution.

Bangladesh's new textbooks claim Khaleda Zia's husband declared independence, not Mujib

Agencies : Bangladesh has now introduced new textbooks stating that Ziaur Rahman, the deceased husband of Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Khaleda Zia, declared the country's independence in 1971. The new textbooks for the 2025 academic session will replace the existing ones crediting Awami League founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with the declaration, Bangladesh's The Daily Star reported. Since 2010, the textbooks under Sheikh Hasina's rule had stated that her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared independence via wireless message before being arrested by the Pakistan Army on February 26, 1971. According to the report, the new textbooks have also removed the title "Father of the Nation" for Mujibur Rahman. Prof AKM Reazul Hassan, chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board.

'Million-Dollar Smile': Yearbook Remembers New York Woman Burned To Death On Subway

Agencies : The 57-year-old woman, who was set on fire on a New York City subway last week, was known for her "million-dollar smile." Debrina Kawam was killed after a 33-year-old man put her ablaze while she was asleep aboard a Brooklyn train on December 22. Ms Kawan, according to her high school yearbook biography, once dreamt of becoming a flight attendant. Sebastian Zapeta-Callil, a 33-year-old Guatemalan national, has been charged with first and second-degree murder and arson in connection with the attack. Mr Kawam, originally from Toms River, New Jersey, graduated from Passaic Valley Regional High School in Little Falls in 1985, reported The New York Times. Known to her classmates as "Debbie" or "Deb," she was described as a cheerful personality who participated in cheerleading and shared her ambition to "party forever" in her yearbook entry. She was one of three students in her class known for having a "million-dollar smile" and also earned the title of "most punk." In her yearbook, she thanked her parents "for everything."

NY subway shoving suspect's father says son was 'acting weird' lately, 'Somebody put something in his weed'

Agencies : The father of a Brooklyn man who allegedly pushed a straphanger into an incoming 1 train this week has said his son was fine even three weeks back, but then started "acting weird." 23-year-old Kamel Hawkins shoved a 45-year-old man onto the tracks at the 18th Street station in a random attack, but the victim miraculously survived. "Lately he's been going through something, some mental issue," Shamel Hawkins, 40, the suspect's father, told New York Post. Kamel was recently ordered held without bail at his arraignment on attempted murder charges in Manhattan Criminal Court. "We think somebody put something in his weed," the father said. "About three weeks ago he was all right and then he started acting weird. We wanted to get him help but he refused." The elder Hawkins said that Kamel initially lived in the Whitman Houses public housing complex with his father and brother, but moved to a shelter later. He has been charged with attempted murder and assault. Shamel said he had no idea his son had been accused of the attack, and that the two had even met.



SC blasts Punjab officials, some farm leaders for false impression on breaking Dallewal's fast



Agencies : As farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on fast-unto-death since November 26, 2024, refuses to receive medical help, the Supreme Court on Thursday took strong exception to a "deliberate attempt" to create an impression that it wanted him to break his fast. "There is a deliberate attempt in the media by your state government officers to give an impression that the court is pressuring him to break the fast. Our direction was not to break his fast. We only said that let his health be taken care of and he can continue his peaceful protest even when he is hospitalised. You have to persuade him from this angle," a Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan told Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh. "Shifting (him) to the hospital does not mean he will not continue his fast. There are medical facilities which will ensure that no harm is caused to his life. That is our only concern. His life is precious as a farm leader. He is not aligned to any political ideologies and he is taking care of only the farmers' cause," Justice Kant said.

Boxer Vijender's father Mahipal Singh passes away

Agencies : Olympic medal winning boxer Vijender Singh's father Mahipal Singh passed away on Thursday. He was not keeping well for the past few weeks. "It is with the deepest grief and sadness, we inform the passing away of my father Shri Mahipal Singh. He left for his heavenly abode today," Vijender posted on X. The 39-year-old, who won a bronze medal at 2008 Beijing Games, also informed in his social media post that his father's last rites will be performed at his parental village Bhiwani in Haryana. Mahipal, who was employed as a driver with Haryana Roadways, supported Vijender's dream by working overtime. "We request you to keep him in your thoughts and prayers," Vijender, who switched to BJP from Congress last year, wrote while posting a picture with his father.

