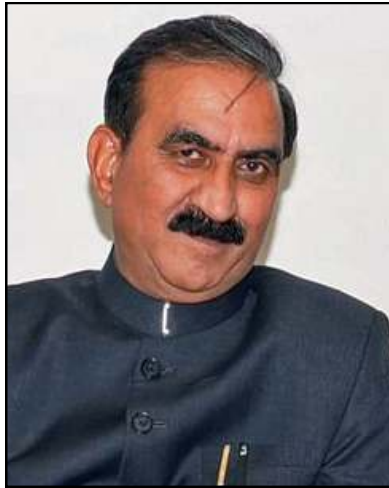


Himachal CM: CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said- There Will be Big Changes in the Field of Education, Three Directorates Will be Created



Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the Himachal government is going to make big changes in the field of education. Three separate education directorates will be created. There is a discussion going on to create separate directorates for pre-primary to second class, third to twelfth class and graduation level. The Chief Minister gave this information on Sunday during the foundation stone laying ceremony of Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding School to be built in Amlahad of Naidun Assembly constituency. The CM directed the officials to prepare the primary wing of this school within a year. This school will have modern sports facilities. After the foundation stone laying ceremony, the Chief Minister said that through Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding Schools, the state government has started a change in the field of education. Attacking the BJP, the Chief Minister said that the former Jairam government opened 600 schools without making provision for staff. The present government has decided that these schools will not be opened until there is provision for staff in them. He said that due to the policies of the former BJP government.

PM Modi to inaugurate Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg today

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Jammu and Kashmir's Sonamarg on Monday to inaugurate the Z-Morh Tunnel, an all-weather link connecting Kashmir with Ladakh. This strategically important infrastructure project is expected to enhance connectivity and boost development in the region. The visit comes amid a period of political engagement, with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, an ally of the INDIA bloc, taking a conciliatory approach towards the central government, particularly on issues related to Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Presentations, Lunch At Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue: PM Modi Spends Day With "Young Friends"

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday spent around six hours with young leaders, ten of whom gave presentations on various topics ranging from sustainable development to integrating technology with agriculture. The Young India Leaders Dialogue was held from 10 am till 4 pm as part of PM Modi's Viksit Bharat (Developed India) vision, aiming at the country's development by 2047. "A developed India will be the one that is empowered economically, strategically, socially and culturally," he added. Around 3,000 young minds from across the country participated in these discussions, where Mr Modi also presented some ideas of his own. He also urged the youth to step out of their comfort zones to achieve these objectives. Achieving ambitious goals requires the active participation and collective effort of every citizen of the nation, he added. PM Modi emphasised the need for setting big goals, citing the examples of US's rise following the 1930s economic crisis and Singapore's rise. He also cited examples of India succeeding in becoming an open defecation-free country.



Ukraine Woman Among Masterminds Of Mumbai's Massive Ponzi Scam, Probe Finds

Agencies : Two Ukrainian nationals, including a woman, have been identified as the masterminds of the Ponzi scam that has duped hundreds in Mumbai after promising them big returns on their investment. The Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai Police, which is investigating the Torres jewellery scam, has zeroed in on the role of Ukrainian nationals Artem and Olena Stoin and is trying to track them down. According to police sources, the two played a key role in conspiring how people can be lured with huge returns on their investment in gemstones, gold and silver. The investigators are also probing the 14 luxury cars given out as lucky draw prizes to investors. Sources said these cars aimed at drawing more customers to the Ponzi scheme. Last week, the world of hundreds of investors turned upside down when six stores of the Torres jewellery chain shut after collecting investments worth crores in the name of a scheme that promised big returns. Following a complaint, police have registered a case against the holding firm Platinum Hern Private Limited, its two directors, CEO, general manager and a store in-charge. The accused have been charged with cheating and criminal conspiracy, among others. The Torres outlets opened in February last year at six locations in and around the Maximum City. They sold gemstone jewellery and also offered a bonus scheme. Under this scheme, a customer who invested Rs 1 lakh would get a pendant with a moissanite stone worth Rs 10,000. The customers have now realised these stones were fake. Customers were promised 6 per cent interest on their investment to be paid out across 52 weeks. This interest rate climbed to 11 per cent.

Bengaluru ranked as India's 2nd slowest city in terms of traffic in 2024, Kolkata takes lead

Agencies : Bengaluru's notorious traffic congestion has once again made global headlines. According to the 2024 TomTom Traffic Index, the city has been ranked as the world's third slowest city, trailing only behind Barranquilla and Kolkata. The Dutch location technology firm, TomTom, annually evaluates traffic conditions in major cities worldwide, and this year's report has placed Bengaluru among the worst for traffic flow. The report revealed that the average time taken to travel 10 kilometers in Bengaluru is now 30 minutes and 10 seconds, marking an increase of 50 seconds from 2023. In comparison, commuters in Barranquilla face an average travel time of 36 minutes and six seconds, while Kolkata's figure stands at 34 minutes and 33 seconds. Notably, Pune has emerged.

Gautam Adani announces Rs 65,000 cr investment in energy, cement projects in Chhattisgarh

Agencies : Gautam Adani met with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on January 12 and announced an investment of Rs 65,000 crore for the Adani Group's energy and cement projects in the state, officials reported. Adani visited the CM at his official residence in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, according to a statement from the state's public relations department. During their meeting, Adani revealed plans to invest Rs 60,000 crore in expanding the Adani Group's power plants in Raipur, Korba, and Raigarh. This expansion will increase Chhattisgarh's total power generation capacity by 6,120 MW, the statement noted. In addition, the Adani Group chairman pledged Rs 5,000 crore for the development and expansion of cement plants in the state. Following the Chief Minister's advice, Adani also promised Rs 10,000 crore over the next four years to support initiatives in education, healthcare, skill development, and tourism through the Adani Group's Corporate Social Responsibility.



