

## NCB Conference: CM Sukhu said- Himachal Pradesh is Committed To Deal With The Problem Of Drugs



**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired the regional conference on drug trafficking and national security organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in New Delhi. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu participated in the conference virtually from Naidun and emphasised Himachal Pradesh's commitment to tackle the growing drug crisis. The conference focused on the nexus between drug trafficking and national security, with a special focus on eight northern states and Union Territories. Addressing the conference, the Chief Minister said that drug trafficking cases have increased by 340 per cent in the last decade, from about 500 cases in 2012 to 2,200 cases in 2023. Apart from this, the percentage of heroin-related cases has also doubled, from 29 per cent in 2020 to 50 per cent in 2024. He referred to the alarming situation of synthetic drugs, which are not only harmful but also difficult to control due to their chemical structure. He stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle drug trafficking, especially in the inter-state border areas, which have become the hub of illegal activities. The Chief Minister said that drug trafficking often leads to organised crime and terrorism, posing a serious threat to the sovereignty and security of the country.

## Prasar Bharati's Mahakumbh-focused Kumbhvani FM channel launched

**Agencies :** Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday inaugurated Prasar Bharati's FM channel 'Kumbhvani' at the Circuit House, on the concluding day of his two-day Prayagraj tour. Prasar Bharati has launched the OTT-based Kumbhvani FM channel to disseminate comprehensive information about the Mahakumbh. Broadcasting at a frequency of 103.5 MHz, the channel is on air from January 10 to February 26, operating daily from 5:55 am to 10:05 pm. 'Kumbhvani' will not only reach new heights of popularity but also extend the spirit of Mahakumbh to remote villages where many people, despite their desire.

## BJP's Second List For Delhi Polls Out, Kapil Mishra Fielded From Karawal Nagar

**Agencies :** The BJP on Saturday unveiled its second list of 29 candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections on Saturday, bringing the total announced names to 58 out of the 70 constituencies. Kapil Mishra, a former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and now identified with hardline Hindutva politics, has been fielded from Karawal Nagar constituency, while sitting MLA Abhay Verma has been named the party's candidate from Lakshmi Nagar seat. The party has also fielded Neelam Pahalwan from Najafgarh, which is the constituency of former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) minister Kailash Gahlot. Notably, Gahlot, who left the AAP and joined the BJP last year after a fallout within the leadership, had been named as the party's candidate from Bijwasan constituency. Another prominent name in the BJP's second candidate list is Harish Khurana, son of former Delhi Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana, who has been fielded from the Moti Nagar constituency. Kapil Mishra took to X and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leadership for his candidature and also exuded confidence of saffron's party landslide win in the Delhi Assembly polls.



## "Not Mentally Stable": BJP vs AAP Over 'CAG Report' On Liquor Policy Case

**Agencies :** The BJP today escalated its attack on AAP following findings from a leaked Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report regarding the city's controversial excise policy. Questioning the authenticity of the report, AAP leader Sanjay Singh asked whether the alleged findings were made at the BJP office. The report, which allegedly outlines major lapses and violations under the leadership of former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, has triggered a fresh row ahead of the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections. The CAG report has not been officially released. The purported CAG report, parts of which have reached the public domain, alleges that the Delhi government's Excise Policy caused a loss of over Rs 2,026 crore to the state including Rs 890 crore due to the failure to re-tender surrendered retail liquor licenses. An additional loss of Rs 941 crore allegedly stemmed from exemptions granted to zonal licensees. Key approvals from the Lieutenant Governor (LG), the Cabinet, and the Assembly were allegedly bypassed. The report further claims that the Group of Ministers (GoM) led by Manish Sisodia ignored recommendations from an expert panel. The BJP has seized on the alleged findings, accusing the AAP government of gross corruption and mismanagement. "If their (AAP) policies were so good then why were they taken aback? Today AAP has no answer to Delhi's broken roads, dirty water in homes, rising electricity bills, mountains of garbage and pollution. Today the people of Delhi want to be free from 'AAP-da'," BJP leader Anurag Thakur said. AAP MP Sanjay Singh questioned the authenticity of the purported report. "Where is the CAG report? Do you have a copy? Is it made at the BJP office? The BJP is scared.

## Light rain in Delhi as city records low of 7.7 degrees Celsius: IMD

**Agencies :** Light rain was witnessed in parts of Delhi on Saturday evening as the city recorded a low of 7.7 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department. Forty-five trains were delayed as a thick layer of fog engulfed the city in the morning, reducing visibility which impacted train operations, officials said. The maximum temperature settled as 17 degrees Celsius, three notches below the season's average, the IMD said. Parts of the national capital, including the Central Delhi area, received light rain. According to the weather department, Safdarjung observed minimum visibility of 50 metre from 12.30 am to 1.30 am which improved thereafter becoming 200 metre and continues to remain so 7.30 am. The minimum temperature settled at 7.7 degree Celsius, normal during the season, the IMD said. The humidity was 100 per cent during the day.

## Himachal: The number of voters between 18 and 19 years of age in the state increased to 1.69 percent

**Diary Times Desk :** In Himachal Pradesh, the number of voters in the age group of 18 and 19 years has reached 1.69 percent of the total voters. In the last quarter, 33609 young voters in the age group of 18 and 19 years have been added to the voter lists. For the first time, the number of women voters has also reached close to 28 lakh. Earlier, the number of voters in the age group of 18 and 19 years in the state was 1.27 percent of the total number of voters. To increase the registration of new voters in the voter lists, the Election Department set up special assistance booths in 407 government private colleges and ITI institutes of the state under a special campaign to include youth in the voter list, in which Form-6 was filled for the registration of voters in the age group of 18 and 19 on 13 and 26 November. Booth level officers were instructed to help young voters. Moreover, through SMS campaign, information regarding mobile numbers of students of this age group was obtained from educational institutions.



