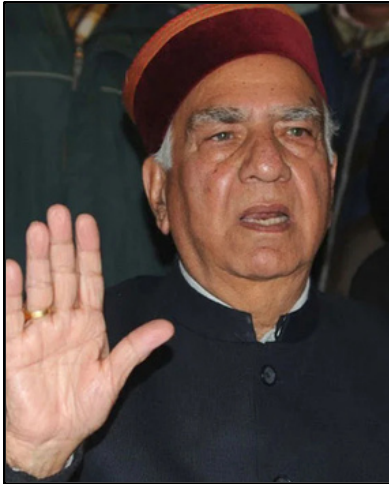


Himachal Statehood Day: Shanta Kumar said- Even after 54 years, we could not show the beauty of Himachal to the world



Diary Times Desk : On the completion of 54 years of Himachal getting the status of a full state, former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar said that the journey of Himachal has been wonderful. Every party and every Chief Minister has contributed in this. But there is still a regret that Himachal has not yet got what it should have got. He said that there are immense possibilities of tourism in Himachal, which have not yet come to the ground. Himachal is no less than Switzerland in any way. But, we are still far behind in showing its real form to the world. There should be industries like hydro power for tourism and royalty in Himachal, which will be able to strengthen Himachal economically and in terms of employment. There is such tourism in Himachal, which is still untouched. Work will have to be done to show it to the world. He said that he had laid the foundation of a ropeway in Palampur, which has not been completed yet. If this ropeway had been built, the tourist would have reached the snow within ten minutes, which would have become a huge means of employment and economy. All the leaders of Himachal should now think about tourism.

Himachal: Three tunnels will be built before Renuka Dam, design finalized

Diary Times Desk : The construction of tunnels for the Renuka Dam project is expected to begin soon. In this regard, a joint team of experts from five important institutions of the Central Government surveyed the Renuka Dam site on Thursday and reviewed the aspects related to the project construction. The survey conducted by the team finalized the design of three tunnels (diversion tunnels) related to the construction of the project. Before the construction of the Renuka Dam project, three tunnels of 1.5 km each are to be constructed. More than Rs 450 crore will be spent on these.

10 Opposition MPs suspended following ruckus at Waqf JPC meet

Agencies : Ten Opposition members attending the joint committee of Parliament meeting on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill were suspended on Friday as they accused its chairperson of reducing its proceedings to a "farce", while the committee readies to adopt its draft report next week. The appearance of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a moderate Hurriyat leader who is also the religious head of Muslims in Kashmir, before the panel to voice his disapproval of the proposed law was the highlight of the meeting but not before Opposition members' noisy protests drowned its proceedings till their suspension. Opposition MPs alleged that Jagdambika Pal, the committee's Chairperson, was steamrolling the agenda at the government's behest with an eye on the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls. They later wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to ask Pal to postpone the January 27 meeting and consult other members on the next date and agenda. Pal accused Opposition members, especially the Trinamool Congress' Kalyan Banerjee, of hurling abuses and insults at him in their bid to scuttle the proceedings.



SC refuses to entertain PIL seeking abolition of 'tax deducted at source'

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL demanding scrapping of the TDS system of income tax collection under the Income Tax Act, saying it was "very badly drafted". A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna said TDS was levied "everywhere". The Bench—which also included Justice Sanjay Kumar—however, allowed petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, an advocate, to approach the Delhi High Court. Upadhyaya—who had challenged the TDS system of income tax collection on the grounds that it's "arbitrary and irrational" and violated various fundamental rights—said he would move the Delhi High Court. Upadhyay contended that the TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) system under the Income Tax Act—which mandated deduction of tax at the time of payment by the payer and its deposit with the IT Department and the deducted amount was adjusted against the payee's tax liability—violated various fundamental rights. He urged the top court to direct the Centre to "declare the TDS system manifestly arbitrary, irrational and against Articles 14 (right to equality), 19 (right to practise profession) and 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution, hence void and inoperative". Seeking directions to the NITI Aayog to consider contentions raised in the plea and suggest necessary changes in the TDS system, he said the Law Commission should examine the legality of the system and prepare a report within three months. The TDS system imposes significant administrative and financial burdens on taxpayers tasked with compliance which include managing complex rules, issuing TDS certificates, filing returns, and defending against penalties for inadvertent errors, argued the plea.

India hopes for 'constructive approach' after Bangladesh's dialogue call

Agencies : India on Friday welcomed Bangladesh's call for dialogue to resolve border issues, expressing hope for a "constructive approach" with Dhaka to make the shared border "crime-free". Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India is confident that Bangladesh would adopt and implement a "constructive, positive approach" in addressing bilateral concerns. The statement comes two days after Bangladesh proposed dialogue to resolve border tensions, following weeks of heightened strain between the two neighbours. Bangladesh's softened stance came after it had earlier criticised India's border fencing project within Indian territory, calling it "unauthorised".

Vikramaditya Singh: Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh said- some things are above and beyond politics

Diary Times Desk : Some things are beyond politics and above politics. Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh said this in an informal conversation with journalists after the cabinet meeting in Dharamshala. He said that my father Virbhadra Singh started winter stay as CM in the year 1993. After this, the tradition of winter stay was followed in the Dhumal government also, because it is important. Vidhan Sabha Bhawan was also built in Kangra district, so I believe that there is nothing like this in the talk of creating a gap between Upper and Lower Himachal, all areas are equal for us. Winter stays are very important, it is not necessary that they have to be done only in winter, they can be done anytime. Vikramaditya Singh said that the government should have stays from time to time, so that people do not have to go to Shimla for their work.



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Himachal News: 10 lakh rupees were cheated in the name of insurance policy, accused woman arrested from Delhi

Diary Times Desk : In a case of cyber fraud, the team of Cyber Crime Police Station Madhya Khand Mandi of Himachal Pradesh has arrested a woman from Delhi. She has been identified as Tina Yadav wife of Deepak resident Shahdara Delhi. Accused Tina Yadav along with her accomplices had defrauded the complainant resident of Mandi city of Rs 10.76 lakh online in the name of receiving the maturity amount of the insurance policy. The resident of Mandi city had lodged a complaint in this regard at Cyber Crime Police Station Madhya Khand Mandi on 23 January 2024. A total amount of Rs 7.40 lakh has been found in the Punjab National Bank account of the accused through 106 transactions. In the case, Cyber Crime Police had arrested Shashank Rastogi resident 616 second floor street number-6 Jwala Nagar Shahdara Delhi in June 2024. Since then the police was searching for accused Tina Yadav. In view of the seriousness of the case, Cyber Crime Police had formed a team under the leadership of Inspector Sanjeev Kumar. Tina Yadav was changing her location frequently.



