

Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said- one lakh families will join natural farming in a year



Diary Times Desk : In Himachal, one lakh families will be connected with natural farming in the next one year. Only natural farming will be done in all the farms of the Agriculture Department. Storage centers will be made with high-end technology for the products of natural farming. On Friday, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu gave these instructions to the department officials while presiding over the review meeting of the Agriculture Department in the Secretariat. The Chief Minister also instructed the officials to map the areas growing wheat and maize through natural farming. Seeds will also be produced for natural farming. He also instructed to explore the possibility of setting up a solar power plant in the lake of Hamirpur. He instructed to prepare data of farmers doing natural farming on the basis of development block and connect them with Him Parivar. He said that if the crop is affected by any disease in the natural farming method, then its treatment should also be done through natural method. He instructed to determine the process for certification of seeds of natural farming and to explore the possibilities of opening high-end laboratories for soil and seed testing. The CM said that the government is considering opening a processing plant for turmeric and ginger. Dairy based degree courses will be started in Palampur Agricultural University.

Shimla: Himachal shines in Veeragatha Project 4.0, six students included in Super-100

Diary Times Desk : Six children from Himachal Pradesh have made it to the Super 100 in Project Veeragatha 4.0, launched under the joint aegis of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Education. This project has been started with the aim of creating awareness about gallantry award winners and freedom fighters. Students from class 3 to class 12 from schools across the country participated in the competition. Various activities were conducted through Samagra Shiksha under the Veeragatha Project in Himachal. Project Veeragatha 4.0 was launched on 5 September 2024, under which children submitted their entries online on the MyGov portal at the school level.

PM Modi Reacts To Memes Featuring Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni: "Wo Toh Chalta Rehta Hai"

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi, making his podcast debut on Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath's People by WTF series, said that he is aware of the memes that have been viral on social media for the last 1-2 years related to him and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. In this light-hearted conversation, Mr. Kamath asked the question about the viral "Melodi Memes" featuring him and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. "PM Sir, as we are talking about other countries, if I may digress a little, I must say my favourite food is pizza, which originates from Italy. People often say that you know a lot about Italy. Would you like to share something about it? Haven't you seen those memes?" he asked again. To this, the Prime Minister responded, "Wo toh chalta rehta hai" (that's an ongoing thing). "I don't waste my time on that," he added.



India-born Canadian MP Chandra Arya announces run to be next prime minister of Canada



Agencies : Chandra Arya, the India-born Member of Parliament in Canada, Thursday announced his intention to run for the post of Prime Minister of Canada and leader of the Liberal Party, following Justin Trudeau's resignation as PM earlier this week. "I am running to be the next Prime Minister of Canada, to lead a small and more efficient government, to rebuild our nation and secure prosperity for future generations. I have always worked hard for what is best for Canadians," Arya said in a video on social media. "We are facing significant structural problems that haven't been seen for generations and solving them will require tough choices. I have always worked hard for what is best for Canadians, and for the sake of our children and grandchildren, we must make bold decisions that are absolutely necessary," he added. Arya, who hails from Dwarlu village in Karnataka, about 70 km away from capital Bengaluru, emigrated to Canada about two decades ago along with his wife and son. He has a bachelor's degree in engineering and a graduate degree in business administration. Arya was first elected to the Canadian House of Commons in 2015 as part of the Liberal wave led by Trudeau. The Liberal Party had then won the majority of seats.

SAD accepts Badal's resignation, announces new president election on Mar 1

Agencies : The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) working committee on Friday accepted Sukhbir Singh Badal's resignation as party chief, days after the Akal Takht Jathedar asked it to implement the religious body's December 2 edict as soon as possible. With the acceptance of his resignation paving the way for the election of a new party chief, the working committee also announced to start a new membership drive on January 20 and hold the election for the post of new president on March 1. Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh on January 6 had asked SAD to implement the edict at the earliest while referring to the direction of accepting the resignation of Badal as party chief. While pronouncing religious punishment for Badal and other leaders on December 2 last year for the "mistakes" committed by SAD.

Himachal: Now there will be e-KYC of land, benami deals will be curbed, Patwaris have been given the responsibility

Diary Times Desk : By doing e-KYC of land in Himachal, benami deals will be curbed. The government has started the process of e-KYC in the state. Patwaris have been entrusted with this responsibility. Guidelines have been issued to all Deputy Commissioners by the Director Land Records. After e-KYC of land, it will be easy to take loan from banks. There is also a preparation to make e-KYC mandatory to avail the benefits of PM Kisan Yojana. The Digital Technology and Governance Department of the state government has prepared a mobile app for e-KYC, in which face recognition will also be done with the help of Aadhaar number. The entire record of land will be linked with Aadhaar number. E-KYC of land has been started to improve the system of land records, registration and issuance of various certificates. After the completion of the e-KYC process, the need for identifier for land registration will also end.



To place an advertisement

CALL +91 9736115050

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

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

DIARY TIMES

2

Shimla | Saturday | 11-01-2025

Himachal Pradesh: Insects found in Maggi packet, customer will have to pay Rs 50,000 as compensation, know the whole matter

Diary Times Desk : The court of District Consumer Commission Chairman Himanshu Mishra, members Aarti Sood and Narayan Thakur has ordered Nestle India Limited Company to pay Rs 14 to the consumer with nine percent interest. Apart from this, the company will give Rs 50 thousand compensation to the consumer, while also Rs 10 thousand for litigation. Along with this, the company has also been ordered to deposit Rs 50 thousand in the District Consumer Legal Aid Fund. The commission has given this decision while accepting the complaint of Piyush Awasthi resident of village and post office Thandol Tehsil Palampur District. Piyush had lodged a complaint with the Consumer Commission that he bought six packets of Maggi on July 9, 2023 from the CSD canteen located at Holta in Palampur. The expiry date on these packets was shown as January, 2024. When the consumer opened the packet of Maggi on August 25, 2023, live insects were found in one, the complaint of which he sent to Nestle India through e-mail. The company then responded to the complainant via email and assured the complainant that they would request a representative to contact the complainant and personally look into the matter. A representative then contacted the complainant to resolve the matter and check the quality of the noodles and promised to send a goodie box of Maggi from Nestle India as a goodwill gesture. However, even after two months have passed, Nestle India has not taken any action or responded to the complainant. After this, the consumer complained about it to the Consumer Commission.