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## Himachal: CM Sukhu laid the foundation stone for new life in Hadeta, eco-tourism will get a boost

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday laid the foundation stone of the proposed Economic Development and Livelihood Generation Project (Navjeevan) at a cost of Rs 4 crore in Hadeta of Naidun Assembly constituency. Under this project, children's park, walking trail, yoga facility, cafeteria, watch tower and other facilities including three cottages will be constructed. This project will promote eco-tourism in the area, which will provide employment opportunities to the local people and increase their income. On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that Hadeta of Naidun area has the densest forest, that is why this area has been selected for building the park. He said that roads are being doubled in the entire Hamirpur. Along with Galod-Bhatta road, other roads of the area are also being double-lane. He said that after education, the present government is now working to make Hamirpur a leader in the health sector. So far, Rs 470 crore has been spent on Dr. Radhakrishnan Hamirpur Medical College. In future, a state of the art cancer institute is going to be built here, for which Rs 85 crore has been sanctioned. Sukhu said that the previous BJP government weakened government institutions by opening them without staff and resources, but the state government is improving it. He said that Rs 1500 crore has been sanctioned to install ultra-modern machines in health institutions. He said that these health facilities will enable accurate identification of the disease and people will get cheap and better treatment.

## PM Modi to inaugurate strategic Z-Morh tunnel in J&K on Jan 13: 'Eagerly waiting'

**Agencies :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir on January 13. In a post on X on Saturday, Modi said that he is eagerly waiting for the inauguration of the Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district. He also praised the photograph and aerial photographs of the tunnel shared by Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah. Abdullah visited the Z-Morh tunnel on Saturday to review preparedness for the inauguration of the tunnel by the prime minister on January 13. He said that the inauguration of the Z-more tunnel would open Sonmarg to tourism all year round and help develop the town into a great ski resort. "Visited Sonmarg today to review preparations for PM Narendra Modi ji's visit on Monday. The inauguration of the Z-morh tunnel will open Sonmarg to tourism all year round, Sonmarg will now be developed as a great ski resort.

## HP Water Supply Scam: People were given dirty water to drink, 10 tanker trips were reported instead of four; investigation revealed

**Diary Times Desk :** Many revelations have been made in the preliminary investigation into the alleged irregularities in the drinking water supply in Theog assembly constituency of Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh. According to the terms of the tender, clean water was to be supplied from near Lelu bridge, but the investigation has revealed that the contractor did not fill water in tankers and pickups from this place. The drivers of tankers and pickups filled water from drains and took it away. It has also been found that this water was not potable. People were given muddy water picked up from drains to drink. There have also been irregularities in the trips of water. Ten trips of water tankers have been shown instead of four. When water was being supplied through tankers, there was no employee of the Jal Shakti Department present at the spot. Trips of tankers and pickups were shown on their own will. The spot report was prepared in the office itself. Negligence of the junior engineer and clerk has also come to light in the preliminary report. Many water bills have been made from Lelu bridge ravine to the village where water is to be supplied. Whereas water was not lifted from Lelu bridge at all. Vigilance believes that the water has been cleaned near Lelu bridge over Giri river, from here water is being supplied to Shimla.

## Curfew In Manipur's Kangpokpi Amid Tension Between Naga, Kuki-Zo Communities

**Agencies :** Curfew was clamped in a sub-division in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Saturday following tension between the Naga and Kuki-Zo community people while in a separate incident in Kamjong district, a mob on Saturday destroyed a makeshift camp of the Assam Rifles, officials said. Officials in Imphal said that tension has been prevailing for the past three days in the Kangchup Geljang sub-division of Kangpokpi after the villagers of Naga-dominated Konsakhul village and Kuki-Zo-inhabited Leilon Vaiphei village engaged in bickering over a territorial dispute. Konsakhul villagers are claiming that the Leilon Vaiphei village is their area but the claim was strongly opposed by the villagers of Leilon Vaiphei. Amidst the territorial dispute, there was an allegation that a Naga woman was assaulted by a few people on January 7. As the tension escalated in the areas and some minor clashes took place between the villagers of the two villages, District Magistrate Mahesh Chaudhari imposed an indefinite public curfew.

## Bank loan 'fraud' case: I want to gift my Manali property to Priyanka Gandhi, says Yudh Chand Bains

**Diary Times Desk :** Yudh Chand Bains, who is involved in the loan fraud case of crores of rupees in KCC Bank, has brought warmth to the cold atmosphere in Una by making several revelations. Addressing a press conference in a private hotel here, he has alleged that the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and other Congress leaders including his political advisor are being framed in a conspiracy to gift his land in Mandli to please the national Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi. All these evidences have been presented to the ED. He has already got a clean chit twice in this case. He has directly attacked the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and his political advisor, top officials, and the chairman of the bank. He said that no fraud of any kind has been done in the name of taking loan to build a hotel. The loan has been taken as per the rules and his case has been duly approved by NABARD. Whereas other loan cases have not even been approved by NABARD. But the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh targeted him first as soon as he came to power and his own close aides in ED, Gyan Chand and Sanjay are behind the bars for being involved in the Income Tax Department and ED cases. While two others are absconding in this case. But when he refused this opportunity, a vigilance case was again registered against him, while in this case he had already been given clean chit twice after investigation. He said that overall the Chief Minister and his political advisor, the bank's chairman and renowned jeweler of Hamirpur, Vicky Handa, Doon MLA Rajkumar Chaudhary, Dharmendra and others fulfilled his demand by offering Rs 50 lakhs to provide him relief in this case. This demand was given to KCC Bank's Chairman Kuldeep Pathania and Vicky Handa at his petrol pump in Hamirpur.

## 'Daughters and religious places will suffer if Hindus are divided': Yogi Adityanath

**Agencies :** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said that 'sisters-daughters' and religious places would be the first to 'suffer' if the people (Hindus) were divided on the basis of caste, language and region. Speaking at a function organised on the occasion of the first anniversary of the consecration of the idol of Ram Lalla at the newly constructed Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Adityanath said that the 'Sanatan Dharma' would be strengthened only when the people were united. "Agar hum jati, bhasha aur kshetra ke adhaar par batenge to sabse pehle iska khamiyaza hamare dharmik sthalon ko, behen betiyon ko bhugatna padega," (our religious places, daughters and sister will be the first ones to suffer if we are divided on the basis of caste, language and region), he said. "We will have to face persecution if we are divided...Sanatan will be strong if we are united," the chief minister added. He said that the Hindus must 'introspect' as to why their gods and religious places were 'desecrated'. Adityanath said that Ayodhya has undergone a sea change in the past few months. "Ayodhya will emerge as the most beautiful city.



