

## Himachal News: People will be able to cut these five species of trees in Himachal Pradesh, notification published in the gazette



**Diary Times Desk :** Now people will be allowed to cut trees of 5 species in Himachal Pradesh. After Safeda, Poplar and Bamboo, the state government has now also given permission to cut trees of Japanese Tut and Leucania species. The related notification was published in the gazette on Tuesday. The government has excluded these two species of trees from the banned list. Additional Chief Secretary Forest Kamlesh Kumar Pant has issued a notification regarding this. Two weeks ago, the government had allowed cutting of trees of three species for domestic and agricultural work within a year. Cutting of trees of other species has been completely banned. Preparations are also underway to exclude Kashmal from the banned list under the 10-year felling program, a separate notification will be issued regarding this. In case the process of marking and sending out trees under the 10-year felling program is not completed by January 31, 2025, it can be extended till February 15.

### Drinking Water Scheme: Himachal's first unmanned drinking water scheme will be built in Shillai of Sirmaur

**Diary Times Desk :** Jal Shakti Department has started a pilot project by combining cost reduction with technology. In this regard, remote area Shillai has been selected in the initial phase. Under which the first unmanned drinking water scheme of the state is being prepared here. Under this scheme, water storage and distribution work will be done without workers. In a press conference held in Nahar, Superintendent Engineer of Jal Shakti Department Sirmaur Rajiv Kumar Mahajan said that five schemes in district Sirmaur have been automated in the initial phase. In these schemes, the work of water lift etc. is being done on auto basis.

## Bangladesh to Pursue Hasina's Return, May Seek Global Support

**Agencies :** Bangladesh is mulling to garner international support in case India refuses to return former premier Sheikh Hasina to the country with its Law Advisor Asif Nazrul on Tuesday saying if India refuses to return her, it would constitute a violation of the extradition treaty between the neighbours. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several of her former ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide". "We have written a letter for extradition. If India does not extradite Sheikh Hasina, it will be a clear violation of the extradition treaty between India and Bangladesh," Nazrul said in Dhaka. He said the Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) would take "necessary steps to address the matter within the international community". He said Bangladesh is also making efforts and a red alert had been issued.



## Pralay: India's newest 'quasi-ballistic' missile set to make Republic Day debut

**Agencies :** Pralay, India's newest indigenously developed land-attack missile, is set to make its public debut at Republic Day Parade in New Delhi. This short-range ballistic missile boasts a range of 500 km and can carry a payload of up to 1,000 kg, making it a formidable force on the battlefield. Its range puts it between Prithvi, India's first ballistic missile inducted over 30 years ago whose variants have a reach of 150-350 km, and the Agni series of intermediate range and intercontinental ballistic missiles that are capable of hitting targets from 700 to 8,000 km. Mounted on the 8x8 transporter-erector-launcher vehicle, making it road-mobile, the missile is designed to target airfields, command and control centres, troop concentrations and radar and air defence installations and communication centres. It is roughly of the same size and weight as that of Prithvi, but a considerably longer range, giving the armed forces the flexibility to strike strategic targets.

## 1984 riots: Delhi court defers verdict in murder case against Sajjan

**Agencies :** A Delhi court on Tuesday deferred to January 31 its verdict in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case related to murder of two persons in Saraswati Vihar area against former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar after the prosecution sought time to further argue on certain points raised by the defence counsel on January 8. Special judge Kaveri Baweja, who was scheduled to pronounce the order on Tuesday, deferred the pronouncement to January 31 following an application filed by the public prosecutor seeking to argue on certain points "essential for just adjudication of the case".

## Saif Ali Khan discharged from Mumbai hospital 5 days after knife attack

**Agencies :** Actor Saif Ali Khan was discharged from Lilavati Hospital here on Tuesday, five days after he was repeatedly stabbed by an intruder at his house in upscale Bandra. The 54-year-old actor, who suffered multiple stab injuries in the attack in the early hours of January 16 underwent emergency surgery at the hospital. Doctors had earlier said that Khan had three injuries, two on the hand and one on the right side of the neck, and the major part was at the back, which was in the spine. Doctors removed the sharp object that was lodged in the spine and repaired the injury. Khan recovered well and was shifted from the intensive care unit (ICU) on January 17 to a special room. Police on Sunday arrested Bangladeshi national Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir (30) from neighbouring Thane city.

## HP Air Quality Index: Breathing in trouble in Himachal's Baddi, AQI reached between 300-400

**Diary Times Desk :** The air quality of Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, Asia's largest pharma hub, is continuously deteriorating. In January, the Air Quality Index (AQI) here remained in the Very Poor zone except for one day. The Pollution Control Board released the AQI. According to this, the air here remained in the satisfactory zone on January 13. The rest of the days the AQI level remained between 300 and 400. This has happened for the first time that the air quality here has gone into the Very Poor zone. Due to this, people are also falling ill. People are also facing problems of sore throat, cough and fever. According to the Pollution Control Board, the AQI of Baddi remained between 301-400 on January 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11. Whereas it remained in the Poor zone on January 5, 6, 7, 8, 14 and 16. The air remained in the Moderate zone on January 1, 2, 12, 15 and 17. The air is not bad in the adjoining Nalagarh and Barotiwala. The air quality index remained in the satisfactory zone all the days in Nalagarh.