Dense fog envelops Delhi; flight, train operations disrupted

Agencies : Dense fog enveloped Delhi, reducing visibility to zero and disrupting flight and train operations on Friday as the weather department predicted rain over the weekend. Over 100 flights were delayed at Indira Gandhi International Airport, and 26 trains were late, according to officials. The India Meteorological Department said zero visibility was recorded in Palam at 4.30 am. At 5.30 am, visibility at Safdarjung was 50 meters, it said. The national capital recorded a maximum temperature of 17.6 degree Celsius, a notch below normal, with a minimum temperature of 6 degree Celsius, 0.9 notches below normal. The weather department has predicted a cloudy sky with light rain and thunderstorms over the weekend. Dense fog is also likely in some areas in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to settle around 15 and 8 degree celsius, respectively. The air quality in the city is nearing the "severe" category.

Himachal News: A two-storey house turned to ashes due to cylinder explosion in Banibasa, villagers controlled the fire as soon as they got the information

Diary Times Desk : A two-storey house caught fire due to a sudden cylinder explosion in ward-3 Banibasa of Kholighat Panchayat under Nankhari Tehsil on Friday at around 3 o'clock, due to which five rooms of the house were burnt to ashes. Five members of a family have become homeless due to the burning of five rooms. As soon as the information about the fire was received, the villagers started relief work, but due to the strong flames of the fire, the villagers could not save the house. In this accident, all the goods kept inside the house have been burnt to ashes. Five members of a family lived in this two-storey house. Among them lived Govind Singh alias (Ramlal) with two children and his wife and brother Raman. Panchayat representatives informed the Revenue Department and the Police Department about the fire incident. After that, officers of the Revenue Department and police personnel reached the spot. Kholighat Panchayat Pradhan Anita said that five rooms of the two-storey house have been burnt to ashes due to the cylinder explosion. She has demanded from the state government and the district administration that the loss of the affected families should be assessed and compensation should be given, so that poor families can get relief. On behalf of the administration.

Yogi Adityanath's stern 'denting, painting' warning over Waqf claims on Prayagraj Kumbh land

Agencies : Ahead of the grand opening of Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, criticised the Waqf Board's land claims. In an interview with the news channel 'Aaj Tak,' CM Yogi stated that those who come to Mahakumbh with the intention of claiming land under the pretext of Waqf will face "denting and painting." When asked if this was a warning, CM Yogi affirmed that it was indeed a warning to those who aim to hurt the religious sentiments of a community. Regarding the controversy surrounding entry restrictions at the mega religious event, CM Yogi clarified that everyone who has faith is welcome to Mahakumbh. This statement comes days after the National President of the All India Muslim Jamaat, Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Bareilly, claimed that Mahakumbh is being organised on "Waqf land." Reacting to reports of a purported diktat for 'Hindus only' entry at Mahakumbh, Bareilly had remarked, "Mahakumbh is being organised on Waqf land, yet we are not opposing it. They should also show a large-hearted approach."

IPS Ilma Afroz: The old bench will hear the SP Ilma Afroz case, know what happened in Himachal High Court today

Diary Times Desk : On Friday, the Himachal Pradesh High Court heard the case of reappointment of IPS officer Ilma Afroz as SP Baddi. A division bench of Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Satyen Vaidya has sent the case back to the division bench hearing another criminal case. This division bench had assigned the investigation of a case to Ilma Afroz while she was SP Baddi. After this, the court passed an order on September 9 that Ilma Afroz will not be transferred during the investigation without the permission of the court. Now the case will be heard by a division bench of Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Satyen Vaidya. The next hearing will be on February 28. The case was also heard in the High Court on Thursday. The government had told the court that a panel of three officers has been formed for the appointment of SP Baddi. But on Friday, the Advocate General expressed his inability to give a panel of three IPS officers. He said that no officer can be posted there so soon. Because the court has put a stay on the transfer of Afroz in another criminal case. At the same time, the advocate appearing in the PIL told the court that as SP Baddi, Afroz has worked to strictly enforce the law in Baddi, Nalagarh and Barotiwala. During his tenure, strict action was taken against illegal mining, drugs and other organized crimes in the BBN area. A memorandum has also been submitted to the government on November 26 on behalf of the people of the area. In this, the government has been requested to deploy Ilma Afroz back to the post of SP Baddi. Let us tell you that IPS officer Ilma Afroz was posted as SP in Baddi in March 2024. After that Ilma went on a 15-day leave from November 7.

Delhi court to CBI in Karti Chidambaram corruption case: 'Give 3-day pre-arrest notice'

Agencies : A court in Delhi on Friday asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to serve a written notice before arrest to Congress MP Karti Chidambaram in connection with a fresh corruption case. The Congress MP is accused of providing relief to a liquor company against a ban on the duty-free sale of its liquor. Special judge Kaveri Baweja directed Karti Chidambaram to join the investigation and cooperate with the agency whenever required. The judge was hearing Chidambaram's anticipatory bail plea in the case. "The investigating agency shall give three days written notice before the applicant in case his arrest is required after he joins the investigation of the case upon return to the country on January 12, 2025. The applicant shall join the investigation of the case upon his return to the country and cooperate in the process of investigation, as and when so required in accordance with law," the judge said, according to PTI. The CBI registered a fresh case of corruption against former finance minister P Chidambaram's son and Congress MP, Karti Chidambaram, accusing him of providing relief to alcoholic beverage company.



