

## Himachal News: Sanwala School included in the top 100 schools of the country, will be honored with Wipro Earthian Award



**Diary Times Desk :** Senior Secondary School Sanwala has been selected for the national level Wipro Earthian Award-2024-25. Wipro has selected 100 schools across the country for the award given under the Eco Science Foundation. Senior Secondary School Sanwala is also included in these. Let us tell you that every year Wipro company organizes different activities for schools and colleges regarding environmental protection. This year waste management, water and biodiversity were the main topics. Schools had to organize activities on this subject. In Sanwala School, five students Piyush and Riham of 12th, Aditya of 11th, Lavisha and Avanshika of 9th carried out the activities in a unique way under the leadership of TGT Anjana Sharma and the guidance of Principal Ayub Khan and prepared the report. The students made different boxes and explained which waste takes the form of compost and which does not. Apart from this, many surveys were also conducted. The children were also taken to the dumping site. How the garbage is being used there and what kind of problems the workers are facing there were also told about this. Talks were also held with the sanitation workers and prominent people of the area.

## SC grants 6-day custody parole to Tahir Hussain to campaign for Delhi polls

**Agencies :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted six-day custody parole to former AAP councillor and 2020 Delhi riots case accused Tahir Hussain to campaign for the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections. A three-judge Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath ordered that Hussain would be released for 12 hours during the day between January 29 and February 3 to enable him to campaign in Mustafabad constituency from where he is contesting as an AIMIM candidate. It means Hussain will be allowed to come out from jail each of the six days for 12 hours under police security and go back to jail during night. The Bench—which also included Justice Sankar Karol and Justice Sandeep Mehta—ordered Hussain to deposit Rs 2.47 lakh.

## PM Modi to Visit US, Trump Seeks 'Fair Trade', More Military Deals

**Agencies :** A meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump could happen soon as the two sides have discussed plans for a bilateral meeting, for which Modi could be visiting America. The White House, in a statement issued after Modi and Trump spoke over the phone on Monday, said, "The leaders discussed plans for Prime Minister Modi to visit the White House." The Indian statement issued late on Monday night had said, "The leaders agreed to remain in touch and meet soon at an early mutually convenient date." Modi's last bilateral meeting with a US President was in September last year when he met Joe Biden at Wilmington, Delaware, on the sidelines of the Quad summit. Meanwhile, the White House statement also mentioned two important parts of the US-India relationship—bilateral trade and defense industrial partnership. The White House said, "The President emphasised... (of) moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship." India's impositions of tariffs on several US-made items had angered Trump during his last term (2017-2021).



## Police can't serve accused notice via WhatsApp, other electronic means: SC

**Agencies :** The police cannot serve notices to accused persons through WhatsApp or other electronic modes under the Criminal Procedure Code or Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, the Supreme Court has said. A Bench led by Justice MM Sundresh directed all states and union territories to issue appropriate directions to police for issuing notices under Section 41-A of the CrPC or Section 35 of the BNSS only through the mode of service permitted under the law. "All the states/UTs must issue a standing order to their respective police machinery to issue notices under Section 41-A of the CrPC/Section 35 of the BNSS only through the mode of service as prescribed under the CrPC/BNSS," it said on January 21 while dealing with a case filed by one Satender Kumar Antil. "It is made amply clear that service of notice through WhatsApp or other electronic modes cannot be considered or recognised as an alternative or substitute to the mode of service recognised and prescribed under the CrPC/BNSS," said the Bench which also included Justice Rajesh Bindal.

## Daughter of former Chhattisgarh BJP MLA Bheema Mandavi commits suicide

**Agencies :** The 22-year-old daughter of late Chhattisgarh BJP leader Bheema Mandavi allegedly committed suicide in Dehradun, her family said here on Tuesday. She was doing a physiotherapy course in the Uttarakhand capital and was found hanging from the ceiling fan in her paying guest accommodation in Karanpur area of Dehradun on January 26, a family member said. Tragically, one of her sisters had allegedly committed suicide by jumping.

## Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition spoke on Mallikarjun Kharge's statement, insulting Sanatan is the legacy and nature of Congress

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that insulting Sanatan in every way has been the legacy and nature of Congress. From the petty leaders of Congress to the national president, whenever they get a chance, they do not miss any opportunity to insult Sanatan Dharma. Congress leaders also refute common arguments and figures in opposition to Sanatan. Congress' frustration is coming to the fore due to being rejected by the people of the country and now the National President of Congress has again come on the path of insulting Sanatan. Jairam Thakur said that why are the leaders of Congress ignoring the development of the country. Are they not able to see the hair-raising sight of Vande Bharat passing over the world's tallest rail and arch Chenab bridge? Are the Congress leaders not able to see the foundation stone laying and inauguration of projects worth thousands of crores every day in the country.

## Gujarat man held in 'digital custody' for 13 hours, duped of Rs 13 lakh

**Agencies :** A man in Gujarat's Jamnagar was digitally arrested for 13 hours by cybercriminals and duped of Rs 13 lakh. The man was identified as Mehul Ramakantbhai Panji who was tricked into the plot by a gang impersonating officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Mumbai Crime Branch. The details reveal that Mehul was held under "digital arrest" for 13 consecutive hours. The cybercriminals coerced him by linking him to a fabricated drug-related NDPS case, threatening life imprisonment unless he paid the demanded amount. Despite repeated warnings from law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant against such schemes, cybercriminals continue to exploit unsuspecting victims. Local police have initiated an investigation into this cybercrime, reiterating their advisory to the public.