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## Himachal: Actor Dharmendra gazed at Gobind Sagar lake with Sunny Deol, the atmosphere here is attracting the stars

**Diary Times Desk :** Famous Bollywood actor Dharmendra along with his wife Prakash Kaur, son Sunny Deol and other family members stayed at a private hotel in Rishikesh of Gram Panchayat Damli on the banks of Gobind Sagar Lake on Monday night. Hotel manager Pawan Kumar informed that Sunny Deol had also stayed at the same hotel last month. The manager said that after the construction of Kiratpur-Nerchowk four-lane from the banks of Gobind Sagar Lake, the beautiful view of the lake and the picturesque atmosphere of the night are attracting Bollywood stars immensely. The actor's family admired the beauty of the lake and appreciated it. Said that since the start of cruise, boat service near the lake, tourism is expanding rapidly in this area. Tourists are now enjoying the amazing view of the lake as well as cruise boat rides. Rishikesh, located on the banks of the lake, is now becoming famous not only for its natural beauty, but the cruise ride here is also attracting tourists. This area is seeing immense possibilities in terms of tourism in the coming times. With the expansion of cruise boat services.



## Attacker stabbed Saif in back to free himself from actor's hold: Cops

**Agencies :** The Bangladeshi national arrested for the knife attack on Saif Ali Khan has told the police that he stabbed the actor in his back multiple times to free himself from his tight grip, an official said on Tuesday. After the attack, the intruder escaped from Khan's flat, located in upscale Bandra here, and hid in the garden of the building for around two hours, he said. Police on Sunday arrested the accused, Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir (30) alias Vijay Das, from neighbouring Thane city for stabbing the 54-year-old Bollywood star in the early hours of January 16. Khan suffered multiple stab injuries in the attack and underwent an emergency surgery at the Lilavati Hospital. Doctors also removed a sharp object that was lodged in the actor's spine. "The accused entered the actor's flat in the Satguru Sharan building from the bathroom window with the intention of theft.

## HP Board Dharamshala: In class 10th and 12th you will have to give marks even if half the answer of the question is correct

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh School Education Board will conduct the board examinations for class 10th and 12th in March. The pattern of question papers has been changed by the board. Under the changed pattern, teachers will now have to give marks even if the answer to half of the question given by the candidate is correct. 60 percent step wise questions are also being included by the board for class 10th and 12th. Earlier, during the evaluation of answer sheets by the teacher, marks were not given if half the answer was correct, but now teachers will have to give marks even for half the correct answer of the candidate. Along with this, preparations are going on in full swing for the examinations of class 10th and 12th academic session 2024-25 to be held in March by the board. Question papers are being prepared and soon the examination centers will also be determined. This time 20 percent multiple choice i.e. MCQ questions will be asked in the question papers by the board. Special space will be provided on the first page of the answer sheets to answer the multiple choice questions. Answers to the questions will have to be given on the OMR sheet. As per the changes made by the board on the OMR sheet, the answers to the multiple choice.

## MHA warns NGOs of penal action if foreign funding taken without FCRA registration

**Agencies :** The home ministry on Tuesday warned NGOs of penal action if they have been receiving and utilising foreign funds without FCRA registration or even after expiry of registration. In a notification, the ministry said all NGOs receiving foreign funds had to be mandatorily registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 (FCRA) and they had to utilise such funds only for the purposes they had been received. Besides, those who get the FCRA registration certificate must renew it within six months before the expiry of the period of the registration and if not done, their registration ceases to exist and they can't receive or utilise foreign contribution. "However, instances have come to notice to this ministry where credit or debit of the FC (Foreign Contribution) has been noticed into the accounts of the NGOs/associations who have not been granted registration/prior permission/renewal under the FCRA 2010 or such NGOs/associations whose registration has ceased on expiry of validity period or whose registration has been cancelled.

## CM Sukhu: CM Sukhu said- ACR of teachers will be as per their performance, process will be implemented in all departments

**Diary Times Desk :** The ACR of teachers serving in the education department of Himachal will be written according to their performance. The same process is being applied to all departments. The norms of ACR of officers are being changed so that the quality improves. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said this while addressing a public meeting in Matour of Kangra assembly constituency on Tuesday. The Chief Minister said that the state-of-the-art machines available in Delhi AIIMS will now be available in the medical colleges of Himachal. The government has sanctioned Rs 100 crore to buy state-of-the-art machines in Tanda, IGMC, Hamirpur and Nerchowk medical colleges. Apart from this, instructions have been given to use UV filter technology to improve the quality of water. He said that due to the policies of the previous BJP government, the number of children studying in government schools has decreased. The opposition is trying to mislead the people of the state by making false allegations. Sukhu said that we have not stopped anything, but do not want to deceive the public. Therefore, the present government is improving the field of education in accordance with the challenges of the future. There will be only one directorate of the education department from pre-primary to secondary. He said that Kangra is not new for me. Targeting BJP MLA Pawan Kajal without taking his name, the Chief Minister said that Kangra supported the Congress. But, after being elected, he kept changing parties. You can rest assured, I will spend one night in one of your villages. The picture of Kangra district is going to change in the next five years. This means that money will reach the hands of the village people. The people of the state will get good water, health facilities and other better facilities.

## Adani's younger son to wed on February 7 in simple ceremony, no celebrity stars invited

**Agencies :** Billionaire Gautam Adani's younger son Jeet will wed next month in a simple and traditional ceremony, without any pomp and show and celebrity stars. Adani, on Maha Kumbh pilgrimage with his family, scorched speculations of a star-studded wedding of his son Jeet with Diva Shah, daughter of Surat diamond merchant Jaimin Shah. "It will be a very simple, traditional marriage... just like common people," he told reporters here. Ahead of the marriage, it was being speculated that the wedding will be another extravagant spectacle after rival billionaire Mukesh Ambani's youngest son Anant's. Responding to a question if the wedding were going to be a "Maha Kumbh of celebrities", the billionaire said, "Definitely not!" In recent days, social media has been abuzz with speculations that the guest list at the wedding could include likes of Elon Musk to Bill Gates, with Taylor Swift performing. Jeet, 28, got engaged to Diva in March 2023 in a private ceremony in Ahmedabad. The wedding is also to take place in Ahmedabad. It was being speculated on social media that the India-England one-day international cricket match.