Indian fisherman who completed prison term dies in Pakistan's Karachi jail

Agencies : An Indian fisherman languishing in a Pakistani jail has died, sources said on Friday. A total of 8 Indian fishermen have died in Pakistani jails in the last two years, they added. The deceased has been identified as Babu, son of Kana. He is said to have died in a Karachi jail on January 23 this year. He was arrested by Pakistani authorities in 2022. "Despite completion of his sentence and confirmation of his Indian nationality, he was not released by Pakistani authorities," sources said. As many as 180 Indian fishermen, who have completed their sentences, await release from Pakistani jails. India has been continuously raising the issue of early release of prisoners with the Pakistani side. A total of 209 Indian fishermen, with the majority hailing from Gujarat, are currently languishing in Pakistani jails, while two fishermen.

Khanan Rakshak Recruitment: Himachal government has announced recruitment of mining guards, there will be so much competition

Diary Times Desk : In Himachal Pradesh, the Industries Department is going to recruit mining guards for 80 posts in its Geological Wing. The Industries Department has issued a notification for this. The department will publish an advertisement for this. Youth from general areas will have to apply within 30 days of the advertisement being published, while youth from tribal areas will have to apply within 45 days. The minimum educational qualification is graduation and the age limit should be between 20 years and 30 years. Men will have to complete the 100 meter race in 14 seconds, while women will have to complete the race in 17 seconds. Apart from this, men will have to complete the 1,500 meter race in ten minutes and women will have to complete the 800 meter race in six minutes. Applications will have to be made on the department's website or at the General Manager's office of the District Industries Center. For application, general category youth will have to make a demand draft of Rs 200, while reserved category youth will have to make a demand draft of Rs 66. To become a mining guard, the height of 165 cm for men and 150 cm for women has been made mandatory. The chest of youth should be 79 cm and that of women 74 cm. To become a mining guard, it is mandatory to pass the ground test.

India keeps 'keen watch' as Pakistan strengthens ties with Bangladesh

Agencies : India on Friday said it is closely monitoring the growing military ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh, marked by a significant increase in military-to-military engagements. Pakistan's heightened presence in Bangladesh has raised concerns in New Delhi, prompting the Indian government to keep a "keen watch" on developments in the region. The concerns come after Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency officials visited Dhaka for a meeting with Bangladesh's establishment led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, and Bangladesh announced its participation in Pakistan's naval exercise "Aman", scheduled for next month. This will be the first time a major Bangladesh Navy warship will participate in a Pakistani naval exercise in over a decade. Warships from South Korea and China will also join the exercise. When asked about India's concerns, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that India always keeps a close eye on developments affecting national security, especially in neighbouring countries. "We monitor these developments closely.

Water Bill Himachal: Water bill for 3 months will come together in the villages of Himachal, keep Rs 100 per connection ready

Diary Times Desk : People living in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh will get water bill for three months at once. The state government has fixed water rates for rural areas at the rate of Rs 100 per month per connection. These rates have been implemented from October 1, 2024. Before issuing water bills in rural areas, the Jal Shakti Department has started the process of registration of connections. Jal Shakti Department will issue water bills to about 17 lakh drinking water consumers in the rural areas of the state from November. At the rate of Rs 100 monthly bill per connection, water bills of Rs 1200 per connection will have to be paid annually. The government has also decided to continue the facility of free water for some categories. These include widows, divorced women, Divyangjan and families with annual income less than Rs 50 thousand. 17 lakh houses in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh have water connections. The highest number of 4 lakh water connections are in Kangra district. Jal Jeevan Mission scheme was implemented in Himachal in 2019, before this there were about 7.63 lakh water connections in the state. After the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, water taps were installed in about 9.50 lakh houses. In the year 2022, the former BJP government had waived the water bills of rural areas on the occasion of Himachal Day on 15 April. The current Congress government has decided to issue water bills in rural areas as well in a series of taking tough decisions to improve the economic situation. People say that they are ready to pay the water bill, but water supply should be ensured daily. In many rural areas of the state, water supply is being provided only once or twice a week.

70 paramilitary companies, 15,000 cops to be deployed for Republic Day: Delhi Police

Agencies : Over 70 companies of paramilitary forces and more than 15,000 police personnel are set to be deployed across the capital for Republic Day celebrations, an official said on Friday. The city will be monitored by drones and CCTV surveillance and cyber-specialist officers will be deployed to oversee operations, a senior police officer said. "We have already installed multi-layered security arrangements. We have six layers of checking and frisking arrangements. Apart from this, we will have multi-layered barricading. We have several thousand CCTV cameras installed in the New Delhi district, including those with Facial Recognition Systems (FRS)," the officer said. Moving vehicles with FRS system will also be deployed, he said. The officer said the cameras are linked to a database to identify criminals immediately. "Delhi Police is well prepared to tackle any kind of situation," he said. The officer further said that police teams are conducting mock drills with multiple security agencies. Over 70 companies of paramilitary forces and more than 15,000 police personnel.