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HP Board: If the weather is bad, candidates will be able to take the exam at the nearest center, School Education Board will make arrangements

Diary Times Desk : The annual examinations of class 10th and 12th of Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will start from March 4. The education board has released the schedule for the examinations. Along with this, preparations have also started for conducting the examinations. The education board is already planning to ensure that the students do not face any kind of problem during the examination. Dr. Major Vishal Sharma, Secretary of the School Education Board, says that if the weather is bad during the board examinations, then the candidates will be allowed to take the examination at their nearest examination center. Apart from this, if a person is unable to reach the examination center, then the education board is also planning to organize a special examination for that candidate after the examinations. However, the candidates who are deprived of giving the examination due to bad weather will have to apply with strong evidence, only after that they will be authorized to take the special examination. The education board will soon release the final date sheet of class 10th-12th.



"Such Arrogance Is Not Good": Tamil Nadu Governor Hits Back At MK Stalin

Agencies : Hitting out at Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin for his "childish" jab amid the National Anthem row, Governor RN Ravi has said "such arrogance is not good" and warned that the country would not tolerate such "brazen insult" of the anthem and the Constitution. The DMK government in Tamil Nadu and the Raj Bhavan have been trading barbs after the Governor walked out of the Assembly on January 6 in protest of the National Anthem not being sung at the beginning of his address. As per the tradition in Tamil Nadu Assembly, state anthem Tamil Thai Valthu is sung when the House meets and the National Anthem at the end. But, Governor Ravi has taken exception to this norm and said the national anthem should be sung at both times. "The Constitution of Bharat and the National Anthem were once again insulted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly today.

Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhu laid the foundation stone of Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding School in Amlahad of Naidun

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu laid the foundation stone of Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding School to be built at a cost of Rs 25 crore on 125 kanal land in Amlahad of Naidun Assembly constituency. He directed the officials to complete the primary wing of this school within a year. Modern sports facilities will also be available in the school. The Chief Minister said that the state government is going to make big changes in the field of education. He said that it is being considered to create three separate directorates in education, in which discussions are being held in detail on creating separate directorates for pre-primary to second, third to twelfth and graduation. In the coming time, the state government will take a decision in this regard. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that through Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding Schools, the state government has started a change in the field of education. Construction work of Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding Schools has started in 10 assembly constituencies in the state. He said that it is the vision of the government to provide quality education to the students studying in government schools in rural environment. Therefore, the state government is setting up Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding Schools in every assembly constituency in a phased manner.

Steve Jobs's wife, set to visit Mahakumbh, gets Hindu name from Niranjani Akhara

Agencies : Late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs's wife, Laurene Powell Jobs, is in India to visit the Mahakumbh taking place in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj from January 13 and has been given a Hindu name, Kailashanand Giri Maharaj of Niranjani Akhara said on Friday. Kailashanand Giri Maharaj of Niranjani Akhara, along with Laurene Powell Jobs, visited the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. Kailashanand Giri Maharaj said that the Akhara has 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," news agency ANI quoted him as saying. Asked about whether Powell will be added to the Akhara's 'Peshawai', the seer 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."

Himachal Tourism: These tourist places in Himachal are bustling with tourists, hotels are offering such discounts

Diary Times Desk : Amid the forecast of snowfall, a large number of tourists have started to visit Himachal. After Friday, the arrival of tourists continued throughout the day in Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala, Chail and Kasauli on Saturday as well. These days, off-season discounts of 20 to 40 percent are also going on in Tourism Development Corporation and private hotels. Tourists are also reaching the tourist places of the state to take advantage of the discounts. In Hillsqueen Shimla, tourists enjoyed roaming in pleasant weather on the Ridge Maidan and Mall Road throughout the day on Saturday. Tourists enjoyed horse riding and photography on the Ridge Maidan. Tourists headed to Narkanda from Shimla to frolic in the snow. On the other hand, a large number of tourists reached Sissu to enjoy the snow through Atal Tunnel Rohtang. Every day 5 to 7 thousand tourist vehicles are reaching Sissu. Tourism businessmen are quite excited due to the increase in the number of tourists. Even after the New Year celebrations, the arrival of tourists at the tourist places of the state continues. 1300 to 1400 tourist vehicles are reaching Manali on weekends, whereas on normal days the number of vehicles is 1000 to 1100. After the recent snowfall, the number of tourists has increased in the tourist places. From Sojha-Jibhi of Banjar to Manikaran and Mandali, 2500 tourist vehicles are coming on weekends. Every day about 100 Volvos are also reaching Manali with tourists. These days, the plains are experiencing severe cold due to fog, while the weather is normal at major tourist places in the state including Shimla. Tourists from Delhi NCR, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and other states are also heading towards the mountains to get relief from the cold.

"Sharad Pawar's Betrayal Politics Began In 1978, BJP Ended It": Amit Shah

Agencies : A month after BJP's big win in Maharashtra polls, Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday claimed that his party's win ended the politics of betrayal and treachery started by veteran leader Sharad Pawar in 1978. The victory (of BJP) in Maharashtra ended the politics of instability and backstabbing started by Sharad Pawar in 1978. You (people) have buried such politics 20-foot in the ground," said Mr Shah, addressing a state BJP convention in Shirdi. In 1978, Sharad Pawar, who later founded Nationalist Congress Party, walked out of the Vasantdada Patil government with 40 MLAs and became the Chief Minister. Ajit Pawar, Sharad Pawar's nephew, split the party in 2023 and joined the Eknath Shinde-led government, in which the BJP was also a partner. The BJP emerged the single largest party in 2024 state polls, winning 132 seats, which is also its highest seat tally in the state. From 1978 till 2024, Maharashtra was prone to political instability. You have shown the way by bringing in a stable and strong Devendra Fadnavis government," stressed Mr Shah. The Shiv Sena (undivided) and the BJP contested the 2019.



