

Himachal Cement Rate: Building construction became expensive, cement prices increased by five rupees; second increase in a month



Diary Times Desk : Cement prices in Himachal have once again increased by Rs 5. Cement companies have given a big shock to consumers by increasing prices for the second time within a month. Major cement companies Ambuja, ACC and Ultratech have increased prices by Rs 5 per bag. Due to this, people constructing buildings will have to face inflation. Despite having an ACC cement factory in Bilaspur, cement is being sold more expensive here than in other districts. ACC cement seller Pawan Barur said that prices are higher in Bilaspur than in Una and Hamirpur, while the transportation cost of these districts is higher. Some truck owners load cement for Una and Hamirpur and sell it here, due to which local dealers are incurring losses. The price of ACC Suraksha was earlier Rs 440 per bag, which has now become Rs 445. The price of ACC Gold has increased from Rs 485 to Rs 490. Ambuja cement seller Rohit said that now the prices have increased from Rs 455 to Rs 460 per bag. On December 18, the company had stopped dealer discounts, due to which prices had already increased by Rs 15 to 20 per bag.

Himachal Water Supply Scam: Vigilance submitted investigation report to the government, recommended FIR

Diary Times Desk : Vigilance has submitted the preliminary investigation report to the government in the case of crores of rupees scam in the water supply through tankers in Theog assembly constituency of Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh. On Friday, the vigilance officials gave this report to Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Omkar Sharma. He had ordered a vigilance investigation in this matter. Now legal opinion is being taken in this water scam case. CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu is on a Kangra tour. Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri is also out of the state. This matter is to be discussed with him when he comes.

Nitish Kumar Govt's Caste Survey Was To Befool Bihar People, Alleges Rahul Gandhi

Agencies : Alleging that the caste survey conducted by the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar was an exercise to befool people, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said his party will stick to its demand for caste census as such an initiative is essential to plan development work in the country. Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, also accused the BJP and the RSS of "undermining the Constitution and neglecting marginalised communities" in the country. He also alleged that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's 'true independence' remark was "against the country's Constitution". Addressing 'Samvidhan Suraksha Sammelan' at Bapu Sabhagar here, Gandhi said, "Dalits, minorities and socially marginalised people comprise 90 per cent population of this country but they are not part of the system....This is the reason that we have been demanding caste census." He also claimed, "I have categorically told leaders in Parliament, in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, that our party will get this passed at any cost."



PM Modi welcomes naming of Jaffna Cultural Centre after Indian poet Thiruvalluvar

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday welcomed the naming of a cultural centre, built with Indian assistance in Sri Lanka's Jaffna, as 'Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre'. Thiruvalluvar was an Indian poet and philosopher. Taking to micro-blogging website X, he said: "Welcome the naming of the iconic Cultural Center in Jaffna built with Indian assistance, as 'Thiruvalluvar Cultural Center.'" "In addition to paying homage to the great Thiruvalluvar, it is also a testament to the deep cultural, linguistic, historical and civilisational bonds between the people of India and Sri Lanka," he added.

PM Modi distributes over 65 lakh SVAMITVA property cards, says will bolster economic activities

Agencies : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme, and said it will bolster economic activities and help in poverty alleviation. The prime minister virtually addressed the event and also interacted with some beneficiaries. He also said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance". The property cards are being distributed to beneficiaries across more than 50,000 villages in 10 states—Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and two Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Modi said the scheme will help people get loans.

Himachal News: Government will rent out the properties of Khadi and Village Industries

Diary Times Desk : To increase the income of Khadi and Village Industries Board, the Himachal Pradesh government will rent out the properties of the board. The properties will be given to any institution or government undertaking. Industry Minister Harsh Vardhan Chauhan said this in the meeting of the Board of Directors of Khadi and Village Industries Board on Friday. The Board of Directors kept the revised estimated budget for the year 2024-25 at Rs 8.90 crore, while approved Rs 9 crore for 2025-26. The board approved a subsidy of about Rs 6 crore to 143 small industries under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Srijan Karyakram. About 1,150 employment opportunities will be created in this. Apart from this, it was said to achieve a financial target of 62 percent by December. According to the notification of the Center, the Board of Directors approved increasing the maximum limit of payment of revised retirement gratuity to the retired employees of the board from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20.

Pakistani woman Seema Haider's first husband seeks Indian govt's help to reunite with children

Agencies : The first husband of Seema Haider, a Pakistani woman who illegally crossed over to India with her four children in 2023 to be with her lover whom she had met online, has appealed to the Indian government to help him meet his kids and gain custody. Seema, 32, who is from Jacobabad in Sindh province, in May 2023 took her children and left her home in Karachi to travel to India via Nepal. She captured the headlines in July when Indian authorities found her living with Indian national Sachin Meena, 27, whom she now claims to have married, in the Greater Noida area in Uttar Pradesh. The duo got in touch in 2019 while playing online game PUBG. Seema and Sachin were arrested in July 2023 but later released on bail. While Seema was charged with illegally entering India.



To place an advertisement

CALL +91 9736115050

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

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

Police custodial death case: IG Zaidi and eight other policemen found guilty

Diary Times Desk : The verdict came on Saturday in the case of the murder of accused Suraj in the lockup in the much talked about Gudiya rape and murder case that took place in Kotkhai of Shimla district in 2017. Chandigarh CBI court has convicted eight police officers and employees including former IG IPS Zahoor Haider Zaidi of Shimla. At the same time, the then SP DW Negi, who was named, has been acquitted due to lack of witness statements and evidence. All the accused will be sentenced on January 27. After declaring them guilty, the police have arrested Zaidi as well as the then DSP Manoj Joshi, Police Sub Inspector Rajindra Singh, ASI Deep Chand Sharma, Standard Head Constable Mohan Lal and Surat Singh, Head Constable Rafi Mohammad and Constable Ranjit Sateta. Let us tell you, accused Suraj was murdered in the lockup of Kotkhai police station 14 days after the Gudiya murder case. The police had accused another accused of the murder. Angry people had set many vehicles on fire including the police station.