HPU Shimla: HPU will fill 200 seats of M.Ed in private colleges, counseling will be held in Himachal University on 17th and 18th January

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh University has decided to fill 200 vacant M.Ed seats in five private colleges. The education department of the university will conduct counselling for the seats on 17th and 18th January. On 17th January, after 11 am, counselling of students who have cleared the entrance exam will be held. After 2 pm, counselling of students who have not cleared the entrance exam will be held. Dr. Rakesh Sharma, coordinator of the M.Ed admission process, said that on 18th January, from 11 am, counselling will be held for those students who could not appear in the M.Ed entrance exam, but fulfill the eligibility conditions set by the National Council on Teaching Education NCTE for admission to M.Ed. Students willing to take admission to the vacant M.Ed seats should participate in the counselling process on the scheduled date with all the necessary educational qualification and eligibility related original documents and photocopies.



Himachal News: FIR lodged for tampering with OMR sheet and irregularities in typing test

Diary Times Desk : An FIR has been registered in the post code 928 stenographer in the dissolved Himachal Pradesh Staff Selection Commission paper leak case. Vigilance was investigating this post code for a long time. An FIR has been registered after irregularities were found in the OMR sheet and typing test in the investigation. A total of 10 people, including employees of the Staff Selection Commission and the candidates of the examination, have been named in the FIR. However, no arrest has been made in this FIR so far. During the time of the dissolved Staff Selection Commission in the year 2022, the result of the typing test for 66 posts of post code 928 stenographer was declared on 9 December 2022. In this, only 107 out of 505 candidates were able to pass the typing test. At the same time, the process of document verification of the candidates who passed the examination was fixed for January 6, 2023, but before the evaluation of the documents, the leak of the JOA IT paper has been revealed. After this, a long investigation was conducted and one after the other, many FIRs were registered after paper leaks and irregularities were found in OMR sheets in many post codes. Now another FIR has been registered in this case.

Himachal Tehsildars Promotion: Four Tehsildars in Himachal got the gift of promotion, became District Revenue Officer

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh government has promoted four tehsildars and posted them as district revenue officers. Rajesh Kumar has been appointed as district revenue officer Kinnaur, Sumedh Sharma as Solan, Neelaksh Sharma as Bilaspur and Vikramjit Singh as District Revenue Officer Chamba. Apart from this, District Revenue Officer Chamba Jagdish Chand has been appointed as District Revenue Officer Hamirpur. The state government has appointed Municipal Corporation Commissioners in Baddi, Una and Hamirpur. CEO of BBND A Sonakshi Singh Tomar has been given additional charge of Baddi Municipal Corporation, ADC of Una Mahendra Pal Gujjar as Municipal Corporation Una and ADC of Hamirpur Rahul Chauhan as Municipal Corporation Hamirpur Commissioner. A notification in this regard was issued by the Personnel Department on Friday.

Himachal CM: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu will return to Shimla on Sunday, will go to Delhi on 14th



Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu will return to Shimla on the evening of January 12. The Chief Minister left for Nadaun from Shimla on Friday afternoon. The Chief Minister is scheduled to go to Delhi on January 14. On January 15, the Chief Minister will attend the inauguration ceremony of the new office of the All India Congress Committee. On January 15 or 16, from Delhi, the Chief Minister will leave for Dharamsala for his Kangra visit. On January 25, after the Statehood Day celebrations at Baijnath, the Chief Minister will come to Shimla. On January 26, he will attend the state-level Republic Day celebrations in Shimla.

Himachal News: Process of e-KYC of lands started in Himachal Pradesh, responsibility handed over to Patwaris

Diary Times Desk : By doing e-KYC of land in Himachal, benami deals will be curbed. The government has started the process of e-KYC in the state. Patwaris have been entrusted with this responsibility. Guidelines have been issued to all Deputy Commissioners by the Director Land Records. After e-KYC of land, it will be easy to take loan from banks. There is also a preparation to make e-KYC mandatory to avail the benefits of PM Kisan Yojana. The Digital Technology and Governance Department of the state government has prepared a mobile app for e-KYC, in which face recognition will also be done with the help of Aadhaar number. The entire record of the land will be linked with the Aadhaar number. E-KYC of land has been started to improve the system of land records, registration and issuance of various certificates.

Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said- EKYC will be completed in the Electricity Board by February 15

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Friday held a review meeting of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited, Energy Department and other undertakings. He said that the State Electricity Board has fixed February 15 as the last date for completing the KYC process of consumers. The Chief Minister also urged the affluent electricity consumers to voluntarily give up subsidy. The Chief Minister reviewed various activities of the board and gave necessary guidelines. He also took detailed information about the power projects under construction. He said that the state government is continuously working towards making the electricity board more efficient and professional. Innovative efforts are being made to strengthen the activities of the board. MLA Sanjay Awasthi, Chief Minister's Principal Advisor Ram Subhag Singh.

Himachal Pradesh Rajya Chayan Aayog: State Selection Commission's pilot recruitment OTA result declared

Diary Times Desk : The result of the first pilot recruitment computer based test (CBT) of Himachal Pradesh State Selection Commission Hamirpur has been declared. The commission had organized CBT in March 2024 to fill 162 posts of post code 1073 Operation Theater Assistant. However, the recruitment process under this post code was started during the period of the dissolved Staff Selection Commission. This recruitment was advertised in the year 2022, but due to the paper leak case, this recruitment could not be completed. The newly formed commission organized a computer based test on 30 March 2024 instead of the written examination of this recruitment. Four examination centers were set up in the state. After this, the result of CBT was submitted to the commission by EdCIL agency. In the year 2022, 1848 candidates had applied to fill 162 posts under this post code. Later 451 candidates took part in the examination. 112 candidates passed the CBT. After this, the documents of the candidates who passed the exam were checked.

