

## Himachal: Shimla's Wing Commander Ankit Sood awarded Air Force Gallantry Medal, saved people by showing extraordinary courage



**Diary Times Desk :** Capital resident Wing Commander Ankit Sood was awarded the Air Force Medal (Valour) on the eve of Republic Day. He was given this honor for showing extraordinary courage and devotion to save lives during the devastating floods in Himachal in 2023. Ankit Sood completed his early education from Shelade School in Shimla and then completed his studies till 12th from Dayanand Public School in 2004. He passed the NDA exam in 2004 itself. Started training in the Air Force in the year 2007. He started serving in the Air Force in the year 2008. His mother Brij Sood has been a councillor of Municipal Corporation Shimla. Ankit Sood's father Suresh Sood said that Ankit had a dream of serving the country by joining the army since childhood. On August 24, 2023, Wing Commander Sood was entrusted with the task of rescuing critically ill patients stranded in flood-affected areas of Kullu and Mandi districts from Jammu. He carried out the difficult task of evacuating 12 critical patients from Kullu to PGI Chandigarh amidst inclement weather and dangerous mountainous terrain. Despite challenging weather, dense clouds and problems like landslides, he landed the helicopter at non-standard landing sites in four villages and evacuated the patients safely.

## India, China decide to resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

**Agencies :** India and China have agreed to resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and direct air services between the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Monday after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong in Beijing. Both countries also agreed to hold a meeting on expert-level mechanism to discuss provision of hydrological data pertaining to trans-border rivers. The MEA said the two sides decided to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in the summer of 2025. "The relevant mechanism will discuss the modalities for doing so as per existing agreements," the MEA said. Every year, the yatra took place between June and September.

## PM Modi, Amit Shah 'can't go to heaven' in 100 lives, says Kharge

**Agencies :** On a day Union Home Minister Amit Shah took a dip at the Triveni Sangam, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday alleged that BJP leaders were competing for the cameras and asked if poverty could be removed by such an act. He also claimed that Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "can't go to heaven even in a hundred lives" as they had committed many sins, prompting the BJP to accuse him of being "anti-Sanatan" for his remark on holy dips. The saffron party also demanded that Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi apologise to "every Sanatani" for Kharge's remarks. Addressing the 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally in this Madhya Pradesh town, Kharge said BJP leaders kept taking dips in the Ganga until it appeared good on the cameras. He also said he was not questioning anyone's faith and extended his apology if he hurt anyone with his comment.



## BJP 'mixing poison' in Yamuna to kill Delhiites, alleges Kejriwal

**Agencies :** Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Monday accused the ruling BJP in Haryana of "intentionally" throwing industrial waste into the Yamuna that supplies water to the national capital, prompting AAP supremo Kejriwal to allege that the saffron party is trying to kill people by mixing "poison" in the river. Hitting back at AAP leaders, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini said they have the habit of blaming others. "I asked them (the AAP government in Delhi) to send their chief secretary and said I would ask my chief secretary to check the quality of the water...They are talking about ammonia, but there is no shortage of water," Saini told reporters. At a press conference here, Atishi alleged that the BJP is "deliberately disrupting" Delhi's water supply as a "historic loss" awaits the saffron party in the upcoming Assembly polls in the capital.

## Waqf Amendment Bill cleared by Joint Parliamentary Committee

**Agencies :** The Joint Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill on Monday adopted all amendments proposed by the ruling BJP-led NDA members and negated every change moved by opposition members. The committee chairman Jagdambika Pal told reporters after the meeting that amendments adopted by the committee will make the law better and more effective. However, opposition MPs decried the meeting's proceedings and accused Pal of "subverting" the democratic process. "It was a farcical exercise. We were not heard. Pal has acted in a dictatorial manner," TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee told reporters. Pal rejected the charge, and said the entire exercise was democratic, and the majority view prevailed. One of the more significant amendments proposed by the committee is that the existing Waqf properties cannot be questioned on the grounds of 'Waqf by user', which existed in the current law.

## Himachal: Eight policemen including Zaidi sentenced to life imprisonment in Suraj murder case

**Diary Times Desk :** The CBI court of Chandigarh on Monday pronounced its verdict on the punishment of the guilty police personnel in the case of the murder of Suraj, the accused arrested in the much talked about Gudiya rape and murder case in Kotkhai of Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh in 2017, in the lockup. The court has sentenced eight police officers and employees, including former IG IPS Zahoor Haider Zaidi, to life imprisonment. A fine of Rs 1 lakh each has also been imposed on all the accused. Earlier, the CBI court heard the last appeal of the accused on Monday morning. This is probably the first time in the history of Himachal that the SIT investigating a case has been sentenced to life imprisonment. On January 18, after the CBI court convicted them on the basis of witnesses' statements and evidence, apart from Zaidi, the then DSP Manoj Joshi, Police Sub Inspector Rajindra Singh, ASI Deep Chand Sharma, Standard Head Constable Mohan Lal and Surat Singh, Head Constable Rafi Mohammad lodged in Buraill Jail.

## 'One Nation, One Election' critical discussion for India's democratic process: PM

**Agencies :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the ongoing debate on the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal is critical for India's democratic process and urged youngsters to actively engage in and promote the discussions. Addressing a National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally here, Modi urged youngsters, including NCC cadets and NSS volunteers, to actively engage in and promote the debate which, he said, is directly linked to their future. The prime minister observed that polls have often led to an overwhelming cycle of continuous electioneering in India. "After independence, elections at the state and central levels were held together for a long time.