## Himachal News: Leopard took away a 5-year-old girl from outside the house, incident took place in Chaupal, Shimla; people made this demand

**Diary Times Desk :** A leopard attacked a five-year-old innocent girl in the Chanjal Pul area of Chaupal subdivision of Shimla district. As soon as the girl came out of the house at around 7 pm on Monday evening, the leopard sitting in ambush picked up the girl. Hearing the sound, the girl's mother started screaming. After this, the leopard left the girl some distance away from the house and ran away. The girl's back and shoulder have been badly injured due to the leopard attack. The family took the girl to Nerwa Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment. People of the area are in panic due to the leopard attack. After this attack, the forest department has sent a team to the spot to catch the leopard. DFO Jangveer Dulta has appealed to the people not to go out at night and to be cautious. The police have also registered a case in this matter. Prakash, a Nepali native, works in the garden with gardener Jagdish Thakur along with his wife and daughter Anusha. It is being told that as soon as the girl came out of her tent in the evening, the leopard attacked her. Due to the mother's presence of mind, a major accident was averted and on hearing her scream, the leopard left the girl there and ran away from the spot.



## Himachal Weather: Chances of rain and snowfall in many parts of Himachal for two days, fog alert in plain districts

**Diary Times Desk :** There are chances of rain and snowfall in many parts of Himachal Pradesh for two days. Even today, the capital Shimla and other parts are cloudy. There is a possibility of light rain and snowfall at one or two places in the high mountains. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, light to moderate rain and snowfall is forecast at many places in the state on 22 and 23 January. The weather is expected to remain clear in the entire state from 25 to 27 January. On the other hand, there is a possibility of cold day conditions at some places on 23 January. Whereas on 24 and 25 January, there is an alert of dense fog at different places in the lower hilly-plain areas during the morning and late night. According to the department, there is no possibility of any major change in the maximum temperature during the next two days. After this, there is a possibility of a significant drop of 4-5 degrees Celsius in the maximum temperature during the next two days. There will be no major change in the minimum temperature during the next 24 hours. After that, the minimum temperature is likely to gradually fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius in many parts of the state.

## Himachal : Recruitment rally in Hamirpur, two twins and two other real brothers passed the ground test together

**Diary Times Desk :** On the fifth day of the recruitment rally, two twin brothers Karnveer Singh and Taranveer Singh of village Basali of Tehsil Haroli of District Una passed the 1600 meter race and other ground tests. He said that both the brothers prepared for the recruitment together and passed the race and other tests together in the ground. They started preparing for recruitment along with studying pharmacy in a private college. They got the inspiration to join the Indian Army on the dream of their father and mother. Grandfather was a former soldier in the Indian Army, with whose help they have crossed this important stage of recruitment. Along with this, two real brothers Sandeep Kumar and Vipin Kumar of village Tanda Jhikla of Tehsil Bangana of District Una also qualified for medical examination by clearing all the ground tests. He said that they prepared for the ground test at Indira Stadium.

## Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said- It is not a good thing to raise questions on the counting of people in Maha Kumbh

**Diary Times Desk :** Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said in Dharamshala that raising questions on the counting of people in Maha Kumbh is not a good thing. A grand event is being organized in Maha Kumbh and crores of people from India and abroad are reaching there. In Prayagraj, people are being counted on the basis of eye pupils with India's modern technology cameras. But some people are calling India's technology fake and praising China's technology. Some people in this country are also questioning the bravery of our soldiers. Such people have developed a habit of asking for proof, which is not good. Those who are raising questions on the figures of Maha Kumbh should go there and see for themselves whether the counting is correct or wrong. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself went there and started the Maha Kumbh with Puja. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is going there and making arrangements. I think that after Kumbh, there will be more good discussion about it. In response to the question of journalists, he said that Raj Bhavan does every work on the basis of rules.

## Two and a half crore bribe case: CBI DSP arrested for demanding 10 percent from ED assistant director

**Diary Times Desk :** In the Rs 2.5 crore bribe case of Shimla ED Assistant Director Vishaldeep, CBI DSP Balbir Singh has also been arrested by the CBI investigation team. CBI presented the accused DSP of its own department in the court where his one-day remand was approved. The ED Assistant Director had accused the DSP of demanding 10 percent commission from the bribe money. Vishaldeep had sent a written complaint in this regard to the CBI Director and others. After which this action has been taken now. It is worth noting that in a money laundering case, FIR number 33 and 34 has been registered against Shimla ED Assistant Director Vishaldeep by Chandigarh CBI in the case of demanding a bribe of Rs 2.5 crore from the educational institution operators of Himachal. In this case, his brothers Vikasdeep and Neeraj have also been arrested from whom.

## Himachal's snow skating team left for Leh for Khelo India Games

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh's speed snow skating team will also participate in the Winter Khelo India Games starting from January 23 in Leh, Jammu and Kashmir. The team has left for the competition. Apart from 12 players from Shimla district, it also includes 10 participants from other districts. Team manager Romit Verma said that participants from 18 states of the country will participate in the competition starting from January 23. Vikhyat Kanwar, Sneha, Ipsita Rana, Saleesh Rana, Shubham Thakur, Ranjay Jinath, Saransh Verma, Samarth Atri, Raghav Sharma, Animesh Sharma, Mansi Sharma and Ashutosh Jasta will represent the state. For the first time in history, such a large group of players from Shimla has come forward to seek their future in skating. A four-day camp was organized for the selection of players in Chiyog, Theog. Indian Ice Skating Association President Amitabh Sharma has personally visited the area several times to encourage youth in skating. 50 youth from tribal area Lahaul will learn the nuances of ice hockey. For this, the Ice Hockey Association Lahaul-Spiti has taken a positive initiative to organize a training camp in collaboration with the local youth.