## Himachal Weather: Weather changed in Himachal, snowfall in peaks, fog in plains, cold increased

**Diary Times Desk :** The weather has changed again in Himachal Pradesh. After a week, the weather of the state has deteriorated. There was snowfall on Saturday on the high peaks of the state including Lahaul, fog prevailed in the plains, while there was drizzle in the evening in the capital Shimla. This has increased the cold in the state. The period of rain and snowfall is forecast to continue on Sunday as well. Dense fog prevailed in many areas of Bilaspur, Una, Kangra and Mandi on Saturday morning and evening. A yellow alert has been issued for fog on Sunday as well. Trains reached Una on Saturday with a delay of two and a half to three hours. The sun shone after 11 am in most of the plain districts. Fog again prevailed at four in the evening. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snowfall at some places in the state on January 11. On January 12, there is a possibility of rain and snowfall at some places in the middle and high mountain areas of the state and light to moderate rain at some places in the lower mountain-plain areas. The weather is likely to remain clear in the entire state from 13 to 15 January. There is a forecast of rain and snowfall at some places on 16 and 17 January. At the same time, the maximum temperature is likely to fall by 3-4 degrees Celsius during the next 48 hours. After this, the maximum temperature is likely to gradually increase by 2-4 degrees Celsius in many parts of the state for the next three days. The minimum temperature is likely to fall by 3-4 degrees Celsius during the next 48 hours. After this, the minimum temperature is likely to gradually fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius in many parts. From 12 to 15 January, dense fog is likely to prevail at different places in the lower hilly-plain areas during the morning and late night.

## Himachal: Accused Ashoni's property worth Rs 5.80 crore attached in fake degree case

**Diary Times Desk :** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Shimla has attached seven immovable properties worth Rs 5.80 crore of accused Ashoni Kanwar in the fake degree case related to Manav Bharti University Solan. These properties are located in Himachal, Haryana and Delhi. The ED started the investigation on the basis of three FIRs registered at Dharmpur police station in Solan. The investigation revealed that accused Rajkumar Rana, Chairman of Manav Bharti University, with the help of his wife Ashoni Kanwar and other co-accused including son Mandeep Rana, took money from agents / students and sold fake degrees in the name of Manav Bharti University Solan. The accused earned Rs 387 crore from this. With this money, Rana, Ashoni and Mandeep purchased various movable and immovable properties in various states in their name and in the name of other related entities. The ED had filed a prosecution complaint against 14 persons.

## Himachal: Vigilance seized records in the case of taking a loan of Rs 20 crore fraudulently

**Diary Times Desk :** The Vigilance Bureau has intensified the investigation into the fraudulent loan and fraud case of Rs 20 crore in Una district. The team has seized the records of Kangra Cooperative Bank on Friday. Some records have been asked to be deposited in the Vigilance office on Monday. Vigilance has handed over the investigation of the case to SP Virendra Kalra. It is alleged that this loan has been taken fraudulently by a person in connivance with some officials and employees of Kangra Central Cooperative Bank (KCCB). Meanwhile, IG Vigilance Vimal Gupta held a meeting with Virendra Kalra and other officials of Vigilance who are investigating the case on Friday. The matter was discussed in the meeting. Now the concerned officials, employees of the bank and the owner of M/s Hotel Lake Palace, Yudh Chand Bains will be called for questioning. Investigation has already been done twice in this case.

## Himachal: College teachers and principals who get Very Good marks in ACR will get state level awards

**Diary Times Desk :** Only those college teachers and principals who have received Very Good ACRs for three academic sessions will be given state level teacher awards. For the first time, the Directorate of Higher Education has issued guidelines for the awards to be given at the college level. Only college teachers with five years of teaching experience and principals with one year of experience will be eligible to apply. A total of seven awards will be given. Of these, five awards will be given to teachers and two awards to principals. A committee headed by the Education Secretary will make the selection for the award. According to the notification issued on Friday, for the first time in colleges, awards will also be given to teachers and principals from the academic session 2025-26. Applications for the award will be invited online. Teachers and principals will be able to apply for themselves. Apart from this, the principal will also be able to apply for his best teacher. Apart from this, students, PTA, student union will also be able to apply for teachers and principals. Apart from applying online, all the necessary documents will also have to be sent to the Directorate of Higher Education.

## Himachal News: 2,576 Patwar Khanas will be digitized, WiFi-broadband connections will be installed

**Diary Times Desk :** The people of Himachal Pradesh will now be able to avail the online services of the Revenue Department even at the nearest Patwar Khanas. Under the Digital India Land Records Modernization (DILRM) program, the government is going to connect 2,576 Patwar Khanas of Himachal with WiFi-broadband connection to digitize them. The government has assigned this task to the State Electronic Development Corporation. Under this scheme, scanners and printers will be installed in 773 field Kanungo offices of the state. The government also plans to implement a digital land record management system. People will now get the facility of taking Jamabandi of land, getting Intkaal and Partition done through e-Himbhumi or getting certificates with the help of e-District at the nearest Patwar Khana. Till now there was a provision to provide mobile data to Patwaris for online services, but due to signal problems and excessive data consumption, the services were affected. To solve the problem, the government has now decided to equip all Patwar Khanas with WiFi-broadband facility. Director of Land Records Department.