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## HP Constable Recruitment: Physical standard and efficiency test will start from this day for four districts

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Police is recruiting for 1088 posts of constables (male and female). The recruitment process will be conducted in the districts of the southern range of Himachal Pradesh (Sirmaur, Solan, Shimla and Kinnaur) from 11 February to 27 March under the chairmanship of the IG of the range. The list of physical standard test and physical efficiency test centers for recruitment has been released by the Police Headquarters. 11202 candidates will appear in the recruitment in Sirmour, 9275 in Solan, 12795 in Shimla and 1350 in Kinnaur. First of all, female candidates will be called for PST/PET, after that male candidates will be called. All candidates should report to the recruitment venue at 7.00 am on the scheduled day. E-admit cards are being issued to the candidates by the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission. In case of not getting the e-admit card, the candidates have been advised to contact the Public Service Commission. No one other than the candidates will be allowed to go to the venue. The concerned SSP has been requested to make necessary arrangements. In Sirmaur district, the physical standard test and physical efficiency test will be held from 11 to 20 February at Chamba Ground Nahan / Chawgan. For Solan district, the physical test will be held from 25 February to 6 March at Police Line Solan, for Shimla from 11 to 22 March at Police Line Bharari and for Kinnaur district from 27 to 28 March at Mini Stadium Kalpa. The recruitment process will be organised in the Southern Range districts of Himachal Pradesh (Sirmaur, Solan, Shimla and Kinnaur) from 11 February to 27 March under the chairmanship of the IG of the Range.

## RG Kar victim's parents not in favour of death for convict: Counsel

**Agencies :** On a day when both the West Bengal government and the CBI moved the Calcutta High Court for admission of their appeals seeking capital punishment for RG Kar hospital rape-murder convict Sanjay Roy, a counsel for the victim's parents claimed that the family does not want death penalty for him. Speaking to reporters outside the high court premises after hearing on the appeals concluded for the day, Gargi Goswami, the advocate on record for the victim's parents, claimed they rather want the trial process of the other accused in the case to start without further delay. "I have spoken to the parents of the victim multiple times. They are of the opinion that all those who are involved in the murder of their daughter need not be given capital punishment simply because they killed her. They want the highest punishment as awarded by the trial court to the convict.

## Himachal: Travelling on Nerchowk-Manali four lane has become expensive, toll collection has started in Takoli

**Diary Times Desk :** Takoli toll plaza of Mandi district on Kiratpur-Manali four lane was started on Monday after about 18 months of disaster. New rates have been fixed giving relief to every category of vehicles. A one-way fee of Rs 105 will be charged in LMV category. Earlier Rs 110 was charged. A relief of Rs 10 has been given for two-way travel. Rates have been fixed after reduction for other category vehicles as well. With the opening of the third toll plaza on Kiratpur-Manali four lane, the journey from Chandigarh to Manali has become expensive. There is a plan to start Dohlnuala toll plaza in Kullu district in the coming days. Rates have also been fixed for this. Here too, a relief of Rs 5 has been given in LMV category as compared to earlier. Long queues of vehicles were seen on both ends of Takoli toll plaza on Monday morning throughout the day. Fast tags of most of the people were also not recharged. Due to this, there was a jam situation at the toll plaza. People had to wait for a long time. The journey on Kiratpur-Manali four lane is full of adventure. Tourists reach Manali after travelling through the views of the lake and several tunnels. At present, there are four toll plazas from Kitarpur to Manali, Gada Moda, Dahar, Takoli and Dohlnuala.

## Mumbai Police arrest woman in Bengal in Saif attack case

**Agencies :** Mumbai Police on Monday conducted a search operation in West Bengal's Nadia district and arrested a woman in connection with the attack on film actor Saif Ali Khan, a source said. Investigation revealed that the SIM used by the Bangladeshi national, who was arrested earlier in Mumbai for the attack, was registered in the name of the woman, he said. A two-member team of Mumbai Police arrived in West Bengal on Sunday. "A woman was arrested by Mumbai Police from Chapra in Nadia district in the Saif Ali attack case. They may apply for transit remand to take her to Mumbai," the source in West Bengal Police told PTI. The woman, Khukhumi Jahangir Sheikh, was known to the arrested Bangladeshi, Shariful Fakir. "Fakir had entered India illegally through the India-Bangladesh border near Siliguri in north Bengal and got in touch with this woman. She is actually a resident of Andulia in Murshidabad district of West Bengal," he said. Investigation reveals that the SIM used by the Bangladeshi national, who was arrested earlier in Mumbai for the attack, was registered in the name of the woman.

## Himachal: Una's brave son Naik Dilwar Khan killed two terrorists, posthumously awarded Kirti Chakra

**Diary Times Desk :** Martyr Naik Dilwar Khan of Gharwasda village of Bangana in Una district of Himachal Pradesh was posthumously awarded the Kirti Chakra for his indomitable courage and bravery. Naik Dilwar Khan, posted in the Artillery Regiment of the 28th Battalion of the National Rifles, originally hailed from Gharwasda village of Bangana in Una district. At the age of just 28, Dilwar Khan made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the enemies of the country. According to the information, on 23 July 2024, late at night, the army received intelligence input that some terrorists were hiding in the Lolab Valley of Kupwara district. The responsibility of this operation was given to the 28th Battalion of the National Rifles. The battalion immediately swung into action and sent a team towards the Lolab Valley. Naik Dilwar Khan was also included in the team that entered the dense forests of Lolab Valley. Late at night around 12:00, Naik Dilwar's eyes fell on two terrorists. Dilwar immediately signaled and stopped his comrades. Meanwhile, a terrorist saw the army contingent. He made noise and alerted all his comrades. The terrorists started firing bullets on the army soldiers with their automatic rifles. The soldiers also gave a befitting reply to the terrorists. Hiding behind the bushes, Naik Dilwar realized that a terrorist could be caught alive. But it was dangerous to reach the terrorist by passing through the bushes. Dilwar Khan decided to catch the terrorist by putting his life at stake. He caught the terrorist amidst a shower of bullets. When the captured terrorist shouted, the other terrorist opened fire targeting Naik Dilwar. The bullets hit Naik Dilwar directly. Despite being shot, he did not lose courage and continued to fight the terrorist.

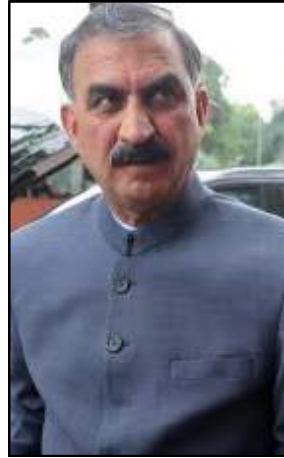
## Karnataka HC reserves verdict on MUDA case probe by independent agency

**Agencies :** The Karnataka High Court on Monday reserved its order on whether to transfer the MUDA case to an independent agency, such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The petitioners in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, which involves Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi B M, his brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, and others as accused, had requested the court to refer the case to the CBI or another independent agency. The Lokayukta police have registered a case against the accused and have questioned them. However, the petitioners, who are activists, are not satisfied saying that the police wing of the state's ombudsman cannot probe their superior, which is the Chief Minister, in a fair manner. Justice M Nagaprasanna said, "The subject petition was preferred invoking the jurisdiction of this court under section 226 and 482 of the CrPC reference of the matter to the independent agency like that of the CBI or otherwise as the prayer is in the alternative." The judge also quoted the orders passed by his court from time to time.