## HPU Shimla: Relief to thousands of B.Ed trainees, they will be able to give exam in their campus

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh University will provide the facility of giving exams in their own campus to the trainees taking B.Ed training from its affiliated private and government B.Ed institutes. This new system will be started in the B.Ed exams starting from February. Private B.Ed colleges will have to apply by 27 January with a fee of 50 thousand to make an exam center in their campus. This new system of the university will provide relief to about 16 thousand old and new trainees taking training from these 57 colleges. For a long time, private colleges and the trainees studying in them were demanding to make the exam center in their own campus. The trainees said that they pay such a huge fee, yet they have to go to other colleges to give their exams. This causes them trouble. The university has found a permanent.

## PM Modi likely to visit Mahakumbh on February 5

**Agencies :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the ongoing Mahakumbh Mela 2025 at Prayagraj on February 5, news agency ANI reported citing sources. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is Also scheduled to attend the Maha Kumbh mela on January 27 and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is expected to Visit on February 1 February 1. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath earlier said President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are also likely to attend the Maha Kumbh Mela. On January 27, Home Minister Amit Shah will participate in the Maha Kumbh, according to his schedule, where he will be taking a holy dip at the Sangam, performing Ganga Puja, and holding meetings with officials. Meanwhile, with the second 'Amrit Snan' of the Maha Kumbh on Mauni Amavasya next week expected to draw around 10 crore pilgrims, the 13 akharas participating in it have been asked to stick to their allotted bathing time in the Triveni Sangam. The Mauni Amavasya bathing ritual on January 29 is being considered special due to the belief that the auspicious planetary combinations on the day are occurring after 144 years.

## "No Rapes In BJP Tenure?" Siddaramaiah On Alleged Bengaluru Gang Rape



**Agencies :** Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah - under fire from the opposition BJP over the alleged rape of a woman in Bengaluru last week - hit back with an ill-advised attempt at deflection, asking if no sexual assault cases had been reported when the saffron party was in power. He was responding to the BJP demanding his Home Minister, G Parameshwara, resign over this and other incidents of sexual assault and crimes against women, including the horrific murder, also last week, of a six-year-old girl in the state capital's Hoysala Nagar neighbourhood. "Were there no rapes in BJP's tenure? Rape shouldn't happen, yes. Women should be protected, yes, But in society there are always bad elements... we will act strongly against them," he said.

## Maoist With 1 Crore Bounty Among 20 Killed, Amit Shah Says "Major Success"



**Agencies :** A Maoist carrying a Rs 1 crore bounty was among 20 killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district last night with Union Home Minister Amit Shah calling the operation a "major success". Jayaram Reddy, a senior Maoist leader also known as Chalapati, was killed in the exchange of fire that took place in a forest along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. A joint team of security personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), CoBRA from Chhattisgarh and Special Operation Group (SOG) from Odisha were involved in the operation. The operation was launched based on intelligence about the presence of Maoists in the Kularighat reserve forest of Chhattisgarh, just five kilometres from the border of Odisha's Nuapada district. A large cache of firearms, ammunition and IEDs, including a self-loading rifle, were recovered from the encounter site, an official said. A massive search operation is underway in the area.

## Freebies For Students In BJP's Delhi Poll Manifesto Part 2, AAP Hits Back

**Agencies :** The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday released the second part of its 'sankalp patra', or manifesto, for the February 5 Delhi election, vowing to "ensure solutions to citizens' problems" and declaring it would form a team to investigate "misgovernance and corruption" by the Aam Aadmi Party. The party also declared another round of freebies, including free education - from pre-school to post-graduate degrees - for "needy students" at Delhi government institutions, and cash aid of Rs 15,000, plus travel reimbursements, for young men and women appearing for entrance tests.

## "Want High-End, High-Value Jobs": Tamil Nadu Industries Minister At Davos

**Agencies :** Tamil Nadu is keen on securing investment to create high-end, high-value jobs to boost its economy, but any jobs and money coming into the state is a win for the Indian economy also, Industries Minister, TRB Rajaa, told NDTV at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland's Davos. In a strong pitch to foreign investors, he underlined Tamil Nadu's position as India's "manufacturing capital" and held it up as an investment destination aligned with best global practices. Tamil culture, characterised by resilience.

## New US Secretary Of State Marco Rubio's 1st Bilateral To Be With S Jaishankar

**Agencies :** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will hold his first bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Washington later Tuesday. S Jaishankar is here at the invitation of the US Government to attend the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th president of the United States. Trump on Monday took oath as the president of the US. "Secretary Rubio meets with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar at the Department of State," the State Department said, releasing the schedule of the new Secretary of State.

## "I Have Done It For 40 Years": Narayana Murthy's Latest On Long Work Hours

**Agencies :** Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, whose call for a 70-hour work week had sparked a massive row, has now said no one should impose long work hours on another person and stressed that these are issues not for debate, but for introspection. "I can say that I used to get to the office at 6.20 am and I used to leave at 8.30 pm. That's a fact, I have done it. Nobody can say no, that's wrong. I have done it for 40-odd years. I think these are not issues that should be discussed and debated. These are issues that one can introspect on, one can ingest and one can come to some conclusion and do whatever they want. That's all to it. There's nobody who can say, you should do it, you should not do it, no," Mr Murthy said at the Kilachand Memorial Lecture in Mumbai yesterday. The 78-year-old former tech boss had earlier said India's young workforce has to embrace hard work if they want the country to realise its full potential on the global stage.