Gurugram man duped of Rs 26 lakh with promise of job for sister in DU

Agencies : A Dundahera village resident was duped of Rs 26 lakh by two people on pretext of a job for his sister at Delhi University (DU), police said. Complainant Ankur Rao told the police that his sister had applied for the post of Assistant Professor in Delhi University in 2023, but could not clear the interview. He alleged that later Omkar Yadav, a resident of Khedki Baghanki village, came to his house, who claimed that he had acquaintances with higher officials in DU. The accused claimed that he will get his sister cleared in the interview and get her employed. He also introduced Ankur to Sandeep Kumar, a resident of Sampla in Rohtak, who settled a deal for Rs 32 lakh. When complainant's sister received a mail from the university for an interview scheduled on January 10, 2024, Sandeep told her that it was postponed. Later, she received a mail on March 23 for documents verification on April 4. However, when the complainant and his sister reached the university.

DSP Gursher dismissed for facilitating Bishnoi's interview from custody

Agencies : The Punjab government on Thursday dismissed Deputy Superintendent of Police Gursher Singh Sandhu of the Punjab Police cadre for "denting the image of the police department" by facilitating a video-interview of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi during his custody at the Central Investigation Agency (CIA), Kharar, in March 2023. The Department of Home Affairs issued the dismissal orders following approval by the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC), which is the appointing authority for the Punjab Police Service cadre officials. Lawrence Bishnoi is the prime conspirator of the Sidhu Moosewala case and has been facing more than 80 other police cases of murder, extortion and other crimes. The orders said, "The Punjab and Haryana High Court has concluded that Gursher Singh Sandhu, PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police (under suspension since October 2024), facilitated the recording of an interview of Lawrence Bishnoi by a TV channel while he was in the custody of CIA, Kharar.

Police file charge sheet against 10 in cyber fraud racket

Agencies : The Chandigarh Police on Thursday filed a chargesheet against 10 persons in a cyber fraud racket allegedly being run from a hotel in Kajheri here. The chargesheet has been filed against Birender Yadav, Devender Kumar Yadav, Shankar Suvan Shukla, Avinash Kumar, Ankit Jain, Nishant Mehta, Manish, Sushil Kumar Mishra, Deepak Sharma and Pushpender Dwivedi. The chargesheet was filed under 319 (2), 318 (4), 338, 336 (3), 340 (2), 61 (2), 111 (2) and 111(3) of BNS. A case was registered at the Cyber Crime police station on August 12, 2024 after the police received a complaint that few persons were alluring people such as rickshaw drivers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for giving their identity proofs like Aadhar cards in lieu of money ranging between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000. An informer had told the police that the accused were residing in a hotel at Kajheri village. He alleged that by using their identity documents, the accused opened bank accounts which were used for cyber fraud and other illegal activities. Following the information, the police raided the hotel and found that the accused were running the racket from there. Several Aadhar cards and bank account pass books were also recovered from the possession of the accused. Police claimed that the SIM cards and bank accounts were used to carry out various kinds of cyber frauds.

Sweet treat for winters: Punjab adds 'kheer', 'ghee ka halva' to mid-day meals

Agencies : Punjab government has changed the mid-day menu for winters. Seasonal delicacies, including 'kheer' and 'ghee ka halva', have been introduced in the menu. Directions have been issued in this regard to all government schools by education department through a notice. The changed menu would be introduced after winter break from January 8 till January 31. This meal plan would add seasonal nutritional values as well as traditional diet to students. 'Kheer' would be served every Tuesday, 'ghee ka halva' on Thursday and seasonal fruit Kinno or orange on Fridays. Seasonal fruits were introduced last year. 19,000 school students till Class 8 are served mid-day meals.

600 traffic slips issued in Mohali

Agencies : A total of 606 traffic slips were issued for various offences, including 38 for drunken driving, and 20 vehicles were impounded by the police during the New Year celebrations in Mohali. Around 1,000 police personnel, led by Ropar Range DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar, Mohali SSP Deepak Pareek, manned more than 50 special pickets to maintain law and order in the city. The cops said a massive drive was carried out till 3am on January 1 to check any untoward incident in the city. A liquor vend employee at Phase 3B2 was booked for keeping a slit in the shutter open beyond prescribed time limit. An eatery manager in Phase 3B2 was booked under Section 223 of the BNS at the Mataur police station for flouting District Magistrate's order. A total of 336 challans were issued by Mohali traffic police from December 30 to January 1. The challaning drive against offenders will continue in future, said Mohali SP (Traffic) HS Mann.