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## Baba Bhootnath Shivling Shringar: Special adornment of Baba Bhootnath with 21 kg butter, Mahashivratri celebration begins

**Diary Times Desk :** From 11 pm on Tara Ratri (Monday night) to 4 am, Baba Bhootnath was specially decorated with 21 kg of butter. As soon as the self-manifested Shivling was decorated with butter, the work of Mahashivratri has started. Now for a month, different forms will be carved on the Shivling every day. Two to two and a half quintals of butter will be offered on the Shivling during this period. On the first day on Tuesday morning, the form of Bijli Mahadev of Kullu was carved on the Shivling. Baba Bhootnath temple priest Mahant Dayanand Saraswati said that a large number of people were present in the temple to apply the butter paste. DIG Central Range Mandi Saumya Sambasivam and businessman Abhishek Mehra, along with others, registered their presence. The butter paste will be removed on the day of Mahashivratri and then it will be distributed to all the devotees in the form of prasad. Local residents Pawan Kumar and Vidya Sharma, who reached the temple, said that the tradition of applying butter paste on Baba Bhootnath temple has been going on for centuries. Let us tell you that there will be no Jalabhishek of Baba Bhootnath for one month.



## Saif attack: Police have 'strong evidence' against arrested man

**Agencies :** The Mumbai police probing the attack on film actor Saif Ali Khan said they have ample and strong evidence against the Bangladeshi national arrested in the case. Khan was attacked in the early hours of January 16 at his Bandra residence in Mumbai, where he was stabbed six times. On January 19, the police arrested Bangladeshi national Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir alias Vijay Das from neighbouring Thane in this connection. In a press conference, Additional Commissioner of Police (West Region) Paramjit Dahiya shared the development in the probe, and said it was an "excellent, proof-based detection" made by DCP Zone 9 team along with the crime branch. "The Mumbai police have ample and strong evidence against the accused person, including documentary, physical and technical," he said. "As for ascertaining the identity of the accused.

## Himachal News: Woman professor posted at IIT Mandi dies under suspicious circumstances, suicide note also found

**Diary Times Desk :** A female associate professor working at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi died under suspicious circumstances. The incident took place on January 26. The police have found a suicide note in the professor's quarter. In this, she has said that she was upset and has written about not bothering anyone. The police is investigating the matter keeping every aspect in mind, considering the seriousness of the matter. According to the information, 33-year-old Maneka Ambadi, a resident of Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, posted as an associate professor at IIT Mandi, fell in the residential colony of the institute on January 26. The institute informed the Kamand police station about this. The police reached the spot, took the body in possession and investigated. During the investigation, a suicide note was recovered from the kitchen of the quarter allotted to the woman by the institute. In this, the female professor had written about being upset. Police investigation has revealed that no one has seen the woman falling and she was found in a fallen condition. However, the police is treating this case as a suicide. The preliminary post-mortem report has revealed that the woman died due to falling.

## Offence of illegally converting someone not as serious as murder or rape: SC

**Agencies :** Noting that the offence of illegally converting someone from one religion to another is not as serious as murder, dacoity or rape, the Supreme Court has granted bail to a maulvi charged with converting a mentally challenged boy to Islam. While maintaining that bail was a matter of discretion, a Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan said it was expected of the Allahabad High Court to "muster the courage" and exercise its discretion judiciously. "Discretion does not mean that the judge on his own whims and fancies declines bail saying conversion is something very serious...There was no good reason for the high court to decline bail. The offence alleged is not that serious or grave like murder, dacoity, rape etc.," it said in an order on Monday. One of the reasons why the high courts and now unfortunately the apex court was flooded with bail applications, it lamented. "Every year, so many conferences, seminars, workshops are held to make the trial judges understand how to exercise their discretion.

## Himachal : Four nurseries of Nauni University have been recognized at the national level, plants will be prepared according to the weather

**Diary Times Desk :** Another achievement has been added to the name of Nauni University Solan. Four nurseries of the university have been recognized at the national level. This certification has been done by (ICAR) Central Agroforestry Research Institute Jhansi. Nauni University has done commendable work towards promoting forestry in these four nurseries. The certified nurseries include Forest Tree Nursery in two main campuses Nauni, Tree Improvement, Horticulture and Forestry College Neri and Regional Horticulture Research and Training Institute Jachh Kangra. The objective of the Forest Nursery Recognition Initiative is to promote the establishment and management of quality forest nurseries across the country. After getting the recognition, now the forest plants prepared by Nauni University will be sent across the country. Although even before this, the purchase of plants was being done in many states of the country including the state, but there was no authenticity of it, but now it will be given with full proof. Nauni University will provide high quality, disease-free plants in these nurseries according to the weather, environment, which will be suitable for the local soil and climatic conditions. Four nurseries have been recognized. Under this, farmers also get access to government schemes and financial assistance for agroforestry projects, which will make investing in quality plants more affordable. Apart from this, adopting sustainable practices promoted by accredited nurseries helps in maintaining soil health and improving the overall ecosystem, leading to success in long-term plantation - Dr. Sanjeev Chauhan, Director, Nauni University Research.

## Kejriwal falsely accusing Haryana of mixing poison in Yamuna: Shah

**Agencies :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday accused Arvind Kejriwal of falsely alleging that the Haryana government mixed poison in the Yamuna and dared the AAP supremo to make public the DJB report that he cited to level the charge. Addressing a public meeting in the Kalkaji assembly constituency, he also dared Kejriwal to tell the people of Delhi the name of the poison that he claimed was mixed in the Yamuna. Noting that the AAP chief had also claimed that he saved the people of Delhi by stopping the "poisonous" Yamuna water from entering Delhi, Shah asked him to show the official order issued in this regard. Kejriwal ji, winning and losing are part of the election process. Making an innocent face, you accused the Haryana government of mixing poison (in the Yamuna) and tried to scare the people of Delhi. Politics cannot get dirtier than this," he said. AAP on Monday accused the ruling BJP in Haryana of "intentionally" draining industrial waste into the Yamuna, with Kejriwal alleging that it was trying to kill people by mixing "poison" in the river.