## Vladimir Putin 'Destroying' Russia By Refusing Ukraine Deal: Donald Trump

**Agencies :** US President Donald Trump said Monday that Vladimir Putin was "destroying Russia" by not making a deal to end the war with Ukraine. "He should make a deal. I think he's destroying Russia by not making a deal," Trump told reporters on his return to the Oval Office. "I think Russia's going to be in big trouble." The comments mark an unusually critical stance by Trump on Putin, for whom he has voiced admiration in the past. Trump also said he was preparing to meet Putin. A summit between the two in his first term gained notoriety after the US president appeared to accept the Russian leader's word over that of US intelligence. "I got along with him great, I would hope he wants to make a deal," Trump said. "He can't be thrilled he's not doing so well. I mean, he's grinding it out, but most people thought that war would have been over in about one week, and now you're into three years, right?" Trump said. He said the Russian economy was being hit hard, including by inflation. Trump also said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had told him that he wanted a peace agreement to end the war, which started when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

## Trump Fires 4 Officials On 1st Day As President, Warns 'Thousand More'

**Agencies :** US President Donald Trump fired four senior government officials appointed by his predecessor early Tuesday and warned "over a thousand more" faced imminent dismissal in a first post on Truth Social since his inauguration. "My Presidential Personnel Office is actively in the process of identifying and removing over a thousand Presidential Appointees from the previous Administration, who are not aligned with our vision to Make America Great Again," Trump said on the platform. He named four individuals -- Jose Andres from the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition, Mark Milley from the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, Brian Hook from the Wilson Center for Scholars, and Keisha Lance Bottoms from the President's Export Council -- as being immediately dismissed.

## Elon Musk's Hand Gesture Sparks Row, He Calls It "Everyone Is Hitler" Attack

**Agencies :** A video showing US tech billionaire Elon Musk's one-armed gesture during a speech at a Donald Trump rally on Monday has gone viral, with internet users comparing it to a Nazi salute. "This was no ordinary victory. This was a fork in the road of human civilization," Musk, a close ally of Trump, said. "This one really mattered. Thank you for making it happen! Thank you," he said as he thumped his right hand over his heart and extended the arm out at an upward angle with his palm down and fingers together. He then made the same gesture to the crowd behind him. "My heart goes out to you. It is thanks to you that the future of civilization is assured," Musk said after the gesture. Claire Aubin, a historian who specializes in Nazism within the US, also said Musk's gesture was a "sieg heil," or Nazi salute. "My professional opinion is that you're all right, you should believe your eyes," she posted on X, aligning with those who found the gesture was an overt reference to Nazis.



## How Trump's Day 1 Order To End Birthright Citizenship Will Impact Indians



**Agencies :** Donald Trump's first day as the 47th President of the United States was marked by a significant move to reshape the country's immigration landscape. He signed an executive order that targets multiple immigration laws, including the long-standing principle of birthright citizenship. This move has sparked intense debate and is expected to face formidable legal challenges. At the heart of the controversy is the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, which grants citizenship to all individuals born in the United States. The 14th Amendment states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside." However, Trump's executive order seeks to reinterpret this amendment, asserting that children born to undocumented parents are not entitled to automatic citizenship. This drastic shift in policy is expected to impact millions of Indian-Americans residing in the US, many of whom have been awaiting green cards for years or even decades.

## India needs more oil, may scale up energy purchases from US: Puri

**Agencies :** India would welcome more oil and gas coming into the market, Union minister for petroleum and natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday, naming the US under president Donald Trump as a likely source of increased fuel supplies. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, the minister said he does not "disagree" that oil prices could come down with oversupply. "It is clear, as I have shared with you many times, that more and more energy is coming in the market. If you look at the global energy scene here is no shortage of oil. I had shared with you that after I came back from Gastech 2024 in Houston, at that point of time a former president of the US had said that they will put more energy on the market.

## India Set to Take Back 18,000 Citizens From US to Placate Trump

**Agencies :** India's government is prepared to work with Donald Trump's administration to identify and take back all its citizens residing illegally in the US, an early signal from New Delhi that it's willing to comply with the incoming American president and avoid a trade war. The two countries have together identified some 18,000 illegal Indian migrants in the US to be sent back home, according to people familiar with the matter. The figure could be much higher than that, though, given it's unclear how many illegal Indian migrants live in the US, the people added, asking not to be identified because the discussions are private. Like several other nations, India is working behind the scenes to appease the Trump administration and avoid the brunt of its trade threats. The crackdown on illegal migration has been a signature campaign pledge for Trump. Within hours of his inauguration Monday, the new president moved to fulfill that pledge as he pushed to end birthright citizenship and mobilize troops on the US-Mexico border.

## Donald Trump threatens 100% tariffs against India, other BRICS nations but...

**Agencies :** US President Donald Trump repeated his tariff warning to BRICS nations, which includes India, after taking office on January 20, saying the member-countries will face 100 percent tariffs if they continue their de-dollarisation efforts. "As a BRICS nation... they'll have a 100 per cent tariff if they so much as even think about doing what they thought, and therefore they'll give it up immediately," Trump was quoted as saying by ANI, referring to the effort to reduce the use of the dollar in global trade. The comments during a press meet at the Oval Office after Trump was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States. BRICS, formed in 2009, is the only major international group of which the United States is not a part. Its members include India, Russia, China, Brazil, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. Over the past few years, some of the member countries, Russia and China in particular, are seeking an alternative to the dollar or create own BRICS currency. India has, so far, not been part of the move. "If the BRICS nations want to do that, that's OK, but we're going to put at least a 100 percent tariff on the business they do with the United States... It's not even a threat. In fact, since I made that statement, Biden said.

## SAD launches month-long drive to enrol 50L members

**Agencies :** The Shiromani Akali Dal on Monday launched its month-long membership drive from the Lambi Assembly constituency once held by the late former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, defying the Akal Takht that had formed a seven-member panel for it. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Parliamentary Board – the highest decision-making body of the party – also approved the appointment of Gulzar Singh Ranike to oversee the drive, a prelude to the organisational polls to be held on March 1. The SAD board also stamped Ranike's installation as the Chief Election Officer for the polls. "Ranike will oversee the entire process in consultation with the party observers," said SAD working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder without referring to the panel formed by the Akal Takht – the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs. Meanwhile, rebel Akali leader Gurpartap Singh Wadala termed the membership drive "ethically and morally incorrect". He told reporters in Amritsar that the party "overlooked the sanctity of the Akal Takht-constituted committee". Wadala also met Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee chief Harjinder Singh Dhami.



