

## Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said- Government is protecting Congress leaders and contractors in water scam



**Diary Times Desk :** Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur, while talking to media in Mandi, said that under the leadership of Sukhu government, one scam after another is happening in Himachal Pradesh. Now the water scam has become a topic of discussion. On one hand, the Deputy Chief Minister, the Minister of Jal Shakti Department, is trying to suppress the matter by taking action against a few officials, while the Chief Minister is trying to save those government-protected contractors and Congress leaders. The Deputy Chief Minister was loudly claiming that the Sukhu government's hands are clean, and here, a scam of crores of rupees took place in his own department by carrying water on scooters. In the name of providing water to the people, the government treasury was looted by preparing fake bills under the protection of the government and the government kept sleeping. He said that earlier there were more famous scams in the state, but under the protection of the government, it became the only state to run tankers without roads and use cars and motorcycles for transporting water.

## Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said- From next season, weight will also be written on universal carton

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the government implemented universal carton to help small apple growers. From next year, weight will also be written on universal carton. He said that Chhaila-Ochghat-Kumarhatti road will be made double lane at a cost of Rs 250 crore. He directed to prepare DPR of this road. The Chief Minister said that the state government cleared liabilities of Rs 163 crore of Mandi Mediation Scheme. He said that due to the efforts of the government, the economy of the state is coming back on track, whereas BJP opened 900 institutes without any budget provision in the last six months.

## Dallewal's Health Deteriorates After Addressing 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' At Khanauri

**Agencies :** Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's health deteriorated after his 11-minute address at the "Kisan Mahapanchayat" in Khanauri on Saturday, according to a team of doctors attending to him. Dallewal felt dizzy and vomited as his blood pressure dropped while he was being carried back to his tent, said the medical team. After receiving information, former DIG Narinder Bhargav, who is among the officials involved in backchannel talks with the farmer leader, rushed to Khanauri. A team of health department was also put on standby, said officials. Dallewal had agreed to undergo blood, urine and ECG tests on Friday evening before the Kisan Maha Panchayat. It was only after his reports confirmed his vitals were stable that he was carried to the stage in an ambulance around 2 pm. Dallewal has been kept in a glass cubicle which is heavily guarded with over 100 tractor-trailers welded with each other and around 700 volunteers manning the place. This has been done to prevent a repeat of the November 26 incident where cops had barged into the tent at Khanauri.



## 4 Maoists Gunned Down, 1 Security Personnel Dies In Chhattisgarh Encounter

**Agencies :** At least four Maoists were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, an official said today. A head constable of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Sannu Karam, died in the face-off, which broke out on Saturday evening at a forest in south Abujhmaad along the border of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts. The encounter began when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Maoist operation. After the exchange of fire stopped late Saturday night, bodies of four Maoists and automatic weapons, including AK-47 rifle and self loading rifle (SLR), were recovered from the spot. A search operation is underway in the area. More than 200 Maoists were killed by security forces in Chhattisgarh in 2024 with Union Home Minister Amit Shah vowing to eradicate them by March 2026.

## 'They should not have been granted bail': Atul Subhash's father questions bail to accused

**Agencies :** The father of Atul Subhash who ended his life last month, has raised concerns about the conditional bail granted to his late son's wife, Nikita Singhania, along with her mother, Nisha Singhania, and brother, Anurag Singhania. Pawan Kumar Modi, also expressed deep anxiety over the whereabouts of his four-year-old grandson, who has been missing since the incident. According to ANI, Modi stated, "While bail is part of the judicial process, I firmly believe it shouldn't have been granted in this case. My grandson's safety is my biggest concern. Karnataka police have shared some information, but the child remains untraceable. His mother lacks affection for him and is using him as a tool to demand money."

## Fresh snowfall in Srinagar, other parts of Kashmir

**Agencies :** Most parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar city, received a fresh spell of snowfall on Sunday as the Mercury stayed close to the freezing point in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir for the second consecutive day. Snowfall was witnessed in several areas of Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara districts in north Kashmir and some parts of Budgam and Ganderbal districts in central Kashmir in the morning, the officials said. The summer capital stayed in the grip of an intense cold wave with a maximum temperature of just 1.5 degrees Celsius recorded on Sunday. The mercury has stayed below two degrees Celsius for the past 48 hours as the maximum temperature on Saturday was 1.2 degrees Celsius. The night temperature in the valley fell with Kokernag town in South Kashmir freezing at minus 8.1 degrees Celsius, the officials said on Sunday. In Srinagar, the mercury settled at a low of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius.

## Himachal Pradesh: Only eucalyptus, poplar and bamboo can be cut on private land, government issued notification

**Diary Times Desk :** In Himachal, only three species of trees will be allowed to be cut in a year, not 13, on private land. It will be mandatory to obtain a pass from the DFO for transporting wood. The government has implemented a new system to stop wood smuggling and theft. Its notification has also been issued. The three trees that have been allowed to be cut include eucalyptus, poplar and bamboo. Permission will have to be taken from the Forest Division Officer to cut more than three trees. The Forest Corporation will not be able to cut trees of scheduled species from private land. There is no restriction on the number of trees to be cut for fodder and fuel. Khayr cutting will be allowed in the 10-year cutting program. Permission will have to be taken from the Forest Division Officer to cut 200 trees in a year, from the Chief Forest Officer for 300, from the Principal Chief Forest Officer for 400 and from the government for cutting more than 400 trees.