## Himachal CM: CM lashed out at BJP in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, said- Congress leaders broke the chains of slavery

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday participated in the Congress rally organised to save the Constitution in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. Addressing the rally titled Jai Bhim, Jai Bapu, Jai Samvidhan, the Chief Minister said that the Congress leaders broke the chains of slavery and laid a strong foundation of democracy by creating the Constitution. Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Constitution gave every Indian the shield of equal rights and respect. During the rally held in the presence of All India National Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and many senior leaders, the Chief Minister said that today the Constitution is in danger and constitutional institutions like the Election Commission are being weakened. At such a time, Rahul Gandhi has come as the true protector and commander of the Constitution. Through the Bharat Jodo Yatra, he walked thousands of kilometres on foot and gave the message of unity, integrity and brotherhood of the country. State Congress President Pratibha Singh also addressed the rally. Congress is taking out the Samvidhan Bachao Yatra across the country in protest against the statement made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Dr. Ambedkar.



## Himachal News: IPS Mohit Chawla's transfer cancelled, he will continue as DIG Cyber Crime

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh government has cancelled the transfer of IPS Mohit Chawla. Mohit Chawla will continue to work as DIG Cyber Crime. Recently Mohit Chawla was transferred as Principal in Police Training College Daroh. Now the additional charge of Principal in Daroh has been handed over to DIG Central Zone Saumya. On the other hand, the Home Department has also issued a notification to give Level 12 Pay Matrix under Junior Administrative Grade to IPS Akriti and Sandeep Dhawal.

## Gudiya Rape And Murder Case: Gudiya's mother has pleaded for a fresh investigation, the case will be heard in the High Court soon

**Diary Times Desk :** A plea for re-investigation of the case has been made on behalf of Gudiya's mother in the Himachal Pradesh High Court. For this, an application has been filed in the court, in which a request has been made to hear the case soon. A petition was filed in the Himachal Pradesh High Court in March 2022 on behalf of Gudiya's mother, which was admitted by the court. In this petition, questions have been raised on the investigating agencies and a plea has been made to re-investigate the entire matter. Allegations have been made that the SIT was formed a week after the incident and after 10-15 days the CBI collected samples for investigation. By then the victim's body was also burnt. Later the Kotkhai police station was also burnt, in which all the records related to the Gudiya rape and murder case were kept. The petition filed by the petitioner in the High Court will be heard immediately after the holidays are over. Gudiya's mother is not satisfied with the CBI investigation. Gudiya's mother said that the police officers and employees were treated well, but Gudiya has not got justice. Gudiya's mother said that the police did not investigate properly after her daughter's death, so they had to go to jail. An innocent person was beaten up in the police station to force him to confess, so the police had to pay for it. Gudiya's mother said that her daughter's culprits are still roaming freely. Gudiya has not got justice yet and her murderers are still roaming around. It is noteworthy that the body of a 16-year-old girl student who went missing from Kotkhai in Shimla district on July 4, 2017.

## Himachal News: Sirmaur youth dies under suspicious circumstances in a private hotel, wrong name and address were given

**Diary Times Desk :** A young man died under suspicious circumstances in a private hotel in the district headquarters Solan. The young man is said to be from Rajgarh area. Police have also recovered a syringe from the room. However, it could not be ascertained whether it was used. Police have not found any marks of the syringe on the body. However, the family members have told the police that the young man was under mental stress for many days. According to the police, Ved Prakash, the manager of a private hotel on Rajgarh Road Solan, informed the police post city Solan that a young man was staying in his hotel room, who had written his name and address incorrectly. When the door of the room was knocked, the young man did not open the door. During investigation, it was found that a young man named Rahul Thakur, resident of Pachhad Sirmaur, was staying in the room, whose name was also entered in the hotel register.

## Himachal Weather: Weather may change again in the high altitude areas of Himachal, chances of rain and snowfall for five days

**Diary Times Desk :** Weather may change again in some parts of Himachal Pradesh. The Meteorological Center has forecast light rain and snowfall for five days in the high altitude areas of the state. According to the Meteorological Center Shimla, there is a yellow alert of cold wave in some areas of the state on 27 and 28 January. There is a possibility of rain and snowfall at some high altitude places from 29 January to 2 February. This change in weather is expected due to the activation of Western Disturbance. The weather is likely to remain clear in the entire state today and tomorrow. There may be light rain and snowfall at some places in the middle and high mountain districts on 29, 30 January and 2 February. The weather will remain clear in the plain districts. On the other hand, there are chances of rain, snowfall and lightning at many places in the middle and high mountain districts on 31 January and 1 February. Light rain may occur in the lower hilly and plain areas. There is no possibility of any major change in the maximum temperature during the next 48 hours. Then during 3-4 days, the maximum temperature is likely to fall by 4-5 degree Celsius in many parts of the state.

## UCC: Minister Rajesh Dharmani said- Uniform Civil Code is not good for Himachal, BJP is doing politics

**Diary Times Desk :** Cabinet Minister Rajesh Dharmani has hit back at the statement of Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur on Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Speaking to the media at the State Secretariat on Monday, he said that BJP is doing politics on UCC, this is not good for Himachal. According to Hindu culture also, there is diversity and customs in the state, it is difficult to bring uniformity, diversity is our identity, BJP is only targeting minorities. Let us tell you, Uttarakhnad has become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code. After two and a half years of preparations, the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has come into force on Monday. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the portal and rules of UCC in the Chief Servant House. At the same time, its notification has also been issued. Cabinet Minister Rajesh Dharmani, while talking to media at the state secretariat on Monday, said that BJP is doing politics.

