

INDIA'S SPACE

ISRO AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR 2027 : CHANDRAYAAN -4, GAGANYAAN AND SAMUDRAYAAN

Diary Times Desk : India's space ambitions are reaching new heights with the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO)** planned missions, which include the highly anticipated Chandrayaan-4, Gaganyaan, and Samudrayaan projects. These ventures are set to make significant strides for the country in the field of space exploration, and they reflect India's commitment to scientific innovation and technological advancement. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh recently laid out the ambitious plans for these space projects, which are slated to unfold over the coming years, culminating in 2027. One of the most exciting upcoming missions is the Chandrayaan-4, set to launch in 2027. After the success of Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2, which marked India's breakthrough achievements in lunar exploration, Chandrayaan-4 will be India's most ambitious mission to date. The focus of this mission is to collect and return lunar samples, making it a significant leap for India's space program. The mission aims to bring back moon rocks and soil from the lunar surface, providing valuable insights into the Moon's composition and the history of our solar system.

In a groundbreaking move, the Chandrayaan-4 mission will involve at least two separate launches of the heavy-lift LVM-3 rocket, which will carry five distinct components of the mission. These components will be assembled in orbit, showcasing ISRO's advanced capabilities in space logistics. The mission will also serve as a stepping stone for India's further endeavors in space exploration and bring India's space program to a new level of global recognition. Minister Jitendra Singh commented, "The Chandrayaan-4 mission aims to collect samples from the moon's surface and bring them back to Earth. This is a highly complex task that will not only mark a milestone for ISRO but also for the global scientific community."

Another major milestone in India's space exploration timeline is the Gaganyaan mission, India's first crewed spaceflight mission. Set to launch in 2024, the Gaganyaan mission aims to send Indian astronauts into low Earth orbit and return them safely. This mission will be a historic achievement for ISRO, positioning India alongside the United States, Russia, and China as one of the few countries to send humans into space. The first step of the Gaganyaan mission will be the uncrewed mission that will carry a robot called 'Vyommitra'.



DEFENCE TALK'S

DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH HOLDS PHONE TALKS WITH US COUNTERPART HEGSETH



Diary Times Desk : Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday spoke to his US counterpart Pete Hegseth over phone and reviewed bilateral defence cooperation, with focus on multiple domains in land, air, maritime and space, even as the two leaders agreed to deepen collaboration in areas including technology, integration of defence industrial supply chains, interoperability, logistics and information sharing, and joint military exercises. This was their first conversation after Hegseth took over as defence secretary and came in the run-up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US next week.

"The two ministers appreciated the ongoing and remarkable expansion of the bilateral defence partnership and reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the ties," the defence ministry said. They also agreed to provide enhanced support to the growing defence innovation collaboration between the governments, start-ups, businesses and academic institutions, a statement said. India and US agreed to work together to draft a comprehensive framework on defence cooperation, aimed at structuring the bilateral collaboration for 2025-2035, it added. Singh described the conversation as excellent. "We reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation and explored ways and means to expand and deepen the India-US bilateral defence relationship. We also agreed to chart out an ambitious agenda which includes operational, intelligence, logistics and defence-industrial cooperation. Looking forward to work closely with Secretary Hegseth," Singh wrote on X. Both sides have made progress under the US-India Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, including ongoing collaboration to advance priority co-production arrangements for jet engines, munitions, and ground mobility systems. The roadmap, adopted in 2023, seeks to fast-track technology cooperation and co-production in critical areas including air combat and land mobility systems, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, munitions, and the undersea domain.

Vikas Swarup: From Diplomatic Service to Global Literary Fame

Diary Times Desk : Vikas Swarup, a retired Indian diplomat and celebrated author, is a name that resonates with literary enthusiasts and film buffs alike. Best known for his debut novel Q & A, which inspired the Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire, Swarup's journey from the corridors of diplomacy to the world of literature is nothing short of remarkable. Born on June 22, 1961, Swarup served in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) for over three decades, holding significant diplomatic positions across various countries. However, it was his passion for writing that ultimately propelled him into the global spotlight. In this article, we take a closer look at the life of Vikas Swarup, his illustrious diplomatic career, his literary achievements, and how his storytelling continues to captivate readers worldwide. Vikas Swarup's career in diplomacy began in 1986 when he joined the Indian Foreign Service. Over the years, Swarup held key diplomatic positions in several countries, gaining valuable experience that would later influence his writing. His tenure in these diverse regions exposed him to a wealth of cultures, ideologies, and political dynamics, providing him with a unique perspective on the world.