Cyber Fraud: Lakhs of rupees were cheated in the name of investment in gaming platform Aerocoin, first gave profit and then committed a scam

Diary Times Desk : After cryptocurrency, a case of cheating of lakhs of rupees from many people of the state in the name of investment in Aerocoin, connected to a gaming platform running abroad, has come to light. A person from Bilaspur, who became a victim of fraud, has lodged a complaint in the Bharari police station. The complainant alleged that a person from Punjab, apart from him, got people from Bharari, Barsar, Sarkaghat, Shimla etc. invested lakhs of rupees in Aerocoin in the name of investment. Initially gave some profit. When the investment increased, he made an excuse of the platform crashing. In the complaint, Naresh Kumar, resident of Jhanjhwani Post Office Lahri Sarel Tehsil Ghumarwin, said that in the year 2022, he met a person named Indrajit Arora in Zirakpur. He told about Aerocoin. Aerocoin was connected to a gaming platform which was also running abroad. Due to being associated with a famous gaming platform, he trusted Aerocoin. He invested about two and a half lakh rupees. After this Indrajit Bharari also came. He also got many other people of the area to invest in it. Indrajit had also made people from Badsar, Sarkaghat, Shimla etc. invest lakhs of rupees. Initially some profits were distributed. But later Aerocoin was suddenly shut down. He met Indrajit. Indrajit said that this platform has crashed. According to the complainant, this Aerocoin connected to the world class gaming platform cannot crash. It has been shut down to loot people's money. DSP Ghumarwin Chandrapal Singh said that a case of fraud has been registered and investigation is being done.

Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition said- huge system change in numberdars too, salary not given for 10 months

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the government which changed the system has not spared even the Nambardars. The Nambardars of the state have been waiting for their honorarium for the last 10 months, but the government is not paying any heed to it. Before stopping the salary of people who are getting very less honorarium for ten months, the government should also think about such people. Whatever be the salary or honorarium, it is the means of raising the family of the employee. On Friday, Jairam Thakur said that this situation is not of just one department or one area. People everywhere are facing similar situation. It is unfortunate that after doing their work, people working on very small amounts are not getting their honorarium on time. The same is the situation of employees working on various outsourced and temporary posts.

Himachal Weather: Weather is expected to remain clear in Himachal for four days, in January

Diary Times Desk : The weather is forecast to remain clear in Himachal Pradesh for the next four days. On the other hand, 75 percent less rainfall than normal has been recorded in the state from January 1 to 24. During this period, 59.9 mm rainfall was considered normal but in reality only 14.7 mm rainfall was recorded. Bilaspur received 92 percent less rainfall than normal, Chamba 78, Hamirpur 92, Kangra 91, Kinnaur, Kullu 67, Lahaul-Spiti 63, Mandi 77, Shimla 74, Sirmour 74, Solan 89 and Una 94 percent less rainfall. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, light rain and snowfall is forecast at some places in the middle and high mountains on January 29 and 30 in the state. This change in the weather is expected due to the activity of Western Disturbance. At the same time, in the next 4-5 days, the maximum temperature is likely to gradually increase by 2 to 3 degrees.

Himachal : Children of ex-servicemen will be recruited batchwise for sixteen posts of staff nurse

Diary Times Desk : The batchwise recruitment process will soon begin from the quota of children of ex-servicemen for 16 posts of staff nurse in the health department. There will be 11 posts for children of ex-servicemen of general category in the recruitment, for which candidates of batches up to December 2014 will be eligible, there are two posts each for children of ex-servicemen of other backward classes and scheduled castes, for which candidates of batches up to December 2015 will be eligible. There is one post for children of ex-servicemen of scheduled tribes, for which candidates of batches up to December 2019 will be eligible. District Employment Officer Surendra Sharma said that registration in the employment office is necessary to participate in the batchwise recruitment. He has appealed to the eligible candidates to check their names in the list of the nearest employment office and in case the name is not in the list, ensure their online registration on the department's website before January 28. Eligible candidates can also register their names in the list at the nearest employment office till January 29. For more information, applicants should contact their nearest employment office.

CM Sukhu: All the girl students of Kanya School Dharamshala will get one thousand rupees, Chief Minister Sukhu announced

Diary Times Desk : On the occasion of Girl Child Day, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu on Friday interacted with the girl students at Government Senior Secondary School (Girls) Dharamshala in Kangra district and announced to provide Rs. 1000 each to all 351 girl students of the school. After inspecting the school, the Chief Minister congratulated the girl child on the occasion of Girl Child Day and said that today I have come to learn from everyone so that steps can be taken to improve education. He said that I have also studied in a government school but now a lack of confidence is being seen among the students studying in government schools. The state government is taking several steps to increase their confidence so that they can become better citizens. The Chief Minister said that the state government will not let even a single student be deprived of education, but steps are being taken for qualitative improvement in education. While talking to the girl students, the Chief Minister also asked them several questions.

Himachal: Rs 56 crore approved to install robotic surgery system in Tanda and AIMSS Chamiana

Diary Times Desk : During his winter stay in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu in the State Cabinet meeting held at Dharamshala approved a budget of Rs 28 crore for setting up robotic surgery system at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College Tanda on the lines of AIIMS Delhi. This initiative will prove to be a milestone in providing state-of-the-art healthcare services to the people of Kangra district, which will benefit thousands of patients of the district and neighboring areas. The Cabinet has approved an amount of Rs 56 crore for providing world-class medical facilities at Tanda Medical College and Atal Super Specialty Institute of Medical Sciences Chamiana (AIMSS). The introduction of robotic surgery at Tanda Medical College and AIMSS Chamiana will provide advanced surgical services in urology, general surgery, gynecology, cardiothoracic surgery and gastro surgery to the people, which will provide better healthcare services to the people of Kangra and Shimla districts and surrounding districts. Robotic surgery provides accuracy in diagnosis of disease, quick recovery after treatment and reduces the risk of infection due to minimally invasive techniques. With smaller incisions in this technique, patients experience less pain and can recover quickly and go home.

PhD admission case: HPU's five-member committee will investigate, notification issued

Diary Times Desk : Taking cognizance of the complaint made through the Chief Minister's helpline number regarding the PhD admission process for Electrical Engineering held in November at HPU's University Institute of Technology (UIT), Vice Chancellor Prof. SP Bansal has given instructions to form a committee for investigation. The committee has been notified. The five-member committee constituted under the chairmanship of the university's Dean of Studies Prof. BK Shivram includes the university's Dean of Student Welfare Prof. Mamta Mokta, Dean Faculty of Physical Science Prof. Manu Sood, Dean Faculty of Engineering and Technology, besides the Deputy Registrar DS Office.