## Hamirpur News: Fire broke out in a house and a cowshed in Hamirpur, loss estimated at Rs 6 lakh; Administration provided immediate relief

**Diary Times Desk :** A loss of about six lakh rupees is estimated due to fire in a house and cowshed in village Badaihar of sub-division Bhoranji. The TV, cupboard, bed etc. kept in the room have been burnt to ashes. The administration has provided immediate relief of ten thousand rupees to the victim's family. The two-storey house and cowshed of the victim Prakash Chand caught fire in the afternoon. Village Panchayat Badaihar's Pradhan Virendra Pal Sharma said that the fire broke out in the house when no member was at home. A person had died in the village, the family members had gone there. When flames of smoke started coming out of the house, the people of the nearby houses raised an alarm. On hearing the noise, people gathered and started trying to extinguish the fire. By the time the fire was controlled, the fridge, TV, washing machine, cupboard, bed, food items, utensils, clothes and other items kept in the room had been completely burnt to ashes. Although the fire brigade was also informed, but due to lack of road facilities, the vehicle could not reach the spot.

## Indonesia President's "Indian DNA" Remark Leaves President, PM Modi In Splits

**Agencies :** Indonesia President Prabowo Subianto on Sunday, during a dinner hosted by President Droupadi Murmu, quipped that he has "Indian DNA", sparking a burst of laughter among the dignitaries including the President, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Subianto made the remark while talking about his connection with India. "A few weeks ago I had my genetic sequencing test and my DNA test and they told me that I have Indian DNA. Everybody knows when I hear Indian music, I start dancing," he said, leaving the room in splits. "India and Indonesia have a long, ancient history together. We have civilizational links, even now a very important part of our language comes from Sanskrit. Many names of Indonesia are actually Sanskrit names and in our daily life, the influence of ancient Indian civilization is very strong. I think it's also part of our genetics," the Indonesian President added. Mr Subianto also lauded PM Modi's leadership and commitment towards alleviating poverty and helping the marginalised while affirming that he learned a lot from him in the few days.

## NASA Astronaut Shares Stunning Photos Of Maha Kumbh Mela From Space

**Agencies :** The ongoing Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj has caught the attention of millions, not just on Earth but also from space. NASA astronaut Don Pettit, aboard the International Space Station (ISS), has shared images of the event, showing its grandeur from the sky. Mr Pettit, known for his exceptional astrophotography, posted the images on X, writing, "2025 Maha Kumbh Mela Ganges River pilgrimage from the ISS at night. The largest human gathering in the world is well lit." The tent city of Prayagraj near the Sangam - the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers - dazzles in pictures. The Maha Kumbh Mela, held once every 144 years, is renowned for its massive gathering of pilgrims and its deep spiritual significance. The ISS, orbiting at 28,000 km per hour above Earth, captured the event's glow using its high-powered cameras. The internet has since exploded with reactions to the stunning photos. A user commented, "That reminds me of being a star in space and having other stars gather with me until we create a supernova."

## Uttarakhand Rolls Out Uniform Civil Code, Becomes First State To Do So



**Agencies :** Today, the Uttarakhand State Government rolled out the Uniform Civil Code in the state, almost a year after the Uttarakhand Assembly passed the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2024. It has become the first state in the country to implement UCC. An announcement was made in this regard by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who also launched the rules manual for the UCC and a portal for applications under the new rules at the CM's camp office in Dehradun. Some key aspects of the UCC are mandatory registration of live-in relations, conditions for a contract marriage, a ban on halal, iddat and polygamy, and similar inheritance rights for men and women. It applies not only to Uttarakhand but also to State residents living outside its territories. The application to Scheduled Tribes, however, is excluded.

## Rules On 2 Non-Muslim Members Among 14 Changes To Waqf Amendment Bill

**Agencies :** A joint parliamentary committee has voted in favour of 14 alterations to the draft version of the Waqf Amendment Bill, which had been tabled in the Lok Sabha in August last year and seeks to make 44 contentious changes to the way Muslim charitable properties are managed in the country. The 14 alternations include distinguishing between the mandatory two non-Muslim members - as specified in the original draft of the bill - and nominated ex-officio members (Muslim or non-Muslim). This means waqf councils, whether at state or pan-India levels.

## Burnt Body In Suitcase Leads Cops To Cousins' Murder, And A Grisly Murder

**Agencies :** A burnt body in a suitcase dumped in Delhi's Ghazipur has led police to a chilling story that started with a live-in relationship and ended in a grisly murder. Early yesterday, local police were informed about a suitcase dumped in a deserted area in east Delhi's Ghazipur. On reaching the spot, a police team found a body inside. The body was completely burnt. Police registered a case of murder and destruction of evidence and formed several teams to get to the bottom of this.

## Hair, Earrings Of Woman Recovered From Kerala 'Man-Eater' Tiger's Stomach

**Agencies :** A 'man-eater' tiger that killed a woman two days ago was found dead in Kerala's high-range district of Wayanad on Monday and an autopsy on the dead cat revealed the presence of the victim's hair, dress, and a pair of earrings in its stomach, forest officials said. The woman who had gone to collect coffee beans on a forest-fringed estate was attacked by the tiger. The female tiger, estimated to be four to five years old, was spotted and tracked by a team of wildlife personnel in the early hours of Monday, but was later found motionless behind a house in an inhabited area at Pilakavu after daybreak. After a post-mortem was carried out later in the day, forest officials said that the fresh, deep wounds found on the neck of the carcass were the cause of its death. It was assumed that the injuries occurred during a territorial fight with another tiger in the deep forest, they said. Confirming it was the same tiger that had mauled the hapless woman Radha at the Pancharakolli area.

## Maharashtra's Solapur records first suspected death by Guillain-Barre Syndrome: Officials

**Agencies :** A man suspected to have contracted Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) has died in Maharashtra's Solapur district, health officials cited in a news agency PTI report said. The deceased, who died in his native Solapur, had come to Pune, where he is suspected to have contracted the disease, the officials noted. This is possibly the first death caused by GBS, an immunological nerve disorder, in Maharashtra. "The total number of GBS cases Sunday increased to 101, comprising 68 males and 33 females."