## Himachal: Ban on plastic and PVC banners less than 100 microns in Himachal, government issued notification

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal government has issued guidelines regarding plastic and PVC banners used for publicity and promotion. Under the notification issued by Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena, the use of plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns has been banned. Himachal Pradesh government issued a notification in the gazette in this regard on the instructions issued by the Government of India for environmental protection. To save the environment, action has been warned against putting banners on trees. There has also been a request to promote digital hoardings. Educational banners of government schemes, departments should not be less than 200 microns. Banners for government programs should not be less than 100 microns. Cutouts of candidates of political parties for elections should not be less than 200 microns, for election rallies it should not be less than 100 microns. Private advertisements should not be less than 100 microns for 30 days, not less than 200 microns for more than 30 days. Banners and hoardings will be put up only with the approval of the local body. After removing the flex, it will be mandatory to give it to the local body for recycling. The name of the department, period, name of the printer will have to be published on the banner. The Department of Environment Science and Climate Change will be able to charge a fine for violating the instructions of the Central Government.

## Himachal: Project agencies will not be able to refuse to give compensation for government land

**Diary Times Desk :** If houses and shops built on government land are coming under the purview of four-lane construction, then the project agencies cannot refuse to give compensation for the structure to the occupant. Provided that there is an entry of occupation of government land in the revenue records or the concerned occupant pays house tax to the Panchayat. Under the rules, only those families cannot get compensation, who neither have an entry of occupation in the revenue records nor pay house tax to the Panchayat. In fact, for the last two years, the work of four-lane construction from Mataur to Shimla and Pathankot to Mandi.

## Bodies Of 3 More Workers Retrieved From Assam Mine, Ops On To Rescue 5

**Agencies :** Bodies of three workers trapped inside a coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district were recovered from the quarry today, taking the total bodies recovered so far to four. They were among nine workers who were trapped inside the mine on Monday after a sudden gush of water flooded the quarry. The first one was brought out from the mine in Umrangsu on Wednesday. One of the three labourers whose body was recovered from the mine this morning was identified as 27-year-old Ligen Magar, a resident of Dima Hasao. The identification of two other bodies is underway, an official said. "Rescue efforts in Umrangsu continue with unwavering resolve. Our hearts go out to the grieving, as we hold onto hope and strength in this difficult time," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in a post on X. Dewatering of the quarry, which is about 310 feet deep, continued with specialised machines brought in by ONGC and Coal India. Mr Sarma had earlier claimed that the mine was abandoned 12 years ago and was under the Assam Mineral Development Corporation till three years ago.

## Finfluencer Abhishek Kar's Big Claim On Assam's "Tantric" Practices Lands Him In Trouble

**Agencies :** Financial influencer Abhishek Kar, who has nearly 3 million followers on Instagram, has posted a public apology over his remarks on "tantric practices" in Assam. His apology followed a call for action by the Assam Chief Minister's Office for making "unacceptable comments" about the state in a podcast. "A video from a YouTube channel, named Riya Upreti, is in circulation where an individual named Abhishek Kar is seen making unacceptable comments on Assam's history and traditions. Appropriate action may be initiated against the said individual for spreading misinformation," said the CMO sharing an image of Mr Kar. GP Singh, the Director General of Police, replied within minutes: "Noted Sir. Lawful action shall be taken." Within hours, Mr Kar posted his video apology below the CMO's post and said he had asked the podcaster to remove that particular clip that has offended people.

## Congress's 'damage control' dig at PM Narendra Modi's 'I am not a God' comment in Nikhil Kamath's podcast



**Agencies :** Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the latter said in a podcast, hosted by Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath, that "he is human and not God" and can commit mistakes. Jairam Ramesh claimed that Modi was now doing damage control after he proclaimed himself "non-biological". PM Narendra Modi, in his maiden podcast which was released on Friday, said it has been his life's mantra that he may make mistakes but he will not do anything wrong out of bad intentions. Reacting to Modi's statement, Ramesh wrote on X, "This from a man who proclaimed his non-biological status just eight months back. This is clearly damage control." During an interaction with Nikhil Kamath, Modi said, "When I became (Gujarat) chief minister I said I will not spare any effort to work hard. I will not do anything for myself. And, thirdly, I am human and I can make mistakes. But I will not do anything wrong out of bad intentions."

## Kanpur: Job offer turns nightmare as woman gangraped by auto-driver, friend

**Agencies :** An auto-rickshaw driver, along with his friend, was arrested for allegedly raping a 20-year-old woman on the pretext of getting her a job in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur; news agency PTI reported citing a police officer. The incident took place in the Maharajpur police station area of Kanpur on Friday. East Zone deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Manoj Kumar Pandey said the woman from the Unnao district went to Chakeri to meet auto driver, identified as 21-year-old Deepak Kushwaha. "The auto driver had called her a few days ago on the pretext of getting her."

## Part Of Kannauj Railway Station Collapses In UP, Dozens Feared Trapped

**Agencies :** An under-construction building at Kannauj railway station in Uttar Pradesh collapsed on Friday, burying dozens of workers under the debris. The incident occurred while work was underway on a two-storey building as part of a beautification project at the station. Around 35 workers were present on-site at the time of the accident. Rescue operations led by railway, police, and administrative officials have so far saved 23 workers from the rubble. "According to preliminary."

## Dense fog in Delhi, Noida, flight ops normal, 45 trains delayed; rain, thunderstorm expected today

**Agencies :** Moderate to dense fog continued to blanket parts of Delhi and its adjoining areas on Saturday, prompting the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) to issue multiple advisories over the night, asking passengers to contact airline concerned to be updated about flight status. Delhi's IGI airport, in its latest advisory issued at around 9:30 am on Friday, said even though low visibility procedures are in place, there has been no impact on flight operations. Fog reduced visibility to zero in parts of Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida and other areas of the national capital region on Friday as well, leading to more than 100 flights and some trains getting delayed. The dense fog comes amid deteriorating air quality in Delhi, which reached 'severe' level on Friday, with the Air Quality Index going over 400 early morning and settling at 397 at 4 pm. Officials cited in a news agency PTI report said that 45 trains were delayed.

## 15 Arrested After Dalit Teen Athlete Alleges Rape By Coaches Over 5 Years

**Agencies :** Nine more persons were taken into custody for allegedly raping a Dalit girl, who is an athlete, at various locations when she was a minor, police on Saturday said. According to the police, 15 persons have been held in connection with the case so far. Six persons were arrested on Friday after registering five FIRs in two police stations in the Pathanamthitta district, they added. The arrests were made based on the statement of an 18-year-old girl, who alleged she had been subjected to rape multiple times.