Relief For AAP Before Polls, Court Turns Down BJP Plea Over Central Audits

Agencies : The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to direct a sitting of the state assembly for tabling several CAG reports on governance. Justice Sachin Datta, however, said there was an "inordinate delay" on part of the Delhi government in the matter. The court underlined the tabling of the audit reports was mandatory under the Constitution. "The court is not inclined to accept the prayer of the petitioner to summon a special sitting of the assembly," it held. Opposition leader Vijender Gupta and BJP MLAs -- Mohan Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Kumar Bajpai, and Jitendra Mahajan -- filed the petition last year and sought a direction to the speaker to call a sitting of the assembly for tabling the CAG reports. The petitioners filed the plea through advocates Neeraj and Satya Ranjan Swain. The senior lawyers for the speaker and the government opposed the court passing such a direction and said there was no urgency to table the reports at a stage when the assembly elections were to be held soon.

MP cabinet has decided to close liquor vends in 17 holy towns, announces CM Mohan Yadav

Agencies : Khargone: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Friday said his government has decided to shut down liquor shops in 17 holy towns in the state. The decision was taken at the cabinet meeting held during the day in Khargone, he added. The 17 towns consist of one municipal corporation, six nagar palikas (municipalities), six nagar parishads (urban councils) and six village panchayats. "In the first step to bring about an end to drinking in the state, liquor vends in 17 holy towns will be shut down. These shops will not be shifted elsewhere. Liquor shops will be completely shut in Ujjain Municipal Corporation limits," the chief minister told reporters. The areas in which liquor vends will be shut down are part of Datia, Panna, Mandla, Multai, Mandasaur and Maihar nagar palikas, as well as Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Mandleshwar, Orchha, Chitrakoot and Amarkantak nagar parishads, Yadav informed. The six village panchayats are Salkanpur, Barman Kala, Linga, Kundalpur, Bandakpur and Barmankhurd, the CM added. The liquor ban in the 5-kilometre periphery of the Narmada river will continue, Yadav said.

Rajya Sabha MP V Vijayasai Reddy retires from politics 'to focus on agriculture'



Agencies : Rajya Sabha MP V Vijayasai Reddy on Friday announced his retirement from politics, saying that going forward, he will focus on agriculture. He added that the decision to retire was 'entirely personal' and without any pressure, coercion or influence. Vijayasai Reddy, who is the Rajya Sabha floor leader of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), said he will resign from the Upper House on Saturday. "I am not joining any political party. I will forever be indebted to the YS family, who has supported me for four decades and across three generations. I will always be grateful to YS Jagan Garu for giving me the opportunity to serve as a Rajya Sabha member twice, and in particular to Bharatamma Garu, who helped me reach new heights in political arena," Reddy posted on X.

FIITJEE Coaching Centres Shut Across UP, Delhi As Teachers Quit Over Unpaid Salaries

Agencies : At least eight FIITJEE (Forum For Indian Institute of Technology-Joint Entrance Examination) coaching centres across North India have abruptly shut over the past week, leaving hundreds of students and parents fuming ahead of board and entrance examinations. The closure came after several teachers at the institute quit en masse due to unpaid salaries, officials said. The FIITJEE coaching centres in Noida, Ghaziabad, Bhopal, Varanasi, Delhi, and Patna have shut down. A centre in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut was the latest to close recently. According to officials.

8 killed in blast at ordnance factory in Maharashtra's Bhandara

Agencies : Eight persons were killed after a blast at an ordnance factory in Maharashtra's Bhandara district on Friday morning, Union Minister Nitin Gadhkari said. "As per preliminary information, eight persons were killed and seven injured in the blast," Gadhkari told reporters. While the minister put the death toll at eight, district collector Sanjay Kolte told PTI that so far four bodies had been retrieved and five injured persons rescued. The rescue operation was on for four to five persons still trapped under the debris, he added.

Telangana inks MoUs worth ₹1.79 lakh crore investments

Agencies : The Telangana government on Thursday claimed to have signed agreements with various industrial groups during the four-day World Economic Forum summit at Davos in Switzerland for establishing various projects with a total investment of ₹178,950 crore, which will create 49,550 jobs. A delegation from Telangana, led by chief minister A Revanth Reddy and comprising state industries minister D Sridhar Babu and senior officials, under the banner of Telangana Rising, concluded its Davos tour on Thursday. An official statement from the chief minister's office said that the biggest individual investments break-up broadly included ₹60,000 crore from Amazon, ₹45,000 crore from Sun Petrochemicals and ₹15,000 crore each from Tillman Global Holdings and Megha Engineering. Besides, global software giants such as HCL, Infosys and Wipro announced expansion of their facilities in Hyderabad promising thousands of new high-end jobs.

China Could Use It As "Water Bomb": Arunachal Chief Minister On Dam Project

Agencies : After Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, his Arunachal Pradesh counterpart Pema Khandu has raised concern about China's plan to construct the largest hydropower dam in eastern Tibet, warning that it could be used by Beijing as a "water bomb". Speaking at the inaugural function of a seminar titled 'Environment and Security' in the state Legislative Assembly complex on Friday, Mr Khandu drew the attention of all stakeholders towards the Chinese plan to construct the hydropower project.

"Ensure Proceedings In Fair Manner": Suspended MPs To Speaker After Waqf Panel Meet

Agencies : Opposition members of the parliamentary panel on the Waqf Amendment Bill who were suspended for a day today amid continuous protests and accusations against Chairman Jagdambika Pal of steam-rolling through the proceedings, have written to the Lok Sabha Speaker seeking proceedings to be conducted in a fair manner. "As we all felt humiliated, we stood and raised our voice democratically to hear our demands. Meanwhile, the Chairman spoke in phone with somebody and suddenly and surprisingly, he ordered our suspension with shouting," the suspended MPs said in the letter to the Speaker. "... The Amendments proposed in the Bill are not only connected with the huge land banks of the Waqf Boards across the country, but also relevant to the judicial pronouncements of the High Courts/Supreme Court thereon," they said. "Statutes and rules enacted by various state governments in this regard are also in challenge whereby conflict of interest has arisen thereto. Hence, a comprehensive study is essentially needed by the JPC to address these issues raised by the stakeholders in a holistic manner. In these circumstances, rushing the proceedings of the JPC without application of the mind by the Chairman is nothing but a riddle wrapped with hidden malice," the MPs said.