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DIARY TIMES

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## Himachal BJP: BJP appointed nine district presidents in Himachal, here is the list; elections will be held in seven districts today

## Abandoned 20 Years Ago, Spanish Woman Returns To India In Search Of Mother

**Diary Times Desk :** In Himachal Pradesh, the election process for the BJP's organisational elections has been completed in nine organisational districts on Sunday. Elections were held peacefully in most places and district presidents have been elected unopposed in all nine districts. BJP has 17 organisational districts in the state. Out of which the election process is going on in 16. This process will be completed in the other 7 districts by Monday i.e. 6 January. Dr. Rajiv Bhardwaj, the election officer of the organization in the state, said that elections have been completed unanimously in nine districts. This process will be completed in the other seven districts by Monday. The responsibility for this has been given to the big leaders of the state level. Dheeraj Naryal from Chamba, Ragini Rakwal from Palampur, Ajay Khatta from Dehra, Amit Sood from Kullu, Heera Lal from Sundarnagar, Nihal Chand Sharma from Mandi, Ratan Singh Pal from Solan, Dheeraj Gupta from Sirmaur and Ringjin Hariyappa from Lahaul Spiti have been elected presidents. Heera Lal, who became the president from Sundarnagar, has also been an MLA from Karsog assembly constituency under district Mandi. Similarly, Rattan Singh Pal has contested elections twice from Arki assembly constituency of Solan district on Bharatiya Janata Party ticket. Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur participated in the organisational festival district president election process held in organisational district Mandi and Sunder Nagar and congratulated Nihal Chand Sharma elected from Mandi and former MLA Hiralal from Sunder Nagar on getting new responsibility again.

**Agencies :** Sneha, a Spanish citizen, has returned to India in search of her biological mother, who had abandoned her and her brother 20 years ago. However, 21-year-old Sneha is running out of time as she has to return to Spain on Monday for her educational commitments. The researcher in children's education wanted to trace her roots and reached India with scanty information about her past. Her Spanish parents Gema Vidal and Juan Josh supported her in her quest and Gema accompanied Sneha to her home state. They had adopted Sneha and her brother Somu in 2010 from an orphanage in Bhubaneswar, where they were kept after their mother Banalata Das abandoned them in 2005. "The purpose of my journey from Spain to Bhubaneswar is to find my biological parents, especially my mother. I want to find her and meet her.

## Himachal Water Scam: Vigilance will investigate the water scam in Himachal, records of SDM office seized; investigation team formed

## Nitish Kumar's "Mistake" Reply To Lalu Yadav's "Doors Open" Comment

**Diary Times Desk :** Vigilance on Saturday started investigating the scam of lakhs of rupees in the name of supplying water through tankers in Theog subdivision of Shimla district. The investigation team formed under the leadership of ASP Narveer Singh Rathore has seized the records related to the SDM Theog office. After the news of the water supply scam was published, there was a stir in the Jal Shakti Department and 10 officers of the department were suspended on Friday. These include two executives, three assistants, four juniors and one retired junior engineer. After this, the government handed over the case to the Vigilance for investigation. On Saturday, after investigating the facts of the scam, the Vigilance took immediate action and visited Theog and seized the records related to the water supply of the SDM office. According to sources, the Vigilance may also register an FIR in the case soon. After this, the problems of the suspended officers may increase. Let us tell you that after the news of giving numbers of bikes, cars and officers' vehicles instead of tankers for water supply and showing water supply through tankers even where there is no road, the government came into action and took action against 10 officers. The suspended officers have been attached to the department's headquarters.

**Agencies :** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has declined to accept Opposition leader Lalu Yadav's olive branch of sorts. There is no going back, Mr Kumar indicated when asked about Mr Yadav's comment that his "doors are open". Mr Kumar's Janata Dal (United), or JD(U), was once a partner in the Grand Alliance comprising Mr Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and others. The JD(U) chief left the grouping due to differences and rejoined the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). "Those who were in power before us... did they do anything? People used to fear stepping out of their homes after sunset. I had by mistake ("galti se") aligned with them a couple of times," Mr Kumar told reporters. What was the condition of women back then? Today, you can see these self-help groups, which we gave the name Jivika. The Centre replicated our model and called it Ajjivika. Did you see such confident rural women earlier?" the Chief Minister said. Mr Yadav, a former chief minister himself, made the comments about "keeping doors open" days after BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah appeared to project Mr Kumar as the chief ministerial.

## IPS Ilma Afroz: The government said in the Himachal Pradesh High Court- IPS officer Ilma Afroz herself had asked for transfer

## Bengaluru wakes up to dense fog and chilly temperatures as cold wave hits

**Diary Times Desk :** A public interest litigation filed in Himachal High Court for the immediate appointment of SP Ilma Afroz was heard on Saturday. The government said that the IPS officer herself had sought her transfer. On this basis, she has been posted at the Himachal Pradesh Police Headquarters. IPS Ilma Afroz has also joined there. This was said in the reply filed by the state's Home Secretary and Director General of Police in the court. A division bench of Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Satyen Vaidya said that if an officer himself wants to get a transfer, then the court cannot interfere in it. At the same time, the petitioner said that Ilma Afroz is a good and fearless officer. While being SP Baddi, she improved the law and order in Nalagarh and Barotiwala areas.

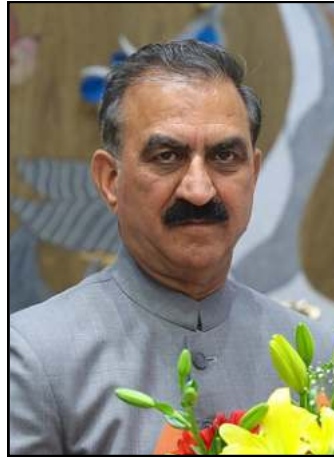


**Agencies :** Bengaluru woke up to a thick blanket of fog on Sunday morning, with visibility significantly reduced across the city. The sudden drop in temperatures is linked to an ongoing cold wave currently affecting the region. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the temperature in Karnataka's interior regions is expected to dip by an additional 2°C as the cold wave persists. IMD has also issued a warning about dense fog affecting visibility in the city, especially during the early morning hours, urging caution for commuters. In fact, Bengaluru's lowest-ever recorded temperature is 7.8°C, which occurred on January 13, 1884. In more recent years, the coldest temperatures recorded in January were 12°C on January 16, 2012, and 12.3°C on January 15, 2019. Just last month, on December 16-17, temperatures dropped to 12.2°C in some areas, marking the coldest December in the city in the last 14 years. This recent drop could be surpassed in the coming days. The IMD in Hyderabad has issued a cold wave warning for Telangana over the next three days. Several regions in the state are expected to experience temperatures as low as 2°C.



## Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said- Children of the state are staying in the rooms of ministers and MLAs

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that during their overnight stay, the Children of the State are being accommodated in the rooms where ministers, MLAs and senior officials stay. He said that the foundation stone of the Mukhyamantri Adarsh Gram Sukh Ashray Complex to be built at Luthan in Kangra at a cost of Rs 93 crore has been laid, where 400 dependents will get modern facilities. In a statement issued on Sunday, the CM said that the government has become a big support for the destitute children growing up in the shadow of lack of basic facilities, proper care and money. The government has adopted these children as guardians by giving them the status of Children of the State. The CM said that Himachal is the first state to start this scheme under the law for the care of orphan children. Under this scheme, the Chief Minister Sukh Ashray Fund of Rs 101 crore has been constituted. The government has expanded this scheme and included abandoned children in this scheme as well. Recently, CM Sukhu sent 22 Children of the State on a 13-day tour. During this, they will visit Chandigarh, Delhi and Goa. The government has made special arrangements for this.



## Himachal: Conspiracy to end HRTC! In the last 8 years, HRTC's Volvo routes have been reduced to almost half

**Diary Times Desk :** In the last 8 years, HRTC's Volvo routes have reduced to almost half while the routes operated by operators from outside states have almost doubled. Volvo services have reduced compared to earlier on many routes including Manali-Delhi, Shimla-Delhi, Dharamshala-Delhi. However, the corporation has also started operating Him Darshan Deluxe Bus Service. Earlier, HRTC used to run 7 Volvos on Manali-Delhi route, but now it is operating only 4 Volvos. Private Volvo operators from outside states are regularly running 25 to 30 Volvos, during the tourist season their number reaches 150 to 200 Volvos daily. HRTC's Volvo service on Shimla-Delhi route has reduced from 11 to 6. However, three Him Darshan Deluxe Bus Services have been started. 15 to 20 private Volvos are running on this route daily. Earlier, 4 Volvo buses of the corporation used to run on the Dharamshala-McLeodganj-Delhi route.

## Himachal Pradesh: A woman was molested in a moving bus in Shimla, the accused kept following her; complaint lodged with the traffic police

**Diary Times Desk :** An incident of molestation of a girl has occurred in a local bus of the capital Shimla. An old man has been accused in this case. The police have registered a case on the complaint of the girl and have started investigating the matter. In the complaint given to the police, the girl told that on January 4, at around 7:15 pm, she was travelling in a private bus from Tutikandi to the old bus stand. During this time, the accused touched her inappropriately on the way. After this, the girl got down from the bus and started walking forward. She alleged that even during this time the accused kept following her. Seeing this, she sought help from the employee posted on traffic duty. After this, the police employee stopped the accused. The matter was reported to Baluganj police station. The police have registered a case against the accused on the complaint of the girl and have started investigating the matter. An old man has been accused of molesting a young woman in Himachal Pradesh's capital Shimla. On the woman's complaint, the police have registered a case against the accused and started investigating.

## Mandi News: Body of a tenth class student found in an irrigation tank in Salapad, police engaged in investigation

**Diary Times Desk :** The body of a 16-year-old girl was found on Saturday in Sayu village of Salapad. The girl has been identified as Shailja Thakur, daughter of Finder Ram, Sayu village, post office Khurahal. Shailja was a student of class 10th. Family members said that after having dinner on Friday night, Shailja went to her room to study. She had said that she would sleep in the same room. After this, the family went to sleep. In the morning, when they went to wake Shailja up, they saw that she was missing from the bed. They searched for her everywhere. A missing complaint was lodged at the Salapad police station. On receiving the information, the police reached the spot and started the search. Shailja's body was found in the irrigation tank of the neighbor's house. After this, the team of Police Station Sundarnagar and Salapad Police Station took the body.

## Himachal Accident: Pickup vehicle fell into a ditch, two youths died on the spot

**Diary Times Desk :** A pickup number HP-85-0197 met with an accident and fell into a ditch in Badwas under Shillai assembly constituency. Two youths died on the spot in the accident. The deceased have been identified as Guddu Negi resident of Erana PO Balikoti, Shillai and Mukesh village Batiyanaash, Shillai. The police pulled out the bodies from the ditch with the help of a rope with the help of villagers. Naib Tehsildar Kamaru Om Prakash Thakur has confirmed the accident. A major accident was averted on Sunday at Bajouri Khad on Nitthar-Rampur road. The steering of the tanker carrying milk supply got loose. A major accident was averted due to the driver's presence of mind. Due to the tanker getting stuck on the road, the movement of vehicles remained disrupted till afternoon. According to the information, on Sunday morning a tanker HP 51B 1024 was carrying milk supply from Nitthar to Rampur. As soon as the driver reached near Bajourikhad at around 8 am, the steering of the tanker became free. The driver wisely turned the tanker towards the hill and the tanker was saved from falling into a deep ditch. After that, the Nitthar Rampur road remained blocked for traffic for hours.

## Himachal News: Government and management could not reach an agreement on Wild Flower Hotel, next hearing on March 1

**Diary Times Desk :** No consensus has been reached between the Himachal Pradesh government and the Wild Flower Hotel management regarding the talks. Senior Supreme Court advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi joined the Oberoi Group via video conferencing. The court of Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua is hearing the case. The next hearing will be held on March 1. On that day, the East India Hotel Limited i.e. the Oberoi Group will also argue. The government said that no proposal was given by the hotel management for talks. During the last hearing, the court had asked both the parties to submit a report to the court on whether the proposal is agreed upon or not. The government had agreed to negotiate with the management of the historic Wild Flower Hall Hotel near the capital Shimla. Advocate General Anoop Ratan had said during the hearing in the High Court that if any proposal is given by the East India Hotel Limited i.e. the Oberoi Group, then the doors of the government are open for talks. He had said that if any company wants to work to promote tourism in the state, then the government welcomes it. The state government has filed an enforcement petition in the High Court to take over the Wild Flower Hall. The High Court had already ordered the Oberoi Group to comply with the arbitration orders.

