

Himachal: Rs 33 crore fraud from State Bank Baddi branch, CBI registers case



Diary Times Desk : CBI has registered a case of fraud of Rs 33 crore with a bank against two directors of a private company of Hyderabad and some unknown people. On the complaint of Assistant General Manager of Baddi branch of State Bank of India, CBI has registered a case in Anti Corruption Bureau Shimla and started investigation. It is alleged that the company's Chief Managing Director Sandharpalle Venkatayya, Director Gudluru Mastan cheated the bank in connivance with unknown public servants and private persons. It is alleged that they tried to dispose and remove the previously mortgaged properties without the consent of the bank. They used the sale and lease amount for their own purposes and did not deposit it with the lending bank (SBI). In this way, they benefited themselves wrongly while causing a loss of Rs 33 crore to the government treasury. The company's plant and factory are in industrial area Baddi and the headquarter is in Hyderabad. CBI's Anti Corruption Bureau Shimla has also registered a case against two partners of Devang Sales Corporation as well as unknown public servants and others. It is alleged that the accused in collusion with each other have defrauded the bank of Rs 3.34 crore by taking cash credit facility from Punjab.

Himachal : Ambuja Cement Company fined Rs 6.60 lakh for spreading pollution

Diary Times Desk : Pollution Control Board has imposed a fine of Rs 6.60 lakh on Ambuja Cement Company, Dadlaghat for spreading pollution. The company will have to deposit this fine within three days, otherwise the board will take action against the company as per the rules. The board has imposed this fine for spreading pollution in Dadlaghat area for 22 days. This pollution was spread from 8 to 30 December last month. Smoke was coming out of the company. Due to this, people in the surrounding areas were also facing difficulty in breathing. After this, the officials of Pollution Control Board visited the area four times and now they have been fined.

US wants to advance economic ties with India, address irregular migration: Rubio to Jaishankar

Agencies : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, at a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, has expressed the desire of the Donald Trump administration to "work with India to advance economic ties" and address concerns related to irregular migration. Rubio and Jaishankar met at Washington DC on Tuesday evening. Jaishankar also had a separate meeting with US National Security Advisor Michael Waltz. The meetings happened a day after Trump took over as President. Rubio and Waltz are part of the new Trump team. Rubio had his first bilateral engagement with Jaishankar. Tammy Bruce, a spokesperson of the US state Department, said, "Secretary Rubio emphasised the Trump administration's desire to work with India to advance economic ties and address concerns related to irregular migration."



Electoral bonds: Plea in SC seeks review of its order dismissing PIL seeking seizure of money

Agencies : A petition in the Supreme Court has urged the Supreme Court to review its August 2, 2024, order dismissing a PIL seeking directions to confiscate Rs 16,518 crore donations received by political parties through the 2018 Electoral Bonds scheme that was declared unconstitutional last year. Contending that the top court's decision did not properly account for the retrospective nullification of the electoral bonds scheme, Petitioner Khem Singh Bhati submitted that the existence of the scheme should not have been a ground for the dismissal of the petition seeking confiscation, as it was considered non-existent from the start according to the top court's ruling in the ADR case. Highlighting discrepancies in the judicial reasoning of the August 2 order, the review petition said it indirectly modified the Constitutional Bench judgment by dismissing petitions based on the assumption of quid pro quo between donors and political parties as speculative. Evidence disclosed under court direction clearly established such reciprocal arrangements, contradicting the court's earlier conclusions, contended the petition settled by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria. Introduced through the Finance Act, 2017, an Electoral Bond is a bearer instrument like a Promissory Note which can be purchased by an Indian citizen or an Indian company whose identity would remain secret from everybody except the SBI from whom it has to be purchased. Once purchased, the buyer can give it to a political party, which could encash it using its bank account. The scheme was notified on January 2, 2018.

12 passengers jump off Pushpak Express over fire rumour, run over by another

Agencies : At least 12 passengers were killed on Wednesday evening when they jumped from their train in panic due to a 'fire incident', only to be run over by another train on the adjacent tracks in North Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, officials said. Twelve bodies were sent to the nearby civil hospital, while six to seven persons were injured, special Inspector General of Police Dattatraya Karale told PTI. The accident took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora, more than 400 km from Mumbai, where the 12533 Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express had halted after someone pulled the chain around 5 pm, Central Railway officials said, without confirming the death toll. Some passengers of the Pushpak Express jumped off the train, and were hit by the oncoming Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi.

Shimla Air Quality Index: Shimla's climate is deteriorating, AQI increased by 48 percent in 12 years

Diary Times Desk : The air of Hillsqueen Shimla, famous for its pure air, is deteriorating. According to the reports of Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Shimla city has increased in the last few years. The average AQI in the year 2011-2012 was 35, while in 2024 it has reached 52. There has been an increase in pollutants in the city's air. The main reasons for this are increasing urbanization, ever-increasing vehicular movement and forest fires. If we look at the data, in 2011-2012, the level of sulfur dioxide in Shimla's air was 2 micrograms per cubic meter, while the level of nitrogen dioxide was 8.1 micrograms per cubic meter. Apart from this, the level of respirable suspended particulate matter (PM) was 40 micrograms per cubic meter. The State Pollution Control Board has not released the annual report of 2023-2024. The board has checked the city's air quality for 273 days in the year 2024 and released its data.