## Free Bus Travel, 50% Concession In Metro Fares For Students In AAP Manifesto

**Agencies :** The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday released another manifesto for next week's Delhi election, promising free travel on the city's public buses and a 50 per cent discount on Metro fares for all school and college students. Party boss and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a long list of 15 assurances, or 'Kejriwal ki guarantees' - a spin on the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Modi ki guarantees'. That list included promises made earlier, such as last month's offer of Rs 2,100 in direct cash transfers to eligible women beneficiaries if the AAP is voted to power. "This is for empowering women and addressing their financial need..." Mr Kejriwal had said then, as he also promised to extend free bus travel (and concessions on Metro fares) for women to female students too. "Today, we are announcing 15 'Kejriwal ki guarantees', which will be fulfilled in the next five years. The first is the guarantee of employment. Second - the 'Mahila Samman Yojana' which will give Rs 2,100 per month to every woman. Third - Sanjeevani scheme for medical treatment." The other promises included an assurance that incorrect water bills will be waived. Mr Kejriwal also re-assured residents the AAP, if re-elected, will "ensure the cleaning of the Yamuna, 24-hour drinking water supply for all houses, and make European-standard roads".



## "One Day, Over A Glass Of Whiskey...": Colombia President Targets Trump

**Agencies :** The White House said Sunday that a deal between Lebanon and Israel had been extended until February 18, as Israel missed a previous deadline to pull troops. "The arrangement between Lebanon and Israel, monitored by the United States, will continue to be in effect until February 18, 2025," the White House said in a brief statement. Donald Trump's White House also said that the United States would negotiate with Israel and Lebanon for the return of Lebanese prisoners captured since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, which brought parallel fighting, at first on a small scale, between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah. The statement did not explicitly mention a ceasefire, which has been increasingly in doubt as Israeli forces killed 22 people on Sunday, according to Lebanon's health ministry. The White House also did not make any reference to France, which worked alongside the United States under former president Joe Biden to reach the ceasefire on November 27. The deal ended Israel's military campaign in Lebanon against Iranian-backed Hezbollah. Under the 60-day deal, the Lebanese army was to deploy alongside UN peacekeepers in the south as the Israeli army withdrew.

## 'Help' Sign On Google Maps Near Los Angeles Shipping Yard Sparks Conspiracy Theories

**Agencies :** A chilling message of distress has emerged from the ashes of the recent wildfires in a Los Angeles region near a shipping port. Social media users have been captivated by the words "help" and "traffico," eerily visible in the scorched earth on Google Earth's satellite imagery, serving as a poignant reminder of the devastation wrought by the fires. The words "LAPD," "Federal," and "Traffico" can be seen written amid the debris in images circulating online. Officials have not yet commented on the images, but several theories have emerged on X. While some believe it could be a prank by children, others suggest it might be a desperate cry for help from someone affected by the wildfires. One user speculated it could even be linked to human trafficking, with the victim using the message to seek assistance.

## US Mission in India begins 'review' of aid as Trump gov't orders 'catastrophic' funding freeze

**Agencies :** The US Mission in India has reportedly begun a 'review' of its current aid policies following changes in White House policy. The newly appointed Donald Trump administration froze almost all foreign aid this week as part of its America First initiative. The memo shared on Friday also called for an internal review of all foreign assistance within 85 days. "No new funds shall be obligated for new awards or extensions of existing awards until each proposed new award or extension has been reviewed and approved," said an internal memo by Secretary of State Marco Rubio that was seen by AFP. Exceptions have been made for military assistance to Israel and Egypt as well as US contributions to emergency food assistance. The memo also allows the State Department to make other case-by-case exceptions and temporarily to fund salaries to staff and other administrative expenses. Citing officials, an Indian Express report said "The US Embassy is now undertaking a review to ensure that existing grants 'comply with executive orders'". The move is likely to affect a slew of programs run by the American embassy and the United States Agency for International Development — pertaining to environment, health and more.



## "One Day, Over A Glass Of Whiskey...": Colombia President Targets Trump



**Agencies :** US President Donald Trump and his Colombian counterpart Gustavo Petro traded barbs earlier today after Bogota blocked two deportation flights carrying Colombian migrants back to the Latin American country. While Trump cracked down with sanctions against Colombia, Petro responded in kind and said the US "will never rule us". The White House later said the Trump administration suspended the sanctions after Colombia agreed to its terms. Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo said Bogota will continue receiving Colombians who return as deportees. Colombia has backed down, for now, but its blocking of the flights and Petro's sharp attack on Trump signal the beginning of a rocky relationship between the two governments. Trump has come to power on the promise of deporting illegal migrants swiftly. As he tries to put the plan into action, he is facing resistance from the US' Latin American neighbours, who have questioned the treatment of the migrants.

## 67 nationals forced to work at Laos cyber-scam centres rescued: Indian embassy

**Agencies :** The Indian embassy in Laos has rescued 67 Indian men who were duped and trafficked into cyber-scam centres operating at a special economic zone, taking the total number of citizens saved from such scams in the Southeast Asian country to 924, the mission said in a statement. The men were forced to work "under intimidation and abuse by criminal syndicates" operating at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (GTSEZ) in Bokeo province of Laos, the embassy said on Monday. Officials from the Indian embassy in Vientiane responded to requests for help from Indian nationals, and a team travelled to the special economic zone and worked with Lao authorities to complete procedures and paperwork to enable the men to leave the area and travel to the capital city.

## US Officials Hunting For Illegal Immigrants At Gurdwaras In New York, New Jersey: Report

**Agencies :** Amid President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, law enforcement officials in the United States are reportedly doing reconnaissance of gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey to hunt for illegal immigrants. The action came as under the Trump administration, the US Department of Homeland Security revoked a Biden-era policy that prevented law enforcement in or near "sensitive" areas including places of worship. The officials from the Department of Homeland Security are targeting gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey as they are allegedly being used as a hub by Sikh separatists along with illegal and undocumented immigrants, according to a report by Press Trust Of India. Within hours of Donald Trump being sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Benjamin Huffman, in a directive, rescinded the Biden administration's guidelines for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforcement actions that thwart law enforcement in or near so-called "sensitive" areas.