## Himachal News: School-college staff in Himachal will not be able to make video-reels, strict instructions; action may be taken

**Diary Times Desk :** Making of non-educational videos and reels has been banned in educational institutions of Himachal Pradesh. Apart from this, unnecessary use of social media will not be allowed. On Saturday, the Directorate of Higher Education issued instructions to the principals of all schools and colleges to keep an eye on this. The Directorate has cited the negative impact of these activities on the students. Teachers and non-teachers who do not follow the instructions have also been warned of disciplinary action. Director of Higher Education Dr. Amarjeet Kumar Sharma said that this decision has been taken with the aim of curbing distracting activities and increasing focus on academic activities. The Directorate is constantly receiving complaints about the increasing cases of teachers.

## Prashant Kishor asks Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav to join Bihar students' protest

**Agencies** : Political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike since Thursday demanding the cancellation of the Bihar Civil Services (BPSC) examination, sought the support of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA Tejashwi Yadav. The Jan Suraaj chief joined thousands of candidates on Thursday, who have been demanding the cancellation of the 70th Integrated Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination (CCE), 2024, conducted by the BPSC over allegations of question paper leak. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on Sunday, Kishor said that the protest was "above party politics". "Last night, the candidates formed a 51-member committee called 'Yuva Satyagraha Samiti' (YSS), which will steer this movement of which I am just a part. Everyone is welcome to support the movement, including Rahul Gandhi, who has 100 MPs, and Tejashwi Yadav, who has more than 70 MLAs," Kishor said.

## PM Modi Launches Janakpuri West-Krishna Park Extension Section Of Delhi Metro

**Agencies** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the Janakpuri West-Krishna Park Extension section of the Delhi Metro's Phase IV and laid the foundation stone of the Rithala-Narela-Kundli corridor. The Janakpuri West-Krishna Park Extension section is the first stretch of the Delhi Metro's Phase IV to be inaugurated. Passenger services on the section will commence from 3 pm. With the addition of Krishna Park Extension station, the Delhi Metro network now comprises 289 stations spanning 394.448 km. This new section is an extension of the already operational Botanical Garden- Janakpuri West on the Magenta Line. With the addition of this section, the Magenta Line now covers a distance of approximately 40 km. The Magenta Line will be further extended from Krishna Park Extension to R K Ashram Marg in phases by 2026. PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of the 26.5-km Rithala-Kundli corridor of the Delhi Metro. The corridor will have 21 stations which will benefit people living in Rohini, Bawana and Kundli areas. It will enhance connectivity between Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, improving access to residential, commercial and industrial zones. The Janakpuri West-Krishna Park Extension section is the first stretch of the Delhi Metro's Phase IV to be inaugurated.

## Coast Guard Chopper Crashes In Gujarat's Porbandar, 3 Dead: Sources



**Agencies** : An Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) of the Indian Coast Guard crashed in Gujarat's Porbandar, killing three people, sources told NDTV. Three crew members onboard the chopper died in the crash after it was up in flames. The ALH Dhruv, which is operated by the armed forces, crashed in an open field and was up in flames, visuals showed. The reason behind the crash is still not known and an inquiry has been launched. The Dhruv chopper was on a routine sortie when it crashed. The crash took place at the Air Enclave of the Indian Coast Guard and a few people were also injured in the crash. They are being treated at the civil hospital, sources said. The Indian Coast Guard is a maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency, with jurisdiction in India's territorial waters. The identity of the victims is unknown and more details are awaited. Four months ago in September, three crew members went missing after the ALH MK-III helicopter fell into the Arabian Sea off Porbandar.

## BJP Leader Ramesh Bidhuri's Sexist Remark On Priyanka Gandhi Sparks Row

**Agencies** : BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri's sexist remark against Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi is the latest flashpoint between the two political parties. In an undated video, Mr Bidhuri can be seen making a controversial statement about Ms Gandhi while talking about his party's poll promises ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections scheduled likely next month. Mr Bidhuri is BJP's pick to take on Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Atishi for the Kalkaji constituency. Congress leader Supriya Shrinete strongly criticised Mr Bidhuri, terming his remarks as "shameful" and accusing the BJP of harbouring an "anti-women" mindset.

## HYDRAA demolishes 5-storey illegal building in Ayyappa Madhapur Society,

**Agencies** : HYDRAA's crackdown on illegal constructions continues as it demolishes encroachments in Madhapur. DRF personnel are demolishing a 5-storey building that was illegally constructed at 100 Feet Road in Ayyappa Society in Madhapur on Sunday, using bulldozers. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) had issued notices to the building's owners last year, and the High Court subsequently declared the structure illegal. Hydras Commissioner Ranganath inspected the site on Saturday.

## 4 Maoists Gunned Down, 1 Security Personnel Dies In Chhattisgarh Encounter

**Agencies** : At least four Maoists were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, an official said today. A head constable of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Sannu Karam, died in the face-off, which broke out on Saturday evening at a forest in south Abujhmad along the border of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts. The encounter began when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Maoist operation. After the exchange of fire stopped late Saturday night, bodies of four Maoists and automatic weapons, including AK-47 rifle.

## PM Modi inaugurates Delhi-Meerut Namu Bharat RRTS line worth Rs 4,600 crore

**Agencies** : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the 13-km additional section of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namu Bharat corridor. The Prime Minister also took a ride on Namu Bharat train from Sahibabad station and interacted with children. With this inauguration, Delhi will get its first Namu Bharat connectivity. The corridor, worth Rs 4,600 crore, will include multiple stations, with key ones in Delhi, Ghaziabad, and Meerut. Notable stations include Sarai Kale Khan, Anand Vihar, Sahibabad, and Meerut South. The Delhi section, connecting Sahibabad to New Ashok Nagar via Anand Vihar, is expected to be operational by today evening. The corridor will feature India's fastest rapid transit trains, known as Namu Bharat, operating at speeds up to 160 km/h. These trains are designed to significantly reduce travel time between Delhi and Meerut to about an hour. The fare from New Ashok Nagar station to Meerut South is Rs 150 for a standard coach and Rs 225 for a premium coach.