Delhi election: Kejriwal offers to sponsor private guards hired by RWAs in latest poll perk

Agencies : Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) will be given money to hire private guards for security if Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) returns to power in Delhi, announced party supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Friday as the high-octane assembly polls draw closer. Eyeing a third straight term, the ruling AAP has announced a slew of schemes and grants in its bid to woo the public amid fears of anti-incumbency. Amid existing schemes and programmes like revamped government schools, mohalla clinics, and free electricity remain its USP as also women's free bus rides and senior citizen pilgrimage grants, the party has announced it will add to its welfare-driven campaign ₹2,100 monthly honorarium for women, free healthcare for elderly, and ₹10 lakh insurance for auto drivers. Voting for all 70 assembly seats in Delhi will be held on February 5, while the counting of votes is slated to take place on February 8 in a triangular contest which has the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress aiming to halt the AAP from coming to power for a third successive term.

JEE-Advanced: SC agrees to hear plea against cut in exam attempts

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to examine a plea against bringing down from three to two, the attempts given to Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced aspirants. When the plea came up before a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih, the petitioner's counsel said, "This matter pertains to the IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) admission entrance examination in which the number of attempts have been reduced from three to two." The lawyer said a similar plea was listed before the bench on January 10 following which the court directed both to be tagged. The fresh plea, filed through advocate Sanjeet Kumar Trivedi, said it related to the process for admissions into the prestigious IITs but the joint admission board (JAB), entrusted to conduct the JEE-Advanced exam, changed the eligibility criteria for students in an "arbitrary" manner. "The JAB, vide its press release dated November 5, 2024, first fixed the permissible number of attempts for JEE-Advanced at three, only to change it abruptly vide another press release dated November 18, 2024, and thereby reducing the number of attempts to two," the plea said. "The abrupt changes in the eligibility criteria," it said, "has affected the petitioner as well as thousands of similarly situated persons denying them a valuable opportunity."

"I Hold Such A Position...": PM On Handling Restlessness, Anxiety



Agencies : Offering a very different mantra for handling anxiety, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that while he does feel anxious, he is in a position where he has to control his emotions and one way of doing that is to counter restlessness by going along with one's mission. In a podcast with Nikhil Kamath, the co-founder of Zerodha, the Prime Minister cited examples of how he dealt with the 2002 Gujarat elections - which he called the biggest challenge of his life - blasts in the state and the Godhra train burning incident. "You see, to manage these things, everyone has his own ability and individual style... I hold such a position that I have to control my emotions -- the natural tendency that human beings have, I will have to stay detached from all of that. I will have to rise above all that. For example, in 2002, there were elections in Gujarat. It was the biggest challenge of my life... I never watched TV and didn't check the results," the PM said in Hindi.

Class 12 Student Detained Over Series Of Bomb Threats To Delhi Schools

Agencies : Weeks after a string of bomb hoaxes triggered panic at dozens of schools in Delhi, the city police have uncovered a meticulous plan by a minor to skip exams at his school. They have taken into custody the Class 12 student after finding out his role behind the bomb threats that put the entire city administration on alert on several days. He had sent bomb threat emails at least six times, each time marking different schools except his own. To avoid suspicion, he always tagged multiple schools on the mail, said officials, adding that he once sent a mail to 23 schools. Officials said the minor did not want to appear.

Bombay high court expresses concern over Mumbai AQI

Agencies : Amid the deteriorating air quality in Mumbai, the Bombay high court on Thursday reportedly proposed the phasing out of diesel vehicles and wood/coal-fired kilns or 'bhattis' used by bakeries. The Bombay high court also wondered if there would be a solution for air pollution in the city or if citizens have to continue seeing haze each year after Diwali. A bench of chief justice DK Upadhyaya and justice GS Kulkarni underlined the importance of CNG and electric vehicles to combat air pollution, The Bar and Bench reported.

Adani Group Pledges 1 Crore Free Copies Of 'Arti Sangrah' To Maha Kumbh Devotees

Agencies : Days ahead of the inauguration of Mahakumbh 2025 in UP's Prayagraj, the Adani Group's spiritual side and its 'Seva Hi Saadhna hai' pledge is drawing everyone's attention. Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani met the Trustees and officials of the iconic Gita Press on Friday and vowed to present 'Aarti Sangrah' to 1 crore devotees heading to the holy city's Sangam for the Shahi Snan, during the highly auspicious period. Taking to his social media handle on X, Gautam Adani said, "It is a matter of immense satisfaction for us that in this Mahayagna, with the cooperation of the esteemed institution Gita Press, we are offering one crore copies of 'Aarti Sangrah' free of cost to the devotees who have come to Kumbh." The billionaire also shared pictures of his meeting with the Gita Press Trustees, appreciating their over 100 years of service to the nation through the Sanatan literature. "Today, I was inspired by meeting the respected officials of Gita Press."

Coldplay ticket chaos: Bombay HC rejects plea on rules to curb black marketing

Agencies : The Bombay high court on Friday rejected a plea seeking guidelines to curb black marketing and ticket scalping at major events. The decision comes in wake of alleged foul play in the ticket sale for British band Coldplay's concert in Navi Mumbai this month. According to a PTI report, the division bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar stated that the issues raised in the plea pertained to the legislative domain, and hence the court could not intervene. "This is a legislative and executive decision."