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Himachal Weather: Himachal recorded 73 percent less rainfall than normal till January 22, know what is the weather forecast

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh received 73 percent less rainfall than normal during 1 to 22 January 2025. During this period, 54 mm rainfall was considered normal, but in reality only 14.7 mm rainfall was recorded. Bilaspur received 91 percent less rainfall than normal, Chamba 75, Hamirpur 91, Kangra 90, Kinnaur 88, Kullu 65, Lahaul-Spiti 60, Mandi 75, Shimla 71, Sirmaur 70, Solan 87 and Una district received 93 percent less rainfall. Farmers and gardeners are expecting good rain and snowfall in the coming days. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, the weather will remain bad from late night of 22 January to the evening of 23 January. During this period, light snowfall is expected at some places in Shimla, Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts and moderate snowfall in the higher areas of Sirmaur and Kullu districts. There is a possibility of light rain at some places in Solan, Mandi, Shimla, Kullu, Sirmaur and Kinnaur districts of the state. While there is a possibility of light rain at one or two places in Chamba, Kangra, Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur districts. There is a possibility of moderate rain with light snowfall in some tourist places of the state like Naldehra, Manali and Shimla city, Kufri, Narkanda, Solang Valley and Sissu. The weather is forecast to remain clear in the entire state from 24 to 28 January. Today it is sunny in the capital Shimla and other parts. The maximum temperature is likely to rise by 2-3°C on 22 January. Thereafter, the maximum temperature is likely to fall significantly by 4-5°C during the next 24 hours. There will be no significant change in the minimum temperature during the next 2 days. The minimum temperature is likely to fall gradually by 2-3°C in many parts.

Deportation shadow falls on 18,000 Indians living 'illegally' in US

Agencies : India will be verifying documents of around 18,000 of its nationals, who are in a queue to be deported for living 'illegally' in the US. The list has been shared by the US, sources said, adding, "if they are found to be Indian nationals they would be accepted back". The Donald Trump administration -- which rode to power by promising, among other things, deporting illegals from the US -- has officially taken up the matter of deporting around 18,000 Indian nationals back to the country. The number of possible deportations could go up to 2 lakh, with more cases of illegal immigrants being detected in the US. A large number of illegal immigration to the US is by the people from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat. Sources in India said the verification and deportation is an ongoing process, adding that India has never stood for illegal immigration.

Himachal: Sand and gravel transported on scooters and bikes in two panchayats, revealed in RTI

Diary Times Desk : After the recent controversial case in Shimla, allegations have been made in Sirmaur of carrying sand and gravel in bikes, scooters and cars. There is a possibility of a scam of more than Rs 50 lakh in this. This allegation was made by RTI activist Krishna Dutt Sharma, resident of Redli Panchayat, in a press conference in Nahan. Sharma said that a complaint has also been submitted to the Vigilance on Wednesday for proper investigation in the matter. It was alleged that there have been irregularities in various development works in Gram Panchayat Redli and Dana Ghats. When information was obtained under the Right to Information Act regarding the related works, this information was received. Sand and gravel and other construction materials have been distributed by the same company in both the Panchayats. Similar M. Forms have been installed in both the Panchayats. It was alleged that the bills given by the said company regarding sand and gravel etc. show the numbers of scooters, motorcycles, cars, JCBs, Max vehicles for transportation. This clearly shows that there has been rigging on a large scale. He has also released the list of vehicle numbers taken through RTI to the media.

India now has 99.1 crore voters: Election Commission

Agencies : The number of voters in India now stands at 99.1 crore, up from 96.88 crore when the Lok Sabha elections were held last year, the Election Commission (EC) said on Wednesday. In a statement issued ahead of National Voters' Day, the EC said the electoral rolls bear a youthful and gender-balanced look with 21.7 crore young electors in the 18-29 age group and a six-point increase in electoral gender ratio from 948 in 2024 to 954 in 2025. National Voters' Day is celebrated on January 25 every year to mark the foundation day of the EC, which was established on this day in 1950. Addressing a press conference here on January 7 to announce the Delhi Assembly poll schedule, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said India would soon create a new record of one billion-plus voters. "Electoral rolls were released yesterday (January 6). We are crossing 99 crore voters... We are going to be a nation of one billion voters very soon, which will be another record in voting," he said. "After the declaration of SSR (special summary revision) by Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Punjab.

HP BJP President: Leaders who came from Congress created a problem in the BJP state president election

Diary Times Desk : The leaders who have gone from Congress to BJP have also created a problem in the election of BJP state president. Amidst the disagreement of different factions of BJP, this appointment of the party state president can be delayed. Due to the battle for supremacy in different camps, there is no consensus on two divisional presidents yet. The presidents of all 17 districts of BJP have been elected, but the two divisional presidents of Dehra assembly constituency have not been selected yet. This selection has also been entangled by factionalism and its effect will be seen in the election of the state president as well. In the coming days, election in-charge Jitendra Singh will know the views of all these leaders. He will face a big challenge to reach a consensus on the state president. Harsh Mahajan is leading among the big leaders who have gone from Congress to BJP. The Congress MLAs and independents, through whose cross voting he became a Rajya Sabha MP, have now become active for their supremacy in their respective constituencies. Out of these, three MLAs crossed the threshold of the assembly again. But putting their careers at stake in this way proved costly for six then MLAs and they lost the election. Now they have joined BJP and are fighting for their existence within the party. Former Congress MLAs who stayed at home after losing the elections include Rajendra Rana from Sujampur, Chaitanya Sharma from Gagret, Devendra Kumar Bhutto from Kutlehad and Ravi Thakur from Lahaul Spiti. Independent MLAs include Hoshiar Singh from Dehra and KL Thakur from Nalagarh. Be it Sudhir Sharma from Dharamshala, Indradutt Lakhnupal from Barsar who became BJP MLA after leaving Congress.

Confusion prevails over JD(U) support to BJP-led Biren Singh Government in Manipur

Agencies : Confusion prevailed on Wednesday over JD(U)'s support to the BJP-led Biren Singh government in Manipur with its state unit writing a letter to the governor, informing him of withdrawal of support and the central party leadership dismissing it, asserting the support to NDA. In the letter to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, JD(U) state president Ksh Biren Singh "reiterates non-support" to the BJP-led government in Manipur. Shortly after Singh's letter, the JD(U) central leadership sacked him, in a bid to quell growing speculation about the party's ties with the BJP. Party's national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan said Singh's removal was due to indiscipline and asserted that the party would continue to support the BJP-led government in the northeastern state. Ranjan affirmed that the JD(U) remains committed to supporting the BJP-led NDA, not just in Manipur but across the country. In his letter, the Manipur unit chief also said the lone JD(U) MLA, Md Abdul Nasir, will sit in the opposition benches. The withdrawal, however, will not have any impact on the Biren Singh government.