## Dangerous storm to unleash snow, ice, bitter cold across US

**Agencies :** A colossal US winter storm is brewing, with meteorologists on Saturday warning of deep snowfalls, frigid temperatures and ice-covered roads as millions of Americans brace for treacherous conditions. More than 55 million people are in the path of the dangerous storm set to plunge the eastern half of the United States into a deep freeze through Monday, with the National Weather Service (NWS) warning of blizzard conditions in states from the central plains to the Mid-Atlantic. Winter storm warnings or advisories have been issued from Montana, in the country's Rocky Mountain northwest, clear across to the coastal states of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. Parts of the eastern states of New York and Pennsylvania are facing "heavy lake-effect snow" coming off the Great Lakes which could dump as much as two feet (61 centimeters) of snow on the region, according to the NWS.

## South Korea protesters rally for, against Yoon arrest as deadline looms

**Agencies :** Thousands braved heavy snow in Seoul on Sunday to rally for and against arresting impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol, as South Korea's political crisis appeared headed toward another high-stakes confrontation. With an arrest warrant against Yoon for alleged insurrection expiring at midnight on Monday, multiple groups held demonstrations near his official residence, some urging his immediate arrest and others protesting against it. Yoon became the country's first sitting president to face arrest over his botched attempt to declare martial law on Dec. 3, which triggered political chaos engulfing Asia's fourth-largest economy and a key U.S. ally. The conservative president was impeached by parliament and is suspended from official duties while a court decides whether to reinstate or remove him. On Friday, criminal investigators were blocked from arresting him by Yoon's presidential security service and military troops in a six-hour standoff. Some of Sunday's protesters had gathered overnight in downtown Seoul.

## Singapore concerned over increasing 'sham marriages' with foreign women

**Agencies :** Singapore authorities are concerned over the increase in sham marriages or marriages of convenience between Singaporean men and foreign women, which most of the time involves a syndicate and could lead to social problems. The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) has highlighted the concern and reported that "sham marriages" have increased to 32 cases between January and September last year compared to just four cases during the same period in 2023. A media report cited ICA as saying that arrests of people involved in "sham marriages" followed vigorous investigations into a suspected syndicate arranging such arrangements between Singaporean men getting paid for marrying foreign women. "Sham marriages" in Singapore often involve a foreign woman paying a Singaporean man money for a union to be arranged, so she can get a permit to stay or work here, reported The Straits Times on Sunday.



## George Soros gets US' top civilian award, Elon Musk furious



**Agencies :** Tesla CEO Elon Musk has hit out against President Joe Biden for awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom, US' highest civilian award, to billionaire philanthropist George Soros. Musk took to X (formerly Twitter), calling it "a travesty" that Soros would receive such an honor. Biden announced the 2025 recipients of the prestigious medal on Saturday, naming 19 individuals who have made significant contributions to various sectors, including politics, philanthropy, sports, and the arts. Soros, the founder of the Open Society Foundations and a well-known philanthropist, was recognised for his "focus on global initiatives that strengthen democracy, human rights, education, and social justice," according to an official White House statement. Other notable figures on the list include former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, football legend Lionel Messi, and celebrated actors Michael J. Fox and Denzel Washington. However, Soros' inclusion has sparked a polarizing response, particularly due to his prominence as a key donor to Democratic causes.

## Hamas Shares Video Of Teen Israeli Hostage, Her Parents Say, "Time To..."

**Agencies :** The armed wing of Hamas, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, released a video on Saturday of an Israeli hostage held in Gaza since its October 2023 attack. In the undated, three-and-a-half-minute video recording that AFP has not been able to verify, 19-year-old soldier Liri Albag called in Hebrew for the Israeli government to secure her release. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a campaign group for relatives of those abducted, said Albag's family has not authorised publication of the video. While we hope for the release of Israeli captive Liri Albag, as well as thousands of Palestinian prisoners, let us not forget she served in a surveillance and sniper unit on Gaza's border, killing.

## Syria's foreign minister urges US to lift sanctions during visit to Qatar

**Agencies :** Syria's new Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani has called on the United States to lift crippling sanctions on his country, as he visited Qatar as part of a regional trip to seek support after the fall of Bashar al-Assad. Following a meeting with Qatar's prime minister on Sunday, al-Shaibani told reporters that US sanctions on Syria were an obstacle to the war-torn country's rapid recovery. "These sanctions constitute a barrier and an obstacle to the rapid recovery and development of the Syrian people who await services and partnerships from other countries," he said. "We reiterate our calls for the United States to lift these sanctions, which have now become against the Syrian people rather than what they previously were: imposed sanctions on the al-Assad regime." Qatar's foreign ministry said in a statement that the Gulf country's premier also met with Syria's defence minister Murhaf Abu Qasra and the new head of intelligence Anas Khattab, as well as al-Shaibani. Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani "reiterated the State of Qatar's position in support of Syria's unity, sovereignty and independence," the statement said.

## Washington Post cartoonist quits after satire of Jeff Bezos is rejected

**Agencies :** Washington Post's cartoonist Ann Telnaes submitted her resignation after the editorial page editor rejected a cartoon she created, which humorously targeted tech moguls for their 'sycophantic behavior' toward President-elect Donald Trump. The satire reportedly also included Amazon founder and publication owner Jeff Bezos. WaPo was earlier blocked from endorsing Kamala Harris over Donald Trump during the 47th U.S. presidential election. The decision saw mass resignations from the editorial team and many staff members walking out. The cartoon, which depicted Bezos alongside other corporate leaders, was inspired by their visit to Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate which has become a popular destination of MAGA leaders and their mega donations to his inauguration fund. As reported by NPR, despite submitting her cartoon before Christmas, it was ultimately pulled from publication. Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Ann Telnaes, who has been with the Washington Post since 2008, voiced her frustration over being prevented.