Indian Navy joins 9-nation exercise near busiest shipping route

Agencies : The Indian Navy warship INS Mumbai has joined a nine-nation maritime exercise being conducted near the busiest shipping routes - the Malacca, Sunda and Lombok straits. Among those at the exercise are the Navies of the US, the UK, Canada, France, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The exercise named La Perouse, which began on January 16, will continue till January 24. The straits of Malacca, Sunda and Lombok, which are the mainstays of global maritime trade, are subject to numerous human-induced risks, such as maritime and environmental accidents, illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and also natural risks, like earthquakes and tsunamis. Indian Navy warship INS Mumbai is participating in the exercise that aims to develop common maritime situational awareness by enhancing the cooperation in the field of maritime surveillance.

Himachal State Selection Commission: Final result of 23 posts under post code 996 declared

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh State Selection Commission has declared the result of 23 posts of Junior Office Assistant (Account) under post code 996. The written objective type screening test was held on 20 November 2022. 1468 candidates participated in it, while 1866 candidates were absent. Selection Commission Secretary Dr. Vikram Mahajan said that after all the upcoming formalities, the commission declared the final result on Saturday. Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will conduct regular and SOS examinations of matriculation and plus two classes of academic session 2024-25 in the month of March. Examination center superintendent and deputy superintendent will be appointed for the successful conduct of these examinations. For this, the Education Board has sought applications from eligible teachers through online medium till January 31. Education Board Secretary Dr. Major Vishal Sharma said that in March, examinations will be conducted for regular and annual examination of state open school of class 10th-12th, compartment, additional subject and category improvement. For conducting the examinations, the centre superintendent and deputy superintendent can apply online till 31 January. The online link for applying is available on the board's website and eligible teachers can apply through this.

Attack on Saif: Intruder got aggressive but did not touch jewellery, Kareena tells police

Agencies : Saif Ali Khan's wife and actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has informed the police that the intruder who entered their house in Mumbai got aggressive during the scuffle but did not touch jewellery kept in the open, an official said on Saturday. The police recorded the actress's statement following the attack at the Bollywood star couple's apartment in Bandra in the early hours of Thursday, the official said. An intruder attacked Khan (54) after entering his 12th-floor apartment in the Satguru Sharan building. The actor sustained multiple stab wounds, including on his neck, and was rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. The official said Kareena, in her statement, said the intruder got very aggressive during the scuffle with Saif, stabbing him multiple times. He, however, did not touch the jewellery kept in the open. He said the police are yet to record Khan's statement. After the incident, Kareena's sister, actress Karishma Kapoor.

Himachal Weather: Snowfall on the peaks of Rohtang, Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahaul, temperature drops

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, snowfall occurred again on Saturday on the high peaks of Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahaul including Rohtang Pass. Most of the areas of the state including the capital Shimla remained cloudy with light sunshine on Saturday. Most of the high hills of tribal district Kinnaur received snowfall on Saturday. Due to this, the entire district has come under the grip of cold wave. After the snowfall in the past few days, the traffic system has not yet returned to track. Snowfall occurred on Kinnaur Kailash, Jour Khandan, Riopurgil of Nako, Sangla Kanda, Panpo Kanda, Thaula hills of Chitkul in the district. In the afternoon, snow kept falling intermittently on the high peaks along with Rohtang Pass. Atal Tunnel Rohtang has been restored for four by four vehicles, but small vehicles and buses will have to wait. Highway 305 is also closed. 129 roads in Lahaul and 10 roads in Kullu are closed. On the other hand, the minimum temperature was recorded in minus at five places in the state. People are facing cold wave in many parts. According to Meteorological Centre Shimla, light rain and snowfall is forecast at some places in the middle and high mountains from 18 to 21 and 24 January. Whereas on 22 and 23 January, there will be rain and snowfall at many places in the state. At the same time, light to moderate rain may occur at some places in the lower hilly-plain areas. There is no possibility of any major change in the maximum temperature during the next 3-4 days. After this, there is a possibility of a significant drop of 4-5 degree Celsius in the maximum temperature during the next two days. There will be no major change in the minimum temperature during the next 2-3 days.

China's population declines for third consecutive year

Agencies : China's population fell for the third consecutive year in 2024, with the number of deaths outpacing a slight increase in births, and experts cautioning that the trend will accelerate in the coming years. The National Bureau of Statistics said the total number of people in China dropped by 1.39 million. It stood at 1.408 billion in 2024. Friday's data reinforces concerns that the world's second largest economy will struggle as the number of workers and consumers declines. Rising costs from elderly care and retirement benefits are also likely to create additional strains for already indebted local governments. China's total number of births was 9.54 million versus 9.02 million in 2023, the statistics bureau said. The birth rate rose to 6.77 births per 1,000 people in 2024 versus 6.39 per 1,000 people in 2023. The number of deaths was 10.93 million in 2024 from 11.1 million in 2023. China's birth rates have been falling for decades as a result of the one-child policy China implemented from 1980 to 2015 as well as rapid urbanisation. The high cost of childcare, education and job uncertainty and a slowing economy have also discouraged many young Chinese from getting married and starting a family.



Cyber Crime: Former CPS Neeraj Bharti was duped online, one lakh rupees were defrauded in the name of advance booking in a resort in Goa

Diary Times Desk : A case of cyber fraud of Rs 1 lakh has come to light in the name of booking a resort online with former Chief Parliamentary Secretary (CPS) Neeraj Bharti, son of Agriculture Minister Chandra Kumar. The police have registered a case in this regard and started investigating the matter. According to the complainant Bharti, he recently searched online on Google to book a resort in Goa. During this, he saw the website of Cara Villa Resort online. Here he deposited an amount of about Rs 1 lakh in the name of advance booking to book a room. Later, on investigation, he came to know that there is no resort of this name in Goa. When he realized that he had been cheated, he lodged a complaint at the Chota Shimla police station. He alleged in the complaint that someone has cheated him by getting money deposited in his account. The police have registered a case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code in this regard and started investigating.