National Games: 224 players from Himachal will show their strength for medals in 21 sports

Diary Times Desk : 224 players from Himachal Pradesh will represent Uttarakhand in the 38th National Games. These games will be held in eight different cities from January 28 to February 14. Himachal players will participate in 21 games. Games like archery, athletics, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, handball, judo, women's kabaddi, beach kabaddi women and men, mallakhamb, netball traditional and fast 5, swimming, shooting, volleyball, wrestling, wushu, weightlifting and kalaripayattu are included. The games will start at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Dehradun. The closing ceremony will be held at Indira Gandhi International Sports Complex in Haldwani. Meanwhile, the State Olympic Association has requested Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu to send the players for the National Games on January 26. The games will be played in cities like Dehradun, Haridwar, Tehri, Udham Singh Nagar, Nainital, Champawat, Almora and Pithoragarh of Uttarakhand. Players will show their prowess in a total of 44 sports during 16 days. Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association general secretary Rajesh Bhandari said that the players will leave on 26 January.



Himachal: CM Sukhu held a meeting with officials, gave instructions to complete the development projects on time

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu chaired a review meeting of all government departments at the Dharamshala Mini Secretariat on Wednesday. The Chief Minister took stock of the ground situation of the schemes and various projects being run under the departments and directed to complete the development projects in a timely manner. The Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure that the benefits of all government schemes are provided to the eligible beneficiaries on time. Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Raghuvver Balli, Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania, MLAs Sanjay Ratna and Malendra Rajan were present in the meeting.

Boring work completed before construction of proposed tunnel in Shimla-Bilaspur four lane

Diary Times Desk : Before the construction of the two main tunnels to be built in the proposed Shimla-Bilaspur four-lane, the boring work for its soil testing has been completed. The NHAI team got some soil and stones and borewells done at 13 different places here. The soil and stones extracted from the boring were sent to the NHAI certified lab for testing on Tuesday. The next construction will start only after the report is received. If the report of soil and stones here is correct, then the construction work of the tunnel will be started. In the first phase of the four-lane to be built from Shimla to Bilaspur, construction is to be done from Shalaghat to Nauni. In this, about 9 km of the part will fall in Bilaspur district while about 19 km will fall in Arki area of Solan. Two tunnels are to be constructed in the four-lane to be built from Nalag to Shalaghat in Arki area. In this, a 3800 meter tunnel will be built from Sari village.

Rampur Bushahr: High speed car hits, boxing player and coach seriously injured

Diary Times Desk : Two people were seriously injured and five vehicles were damaged in two road accidents in Rampur on Wednesday. Ashika, selected for Khelo India Khelo National Competition, and her coach Pankaj were returning home after practicing with their coach on National Highway-5 in Nogali when a speeding car hit them. Ashika's leg got fractured in this accident and Pankaj suffered a serious spinal injury. Ashika has to participate in the national competition next month. Police have arrested the car driver Ratan Singh Dogra. The accused is the Pradhan of Koot Panchayat. Investigation of the case is on. According to the police, 18-year-old Ashika, daughter of Dinesh Kumar, a boxing player from Nankhari's Gahan, selected for Khelo India Khelo National Sports Competition, was returning home with her coach 27-year-old Pankaj, a resident of Bilaspur. A speeding Bolero car HP 52B 9296 going from Rampur to Shimla on National Highway-5 in Nogali hit them hard. The car was moving at such a high speed that it went out of control.

Union Budget 2025: Additional budget expected for Himachal Pradesh railway lines in Union Budget

Diary Times Desk : Himachal is expected to get additional budget for its rail lines in the Union Budget. There may be additional budget provision for Baddi-Chandigarh, Bilaspur-Bhanupalli and Shimla-Kalka rail lines. The state government has also raised the demand to declare Bhanupalli rail line as a national project. It is possible that the government may declare this rail line as a national project. Himachal has sought special help from the Centre for road, air and rail connectivity. Himachal has demanded budget for various projects from Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Himachal has raised the demand to declare Bhanupalli-Leh rail line as a national project. This rail line will reach the China border, so the Centre should bear its expenses. A demand has also been raised from the Centre for adequate help for NH and budget for ropeway projects. To make the state a green state, budget has also been sought for the purchase of electric buses. Budget is expected to be released in the Union Budget for the strategically important Bhanupalli Leh line, Chandigarh Baddi rail line and Nangal Dam Talwara rail line. Apart from this, there is also a possibility of budget provision for upgrading the railway stations of Kalka-Shimla Heritage Railway track.

Himachal News: Vigilance took action in the State Cooperative Bank scam, officers called it a conspiracy against the bank

Diary Times Desk : Vigilance questioned the bank's directors and officers for a long time on the allegations of irregularities in the State Cooperative Bank. After this, the investigation has been started by taking the bank's records in its possession. Last Monday also, the Vigilance team came to the bank and asked to send some documents to the Vigilance office. However, the officers posted in the bank say that there has been no irregularity in bank recruitment. This is a conspiracy against the bank. Officials said that the Vigilance Bureau is investigating the matter and the bank's employees and officers are fully cooperating in the investigation. The bank officials themselves are providing records to the Vigilance. Bank director Pawan Chauhan has made allegations on the functioning of his own State Cooperative Bank in a complaint given to the Vigilance.

Cyber Fraud In HP: First won 1.5 lakh rupees in a gaming app, then lost 30 lakh rupees in an attempt to earn crores

Diary Times Desk : In the greed of winning crores of rupees in a gaming app, a person lost an amount of Rs 30 lakh. In this app, the complainant first won Rs 1.5 lakh. After this, he got trapped in the trap of cyber thugs and lost lakhs of rupees. After this, he realized that he had been cheated and he informed the cyber crime about the matter. The case is from the industrial area of Solan district. Cyber crime has started the process of registering a case in this regard and along with this, the process of blocking the bank accounts used in the fraud in the name of gaming app has been started. According to cyber crime, the complainant got information about the gaming app about six months ago. First he put some amount in it. In return, he won about one and a half lakh rupees, but after this, in the greed of earning crores, he kept putting money on the app and lost lakhs of rupees. Initial investigation has revealed that the complainant has put this amount of Rs 30 lakh in the gaming app through about 135 transactions. After losing such a huge amount, the complainant came to his senses and called 1930 and registered a complaint.