## Khaps back farmers' protest, call for tractor march on January 26

**Agencies :** In a show of solidarity with farmers, several khap panchayats in Haryana have pledged support to the ongoing protests against the Centre's agricultural policies. During a coordination committee meeting at the Jat Dharamshala in Hisar, prominent khap representatives announced their participation in the nationwide tractor march planned for January 26. Leaders representing major khaps, including Ramphal Rathi (Maham Chaubisi Khap), Jaipal Dahiya (Dahiya Khap), Balwan Malik (Saatbaas), Harikesh (Khatkar Khap), Virender Bamal (Satrol Khap), Suresh Phogat (Phogat Khap), Om Prakash Hooda (Hooda Khap) and Billu Pradhan (Kadian Khap), were present at the meeting. "We have decided to fully support the farmers' agitation and will ensure maximum participation in the tractor march on January 26," said Satish Singh, chairperson of the coordination committee. The leaders demanded immediate action from the Central government. "If the demands are not met by February 14, we will launch a stronger farmers' movement. The government will be responsible for the consequences," warned the khap leaders, assuring farmers of their backing with manpower and resources.

## CM Saini pledges inclusive development; announces major projects for Naraingarh

**Agencies :** Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring equitable development across Haryana while addressing a public meeting in Naraingarh today. "The government is ensuring all-round development of the state with the spirit of Haryana Ek-Haryanvi Ek," he said, highlighting that Rs 770 crore has been spent on development projects in Naraingarh over the past decade, including road infrastructure, educational institutions, sports facilities, a civil hospital upgrade and power substations. Expressing concerns about the challenges faced by sugarcane farmers, the CM said, "The government is actively working to resolve the issue. A committee under the Chief Secretary is exploring solutions, including converting the existing mill into a cooperative sugar mill or setting up an alternative cooperative mill. A decision will be implemented soon to ease farmers' difficulties." The existing private sugar mill has been under state government supervision.

## UT likely to release fresh mayoral poll schedule today

**Agencies :** In a dramatic turn of events ahead of the mayoral elections, the Administration will issue a fresh poll notification after the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the UT to hold elections after January 29, when the tenure of incumbent Mayor Kuldeep Kumar ends. According to the notification issued by the UT Administration on January 7, today was the last day to file nomination papers for the posts of Mayor, Senior Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The voting was to be held on January 24. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) moved the High Court against the notification claiming that the tenure of incumbent Mayor Kuldeep Kumar will end on February 19, and also pleaded for holding the elections by "show of hands", instead of the secret ballot. Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said after the court's order, a fresh notification for the mayoral elections will possibly be issued tomorrow. It would initiate a fresh round of the election process and all parties would be required to file fresh nominations, he added. Despite uncertainty over the pending court order, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress candidates filed their nomination papers. The BJP fielded Harpreet Kaur Babla for the post of Mayor.

## Former Punjab kabaddi player held for running immigration racket

**Agencies :** A 42-year-old former national kabaddi player has been arrested by the IGI Airport police for allegedly orchestrating an illegal immigration racket, an official said on Tuesday. Mandeep Singh, a resident of Talwandi Chaudhrian village in Punjab's Kapurthala, was facilitating unauthorised journeys to the United States through fraudulent means, said the officer. "The case came to light when Maninder Pal Singh, a 20-year-old deportee from Jalandhar, was apprehended at IGI Airport on December 14 for tampering with his passport. Initial scrutiny revealed missing pages containing fake visas and immigration stamps, pointing to a scam," said the officer. Maninder said Mandeep had assured him of reaching the United States through illegal routes for a sum of Rs 41 lakh. The journey, arranged via Kazakhstan, Dubai, Senegal, Libya, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, involved forged documents to cover up illegal stays. Following Mandeep's instructions, Maninder removed the tampered passport pages, but US authorities detected the fraud, leading to his deportation. Police said Mandeep had been running the racket under the guise of an IELTS coaching centre in Kapurthala. Despite his position as a physical training teacher in a government.

## After gangrape charges, Haryana BJP chief Badoli may not get his 'imminent' second term

**Agencies :** Politics, especially in a small but politically significant state like Haryana that shares its border with Delhi, can be uncertain. Until January 14, Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli was anxiously awaiting his imminent anointment as the state president again. However, with allegations of gangrape by a New Delhi-based woman surfacing against him and singer Rocky Mittal, his reappointment may run into rough weather, forcing the saffron party to look for a replacement. For Brahmin leader Badoli, who along with party's OBC face and CM Nayab Singh Saini is credited with the BJP's hat-trick in Haryana – a first in the state's electoral history – the allegations, which he has termed "baseless", are a bolt from the blue. The incident is also a huge embarrassment for the BJP ahead of the Haryana municipal poll and the crucial Assembly elections in Delhi where the party is desperate to end the 10-year Aam Aadmi Party rule.



## Light rain, snowfall likely from today

**Diary Times Desk :** There is a possibility of light snowfall and a few spells of moderate rain over many places in the mid and high hills in the state on January 22-23. Tomorrow, there could be light snowfall at isolated places in high hills. As per the weather department, a few spells of light rainfall/snowfall, with one or two moderate spells, are likely at the tourist destinations like Naldehra, Manali and Shimla. A few spells of light snowfall along with one with one or two moderate spells in Kufri, Narkanda, Solang Valley and Sissu are also likely over the next couple of days. Light rainfall is likely in some parts of low hills/plain areas of the state. Even as the state has seen quite a few spells of rain and snowfall since December, the spells have been mostly light, except for in higher reaches. Currently, the state is minus 72 per cent rain deficient this month. As against the normal precipitation of 47.4 mm up to January 20, the state has received just 13.3 mm precipitation. A heavier spell of precipitation this time will help reduce rain deficiency to a large extent.