Shimla: MC Shimla's garbage vehicle fell into a 200 meter deep ditch near Bharyal plant, driver died

Diary Times Desk : A garbage vehicle of the Municipal Corporation has met with an accident near Bharyal under Baluganj police station in Himachal Pradesh's capital Shimla. The driver has died in the accident. The deceased has been identified as Vinod Kumar. The accident happened this morning when the driver was going to Bharyal plant with garbage. During this, the driver lost control of the truck before Bharyal. Due to this, the truck fell down about 200 meters. As soon as the news of the accident was received, people from nearby areas reached the spot and started rescue work. Also, the police was informed about it. The police team reached the spot and took the unconscious driver to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Deputy Mayor of Shimla Municipal Corporation Uma Kaushal has confirmed the accident.

Kangra: Police detained the members of the Sangharsh Samiti who were going to meet the Chief Minister

Diary Times Desk : The Nagar Panchayat Hatao Vikas Khand Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, formed to protest against making Nagarota Surian a Nagar Panchayat in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh and transferring the block, was not allowed to meet the Chief Minister. The police took the officials and members of the Sangharsh Samiti into custody one kilometer behind the Interpretation Center of the Wildlife Department. Enraged by this, the members said that stopping them from meeting the Chief Minister is the murder of democracy and now Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Chandra Kumar will not be allowed to enter the Nagarota Surian area. In fact, the Chief Minister had come to inaugurate the Interpretation Bhawan of the Wildlife Department in Basa of Nagarota Surian on Saturday. The members of the 25-member Sangharsh Samiti said.

Shimla: Fire affected families of Tandi village will also get special relief package, notification issued

Diary Times Desk : The benefit of the special relief package of the Himachal Pradesh government will also be given to the families affected by the fire incident in Tandi village of Banjar subdivision of Kullu district on January 1, 2025. This benefit will be available under the special relief package issued to provide relief and rehabilitation to the people affected by monsoon 2023. The government has issued a notification in this regard. Under this, relief of Rs 7 lakh will be given on the report of the Patwari for completely damaged kutcha and pucca houses. An amount of Rs 1 lakh will be given for a partially damaged house and Rs 50,000 for a cowshed. Apart from this, financial assistance of Rs 5,000 per month will be provided to the families affected by the fire incident to take private accommodation on rent till June 30, 2025. The release of funds for a completely damaged house will be controlled by this department as per the details given in the standard operating procedure of the special relief package issued on October 18, 2023. A notification has been issued in this regard by Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Omkar Chand Sharma.

Driver suicide case: HRTC investigating officer will go to the house to take statements of family members

Diary Times Desk : In the case of suicide of Himachal Path Parivahan Nigam (HRTC)'s Dharampur depot driver Sanjay Kumar, investigation officer DM Vinod Thakur has sought records from the police. Police has received a complaint from the deceased's wife in the case. Police has also recorded statements on this. Police investigation is also being included in the departmental investigation. Departmental investigation officer will reach the deceased's house on Saturday and take statements of the family members. Police has received the preliminary report of the postmortem. The cause of death is not clear in this. Now the exact cause of death will be known in the RFSL's viscera examination report. It may take time to get this report. Police has registered a case against RM in this case. He has not been included in the investigation yet. Let us tell you that before the suicide, in the viral video, driver Sanjay Kumar had made serious allegations against RM including harassment. After the death of the driver, a case was registered by Aut police station on the complaint of wife Pushpa.

HPBOSE Date Sheet 2025: Himachal Board Class 10th-12th final datesheet released

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education (HPBOSE) has released the final date sheet 2025 of Himachal Board Class 10th and 12th. According to the HP Board Date Sheet 2025, the HPBOSE Class 10th exam for regular and State Open School (SOS) students will be conducted from March 4 to March 24. At the same time, the HPBOSE Class 12th exam will be conducted from March 4 to March 29. HP Board Class 10th and 12th examinations 2025 will be conducted in a single shift from 8:45 am to 12 noon. Students registered for HPBOSE 10th exam 2025 can download the date sheet through the official website (hpbose.org). Candidates will be given 15 minutes to read the question paper and count the pages of the answer sheet and enter their details on the OMR based answer sheet only if found correct. The exam for the students will start at 9 am sharp.

HP Eco Tourism: 50 sites identified in Himachal to promote eco tourism, tenders will be issued soon

Diary Times Desk : To promote eco-tourism in Himachal Pradesh, the government has selected 50 sites of the forest department in the first phase. The government will soon issue tenders for developing them. This year, the government aims to collect revenue of Rs 200 crore from eco-tourism. The government is going to upgrade various rest houses of the forest department under eco-tourism. Apart from hut construction, trekking and camping sites will also be promoted for this. In the initial phase, 50 such sites of the department have been selected from districts like Kullu, Mandi, Sirmaur, Kangra, Hamirpur, Chamba, etc., where there are more possibilities of tourism. Tenders will be issued soon to develop these sites. Under this, the facilities provided to tourists will be increased. According to the department, at present, online booking has been started for staying in rest houses for tourists coming from other states and countries. A good trend is being seen for this. A large number of bookings are being received in areas like Dharamshala, Kullu, Mandi, etc. The rest houses of the department are not remaining vacant even for a day.