Maharashtra seals MoUs worth Rs 6.25 lakh crore so far at Davos, Tatas to invest Rs 30,000 crore

Agencies : The state of Maharashtra has signed 31 MoUs for investments worth over Rs 6.25 lakh crore at Davos, Switzerland with Indian companies across automotive, steel, defence, EVs, renewables and electronics sectors, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed on January 22. The list of companies that have signed agreements with the state government include the Tata Group, Ceat, Essar Renewables, Bharat Forge, Welspun Corp, Reliance Infra, Olectra Greentech, among others. While the Tata Group plans to invest up to Rs 30,000 crore in the state, Essar Renewables has signed a ~Rs 8,000 crore MoU, UPL plans a total investment of Rs 6,500 crore, Powerin Urjaa signed a MoU for investment of up to Rs 15,300 crore in renewable energy space, among others. Olectra Greentech plans to explore investments of up to Rs 3,000 crore for EV related projects. Chief Minister Fadnavis called the state the 'powerhouse of Indian economy', and said the global investors understand the pitch, with the state now emerging as the 'data centre capital of India' with 60% of India's capacity, aside of its traditionally strong presence in manufacturing.

"Illiterate Boomer Uncle": Doctor Slams Zoho CEO's Comments On Cow Urine

Agencies : Dr Cyriac Abby Philips, a renowned hepatologist often referred to as 'The Liver Doc,' recently slammed Sridhar Vembu, co-founder and CEO of Zoho, for endorsing the views of IIT Madras Director Prof. V Kamakoti. Prof. Kamakoti advocated for the medicinal properties of cow urine (gomutra). In a post on platform X, the Liver Doc criticised the ongoing debate, addressing a particular statement: "Hey science-illiterate boomer uncle, even your so-called Indian traditional medicine, Siddha, advocates for fecal transplants. How long will you continue to put your foot in your mouth, misinform your followers, and embarrass yourself by speaking nonsense?" The Liver Doc urged influencers to use their platforms responsibly, stating, "As a person of influence, focus on spreading valuable information about how we, as a community, can advance through science and the scientific method. Stop endorsing ancient pseudoscience and outdated therapies, and refrain from amplifying misinformation, as seen in the case of the IIT Madras professor." The remark critiqued Zoho CEO Sridhar Vembu's influence in shaping public opinion.

Everyone Began Jumping On Tracks": Passenger Recalls Horror After Fire Rumour



Agencies : A rumour of "aag lag gayi, aag lag gayi (There's a fire, there's a fire)," triggered the outbreak of mass panic among train passengers and everyone started running, jumping off the train, said a witness to the train tragedy in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra that claimed 12 lives. The passengers had stepped out of their coaches due to a suspected fire on the Pushpak Express. While they were on the tracks, the Karnataka Express arrived on the adjacent track and hit them. The accident took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora, more than 400 km from Mumbai. Some passengers saw sparks flying from the wheels of the train when brakes were applied. Soon, a rumour spread that there's been a fire. Panic gripped passengers and they started jumping off the train," witness Vishal Yadav, who was bleeding from the knee, told NDTV. Those who jumped on the tracks were run over by a fast train, said officials.

Isro ships crew module for first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission

Agencies : In a milestone, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has dispatched the Crew Module for the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (G1). The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) completed the integration of the liquid propulsion system on Tuesday (January 21). The Crew Module Propulsion System (CMPS) is a bi-propellant based Reaction Control System (RCS) and is meant for precise three-axis control (Pitch, Yaw and Roll) of crew module. The control will come into play following separation of service module during the descent and re-entry phase until the deployment.

No Bail For Tahir Hussain, Ex-AAP Leader And Delhi Riots Case Accused

Agencies : Delhi Police received a rap on its knuckles Wednesday as the Supreme Court heard an interim bail plea by Tahir Hussain, the ex-Aam Aadmi Party leader who allegedly planned and instigated violence during riots in the city in 2020, and faces multiple charges, including those relating to money laundering. Mr Hussain - now with Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen - had sought temporary release to campaign for himself for next month's Delhi Assembly.

RG Kar rape, murder case: CBI to move HC to seek death sentence for Sanjay Roy

Agencies : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will move the Calcutta High Court (HC), seeking death penalty for Sanjay Roy who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the RG Kar rape, murder case. Sanjay Roy was given life imprisonment by a Sealdah court in connection with the rape and murder of a doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The officials have said that the CBI has also received a legal advice suggesting that the case may be categorised as the "rarest of rare", deserving capital punishment. The agency is expected to appeal against the Sealdah court order soon. The trial court had sought death penalty for Sanjay Roy but was turned down by the trial court, where Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das said that the crime did not fall under the "rarest of the rare" category. "The CBI prayed for the death penalty. The defence lawyer prayed that a jail term be given instead of the death penalty. This crime does not fall under the 'rarest of the rare' category."

UP approves Rs 50,000 crore aerospace, defence policy to create 1 lakh jobs

Agencies : In a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on Wednesday, the state government approved 10 key proposals aimed at accelerating the state's development. Among these, the groundbreaking Aerospace and Defence Unit and Employment Promotion Policy 2024 was introduced to position Uttar Pradesh as a leader in the sector. The policy sets an ambitious target of attracting Rs 50,000 crore in investments, with the potential to generate direct employment for 1 lakh youth.