## Himachal: Six-year-old Saksham can identify any country on the map in five seconds, also made three national records

**Diary Times Desk :** Six-year-old Saksham from the tourist city of Manali can identify any country in the world on a map in just 5 to 10 seconds. This talent of his has set a new precedent in the field of geography. Deputy Commissioner Torul S Ravish confirmed the assessment of Saksham's talent after meeting him. Saksham remembers the flags, capitals, currency, language and names of 195 countries of the world along with their spellings. Earlier, Saksham has made national records three times at the age of just 5 years. In this, he made the first record by learning all the alphabets at the age of just 15 months. He earned the title of Miracle Boy. The second record was of car collection at the age of three years. He recognized almost all the car companies of the world by looking at the car. The third record was made at the age of five by memorizing the flags of 195 countries, their language, currency and capitals of most countries and the spelling of the names of all the countries. For this, Saksham received the title of Youngest Flag Expert of India. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh has also said that he will honor the child in the Winter Carnival. Saksham's father Sagar and mother Sneha have expressed happiness over this.



## HP Police Recruitment: Schedule for ground test of Chamba and Una districts also released

**Diary Times Desk :** Under the recruitment process for 1088 constable posts in Himachal Pradesh Police Department, the schedule of ground test has also been released for Una and Chamba districts. The test schedule was released for 10 districts on Monday. In Una district falling in North Range, Physical Standard Test and Physical Efficiency Test will be conducted from 11 to 15 February at Police Line Ground Jhalra and in Chamba from 13 to 20 March at Police Line Ground Chamba. Youth Sports and Services officials and coaches will be present on this occasion. This schedule has been released by IG Armed Police and Training and Police Recruitment Board Officer Prem Kumar Thakur. The process of Physical Standard Test and Physical Efficiency Test will be completed by 28 March in all the districts. It is worth mentioning that out of the total 1088 posts of constable in the police department, 708 posts are reserved for men and 380 posts are reserved for women. The recruitment examination is going to be held through the Public Service Commission. 1,27,770 people have applied for this. The recruitment process will be held in Sirmour from February 11 to 20, Solan from February 25 to March 6, Shimla from March 11 to March 22 and Kinnaur from March 27 to March 28. The ground test will be held at Nahan Chaugan in Sirmour, 9275 candidates will appear in Police Line Solan for Solan, 12,795 candidates will appear in Police Line Bharari for Shimla and 1350 candidates will appear in Mini Stadium Kalpa for Kinnaur.

## IPL 2025: Arun Dhumal said – three IPL matches will be held in Dharamshala this year

**Diary Times Desk :** This time too, the thrill of IPL will be seen in the International Cricket Stadium Dharamshala. This season, three IPL matches will be held here. IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal gave this information while talking to journalists in Bilaspur. He told that every effort will be made to ensure that Dharamshala gets good matches. Arun Dhumal had come to inaugurate the MP Sports Maha Kumbh at Luhn Cricket Ground. He told that last season, two IPL matches were held in Dharamshala. This time, the effort will be to organize at least three matches here. Last season, the first match was played between Punjab Kings and Chennai Super Kings in Dharamshala. The second match was played between Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore. Thousands of spectators enjoyed the matches. If Dharamshala gets three matches this time, it will not only be a big achievement for HPCA, but cricket lovers will also get an opportunity to enjoy the thrill.

## HP High Court: Officers hearing encroachment cases have less understanding of judicial process, give five days training

**Diary Times Desk :** A division bench of Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Bipin Chandra Negi of the Himachal Pradesh High Court issued important directions in a public interest litigation in the encroachment case. The division bench directed the Chief Secretary to issue appropriate instructions regarding training before February 28. File an affidavit by March 15 that there should be no new encroachments. The officers who are hearing land encroachment cases should be given five days of special training at the Judicial Academy. During the training, the officers should be taught the legal nuances. The court found that due to the lack of understanding of the judicial process of the officers, the common people are not getting justice. The officers did not properly inform the facts before the court. The High Court found that while hearing a large number of cases, the rules of Section 4 of the Act of 163 and Public Premises Land Eviction and Rent Recovery Act 1971 (PP Act) are being ignored.

## Himachal Pradesh: The matter of cutting 45 trees in Chaupal reached the High Court, the order of Division Commissioner Shimla was challenged

**Diary Times Desk :** The case of cutting down 45 apple trees on 15 bighas of land in Chaupal in the year 2018 has reached the High Court. Its hearing in the High Court will take place after the holidays. The petitioner has challenged the decision of the Divisional Commissioner Shimla. The Divisional Commissioner had ruled that the land where the encroacher has planted apple trees belongs to the government. This case will be heard in the High Court by a special bench of Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Bipin Chandra Negi. The petitioner has challenged the decision of the Divisional Commissioner. The petitioner argues that the decision has been given on the basis of the reply filed without evaluating any document. The state government implemented the Public Premises Act 1971, under which all waste land.

## Ranji Trophy: Himachal Pradesh needs a win to make it to the knockout stage, match to begin on January 30

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh team needs to win over Gujarat at any cost to enter Ranji knockout. The last league match of Ranji season will be played with Gujarat from 30th January to 2nd February. After this, the teams in top two positions in their pool will go to the knockout round. The state team has won three matches and lost three out of six matches in its pool. Himachal team has moved from second to third position in the pool with 21 points. On the other hand, Gujarat team has reached second position with 26 points after achieving a spectacular victory over Uttarakhand. The last league match of the pool will be played between Gujarat and Himachal teams from 30th January. This match will be important for both the teams. Even if Gujarat team draws this match, it will enter the knockout with 29 points. After winning the match against Gujarat, Himachal will have 27 points. Gujarat will be left with only 26 points. In such a situation, Himachal team will enter the knockout due to having one point more. After the defeat against Hyderabad in the last match, it is no less than a challenge for Himachal's team to win the match.

## Himachal: Major Radhika Sen saluted the President in the Republic Day parade

**Diary Times Desk :** Major Radhika Sen, daughter of Sundarnagar in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh, saluted President Draupadi Murmu in Delhi on Republic Day. Major Radhika Sen led the contingent of Infantry and Armed Forces on Republic Day. Radhika is currently serving as a Major in the Quick Reaction Force of the Indian Army. Radhika Sen is known for her impressive service with the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Born in 1993 in Sundarnagar, Radhika led efforts to support community security, gender equality and education.