Frigid winds intensify cold wave in Delhi, dense fog reduces visibility

Agencies : A thick layer of fog descended over Delhi early on Saturday (January 18) morning, plunging visibility to zero in several parts of the national capital. Meanwhile, the cold wave continues to grip Delhi-NCR, accompanied by icy winds from northern snow-covered regions. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the maximum temperatures was recorded at 19 degrees Celsius while the minimum stood at 7 degrees Celsius. The weather department has also said that moderate fog is expected during the morning hours, with daytime temperatures ranging between 20 degrees Celsius and 21 degrees Celsius between January 19 and 21. The IMD further predicts evening thunderstorms and widespread rainfall on January 22 and 23, cooling daytime highs to 18 degrees Celsius while nudging nighttime lows up to 11 degrees Celsius-12 degrees Celsius. Besides, a western disturbance approaching the Himalayas on January 18 is anticipated to cause snowfall in hilly areas, while its secondary system on January 21 may extend its effects to Delhi and surrounding regions. This second wave is likely to bring significant rain and thunderstorms, disrupting regular weather patterns before clearing out later in the week.

BJP's Parvesh Verma claims Arvind Kejriwal ordered driver to crush 3 youths, refutes AAP's 'attack' charge

Agencies : Reacting to the Aam Aadmi Party's allegation that Arvind Kejriwal's car was attacked during campaigning on Saturday, BJP leader Parvesh Verma alleged that the vehicle hit three youths who had been protesting against the AAP chief. Verma, the party's New Delhi assembly constituency candidate, claimed it was Kejriwal who asked the driver of the car to crush them. "When AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal was campaigning door-to-door near Lal Bahadur Sadan, people of the New Delhi assembly constituency were asking questions to Kejriwal about employment etc...When three residents named Vishal, Abhishek and Rohit who are unemployed tried to ask questions to Kejriwal, Punjab Police beat them up and a worker's phone was broken," Verma was quoted as saying by news agency ANI. "AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal's car hit the three youths and the driver of the car applied brakes after seeing the three youths but Arvind Kejriwal signalled the driver to crush.

'He Stabbed Saif Ali Khan Repeatedly, Our Priority...': Kareena Kapoor Recalls Attack



Agencies : Kareena Kapoor Khan recalled the attack on actor and husband Saif Ali Khan at their Bandra residence during the early hours of Thursday, saying that she saw the intruder stab Mr Khan repeatedly. Ms Kapoor was recording her statement with the Bandra Police. "The attacker was aggressive. I saw him attack Saif repeatedly...Our priority was to take Saif to the hospital," she told the police. The actor further mentioned that the attacker ran from the spot and did not take any valuables with him. According to her, Mr Khan was trying to protect their children Taimur and Jehangir (also known as Jeh). When the attacker could not reach Jeh, he attacked Mr Khan multiple times, she said. Hours after the incident, terrified Ms Kapoor went to her sister Karisma's house and Mr Khan underwent surgery. "After the attack, I was terrified, so Karisma took me to her house," she said.

'Sanjay Roy was not alone': RG Kar victim's mother reacts to court's verdict

Agencies : Reacting to the conviction of Sanjay Roy in the RG Kar Medical College rape-murder case, the mother of the deceased doctor on Saturday said they were still waiting for other criminals to be arrested and punished. She further said that Roy had accomplices. "That Sanjay is guilty was proved through biological evidence. And that he stood silent during the trials in the court also proved his hand in torturing and killing my daughter. But he was not alone, others haven't been arrested yet. So, justice hasn't been delivered," the victim's mother told PTI after the judgment. Noting that the case was yet to be completed, the mother also said that she and her husband would continue their fight for justice till the last day of their lives. "The case is not complete. It will only be completed after the others who were involved in killing our daughter are punished. We will wait for that day... Till that day, we will not be able to sleep. That is the only thing we want now," she said.

16 'Mystery' Deaths In J&K Village, Amit Shah Forms Inter-Ministerial Team

Agencies : Union Home Minister Amit Shah has ordered the constitution of an inter-ministerial team to visit a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to ascertain the causes of deaths in three incidents in the past six weeks. The team will be headed by a senior Union home ministry officer and consist of experts from the ministries of health and family welfare, agriculture, chemicals and fertilisers, and water resources, according to an official statement. The team will also be assisted by experts from the animal husbandry, food safety and forensic science labs. The central team will proceed on Sunday and, in collaboration with the local administration.

Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani to attend Donald Trump's inauguration

Agencies : Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and the Reliance Foundation founder and chairperson Nita Ambani will attend United States President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration in Washington DC on January 20. The Indian industrialist, one of the richest people in the world, will have a prominent spot on the platform with other notable guests, including Trump's Cabinet nominees and elected officials, reported news agency ANI. The power couple will arrive in the US capitol Washington DC on January 18. The festivities linked to the inaugural event will start on Saturday.

Telangana and Singapore institute sign deal on skill development cooperation

Agencies : The Telangana government and the Singapore Institute of Technical Education (ITE) signed an agreement to work together on skill development and support efforts to set up the Young India Skill University. The deal was signed during Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to Singapore. The agreement was signed by the Skill University vice chancellor VLVSS Subbarao and the Singapore ITE delegation led by Parvender Singh, Deputy Director of Academic and Administration Services. Fabian Chiang, Deputy Director of IT Education Services, ITE, was also present.

Rajnath Singh Visits Maha Kumbh, Takes Holy Dip At Triveni Sangam

Agencies : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday visited Prayagraj to participate in the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. The Union Minister began his visit with a holy dip in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam, the confluence of the rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythological Saraswati. Rajnath Singh will also perform religious rituals at significant sites such as Akshaya Vat, Patalpuri Temple, Saraswati Kund, and the Hanuman Temple. This year's Maha Kumbh, which commenced on January 13, is expected to attract millions of devotees, with the event continuing until February 26, 2025. In a parallel effort to ensure smooth operations and the safety of pilgrims, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will inspect the ongoing arrangements and safety measures in place for the vast influx of visitors.



Vivek Ramaswamy planning to run for Ohio open Senate seat?