Hafiz Saeed's son issues warning for PM Modi, message for Kashmir at Lahore rally: Report

Diary Times Desk : Hafiz Talha Saeed, the son of 2008 Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed, made a contentious and defiant speech at a rally held in Lahore on Pakistan's 'Kashmir Solidarity Day.' During his address, Talha not only demanded the release of his jailed father but also pledged to "liberate Kashmir from India at any cost," reports India Today. The rally, which marked Pakistan's annual observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day, was a platform for Talha to voice his staunch views on Kashmir and India. He launched a scathing personal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom he referred to as a "shaitan" (devil). "I want to warn PM Modi that Kashmir belongs to Muslims, and we will take Kashmir from you. It will be a part of Pakistan Muslim India soon," Talha said. Talha's speech also included a firm defence of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the terror group founded by his father which carried out the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Congress crushed freedom of speech: PM Modi brings up Emergency in Rajya Sabha

Diary Times Desk : The BJP-led Union government is working on the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday as he accused the Congress of practising appeasement politics to get votes. Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister said the Congress' priority was "family first" and its policies had been focused around it. Modi also accused the Congress of being against the architect of India's Constitution B R Ambedkar, and recalled the Emergency of 1975-77 as well as incidents of alleged suppression of freedom of expression under the earlier regimes of Congress. He said his government has worked for upliftment of the poor, and it stands with the middle class and the "neo-middle class" in the country. "Nation first is the BJP's priority..." Modi said. "I say it with a lot of pride... For five to six decades, there was no alternative model for the people. After a long time, after 2014, the country got to witness a new model, which is not based on appeasement but 'santushikaran' (satisfaction of all)," he said.



AAP claims BJP offered ₹15 crore to 7 leaders ahead of Delhi election results



Diary Times Desk : Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh on Thursday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was bribing party leaders to jump ship ahead of Delhi assembly election results. The Rajya Sabha MP claimed the BJP had called seven AAP MLAs who contested in the Delhi elections and offered them ₹15 crore each to join the BJP. "Some were even offered in face-to-face meetings," he said. "This clearly shows that the BJP has accepted its defeat before the results, and that is why it is trying something like this," he said in a press conference on Thursday. The MP said AAP has advised its candidates to record such calls and use spy cameras to document any face-to-face meetings if the offers are made. The BJP is yet to react to the allegations. Voting across Delhi's 70 constituencies took place on February 5 to decide the electoral fate of 699 candidates. The national capital recorded a voter turnout of 60.42% in the high-stakes polls, according to data from the Election Commission of India (ECI). The polls saw intense competition and active participation.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries

Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment may be promoted to the post of a senior officer due to their better performance in the workplace. People doing business should work on some long term plan due to loss of money. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

Gemini

Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. For employed people, progress in the workplace will strengthen your relationship with your boss. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

Leo

Today, special guests will arrive in your family due to a religious event. Performance will improve due to improvement in training of employed people. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Libra

Today is going to be a challenging day for you. Employed people should solve small mistakes happening in their projects in time in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

Sagittarius

Today, special guests will arrive in your family due to a religious event. Performance will improve due to improvement in training of employed people. People doing business should discuss with a financial advisor before investing in any particular scheme due to financial gain. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

Aquarius

Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For working people, if you get success in the workplace, you will be recognized as a leader among your colleagues. People doing business may have to take a loan from the bank due to heavy losses. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

Taurus

Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people should solve small mistakes happening in their projects in time in the workplace. Businessmen should focus on teamwork, otherwise, due to increased stress, business will suffer losses. Asthma patients may have to face difficulties due to problems.

Cancer

Today you should spend more time with family. Honor in the family will increase if working people are honored by senior officers in their workplace. People doing business may have a detailed discussion about expanding their business with their business partner. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

Virgo

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business may have to face the problem of financial crisis due to heavy losses. Waist and muscle strain problems may bother you.