## 'India Will Do The Right Thing': Trump On Migrants Row After Call With PM Modi

**Agencies** : US President Donald Trump on Monday (local time) had a "productive" phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the two leaders discussed expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation and issues including security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe. This was the first telephonic conversation between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi since the Republican was sworn in for a second term on January 20. Later, Mr Trump told reporters that PM Modi was scheduled to visit the United States sometime in February. "I had a long talk with him this morning (Monday). He is going to be coming to the White House, over next month, probably February. We have a very good relationship with India," he told reporters aboard Air Force One. The American leader noted he discussed the issue of immigration with the Indian Premier and said Prime Minister Modi "will do what's right" when it comes to taking back Indian immigrants who came to the US illegally. The call came against the backdrop of reports suggesting that the Indian side was working on an early meeting between the two leaders. President Trump and PM Modi enjoyed warm relations in the US president's first term, but during his campaign for re-election, the 78-year-old American leader called India a "very big abuser" of trade.

## Priyanka Gandhi visits tiger attack victim's home in Wayanad

**Agencies** : Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi visited Wayanad, Kerala, on Tuesday to meet the family of Radha, who was killed in a recent tiger attack in Kaniyaram, Mananthavady. Gandhi's visit comes amid growing concerns over human-animal conflicts in the region, which have claimed the lives of four people, including three victims of elephant attacks. Speaking after her visit, she said: "This morning I visited Radha's family. This man-animal issue is very critical here. We had a productive discussion, and I have put forward the points that Radha's family shared with me. I hope we can all work together." Highlighting the community's suggestions, Gandhi noted the lack of adequate measures to address the issue. "There are only two forest watchmen, one of whom is Radha's husband. More forest watchmen need to be appointed. The local community has a better understanding of the area.

## "Will Strengthen Democracy": PM Modi On Uniform Civil Code



**Agencies** : Underscoring that the Uniform Civil Code or UCC will strengthen the spirit of democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday hailed it as "Secular Civil Code", a day after Uttarakhand became the first state to implement the law. "Yesterday, Uttarakhand became the state to implement the Uniform Civil Code...I congratulate the Uttarakhand government for this. It will strengthen the spirit of democracy and the Constitution," said the PM after inaugurating the 38th National Games in Dehradun. "UCC has same team spirit as sports, discrimination against none," said the Prime Minister. The introduction of a Uniform Civil Code to replace laws on marriage, divorce and inheritance has been a longstanding goal of PM Modi and his party, the BJP. Muslim leaders and critics say the UCC challenges Islamic laws on divorce, marriage and inheritance.

## Maha Kumbh: Prayagraj Railway Division Gears Up For Mauni Amavasya Festival

**Agencies** : The grand Mahakumbh festival at Prayagraj's Sangam has drawn over 13 crore devotees so far. Now, preparations are in full swing for the Amrit Snan on Mauni Amavasya, January 29, 2025, when an expected 10 crore pilgrims are expected to take a holy dip at Triveni Sangam on the auspicious occasion. Anticipating a huge influx of devotees, the Prayagraj Railway Division has made elaborate special arrangements for the smooth arrival and departure of passengers across all stations in the city. Around 10 crore people are expected to arrive in Prayagraj for the Amrit Snan.

## Parliament Budget session to begin Jan 31 with President Droupadi Murmu's address

**Agencies** : President Droupadi Murmu will address both Houses of Parliament on Friday, January 31, kickstarting the Budget session in which the Union Budget 2025 is expected to be presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1. The first part of the Budget session of the Parliament will begin on 31st January and conclude on 13th February. The second part of the session to commence on 10th March 2025 and conclude on 4th April 2025. According to a parliamentary bulletin issued on Tuesday.

## 5 Indian fishermen injured in Sri Lankan Navy firing; MEA summons envoy, lodges strong protest

**Agencies** : The ministry of external affairs (MEA) summoned the acting high commissioner of Sri Lanka in New Delhi and lodged a strong protest with the top diplomat on Tuesday, after five Indian fishermen sustained injuries, including two seriously, in an incident of firing by the Sri Lankan Navy in the proximity of Delft Island, news agency PTI reported. India, in its reaction, said the use of force is not "acceptable under any circumstances whatsoever." "An incident of firing by the Sri Lankan Navy during the apprehension of 13 Indian fishermen in the proximity of Delft Island was reported in the early hours of this morning," the MEA said in a statement. "Out of the 13 fishermen who were on board the fishing vessel, two have sustained serious injuries and are currently receiving treatment at the Jaffna Teaching hospital," the MEA added. Three other fishermen received minor injuries and have been treated for the same, it said.

## Waqf JPC member A Raja rues 655-page report: 'Meeting at 10 am, got it now'

**Agencies** : Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP A Raja, who is a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill, hit out at the panel, calling it a "farce". "The Parliamentary Committee on Waqf Bill has been reduced to a farce. We were told that the Draft Report of the Committee & its Bill will be discussed tomorrow at 10 AM. It is 655 pages and has been sent to us just now. MPs are expected to go through it and provide comments and submit dissent notes. This is simply not possible," Raja posted on X.

## 'Give Proof On Yamuna Poisoning By 8 pm Tomorrow': Poll Panel To AAP Chief

**Agencies** : Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal has been asked to furnish proof backing his allegation that Yamuna water has been poisoned. The Election Commission, which asked him to produce evidence by 8 pm tomorrow following a BJP complaint, said in its letter that it was a serious allegation that could create animosity between states and carried a provision of punishment upto three years. The Commission has sought a separate report from the Haryana government regarding ammonia in Yamuna waters.