## BJP's latest salvo against Arvind Kejriwal: 'Sheesh Mahal's AAPda-e-azam'

**Agencies :** In fresh attack at rival Aam Aadmi Party ahead of the high-octane Delhi assembly election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) released a poster and a song on emphasising two terms- 'Sheesh Mahal' and 'AAPda' - which it has been associating the Arvind Kejriwal-led party with. The song "Sheesh Mahal Aapda Failane Walon Ka Adda", which was a spin of popular singer Honey Singh's song 'Lungi Dance', and a poster titled "AAPda-e-Azam" were released during a press conference of Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva. These were also shared on Delhi BJP unit's X handle. The poster showed Arvind Kejriwal's face morphed into the body of what looked like a Mughal ruler.



## Taliban skips summit on Muslim girls' education in Pakistan

**Agencies :** The Taliban in Afghanistan has declined to attend a global summit on Muslim girls' education hosted by Pakistan. Pakistan's education minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said that an invitation was sent to the Taliban government in Afghanistan but nobody turned up. "We had extended an invitation to Afghanistan, but no one from the Afghan government was at the conference," the country's education minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui told AFP. The summit has brought together education leaders from Muslim-majority countries, but has been snubbed by Pakistan's neighbour Afghanistan -- the only country in the world where girls' are banned from school. In his opening remarks at the summit, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that denying education to girls is tantamount to denying their voice and their choice. "The Muslim world including Pakistan faces significant challenges in ensuring equitable access to education for girls," Sharif said. "Denying education to girls is tantamount to denying their voice and their choice, while depriving them of their right to a bright future." Since the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in 2021, its government has excluded girls from education beyond sixth grade.

## 5 out of 6 climate trackers show '24 crossed 1.5°C mark

**Agencies :** The year 2024 was both the warmest year on record as well as the first year when the average global temperature broke the 1.5 degrees Celsius (°C) threshold over pre-industrial level, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said on Friday. According to WMO's consolidated analysis of the six datasets, the global average surface temperature was 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels. "Today's assessment from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) proves yet again - global heating is a cold, hard fact," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres in a statement. While the threshold is intact - scientists typically use a longer-term average to measure the warming - the number highlights that the world is either close.

## Chinese Actor Wang Xing Rescued From Myanmar Scam Centre Shares Traumatic Ordeal

**Agencies :** A 31-year-old Chinese actor was recently rescued from a scam centre in Myanmar after he went missing in Thailand during his visit, prompting his girlfriend to seek help on social media. According to the BBC, Wang Xing had been missing for two days before his girlfriend turned to social media for help. "We have no choice but to borrow the power of the internet to amplify our voices," she wrote on Chinese social media platform Weibo on January 5. Her post quickly went viral and Mr Wang gained nationwide attention, promoting government intervention. On January 7, the 31-year-old actor was finally rescued from a scam centre in Myanmar. A day after, Mr Wang made his first appearance alongside Thailand Police. According to the BBC, the actor revealed that he had been lured into the facility under the pretence of a lucrative job opportunity. He said that he had flown to Bangkok for an acting job offered to him on WeChat. He realised he was kidnapped after he crossed a river into Myanmar and noticed the rudimentary living conditions, he told the cops.



## How Biden Saved About A Million Immigrants From Deportation Before Leaving



**Agencies :** In a move that could potentially delay President-elect Donald Trump's plans to crack down on immigration, the Biden administration has extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for over 900,000 immigrants from Venezuela, El Salvador, Ukraine, and Sudan. This decision, announced just days before Trump's inauguration, grants these individuals a deportation reprieve and access to work permits for an additional 18 months. The move is seen as a strategic effort to safeguard the rights of vulnerable immigrants, who have been living and working in the US under TPS. By extending the program, the Biden administration is effectively putting in place a temporary barrier against any potential attempts by the Trump administration to dismantle or significantly alter the program. TPS has become a contentious issue, with Republicans arguing that it has been granted too liberally to too many foreigners, and acts as a draw to migrants to come to the US illegally. However, the program has been expanded aggressively under Biden, with over 1 million people from 17 countries currently living in the US under TPS.

## Donald Trump Gets 'Unconditional Discharge' In Hush Money Case

**Agencies :** US President-elect Donald Trump, who has become the first felon in the White House, was on Friday sentenced to an 'unconditional discharge' as a US court upheld his conviction in the hush money case that involves covering up unaccounted payments to former porn star Stormy Daniels. The case is related to the \$130,000 paid to the adult film star in the run-up to the 2016 US presidential election so that she remains quiet about their alleged affair. An unconditional discharge is a rare and lenient sentence in the New York state courts, which carries no jail time, probation or fines.

## Russia reacts to Trump's claim of setting up talks with Putin: 'Looks like things...'

**Agencies :** Kremlin is responding to President-Elect Donald Trump's claims about Russian President Vladimir Putin "wanting to meet" and that a meeting is being arranged. The claims came ahead of MAGA's inauguration, scheduled for January 20. Trump has long stated that he will work to end the Ukraine-Russia war as his first priority upon taking office. Russia has expressed openness to the idea and has set no preconditions for a potential face-to-face meeting. "We need a mutual desire and political willingness to engage in a dialogue," Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin's spokesperson, told reporters responding to Trump's claims made on Thursday according to Deccan Herald. "We see that Mr. Trump also declares his readiness to solve issues via dialogue. "We welcome that." The Kremlin believes there is "mutual interest" in a meeting between Putin and Trump, but emphasised that progress will likely begin after Trump takes office. Peskov did not confirm that Putin directly requested a meeting. "it looks like things will start to move after Trump enters the Oval Office."