Scorpio

Today you should take special care of money transactions, otherwise you may have to face loss. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Paralysis patients should immediately consult a doctor in case of any problem.

Capricorn

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business should work on some long term plan due to loss of money. Problems may increase due to deterioration in the health of children.

Pisces

Today you may have to face problems due to deteriorating health of senior people at home. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. You should walk carefully on the road,



Kasauli gang rape case: Police gave report to the court, recommended to cancel the case; no concrete evidence found for the allegations

Diary Times Desk : In the rape case against Haryana BJP state president Mohan Lal Baroli and singer Rocky Mittal, the police has prepared a report and filed it in the court. In this, the police has recommended to cancel the case. In the investigation, the police has not found any evidence of the allegations made by the woman. Now the further action will be taken by the court. On December 13, a woman had registered a rape case against Haryana BJP state president and singer Rocky Mittal. She talked about rape in a hotel in Kasauli. The matter came into discussion. However, the woman talked about rape in the year 2023. In such a situation, it became difficult for the police to investigate the one and a half year old case. Even after this, the police has prepared its status report of this case. In which no concrete evidence has been found on the allegations made by the woman.



Himachal Pradesh: Last rites of a living woman were performed on paper, death certificate was also issued from the municipal corporation office

Diary Times Desk : A live woman from Salogra, adjoining Solan city, was cremated on paper. Two people have also signed as witnesses to take wood for the woman's cremation. The Municipal Corporation has also issued a death certificate. Before releasing the amount of the life insurance policy, when the employee of the insurance company reached the house to take the documents and verify, the ground slipped from under the feet of the woman. After this, when the woman reached the Municipal Corporation office to get the death certificate cancelled, there was a stir. Now the police has started investigating the matter on the complaint of the Municipal Corporation. It is suspected that this conspiracy was hatched to grab the amount of the life insurance policy. Wood was also purchased in the crematorium in the name of the woman. The woman's Aadhar card was given for this. Along with this, there are also signatures of two eyewitnesses after filling Form-2 in Mokshadham Chambaghat.

Parliament Session: Union Environment Minister said- Formation of a committee is necessary to monitor stone crushers

Diary Times Desk : Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh has said that as per the environmental guidelines prepared for stone crushing units, a district level committee should be constituted under the chairmanship of District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner. This committee will conduct regular surprise inspections to monitor the stone crushing units located in its jurisdiction. Also, stone crushing units will have to comply with the emission standards notified by the Ministry under the Environmental Protection Rules 1986. He gave this information in response to a question asked by MP Dr. Sikandar Kumar in the Rajya Sabha. Kirti Vardhan Singh told the House that the Central Pollution Control Board prepared environmental guidelines for stone crushing.

Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition said- Government should answer the questions being raised on the recruitments in the Legislative Assembly

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the questions being raised in the recruitments done by the Vidhan Sabha are very serious. The government should answer in this matter. Very serious allegations of rigging have been made by the candidates involved in this recruitment process, which the government should clarify. The allegations made by the candidates involved in the recruitment process are also raising questions on the purity of this recruitment process. In such a situation, the government should get this matter investigated. So that the truth can come out. Jairam Thakur said that voices are being raised from all over the state regarding the recruitments of the Vidhan Sabha. Social media is filled with questions of thousands of common people and candidates and allegations of rigging. The candidates of this recruitment are raising questions on the recruitment process. The allegations of rigging and arbitrariness are very shameful. Apart from this, I received messages from thousands of youth.

Himachal Pradesh: Government strict, now officers will not be able to go on foreign tour without permission, warned of action

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh government officers will no longer be able to go on foreign tours without permission. The government has decided to take strict action against IAS, HAS and secretariat services officers who are being arbitrary about foreign tours. On Wednesday, Personnel Secretary M Sudha Devi issued strict guidelines regarding foreign training and tours. Officers going without permission have also been warned of action under the Conduct Rules. In a letter issued by Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena to all administrative secretaries, department heads, district deputy commissioners, divisional commissioners and managing directors of corporations and boards on behalf of the Personnel Department, it has been said that IAS, HAS and secretariat services officers should first take permission from the Personnel Department in case of going abroad. Applications sent later will be considered a violation of the Conduct Rules. It has been clarified in the letter that the Personnel Department.