Agencies : Former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy is reportedly on track to announce his Ohio governor bid. The multimillionaire biotech entrepreneur currently takes pride in his stance as co-leader of Donald Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), alongside Elon Musk, is all set to make a major career change, according to multiple sources. The Republican politico previously provoked MAGA's anger with his criticism of US culture amid an incendiary H-1B debate. MAGA refers to 'Make America Great Again', an American political slogan and political movement popularised by Donald Trump during his successful presidential campaigns in 2016 and in 2024. As that scene seems to have settled down for the moment with all eyes on Trump's Inauguration Day, Ramaswamy finally broke his social media silence on Thursday, celebrating the "Dawn of a new Golden Age" with the upcoming Monday event in Washington DC. As the Silicon Valley tech mogul continues to slip in support for Trump, sources have told Fox News Digital that Ramaswamy is expected to announce his gubernatorial run "shortly."

Palestinians prepare to welcome relatives to be released from Israel

Agencies : Ahead of the first day of the ceasefire, some Palestinians in the West Bank are preparing to welcome home their relatives, some of whom have spent years in Israeli prisons. Israel's justice ministry has published a list of 95 Palestinian prisoners set to be released on Sunday. Most of them are accused of crimes such as incitement, vandalism, supporting terror activities or attempted murder. In the village of Kafr Niema in the West Bank, the Ataya family is hoping to mark their son's birthday on Sunday with his release. "He will turn 19 and begin his 20th year. It will be a celebration of both a new year of his life and God willing, his release," his father, Nasser Ataya, said. His son Osama's name is on the list. He was arrested after the war broke out in October 2023, accused of conducting terror activities, Ataya said.

"This Would Be Biggest Trade War": Canada Warns US Amid Trump Threats



Agencies : Americans will be hit by a "Trump tariffs tax" if the US president-elect increases customs duties on Canadian products, the Canadian foreign minister said Friday, pledging a hard-hitting response in any trade war. Donald Trump, who returns to the White House next week, has said he plans to slap 25 percent tariffs on Canadian imports as part of his economic and foreign policy plans that also target Mexico, China and other trade partners. "This would be the biggest trade war between Canada and the US in decades," Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said. "The Americans would be starting a trade war against us. We are ready to put maximum pressure," she said at a press conference in Washington, adding that Canada has a series of measures prepared if Trump carries out his threat, which would have a major impact on Canadian consumers and jobs." A government source told AFP that Ottawa is considering higher duties on goods from the United States including steel products, ceramics like toilets and sinks, glassware and orange juice -- in a first phase of tariffs that could be extended.

Impeached president Yoon Suk Yeol fights detention request in court hearing

Agencies : South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol attended a court hearing on Saturday to fight a request by investigators to extend his detention on accusations of insurrection, his lawyer said. Yoon on Wednesday became the country's first sitting president to be arrested, in a criminal probe related to his short-lived declaration of martial law on Dec. 3. Investigators requested a detention warrant on Friday to extend their custody of Yoon for up to 20 days. He has been refusing to talk to investigators and has been held in Seoul Detention Centre since his arrest.

US sanctions China-linked hacker Yin Kecheng over Treasury breach

Agencies : The United States on Friday sanctioned a man affiliated with China's Ministry of State Security whom it accused of involvement in a recent hack of the Treasury Department. In a statement, the US Treasury said Yin Kecheng "was associated with the recent compromise of the Department of the Treasury's Departmental Offices network." Yin Kecheng, it added, had been a "cyber actor" for more than a decade and was affiliated with China's Ministry of State Security (MSS). The Treasury move comes just three days before US President Joe Biden makes way for President-elect Donald Trump, and it follows an earlier US determination that a Chinese state-sponsored actor had been behind the breach. "The Treasury Department will continue to use its authorities to hold accountable malicious cyber actors who target the American people, our companies, and the United States government, including those who have targeted the Treasury Department specifically," deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said. Separately, in an opinion piece for Bloomberg News, Adeyemo called Yin Kecheng a "state-backed actor" and accused him of hacking into the Treasury's unclassified systems.

Canada: 50,000 foreign students no-shows in 2024, including 20,000 Indian

Agencies : Nearly 50,000 international students, issued study permits for higher education in Canada, were reported as "no-shows" by colleges and universities, according to the Canadian government data from spring 2024 under the International Student Compliance Regime. Among them, 20,000 were Indian students. This figure, accounting for 6.9% of all international students tracked by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), has raised concerns about the effectiveness of Canada's compliance system for international students. In compliance reports submitted by Canadian institutions in March and April 2024, tens of thousands of students were found to have failed to adhere to the conditions of their study permits. An additional 23,514 students—3.3% of the total—had their statuses unreported.

Barack Obama's Birthday Post For The "Love Of His Life" Michelle

Agencies : Former US President Barack Obama took to social media X (formerly Twitter) to wish wife Michelle on her 61st birthday on Friday. In a love-filled post, Obama shared a picture with Michelle - the two of them holding hands while sitting across the table. He captioned it: "Happy birthday to the love of my life, Michelle Obama. You fill every room with warmth, wisdom, humor, and grace - and you look good doing it. I'm so lucky to be able to take on life's adventures with you. Love you!" Michelle was quick to respond with "Love you, honey!" coupled with two emojis - a heart and face blowing a kiss. His post comes amid rumours about their divorce on social media platforms.



Centre proposes meeting with protesting farmers on February 14 in Chandigarh

Agencies : The Centre has proposed a meeting with the protesting farmers on February 14 in Chandigarh to discuss their demands, a senior official of the Central Government said on Saturday. A delegation of Central Government officials led by Priya Ranjan, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, today met farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a fast unto death for the past 54 days at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana, and invited the fasting farmer leader for talks on February 14 at the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration in Chandigarh. "I hope Dallewal will break his fast and participate in talks," he said. Dallewal has been on a fast unto death since November 26 to press for the acceptance of farmers' demands. Following the announcement, farmer leaders appealed to fasting farmer leader Dallewal to take medical aid so that he can participate in the proposed meeting.