Himachal: Now preparations are on to start hot air balloon rides in Bilaspur, tourists will be able to see beautiful views in the air

Diary Times Desk : After water sports, preparations are now underway to start hot air balloon rides here to make the district an aero sports hub. The administration is completing the formalities for hot air balloon rides near Mandi Bharari bridge on Kiratpur-Nerchowk fourlane. If the exercise succeeds, then soon one can enjoy hot air balloon rides here. After the start of hot air balloon facility, the district will be counted among the select places where tourists will be able to enjoy the beautiful views of nature while flying in the air. The aim of the district administration is to attract tourists for the whole year. This will not only promote local tourism, but will also create new employment opportunities. To start an exciting activity like hot air balloon ride, the administration is completing other formalities including obtaining license, approval from the Director General of Civil Aviation. It is also necessary for the pilots flying the balloon to be trained and certified. All necessary safety equipment, such as fire safety system, radio communication and first aid kit should be available with the balloon. It is necessary to take an insurance policy for the safety of tourists and equipment. Also, it is necessary to complete the legal formalities related to operation. Keeping in mind the environmental impact, permission of the concerned department is also required. It is necessary to select a suitable site for balloon ride, ensure a safe place for take-off and landing. Coordination has to be established with the police, fire brigade and other local authorities so that immediate action can be taken in case of any emergency. A hot air balloon is a large balloon that is flown with the help of hot air. It has a basket at the bottom in which people can stand. The air is heated with the help of a burner in the balloon, which makes it rise.

Bank workers strike: Banks will remain closed on 24 and 25 February in Himachal Pradesh, strike notice issued

Diary Times Desk : Banks will remain closed across the country on February 24 and 25. The All India Bank Officers Confederation (IBOC) has given a strike notice to the Himachal government in this regard. National General Secretary of the Confederation Rupam Rai said that the Executive Committee has proposed a two-day nationwide strike, which will be held on February 24 and 25. He said that this strike will be for various demands including 5-day working week and adequate recruitment in all cadres. Apart from this, the union has demanded immediate withdrawal of the recent instructions of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) on performance review and PLI. Apart from this, the demands include filling the posts of employees, officers and directors in public sector banks and resolution of pending issues with the IBA. Confederation President Dinesh Sharma and State General Secretary Ishwar Singh Negi.

Himachal: In Chamba, Himachal, a caretaker beat up a doctor, asked him to leave the ward; attacked with a rod

Diary Times Desk : A doctor posted in Medical College Chamba was injured by three people by beating him with a rod outside the hospital. The incident happened on Friday night around 11:30 pm. Doctor Mayank was examining patients in the eye ward. During that time, he asked the attendant Novi present in the ward to go out of the ward, but he started talking about discussing some issue with the doctor. The doctor got busy examining the patients. After this, when he came out of the hospital after doing his duty, Novi and two other people with him took out a rod from their car and started beating him. Hearing the sound, a crowd of people gathered there. Some people also came to help the doctor. Seeing the gathering crowd of people, the accused fled from there. After this, the injured doctor was brought back to the hospital, where he was treated. He also informed the police.

Himachal News: Home guard jawan got electric shock from heater in capital Shimla, painful death

Diary Times Desk : A home guard has died due to electric shock from a heater in Himachal Pradesh's capital Shimla. The body of the home guard jawan was found lying in the room. At present, the police is investigating the matter. The deceased was posted in the police station vigilance. The deceased has been identified as Ravindra. Who was a resident of Kumarsain Shimla. As soon as the information about the incident was received, the police team of police station New Shimla reached the spot. In the preliminary investigation, the police believe that the home guard died due to electric shock from the heater. The police immediately called the forensic team, who inspected the spot and collected evidence through photography and videography. According to the police, it is being ascertained whether the employee was on duty at the time of the incident or not. The postmortem of the body is being done, the exact cause of death will be known only after the report comes. A case has been registered in the police station New Shimla and the police is investigating the matter. In the capital Shimla, a home guard died due to electric shock from a heater.

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.

HP High Court: Case filed against 10 officers including former DGP cancelled, no criminal case is made under SC-ST Atrocities Prevention Act

Diary Times Desk : Himachal High Court has quashed the case filed under Atrocity Act against IPS officer Anjum Ara, former DGP Sanjay Kundu and 10 other officers. The High Court said that no criminal case is made out under Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Atrocities Prevention Act. Judge Virendra Singh's court said that continuing the FIR that has been filed would be an abuse of the process of law. The action taken by the department against suspended constable Dharm Sukh Negi is a process of departmental inquiry. In the court, Himachal Police presented the cancellation report in the FIR filed by Meena Negi, wife of constable Dharm Sukh Negi. Let us tell you that the wife of suspended police constable Negi, a resident of Kinnaur, lodged an FIR against 10 police officers including former DGP Sanjay Kundu. A case was registered against them under Section 3 (1) (P) of SC/ST Act, SC-ST Act 1989. Negi's wife accused former DGP and other police officers of harassing her husband. In the complaint filed against the police officers, the woman alleged that the senior officers have misused their position and removed her husband from the job. The woman has lodged an FIR against former DGP Sanjay Kundu, retired IPS Himanshu Mishra and Arvind Sharda, SP Shalini Agnihotri, Diwakar Dutt Sharma, Anjum Ara Khan, Bhagat Singh Thakur, Pankaj Sharma, Meenakshi and DSP Baldev Dutt. Regarding this.