## Fissures emerge in farm unions over Tikait remark



**Agencies :** A rift among farmer unions has come to light following controversial remarks by Samyukt Kisan Morcha (All India) leader Rakesh Tikait during a "Kisan Mahapanchayat" held at Tohana in Haryana on Saturday. Tikait's comments have sparked a backlash, deepening divisions within the farmers' movement. Tikait reportedly criticised leaders of the Khanauri morcha for allegedly failing to engage in discussion with other farmer unions. He alleged the Central Government was trying to create divisions among farm unions by deliberately allowing prolonged protests at Khanauri and Shambhu, besides fostering negative sentiments against the Sikh community. Tikait's remarks came amid two simultaneous "mahapanchayats" held just 30 km apart — one at Tohana, organised by the SKM (All India); and the other at Khanauri by the SKM (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM). Sarwan Singh Pandher, coordinator of the SKM (Non-Political) and the KMM, condemned Tikait's remarks as "unfortunate and unwarranted". "We are engaging in talks with the SKM (All India) and seeking unity. Leaders like Tikait should avoid divisive comments. Moreover, this is not about caste or community."

## Tricity battles fog woes amid train delays, cancelled flights

**Agencies :** A heavy blanket of fog over North India hit life, especially commuters, affecting train schedules and putting flight operations on hold. Multiple trains were delayed for hours, leaving passengers stranded and frustrated. Among the worst affected were two Shatabdis from New Delhi. The morning one was rescheduled and reached Chandigarh 3 hrs 42 mins late. The train departs from New Delhi at 7.40 am and is scheduled to reach Chandigarh at 11.40 am. However, due to poor visibility, the train started 3 hrs 34 mins late from New Delhi. The evening Shatabdi, scheduled to arrive at Chandigarh at 8.38 pm, reached 1 hr 8 mins late. Even the Amb Andaura-bound Vande Bharat, which left New Delhi at 5.50 am, reached Chandigarh at 9.49 am, 1 hr 11 mins late. The 14217 Unchahar Express arrived from Prayagraj after an over 13-hour delay. Similarly, the 19307 Indore-Una Express, which was scheduled to arrive at 5 am, reached six hours late at 11 am.

## Farmers' stir benefiting Centre, not Sikh community: Tikait

**Agencies :** Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) leader Rakesh Tikait has kicked up a row regarding the ongoing farmers' agitation, saying that while the Centre was 'benefiting' from the agitation at the Khanauri-Shambhu border, it was causing a loss to the Punjab Government and the Sikh community. Interacting with the media at a kisan mahapanchayat organised by the SKM in Tohana of Fatehabad district, Tikait said, "Is andolan se Bharat sarkar ko fayda ho raha hai. The agitation at Khanauri-Shambhu border, going on for the past 10 months, will continue for another four-five months. We have formed a six-member committee to hold talks with them, but there has been no progress on a united agitation," he said. The SKM (non-political), headed by Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on indefinite fast, had launched the agitation, but the SKM has not joined it so far. Tikait further stated, "The Sikh community is being negatively impacted due to the agitation. People believe that agitators are blocking roads."

## Delhi L-G grants relaxation in criteria for jobs to '84 riots victims

**Agencies :** Lt Governor VK Saxena has approved relaxation in educational and age criteria to all 88 anti-Sikh riots victims who have applied for jobs under the Delhi government, Raj Niwas officials said on Sunday. The applicants have been granted full relaxation in required educational qualification and extended upper age limit to 55 years for all 88 applicants, they said. The relaxation has been approved for their appointment as multi-tasking staff in different government departments. "Repeated representations had been made by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, public representatives and groups of victims, who had met the L-G recently," said a note from the L-G office. A rehabilitation package, including provision of jobs, was sanctioned by the Union Home ministry on January 16, 2006, for the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The Revenue department of Delhi government in a subsequent special drive got 72 applications out of which appointment was given to 22 applicants by obtaining age relaxation from the then L-G.

## Punjab and Haryana HC faces 4.32 lakh pending cases, 40% judge shortage

**Agencies :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court will reopen next week after a short winter break, with the wait for justice stretching up to nearly four decades in some cases. Among the pending matters are five regular second appeals filed in 1986, along with "thousands" of others filed subsequently. In total, a staggering 48,386 second appeals are still pending. The high court currently has as many as 4, 32,227 pending cases—just about 8,843 fewer than last year despite concerted efforts to deal with the "legacy" matters. Of these, 2, 68,279 are civil matters and 1, 63,948 are criminal cases, directly impacting life and liberty. Alarming, nearly 85 per cent of these cases have remained unresolved for over a year. A 40 per cent shortage of judges continues to exacerbate the problem. The high court currently has 51 Judges against the sanctioned strength of 85. No less than three Judges are retiring this year upon attaining the age of superannuation. Though the high court collegium is in the process of recommending the names of nine district and sessions Judges from Punjab and Haryana for elevation, the process is likely to take time. The system of appointing high court judges is lengthy and time consuming. Once cleared by the states and the governors after recommendation by the high court collegium, the file containing the names with intelligence bureau reports is placed before the Supreme Court.

## Kidnapped Haryana Roadways driver rescued after 9-hour chase, 3 held

**Agencies :** The Karnal and Sonapat Police, in a successful 9-hour chase, rescued a Haryana Roadways driver, who was allegedly kidnapped from Narukheri village on Saturday. Police have arrested three persons in the case and recovered two weapons and three live cartridges from their possession. The car which was used in the crime was also recovered. Police said Sandeep, a resident of Narukheri village, was kidnapped at around 2 pm on Saturday. Later, the accused contacted the victim's father, demanding a ransom for his release. Acting promptly, the victim's father filed a complaint with police. A case was registered under section 140 of the BNS at Sadar police station. Karnal SP Ganga Ram Punia had constituted different teams comprising CIA-1, CIA-2 and Sadar police to trace the youth. Following intensive efforts and prolonged chase, the team apprehended the accused at around 11 pm on Saturday from Gohana in Sonapat. The accused have been identified as Surinder and Akshay of Sonapat and Narinder of Hisar.