Apple Co-Founder Steve Jobs' Wife Laurene Powell To Visit Maha Kumbh Mela

Agencies : Swami Kailashnand Ji Maharaj on Wednesday confirmed that Laurene Powell, wife of late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, will attend the upcoming Maha Kumbh 2025 in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. Speaking to ANI, he said that they have given Laurene Powell a Hindu name, 'Kamala'. "She is coming to visit her guru here. We have named her Kamala and she is like a daughter to us. This is the second time she is coming to India... Everyone is welcome in Kumbh," he said. He said that Powell is coming for her personal program, "She is coming here to meditate." When asked about whether Powell will be added to the Akhara's Peshawai, he said, "We will try to include her in the Peshwai. We will leave it to her to decide. She will tour this Kumbh and meet the seers here. She will also feel good. We will also feel good that those who don't know much about our traditions want to learn." "Most people in the world are under the guidance of some guru. Many people are coming to Kumbh; some are coming for their personal program," he added.



US hacker likely linked to '24 BSNL data breach

Agencies : An American soldier arrested in Texas last month for selling hacked telecom data is likely linked to a major data breach at India's State-owned BSNL last year, cybersecurity analysts and publicly available information suggest, bringing into the spotlight the cross-continental workings of an underground cybercrime industry. Cameron John Wagenius, a communications specialist stationed in South Korea, was arrested on December 20 for attempting to sell hacked data from American telecom companies. Wagenius, according to a report by an American cybersecurity publication and experts HT spoke to, is likely "kiberphant0m" on a popular dark web marketplace, where he also to sell attempted to 278 GB of sensitive BSNL data in May for \$5,000 – a fraction of its potential value. The stolen data included critical subscriber information and security infrastructure details, including international mobile subscriber identities, SIM numbers, and BSNL's home location register – a database containing user histories and call routing information. The hacker also claimed to have obtained snapshots of BSNL's SOLARIS server and security key data.

"Find A Quiet Place": Lip Readers Decipher Trump, Obama's Conversation

Agencies : A conversation between former US President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump, two political rivals, at the state funeral of ex-President Jimmy Carter, is going viral. Lip readers and experts have attempted to decode what Trump and Obama were talking about. Sitting in the second row, Trump and Obama were sitting next to each other and discussing something. Trump says something to Obama, who laughs and responds. What's even more interesting is Vice President Kamala Harris, who was backed by Obama in the Presidential campaign, sat in front of the Presidents and saw them having a conversation. British news website, Sky News, deciphered the conversation between Trump and Obama and posted a video on X. The New York Post quoted a forensic lip reader, Jeremy Freeman and said in its report.

Pakistan, Bangladesh Invited For An 'Undivided India' Event, Islamabad Confirms

Agencies : India has invited Pakistan and Bangladesh, among other neighbouring countries to participate in an 'undivided India' seminar being organised to mark 150 years of the India Meteorological Department. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative by the government to keep differences aside and celebrate the shared history of the Indian subcontinent in unison. Invites have been sent to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Besides the subcontinent, invitations have been sent to officials from the Middle East, central and Southwest Asia too. Pakistan has confirmed its participation, and a confirmation from Bangladesh is awaited, reported news agency Press Trust of India. Should Dhaka confirm, it will be a historic moment. "We wanted officials from all countries which were part of undivided India at the time of IMD's establishment to be part of the celebrations," a top official from the weather department said.



Did Trudeau Really Make A Counter-Offer For "Parts" Of Canada With Trump?



Agencies : Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revealed that he jokingly suggested trading Vermont or California to President-elect Donald Trump in response to Trump's interest in annexing Canada. Trudeau shared this exchange during an MSNBC interview, recalling his visit with Trump at Mar-a-Lago in November. Trudeau said, "It actually sort of came up at one point, and then we started musing back and forth about this... And when I started to suggest, 'Well, maybe there could be a trade for Vermont or California for certain parts,' he immediately decided that it was not that funny anymore, and we moved on to a different conversation." Trudeau has consistently rejected Trump's idea of Canada becoming the 51st state, stating on X, "There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States."

2024 was Earth's hottest year ever, major climate threshold breached

Agencies : Earth recorded its hottest year ever in 2024, passing a major climate threshold, reported news agency Associated Press on Friday, citing weather monitoring agencies. The news comes in the wake of deadly wildfires in the Californian city of Las Vegas, home to America's film industry 'Hollywood'. "This is a warning light going off on the Earth's dashboard that immediate attention is needed," the AP report quoted University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd as saying, adding, "Hurricane Helene, floods in Spain and the weather whiplash fueling wildfires in California are symptoms of this unfortunate climate gear shift. We still have a few gears to go." Last year's global average temperature easily passed 2023's record heat and kept going even higher, surpassing the long-term warming limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since the late 1800s that was called.

10 Dead, 10,000 Buildings Destroyed: Los Angeles Wildfires In Numbers

Agencies : Ten people dead, 10,000 buildings destroyed, 180,000 people evacuated, \$150 billion in damage. Here are the main figures showing the scale of the massive wildfires that have engulfed Los Angeles County since Tuesday. Los Angeles is being ravaged by five different big blazes. The largest, the Palisades Fire northwest of the nation's second most populous city, has consumed 81 square kilometers (31 square miles). It has ravaged the upscale Pacific Palisades neighborhood, home to multimillionaires and celebrities. The second, at 55 square kilometers, is the Eaton Fire in Altadena, an eastern suburb of Los Angeles. The two fires are still out of control, according to state agency Cal Fire. Three much smaller blazes, the Kenneth Fire (four sq km), the Hurst Fire (three sq km) and the Lidia Fire (1.6 sq km), have been partly contained -- by 35 percent, 37 percent and 75 percent respectively. The fires have ripped through nearly 36,000 acres (14,500 hectares or 145 square kilometers.)