Farm unions' second round of talks ends in stalemate

Agencies : The second round of talks between farm union leaders, including Ekta Resolution leaders, Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), SKM (Non Political), and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) leaders, concluded without a resolution on January 18. The meeting, held at Patran, was part of an effort to forge unity among major farm unions and finalise a common minimum programme. The representatives of SKM (Non Political), led by Dallewal, did not participate in the first meeting on December 22. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Sarwan Singh Pandher, coordinator of the two forums, said, "We have taken a step towards minimum unity, and our objective is maximum unity with farmer unions." Pandher urged the panel members to prepare for the next meeting, considering the deteriorating health of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on a fast unto death for 54 days. The meeting lasted three hours, with prominent farmers' leaders such as Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, and Sarwan Singh Pandher in attendance. The discussions centered around critical demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, implementation of the Swaminathan.

Man steals Rs 2 lakh from pocket of victim hurt in road mishap in Amritsar

Agencies : A man stole Rs 2 lakh from pocket of a blanket trader after he was injured in a road mishap on the Albert road here last night. The incident was captured in the footage of the CCTV cameras of the hospital which later went viral on social media. The victim identified as Ravi Mahajan was returning home from his shop located in the Mahan Singh Gate area. The police have collected the CCTV footage and launched further probe to identify the suspect. The victim sustained serious head injury in the accident. His condition was stated to be serious. According to information, the victim was riding on his scooter on the Albert road when a car coming from behind hit his vehicle. He fell on the road and sustained serious head injury due to the impact of the collision. When people started gathering near accident spot the car driver fled. Onlookers got the trader admitted to a hospital. However, one of the onlookers found cash in pocket of the jacket which Ravi Mahajan was wearing. The onlooker took out cash from the victim's pocket and fled from the hospital. When the victim's family reached hospital they found the cash.

CHB to conduct fresh demand survey for Sector 53 scheme

Agencies : Reviving hopes of people to own a house in the City Beautiful, the UT Chief Secretary has asked the Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) to conduct a fresh demand survey for the Sector 53 housing scheme. At a meeting with UT Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma today, board officials made a presentation for the revival of the scheme. Verma, who is also the CHB chairman, asked the officials to conduct a fresh demand survey for the scheme. The board had conducted a similar survey in 2018. After carrying out the demand survey, a final presentation will be made before Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria. After more than eight years, the CHB is considering resuming the stalled scheme. In August 2023, former UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit had put on hold the Sector 53 General Housing Scheme, deeming it unnecessary. This led to the cancellation of Rs 200 crore tenders issued on August 2, 2023, for the construction of 340 flats in nine acres. Purohit had also advised against pursuing another housing scheme at the IT Park, which faced issues with environmental clearances. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had denied approval to the project in October 2022, citing its location within the eco-sensitive zone of the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary.



Leaked Haryana Government letter lists 370 'corrupt' patwaris, 170 touts

Agencies : A "secret" letter compiled by the Haryana Revenue and Disaster Management Department has come to the fore labelling 370 patwaris (revenue officials) as corrupt. The list also includes 170 private individuals who double up as middlemen-cum-assistants for these officials. A report has been sought from respective Deputy Commissioners within 15 days. The officials are accused of taking money from people directly or through middlemen in lieu of getting their works done in the Revenue Department. Kaithal district tops the list with 46 "corrupt" patwaris, while Panchkula district has none. Kaithal is followed by Sonapat (41) and Mahendragarh (36) districts. Gurugram district has the maximum number of middlemen (26), who allegedly take money on patwaris' behalf. Mahendragarh district has 20 such individuals. Interestingly, a middleman in Rohtak district has been charging people for revenue-related works posing as patwari. In the Bapoli block of Panipat, a middleman, Yusuf Khan, is already facing charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Another individual in Sirsa district has been doubling up as a driver and middleman of a patwari.

To maintain party's sanctity, Haryana BJP chief Badoli should resign: Anil Vij

Agencies : Haryana minister Anil Vij on Saturday said Mohan Lal Badoli, who was booked in a gang-rape case, should resign from the post of state BJP chief to maintain "sanctity" of the party till he is found innocent. Badoli and singer Rocky Mittal were booked after a woman alleged that she was raped by them in a hotel in Himachal Pradesh's Kasauli. Police have registered an FIR against them. Vij said Badoli has already claimed he is innocent. "I am confident that he will prove to be innocent in the Himachal Pradesh Police investigation. But until proven innocent, he should resign from this (Haryana BJP chief) post to maintain 'pavitrata' (sanctity) of the party," said Vij while speaking to reporters in Ambala. Vij, on January 15, had said the allegation of gang-rape against Badoli was "very serious" and the party high command would take a note of it. Badoli became the president of the Haryana BJP unit in July last year. According to the complainant, Badoli and Mittal made videos of the act.

Driver dies after losing control of garbage vehicle

Diary Times Desk : A driver, employed in the Municipal Corporation Shimla, has been killed after his garbage carrying vehicle plunged into a gorge near Shimla. The deceased has been identified as Vinod Kumar, a resident of Krishna nagar in Shimla. He was an employee of SHEB society since 2010. The accident took place today around 7:45 am when he was on his way to Bharyal village from Shimla after he lost control of the vehicle. The accident was noticed by locals who immediately informed the police. A police team reached the spot and recovered the body from the gorge. The body was then taken to Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) for postmortem. Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi confirmed the report and said further investigation is underway.