4 Rewari men killed as car rams parked truck in Haridwar

Agencies : Four people from Haryana died and another was seriously injured when the car they were travelling in rammed a truck parked on the roadside in Bahadarabad area of this district, police said on Thursday. The accident occurred on Wednesday night near Shani Dev temple killing three men on the spot, Bahadarabad police station SHO Naresh Rathore said. Two occupants of the car were seriously injured and taken to hospital where one of them died, he said.

Special trains to run for Himachal devotees to kumbh mela

Diary Times Desk : Railways has decided to run six special trains for the devotees from lower areas of Himachal who intend to attend the maha kumbh mela held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Indian Railways has decided to run six special trains from Amb Andaura of Una district to Prayagraj in view of the event. The first special train for Prayagraj from Amb Andaura railway station of Una district will leave on 17 January 2025. This train will return from Prayagraj to Amb Andaura railway station on 19 January. Railways is due to announce the dates of other trains soon. The timetable of these trains going to Prayagraj will also be released soon, said a railway official, speaking anonymously. Many trains as Vande Bharat Express to Delhi, weekly Nanded express between Amb Indora to Indore, Sabarmati Express, Jan Shatabdi between Daultapur Chowk-Delhi, Himachal Express, Una-Haridwar rail service, passenger rail service to Ambala Cantonment and other rail services run up and down, daily, from Una district. The timings of some of these trains is likely to altered due to the plying of special trains.

Surrender power subsidy, Himachal CM appeals to well-off consumers

Diary Times Desk : Taking yet another step towards reducing subsidies to the well-off, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today announced that he along with his Cabinet colleagues and Congress MLAs had decided to voluntarily surrender 125 units free power subsidy being given to every power consumer. "It is optional and not compulsory to surrender this power subsidy. I feel those who can afford to pay must surrender this 125 units free power subsidy voluntarily so that the poor and deserving can get this benefit," he said addressing a press conference here today. He made an appeal to the well-off people to contribute in the development of the state by voluntarily surrendering the power subsidy, which only the needy deserve. Sukhu said the performance for voluntary surrendering of free power is available on the HPSEB web site and the option can also be given by calling up on the number or submit the performa.

After IIT-Delhi go-ahead, work resumes on 'extra-high' bridge on Shimla-Chandigarh highway



Diary Times Desk : The work to construct a crucial viaduct bridge near Salogra on the Solan-Kandaghat stretch of the National Highway-5 in Himachal Pradesh will resume soon as its key technical parameters have been doubly validated by experts. Its work put on hold for a few months, the 120-metre-long bridge is the third viaduct bridge being built on the Parwanoo-Solan-Kaithlighat stretch of the NH-5 in the ongoing four-laning project. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is executing the work through ARIF engineers. NHAI Project Director Anand Dahiya said that since the height of its two circular piers was exceptionally high at 40 metres, the NHAI wanted to be doubly sure about its technicalities. Though piers of 30-35 metres' height had been constructed at other places like near TTR in Parwanoo, the height of this bridge was even higher at 40 metres. The presence of an ancient Lord Shiva temple had deterred the acquisition of appropriate land at the site.

Himachal records 41% deficient rain in post-monsoon period

Diary Times Desk : Himachal has received 41 per cent less rain in the post-monsoon period, from October to December. Against the normal rainfall of 82.9 mm, the state received 49.1 mm, which is the 41st lowest rainfall from 1901 to 2024. Had the month of December not recorded 27 per cent more than normal rainfall, the rain deficiency would have been much higher in the post-monsoon period. While the districts of Bilaspur, Una received excess rainfall, Hamirpur received normal rainfall. The districts of Chamba, Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Kangra, Shimla and Sirmour received deficient rainfall, district Solan recorded large deficient rainfall. While October and November saw almost drought-like conditions, recording 97 and 99 per cent less rainfall, the prolonged dry spell ended in December. 48.2 mm rainfall was recorded against 38.1mm in December, an excess of 27 per cent. The districts of Una, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Shimla and Sirmour received large excess rainfall, while districts of Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Kinnaur received excess rainfall. The districts of Chamba and Lahaul-Spiti received normal rainfall, while district Solan received deficient rainfall. Overall, the state received the 44th highest rainfall in December in the 1901-2024 period.