Child sexual abuse inquiry chairwoman to face questions from MPs

Agencies : The chairwoman of a seven-year inquiry into child sexual abuse will face questions from MPs, after calls for a further investigation into historical grooming gangs. Professor Alexis Jay will appear before the Commons Home Affairs Committee on January 21, alongside the inquiry's secretary, John O'Brien. Scrutiny is expected to focus on how far Prof Jay's recommendations have been implemented and how institutions have responded to her findings, which were published in 2022. Committee chairwoman Dame Karen Bradley said: "We have a responsibility to ensure that the results of comprehensive public inquiries set up by Government are acted upon. "For too long, children were failed by those who should have been protecting them. "We are holding this session to understand how the Government and the different institutions within the remit of the inquiry have responded to its findings. "We want to see if there has been progress in the wide-ranging change needed to implement a comprehensive child safety framework, and what more needs to be done." There have been calls for another national inquiry into historical grooming gangs in areas of the country.

SAD working committee accepts Sukhbir Badal's resignation as party chief



Agencies : Finally bowing before the Akal Takht, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) working committee on Friday accepted the resignation of Sukhbir Singh Badal as the party president. The development comes two days after the Akal Takht Jathedar took a tough stance on the issue in a meeting with the SAD leaders, who had not implemented his directions on re-organisation of the party. SAD spokesperson Daljeet Singh Cheema announced this here after the working committee meeting. The SAD had been arguing that the party's constitution and its registration as a political party under the Constitution demanded it to remain secular; so receiving and implementing the directions of the Akal Takht would amount to violating the conditions of the registration. Sukhbir had stepped aside from "actively" leading the party on August 30 last year, when he handed over the charge of running the party affairs to the working committee under Balwinder Singh Bhundar. On November 16, he had resigned from the post of president ahead of receiving religious punishment from the Akal Takht.

HC dismisses pleas for caste-based reservation in Sikh gurdwara election

Agencies : The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday ruled that seeking caste- or gender-based reservation in election to a Sikh religious institution contradicts the foundational principles of Sikhism. Referring to the Sikh philosophy of equality and unity, the Bench of Justice Anil Kshetarpal and Justice Harpreet Kaur Jeevan dismissed a bunch of petitions. Among other things, it was argued in the petitions that failure to reserve seats in the election to the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee for scheduled castes, backward classes and women was unconstitutional and against the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. "It is significant to note that seeking reservation on the basis of caste and gender for the purpose of election in a Sikh religious institution will go against the philosophy of Sikh religion. A writ of mandamus cannot be issued to compel a body or the state to provide for reservation," the Bench ruled.

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar unveils Rs 59 crore infrastructure projects in Karnal

Agencies : Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday inaugurated three significant infrastructure projects in the city, with a total investment of Rs 59 crore. Originally scheduled for January 6, the inaugurations were delayed due to the last-minute cancellation of the Minister's visit. The first project unveiled was the state-of-the-art Indoor Sports Complex in Sector 32, which has been constructed for Rs 44 crore on two acres. The facility boasts an Olympic-standard swimming pool (50m x 25m) with 10 lanes, featuring heating, filtration and lighting systems. It also includes a warm-up pool (25m x 21m), a badminton hall with five courts and dedicated shower rooms, lockers and changing areas for both men and women.

3 youths killed as car plunges into pond in Patiala

Agencies : Three youths died as the car they were travelling in plunged into a pond at Dittupur village near Bhadson here on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. The deceased have been identified as 30-year-old Hardeep Singh, a marine engineer; 26-year-old Inderjot Singh, an employee at the Verka Milk Plant; and 18-year-old Kamalpreet Singh, a Class-12 student. On Thursday night, a group of five men from the village were travelling in a car. Due to dense fog, they lost sight of the road. One of the men got out of the car to guide the driver using torch light from his phone. However, due to poor visibility, the car veered off the road and plunged into the nearby pond. While one of the four occupants was rescued, the other three drowned. The villagers tried to rescue the men, but to no avail. The car, along with the bodies, was fished out of the canal.

Go to Modi, not Akal Takht, if you want me to end fast: Dallewal tells Punjab BJP leaders



Agencies : Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose fast-unto-death entered the 46th day on Friday, has shared a video message targeting the Punjab unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In a two-minute-58-second-long video, the farmer leader said he had been told that the Punjab unit of the BJP had approached the Akal Takht, urging the Jathedar to direct him to end his fast. "However, I feel that the BJP leaders are going in the wrong direction. Instead of approaching the Akal Takht, they should be approaching the office of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and seek his intervention to resolve the matter," he said. "You should be going to the office of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who has already expressed his concerns on our issue. You must also visit the office of the Agriculture Minister (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) and the office of Home Minister Amit Shah." Dallewal said his motive behind the fast was to seek the acceptance of the demands of farmers, and that he would end it once the Centre agreed to the demands.

NGT-ordered inspection uncovers major effluent violations in Sonapat

Agencies : A joint inspection by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has revealed that 94 industrial units and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in the HSIIDC industrial zone at Barhi, Ganaur, have violated pollution norms. The inspection was conducted on the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The investigation followed a complaint filed by Delhi-based environmentalist Varun Gulati, who alleged that industries in the Barhi industrial estate were discharging untreated effluent into Drain No. 6, which ultimately pollutes the Yamuna. The complaint highlighted the ineffectiveness of the CETP installed in the area. A joint team inspected 157 industrial units, CETPs and Drain No. 6, collecting 253 samples from industrial inlets, outlets and the CETPs. The analysis revealed high levels of biological oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand, total dissolved solids and heavy metals, indicating untreated or partially treated effluent being discharged into stormwater channels through underground pipelines.