Accident In Joginder Nagar: Jeep fell into a ditch in Joginder Nagar of Mandi district, many people injured

Diary Times Desk : Four to five people have been reported injured after a jeep crashed into a deep gorge in Joginder Nagar of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh. This tragic accident took place in Bharadu village, about 14 km from the city. The injured are being brought to the civil hospital. Police teams along with the nearby police are also engaged in relief and rescue operations. Four to five persons were reported injured when a jeep crashed into a deep gorge in Joginder Nagar of Mandi district.

Omar Abdullah Shares Pictures Of New Z-Morh Tunnel In J&K, PM Modi Reacts

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that he is eagerly looking forward to his visit to the Sonamarg area of Jammu and Kashmir where he is scheduled to inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel on Monday. The Prime Minister reacted to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's comments and videos he posted on X, after visiting the Gagangir area on Saturday. "I am eagerly awaiting my visit to Sonmarg, Jammu and Kashmir for the tunnel inauguration. You rightly point out the benefits for tourism and the local economy. Also, loved the aerial pictures and videos!" PM Modi wrote on X. Omar Abdullah visited the Gagangir area of Ganderbal district on Saturday to oversee the arrangements being made for PM Modi's arrival on Monday. "Visited Sonmarg today to review preparations for PM @narendramodi 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. The local population will not have to leave in winter & the travel time to Kargil/Leh from Srinagar will also reduce," he wrote on X. The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister also posted some pictures of the area he visited on Saturday.

"Won't Contest Delhi Polls If...": Arvind Kejriwal's "Slum" Dare To Amit Shah

Agencies : AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal today said that he will not contest the upcoming Assembly elections in Delhi if Home Minister Amit Shah withdraws all cases related to Delhi slum demolitions and rehabilitates every evicted person. "Withdraw all the cases you have filed against the people of slums, and submit an affidavit in court that you will give houses to all those people on the same land from which they were evicted. I will not contest the elections. I challenge you to accept it. Otherwise, Kejriwal will not go anywhere," the former Delhi chief minister said today. Mr Kejriwal today alleged that the BJP intends to demolish slums in Delhi if it wins the elections. Responding to his allegations, Union Minister and BJP leader Hardeep Singh Puri dismissed the claims and accused the AAP government of non-cooperation. "They want your votes first and your land after the elections," Mr Kejriwal said at Shakur Basti, describing the BJP's 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan' scheme as a "complete eyewash." Mr Kejriwal claimed that only 4,700 flats for slum dwellers.

Maha Kumbh comes alive ahead of first Shahi Snan: 'I've never seen anything like this!'



Agencies : Prayagraj is transforming into a bustling hub of spirituality, culture, and economic activity as it gears up for the grand spectacle of Maha Kumbh 2025, which begins with the first holy dip (Shahi Snan) on January 13. Over the next 45 days, the city will host the largest human congregation on earth, drawing an estimated 40 to 45 crore pilgrims. The Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati converge, is at the heart of this grand spectacle. Pilgrims believe that a dip in these holy waters during the auspicious period cleanses them of sins and paves the way to salvation. "The Maha Kumbh Mela is not just a religious gathering but a transformative experience," said Acharya Ramkishore Tiwari, a spiritual leader. "It is where faith meets divinity." Anticipation fills the air as devotees and sadhus eagerly await the Shahi Snan. Sushila Devi, a 56-year-old pilgrim from Kanpur, shared her excitement: "I have waited for years to experience this holy moment. Just the thought of stepping into the Sangam's waters brings tears to my eyes."

Union minister criticises AAP's governance, cites key failures ahead of elections

Agencies : Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, on Sunday, sharply criticised the governance of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) under former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing the party of failing to deliver on key promises and projects. "They are a factory of liars," the union minister said during a press conference, further referencing several "guarantees" made by Kejriwal's AAP during the 2020 Delhi elections. Highlighting promises like 24-hour free electricity and 200 units of free power for every household, Puri emphasised that the expenditure on free power had surged.

Telangana government to issue new ration cards from January 26

Agencies : The Telangana government will launch the process to issue new ration cards from January 26. State Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar told the media after meeting officials in Hyderabad on Sunday that the beneficiaries will be identified during the verification process at the field level between January 16 and 20. The data of identified beneficiaries will be entered from January 21 and new ration cards will be issued from January 26. Ponnampati Prabhakar, who is in-charge Minister for Hyderabad.

Delhi CM Atishi launches crowdfunding campaign, says need ₹40 lakh to fight election

Agencies : Chief Minister and (AAP) candidate from Kalkaji seat Atishi on Sunday launched a crowdfunding campaign to contest the upcoming Delhi Assembly election and said she hoped that people would support her party's politics of work and honesty. Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Atishi released an online link for people to donate money, saying she needed ₹40 lakh to fight the elections. The AAP has always fought elections with the help of small donations from the common man which has helped it pursue the politics.

Delhi polls: Congress announces scheme for unemployed youth, promises ₹8500 per month

Agencies : The Congress on Sunday announced the "Yuva Udaan Yojana" scheme to provide a monthly financial assistance of ₹8,500 for one year to the educated but unemployed youth of Delhi, if voted to power in the national capital. Making the announcement, Congress leader and Rajasthan's former deputy chief minister, Sachin Pilot, noted that beneficiaries will not get money "sitting at home." Sachin Pilot said, "We will provide financial assistance to youths who can show their skills in a company, factory or organisation. They will get money through these companies. This is not a scheme under which one will get money while sitting at home." He added, "We will try that people are absorbed in those fields where they have received training, so that they can improve their skill set." On January 6, the Congress announced "Pyari Didi Yojana," under which it promised ₹2,500 per month if elected to govern Delhi.