## Lebanese president to consult on new prime minister from Monday

**Agencies :** Newly elected Lebanese President Joseph Aoun will hold consultations with members of parliament from Jan. 13 to nominate a prime minister, the presidency said on Friday. Once named, the new prime minister must form a government, a process that often takes many months. Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati is widely seen as a frontrunner, but opposition parliamentarian Foad Makhzoumi may have the backing of a number of lawmakers, political sources said. The post is reserved for a Sunni Muslim in Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing system, which also reserves the presidency for a Maronite Christian and the speaker of parliament post for a Shi'ite Muslim. Lebanon's parliament elected army chief Aoun as president on Thursday, filling a post that has been vacant since October 2022 with a general who has U.S. support and showing the weakened sway of the Iran-backed Hezbollah group after its devastating war with Israel. In his first remarks as president on Thursday, Aoun said that he would work to assert the state's right to hold the monopoly on arms. Mikati said on Friday that the state would begin disarming.

## AAP's MLA Gogi from Punjab's Ludhiana dies of bullet injuries mysteriously at home



**Agencies :** Punjab ruling AAP legislator Gurpreet Bassi Gogi, 58, from Ludhiana (West), died of bullet injuries under mysterious circumstances at his residence late on Friday night. He reportedly suffered a bullet injury to his head. He was rushed to DMC Hospital, where he was declared brought dead. After the incident, Police Commissioner Kuldeep Chahal and Deputy Commissioner Jitendra Jorwal also rushed to the hospital. Police said an autopsy report would confirm whether Bassi had committed suicide or if he had accidentally shot himself. Confirming the death, Joint Police Commissioner Jaskaran Singh Teja told the media in Ludhiana that Gurpreet Gogi was brought dead at the Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Teja said, "As per the family members, he shot himself accidentally and sustained bullet injuries to his head. Gurpreet Gogi was declared dead at the hospital; his body has been kept at the mortuary in the DMC hospital." The incident occurred around 12 a.m., soon after his return from a public function. His wife, who was in another room, heard the gunshots and found him lying in a pool of blood.

## Dismissed DSP Gursher Sandhu seeks bail in Bishnoi jail interview case

**Agencies :** The dismissed Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Gursher Singh Sandhu, who has been accused in the alleged facilitation of a video interview of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi while in custody, has moved a bail application in Mohali District and Sessions court. The case will be heard on January 13. The Punjab government dismissed the DSP-rank officer from service on January 2. The dismissal orders were issued by Secretary, Department of Home Affairs, Gurkirat Kirpal Singh. The state government invoked powers under Article 311 of the Constitution to dismiss Sandhu. In March 2023, a news channel aired two interviews of Bishnoi from a jail.

## PU student union president meets Dhankhar; V-P assures Senate reforms, prompt polls

**Agencies :** Vice-President and Chancellor of Panjab University, Jagdeep Dhankhar, stated that reforms are essential for the university's Senate. He also assured that elections would be held soon and that a formal notification would be issued promptly. The VP made these remarks during a meeting with Panjab University Campus Student Council (PUCSC) president Anurag Dalal in New Delhi on Friday. Senate, the governing body of the varsity, had its term end on October 31 and elections to the body have yet not been announced. Student organisations have been protesting outside the Vice-Chancellor's office since over two months demanding immediate conduct of polls. They were joined by numerous elected representatives and political leaders from Punjab and Chandigarh from time to time. Dalal, who made history as the first independent president of the union, raised key concerns regarding the Senate elections, university infrastructure, and staff matters.

## Corruption case against Punjab ex-minister: HC raps Vigilance Bureau for 'misusing powers'

**Agencies :** Two years after a case was registered for corruption and other offences against former minister Sham Sunder Arora and other accused for extending "unfair advantage" to Gulmohar Township Company, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has rapped the Vigilance Bureau for misusing its powers before quashing the FIR. Justice Mahabir Singh Sindhu asserted there was sufficient material to indicate it was "a simple case" of industrial plot's transfer/sale initially from the PSIDC finally to the Gulmohar Township. "The Vigilance Bureau, while misusing its powers, registered the impugned FIR without there being any basis, just to harass and humiliate the petitioners," the court asserted. Justice Sindhu observed that the FIR stemmed from a complaint dated June 21, 2021, filed by an individual identified as "Navjot Singh-congressman". The complaint, forwarded to the Punjab State Chief Vigilance Commissioner, contained allegations related to the transfer and bifurcation of industrial plot. "A bare perusal of the complaint reveals that it is a pseudo communication made to the Chief Vigilance Commissioner and till date the identity/credentials of complainant 'Navjot Singh-congressman' are not known. Neither 'Navjot Singh-congressman' joined preliminary inquiry nor he was associated during investigation by the vigilance bureau for the reasons best known to it," the court observed.

## Vaneet Dhir is now Jalandhar's 7th Mayor

**Agencies :** Businessman and first-time AAP councillor Vaneet Dhir was on Saturday elected as the seventh Mayor of Jalandhar in an event held at Red Cross Bhawan here. Balbir Bittu was elected as the Senior Deputy Mayor and Malkiat Subhana was picked by the ruling party as the Deputy Mayor. In the selection of its three main leaders, the AAP has attempted to strike a balance of castes. Dhir is the party's Hindu face, Balbir Bittu represents the Sikhs while Malkiat Singh is a representative of the SC community. The party has also given representation to the leaders of three different urban Assembly segments. Dhir comes from Ward 62, which falls in Jalandhar West, Balbir Bittu comes from Ward 10 in Jalandhar Central and Malkiat Subhana is the councillor from Ward 38 in Jalandhar Cantt. Mayor Dhir's wife Shweta Dhir had been a BJP councillor earlier. He is credited with having won by a margin of 3,596 votes in the December 21 election.