"Family Planning Now Financial Decision": Arvind Kejriwal's Tax Jab At BJP

Agencies : The middle class is a victim of tax terrorism and has been reduced to the government's ATM, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal said today. Mr Kejriwal, whose outreach to middle class comes two weeks ahead of the February 5 election in Delhi, also listed seven Budget demands from the Centre that AAP MPs will raise in Parliament for the interests of the middle class. "Some poll promises are made for the underprivileged classes, and some for a few industrialists. On the grounds of caste and religion, other parties have created a vote bank. And they need donations from industrialists, so they are the note bank. Between this vote bank and note bank, a large section is sandwiched. This is India's middle class," he said in a video message. Mr Kejriwal said successive governments after Independence have crushed and squeezed the middle class. "The relationship between the government and the middle class is strange. They don't do anything for the middle class. But whenever the government needs to, they target the middle class through tax. Middle class pays huge taxes, but gets nothing in return. India's middle class has been reduced to the government's ATM. It is a victim of tax terrorism," he said.



Knife Attacker Kills 2 In Germany Including 2-Year-Old Child

Agencies : A knife attacker in Germany killed a two-year-old child and a man and seriously wounded two other people on Wednesday, said police, who arrested an Afghan suspect at the scene. It is the latest in a series of deadly knife attacks to have shaken Germany in recent months, fuelling concerns over public safety. The stabbings happened in a public park in the centre of the Bavarian city of Aschaffenburg at around 11:45 am (1045 GMT), police said. The attacker targeted a group of children from a daycare centre who were in the park, according to German media. "Two people were fatally injured," police said, while another two were seriously hurt and receiving treatment in hospital. The suspect, a 28-year-old man from Afghanistan, was arrested "in the immediate vicinity of the crime scene", police added, without indicating a motive. German media reported that the man was said to have had psychological issues for which he had received treatment. The suspect lived in an asylum centre in the area, news outlet Der Spiegel reported.

In 1st Meet Under Trump 2.0, Quad Sends Strong Warning To China

Agencies : On his first full day in office on Tuesday, the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held the first Quad ministerial meeting with Australia, India and Japan and jointly warned against changing the status quo in Indo-Pacific via coercive actions, in a veiled but clear warning to China over its actions at sea. This was the first meeting of top diplomats of the China-focused grouping since Trump returned to the White House. Rubio met with his counterparts Australia's Penny Wong, India's Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Japan's Takeshi Iwaya in Washington. In a joint statement, the four nations restated their "shared commitment to strengthening a Free and Open Indo-Pacific where the rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are upheld and defended." "We also strongly oppose any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion," the statement said an apparent reference to the threat that China will act.

Prince Harry Settles Lawsuit Against Rupert Murdoch's UK Tabloids



Agencies : Prince Harry settled on Wednesday a hotly-disputed lawsuit against Rupert Murdoch's UK tabloid publisher, which apologised for hacking the British royal's phone and agreed to pay him "substantial damages". Murdoch's News Group Newspapers (NGN) also apologised for the impact on him of the "serious intrusion" into the private life of his late mother Diana, Princess of Wales, "in particular during his younger years". The settlement concludes a years-long legal battle over unlawful practices by two of the media mogul's newspapers -- The Sun and now-shuttered News of the World -- and avoids the case going to a full trial. "NGN offers a full and unequivocal apology to the Duke of Sussex for the serious intrusion by The Sun between 1996 and 2011 into his private life," Harry's lawyer David Sherborne told the High Court, as he read an apology statement by NGN. He noted the apology included "incidents of unlawful activities carried out by private investigators" working for Murdoch's The Sun tabloid.

Musk vs Ramaswamy 'Rift' At DOGE Was Over H-1B Visa Holders: Report

Agencies : Vivek Ramaswamy's departure from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) marks a significant shift in his career trajectory. The 39-year-old entrepreneur, who co-led DOGE alongside Elon Musk, has announced his decision to run for Ohio Governor in 2026. This move is seen as an attempt to revive his political career within the state, particularly since Ohio's current Governor, Mike DeWine, is restricted by term limits. Ramaswamy's exit from DOGE was reportedly expedited by his contentious remarks on X, where he criticised American culture and its hiring practices, especially regarding the H-1B visa program. His comments, which aligned with the views of Musk and Trump, sparked widespread debate and garnered over 118 million views and 51,000 comments.

China reacts to Donald Trump's 10% tariff remarks, vows to safeguard 'national interest'

Agencies : A spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry on Wednesday said China would protect its "national interests" after US President Donald Trump said that a 10 per cent tariff on Chinese imports could be imposed from February 1 onwards, reported news agency AFP. "We have always believed that there are no winners in a trade war or a tariff war," spokesperson Mao Ning said, adding that China was "firmly committed to safeguarding national interests". During a press conference at the White House, Trump said he is considering to impose a 10 per cent tariff on Chinese imports from February 1 to stop the flow of fentanyl supplied from China to Mexico and Canada. Donald Trump's claims are also backed by the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) which has identified that the global fentanyl supply chain "often starts with chemical companies based in China". The DEA stated that the highly addictive opioid, fentanyl, was one of the biggest drug threats in the US. "For Mexico and China, we're talking about approximately 25 per cent (tariffs)," Trump said, though he presumably meant Mexico and Canada.

'Have Mercy On Gays, Poor Immigrants': Bishop To Trump, He Responds

Agencies : During Donald Trump's inaugural prayer service, a Bishop appealed to the 47th US President to have mercy on gay, lesbian, and transgender children. Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's plea came as a direct response to Trump's latest policies - ending birthright citizenship and recognising only two genders in the US. On Tuesday, Trump visited the Washington National Cathedral for the inaugural prayer service. There, the Bishop pleaded, "In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now. There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in democratic, republican and independent families. Some who fear for their lives." Budde also defended immigrants, who perform essential jobs and are "not criminals." She said, "The people who pick our farms, and clean our office buildings, who labour in poultry farms and meat-packing plants, who wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants and work the night shift.