"Didn't Recognise Him": Whistleblower Suchir Balaji's Mother Slams OpenAI

Agencies : Poornima Rao, the mother of whistleblower and former OpenAI researcher Suchir Balaji, has launched fresh criticism against the AI giant. Her son, who was found dead in his San Francisco apartment in November, had publicly raised ethical concerns about OpenAI's practices before his death, which authorities initially ruled as a suicide. However, his family has since called for an FBI investigation, alleging murder. Speaking to an influencer on X, Ms Rao accused OpenAI of failing to recognise her son's contributions to their flagship product, ChatGPT. "He did something to fine-tune ChatGPT that made it faster and more efficient," she told X user Mario Nawfal. "But what bothered him was that there was no recognition for his work until he passed away. Even now, there's no acknowledgement from OpenAI of his contributions. That's very unfortunate." Mr Balaji, who worked at OpenAI for nearly four years, resigned in August 2023 after expressing dissatisfaction with the company's shift to a for-profit model. According to his mother, this shift was a key factor in his decision to leave.

"Thought Was Going For Training, Not War": North Korea Soldier Captured By Ukraine

Agencies : Ukraine said Saturday that investigators were questioning two wounded North Korean soldiers after they were captured in Russia's Kursk region, saying they provided "indisputable evidence" that North Koreans were fighting for Moscow. It is not the first time that Kyiv has claimed the capture of North Korean soldiers during its Kursk incursion but it has not reported being able to question any before. In December it said it took several captives but they died from serious wounds. "Our soldiers captured North Korean soldiers in the Kursk region. These are two soldiers who, although wounded, survived and were brought to Kyiv, and are talking to SBU investigators," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media. The SBU security service gave some details of the men's interrogation.

"Fire Away": Biden's Insensitive Pun During Los Angeles Wildfire Meeting Goes Viral

Agencies : US President Joe Biden has come under scrutiny yet again for an apparent gaffe while heading a meeting to discuss the Los Angeles wildfires. Surrounded by Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House's Roosevelt Room, the outgoing president said "fire away, no pun intended" as a federal response to the catastrophic event was discussed. "Madam vice president, I know you're directly affected, so you fire away," said MR Biden as he handed over the meeting to Ms Harris. Ms Harris looked at Mr Biden with a stunned expression, prompting the president to add: "No pun intended." While the first pun may have been a slip of the tongue, Mr Biden made the same blunder again when he told US Forest Service Chief Randy Moore: "Chief, why don't you fire away?" Mr Biden and California Governor Gavin Newsom have been criticised for not stepping up when one of the richest regions in the country burned. Social media users were not impressed by Mr Biden's attempted pun and slammed him for not maintaining the decorum of the office.



'Over 22 Million Children Out Of School In Pakistan': Shehbaz Sharif



Agencies : Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that more than 22 million children in the country were not attending school and also stressed the urgent need for Muslim nations to focus on girls' education, the Dawn reported, citing state media reports. Speaking at the opening of the two-day 'International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities: Challenges and Opportunities' in Islamabad, Sharif acknowledged the significant barriers the Muslim world faces in providing equal access to education for girls, the Dawn reported. PM Shehbaz highlighted that millions of young girls are set to enter the workforce in the coming decade, emphasising their potential to not only uplift themselves and their families from poverty but also contribute to the global economy. He pointed out that while women represent over half of Pakistan's population, the female literacy rate is just 49 per cent. He also mentioned that approximately 22.8 million children, aged between five and 16, are out of school, with a disproportionate number being girls.

Donald Trump 1st US President To Be Sentenced As Felon, But Avoids Jail, Penalty

Agencies : Donald Trump today became the first felon in the White House after a US court upheld his conviction in a hush money case. He has been sentenced to an 'unconditional discharge' for covering up unaccounted payments to porn star Stormy Daniels. This means that the President-elect has been found guilty of his charges, but will not face any jail time or penalty because he has been elected President of the United States and will take oath to the country's highest office on January 20 - a post that brings with itself an impunity of being above the law while in office and beyond. And so, though the 34 counts of Donald Trump falsifying business records on which he was convicted in May 2024 carried.

Biden Awards Pope Francis Presidential Medal Of Freedom With Distinction

Agencies : US President Joe Biden spoke with Pope Francis on Saturday and awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, the nation's highest civilian honor, the White House said. It was the first time during his four years in office that Biden awarded the medal "with distinction", it said. Biden, 82, leaves office on January 20. To oversee the federal response to the fires in California, he canceled a trip to Rome this week, where he was due to meet Francis in person. A lifelong Catholic who has met the pope several times, Biden told reporters on Friday that he was disappointed to cancel the trip, but felt it was more important to stay in Washington. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is presented individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the US, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavors. One week ago, Biden awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, chef Jose Andres and conservationist Jane Goodall, among others. The White House said Biden spoke by phone with Francis on Saturday and expressed his deep regret that he was unable to visit Rome and Vatican City. The two leaders discussed efforts to advance peace around the world, including Francis' work to alleviate suffering for vulnerable communities, it said.

How China Marked 5th Anniversary Of First-Ever Covid Death

Agencies : The fifth anniversary of the first known death from Covid-19 passed seemingly unnoticed in China Saturday, with no official remembrances in a country where the pandemic is a taboo subject. On January 11, 2020, health officials in the central Chinese city of Wuhan announced that a 61-year-old man had died from complications of pneumonia caused by a previously unknown virus. The disclosure came after authorities had reported dozens of infections over several weeks by the pathogen later named SARS-CoV-2 and understood as the cause of Covid-19. It went on to spark a global pandemic that has so far killed over seven million people and profoundly altered ways of life around the world, including in China. On Saturday, however, there appeared to be no official memorials in Beijing's tightly controlled official media. The ruling Communist Party kept a tight leash on public discussion throughout.