## 2 killed in road accidents due to dense fog

**Agencies :** A bus driver was killed while four passengers were injured after the vehicle collided with a truck parked in the wrong direction amid dense fog on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway late on Friday night. After getting information, a police team reached the spot and sent the injured persons to the Nalhar medical college. The driver's body was sent for postmortem examination. A case was registered at the Nuh Sadar police station. According to the police, the accident took place around 10:15 pm on Friday near Kalinger toll plaza on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway when the Maharani Travels bus was heading to Delhi from Jaipur with over 30 passengers. The bus driver could not see the truck due to dense fog. As a result, the bus rammed into the truck parked in the wrong direction. In a complaint, injured Narayan Das Manwani, alias Nikku, a resident of Jahangirpuri, Delhi, said he, along with his friends Sanjay and Lalit Kumar, residents of Delhi, were travelling in the bus. "The bus rammed into the truck parked on the wrong side without any dipper light or signal. The bus driver died on the spot, while we all three friends and one other passenger suffered injuries. The mishap took place due to the negligence of the truck driver," Narayan Das Manwani said in his complaint.

## Tourism in Kullu-Manali slows down after New Year surge

**Diary Times Desk :** After the surge in tourist influx during New Year celebrations, a significant decrease in tourist arrivals has been observed in the popular hill station of Kullu-Manali. According to local hoteliers, the room occupancy in Manali hotels, which soared above 80 per cent during the New Year period, has now plummeted to approximately 40 per cent. Anup Thakur, the president of the Kullu-Manali Paryatan Vikas Mandal, said the tourism sector experienced a surge in visitors during the Christmas and New Year period. However, since the celebrations have concluded, there has been a noticeable dip in the number of tourists arriving from various states, indicating a lean phase for the local hospitality industry. He emphasised that the cause of the sudden decline in tourist influx remains unclear, but assured that the tourism sector remains hopeful for a revival in the coming weeks. Despite the downturn in numbers, hoteliers remain optimistic. They believe that ample snowfall around Manali presents an ideal opportunity for winter sports and recreational activities, which could draw tourists back to the region. "We urge travellers to plan their trips to Manali now, as this is the perfect time to enjoy the snow and the pleasant weather," Thakur added.

## CWC inspects Renukaji Dam site, set to expedite work

**Diary Times Desk :** The Central Water Commission (CWC) has conducted a detailed site inspection of the Renukaji Dam project to expedite its development and address construction challenges. Acting as the principal consultant for Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL), the CWC is instrumental in ensuring the dam's timely completion. The inspection team, led by Chief Engineer AK Gupta and Director Wasim Ashraf, evaluated key project components and reviewed construction arrangements. They also assessed factors contributing to delays and rising costs. During their visit, the team held discussions with project officials.

## Union Minister made poll incharge; race for state BJP president hots up



**Diary Times Desk :** With BJP's organisational elections in the final stages, the saffron party could soon get a new state president as the high command has appointed Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh as the election incharge for state president. The names for the top party post that are doing the rounds mostly include sitting MLAs and MPs. The frontrunners for the top BJP post include Bilaspur legislator Trilok Jamwal, former Speaker and Sulah MLA Vipin Parmar, Rajya Sabha MP Indu Goswami and Una MLA Satpal Singh Satti. Party sources said the names of former Industries Minister Bikram Singh, a sitting MLA from Jaswan-Pragpur, and Rajya Sabha MP Sikander Kumar are also learnt to be in the zone of consideration. Jamwal appears to be a strong contender for the post as he has always been a strong organisational leader and is a confidant of Union Health Minister and BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda. In fact, Jamwal represents Bilaspur Sadar, the home Assembly segment of Nadda, and has become an MLA for the first time after serving in the party organisation for several years.

## Ex-CM Jai Ram visits fire-hit Tandri village

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition, Jai Ram Thakur, today visited Tandri village in Banjar subdivision of Kullu district to meet the victims of the January 1 fire tragedy and express solidarity. Thakur mentioned that the village once had a distinct identity which attracted tourists, but now, everything has been destroyed. He said he had spoken with Union Minister for Urban Development and Energy, Manohar Lal Khattar, who immediately directed the state enterprises to assist the affected families. NHPC officials have already arrived, providing sheets for roofing to help rebuild homes. Thakur assured them that houses would be rebuilt and that solutions for their problems would be found. He also committed to raising the issue of improving road access with central ministers and promised that a joint effort by local MLA Surender Shourie and MP Kangana Ranaut would provide Rs 10 lakh for road development, easing access for essential goods. "I have already spoken to the Chief Minister about increasing relief funds for the affected families, similar to the aid provided during the 2023 natural disaster," said Thakur. He emphasised that with the impending snowfall.

## Deputy CM hands over taxi keys to beneficiary

**Diary Times Desk :** Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today handed over the keys of an electric taxi to a beneficiary of the Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar (RGS) scheme at Haroli. The beneficiary, 44-year-old Ashok Kumar, hails from Dulehar village of the Haroli Assembly segment. Agnihotri said the state government has provided a sum of Rs 680 crore for the implementation of the scheme, which not only provides employment, but helps conserve the environment by using green energy. He said unemployed youth can take the benefit of the scheme by applying on the online portal of the State Labour and Employment Department. The Deputy Chief Minister said the beneficiaries have to make a down payment of 10 per cent of the cost of the electric taxi, while the 50 per cent cost is provided by the state government as subsidy. The remaining 40 per cent is provided as bank loan to the beneficiary on 7.9 per cent interest rate. He added that the taxi is then attached to a government department at a fixed salary of Rs 50,000 per month to the owner, who will also drive the vehicle.

## Baddi SP transfer case hearing deferred to Jan 9

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh High Court has deferred the hearing on a public interest litigation filed for immediate posting of Ilma Afroz as the Baddi Superintendent of Police to January 9. During the course of hearing, the Additional Advocate General of the state informed the court that the state has filed an application with the relevant documents regarding the fact that the officer concerned herself opted to be transferred from Baddi. Later, a Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Satyen Vaidya, listed the matter for further hearing on January, 9. In its earlier order, the court had issued notices to the Home Secretary and Director General of Police, seeking their responses on the issue. It may be mentioned that Baddi SP Ilma Afroz had proceeded on a long leave following an alleged confrontation with the local MLA. She joined on December 16 at Police Headquarters and is awaiting orders to resume duty as the SP. The petitioner, while urging the high court to issue appropriate orders in the matter, said the posting of Ilma Afroz in Baddi would make the general public feel safe and action would be ensured against drug and mining mafias operating in the area. The petitioner said since Ilma Afroz was posted in Baddi, she had enforced the rule of law and implemented the directions issued by the NGT and orders passed by HP High Court.