Donald Trump on H-1B visa: 'I don't want to stop, need competent people'

Agencies : US President Donald Trump, during a press conference at the White House on Tuesday, said that he likes both sides of the debate on the H-1B foreign guest workers' visa, stating that he welcomed "competent people" coming into the country, reported news agency PTL. "I like both sides of the argument, but I also like very competent people coming into our country, even if that involves them training and helping other people that may not have the qualifications they do. I don't want to stop....," he said during the event along with Oracle CTO Larry Ellison, Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son, and Open AI CEO Sam Altman. He added that the visa not applied to bringing in high-quality professionals for the tech industry but also other professions. "We want competent people coming into our country. And H-1B, I know the programme very well. I use the programme. Maître d', wine experts, even waiters, high-quality waiters, you've got to get the best people. People like Larry, he needs engineers, NASA also needs... engineers like nobody's ever needed them," Trump said.



Amritpal Singh seeks high court directions for attending parliamentary sessions

Agencies : Less than a fortnight after launching a new political party, Shiromani Akali Dal (Waris Punjab De), Amritpal Singh is in the process of moving the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking directions for attending parliamentary sessions. Directions are also being sought from the authorities concerned to permit him to attend the Republic Day ceremony "in the interest of justice and equity". The advance copies of the petition have been received by the respondents, but the plea is yet to be listed. Member of Parliament (MP) from Khadoor Sahib and the head of "Waris Punjab De" is currently confined in Dibrugarh Central Jail under the provisions of the National Security Act. "The participation of the petitioner in the Republic Day ceremony and parliamentary sessions is a matter of national importance and public interest. It symbolises the inclusiveness of democracy and the fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution," he added. In his yet-to-be-listed petition against the Union of India, the state of Punjab and other respondents, Amritpal Singh has contended he was an elected MP representing over "19 lakh constituents in the constituency".



Chandigarh grenade attack case: NIA raids multiple locations in Punjab, UP, Uttarakhand

Agencies : The NIA conducted searches at multiple locations linked to the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) in several states on Wednesday in connection with the Chandigarh grenade attack case. The search operation was conducted on the premises of suspects linked to US-based terrorist Harpreet Singh, alias Happy Passian, in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Bathinda and Ferozepur districts of Punjab, Lakhimpur Kheri district in Uttar Pradesh, Rudrapur district in Uttarakhand, and Chandigarh, the National Investigation Agency said in a statement. "Incriminating materials, including mobiles and digital devices and documents, were seized during the searches," the statement said. The NIA took over the case related to the hand grenade attack at a house in Sector 10-D, Chandigarh, on September 9 last year and arrested accused Rohan Masih and Vishal Masih, it said. The Union Home Ministry had handed over the case to the NIA. "NIA investigations so far in the case have exposed a conspiracy of Pakistan-based Harwinder Singh Sandhu.

Punjab and Haryana HC declares Lambardar civil post, bars dual appointments

Agencies : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that the post of Lambardar in Punjab and Haryana is a civil post. It held the position to be heritable and allowed the appointment of a Sarbrah Lambardar as a temporary arrangement and if the successor of a deceased Lambardar was a minor. The court further clarified that a Lambardar, as the holder of a civil post, could not be appointed to any other civil post. The judgment by the Bench of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Kirti Singh has its genesis in a reference made to a larger Bench by a Single Bench. In its order dated December 6, 2017, the Single Bench had posed two legal questions – whether the dismissal or removal of a Lambardar attracted the provisions of Article 311 applicable to other government servants, and whether a Lambardar holding a civil post could simultaneously hold another government job or post? The other question was whether a government employee could act as a Lambardar through a substitute or Sarbrah Lambardar under the provisions of the Punjab Land Revenue Rules. Article 311 of the Indian Constitution provides.

State sees 39-point rise in sex ratio, but expert says scheme has 'lost steam'

Agencies : Ten years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose Panipat to launch the flagship Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme, aimed at addressing the nationwide gender imbalance, Haryana has reason to cheer, with a 39-point rise in its sex ratio since 2015. However, the sex ratio at birth (SRB), which climbed up from 871 (2015) to 910 per 1000 (2024) in the last decade, has started to slip, witnessing a slight dip annually over the last three years. While the sex ratio at birth rose significantly between 2015 and 2019, rising by 52 points to touch 923 per 1000, it has seen a downward trend, and the lowest sex ratio of 910 per 1000 was recorded in 2024 – the lowest in the last eight years. However, sources in the Women and Child Department (WCD) maintained that the slight fluctuation in sex ratio was no reason for worry since Haryana was already way ahead of the target given by the Centre. We had been given the target of improving SRB by two points annually, meaning thereby that a target of a 20-point increase had been set. Against that, we have nearly doubled it to close at a 39-point increase in 10 years. The state has also achieved all its other targets," an official said.

Land compensation stalls 540-m bridge across Yamuna at Palwal

Agencies : The dispute over the acquisition of land for the construction of two pillars for the ongoing project of a bridge over the Yamuna, near Hasanpur village of the district, has reached the Chief Minister's Office. The district authorities have submitted the proposal of enhancing the circle rate for the release of compensation for the land to be acquired. The project, which aims to provide direct connectivity to UP, has been hanging fire for the past over four years, though 90 per cent of the pillars have been constructed on the UP side. The issue is significant as it is the pet project of Harinder Singh, the ruling party's MLA from the Hodal Assembly segment. With the government completing 100 days in power after the last Assembly poll, the delay in the resolution of the dispute has held up the matter, despite the fact that the MLA has been pushing for it. The project is stuck because of the lack of consensus over the compensation.

SC wants Dallewal to be given proper medical aid at PGIMER-Chandigarh before Feb 14 talks

Agencies : As fasting farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal takes medical aid without breaking his fast and protesting farmers agree to hold talks with the Centre, the Supreme Court on Wednesday deferred the hearing on contempt of court proceedings against the Punjab Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to February. Welcoming the "positive developments" that have taken place in the last few days, a three-judge Bench led by Justice Surya Kant noted that the Centre had sent a high-level delegation which met Dallewal and other farmer leaders on January 18 and both sides have agreed to have a dialogue in Chandigarh on February 14, 2025. In light of these developments, the Bench chose to keep in abeyance the contempt proceedings and dispensed with the presence of the Punjab Government officials.