## Donald Trump Fires "Tremendous Tariff-Maker" Warning At India, China

**Agencies :** Donald Trump on Tuesday denounced India, China, and Brazil as "tremendous tariff-maker(s)" and said his government would not allow the three to continue down this path, declaring, "... we're not going to let that happen any longer because we're going to put America first." Speaking to House Republicans at a Florida retreat, the United States President acknowledged the three countries - founding members of the increasingly influential BRICS bloc - were acting in their respective best interests, but seemed also to insist "... they mean us harm". We're going to put tariffs on outside countries and people that really mean harm to us. Well... they mean us harm, but they basically want to make their country good. China is a tremendous tariff-maker, and India, Brazil, and so many other countries. (But) we're not going to let that happen any longer... because we're going to put America first," Trump declared to cheers. The comments came shortly after it emerged Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to meet Trump in Washington, as early as next month. The two leaders spoke on the phone Monday night; it is unclear if tariffs were on the agenda, but New Delhi's view on illegal immigrants was.

## Donald Trump says will build 'Iron Dome' missile shield for US: 'Need to begin immediately'

**Agencies :** Newly sworn in US President Donald Trump said on Monday would sign an executive order to start building 'Iron Dome', the advanced air defense system used by Israel, a promise he made during the campaign for presidential election. The Iron Dome is a mobile air defense system developed for Israel by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells that are fired towards populated areas. Iron Dome's capabilities have been demonstrated and seen in videos multiple times in the Israel-Hamas conflict that began on October 7, 2023 and other occasions as well, like the October 2024 Iranian strikes on Israel.

## Bodies on streets, hospitals struggle, battles intensify in DR Congo's Goma



**Agencies :** Heavy battles between M23 fighters and Congolese government forces in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) city of Goma have left many bodies on the streets, with hospitals struggling to deal with the growing number of casualties. In the capital Kinshasa, protesters criticising international inaction attacked the embassies of Rwanda, France, Belgium and the United States on Tuesday. On Monday, the rebels, which the United Nations says are backed by Rwanda, marched into Goma and declared the key city under their control, signalling a big blow to the Congolese army and a serious escalation in the years-long conflict that has killed hundreds and displaced millions in the region. DRC's Rural Development Minister Muhindo Nzangi said the Congolese army controlled 80 percent of Goma, with Rwandan troops either on the city's outskirts or back across the border. At a news briefing on Tuesday, the UN and other aid agencies warned that hospitals are overwhelmed in Goma, treating hundreds of patients with gunshot, mortar and shrapnel wounds while many bodies lie in the streets.

## TikTok Sensation Siyah Killed In Tragic US Mall Shooting At 17

**Agencies :** Nahsiyah Turner, a 17-year-old TikTok sensation in the US, better known to her followers as Siyah, was fatally shot outside a southern California mall, marking a sorry end to her short but highly popular online career. The incident transpired earlier this month on January 18 at the Los Cerritos Center shopping center but her identity had been withered up until now. The police reportedly found Ms Turner unresponsive inside a vehicle, having been shot. As per a report in People, Ms Turner succumbed to a gunshot wound to the chest and was pronounced dead at the hospital. The circumstances leading to the shooting remain under investigation, with no suspects named as of yet. Tributes have poured in across social media platforms.

## "They Tried To Kill Putin": Tucker Carlson Blames Joe Biden's Administration

**Agencies :** Tucker Carlson, a prominent conservative American pundit and former Fox News anchor, has unleashed a bombshell accusation against the Joe Biden administration, alleging that they attempted to assassinate Russian President Vladimir Putin. This extraordinary claim was made during the latest episode of Carlson's podcast, "The Tucker Carlson Show," where he was engaged in a conversation with American writer and journalist Matt Taibbi. Carlson's assertion is nothing short of sensational, and he quoted former US Secretary of State Tony Blinken as an example of someone who was pushing for a real war and trying to kill Putin. "The Biden administration did, they tried to kill Putin," Carlson said, adding "which is insane" and "that's demented, that you would even think of something like that. So why were they? Because chaos is a screen that protects them". It's worth noting that Carlson's claim is not backed by any concrete evidence, and his statement has sparked widespread controversy. He was ousted from Fox News in 2023 during when the network was facing legal issues over its airing of inaccurate claims of electoral fraud in the 2020 U.S. presidential race.

## Trump pushes to abolish income tax: Tax foreign nations, enrich our people

**Agencies :** US President Donald Trump on Monday proposed abolishing income tax for US citizens, aiming to boost disposable income for individuals and families, as he described the move as a step toward restoring America to the "system that made us richer". To implement the complete abolition of income tax--which currently constitutes a significant share of federal revenue--Trump reiterated his call for across-the-board import tariffs. "It's time for the United States to return to the system that made us richer and more powerful than ever before... Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich foreign nations, we should be taxing foreign nations to enrich our citizens," the US President said as he outlined his tax reform plans at a House Republican Members Conference. Trump argued that the period from 1870 to 1913 was the wealthiest in US history, when a tariff-based economic system was in place. He highlighted that the country generated "enormous" revenue through import tariffs during that era. The Republican leader has been advocating for multifaceted tax cuts and intends to use import tariffs to offset.

## Bangladesh needs systemic reform to end rights abuse:

HRW

**Agencies :** Bangladesh risks the return of the rights abuses seen under ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unless robust reform is instituted, an international NGO has warned. The interim government in Bangladesh risks losing "hard-won progress" if it does not implement reform that can withstand repression by future governments, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report published on Monday. Ongoing arbitrary arrests and reprisal violence underscore the threat to "the country's once-in-a-generation opportunity to end the legal abuses" that were seen on Hasina's watch, the report said. HRW used the publication to urge Dhaka to establish legal detention practices and repeal laws used to target critics. "Reforms should be centered on separation of powers and ensuring political neutrality across institutions, including the civil service, police, military, and the judiciary," it declared.