## Drug Kingpin Arrested After Wife's Social Media Posts Reveal Location

**Agencies :** A drug kingpin, who was enjoying a vacation with his wife in the United Kingdom, was arrested after her partner's social media posts revealed their whereabouts. Luis Manuel Picado Grijalba, 43, wanted by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), was arrested in London in December after his wife shared luxury holiday snaps online, unknowingly revealing the location to the authorities, reported La Prensani. Grijalba, also known by the alias "Shock," was wanted in the US for exporting cocaine from Costa Rica. He and his wife, Estefania McDonald Rodriguez, were on a vacation to celebrate the New Year. The couple's lavish itinerary, including stops in Paris, Rome, Venice, and Japan, was shared on Rodriguez's social media platforms, ultimately giving away Grijalba's location. Rodriguez shared photos of herself posing in front of landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Trevi Fountain, and various luxury hotels. These posts caught the attention of DEA agents monitoring the couple's movements online. Grijalba was arrested near London Bridge with assistance from the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA).

## 'Messengers of Badals' conspiring to forever oust me from Takht services, says suspended jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh

**Agencies :** Giani Harpreet Singh, the suspended jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib, has triggered a controversy by alleging that a conspiracy was being hatched at the behest of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to make grounds for his "permanent ouster" from the services of the Takht. Terming the conspirators as "messengers of Badals", Giani Harpreet Singh alleged that the SGPC's three-member committee, formed to conduct an inquiry against him, had expedited its proceedings against him at a time when a crucial meeting of the five high priests, scheduled for January 28, was postponed at the last moment. "The meeting of the five high priests was scheduled to take some decisions in the light of Gurmat, but it was postponed as the SGPC would be conducting its executive body meeting to ensure my exit," he said. The SGPC committee members have been reaching out to the Takht at Talwandi Sabo to procure statements that he had violated the 'maryada' (code of conduct) by appearing before the 'Panj Pyaras' (Guru's five beloved ones) to clarify the allegations leveled against him.



## Punjab Police arrest 6 members of Kaushal gang linked to murder of Kabaddi players Ambian, Sukhmeet

**Agencies :** In a major breakthrough, Punjab Police's Amritsar Counter Intelligence unit has foiled a major targeted killing in Punjab by arresting six members of the Kaushal Chaudhary gang, including key associates, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said on Monday. The accused have been identified as Puneet Lakhanpal and Narinder Kumar. The accused had been evading arrest for the past three years and they were directly involved in the murders of Kabaddi player Sandeep Singh Nangal Ambian in 2022 and Sukhmeet Singh in 2021. Yadav said they were also involved in firing indiscriminately at the Highway King Hotel in Rajasthan and demanding extortion money to the tune of Rs 5 crore in September last year. Six sophisticated weapons and 40 rounds were recovered from their possession. A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered in Amritsar. Sandeep Singh Sandhu, alias Sandeep Nangal Ambian, was killed in broad daylight by assailants during an international kabaddi match at Mallian Khurd village in Jalandhar on March 14, 2022.

## Man attempts to vandalise Ambedkar statue near Golden Temple, arrested

**Agencies :** Tension gripped the city on Sunday after a man allegedly tried to vandalise the statue of BR Ambedkar at the Town Hall on Heritage Street that leads to the Golden Temple, officials said incidentally, the Kotwali police station is located just a few metres away from the spot. A purported video of the incident went viral on social media in which the man could be seen climbing up the statue using a long steel ladder carrying a hammer. Though the suspect, who hails from Moga district, was arrested from the spot, various Dalit organisations gathered outside the Town Hall Gate and held a demonstration against the alleged attempt to vandalise the statue. Heavy police force led by senior police officials, including DCP Jagjit Singh Walia, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Vishaljit Singh, rushed to the Town Hall gate and tried to pacify the protesters. Meanwhile, Dalit organisations gave a call for a bandh in the city. SP chief Mayawati on Monday condemned the alleged attempt to vandalise the statue of BR Ambedkar and accused the state's AAP government of negligence. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also slammed the Congress and the BJP.

## Chandigarh mayoral polls: SC appoints retired Punjab and Haryana HC judge as observer

**Agencies :** The Supreme Court on Monday appointed Justice Jaishree Thakur — a former Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court— as an independent observer to physically supervise the Chandigarh mayoral election on January 30. "The election proceedings shall be conducted in the physical presence of the learned observer. The election proceedings will be duly videographed," a Bench led by Justice Surya Kant ordered. "The Returning Officer is directed to contact the learned independent observer and coordinate with the Hon'ble Former Judge well before the scheduled date of election," said the Bench which also included Justice N Kotiswar Singh. "All the necessary security arrangements shall also be made," it ordered. The learned observer shall be paid an honorarium of Rs One Lakh which shall be paid by the Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh within one week," it said.



## Jolt to Congress ahead of Chandigarh mayoral polls, Gurbax Rawat joins BJP

**Agencies :** In a jolt to Congress ahead of the Chandigarh mayoral elections, its leader and Municipal Corporation ward number 27 councillor Gurbax Rawat joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) here on Monday. Rawat joined the saffron fold in the presence of Chandigarh BJP president Jatinder Pal Malhotra and senior party leader Sanjay Tandon at party's office Kamalam in Sector 33 here.

## EC seeks factual report from Haryana on ammonia levels in water supplied to Delhi

**Agencies :** The Election Commission (EC) on Monday sought a factual report from Haryana on allegations made by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi about ammonia levels in water supply from the neighbouring state. The Chief Ministers of Delhi and Punjab moved the Election Commission on Monday, alleging higher ammonia levels in the water supplied from Haryana to the national capital to adversely impact supply during the ongoing assembly poll process. Sources said EC directed the Haryana Government to submit a factual report on the matter by noon on Tuesday. The 70-member Delhi Assembly goes to the polls on February 5 and the votes will be counted on February 8.

## IMA threatens to suspend Ayushman Bharat services in Haryana over delayed reimbursements

**Agencies :** The Haryana Chapter of Indian Medical Association (IMA) has threatened to stop providing treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme from February 3, due to delayed reimbursements from the state government. Around 600 private hospitals in the state have accused the health authorities of failing to make payments worth around Rs 400 crore, which have been pending for several months. According to Dr Mahavir Jain, president of IMA (Haryana), every empanelled private hospital has only received 10 to 15 per cent of the reimbursement bills raised with the government. Jain emphasised that hospitals cannot operate without funds, and the delayed payments have made it challenging for them to sustain themselves. "Our payments should be released immediately.