## No school will face teacher shortage in upcoming academic session: Haryana CM Saini

**Agencies :** Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday directed officials to ensure that quality education was provided across all schools by maintaining the student-teacher ratio as per the National Education Policy (NEP). "A comprehensive action plan is being developed to address the school-teacher shortage. As a result, from the upcoming academic session, no school in the state will face a teacher shortage." The CM was presiding over a meeting with officers of the Elementary Education, School Education and Higher Education Departments late Friday evening. Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda also attended the meeting. Saini directed that a comprehensive plan should be prepared by rationalising the arrangement of teachers in schools so that if there was a shortage of teachers in any school, it could be met. He emphasised that there was no actual shortage of teachers in Haryana, but rather, the allocation of teachers should be adjusted according to the number of students. He further stressed that all necessary arrangements should be completed before the beginning of the new academic session. The CM emphasised the need to build public confidence in government schools to encourage more children to enrol and receive education there. He reiterated the government's commitment to providing quality education to every child.

## Khattar hints MC poll after Delhi elections, state Budget

**Agencies :** Even as the BJP has started preparations and is upbeat about the civic elections, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has hinted a delay in the polls. These may now be held after the Delhi elections and Haryana Budget. Khattar said the Election Commission (EC) might announce the dates by March 31. "The matter of civic body elections is under process. The EC has completed its preparations. There are elections in Delhi, and also the Budget of Haryana. Once the government finalises the necessary formalities within one and a half months, I believe the election dates will be announced before March 31," he said in response to a media query about MC elections across the state. He was in the city to dedicate three major projects worth Rs 59 crore.

## MoU signed with French agency for disaster risk reduction

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Government today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the French Development Agency (AFD) to implement the HP -Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Project (HP-DRRRP). The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary and Project Director, PMU Nishant Thakur on behalf of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Deputy Director for India Camille Severac. The agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena. The Chief Secretary said the HP-DRRRP was a flagship initiative of the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the state to natural disasters. He said this project would focus on strengthening Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) capacities of the government and communities through a multi-sector and integrated approach.

## Chief Minister condoles demise of MLA's father

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today reached Bahri, the native village of Chander Shekhar, an MLA of the Dharampur Assembly constituency in Mandi district, to express condolences on the demise of his father Kahan Singh, who passed away at his native place after a prolonged illness. The Chief Minister consoled MLA Chander Shekhar, his mother Jayawanti Devi and the bereaved family. He prayed to God to give strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss and for the peace of the departed soul. MLA and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary PS Sanjay Awasthi, MLA Suresh Kumar, APMC Chairman Sanjeev Guleria, former Sarkaghat Congress candidate Pawan Thakur, State Cooperative Societies Board of Directors Member Lal Singh Kaushal, former Joginder Nagar Congress candidate Jeevan Thakur, HPMC Board of Directors Members Joginder Guleria, Shashi Sharma, non-official member of the governing body of state health.

## Fire breaks out in Baddi pharmaceutical unit



**Diary Times Desk :** A massive fire broke out at a pharmaceutical unit, Samarth Life Sciences at Manakpur in Baddi early this morning. No loss of life has been reported as the unit was not operational when the fire broke out. The fire erupted from the ground floor where a short circuit occurred in the heater of a manufacturing tunnel. It spread to all three floors, informed SDM Baddi Vivek Mahajan who rushed to the spot to oversee fire-fighting operations. "The last shift concluded at 2 am last night and the fire was noticed around 4 am by the maintenance staff. Efforts were initially made to douse the fire using the in-house fire extinguishers by the staff but later fire tenders were requisitioned as the blaze spread to all three floors," added Mahajan. Since the building was closed having glass panels on all sides it made the fire-fighting operations cumbersome. The fire staff had to break the glass panels to allow water in to extinguish the fire. Vivek Mahajan informed, "Foam fire extinguishers were required to smother the flames." "The layout plan of the company was examined to find a safe entry point and strike at the areas which housed inflammable material to speedily douse the fire.

## HC lists matter of SP Baddi's transfer for February 28

**Diary Times Desk :** The HP High Court has listed the Public Interest Litigation filed for immediate posting of Ilma Afroz as Superintendent of Police, Baddi, for February 28. During the course of hearing, it was brought to the notice of the court that a Co-ordinate Bench comprising Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Sushil Kukreja passed a detailed order on October 23, 2024, wherein, certain directions were issued. The compliance report has also been filed. It was further informed to the court that on September 9, 2024 directions had been issued that the officer i.e. Superintendent of Police, namely Ms Ilma Afroz shall not be transferred from the Police District, Baddi. After hearing the matter a division bench comprising Chief Justice G.S Sandhawalia and Justice Satyen Vaidya ordered that "in such circumstances, we deem it appropriate that the matter be heard by the same Bench on February 28." On the previous date 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. In its earlier order the court had issued notices to the Home Secretary.

## Baddi unit fire exposes lack of adherence to TCP norms

**Diary Times Desk :** With no emergency exit in the Samarth Life Sciences, Manakpur, where a massive fire gutted the three storey building this morning, the lack of adherence to the Town and Country Planning (TCP) norms has once again been exposed. "The ill-fated Samarth Life Sciences unit had covered the entire floor area as against the 70 per cent norm of the TCP, thus leaving no space for an emergency exit or outer stairs which could have been used by the staff during such an exigency," observed Ramkumar Chaudhary, MLA Doon, who visited the fire-ravaged unit this morning. He said he was thankful to God that the unit was not functional when the fire broke. "Those having covered their entire premises would be asked to adhere to the norms and vacate the 30 per cent additional area. The officers have been directed to ensure its adherence," stressed Chaudhary. Talking to media persons, he said, "A multi-departmental task force constituted last year to review the fire-preparedness should examine all such units and devise safety measures. SDM Baddi, tehsildar and company staff have been directed to take emergency.

## PIL against commercialisation of Town Hall building disposed of

**Diary Times Desk :** The HP High Court yesterday disposed of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed against the commercialising the heritage Town Hall Building, Shimla by converting it into high end cafe. During the course of hearing, the petitioner has withdrawn the PIL. The matter was listed before a division bench comprising Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Justice Rakesh Kainthla. After arguing the matter for some time the petitioner has sought permission from the court to withdraw the PIL. While granting the permission the court disposed of the petition. The Public interest litigation was filed by one Abhimanyu Rathor alleging therein that the MC, Shimla has allowed conversion of this heritage property into high-end Café in gross violation of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, TCP Act, 1978, MC Act, 1994 and the provisions of Shimla Interim Development Plan. It is pertinent to mention here that on January, 10, 2024, the High Court had restrained the private operator from running a food court in the iconic building of the Shimla Municipal Corporation, namely the Town Hall, situated on the Mall Road.