750-kW solar power project inaugurated in Dharamsala

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu arrived here for the nine-day winter sojourn in Kangra today afternoon. The CM is slated to stay in Kangra district till January 25. He was welcomed at Sport Authority of India (SAI) stadium where the helicopter of CM landed by Minister for PWD, Vikramaditya Singh, minister for Ayush and Sports Yadwinder Goma and chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation RS Bali. The CM today inaugurated the first 750-kilowatt solar power project at Dharamsala built at a cost of Rs. 4.74 crore. Spanning 8,500 square meters of land, this project will generate approximately 2,000 units of electricity daily, yielding a monthly income of Rs. 2.80 lakh. The construction work of the project was started in October 2023 and was completed in November 2024. The Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) has entered into an agreement to purchase electricity generated from this project. The project features 1,364 solar panels equipped with comprehensive safety measures, including lightning and fire protection as well as an earthing and bonding system to ensure electrical safety. The Chief Minister said the state government was promoting.

Himachal IGP Zaidi, 7 others convicted in Kotkhai custodial death case



Diary Times Desk : A Central Bureau of Investigation court here on Saturday convicted Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police Zahur Haider Zaidi and seven others for the custodial death of an accused in gangrape and murder of a minor school girl in Himachal Pradesh's Kotkhai in 2017. The other accused who have been convicted include the then DSP Manoj Joshi, SI Rajinder Singh, ASI Deep Chand Sharma, HHC Mohan Lal, HHC Surat Singh, HC Rafee Mohammad and constable Ranit Sateta. The court has acquitted former SP DW Negi. The court will pronounce the quantum of sentence on January 27. A 16-year-old girl had gone missing in Kotkhai on July 4, 2017 and her body was found from the forests two days later on July 6. The post-mortem report had confirmed rape and murder and a case was registered. Amid a huge public outcry in the state, a Special Investigating Team (SIT) headed by Zaidi was constituted by the then government.

Hotel associations meet CM Sukhu to address declining tourism in Dharamsala

Diary Times Desk : Hotel associations in Dharamsala met with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to express concerns over the decline in tourism in the region. The associations demanded improvements in connectivity and infrastructure to boost tourist footfall. Sanjeev Gandhi, general secretary of Hotel and Restaurant Association of Smart City Dharamsala, submitted a memorandum to the CM outlining ideas to enhance tourism. One proposal suggested developing a mall road and ridge in Mcleodganj, similar to Shimla's ridge. This can be achieved by building a concrete slab over the Himachal Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (HPRTC) bus stand, connecting it to the Mcleodganj-Naddi road. The slab would support a food street market, offering tourists a panoramic view of Dharamsala. The CM appreciated the idea and instructed officials to prepare a project report. Hotel and Restaurant Association of Kangra, led by president Ashwani Bamba, also presented a memorandum to the CM. Both the associations demanded early completion of various pending roads in the region. They demanded permanent solution to sinking portions of the Khara Danda road.

Health system collapsed under Sukhu govt: Jai Ram Thakur



Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday demanded a probe into the allegations levelled by a girl over non-availability of an injection under Himcare card. The girl alleged that her father died due to the non-availability of an injection at Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla. The injection was expensive and we couldn't buy it from the market, she added. "It's a very unfortunate incident. It raises several questions that this government needs to answer about health set up in the state," said Thakur. He further said that the entire health system had collapsed under the current government, with several essential drugs unavailable in hospitals. He urged Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to provide the budget to fix the ailing health system.

Sukhu opens, lays stones of projects worth Rs 19.55 crore in Dharamsala

Diary Times Desk : On the first day of winter sojourn in Kangra today, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated and laid foundation stones for five projects worth Rs 19.55 crore for the Dharamsala Assembly constituency. The Chief Minister inaugurated a 750 kW solar power plant on-grid built at a cost of Rs 4.74 crore in Kand Uparli, a new women's police station building constructed for Rs 4.83 crore, Zila Parishad building built with a cost of Rs 3.16 crore and a newly constructed hostel of the Regional Mountaineering Centre worth Rs 3.42 crore. He also laid the foundation stone for the Dhauladhar food street market, which will be built at a cost of Rs 3.40 crore. Interacting with media at Dharamsala, the Chief Minister said the development of Kangra district was a priority for the government and such visits to the region were essential to accelerate the pace of development. By visiting various areas, the government gains insights into people's problems and works towards finding their solutions. He said that during this visit, the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art milk processing unit worth approximately Rs 250 crore will be laid at Dhangwar, which will boost the rural economy. Strengthening the rural economy was the key focus of the state government and continuous steps were being taken in this direction.



"Slap On The Face...": Internet Divided Over Shubman Gill Vice-Captaincy For India's Champions Trophy Squad



Agencies : Team India's Champions Trophy 2025 squad was announced on Saturday, with captain Rohit Sharma and chief selector Ajit Agarkar addressing the media via a press conference. Shubman Gill being made vice-captain was one of the major talking points, while Jasprit Bumrah was provisionally included despite injury concerns. However, Vijay Hazare Trophy run machine Karun Nair was overlooked despite scoring 752 runs in seven innings. The selection decisions divided opinion on social media, with fans not hesitating to put forth their views on the 15-man side. Shubman Gill was confirmed as vice-captain for the Champions Trophy, continuing on in the role from India's previous ODI series, against Sri Lanka. "A slap on the face of haters and illogical audiences who were mixing formats," said a passionate fan, regarding Gill's appointment. Meanwhile, the decision to not include Karun Nair has not gone down well with several sections of the fanbase, who feel that the 33-year-old should've been rewarded for his purple patch. "Karun Nair deserves a spot. Don't agree with what Ajit said. Players score runs, they should get a chance," said another user.