"Heil Tesla": Controversial Image Of Elon Musk Displayed On Tesla Factory In Germany

Agencies : An image of Elon Musk making a Nazi-style straight-arm gesture, accompanied by the phrase "Heil Tesla," was projected onto the Tesla Gigafactory in Grunheide, near Berlin, on Wednesday night. The projection was the work of UK - based activist group Led By Donkeys and Germany's Centre for Political Beauty, according to the Canadian Global Television Network. The incident was an attack against Musk and Tesla. Groups published the display on Instagram with a caption "Tesla Gigafactory, Berlin. #LedByDonkeys." It sparked controversy, the German police in Brandenburg first denied it, but then, an investigation to determine how and why the event occurred began, as per the news portal. The Gigafactory, one of Tesla's major manufacturing plants in Europe, has often been at the center of controversy over environmental impact and operational practices. This latest act of activism adds another layer to the public scrutiny of the company and its CEO. Some reactions to the projection have been a mix of support and backlash against the message. Others have condemned the statement as inflammatory. Police are still investigating the situation.

Indian-American Doctor Warns Against Pre-Term Deliveries Over Trump Order

Agencies : A leading doctor in US has cautioned against early cesarean deliveries amid concern that some women might opt for the procedure to beat US President Donald Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship. New Jersey-based leading cardiologist Dr Avinash Gupta told PTI that performing such surgeries would be "unethical" and could harm both the mother and the child. One of the first significant executive orders that Trump signed after taking the oath of office was on birthright citizenship, bypassing the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution which states that people born within the US will automatically be American citizens. However, the executive order says that if a baby is born to a mother who is "unlawfully present" in the United States.

Vladimir Putin says 'ready' for talks with Donald Trump on Ukraine



Agencies : Fuelling expectations of contact with his US counterpart Donald Trump on the Ukraine conflict, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said that he was ready for talks with US President Donald Trump on the Ukraine conflict. "As for the issue of negotiations, we have always said, and I want to emphasise this once again, that we are ready for these negotiations on Ukrainian issues," Putin told a reporter from Russian state TV, as reported by news agency AFP. Vladimir Putin also praised Donald Trump as "pragmatic" and "smart", saying he did not believe the US president would force global oil prices lower in a bid to damage Moscow. "He is not only a smart person, but a pragmatic person," Putin told state media. He said oil prices that were either "too high or "too low" were bad for both the Russian and American economies, adding: "I have a hard time imagining there will be decisions taken that are detrimental to the American economy."

Amid Trump's Deportation Plans, Why Indians Are Quitting Part-Time Jobs

Agencies : Indian students are quitting their part-time jobs post college hours for some extra money, for fear of getting deported. According to a report by The Times of India, the students said that although such jobs are important to survive in the US, they cannot risk their future, more so since they have taken sizable loans to land a seat in a college in America. This has been happening in the run-up to President Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20th since the new administration has indicated stricter immigration rules and tighter enforcements. International students can work in the US on F-1 visas for up to 20 hours a week on-campus, but many students work off-campus at restaurants, gas stations, retail stores and more to cover essential expenses.

'Ridiculous': Donald Trump asks Russia's Vladimir Putin to end war with Ukraine

Agencies : US President Donald Trump on Thursday called on his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to "make a deal" with Ukraine to end the ongoing war immediately. Addressing the media from the Oval Office, Donald Trump, who recently assumed the presidency for the second time, said the war between Russia and Ukraine is "ridiculous" and causing needless suffering. "I think he (Putin) should make a deal." When asked if he thinks that sanctions on Russia will force Putin to negotiate, he said, "I don't know." "That battlefield is like no battlefield since World War II... and I have pictures that you don't want to see. Soldiers are being killed daily at numbers that we haven't seen in decades. It would be nice to end that war. It's a ridiculous war," the US president added. Trump's suggestion to Putin followed a warning he issued in a social media post earlier stating that if a ceasefire is not reached soon, the United States would impose severe tariffs and sanctions on Russian goods.

'I can do that': Donald Trump confident about trade deal with China's Xi Jinping

Agencies : US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he recently had a conversation with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, which he termed as 'friendly'. In an interview, the Republican leader has also suggested that he was confident about reaching a trade deal with China. "It went fine. It was a good, friendly conversation," Trump told Fox News. Talking about making a deal over fair trade practices, Trump said that it was possible for him to achieve that with Xi, who he termed as 'ambitious'. "I can do that," the newly-installed US President said.

Trump had also posted an update about his phone call with Xi on his social media platform Truth Social, saying that they discussed a range of issues from balancing trade to TikTok. "We discussed balancing Trade, Fentanyl, TikTok, and many other subjects. President Xi and I will do everything possible to make the World more peaceful and safe!" he said in his post. The phone call happened last Friday, days before Donald Trump took office as the 47th President of the United States. Xi said he hoped for a "good start" to relations with Trump, who in turn said "it is my expectation that we will solve many problems together." Since taking office, Donald Trump has spoken about a 10% punitive.

US Arrests Over 500 Illegal Immigrants, Deports Hundreds Using Military Aircraft

Agencies : With Donald Trump in power now, authorities have started cracking down on illegal migrants who have made a perilous journey in a quest for the American dream. Hundreds of illegal migrants were arrested and deported in a massive operation that comes just three days after the new administration was sworn in. Sharing the figures, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that the US authorities have arrested 538 illegal migrants and deported hundreds using a military aircraft. "The Trump Administration arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals including a suspected terrorist, four members of the Tren de Aragua gang, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors," Ms Leavitt said in an online post on Thursday. "Trump Administration also deported hundreds of illegal immigrant criminals via military aircraft. The largest massive deportation operation in history is well underway. Promises made. Promises kept," she added. White House shared a "small preview" into the work the Trump administration is doing to "secure our nation's borders." It listed the names of some of the people arrested by the US Immigration.