## Punjab's first transgender activist, jurist Mohini Mahant honoured on Republic Day in Amritsar

**Agencies :** Mohini Mahant, Punjab's first transgender activist and jurist at National Lok Adalat, was honoured for her contributions to the upliftment and empowerment of transgenders at a Republic Day event in Amritsar. Mahant, a PhD doctorate and double master's degree holder, has been working tirelessly in the fields of health and educational reforms, particularly for her community. She runs a non-profit organisation, Mansa Federation Welfare Society, which provides educational, social, and economic support to transgenders. Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney presented Mahant with an award of excellence, highlighting her efforts to provide healthcare services to the community. Mahant's non-profit has set up a 25-bed shelter home and support clinic for transgenders. "It's been a decade since we have been working to create awareness campaigns and self-help groups to support transgenders, who are denied basic rights of access to education, healthcare and protection against social stigma. We provide vocational training as well as awareness regarding HIV through members of our non-profit organisation. There is a long way to go before we attain inclusivity in the mainstream society."



## 2 operatives of US-based terrorist held for Amritsar grenade attack

**Agencies :** The Punjab Police on Tuesday said they had arrested two men for their alleged involvement in the hand grenade lobbing incident outside the Gumtala police post in Amritsar. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the accused were operatives of US-based terrorist Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passian and US-based drug smuggler Sarwan Bhola. Yadav said those arrested had been identified as Bagga Singh of Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar in Sirsa, Haryana, and Puskaran Singh alias Sagar of Amarkot in Amritsar. Police also recovered a hand grenade and two sophisticated pistols along with ammunition from their possession. On January 9, a loud boom was heard outside the Gumtala police post. Police at that time had denied any explosion and claimed that the sound was that of a car radiator exploding. Following the incident, terrorist organisation Babbar Khalsa International had used a social media platform to claim responsibility for the terror act. Yadav said investigations revealed that accused Bagga Singh is a relative of Sarwan Bhola, who is the brother of notorious smuggler Ranjit Singh alias Cheeta, currently lodged in Bathinda jail in the 532-kg heroin recovery case.

## Chandigarh sets green benchmark: 51 per cent of city under green cover, told high court

**Agencies :** More than half the city is under green cover, the Punjab and Haryana High Court was informed during a hearing on steps to enhance greenery in the region. A division bench of the high court was also told that the Chandigarh Administration planted 2.98 lakh saplings in the last financial year. Appearing before the bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sudhir Singh, UT Additional Standing Counsel JS Chandail and Deputy Conservator of Forests Navneet Shrivastava submitted that 51 per cent of Chandigarh's area was under green cover. "The Chandigarh Administration is sensitive about maintaining and increasing the green cover of the heritage city," the bench was told. The court, during the course of hearing, also took note of the initiatives taken by the states of Punjab and Haryana. The counsel appearing for Punjab submitted that a corpus of Rs 10 lakh had been created for "Nyay Vans" scheme for facilitating green cover within the state. The bench was also told that the state of Haryana had notified "Van Mitra" scheme -- a government initiative to encourage community participation in tree plantation activities on non-forest lands.

## Yamuna river pollution dispute escalates into heated political row between BJP, AAP

**Agencies :** A bitter political dispute has erupted over the pollution of the Yamuna river, with BJP and AAP trading sharp accusations. The controversy began when former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accused the Haryana BJP government of polluting the Yamuna, claiming it could lead to a health crisis in the national capital. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and several Haryana MPs, including Dharambir Singh, Ram Chander Jangra, Kiran Choudhary, and Rekha Sharma, vehemently denied the allegations and threatened legal action, including a defamation suit against Kejriwal. During a press conference, Haryana MP Dharambir Singh rejected Kejriwal's statements, saying they hurt the sentiments of Haryana's people. Singh explained that Haryana releases only 300 cusecs of water into the Yamuna to prevent the river from drying up. He added that Delhi receives approximately 10,000 cusecs of drinking water, supplied through Western Yamuna Canal, which is treated at Delhi's four treatment plants before distribution.



## Microsoft to get Rs 55 lakh as compensation for trademark infringement by fake call centre in Gurugram

**Agencies :** A local court in Gurugram has ordered Retnec Solutions Pvt Ltd to pay Microsoft Rs 55 lakh in damages for trademark infringement and operating a fake call centre using Microsoft's trademarks, including "Hotmail", "Outlook", and "Office 365". The court also awarded Microsoft an additional Rs 20.6 lakh in litigation costs. The court's decision came after Microsoft and its Indian subsidiary filed a suit against Retnec Solutions for trademark infringement, passing off, unfair trade practices, dilution, and damages under the Trade Marks Act, 1999. Microsoft alleged that Retnec Solutions impersonated Microsoft personnel and used their trademarks to operate fraudulent technical support services. Investigations revealed that Retnec Solutions operated a fake call centre in Gurugram, misleading customers through pop-up messages, cold calls, and unauthorised use of Microsoft's branding. The Gurugram police raided the premises, seizing digital evidence and arresting the company's directors. Evidence included invoices falsely bearing Microsoft's logo, payment records linking the defendants and scripts found on computers. These scripts detailed steps to deceive victims, including fake pop-ups and scare tactics about malware or viruses.

## Haryana BJP MPs want Kejriwal's arrest over 'poisoning Yamuna' claim

**Agencies :** BJP MPs from Haryana on Tuesday demanded the arrest of AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal over his claim that the state was releasing "poison" in the Yamuna river that supplies water to Delhi. Addressing a press conference, all five Haryana MPs of the BJP said it was a clear case of "criminal conspiracy" by Kejriwal who was trying to create panic among the residents of Delhi. The BJP MPs challenged the Aam Aadmi Party government to test the quality of water released from Haryana before it is supplied to households in Delhi. BJP MP Dharambir Singh said, "For some time now, Kejriwal has been making statements that are hurting the people of Haryana. They are accusing us of poisoning the water released from our state. We provide more than 10,000 cusecs of water to Delhi, even though we also face water scarcity. But we still send water to Delhi because it is the national capital," he said. BJP MP Kiran Choudhary said the Yamuna water gets contaminated.