Sonepat, Bhiwani shine in state-level athletics championship

Agencies : A three-day state-level senior athletics championship for men and women concluded with a display of talent and competitive spirit. The event witnessed participation from athletes across Haryana. In the women's category, Sonepat won the overall trophy, while Karnal secured the runner-up trophy. Similarly, in the men's category, Bhiwani is overall champion, while Jhajjar won runner-up trophy, said Sudha Bhasin, District Sports Officer (DSO). In the 3000m steeplechase (men), Jind's Jaibir clinched the gold medal, followed by Kapil from Mahendragarh with silver and Aryan from Karnal won bronze. In the 3000m steeplechase (women) event, Ankita from Sonepat won gold medal, while Vijata from Karnal secured silver, and Chhoti Devi from Hisar finished with bronze. In the 500m (men) event, Mohan from Charkhi Dadri won gold, Vansh from Sonepat bagged the silver and Rahul from Jhajjar won bronze. Rewari's Avinash claimed gold in the triple jump (men), while Mangeram from Sirsa got silver and Rohit Kumar from Fatehabad bagged bronze, she added.

Vigilance books hotel owner, KCCB officials in illegal loan case

Diary Times Desk : Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau has registered a case at its police station in Una against Yudh Chand Bains, proprietor of M/s Himalaya Snow Village and M/s Hotel Lake Palace, and officials of the Kangra Central Cooperative Bank Ltd (KCCB). The FIR was registered yesterday against Yudh Chand Bains and officials of the KCCB under sections 420, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, 13 (1) and 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2018. The case has been registered after conclusion of an enquiry based on a complaint received by Vigilance from the Secretary (Cooperation) to the Himachal Government. The government has also given the permission under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 to prosecute the officials of the KCCB. In the inquiry by Secretary Cooperation, it was alleged that Bains took multiple loans from the KCCB in total disregard to the bank's own lending policies as well as the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Total disbursement of Rs 20 crore was made directly to borrowers by the bank.

Dalai Lama leads prayers for victims of Tibetan quake

Diary Times Desk : Hundreds of monks, nuns and others gathered in main temple of Dalai Lama at McLeodgnaj today morning to pray for the victims of earthquake in Tibet. Meanwhile, at the temple at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in the Tibetan settlement of Bylakuppé, Karnataka, the Dalai Lama prayed for victims of the earthquake. The regions of Tibet struck most severely by the earthquake were Shigatsé and Dingri. The principal monastery in Shigatsé is Tashi Lhunpo, which was founded by the First Dalai Lama, Gyalwa Gendun Drup, was the seat of the Panchen Rinpoché, said a release by the Central Tibetan administration. The Dalai Lama is presently staying at the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in South India. His joined a large assembly to pray for the people of Shigatsé and Dingri. Prayers began with the Three Continuums, a praise and supplication to the Buddha.

Families headed by women to get BPL benefits



Diary Times Desk : The Cabinet today decided to extend the benefits under the economically weaker sections (EWS) of BPL category to some other sections including families headed by women, families whose head has a disability of 50 per cent or suffering from chronic diseases. The decision was taken by the Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, here today. The Cabinet approved the inclusion of families in BPL list, with no adult members between the ages of 18 and 59, families headed by women, families whose head has a disability of 50 per cent or more, families that worked for at least 100 days under MG-NREGA in the previous financial year and families whose earning members are suffering from chronic diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, muscular dystrophy, thalassemia, or any other condition resulting in permanent disability. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of a Special Task Force to combat drug abuse and launch a crackdown against drug trafficking and organised crime networks in the state through a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach.

Punjab gangsters target Una businesses, demand ransom

Diary Times Desk : Gangsters from Punjab have been targeting businesses in Una district, demanding ransom and spreading fear among the local business community. According to sources, two jewellers and two stone crusher owners have received threat calls from Punjab-based gangsters, but none have lodged a formal complaint with the police due to fear. A recent arrest by the Jalandhar police revealed the extent of the extortion racket. A henchman, Manjot Singh alias Mani, of a gangster was arrested and allegedly confessed to accepting Rs 50,000 in advance to kill a Una-based businessman. The accused claimed he had struck a deal to eliminate the businessman for Rs 5 lakh. SP Una, Rakesh Singh, confirmed that the police are investigating the matter and are in touch with the Jalandhar police to gather more information. However, no formal complaints have been filed by the residents of Una. The issue was taken up during a high-level meeting of police officials in the region. Una district borders with Hoshiarpur and Ropar districts of Punjab. Sources said that many Punjab-based gangsters, through their links in Una district, have become active in the area. The issue has sparked concern among the local authorities.

Fire breaks out in Baddi unit



Diary Times Desk : A massive fire erupted at a pharmaceutical unit, Smarth Life Sciences at Manakpur, Baddi this morning around 4.04 am. No loss of life has been reported as the unit was not operational when the fire broke. The fire department rushed to the spot to douse the blaze with eight fire tenders having been used comprising 4 from Baddi, two from Nalagarh and one from Vardhman textiles to control the blaze. The fire was yet to be brought under control despite intensive firefighting operations since the last several hours. Santosh Sharma Commandant Home Guards informed that the fire staff was on their toes since 4.15 pm and efforts were afoot to control the fire. The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained.

HP seeks 90:10 funding for power component of Kishau Dam project

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Government today reiterated its request to the Government of India to adopt the 90:10 funding formula for the power component of the 660 MW Kishau multipurpose dam project, similar to the formula adopted for the water component. The Cabinet, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, proposed that Centre must provide 50-year interest-free loan for the entire amount payable by the state government for the power component under the Inter-State Agreement for the Kishau project. The Rs 7,193-crore Kishau Dam is a proposed gravity dam on the Tons River which flows between the border of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The project envisages the construction of a 236 mts high concrete gravity dam along with a 660 MW capacity power house across the river Tons, a tributary to the Yamuna river. It will primarily harness the vast monsoon flow of Tons river by storing and utilising the regulated release thereof, for irrigation and power. Besides Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, other states like Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh would also benefit from the project to be built on Tons river which flows from Dehradun district in Uttarakhand to Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh.