Punjab CM's R-Day venue shifted to Patiala after pro-Khalistan graffiti at Faridkot

Agencies : Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will now unfurl the Tricolour at Patiala on Republic Day. Originally, the function was scheduled to be held at the Nehru Sports Stadium in Faridkot. The Polo Ground at Patiala has been the venue for such functions over the past couple of years, mainly due to security reasons. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally during the parliamentary elections last year was also held at the same venue. The shifting of venue comes after pro-Khalistan graffiti appeared on the outer walls of Nehru Stadium in Faridkot on Thursday morning. Khalistan flags were also seen in the neighbourhood. Earlier in the day, the government had ordered to hold the event at Shaheed Major Harminder Pal Singh (Shaurya Chakra) Government College, Mohali. Official orders confirmed that now Water Resource, Mining and Soil and Water Conservation Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal would unfurl the Tricolour there. The Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has claimed responsibility for the graffiti at the Faridkot stadium. Two days ago, Shive Kumar Verma, ADGP, Internal Security, had visited the stadium to review security arrangements for the CM's scheduled visit. Though heavy police deployment was made at and around the stadium.



Punjab and Haryana HC dismisses plea to make Karwa Chauth compulsory for all women, imposes token cost

Agencies : The moon holds sway over tides and hearts alike, but this time it found itself at the centre of a peculiar legal plea. In a petition filed in public interest before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, directions were sought to make Karwa Chauth — a festival celebrating marital longevity — a universal ritual for all women, regardless of marital or social status. Karwa Chauth is a cherished tradition where women fast from dawn to moonrise, praying for their husband's health and prosperity. The festival's rituals often culminate in a moonlit evening as wives break their fast after catching a glimpse of the celestial orb through a sieve — a sight that has inspired countless poems and Bollywood moments. But for the petitioner, the tradition was apparently not inclusive enough. Arguing that widows, divorcees, separated women and even those in live-in relationships were often excluded from participating, he sought to amend the law to make participation compulsory. He also asked for punitive action against anyone denying such participation. Taking up the matter, the Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel observed the petitioner was seeking "declaration of the celebration of Karwa Chauth by women folk irrespective of their status of being widows, separated, divorcees and the women in live-in relations"

MEA reacts after Pannun spotted raising 'Khalistan zindabad' slogans at Trump's inauguration

Agencies : The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said that India would continue to raise matters having bearing on the country's national security with the United States. This comes after Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun was reportedly seen at Donald Trump's inauguration in viral videos. "Whenever there is an anti-India activity we take up the matter with the US government. We will continue to raise matter with the US Government that have a bearing on our national security and have an anti-India agenda," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a weekly press briefing. Pannun was spotted at The Liberty Ball during the official inaugural ceremony of Trump who returned to the White House on January 20. The Khalistani terrorist was not invited to the event had bought tickets through some contact, according to a report in WION. As the crowd present at the celebratory event chanted 'USA, USA', Pannun was seen raising pro-Khalistan slogans, the video of which has been doing the rounds on social media.

SC gives 'absolute' protection from arrest to BIS Chahal in disproportionate assets case

Agencies : The Supreme Court on Friday gave an absolute protection from arrest to Bharat Inder Singh Chahal—former media adviser to the then Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh—in a case lodged against him for allegedly having assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Chahal served as media adviser to the Punjab Chief Minister from April 1, 2017, to August 31, 2021, and the disproportionate assets FIR was lodged against him on August 2, 2023 under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act—within two years of his demitting the office. The top court had on November 11, 2024, passed an interim order protecting Chahal ((76) from arrest till pendency of his petition challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order dismissing his anticipatory bail application. On Friday, the Bench made its interim order absolute and disposed of Chahal's petition. "Taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the case and upon hearing the learned counsel for the parties, we consider appropriate to make order dated November 11, 2024, absolute, provided the petitioner extends all cooperation.

Saini woos 2L traders with plan to settle dues

Agencies : Ahead of the civic body elections, the Nayab Singh Saini government today announced a major financial bonanza for nearly 2 lakh defaulting traders by unveiling the Haryana One-time Settlement Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues-2025. The scheme, aimed at moving ahead in the goods and services tax (GST) regime with lesser baggage of arrears and litigations by expediting the recovery of outstanding dues, was approved by the Haryana Cabinet at a meeting presided over by Chief Minister Saini. The scheme is set to save the trading community nearly Rs 2,500 crore. CM Saini claimed that the new scheme underlined BJP government's commitment to empowering small traders.

Mayoral poll: Chandigarh Mayor Kuldeep moves SC, demands election by 'show of hands'

Agencies : Chandigarh Mayor Kuldeep Kumar has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the UT Administration to hold the Chandigarh Mayoral election by 'show of hands' instead of 'secret ballot' to ensure fairness in the process. A Bench led by Justice Surya Kant on Friday issued notice to the Chandigarh Administration asking it to respond to Kumar's petition which also demanded appointment of an independent observer to conduct free-and-fair elections and posted the matter for further hearing on Monday—January 27. Hinting at appointing a retired judge to oversee the election process, the Bench, which also included Justice N Kotiswar Singh, made it clear that the election process shall continue. On behalf of Kumar, who belongs to the AAP, senior counsel Gurminder Singh sought to draw the court's attention to the 2024 incident of ballot-tampering by the Presiding Officer and requested it to order the election to be held by 'show of hands', instead of 'secret ballot' in order to ensure fairness in the process.



Demand to expedite flood protection measures along Beas to safeguard vulnerable areas

Diary Times Desk : Anup Thakur, president of Kullu-Manali Paryatan Vikas Mandal, has appealed to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to intervene to expedite flood protection measures along the Beas river. Heavy devastation was caused by flash floods in 2023. The request was formally addressed to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu through the MLA of Mandali. Thakur emphasised the dire need for the flood protection project, highlighting the tragic loss of human lives, livestock and property during the monsoon season of 2023 as well as prior incidents of flash floods that struck the region. The flooded Beas has consistently caused such disasters, with destructive floods recorded in multiple years, including 1902, 1945, 1988, and more recently in 2018. The flash floods severely impacted the Chandigarh-Manali highway in 2023, which runs parallel to the river and is vital for tourism in the region. Thakur pointed out that the highway's damage not only disrupts tourism but threatens the livelihoods of local residents who depend on the tourism sector.