## Australia beat India to reclaim Border-Gavaskar Trophy and enter WTC final

**Agencies :** Australia have beaten India by six wickets in the fifth Test of their five-match series and won back the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in a decade. The hosts held their nerve to chase down their victory target of 162 after lunch on the third day of the final Test in Sydney on Sunday, prompting wild celebrations from their camp as they also sealed a spot in the World Test Championship final against South Africa at Lord's in June. Travis Head, who was 34 not out, and debutant Beau Webster, unbeaten on 39, got their team over the line to end the series on a high. "It's unreal, it's been an amazing series," Australia skipper Pat Cummins said shortly after the win. "It felt like it was kind of seesawing throughout the whole series so to finish it 3-1, to hold the trophy, is an amazing feeling," he added. "I'm immensely proud, I absolutely love playing with these guys and it's been a lot of fun along the way as well." India captain Jasprit Bumrah was unable to bowl in Australia's second innings because of a back issue but his fellow pace bowlers Prasidh Krishna and Mohammed Siraj kept the match on a knife edge by removing four top-order Australian batters.



## Everything boils down to temperament: Gambhir on India's batting woes

**Agencies :** Gautam Gambhir underscored the importance of players featuring regularly in domestic cricket in order for India to remain a high-performing Test side. Speaking at a press conference in Sydney after India conceded the Border-Gavaskar Trophy to Australia by a 1-3 margin, Gambhir said he would like all his players to feature in the country's domestic circuit if they were committed to red-ball cricket. "I would always like everyone to play domestic cricket," Gambhir said on Sunday (January 5). "That is how much importance domestic cricket needs to be given. Not only one game." Gambhir was responding to a question about the forthcoming round of Ranji Trophy fixtures which begins on January 23 in the context of the team's many batting failures over the course of this 10-Test season that began in September. India were shot out for sub-200 totals in six of their nine innings in Australia. They also had three more such innings at home against New Zealand, which included a 46 all-out in Bengaluru. While some of the batting performances can be attributed to the spicy, result-oriented pitches being dished out in this WTC era.

## "Had No Right...": Gautam Gambhir's Explosive Verdict On Jasprit Bumrah-Sam Konstas Controversy

**Agencies :** India head coach Gautam Gambhir criticised Australian debutant Sam Konstas for his involvement in a heated verbal exchange with Jasprit Bumrah on the opening day of the Sydney Test, calling it inappropriate. The final moments of the opening day became tense when the 19-year-old Konstas engaged in a verbal spat with the Indian pace spearhead, leaving Bumrah visibly agitated. As Bumrah was fired up, the consequences were felt by Usman Khawaja, who, on the next delivery, gave away a thick outside edge to KL Rahul at second slip. "Tough sport played by tough men. He had no right to be talking to Jasprit Bumrah when Usman Khawaja was taking time. He had no right and no business to be involved with Jasprit Bumrah. That was the job of the umpire and the guy who is batting at the other end," Gambhir said in the post-match press conference. Throughout the series, Konstas had altercations with Indian players. His first major incident occurred at the iconic MCG during the Boxing Day Test when he was involved in a bumping exchange with Virat Kohli.

## Cricket Australia Breaks Silence On Not Calling Sunil Gavaskar To Present Border-Gavaskar Trophy

**Agencies :** Cricket Australia broke its silence on legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar's displeasure at not being invited to present the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Gavaskar was not happy with the decision to not call him at the presentation ceremony following the fifth Test match between India and Australia. However, Cricket Australia said that Gavaskar was informed that he would have presented the award to Indian captain Jasprit Bumrah if the visitors retained the trophy. Australia clinched the trophy after 10 years and as a result, Allan Border was invited to present the trophy to the Australia captain Pat Cummins. "We acknowledge it would have been preferable if both Allan Border and Sunil Gavaskar had been asked to go on stage," a CA spokesperson said in a statement. Border presented the trophy to the home team but Gavaskar, despite being at the venue at the same time, was inexplicably ignored.



## Short TAKES

### On Virat Kohli's Retirement Rumours, Pat Cummins' Statement Wins Internet

**Agencies :** Australian skipper Pat Cummins rates Virat Kohli as a great competitor who makes the game lively with his theatrics and he will be "sad" if the latest Border-Gavaskar trophy does end up being the Indian superstar's last tour Down Under. Following the hundred in the series opener, Kohli's troubles outside the off-stump compounded as he was caught in the slip cordon eight times over the course of five Tests. The tour that got over on Sunday is likely to be Kohli's last. "It's always been a wonderful contest. More than just the runs that he scored, he brings a bit of theatre to the game which is sometimes good and sometimes it can rile you up as an opposition, which I'm sure is part of his plans," Cummins said in a response to a PTI query after the six wicket win here. "Really enjoyed playing with him. You know, he's been one of the the star batters for the last decade or so. You know, if you get his wicket it goes a long way to winning a game so yeah, it will be sad if it's his last series." Cummins did admit that Bumrah's absence on the final day of the series did help them, considering he took 32 wickets in the series.

### 'Tendulkar's Ranji game more recent than Virat Kohli': Irfan furious, Gavaskar says 'no return' for domestic absentees

**Agencies :** Team India faced a disappointing loss in the fifth and final Test of the series against Australia, thus conceding the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 1-3. India made an excellent start to the series in Perth, but a series of poor batting performances, coupled by the over-reliance on Jasprit Bumrah with the ball, led to the side's downfall as it conceded losses in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney. One of India's biggest concerns throughout the series was the form of their star batter, Virat Kohli. The 36-year-old scored only 190 runs across eight innings, which included an unbeaten century in the first Test. Moreover, Kohli's dismissals reflected on a pattern, as he fell to the delivery outside the off-stump on all eight occasions. Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan didn't mince his words as he talked about Kohli's poor performance with the bat following the match. Talking to Star Sports, Pathan called Kohli out for his lack of participation in domestic cricket, and his inability to rectify the faults over his dismissal.