Mann seeks Rs 600-crore aid from Centre for fighting drug menace



Agencies : Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday sought Rs 600-crore financial assistance from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to fight drug menace and setting up special courts under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Participating through video-conferencing in the regional conference on "Drug trafficking and national security", the CM sought one-time financial assistance of Rs 600 crore for 10 years to create special NDPS courts and recruitment of public prosecutors and other supporting staff. As on January 1 this year, 35,000 NDPS cases were pending in sessions courts. At present, a sessions court takes around seven years to complete the trial in a case. In the next five years, this average disposal time will increase from seven years (35,000 pending cases) to 11 years (55,000 pending cases), he said. To clear the pendency in the next five years, the state needed to create 79 NDPS special courts and the appointment of 79 public prosecutors along with the supporting staff for these courts, the CM said. He also requested Shah to ensure generous funding from the National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse.

Admn asks GMADA officials to remove sharp curve on Mohali road

Agencies : The administration has asked GMADA and Mohali traffic police officials to take steps for an early removal of the sharp curve near Gurdwara Mata Sunder Kaur Sahib in Mohali. During a review meeting of the Traffic Decongestion Committee at the DAC Meeting Hall here, Deputy Commissioner Aashika Jain asked all stakeholders to streamline this stretch of road and make it accident-free. The S-curve has been designated a black spot by road safety experts. In 2009, a portion of the land was not released by the gurdwara, forcing GMADA to make a sharp curve at the time of the construction of Airport Road. The gurdwara management had reportedly agreed to relocate to another piece of land to be provided by GMADA, allowing the development authority to begin work to straighten the stretch falling on the road separating Sectors 70 and 77, near the Sohana gurdwara light point.

Ram Varma, former Haryana chief secretary passes away at 84

Agencies : Ram Varma, the former Chief Secretary of Haryana and a renowned author, passed away yesterday in Panchkula at the age of 84. An officer of the 1964 IAS batch, Varma served as Haryana's Chief Secretary from January 31, 1997, to August 31, 2000, during Bansi Lal's tenure. He was widely respected for his exceptional skills as a bureaucrat and his literary contributions. Varma was the author of several books, including 'Life in the IAS: My Encounters with Three Lals of Haryana', 'From Gillidanda to Golf: A Memoir', and 'Hinduism: From Rig Veda to Republic'. He also regularly contributed articles to various newspapers, sharing his insights on governance and society. Born into a bricklayers' family in Rajasthan, Varma joined the IAS in 1964 and was initially allotted to the Punjab cadre. Following the reorganisation of Punjab and Haryana in 1966.

Widespread rain covers up January's deficit, more likely

Agencies : Even as widespread rain experienced over most parts of north India over the past 24 hours has overcome the severe deficit being faced by Punjab this month, there is a possibility of more rain later this week. "A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect northwest India from the night of January 14," a bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on January 12 said. Under its influence, isolated rain activity is expected over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi on January 15 and 16, and isolated to scattered rainfall and snowfall activity is likely over Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh from January 15 to 18, the bulletin added. Till this current wet spell, Punjab was facing a rain deficit of 90 per cent for the month of January. With varying amounts of precipitation over the past two days, rain is now surplus by 27 per cent in the state. From January 1 till the morning of January 12, Punjab received 7.6 mm rain compared to the long period average of 6 mm for this period, according to IMD data. Over the past 24 hours, rain was surplus by a massive 1,320 per cent, with the recorded downfall being 7.1 mm against the normal of 0.5 mm.

Won't contest Delhi election if Amit Shah withdraws cases against slum-dwellers: Kejriwal

Agencies : AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday claimed that the BJP would demolish all slums in Delhi if voted to power in the upcoming assembly elections. Addressing a press conference at Shakur Basti, the former chief minister accused the BJP of prioritising land acquisition over the welfare of slum-dwellers. "They want your votes first and your land after the election," Kejriwal said, referring to the BJP. There was no immediate response from the BJP. The AAP chief further challenged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to withdraw all cases against people living in 'jhuggis' and resettle those displaced within 24 hours, vowing not to contest the elections if the BJP complied. "I will not contest the election if Amit Shah withdraws all the cases against the slum-dwellers or displaced people. If the BJP fails, I will contest and stand as a shield for the slum-dwellers. Let's see who destroys them," Kejriwal claimed. He also criticised the BJP's 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makaan' scheme, calling it an eyewash. "In the past 10 years, they have constructed only 4,700 flats for slum-dwellers. Delhi has 4 lakh 'jhuggis'. At this rate, it will take them 1,000 years to provide homes for all slum-dwellers.

I am not BJP's Delhi CM face, claims Ramesh Bidhuri

Agencies : BJP candidate from Kalkaji assembly constituency, Ramesh Bidhuri, on Sunday refuted the Aam Aadmi Party's claim that he is the BJP's chief ministerial face for the upcoming assembly polls. Calling AAP's claims "baseless" and "misleading propoganda", Bidhuri, a former two-time MP, said the people of Delhi wanted to bring the BJP to power. Over the past 25 years, I have held key positions and served as a Member of Parliament twice and as an MLA three times. I have now been given the opportunity to go near you for the fourth time," he said in a press statement in Hindi. The party has given me so much, and I have no claim to any position. However, Arvind Kejriwal has persistently launched misleading propoganda against me. I want to make it clear that I am not a contender for any post," he added. Bidhuri said that by making claims of him being the CM face, Kejriwal had accepted that the BJP would form government in the national capital.

GRAP 3 curbs revoked in Delhi-NCR amid dip in air pollution levels

Agencies : The Centre's panel on Delhi-NCR's air quality on Sunday revoked Stage-III curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) amid a dip in air pollution levels due to favourable meteorological conditions, according to an official order. Light rainfall in and around Delhi triggered by a Western Disturbance—weather systems that originate in the Mediterranean region and bring winter rain and snow to northwest India—significantly improved the city's air quality. The national capital's air quality index (AQI) stood at 278 at 4 PM on Sunday, 72 points below the 350-mark threshold for the implementation of Stage-III curbs, which include a ban on non-essential construction work. Another Western Disturbance is likely to affect northwest India around January 14-15. GRAP Stage 3, which was brought back on Thursday, entails a ban on non-essential construction work. Classes up to grade V are required to shift to hybrid mode under Stage 3. Parents and students have the option to choose online education wherever available. Under Stage 3, the use of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel cars (4-wheelers) is restricted in Delhi and nearby NCR districts. Persons with disabilities are exempt. Stage 3 also bans non-essential diesel-operated.