Rs 50 lakh donation for food at Mahakumbh

Diary Times Desk : Lokendra Mohan Chandel, a resident of Shoghi near Shimla and a renowned entrepreneur, donated Rs 50.20 lakh for making food arrangements for pilgrims at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. Chandel today presented the cheque to Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, requesting his support in channelizing the funds for this purpose. In addition to his contribution to Mahakumbh, Chandel also donated Rs. 2.05 lakh each to the Chief Minister Relief Funds of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 2.05 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. These cheques were also handed over to the Governor during a courtesy meeting at Raj Bhavan, here today. Accompanied by Shimla-based social worker Deepak Sharma and Vice President of All India Sharshwat Parishad Gaurav Sharma, Chandel expressed his wish.

CM announces Rs150 crore International Convention Centre at Dharamsala



Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced the construction of the country's largest International Convention Centre near Tapovan at a cost of Rs 150 crore. He said this convention centre would host seminars by major companies, boost tourism and create employment opportunities for local youth. While addressing a public gathering at Dari Mela Ground in the Dharamsala Assembly constituency of Kangra district, the CM also announced the operationalisation of Primary Health Centre, Yol Cantt, funding for the construction of a bridge to the IT Park, allocation of adequate funds to complete the OBC Bhawan and road construction projects, including a road from the school in Jhiyol to Anjani Mata, Parol to Ghiyana Khurd Bara Khaula, Kufri to Chamunda Temple, Alkhani to Jayul Kand Kardiyana, Kaned to Jhakhrehad, Cheliyan to Pasu and Tika to Bani and the Lunta-Bagotu-Khabrot-Tillu road. He said the state government would not compromise on corruption and added that during the previous BJP government government jobs were allegedly.

Man booked for raping, threatening 16-year-old girl in Himachal Pradesh's Una

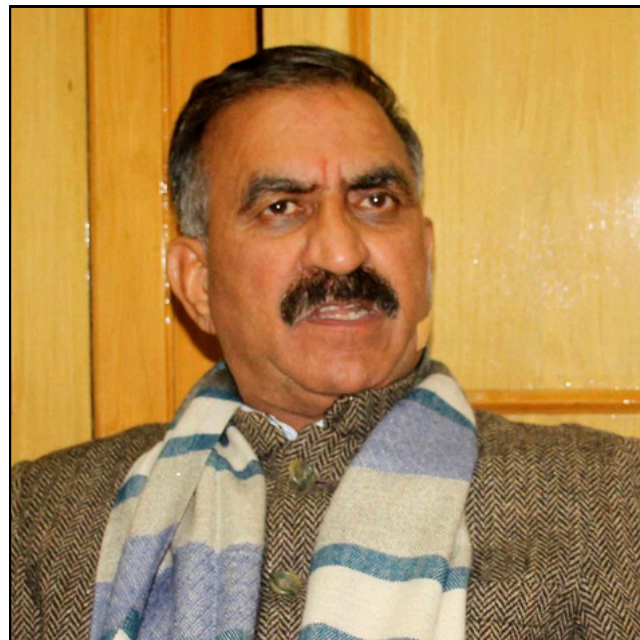
Diary Times Desk : The Una police on Friday registered a case of rape against a man on a complaint by a 16-year-old girl, who has also accused him of harassing her to convert and marry him, officials said. The girl, a Class II student, also alleged that the man threatened to kill her and her parents, and fired gunshots near their house, police said. A case under Sections 64(1) (punishment for rape), 115(2) (punishment for causing hurt voluntarily), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult with intention to provoke breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Act (BNS) and Section 4 (Punishment for penetrative sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act has been registered in Una women police station, they added. In her complaint, the victim said that the accused, Shahid Khan from Amb, was acquainted with her for the past one-and-a-half years and used to call her repeatedly. She alleged that he recently beat and raped her, a police officer said, citing the complaint. The girl further alleged that the accused threatened to kill her and her parents and also fired gunshots near her house.

Sukhu lays foundation stone of milk processing plant at Dhagwar

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today laid the foundation stone of milk processing plant with a capacity to process 1.50 lakh litres milk per day in Dhagwar area of Kangra district. He said the plant's initial processing capacity of 1.50 lakh litres per day can be expanded to 3 lakh litres per day. "Once operational, the Dhagwar Milk Processing Plant will significantly strengthen the economy of farmers in Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur, Chamba and Una districts, benefiting over 35,000 milk producers," he said. He said in addition to boosting the income of milk producers, the plant will create employment opportunities in milk collection, processing, quality control and distribution. It will also generate indirect jobs in sectors such as transportation, supply chain management and maintenance services. The Chief Minister said the entire funding for the construction of this plant was being provided by the state government and it will be completed by February 2026 and farmers will receive payments of Rs 40 lakh daily.

CM Sukhu interacts virtually with 17 'Children of State'

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today interacted virtually with 17 'Children of the State' from Aparajita Bal Ashram, Bhaged, Bilaspur district, who are on a two-day educational and recreational exposure visit. The interaction took place from the Dharamsala, as the children joined via video conferencing from Wagah Border after witnessing Beating Retreat ceremony. During their two-day trip, which will conclude on January 24, the children will visit Amritsar, Wagah Border, Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh and Science City Kapurthala. The CM said that the government has adopted all orphaned children as 'Children of the State' and is responsible for their care, education, and recreational activities. He assured the children that they would be sent on trips to new destinations next year to help them learn and grow. He said that all the 'Children of the state' are like family to him.



'Don't boo Novak Djokovic': Alexander Zverev pulls up Australian Open crowd for disrespecting injured champion



Agencies : In a gesture that is sure to lift his stature several notches, Alexander Zverev requested the Rod Laver Arena crowd in Melbourne not to boo Novak Djokovic. The former world number one retired hurt immediately after losing the first set in a hard-fought tie break, which allowed Zverev a passage into the men's singles final. The 37-year-old Serbian great's upper left leg was again heavily taped after he hurt it in the quarter-finals and he called time after going down 7-6 (7/5). He left the court to a mixture of boos and applause from the crowd as Germany's Zverev reached his first Melbourne final. "Please, guys, don't boo a player when he goes out with an injury. I know everyone paid for tickets and everyone wants to see a five-set semi-final but Novak has given absolutely everything of his life to the sport the last 20 years," Zverev said as Djokovic made his way out of the court. Highlighting Djokovic's never-say-die attitude, the second seed asked the crowd to be respectful of a champion player who has won the Australian Open a record 10 times. "He has won this tournament with an abdominal tear. He has won this tournament with a hamstring tear."