## Three arrested for duping doctor of Rs 2.7 crore in Shimla

**Diary Times Desk :** Three persons, identified as Bal Mohan (40) from Uttarkashi district in Uttarakhand, and Amrit Das (40) and Gaurav Ahuja (42) from Gurugram, have been arrested for allegedly duping a doctor of Rs 2.7 crore. The accused promised the victim, Dr Ajay Goyal, exorbitant returns on trading through a leading financial market advisory service. According to the complaint filed by Dr Goyal, the scammer contacted him in November 2024, shared a website link, and added him to a WhatsApp group offering investment advice. The victim transferred Rs 2,70,19,316.50, which was then transferred to various anonymous accounts by the scammers. Upon suspecting cheating, Dr Goyal approached the police, leading to the registration of a case on December 17, 2024, at the Cyber Crime police station in Southern Range, Shimla.

## Shimla: Interstate online drug smuggling network busted, 11 members including the kingpin arrested



**Diary Times Desk :** Shimla Police has busted an online drug smuggling network. Police has arrested 11 members including the kingpin of the gang Sandeep Shah. SP Shimla Sanjeev Gandhi gave this information in a press conference. He said that Sandeep has been caught in drug smuggling cases earlier as well. This gang used to take orders for chitta/heroin online and supply heroin-chitta at different places. Its payment was received through UPI, scanner and other online means. About 200 people are involved in this network. Shimla Police was trying to bust this gang for the last six months. Now this gang has been busted. Sandeep Shah has been arrested from Kolkata.

## Himachal IGP, 7 other cops get life imprisonment in Kotkhai custodial death case



**Diary Times Desk :** A CBI court here on Monday sentenced Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police Zahur Haider Zaidi and seven other police personnel to life imprisonment in custodial death of an accused in the rape-murder of a 16-year-old schoolgirl in Shimla's Kotkhai in 2017. The other convicted police officials include then DSP Manoj Joshi, Sub-Inspector Rajinder Singh, Assistant Sub-Inspector Deep Chand Sharma, Head Constables Mohan Lal, Surat Singh and Rafee Mohammad and Constable Raneet Sateta. During the arguments on the quantum of sentence, the counsels of the convicts prayed before the court for leniency on the basis of their age, family commitments and good service records. CBI Public Prosecutor Amit Jindal argued for exemplary punishment due to the seriousness of the crime. After hearing arguments, CBI Special Judge Alka Malik sentenced the eight police personnel to life imprisonment. The court also recommended for awarding the compensation to family members of the victim Suraj Singh under victim compensation scheme.

## Himachal: Hundreds of scholarship applications pending, last date for application extended

**Diary Times Desk :** Many educational institutions are not showing seriousness for scholarship. Due to this, the validity (verification) of 560 online applications is pending on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). Time till January 18 was given for this. With the aim of providing scholarship benefits to the children, the Directorate has extended the last date for verification till January 28. Along with this, the Directorate clearly said that if verification remains pending from any institution, then the student will have to pay the scholarship amount to the head of the institution or the nodal officer (scholarship). Applications are made every year for scholarships given to eligible students of various categories by the Central and State Government. In this, the institutions where the students study play an important role. The verification of the applications of the students is done by those institutions. After this, after verification in the district office, the applications are sent to the state level. Despite this, errors are found in many applications. Due to this, many applications are cancelled. Students are asked to apply again. Currently, the last date for application of students has expired.

## Bilaspur: Chuni Lal Thakur of Jukhaala posted in Ridi School will be a referee in the National Games

**Diary Times Desk :** Chuni Lal Thakur of Jukhaala of Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh has been selected as a technical officer (referee) for the Kho-Kho event in the 39th National Games. Chuni Lal is currently working as a junior basic teacher in Government Primary School Ridi. During his student life, he displayed his talent in Kho-Kho three times at the inter-university level and many times at the national level. He is giving free coaching of Kho-Kho to the children of the area every morning and evening at the Jukhaala school ground. Chuni Lal's selection was confirmed by Kho-Kho Federation of India General Secretary MS Tyagi by issuing an official letter. Chuni Lal thanked Federation President Sudhanshu Mittal, State Kho-Kho Association President Abhishek Thakur, Vice President LR Verma, General Secretary Devi Dutt Tanwar, Technical Board Chairman Amarjeet Thakur and State Co-Secretary Lakshmi Dutt for the appointment.

## Himachal: Teachers threaten to boycott exam duty if pending bills are not paid

**Diary Times Desk :** Teachers have warned of boycotting examination duty if the pending bills of last year are not paid. The Government Teachers' Union has sent a letter to the School Education Board in this regard. The Teachers' Union has bluntly said that if the old liabilities are not paid soon, then examination duty will not be given in the coming days. The union has also objected to the posting of superintendents outside the education block. The demand has been raised to give the option of three centers for posting duty as before. Tilak Nayak, General Secretary of the Government Teachers' Union, said that this time the School Education Board Dharamshala has issued a new order regarding posting of center superintendent and deputy superintendent in the examination. Under this, teachers can also be posted outside the block. The board will allot the examination center on its own will, teachers will not be asked for this. He said that the education board should take the option of three centers from the teachers for posting duty as before. This will also benefit the board financially. Teachers will not have to pay too much TA and DA. He said that the payment of examination duty of last year has not been made yet. There is anger in the union regarding this. If the payment is not made soon, the teachers will not do duty for the board. On the other hand, the state president of the Government Teachers' Union, Virendra Chauhan, said that the teachers always cooperate fully with the board, despite this, the payment for duty is not being made on time. The union has said that the board should first pay the previous dues of our teachers, only after that duty should be imposed for every year.



## Jasprit Bumrah wins ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024



**Agencies :** Jasprit Bumrah has won the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024, BCCI announced in a post on X. Bumrah finished as the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket in 2024. "Game Changer' Jasprit Bumrah is awarded the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024. Bumrah took 71 wickets at a stunning average of 14.92, finishing as the highest wicket taker in Test cricket in 2024," the BCCI announced on Twitter (now X). Jasprit Bumrah secured a place among the top 10 bowlers with the most Test wickets by a pacer in a year. In 2024, he took 71 wickets in 26 innings with a bowling average of 14.92 and an impressive strike rate of 30.10. Bumrah's performance stands out as the best in terms of bowling average and strike rate among all the bowlers on the list, reflecting his dominance and efficiency in Test cricket. Leading the list is Australia's Dennis Lillee, who claimed 85 wickets in 1981 across 25 innings, maintaining a bowling average of 20.95 and a strike rate of 43.60. South African great Alan Donald follows with 80 wickets in 26 innings in 1988, boasting an even better average of 19.63 and a strike rate of 40.40.