## BCCI Calls Meeting With Gautam Gambhir, Says Report. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma May Be Given...

**Agencies :** The future of leading batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be discussed threadbare in a meeting that head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar is scheduled to hold with BCCI officials to review the recent tour to Australia on Saturday. The back-to-back series defeats against New Zealand (home) and Australia (away) and the diminishing returns with the bat have put Kohli and Rohit under scanner. The PTI has learned that the powers that be will discuss in detail the future plan — whether to activate the transition switch from next month's Champions Trophy or wait for the cycle to end with the ICC marquee event. Though it's likely that the senior batters will get another chance to redeem themselves at the ODI Champions Trophy, a format in which they have always excelled. They may also take into consideration the fact that both Kohli and Rohit have played just three ODIs in 2024 after the 2023 World Cup at home, and that could be too light a sample size to make a final call on their 50-over career. Both Kohli and Rohit endured different fortunes too in the series against Sri Lanka. While Kohli amassed 24, 14 and 20 in Colombo, Rohit walked away with scores of 58, 64 and 35 against the Lankans.



## India squad for England T20Is soon: No Bumrah, Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant; focus on Nitish Kumar Reddy, Tilak Varma

**Agencies :** India's T20I squad for the five-match series against England starting January 22 in Kolkata is likely to be announced either on Saturday (January 11) or January (12). After the BCCI AGM in the board headquarters in Mumbai, the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee is set to meet on Saturday evening to finalise the squad that will be led by Suryakumar Yadav. The selectors are also likely to discuss the Champions Trophy squad but the final announcement regarding the same has reportedly been postponed till next weekend. England are also slated to play three ODIs, following the five T20Is. These three matches will be treated as India's last-minute preparation before the Champions Trophy starts on February 19. Notably, India haven't played a single ODI since August last year. A separate announcement of the T20I squad also brings focus, or at least some of it, to the format that gave India glory barely six months ago.

## BCCI Takes Shock U-Turn On KL Rahul Selection In India Squad For England ODIs: Report

**Agencies :** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) seems to have had a change of heart over KL Rahul's selection for the ODI series against England. Rahul had reportedly sought a break from the BCCI from the England assignment, which the board agreed to as well. But, fresh development on the matter suggests that the board has now asked Rahul to be available for England ODIs, with the selection committee, headed by Ajit Agarkar, keen to add him to the roster. "The selectors initially decided to rest Rahul, who plays in the middle order and is a wicketkeeper in the ODIs, from the entire white-ball series against England at home. However, they had a rethink and the BCCI has now asked him to play in the ODI series so that he gains some match practice ahead of the Champions Trophy in February," the Times of India quoted a source as saying. While the high-profile India batting crumbled in the Test series in Australia, Rahul was among the few batters who got runs. He was the third-highest run-getter for India with 276 runs in 10 innings at an average of 30.66.

## Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty Lose Malaysia Open Semi-Finals

**Agencies :** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's impressive run at the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament came to an end following a straight-game loss to Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the semifinals in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. Seeded seventh, Satwik and Chirag, who reached the finals last season, lost 10-21 15-21 in a 40-minute semifinal clash. "They played really well, and we could have followed our game plan a bit better. Instead, we played some random strokes, but kudos to them for playing a solid game," Satwik told reporters. "Today, the pace of the game was very slow compared to the last three days. It's part of the game. It was a valuable learning experience for us. It is disappointing, but we have a long way to go. Today's match showed that we can still make it a good fight." The Asian Games champions struggled to get the right start and trailed 6-11 at the break in the opening game. Despite their efforts, the Indians could not make a comeback as Kim and Seo wrapped up the first game in just 19 minutes.



## Short TAKES

### Karnataka in semis after beating Baroda in a thriller

**Agencies :** Karnataka overcame a scare against Baroda to clinch a thriller by five runs and secure a place in the semi-finals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Devdutt Padikkal's 102 off 99 balls not long after he got off a flight from Australia won him the Player-of-the-Match award, but it was Karnataka's catching that made a massive difference to the result. Baroda were cruising in their chase of 282, with their captain Krunal Pandya and centurion Shashwat Rawat bringing the runs required under 100. But from 185 for 2 in the 34th over, Baroda lost 3 for 16 to give Karnataka an opening. Wicketkeeper Krishnan Shrijith dismissed Krunal by flinging himself full stretch to his left to pull off a one-hand catch off V Koushik. In the next over, Shreyas Gopal had Vishnu Solanki lbw. Mayank Agarwal, the Karnataka captain, then ran back 30 yards from mid-off with the ball swirling away to catch Shivalik Sharma. Even as Baroda lost wickets, they had hope as Rawat approached a century. He eventually got to the mark in the 44th over and Baroda went into the last six needing 59 with four wickets remaining. Bhanu Pania, who had smashed an unbeaten 51-ball 134 when Baroda broke the record for the highest T20 score last month, went after Prasidh Krishna in a 15-run over.

### Pakistan Recall Imam- Ul-Haq And Abrar Ahmed For West Indies Series

**Agencies :** Pakistan on Saturday recalled discarded opener Imam ul Haq for the Test series against the West Indies after an ankle injury forced regular opener Saim Ayub out of the series. Imam, who last played in a Test for Pakistan in Australia in 2023-24, has been joined by uncapped pacer Kashif Ali in the 15-member squad. Imam also got a call-up since the selectors have dropped Abdullah Shafique who had been opening regularly with Saim in Test and ODIs but lost form on recent tours to Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The selectors have also recalled spinners Noman Ali and Sajid Khan who were sidelined after leading Pakistan to 2-1 win over England at home last year. The selectors have also included a third specialist spinner in Abrar Ahmed, indicating that spin pitches would be prepared. West Indies are playing Tests in Pakistan after 18 years.