## CM dedicates development projects worth Rs 206 crore in Kullu

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today dedicated development projects worth Rs 206.08 crore to people of Kullu district during the National Level Winter Carnival in Manali. He inaugurated eight projects amounting to Rs 59.21 crore and laid the foundation stone for 13 projects valued at Rs 147.59 crore. These initiatives include restoration and reconstruction work following the damage caused by severe floods in the Beas river last year. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase III, the Chief Minister inaugurated road upgrade projects, including Manali-Burwa road at a cost of Rs 7.34 crore, Chhaki to Hallan road worth Rs 7.70 crore, Patlikuhal to Hallan-2 road worth Rs 9.24 crore and Fozal to Neri road for Rs 6.69 crore. He inaugurated a double-lane bridge at Solang Nala, built at a cost of Rs 3.71 crore and an inter-state bus station at Patlikuhal constructed with an out lay of Rs. 7.69 crore.

## Tenders for 40-km Parwanoo-Shimla ropeway project to be invited soon



**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Government will soon invite tenders for the country's longest Rs 5,602 crore ropeway between Parwanoo and Shimla aimed at reducing travel time and traffic congestion on this stretch which witnesses heavy vehicular movement. With the detailed project report (DPR) of the project being submitted by the Tata Consultancy, it is by the end of this month that global bids will be invited for the ambitious project. The 40-km ropeway, which will have 11 stations with a two hour travel time will emerge as a major tourist attraction. "The ropeway will be set up under public-private partnership (PPP) mode and the target for completion is 2030," said Ajay Sharma, Director, Ropeways Transport Development Corporation (RTDC). He said once commissioned the ropeway will ferry 25 lakh passengers to and fro annually. The ropeway will have 11 stations at Tara Devi (Goyal Motors), Tara Devi temple, Shighi, Wagnaghat, Wagnaghat IT City, Karol Ka Tibba, Solan, Barog, Dagghai Cantonment, Jabali and Parwanoo.

## Cultural procession taken out with fanfare as Winter Carnival kicks off

**Diary Times Desk :** The five-day national-level Winter Carnival at Manali officially began today with a cultural procession flagged off by Manali MLA Bhuvaneshwar Gaur. The event witnessed participation from over 260 mahila mandals, who marched in traditional Kulluvi attire. A series of tableaux representing various states also featured in the procession, adding to the festive atmosphere. The cultural procession, however, was delayed due to adverse weather conditions that prevented Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu from arriving on time. However, the Chief Minister arrived in Manali by evening to inaugurate the cultural event at Manurangshala, where various cultural activities were already underway. The morning procession commenced with MLA Bhuvaneshwar Gaur at the helm. Lahaul and Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana was also present on the occasion. Earlier in the day, Gaur took part in a ceremonial Puja at Hadimba Temple, offering prayers to seek blessings for the success of the event. The Winter Carnival, a major attraction for tourists and locals alike, has been drawing large crowds, with visitors flocking to the Mall Road to experience the festivities. In addition to the cultural programme, several development projects are scheduled.

## Balloon with insignia of Pak airlines found in Himachal's Una



**Diary Times Desk :** A plane-shaped balloon with the insignia of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was sighted on Tuesday in the fields of a village in Himachal Pradesh's Una district causing a flutter among the villagers. A youth at Brahmapur village of Gagret sub-division spotted the balloon. He sounded village panchayat head Lucky Sharma, who informed the police. On receiving the information, Daulatpur outpost in-charge Ravipal and Kulbhusan Guleria reached the spot and took the balloon in their possession. Ravipal said it was a plane-shaped toy balloon made of plastic and probably reached the area with the wind. The police have not found any suspicious object with the balloon. The matter is being probed, the police said.

## HP PWD officer fined Rs 5 for not attending meeting for 4 yrs

**Diary Times Desk :** An officer of the Public Works Department, Touni Devi, here was fined Rs 5 for not attending Panchayat Samiti meetings for four years. The fine was imposed in the quarterly meeting of the Panchayat Samiti, Hamirpur, Harish Sharma, the chairman of the samiti said on Tuesday. The meeting held on Monday was chaired by Sharma. The Rs 5 fine has been imposed as a token to apprise the officer of his duties and send a message to others, Sharma said. It would be mentioned in the annual confidential report of the officer. Sharma said the PWD officials of Tauni Devi Mandal were absent from the meeting despite repeated warnings. Due to this, the development work was getting affected. A decision was taken with the consent of all members and the fine was imposed. However, Devraj, Executive Engineer, PWD, said he was not aware of the meeting. He said he would check if his office received any information on this.



## "Whoever Is...": Suryakumar Yadav's Blunt Take On Champions Trophy Snub From Team India Squad



**Agencies :** Explosive batter and T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav on Tuesday said he has accepted his exclusion from the Champions Trophy squad but what hurts him more is that he could not perform well in the ODI format and the ones chosen for the ICC event deserve to be on the team. The selectors ignored Suryakumar for the 15-member CT squad but he remains in-charge of the side that will take on Jos Buttler's England in the five-match T20I series beginning here Wednesday. With his repertoire of strokes, Suryakumar is one of the most devastating T20 cricketers but that form has not translated into runs in 50-over cricket with the middle-order batter scoring 773 runs in 37 ODIs at an average of 25.76. Asked whether was hurt by his non-inclusion, SKY, as he is fondly addressed, said, "Why would it hurt? If I do well, I would have been in the Champions Trophy. If I don't do well, it's important to accept that." "And at the same time, if you see the (CT) squad, it's looking really good. Whoever is there, they are all good performers. They have done relatively well in that format for India and also playing domestic cricket and I am very happy for them.