Agarkar's Karun Nair decision torn to shreds by Kohli, Gambhir's ex-teammate in brutal rant: 'Going against own rule'

Agencies : Cricket fans and experts were left shocked on Saturday as exiled batter Karun Nair failed to find a spot in Team India's 2025 Champions Trophy and England ODI series squad. Nair has been in sizzling form in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, and is currently in action in the final against Karnataka. The veteran batter has surprised fans with his sudden surge in form in the domestic circuit, and he recently bagged four consecutive tons at the ongoing Vijay Hazare trophy. He is also the tournament's highest-run scorer this season, with 752 runs in eight matches, with an average of 75.2. Explaining his decision to not pick Nair in the squad, chief selector Ajit Agarkar said, "Averaging 750-plus is simply insane, but it's a squad of 15, so we can't fit everyone." Reacting to Nair's bizarre exclusion, former RCB and KKR player Shreevats Goswami mocked Agarkar and BCCI for the decision. Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, he wrote, "Karun nair not getting picked is like going against your own rule of making domestic cricket mandatory. Gutted for him!"

Noman, Sajid lead Pakistan's charge on 19-wicket day

Agencies : Noman Ali (5 for 39) and Sajid Khan (4 for 65) starred on a record 19-wicket Day 2 in the Multan Test that Pakistan finished with an eventual lead of 202 runs. After a lower-order collapse saw Pakistan fold for 230 despite a solid opening hour of the morning session, West Indies crumbled for just 137 in reply as the Pakistan spinners wreaked havoc. Shan Masood's fifty in the final session helped Pakistan take their lead past 200 with seven wickets still in hand. Pakistan's 230 came on the back of the 141-run stand between the overnight half-centurions Saud Shakeel (84) and Mohammad Rizwan (71), who managed to keep West Indies at bay for an hour after a 30-minute delayed start to the proceedings due to fog for a second successive day. West Indies' bowling attack too lacked the discipline and consistency early.

Dominant Karnataka clinch Vijay Hazare title

Agencies : Dhruv Shorey's sixth List A century went in vain as Karnataka ended Vidarbha's unbeaten run and secured a 36-run win in Vadodara, on Saturday, to clinch the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024-25. Led by Smaran Ravichandran's second List A ton, and quickfire half-centuries from K Shrijith (74-ball 78) and Abhinav Manohar ((42-ball 79), Karnataka posted a massive 348 for 6 after being put in to bat. Vidarbha made a steady start in the run-chase, but kept losing wickets at regular intervals and failed to keep up with the required rate. By the time Harsh Dubey could provide the late impetus, the required rate had slipped way past their reach. Karnataka struggled to get momentum early on in their innings, losing the in-form Devdutt Padikkal in the sixth over. Mayank Agarwal and Aneesh KV steadied the innings briefly, but departed in quick succession, reducing Karnataka to 67 for 3. However, Smaran and Shrijith ensured that the momentum was not handed over to Vidarbha. The duo combined to add 160 runs for the fourth wicket which provided the spine to Karnataka's innings. The duo remained busy in the middle, frequently rotating the strike over. However, they also didn't let go of the scoring opportunities, and were quick to dismiss the errors in lengths by the Vidarbha bowlers whenever the opportunity presented itself. Smaran was especially severe, smashing three sixes.

Rohit confirms availability for Mumbai's Ranji game

Agencies : Rohit Sharma has announced his participation in the upcoming Ranji Trophy match between Mumbai and Jammu & Kashmir. Once he features in the January 23-26 game at the Wankhede in Mumbai, he will have played Ranji Trophy cricket after nearly a decade. His last appearance in a Ranji match was at the same venue in November 2015, against Uttar Pradesh. The confirmation came during the announcement of the Champions Trophy squad in Mumbai on Saturday. When asked specifically about the possibility of his involvement in domestic cricket, Rohit replied, "Yes, I will play." Rohit was supposedly in a dilemma regarding whether playing a red ball Ranji game is the ideal preparation for the white ball Champions Trophy. But he added that adjustment is not a problem. "It's nothing new for me. I'm used to these kinds of changes because this is not happening for me now. It's been for such a long period of time because when you play all three forms, you have to adjust to all kinds of formats. Sometimes you prepare for a red ball (competition) and then suddenly there's a T20 format.

Sanju Samson 'is having his career destroyed by egos of cricket administrators': Shashi Tharoor

Agencies : Shashi Tharoor, the Congress Member of Parliament for Thiruvananthapuram, has slammed the Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) for Sanju Samson's exclusion from Team India's squad for the Champions Trophy 2025. Tharoor blamed KCA's decision to drop Samson for the Vijay Hazare Trophy as the reason behind the 30-year-old failing to find a place in the Rohit Sharma-led squad. Samson's last ODI for India was in December 2023 when he scored 108 against South Africa in Paarl. India hardly played any ODIs in 2024 but the right-handed batter has been in blistering form in T20Is, scoring three hundreds. Overall, he has 510 runs in 16 ODIs at an average of 56.66 for India but was reportedly dropped from the 50-over Vijay Hazare squad as he did not take part in the preparatory camp. Samson was part of Kerala's squad in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 but opted out of the preparatory camp for the domestic 50-over tournament. However, he told KCA that he would be available for the tournament, but the board decided to overlook him. KCA secretary Vinod S Kumar told Onmanorama that Samson wrote two emails to the board, stating his availability but he was not picked.

Rohit on BCCI making domestic cricket mandatory: 'You hardly have any time'

Agencies : India captain Rohit Sharma has said that it is important for players to have enough rest and stay fresh for international engagements, even as he agreed that the BCCI was right in making it mandatory for members of the national team to play domestic cricket. The guideline on domestic cricket participation was one of ten to emerge from the BCCI this week, after a review meeting - that Rohit was part of - to go over India's recent poor run in Test cricket. Rohit was also heard to say during a press interaction in Mumbai that his team-mates had expressed some concerns over some of the guidelines, including the restrictions on families travelling with the players. Rohit was speaking at a press conference where India's Champions Trophy squad was announced. But his comments about his team-mates' concerns, as well as wanting to discuss them with the BCCI secretary Devjit Saikia, were directed to Ajit Agarkar.