Himachal CM flags off 'orphans tour' under Sukh Aashray Yojana

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, on Thursday, flagged off the 13-day educational and recreational tour for 22 orphan children adopted as 'children of the state' under the Sukh Aashray Yojana. Sukhu flagged off the bus carrying the first group of 22 children, marking the start of the scheme. "The state government enacted a law for orphaned children and had adopted 6,000 children under the law. The government had launched the Sukh Aashray Yojana to ensure their welfare and provide for their educational needs," he said. Sukhu said, the scheme aims to empower these children and support them in becoming self-reliant. As part of the initiative, children were taken to places such as Chandigarh, Delhi and Goa for exposure and learning. The children include 16 girls and 6 boys. Their plan includes visiting Chandigarh from Jan 2 to 4, a stay in Delhi, before flying to Goa on Jan 8. In Goa they will stay at a three-star hotel and visit key tourist and historic attractions. The group is scheduled to return to Chandigarh on Jan 14, 2025. Agriculture Minister Chander Kumar, Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania, MLA Harish Janartha.

Airport expansion: Rs 298 cr disbursed among landowners

Diary Times Desk : As a step forward in the expansion of Gaggal airport in Kangra district that is vital for the growth of tourism in the region, the government has distributed Rs 298 crores among the land owners whose land is to be acquired in Gaggal area for expansion of the airport. Sources here said that the government is distributing compensation among the people who are giving consent for handing over their lands willing for expansion of airport. SDM Kangra, Ishant Jamwal, said that till date Rs 298 crore has been distributed as compensation among the land owners whose land was being acquired. The government had initially released Rs 500 crore for distribution among the land owners. "We have already received Rs 300 crores out of which an amount of Rs 298 crore has been distributed among the land owners," he said. The SDM said that a total of Rs 2300 crore would be required for acquisition of entire land that has been notified for expansion of Gaggal airport. Another Rs 700 crores has been proposed by the government for relief and rehabilitation of the people being uprooted due to airport expansion project, he said. The sources said that the government was initially distributing Rs 500 crore to the people in the seven revenue Mohals situated across the Manjhi Khad. For the airport expansion, land of about 1,200 families from 14 villages is to be acquired. For acquisition, the government has marked about 147 hectares (about 3847 kanals) of government and private land of 14 villages. It includes 123 hectares of private and 24 hectares of government land.



Bumrah to take charge again as India seek series parity

Agencies : Will he, won't he? For nearly four hours at the SCG on Thursday, it was all about Rohit Sharma and if he'd pull the plug on his Test career. Or at least take a call on playing the fifth Test in Sydney. Eventually, it would prove that what was on view over those four hours were indicative of a captain who'd had enough. Who'd decided that his time had come. Or so it'd seem with reports now confirming that Rohit Sharma is set to skip the fifth Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy and hand the captaincy back to Jasprit Bumrah. There were signs of something being amiss from the time the Indian team arrived at the SCG on Thursday. It started with the sight of Gautam Gambhir the head coach starting the session with a long chat with Bumrah before the duo were joined by Rohit as they went out to check out the pitch. Rohit then wasn't part of the slip cordon as India began their catching practice sessions. Shubman Gill was the one doing his bit as the slipper for a virtual spinner. The fielding coach T Dilip, meanwhile, rounded up what would potentially be India's slip setup for the fifth Test, starting with Virat Kohli at first slip, KL Rahul at second, Nitish Kumar Reddy at third and Yashasvi Jaiswal at gully.



Short TAKES

Shubman Gill among 4 Gujarat Titans players likely to be summoned by CID in ₹450 crore scam: Report

Agencies : India international Shubman Gill is among the four Gujarat Titans cricketers likely to be summoned by the Gujarat CID crime branch in a ₹450 crore ponzi scam, according to a report. Besides Gill, the other cricketers likely to be summoned are Sai Sudharshan, Rahul Tewatia and Mohit Sharma. According to an Ahmedabad Mirror report, the development comes after the interrogation of ponzi scheme kingpin Bhupendrasinh Zala. During the interrogation, Zala confessed that he had not returned the money invested by the aforementioned cricketers in the scheme. Based on the report, CID officials stated that Gill, who led Gujarat Titans in IPL 2024, reportedly invested ₹1.95 crore. The likes of Mohit, Tewatia and Sudharshan made investment of small amounts. As Shubman Gill is currently part of the Indian Test squad in Australia, the cricketers will be summoned at a later date together, according to CID officials. The website reached out to Mohit, but the former India cricketer didn't respond.