India Star Twists Ankle Ahead Of India vs England 2nd T20I, More Headache For Gautam Gambhir

Agencies : India opener Abhishek Sharma faced an injury scare ahead of the second T20I against England as he twisted his ankle during the catching drill at nets in Chennai on Friday. Subsequently, Abhishek was checked by team physiotherapist on the field before retreating to the dressing room to give rest to his ankle. He was seen slightly limping while walking back to the pavilion and did not bat at nets either. The 24-year-old spent more than half an hour with the physio in the dressing room. Abhishek made a quickfire 79 in the first match in Kolkata where India scored a facile seven-wicket victory. If Abhishek has to sit out of the match on Saturday in Chennai, India have the options of fielding Washington Sundar or Dhruv Jurel in the eleven. In that event, Tilak Varma can move up the order to open with Sanju Samson. India are leading the five-match series 1-0 after winning the first match in Kolkata by seven wickets. Meanwhile, India spinner Varun Chakravarthy on Friday equated the standards of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy to IPL, and said cricketers should turn out more in the domestic tournament to improve their playing smarts in the T20 format.

I have not yet reached the level to be compared with R Ashwin: Varun Chakravarthy

Agencies : Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy will play in front of his home crowd on Saturday when India take on England at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Months after R Ashwin's retirement, Chennai will welcome another local spinner, this time in the T20I format. Varun heads into the contest in fine form, having established himself as a key member of the T20I team. When asked whether he saw an opportunity to continue Ashwin's legacy as a frontline player from Tamil Nadu in the Indian team.

"Just make the change and play Shami": Suryakumar Yadav's excuse irks former India player

Agencies : When Suryakumar Yadav revealed India's Playing XI for the first T20I against England at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Wednesday evening, the absence of Mohammed Shami came as a surprise. The pacer, who had spent much of the previous year recovering from an ankle injury, was expected to make his highly anticipated return to international cricket. However, Shami remained on the bench, with the captain opting for just one frontline pacer, Arshdeep Singh, alongside three spinners – Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, and Axar Patel. The decision turned out to be a stroke of genius, as India triumphed over England by 7 wickets, chasing down a target of 133 in just 12.5 overs. However, despite the victory and India taking a 1-0 lead in the series, Shami's absence from the lineup, particularly at a venue where he has a strong domestic history, left fans disappointed. Many were visibly upset over his delayed comeback, including former India opener Aakash Chopra. He believes that the only plausible reason for Shami's omission is that he has not yet fully recovered from his injury. "One match has already passed, and there are only four remaining. If he wasn't part of the first game, it can only mean one thing: he wasn't fully fit."

Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and Yashasvi Jaiswal spearhead ICC Test Team of the Year; Pat Cummins named captain

Agencies : On Friday, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the Test Team Of The Year. India had a mixed bag in the longest format of the game in 2024, losing five of their last seven Tests. Despite this, three Indians, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja, and Jasprit Bumrah, have been included in the XI. Australia's Pat Cummins, who recently led Australia to a 3-1 Border-Gavaskar Trophy win, has been chosen as the skipper. Pat Cummins is the lone Australian in the XI named by ICC, while the lineup includes four players from England (Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Harry Brook and Jamie Smith) and two from New Zealand (Kane Williamson and Matt Henry). No South Africa player has been named in the XI despite the Proteas making it to the final of World Test Championship (WTC). Bumrah was India's standout performer in Tests in 2024. He began the year with a bang against England, taking 19 wickets in four matches, including a remarkable nine-wicket haul in Vishakhapatnam.

Jadeja shines again as Saurashtra wreck Delhi inside two days

Agencies : Delhi were wrecked in Rajkot inside two days after Ravindra Jadeja ripped through their lineup for the second time in two days. Having already picked five wickets on the first day, Jadeja was on the money once again. Trailing by 25 runs at stumps yesterday, Saurashtra wiped out the deficit and were bowled out for 271 to finish with a lead of 83. Jadeja then weaved his magic yet again as Delhi were bowled out for just 94 with Ayush Badoni alone making 44. Opening the bowling alongside Jaydev Unadkat, Jadeja picked 7 wickets, thus finishing with 12 for the match. Mumbai pulled yet another rabbit out of the hat to stun Jammu and Kashmir on the second day. While J&K might still go on to win this contest, Mumbai managed to completely demoralise their spirits by stumps on the second day. J&K finished their innings today with a lead of 86 and by the time Mumbai could erase that in their second essay, they lost five wickets despite Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal adding 54 for the first wicket. Once Rohit fell, wickets fell in heaps again as the likes of Shreyas Iyer, Ajinkya Rahane and Shivam Dube failed to fire yet again. Staring down a huge defeat at 101/7, with a lead of just 15 runs, Mumbai found saviours in their lower order yet again. Shardul Thakur and Tanush Kotian came up with an epic rescue act that has seen them add 173 off just 234 balls with the former helping himself to a brilliant ton. While Mumbai now lead by 188, it could easily swell up to a challenging number if these two continue to keep J&K at bay.

Confusion reigns as Rahane is recalled from the pavilion

Agencies : There was utter confusion at the MCA BKC Ground here in Mumbai on Friday afternoon (January 24) when Ajinkya Rahane was declared out, caught down the leg side by Jammu & Kashmir wicketkeeper Kanhaiya Wadhawan, only to be called back in a rather questionable way. The Mumbai captain was already in the pavilion and next man Shardul Thakur was in the ground when umpires S Ravi and Navdeep Singh Sidhu declared an Umar Nazir delivery, the first of the 25th over in the Mumbai second innings, a no-ball. Thakur was asked to wait and, after a few minutes, was sent back. The sequence of events created an impression that the Mumbai No. 8, was being timed out. Even the commentators on live television said so.