Novak Djokovic makes stunning claim of being 'poisoned' in Australia: 'I realized that hotel in Melbourne...'

Agencies : Novak Djokovic will be targeting his 25th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in Melbourne, where he meets American wildcard Nishesh Basavareddy in the first round. However, before Djokovic takes the court in Melbourne, the Serb has dropped some sensational claims of being "poisoned" in the country. The incident dates back to 2022, when he was barred from taking part in the elite tennis tournament and was deported from the country after refusing to take Covid-19 vaccination. Djokovic had then saw his visa getting revoked and had to spent days in a detention hotel before being asked to leave Australia. Passing details of the situation back then, the former world number one in an interview with GQ magazine made some stunning remarks. "My stance is exactly the same today as it was a few years ago. I'm not pro-vaccine. I'm not anti-vax. I am pro-freedom to choose what is right for you and your body. So when somebody takes away my right to choose what I should be taking for my body, I don't think that's correct," he said. After being deported from the country, Djokovic took a private plane to Spain but was forced to change his plans due to stringent vaccination rules in the country.



Varun Aaron announces retirement from representative cricket

Agencies : Fast bowler Varun Aaron has retired from all representative cricket following Jharkhand's exit from the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy. The 35-year-old had given up red-ball cricket at the end of the 2023-24 season and has now given up the white-ball formats. He took three wickets at 53.33 from four games of the ongoing 50-over List A tournament. "For the past 20 years, I have lived, breathed, and thrived on the rush of bowling fast. Today, with immense gratitude, I officially announce my retirement from representative cricket," Aaron wrote on his Instagram page. "As I bid farewell to a pursuit that has consumed me completely, I now look forward to savouring the smaller joys in life while staying deeply connected to the game that has given me everything. Fast bowling has been my first love, and though I step off the field, it will always be a part of who I am." Incidentally, it was the Vijay Hazare Trophy in the 2010-11 season that thrust Aaron into the limelight after he breached the 150kph mark on the speed gun. He would go on to make his ODI and Test debut against England and West Indies respectively that year.

'Gautam Gambhir abused my family and said bad things about Sourav Ganguly...': Ex-KKR teammate Manoj Tiwary reveals

Agencies : Former India cricketer and Gautam Gambhir's Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) teammate Manoj Tiwary made some shocking statements about the now India head coach from their playing days. Interestingly, Manoj and Gautam have not only played in the KKR setup together but also in the Delhi state team. Opening up about his relationship with Gambhir, Tiwary alleged that the 2011 World Cup winner abused his family and also said bad things about former India captain Sourav Ganguly. Earlier, Tiwary labelled Gambhir as 'hypocrite' while the India coach was facing a lot of heat post the team's 1-3 loss against Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Gambhir's tenure as India coach began with a series loss against Sri Lanka in the 50-over format, following which the team endured a humiliating 3-0 whitewash against New Zealand in Tests at home. "When he fought with me during the Ranji Trophy match in Delhi, everyone heard every word from Gautam Gambhir's mouth. Whether he was talking bad about Sourav Ganguly or whether he was abusing my family.

"Kuch Sawaal They Mann Mein": Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli Visit Premanand Maharaj

Agencies : Star India batter Virat Kohli, along with his wife Anushka Sharma and children, recently visited the renowned priest Premanand Maharaj in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh. Kohli is having a terrible time in his professional career as he registered back-to-back low scores in the recently concluded Border-Gavaskar Tests against Australia. In the five-match series, which India lost 1-3, Kohli scored only 190 runs in nine innings, despite a century in the opening match. Many former cricketers and fans slammed Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma for their dismal shows and even calls for their retirement were made. As the Australian Tests have ended and the Indian team is gearing up for the upcoming white-ball series against England, Kohli took some time to unwind and visited Parmanand Maharaj with his family at his ashram in Vrindavan. Notably, both Virat and Anushka are dedicated followers of Lord Krishna and have been spotted numerous times during prayers and events, related to the Hindu God.



Short TAKES

"Hindi Not Our National Language": R Ashwin Triggers Debate

Agencies : Ravichandran Ashwin, whose recent retirement stunned the world of cricket and his fans, has said that Hindi is "not our national language but an official language" - a comment that could trigger a debate. Ashwin made the comment at the graduation ceremony of a private engineering college in Tamil Nadu, where the use of Hindi has always been a sensitive subject that has fuelled strong reactions. Addressing students, Ashwin asked if those attending the ceremony were willing to ask questions in Hindi if they weren't comfortable in English or Tamil. "English students in the house - give me a yay," he urged, getting a loud cheer in reply. "Tamil" - at this, the students roared. "Okay, Hindi?" In response, the audience suddenly fell silent. "I thought I should say this. Hindi is not our national language; it is an official language," Ashwin went on to say, in Tamil. The comment could provoke fresh debate at a time several opposition parties, including Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK, have accused the Centre of trying to impose Hindi on states, especially in the South.

KL Rahul tells Agarkar not to pick him for England series, goes on a break; Pant, Samson set for Champions Trophy?

Agencies : KL Rahul has decided to take a break from cricket after a physically and mentally draining Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia. Rahul has reportedly told the Ajit Agarkar-led BCCI selection committee that he would like to be exempted from the limited-overs series at home against England starting January 22 in Kolkata. The home series comprises five T20s and three ODIs, which will be more significant considering that it will precede the Champions Trophy, which will start on February 19. Interestingly, Rahul, who is not considered an automated choice in the ODI XI now that Rishabh Pant is back in the mix and so is Sanju Samson, has informed the selectors that he will be available for selection for the Champions Trophy. India will play all their games in Dubai while the rest of the matches will be held in host nation Pakistan. "He has sought a break for the England series, but he will be available for selection for the Champions Trophy," a BCCI source told PTI on Thursday. While the high-profile India batting crumbled in the Test series.