Clarke defends 'great guy' Virat Kohli's actions: 'He was getting frustrated with lack of respect Sam showing to Bumrah'

Agencies : Former Australia skipper Michael Clarke has come in support of Indian star batter Virat Kohli for his on-field altercation with Australia youngster Sam Konstas in the Boxing Day Test. Konstas was making his debut at the MCG and blew away the Indian bowling attack led by Jasprit Bumrah with his attacking shots in the first innings. Kohli collided shoulder to shoulder as he walked past 19-year-old Konstas, whose risky stroke play was causing enormous frustration for the fielding side. Kohli was fined 20 per cent of his match fee by the ICC for the on-field altercation. The Indian superstar faced flak from the former Australian cricketers and local media for his behaviour with the debutant. However, Clarke has defended Kohli and called him a great guy as he is assured that he would have surely sorted things out with Konstas after the match. "I know Virat as well, he would have spoken to Sam after the game. Virat's a great guy. So those two would have sorted it out. I don't know (if) Virat would have said sorry, whatever it was. Virat is not a nasty person."

Dressing room leaks, Indian cricket's persistent plague, strikes again

Agencies : What happens in the dressing room stays in the dressing room, they say -- unless, of course, you've sold the rights to behind-the-scenes footage to platforms like Netflix or Prime Video. Access to the raw emotions of professional sportsmen in the changing rooms has become a compelling viewing experience for fans in recent years. Prominent football clubs such as Manchester City and Formula One teams have opened their backstage doors. Even the Australian men's cricket team has released two seasons of The Test, offering unfiltered glimpses into their highs and lows. Indian cricket, however, has yet to commercialise such behind-the-scenes access. Dressing room sanctity, at least outwardly, is held as sacred. The changing room is viewed as a safe haven, far removed from the hundreds of cameras scrutinising every emotion and mistake on the field. It's where even the toughest players can afford to be vulnerable. Yet, leaks from the dressing room are not new in the world of sport, and Indian cricket is no exception. Since the country's first-ever Test match, dressing room leaks have been an enduring issue. When India won the T20 World Cup six months ago.

"Selfish, Spiteful, Disruptive": R Ashwin Blasted By South Africa Great For Mid-Series Retirement

Agencies : South African cricket great Daryll Cullinan has delivered a spectacular verdict on legendary India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's sudden retirement from international cricket. Ashwin called time on his career midway through the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25, having played just one of the three Tests till then. Ashwin left without any farewell game, emphasizing that he wanted to quit cricket as nonchalantly as possible. However, Cullinan has reacted strongly to Ashwin's retirement, stating that retiring mid-series was a "selfish" move on his part. While Ashwin did not cite any specific reason, reports following his retirement suggested that two reasons played a big part in this decision. One was his prolonged back issue, and the second being that he wasn't a guaranteed selection in overseas conditions anymore. Ashwin's father had even gone and said that he retired due to "humiliation", but Ashwin shut that reason down swiftly. Cullinan believes that Ashwin should not have retired mid-series, as it could've interrupted the team's momentum. "Ashwin should not be retiring or allowed to retire mid-series. It was a selfish move."

Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh Among Four Athletes To Get Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: Sports Ministry

Agencies : Double Olympic medallist shooter Manu Bhaker and chess world champion D Gukesh are among four athletes finalised for Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award by the Sports Ministry on Thursday. Men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Paralympic gold medal winner Praveen Kumar will also get the prestigious award. The Khel Ratna is the highest sporting honour for sportspersons in India. The sports ministry also named 32 athletes, including 17 para-athletes, for Arjuna awards. Recently, there was a huge furore after some news reports claimed that Manu's name was missing from the list of athletes recommended for Khel Ratna. Manu's father Ram Kishan and coach Jaspal Rana were furious over the snub. However, Manu Bhaker admitted that there might have been a lapse in her part while filing for the nomination. "With regards to ongoing issue for my nomination for the most prestigious Khel Ratna award-I would like to state that as an athlete my role is to play and perform for my country. Awards and recognition keeps me motivated but are not my goal. I believe there has been a lapse, maybe on my part while filing for the nomination which is being corrected."