CM: BJP responsible for degradation of health, education sector in state

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu held the BJP accountable for the degradation of the health and education sectors in Himachal Pradesh, claiming that both areas were neglected during its tenure. While speaking at a public gathering in Hadeta village of the Nadaun constituency on Saturday, Sukhu said it was unfortunate that the state ranked 18th in the national education index. He assured the public that his government was dedicated to providing better health facilities and improving health infrastructure to ensure quality services for the people. Sukhu also highlighted the government's plan to develop Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College and Hospital into a state-of-the-art medical institution near Thai village in the Nadaun constituency. He added that he directed the Health Department to procure world-class equipment for the medical college. Additionally, a cancer care institute and a nursing college would be set up near the medical college. Earlier, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of Economic Development and Livelihood Generation Project (Navjeevan) near Hadeta village.

Rationalisation process hasty, unfair, say HPSEBL staff

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) Employee Union has questioned the rationalisation exercise being carried out by the board management, saying it is being done in haste. Alleging that the exercise was aimed at significantly reducing the board's workforce, the union has urged Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to not rely on the data collected through this exercise for taking any decision regarding the board. When contacted, Sandeep Kumar, MD, HPSEBL, said no final decision had been taken yet and whatever decision is taken eventually would be in the interest and welfare of the organisation and its employees. In a letter to the CM, the union has claimed that the board was already short staffed and the employees were working under tremendous pressure, which reflected in the increased rate of accidents on the lines over the last few years.

Fresh snowfall in Lahaul-Spiti disrupts normal life, advisory issued for tourists



Diary Times Desk : Fresh snowfall in Lahaul and Spiti, including its district headquarters in Keylong, has significantly impacted normal life in the region. The district administration has issued a public advisory urging residents and tourists to avoid unnecessary travel, as the fresh snow has made roads slippery and hazardous. In addition to the snowfall in Lahaul and Spiti, higher reaches of Kullu, Mandi, and Shimla have also experienced fresh snow, causing a drastic drop in temperatures. The fresh snowfall in these areas has intensified the cold wave sweeping across the state, with temperatures plummeting to lower-than-usual levels. The entire state is now under the grip of this severe cold wave, which has made life difficult for residents and tourists alike. The weather conditions in the lower regions are equally challenging, with cloudy skies and intermittent rain showers expected during the daytime. Meteorologists have forecast that the inclement weather will persist throughout the day, contributing to the ongoing cold spell.

State govt committed to combatting drug menace: Sukhu at NCB conclave

Diary Times Desk : "Himachal Pradesh Government is committed to combatting drug menace and had invoked PIT-NDPS Act for the first time in the state to deal strictly with drug peddlers," said Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister, while virtually participating in a regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) from Nadaun near here today. The conference was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The CM said that the number of drug peddlers arrested had increased manifold following increased surveillance and vigilance of law-enforcing agencies in the state. The conference focused on addressing the link between drug trafficking and national security with particular attention to eight northern states and Union Territories. The Chief Minister said that NDPS cases have risen by 340 per cent over the past decade, increasing from approximately 500 cases in 2012 to 2,200 cases in 2023. Additionally, the percentage of cases involving heroin had doubled from 29 per cent in 2020 to 50 per cent in 2024.

Trio braves cold to restore water supply to remote village

Diary Times Desk : Three employees from the Jal Shakti Department in Lahaul and Spiti district have earned the admiration of locals for their relentless efforts in restoring the drinking water supply to the remote village of Hinsa. Despite the freezing temperatures, Sunil Pandit, Chatar Singh and Jitender worked tirelessly to ensure the village had access to potable water. The trio faced the difficult task of repairing the water supply system in sub-zero temperatures, where the water they were handling was frozen. Despite the extreme cold and the risks to their own safety, they pressed on with their work. Their determination has not only brought them widespread recognition but also made their videos go viral on social media, earning praise from the public. Norboo Tsering, a local resident, said, "If everyone, from both the government and non-government sectors, worked with the same honesty and dedication, not only Lahaul but the whole nation could thrive. However, most people are preoccupied with personal gains."

Govt invites applications for RERA chairman, members

Diary Times Desk : The process for the appointment of the Chairman and members of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has been set rolling following the completion of the term of the present chief Srikant Baldi. The appointment of the RERA Chairman assumes significance as Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena is in the race for the post following his superannuation on March 31. The government has invited applications for the post of Chairman and members by January 23. Apart from Saxena, there are many retired IAS, IPS and technocrats vying for these posts. However, in case Saxena, who is the frontrunner for the post, finds favour with the government, the state will get a new Chief Secretary before his retirement. The term of Srikant Baldi, RERA Chairman, ended on December 12, 2024. Now, the process for appointment of his successor has been set rolling. Baldi had held the position of Chief Secretary before he was appointed Chairman of RERA. There is already speculation in the corridors of power on the contenders for the top post of Chief Secretary. The senior-most IAS officer in the state, Sanjay Gupta, a 1988 batch Himachal cadre officer, who was superseded earlier, is learnt to be in the race for the post of Chief Secretary. Presently, he is holding the post of Chief Managing Director (CMD) of the HP State Electricity Board (HPSEB). Since he is due to retire on May 31, 2026, he is keen that he should be made the Chief Secretary.