Of total 268 black spots in Mandi district, only 32 rectified by PWD

Diary Times Desk : Of the total 268 black spots identified on different roads in Mandi district, only 32 black spots have been rectified by the Public Works Department authorities yet. According to Additional Deputy Commissioner Rohit Rathour, in the past year, 272 accidents were reported in Mandi, resulting in 108 deaths and 430 injuries. In December alone, 18 accidents were reported, leading to seven fatalities and 36 injuries. He emphasised that these figures were alarmingly high and called for immediate action to address the issue. He directed the Public Works Department to identify and rectify the black spots in the district. PWD Executive Engineer DK Verma said 268 black spots had been identified, out of which 32 had already been fixed. The ADC stressed the need for awareness campaigns to educate drivers, especially on the four-lane roads. He pointed out that heavy vehicles like JCBs, trucks and tractors are supposed to use the left lane of the four-lane roads, while light vehicles should be in the right lane. However, these rules are often violated, increasing the risk of accidents. Rathour urged all drivers to adhere to speed limits and stay within their designated lanes.

Snowfall, rain predicted for next two days

Diary Times Desk : The higher and middle hills of the state will experience fresh snowfall as well as rainfall for the next two days. As per the state's Meteorological Department, light to moderate snowfall and rain are expected at some places in the state on January 22 and 23 after which weather will remain dry across the state. However, there will be no significant changes in the maximum temperature across the state over the next two days. Similarly, there will be no significant change expected in the minimum temperature over the next 24 hours. After that, the minimum temperatures are expected to fall by 2°C to 3°C. Cold wave condition is likely to persist in some areas on January 23 while lower hills.

CM inaugurates, lays stones of Rs 88 cr projects in Kangra



Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today laid foundation and inaugurated development projects worth Rs 88 crore in Kangra. While addressing a public gathering at Matour in the Kangra Assembly constituency, he said that the previous BJP government was responsible for poor financial condition of state. The government doled out subsidies to the rich which severely impacted financial condition of the state. The Chief Minister also announced setting up of a division of the Jal Shakti Department in Kangra and assured the introduction of new courses in Matour College. He also announced strengthening of water and electricity schemes in the area and said that the construction work for the Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding School in Kangra would begin soon. He also announced to construct a new bridge over Jalodi Khad. He said the Kangra district would witness a significant development over the next five years and the present state government would ensure progress and prosperity at grassroots level.

Solan DC's decision to vest 44.5 bigha with govt upheld

Diary Times Desk : In a big blow to those indulging in benami transactions in the state, Divisional Commissioner (DC), Shimla, has upheld the decision of Deputy Commissioner, Solan, to vest 44.5 bigha land near Kasauli bought violating revenue norms with the state government. The case has brought to light the nexus of non-Himachalis purchasing land in the name of local villagers for furthering their commercial objectives. The case, which was initially investigated by a special investigation team (SIT) in 2013, was later referred to the DC for further action. He had ordered vesting of this land with the state government in 2019 as it had violated section 118 of the HP Land Reforms and Tenancy Act, 1972. A period of six years was lost in appeals where the land owners challenged the DC's order before the Divisional Commissioner but it brought no respite to them as his orders have been upheld in a recent order and the land would be vested with the state government confirmed a revenue officials. Tehsildar Kasauli Jagpal Singh, when contacted, said they were awaiting orders of the Divisional Commissioner for acting further in the matter. Notably, SIT probe had proved that land worth crores was bought in the name of Data Ram.

My office has cordial relations with state govt: Governor

Diary Times Desk : Governor Himachal Pradesh Shiv Pratap Shukla, who was at Dharamsala today, said that he had cordial relations with the state government. When asked by the newsmen regarding allegations levelled against his office by Minister for Revenue Jagat Singh Negi of withholding the bill for allotting land to people of Kinnaur under Nautor rights, the Governor said that his office works under some rules and regulations which are being followed. "My office, however, has cordial relations with the state government," the Governor said. The Nautor rights in tribal areas were the rights of the people residing in tribal areas to be allotted government or common lands in case they had less than 20 bigha land. The rights were given to tribal people to provide them land on which they can sustain themselves. The rights of tribal people ceased to exist when the common lands were classified as forest lands in the state in 1980s. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, who represents Kinnaur Assembly constituency, had said people would be forced to march to Governor's house due to alleged delay in clearing of the Bill.

Agriculture Minister reviews ongoing development works in Jawali

Diary Times Desk : In order to expedite the pace of ongoing development works in his native Assembly constituency, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister and local MLA Chander Kumar convened a review meeting with officials of different sub-divisional level government departments in Jawali on Tuesday. In the meeting, the minister took stock of the ongoing development works and directed the concerned department officials to complete the works in stipulated time. He also asked the officials to ensure the quality of construction works under progress. He instructed department officials to prepare a framework of departmental priorities for the upcoming annual budget so that the state government would earmark budget allocation to complete the ongoing development projects, in which 80 per cent work has been completed, on priority-basis. He claimed that the government was allocating funds to ensure payment of pending bills being raised against works done for development projects. He also sought the list of works for the Jawali Assembly constituency on MLA priority so that the same could be highlighted in the MLA priority meeting, which will be convened next month.



India's CT jersey to feature ICC-approved tournament logo



Agencies : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has clarified that the Indian team will adhere to the guidelines stipulated by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for the Champions Trophy, particularly concerning the official logo. Effectively, the BCCI has confirmed that the Indian jersey will feature the official ICC logo, which includes Pakistan's imprint. "We will follow whatever are the ICC guidelines," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told Cricbuzz striving to end the controversy over the Indian jersey and Champions Trophy logo. When pointed out that the official ICC logo has Pakistan beneath it, Saikia reiterated stating, "We will follow the ICC directive." Saikia's assertion puts to rest the uproar over India filing an objection to the official logo since the team will not be travelling to Pakistan. Pakistan are the designated hosts of the Champions Trophy which will be played from February 19 to March 9. The Indian team, however, will play their games in Dubai. The BCCI secretary is yet to come out with the Board's position on whether Rohit Sharma will visit Pakistan for the opening ceremony, which is expected to be held in Karachi.