## Buttler & Co. look to revive England after recent white-ball setbacks

**Agencies :** England haven't had the best of times in limited-overs cricket in the last couple of years. A seventh place finish and an early exit in the 2023 ODI World Cup was followed by a semifinal loss to India in the 2024 T20 World Cup. They have moved on from Jonny Bairstow, Moeen Ali, Reece Topley, Sam Curran and Chris Jordan, to name a few, and have infused new blood with as many as eight members in the current squad yet to play a T20 game in India. Brendon McCullum has taken over as all-formats head coach of the team, and Jos Buttler has moved to the middle order. In this backdrop, England have arrived in India to play a five-match T20I series, which will be their only preparation in this part of the world ahead of the T20 World Cup next year which will be played in India. The three-match ODI series that follows will help them build towards the Champions Trophy next month.

## Kohli to end domestic hiatus with match against Railways in Ranji Trophy

**Agencies :** The star Indian batter Virat Kohli is all set to end his 12-year hiatus in domestic cricket as he prepares to represent Delhi in the final round of the Ranji Trophy against Railways, scheduled from January 30 to February 2 at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium. While Kohli made himself unavailable for Delhi's January 23 game due to a sprained neck, the news of his participation in the Railways match was confirmed by Delhi head coach Sarandeep Singh on Monday. Kohli was notably missing from the Delhi squad for the penultimate round of group-stage matches, where Delhi faces Saurashtra in Rajkot starting January 23. While players like Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja are set to participate in that match, Kohli had informed the BCCI medical staff that he was recovering from neck pain. The injury required an injection on January 8, just days after the conclusion of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Sydney.

## No 'Pakistan' On Team India Jersey: BCCI's Champions Trophy Directive Leaves Pakistan Board Fuming

**Agencies :** A fresh controversy has emerged from the forthcoming ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan and Dubai, with India reportedly objecting to 'Pakistan' (the name of the host nation) being printed on the team's jersey. India are set to play their Champions Trophy games in Dubai, though Pakistan remain the official hosts for the tournament. While a hybrid-model was accepted by the Pakistan Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council after the Board of Control for Cricket in India's refusal to send its team to Pakistan, the host name of the jersey has triggered a fresh row. A PCB official, in a conversation with news agency IANS, accused the BCCI of bringing 'politics in cricket' by refusing to have Pakistan's name printed on Team India's jerseys. Earlier, the Indian board had also reportedly refused to send captain Rohit Sharma to Pakistan for the captains' meet, a curtain-raiser event for the Champions Trophy. A PCB official, in a conversation with news agency IANS, accused the BCCI of bringing 'politics in cricket' by refusing to have Pakistan's name printed on Team India's jerseys. Earlier, the Indian board had also reportedly refused to send captain Rohit Sharma to Pakistan for the captains' meet, a curtain-raiser event for the Champions Trophy.

## Jos Buttler: Afghanistan boycott at Champions Trophy is 'not the way to go'

**Agencies :** Jos Buttler, England's captain, says he doesn't believe a boycott of Afghanistan cricket is "the way to go", ahead of the men's teams' scheduled meeting in next month's Champions Trophy. The contest, set for Lahore on February 26, has come under sustained political scrutiny in the past few weeks, following a letter from Labour MP Tonia Antoniazzi to Richard Gould, the ECB chief executive, which called out the "insidious dystopia" and "sex apartheid" facing 14 million women in Afghanistan under the ruling Taliban regime. In her letter, which was signed by more than 160 British politicians, Antoniazzi urged England's men's team to "speak out against the horrific treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan under the Taliban", where female participation in sport has effectively been banned since 2021. She added that a boycott would "send a clear signal that such grotesque abuses will not be tolerated". Gould's response had been to reject that call, saying that the matter required a "co-ordinated, ICC-led, response" rather than unilateral action.

## "Pick Bowlers Who Take Wickets": BCCI Blasted Over "Defensive" Champions Trophy Squad

**Agencies :** Former Indian cricket team batter Aakash Chopra believes that the selection of three spin-bowling all-rounders - Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel - for the Champions Trophy 2025 is a 'defensive move'. Chopra compared the decision to the squad selection for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and said that this has become a recurring thing for the side. India went with extra all-rounders like Nitish Kumar Reddy and Sundar during the Test series but it did not work for them. He added that India need to pick bowlers 'who take wickets' and not ones based on their batting capabilities. "The one overriding thought or theme was who all can bat because you need a batter at No. 8. So you picked Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar. You could have picked a fast bowler instead of that, and if you needed a spinner only, then you could have picked Varun Chakaravarthy. I see two of the three spin-bowling all-rounders, who all bat left-handed, playing," Chopra said on YouTube.

## Shreyas Iyer Lends Blunt Advice To 'God-Gifted' Prithvi Shaw

**Agencies :** Speaking in an interview with the Indian Express, Iyer had a simple advice for Shaw. "Prithvi Shaw also started on a great note. He's got a great blessing of timing the ball and scoring runs at a great pace. And all of us in the team feel that he is blessed with that phenomenal talent. So, he just has to focus on his work ethic and everything else will follow," Iyer said. "He is God-gifted," Iyer added, showing how highly Shaw is still rated in Indian cricket. Shaw's struggles have come as a result of indiscipline reported by teammates and coaches, and it saw him get left out of Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024/25 squad, despite being a part of their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy-winning XI. The 25-year-old did not find an IPL team at the mega auction either, going unsold despite lowering his base price to Rs 75 lakh. "Tell me God, what more do I have to see. If 65 innings, 3399 runs at an average of 55.7 with a strike rate of 126, I'm not good enough...but I will keep my faith in you and hopefully people believe in me still," Shaw had posted on Instagram after being dropped. Meanwhile, Iyer was unveiled as Punjab Kings captain on reality show Bigg Boss, and has been selected by India for the Champions Trophy 2025.