## Uzbek chess player explains handshake snub with R Vaishali, apologises in lengthy post

**Agencies :** Uzbekistan Grandmaster Nodirbek Yakubboev said he refused to shake hands with Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali before their match at the Tata Steel Chess tournament in the Netherlands due to religious reasons. The 23-year-old, in a lengthy social media post, apologised to Vaishali, acknowledging that his actions may have offended her. A video clip of the pre-match routines for the Round 4 encounter between Yakubboev and Vaishali was shared by ChessBase India. In the widely circulated clip, Vaishali can be seen extending her hand for the customary pre-match handshake. However, Yakubboev declines the gesture and proceeds to adjust his pieces on the board. The Indian Grandmaster appeared taken aback by his response. Yakubboev faced criticism on social media for his actions, which left Vaishali in an awkward position at the board. Responding to the backlash, the Uzbek Grandmaster took to social media on Sunday, 26 January, to clarify his stance. He also addressed claims that he had previously shaken hands with India's Divya Deshmukh in the first round.

## Mitchell Owen ton powers Hobart Hurricanes to maiden BBL title

**Agencies :** Powered by Mitchell Owen's 42-ball 108, Hobart Hurricanes won their maiden Big Bash League title with a thumping 7-wicket win over Sydney Thunder in the final at the Bellerive Oval on Monday. Chasing 183 for victory, Hurricanes overhauled the total with 35 balls to spare. Put in to bat, Thunder made a strong start with the in-form David Warner adding a 97-run opening stand in the company of Jason Sangha. The duo played out the first half of Thunder's innings as laid a solid platform for a late assault. After playing out a quiet first over, Warner cracked three boundaries off Cameron Gannon in the second to help gain some momentum. Sangha took the attack.

## Kohli heads to Delhi for Ranji game after training with Bangar in Alibaug

**Agencies :** Virat Kohli has departed for Delhi to join the Delhi Ranji Trophy team after spending nearly a week training in Alibaug, a coastal town near Mumbai. The star batter worked intensely on his batting technique with former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar at a Reliance cricket facility in Alibaug. A video of Kohli training with Bangar, who previously worked with the batter at the Indian team and Royal Challengers Bangalore, recently went viral, sparking speculation that the session took place at a Mumbai nets facility. It has now emerged that the two were working at a property in Alibaug. Kohli turning to Bangar to reassess his batting technique is not exactly unsurprising, given that some of Kohli's finest performances came during Bangar's tenure as India's batting coach. In the period between 2014-19 when Bangar was Indian team's batting coach, Kohli had scored 11767 runs with 41 hundred across formats. He was regarded as the world's best batter in that period. Kohli's batting has been under intense scrutiny in recent times for the diminishing returns with the bat. Despite scoring a century, he aggregated a mere 190 runs in five BGT Tests in Australia, triggering calls for his head. With skipper Rohit Sharma too in equally bad form, worse in fact, there have been calls for the selectors to drop the two senior batters from the national team.

## India look to seal series in possible run-fest in Rajkot

**Agencies :** India's spinners and England's pacers have largely set the tone for the T20I series, but that dynamic could shift when the teams clash in the third T20I in Rajkot. Earlier this month, India women scored 370 for 5 and 435 for 5 against Ireland, the latter being the highest score for India in ODIs. Considering the swashbuckling stroke-makers in both sides, the license to attack and a batting-friendly pitch that is likely to be on offer, the Niranjan Shah Stadium could witness some more records as it did recently. And then there's also the matter of the series being on the line for England, who are 0-2 down. India's two half-centuries in the series so far have been contrasting in style. Abhishek Sharma's aggressive, no-holds-barred approach and Tilak Varma's smooth gear-shifting have driven India's successful run-chases. But the others are yet to make a significant impact, and especially the likes of Suryakumar Yadav and Sanju Samson will be determined to assert themselves in the middle. Likewise, England will be counting on their top-order batters to step up and deliver. Apart from Jos Buttler, runs at the top have been scarce.

## Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year

**Agencies :** Smriti Mandhana, India opener in women's cricket, has been crowned the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year. Smriti Mandhana was named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for her outstanding performance in 2024. Smriti Mandhana was named ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year in 2018 and 2022 as well. She put several batting stalwarts, including the likes of South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt, England's Tammy Beaumont and West Indies' Hayley Matthews, to shade. Her tally of 747 runs in 13 innings is the highest among the leading run-getters in Women's ODIs last year, way ahead of Wolvaardt (697), Beaumont (554) and Matthews (469). The graceful left-handed opener excelled in the 50-over format, scoring runs with exceptional consistency and style, cementing her status as one of the finest in the game. The 28-year-old cricketer scored at an impressive average of 57.86 with a striking strike rate of 95.15. According to the official website of the International Cricket Council (ICC), one of the factors that set the experienced India star apart during the year was how she managed to produce her best against high-calibre opposition, scoring big runs in difficult series.

## Vinod Kambli's Wife Andrea Hewitt Makes Big Revelation: Filed For Divorce, Took It Back Because...

**Agencies :** Former Indian cricket team batter Vinod Kambli's wife Andrea Hewitt revealed that she had filed for divorce back in 2023 but decided to take it back after seeing her husband's 'helpless state'. In a recent interview, Andrea opened up about Kambli's struggles with alcohol addiction and how that impacted their relationship. Andrea was Kambli's second wife and the couple got married back in 2006 in a private ceremony in a civil court. Recently, Kambli's health condition left a lot of fans worried and he even had to be admitted to Akroti Hospital on December 21 for urinary infection and cramps. During the podcast hosted by freelance journalist Suryanshi Pandey, Andrea revealed that she had previously contemplated leaving Kambli but was constantly worried about his health. "He will be helpless if I leave him. He is like a child, and that hurts me. It makes me feel worried. I would not even leave a friend.