Ireland knock Pakistan out of U19 Women's T20 World Cup, qualify for Super Sixes

Agencies : Komal Khan's Pakistan failed to qualify for the Super Sixes of the U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 with a shock defeat against Ireland. On Wednesday, January 22, Ireland, led by Niamh MacNulty, stormed into the second round of the multi-nation event after beating Pakistan by 13 runs (DLS) in the Group B match at the Johor Cricket Academy Oval. Pakistan finished at the bottom of the table with one point and a net run rate of -3.271 and went home without winning a single match in the tournament. Their first match against the United States was abandoned without a ball being bowled. Then they slumped to a six-wicket win at the hands of England before Ireland took them down in a rain-marred clash. After opting to bat first, Ireland scored 69 for five on the board in a match halted by rain. Opening batter Alice Walsh top-scored for them with a 31-run knock off 19 balls, laced with five fours. Freya Sargent, Annabel Squires and Abbi Harrison also chipped in with useful knocks of 11, 13 and 10 respectively. Right-arm pacer Memoona Khalid was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan with figures of 1-0-6-2. Left-arm Mahnoor Zeb and leg-spinner Quratulain Ahsen accounted for a scalp apiece.

Pakistan's Saud Shakeel, Noman Ali Make Big Gains ICC's Men's Test Rankings

Agencies : Pakistan's Saud Shakeel, and bowler Noman Ali on Wednesday made significant gains in the latest International Cricket Council's (ICC) Men's Test rankings. The pair set up Pakistan's 127-run win over the West Indies, which has the hosts ahead 1-0 in the two-Test series, as stated in a release from ICC. Saud Shakeel (753 rating points) scored 84 in the first innings, climbing three Rankings spots to 8th on the batting list, moving above Steve Smith (746, 9th) and Rishabh Pant (739, 10th). England duo of Joe Root (895) and Harry Brook (876) remain the world's top two Test batters, ahead of New Zealand veteran Kane Williamson (867). Jasprit Bumrah continues to dominate as the undisputed No. 1 bowler with a career-best points tally of 908. Australia's Pat Cummins (841) and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada (837) round out the top three. Meanwhile, Noman Ali (761) breaks into the top 10 after an impressive six-wicket haul in the first Test against the West Indies.

Rahane backs Rohit to 'get a big one' on Ranji return

Agencies : Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane has backed his team-mate Rohit Sharma to "get a big one" as the India Test captain returns to the Ranji Trophy after low returns in his last eight Tests this season. In the three Tests in Australia and five at home before that, Rohit managed only 164 runs from 15 innings to average a dismal 10.93. Rohit now returns to the domestic cricket - although likely for one round before the ODIs against England - along with many other India Test players such as Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and possibly Virat Kohli. "What is important is he is hungry, he is determined to do well," Rahane said of Rohit on the eve of Mumbai's next fixture starting on Thursday. "I am sure once he gets in, he will get a big one. He batted really well yesterday [in] a couple of [net] sessions, so it's part and parcel of a player's career. I am really confident about Rohit. Rohit has always been relaxed. Even playing at the international level, his character is similar. His attitude is pretty much relaxed. He knows his game really well so, no one has to tell him what he needs to do.

'My son is not safe...': Sanju Samson's father makes emotional appeal, alleges 'conspiracy' against India batter

Agencies : Sanju Samson's father, Viswanath, has accused the Kerala Cricket Association of 'plotting conspiracy' against his son in the wake of the India batter's omission from the team's Vijay Hazare Trophy squad. Samson was left out of the squad after it was revealed that he did not attend a mandatory camp; however, as the days progressed, things took a dramatic turn, with cracks between Samson and the KCA coming to the fore. After Samson was excluded from India's ODI squad for the three-match series against England and the Champions Trophy, KCA President Jayesh George criticised the batter, claiming he had only himself to blame.

'He is still limping a bit': Gambhir's Mohammed Shami call backed as India told 'main target should be Champions Trophy'

Agencies : India fast bowler Mohammed Shami's return to international cricket got delayed as he was not picked in the playing XI for the first T20I match of the five-game series against England on Wednesday at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. While it sparked a furore on social media, with many concerned about Shami's fitness, but head coach Gautam Gambhir's decision was backed by veteran India cricketer Piyush Chawla. Shami spent more than a year on the sidelines, recovering from an ankle injury he incurred during the 2023 ODI World Cup, for which he even underwent surgery. He made his return to the sport in October last year, after which he played a series of domestic games for Bengal across formats, during he suffered a separate knee injury. With an eye on the Champions Trophy, India named Shami for the T20I series against England, which is expected to prepare him for the ICC tournament next month. The long wait for an international game was expected to end on Wednesday in Kolkata, especially after the 34-year-old, during a Cricket Association of Bengal event on Monday, expressed his eagerness to return, emphasising the hard work he put into proving his fitness.

Arshdeep Singh overtakes Yuzvendra Chahal as India's highest T20I wicket-taker, closes in on iconic '100' milestone

Agencies : Arshdeep Singh created history on Wednesday as he overtook spinner Yuzvendra Chahal to become India's highest wicket-taker in T20Is. The left-arm pacer took the wicket of Ben Duckett during the first T20I of the series against England to reach the feat; interestingly, he equalled Chahal in the same match. Arshdeep dismissed Phil Salt in his first over, and followed it up with Duckett's in the second. Arshdeep has been one of the mainstays in the Indian T20I lineup for many years, and went past Chahal in his 61st match in the format. The bowler emerged among a rare breed of left-armers in India, and last week, Arshdeep was also named in the Indian ODI squad for the Champions Trophy. Arshdeep, however, is still significantly far from the highest wicket-taker in T20Is, New Zealand's Tim Southee, who has an incredible 164 wickets to his name in 126 matches. Rashid Khan (Afghanistan, 161), Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh, 149), Ish Sodhi (New Zealand, 138).