## Let children own library: Edu Secy to schools

**Diary Times Desk :** From now onwards, schools will not decline the request of students to issue them library books for reading at home. Also, the library in-charge will not be held accountable if the child loses or damages the book. These are a few major directions in the guidelines issued to schools. According to department officials, nearly all schools in the state have libraries but the books remain mostly unread, gathering dust inside the almirahs. As per the feedback gathered from the field, the department found that major reason for books remaining unread was the reluctance on the part of library in-charge to issue it to the students due to the fear that he/she would have to pay from own pocket if the book was lost or damaged by the child. The focus is on keeping the books safe and in good condition, rather than giving it to the students to read," Secretary Education Rakesh Kanwar mentioned in the guidelines. Due to 'keep the books safe' approach, most schools are failing to inculcate reading habits among students and are denying young minds the opportunity to delve into the world of books.

## Una's Haroli civil hospital gets digital X-ray, ultrasound machines

**Diary Times Desk :** Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today formally commissioned the working of a new digital X-ray machine and an ultrasound machine at the Haroli Civil Hospital. A sum of Rs 50 lakh has been spent on the diagnostic machinery. Speaking on the occasion, Agnihotri said the state government is working towards strengthening the health infrastructure in the state to provide better healthcare facilities to the residents of rural and far-flung areas. He called upon the doctors to opt for working in rural areas in the interest of humanity and to serve the under privileged people. He said it's a challenge for the government to provide good healthcare facilities in rural areas because doctors are unwilling to serve here. Agnihotri said the Cabinet approval for upgrading Haroli civil hospital.

## Bus carrying Maha Kumbh devotees from Solan overturns in UP, 31 injured



**Diary Times Desk :** At least 31 devotees from Solan, including six seriously injured, were hurt when their private bus overturned after being hit by a hydra machine in the Sirathu area of Kaushambi district in Uttar Pradesh. The accident occurred on Tuesday morning while the devotees were en route to participate in the Maha Kumbh festival in Prayagraj. Deputy Commissioner Solan Manmohan Sharma confirmed that 31 persons were injured, including 75-year-old Tuls Ram Sharma, who is undergoing treatment in ICU. Fourteen injured persons are being treated at Community Health Centre Sirathu, while 10 others are receiving treatment at District Hospital Kaushambi. The district administration of Solan is working closely with the Kaushambi administration to ensure proper treatment and care for the injured. Monetary assistance is also being provided, and the devotees plan to return after the injured recover. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu instructed the Solan administration to coordinate with the Kaushambi administration to provide timely medical assistance.

## New policy to be formulated for national-level players: CM

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the state government would soon introduce a new policy for national-level players. He made this statement while addressing the contingent of state players heading to the 38th National Games being held in Uttarakhand here yesterday. The 200-member contingent of the state will participate in the games scheduled from January 28 to February 14, 2025. Extending best wishes to the players, the Chief Minister stated that the state government has taken several initiatives to promote sports and players and develop basic sports infrastructure at the district level. The prize money for a podium finish in international sports events have been significantly increased. The Chief Minister emphasised his commitment to the welfare of players, highlighting that he himself was a sportsperson and could not overlook the needs of athletes. He said that earlier Under-17 and Under-19 players were receiving Rs 150 as diet money for state-level competitions and Rs 250 for national competitions. This amount has been increased by the present state government to Rs 400 and Rs 500, respectively. Sukhu said the prize money for gold medallists in the Olympics, Winter Olympics.

## Mata Chintpurni temple to be spruced up, provide better facilities: Dy CM

**Diary Times Desk :** On the occasion of the 76th Republic Day, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri unfurled the National Flag at the Una Boys School ground during a district level function. He also took salute at a march past presented by contingents of Himachal Police, Home Guards, NCC and NSS. Speaking on the occasion, Agnihotri paid rich tributes to all people who contributed towards making India, a democratic and a republic nation. He said the security, safety, development and empowerment of our citizens is enshrined in our Constitution. The Dy CM said Himachal Pradesh has made major strides after Independence and the state is a model among the hill states of the country as regards development in all fields. He said the upcoming bulk drug park in Haroli sub division will boost the economy of the locals and also provide employment opportunities. He said the central and state governments will be spending Rs 1,000 crores each for development of infrastructure at the park. Agnihotri said the HRTC fleet will soon have 700 new buses to provide travel facilities.

## Japanese experts inspect cracks in Pandoh-Takoli bypass tunnel

**Diary Times Desk :** A team of Japanese experts recently conducted an in-depth inspection of Tunnel No 2 on the Pandoh-Takoli Bypass, part of the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane project. The inspection was prompted by the cracks that appeared at the tunnel's entrance during the 2023 rain disaster, which had delayed the completion of the tunnel project. The investigation was aimed at understanding the causes behind these cracks and assess the safety of the tunnel. Accompanied by representatives from the Ministry, Public Works Department (PWD) and other officials, the Japanese experts examined both the tunnel's interior and the surrounding hillside to identify potential issues. The team studied the geological conditions of the area, including the state of the land and rocks, and proposed that a detailed report would be compiled based on these findings. According to Varun Chari, Project Director of the Kiratpur-Manali Four-Lane Project, the inspection forms a part of the ongoing efforts to ensure that the tunnel can be safely opened for traffic. He highlighted that the cracks had been a major concern ever since they appeared in 2023, prompting both the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the construction company involved in the project to carry out thorough assessments. The consultant, project management team and contractors have been collecting samples and conducting various tests to understand the underlying causes of the damage.



## Virat Kohli reconnects with his home base after 12 years



**Agencies :** It had been 12 long years since Virat Kohli last turned out for Delhi in Ranji Trophy, but watching him laugh and stroll around the Arun Jaitley Stadium and play alongside his teammates here on Tuesday, it felt as though he had never left. A different kind of energy accompanied Kohli to the ground in the morning. The buzz amongst the staff at the stadium and the assembled media felt different for the long-serving officials who have been in cricket administration for a few decades. The players were supposed to assemble at 9 am and Kohli arrived on the dot, bringing with it the kind of discipline and focus the team hadn't experienced in years. The structured practice drills, the intent and intensity of the session came as a breath of fresh air for those accustomed to a mechanical routine. For a relatively young Delhi side lying sixth in the eight-team Elite Group D, their inconsequential match against Railways has suddenly acquired a lot of focus with another day of practice left before the game starts on Thursday. This heightened attention is exactly what the Delhi administration hoped would elevate the Ranji squad.