Rodrigues maiden hundred powers India to new peak

Agencies : Ireland were sent on a leather hunt as each of India's top four enjoyed batting time without having to contend with any pressure associated with an international game. The end result was India posting 370 for 5 after electing to bat in Rajkot, with Jemimah Rodrigues being the only one of those batters to convert her half-century into three figures. Along the way, Rodrigues went past her previous best of 86 to notch up her maiden international century in her seventh year as an India player. This opportunity may have only presented itself because India are missing their regular No. 4, Harmanpreet Kaur who has been rested from the series, and Rodrigues grabbed it with both hands. Harleen Deol, meanwhile, fell 11 short of what could've been her second ODI century in four innings, but not before she shared a 183-run stand for the third wicket with Rodrigues. The innings began with India's latest opener, Pratika Rawal, exhibiting tremendous stroke play to further make it tougher for the selectors who will at some point also have to re-examine Shafali Verma's case as she bangs the door down with heaps of runs in domestic cricket. Rawal played a back foot punch, the pull in front of square and an exquisite cover drive inside the first three overs to lay down a marker. Her off-side stroke play in particular was quite a delight as she showed the rare ability.



Rohit Sharma Makes Captaincy Promise To BCCI In Meeting, Report Says He Will Quit After...

Agencies : India's Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma spoke at length to the top bosses in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and chief selector Ajit Agarkar in a review meeting held on Saturday. India head coach Gautam Gambhir was also present in the meeting as the BCCI top brass sought response from the Indian team management over the recent run of results, particularly the 1-3 Border-Gavaskar series defeat to Australia and the 0-3 home sweep against New Zealand. In the meeting, it has been reported, that Rohit expressed his intentions of remaining the team's captain for a few more 'months'. Questions over Rohit's long-term Test future intensified over the course of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, particularly because of his form with the bat. Rohit even decided to bench himself for the final match in Sydney, though India lost that encounter too. During the meeting with BCCI, where Agarkar and Gambhir also expressed their views, Rohit is said to have told the board that he wants to remain the team's captain for a few more months.

Bitter Jasprit Bumrah Champions Trophy Blow To India, Report Says India Pacer To Miss...

Agencies : The cost of 'overusing' Jasprit Bumrah in the search of wickets on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy seems to have hurt India's chances of winning the Champions Trophy. The pacer had to pull out during the 5th and final Test against Australia in Sydney over 'back spasms' but his injury has turned out to be much worse than first anticipated. It has been reported that Bumrah has swelling on his back and is unlikely to be fit in time for the start of the Champions Trophy next month. The marquee pacer, who picked 32 wickets against Australia in the 5-match series, has been to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru where his recovery will be monitored, as per Indian Express. The situation has even prompted the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to ask the International Cricket Council (ICC) to grant an extension over the squad announcement, though the deadline is today (January 12). The BCCI selection committee isn't sure whether to name Bumrah in the 15-man roster or take him to UAE as one of the reserves since he is expected to be fit.

Devajit Saikia elected new BCCI secretary, replaces Jay Shah

Agencies : Former Assam cricketer Devajit Saikia has replaced Jay Shah as the secretary of the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI). Saikia took over the position, which was left vacant for a little over one month after Jay Shah took over the chairman's position in the International Cricket Council. Saikia's first task as the secretary was to attend the meeting alongside BCCI president Roger Binny as the board discussed India's performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia. Sources told India Today that captain Rohit Sharma and coach Gautam Gambhir attended the meeting. A source close to the development said that the meeting had a lengthy and detailed discussion on India's current slump in Test cricket. "The meeting was detailed, with lengthy discussions on the team's performance, especially the batting lineup. Management wanted to understand why Indian batters, despite having a strong lineup, have not been able to perform. They also focused on identifying the core reasons and how to rectify them," a source in the know said India Today.



Short TAKES

Even if Yuvraj had died for the country, I would've been proud: Yograj Singh

Agencies : Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh's father Yograj, recently said that he would've been proud of his son even if he had died during the ODI World Cup 2011. Yuvraj put up a show for the ages during the World Cup 2011 as he battled cancer throughout the tournament and played a pivotal role in India's successful triumph in the mega event after 28 long years. The southpaw even showed signs of struggle during India's group game against the West Indies in Chennai but chose to continue playing and slammed a brilliant century. Recently, Yuvraj's father Yograj, recalled his son's dream World Cup campaign and said that even if he had died while helping India win the World Cup, he would've been proud of him. "For our country, if Yuvraj Singh had died from cancer and had won India the World Cup, I would have been a proud father. I still am very proud of him. I have told him this over the phone as well. I wanted him to play even when he was spitting blood. I told him, 'Don't worry, you won't die. Win this World Cup for India,'" Yograj said on Unfiltered by Samdishi.

'Sanju Samson Over Rishabh Pant': Ex-India Star Weighs In On India's Champions Trophy Squad

Agencies : Former cricketer Harbhajan Singh feels Axar Patel is ready to fill in Ravindra Jadeja's shoes for the all-rounder role for India. He also pondered India's wicketkeeping options and felt Sanju Samson being picked ahead of Rishabh Pant could be a possibility for the Champions Trophy. After months of uncertainty, the Champions Trophy is almost a month away from returning after seven years. Speculations have been building around the possible players who could feature in the list of players that the BCCI decides to put its faith in. Jadeja, an all-rounder who has delivered in all spectrums of the game for years, is now facing a scenario where he could be axed from the squad. With the recent surge of Axar Patel, there are high chances that only one out of the two could be on the plane to Dubai. If such a scenario arises, Harbhajan wants Axar to be in Dubai with the Men in Blue ahead of the seasoned all-rounder. "I have chosen Axar Patel over Ravindra Jadeja. I think Axar is ready to fulfil the role that Jadeja has done for so many years," Harbhajan said.