## New Zealand Star Amelia Kerr Named ICC Women's Cricketer Of The Year

**Agencies :** New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr made history on Tuesday by becoming the first Kiwi recipient of the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, earning the title of ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for her exceptional performances in 2024. The 24-year-old stood out among her peers, surpassing Laura Wolvaardt, Chamari Athapaththu, and Annabel Sutherland to claim the top honour in women's cricket. Kerr is not only the first New Zealander to win the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy but also the first Kiwi to be recognised as ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year in any category. Throughout the year, Kerr demonstrated her prowess as a world-class all-rounder, excelling in every facet of the game. Her outstanding fielding repeatedly lifted New Zealand, while her skill as a leg-spinner established her as one of the most dangerous strike bowlers in the world. Kerr was often the White Ferns' go-to match-winner with the ball. With the bat, she was a cornerstone of New Zealand's lineup, capable of playing expansive innings to capitalise on strong starts or anchoring the innings when the top order faltered.

## Rohit, Jaiswal, Iyer to miss Mumbai's must-win Ranji Trophy game

**Agencies :** India internationals Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shreyas Iyer are going to miss the next round of the Ranji Trophy for Mumbai in the lead up to the England ODI series that follows early next month. While the likes of Virat Kohli and KL Rahul will feature in the next round starting January 30, the Mumbai trio had already played the previous round, which Kohli and Rahul didn't, and Iyer played almost the entire domestic season, that included two white-ball tournaments too. The ODI series against England starts on February 6 in Nagpur, four days after the scheduled end of the last Ranji Trophy round. Rohit and Jaiswal - who also open together in Tests - opened for Mumbai against (J&K).

## Australia eye Galle redemption as spin and history loom large

**Agencies :** Steve Smith has seen everything there is to see at a cricket ground during his international career. Or so he'd have thought before he arrived at the Galle International Stadium on Tuesday. He can now add being serenaded by low country Sri Lankan folk dancers with a variety of masks and standing next to flame throwers to his list. It was part of the cultural welcome to the two teams that Smith had to be a part of as Australia's captain on the eve of the first Test that starts on January 29. While the 35-year-old veteran seemed to be both intrigued and fascinated with the ultra-energetic goings-on around him, you could sense that he was keener on checking out what was transpiring with the 22 yards in the middle that will have such a big say on how the next five days pan out. As is the case every time there's a Test played at this iconic venue with the old Dutch fort in the background. For, there had been a slew of activity already before Smith and the Australians got to the ground. And the returning captain's first priority was to march towards the pitch and check it out from every angle possible before playing his role at the Warne-Muralitharan Trophy unveiling ceremony.

## Suryakumar Yadav's fearless batting pointed out as reason behind his slip-up: ...there're games where he won't perform'

**Agencies :** Team India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak has backed Suryakumar Yadav after his underwhelming start to the T20I series against England. The Indian T20I skipper has registered scores of 0 and 12 in the first two matches and is under a bit of pressure to put up a big score in Rajkot. Meanwhile, the results have been in favour of the Indian team which is allowing Suryakumar to continue with his fearless approach with the bat. Kotak came in support of Suryakumar and suggested that with the fearless approach India have adopted in the T20Is, there isn't a guarantee of scoring big runs in every match. "Surya, I think he is performing, but sometimes I feel we also expect a lot. Every game, if we think Surya will perform (that is not okay). The game has become so aggressive, there is so much intent we have to play in the T20s, there will be a time when they get out because they are playing fearless (cricket)," Kotak said in the pre-match press conference ahead of the third T20I. Kotak further elaborated on India's batting approach and how Surya has been selflessly leading the pack and setting an example for the others in the team.

## Travis Head set to open in first Test against Sri Lanka

**Agencies :** Australia have finalised Travis Head as Usman Khawaja's opening partner for the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle. Khawaja was partnered by Nathan McSweeney first and later Sam Konstas during their most-recent Test series against India at home. But now for the subcontinent tour, they're going back to a formula that worked well when they had toured India in 2023 and adding to the idea they'd put out about being flexible with their batting order in Test cricket. "He (Head) did really nicely in India against the new ball. He put spinners under pressure immediately and we know how well he hits the seam as well if they come with that," said Steve Smith a day ahead of the match. "It's going to be good fun watching him." Smith stopped short of naming the eleven though, preferring to wait and watch the conditions on offer. "We'll wait and see what we get, probably the morning of the game, and then go from there. But things can change pretty quickly, this part of the world, the sun hasn't been out a great deal. So we'll have another look at the wicket, and then from there, we'll name a team at toss," he said. What that could mean is that Australia might consider leaving out the 19-year-old Konstas who had made a mark early into his career. Smith saw the positives of having him around still.

## Hosting 2036 Olympics Will Take Indian Sports To New Heights: PM Narendra Modi

**Agencies :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the country is putting all its might to get the hosting rights of 2036 Olympics, which will take Indian sports to new heights. "We are pushing for hosting rights of 2036 Olympics, it will take Indian sports to new heights," the PM said while speaking at the opening ceremony of the 38th National Games here. "Wherever Olympics happen, all sectors gain. It creates better facilities for athletes," he added. Modi had expressed India's intention to host the 2036 Games during the International Olympic Committee's Session in Mumbai in 2023. The IOA has submitted the official expression of interest to the IOC. "It is our endeavour to enhance your capabilities and we are focussed on supporting you. We consider sports an essential aspect in development of country," Modi said addressing the gathered athletes at the ceremony "It is a beautiful portrait.