If there is tussle in the camps, Bindal can become BJP president again

Diary Times Desk : If the tussle between the camps in Himachal Pradesh BJP continues like this, Dr. Rajiv Bindal can again be given the command as BJP state president. BJP's central leadership is brainstorming in this regard. Amidst the organizational election process, Dr. Rajiv Bindal has been meeting BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda regularly. He has also been in touch with him during the election campaign in Delhi. However, Trilok Jamwal and Rajiv Bhardwaj are also strong contenders for this post. Bindal is close to BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda. However, many other leaders among the leaders in the race for the post of state president have also developed closeness with Nadda. Trilok Jamwal, who is in this race, is closest to Nadda, but it will depend on the BJP national president whether he will choose a new face or make Dr. Bindal his confidant again.

Hardayal Bhardwaj said- accusing the assembly speaker regarding recruitments is unconstitutional

Diary Times Desk : Joint Director and Chief Spokesperson of the Assembly Secretariat, Hardayal Bhardwaj said that if anyone casts aspersions on a constitutional post through social media without knowing the facts, it will be considered a violation of the dignity and privilege of the constitutional post. Bhardwaj said that the post of the Speaker of the Assembly is constitutional. It is unconstitutional to accuse the Speaker regarding recruitments. In the State Assembly, like the Raj Bhavan, High Court and State Public Service Commission, recruitments are also done by private secretariats. No changes have been made in the recruitment process and all the recruitments have been done as per the rules and criteria prescribed earlier in accordance with the reservation to all the categories specified by the Supreme Court. Bhardwaj said that factless, irresponsible and misleading statements are being made on the recent recruitments in the Assembly Secretariat. Ever since the Assembly came into existence, candidates from all districts have been selected as per their eligibility in the appointments.

Rs 1,000 cr con citing Corporate Social Responsibility funds exposed in Kerala

Diary Times Desk : A major scam involving Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds was uncovered in Kerala, with a 26-year-old man from Idukki, Anandhu Krishnan, at the centre of it. The police estimate that the fraudulent activities could surpass Rs 1,000 crore. Krishnan allegedly misled victims by offering two-wheelers at half the market price, claiming he had access to CSR funds from multiple companies. According to police reports, Krishnan created a false sense of trust by convincing individuals that the second half of the product's price would be covered by CSR funds. Initially, victims did receive their products, but later, deliveries were delayed and eventually ceased altogether. This scam targeted unsuspecting customers, with many losing their money without receiving the promised items. To bolster his credibility, Krishnan is said to have cultivated close relationships with leaders from various political parties, showcasing these connections to gain the trust of potential victims. The investigation has now expanded to include political figures. Congress leader Laly Vincent has been named as the seventh accused in the case. Vincent, however, has denied any involvement, claiming that her only connection to Krishnan was as his lawyer in a professional capacity.

Mysterious calls and fake orders? Bengaluru residents report unusual delivery 'scams'

Diary Times Desk : Bengaluru residents are reporting unusual delivery scams involving major e-commerce platforms. Two incidents shared on Reddit have sparked concerns over security breaches and fraudulent activities targeting unsuspecting users. In one case shared on the platform, a woman received a call from an individual claiming to be a Swiggy delivery agent, stating that he had a parcel for her, ordered under her boyfriend's name. However, she never received a delivery notification from her gated society's security system, which typically alerts residents before allowing entry. Adding to the suspicion, neither she nor her boyfriend had placed any orders. When she asked the caller to leave the package at the door, nothing was found upon her return. "Something doesn't feel right," the user wrote. In another incident shared by a Reddit user, a Bengaluru resident received an automated call from a number labeled as "Flipkart" on Truecaller. The voice prompt asked if they had placed an order for flip-flops.

'Congress's dislike for Ambedkar backed by documents': PM Modi in Rajya Sabha



Diary Times Desk : Delivering an address in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress of mistreating BR Ambedkar, saying that party's dislike for the social reformer is "backed by documents". PM Modi said whatever Babasaheb said "used to antagonise Congress". "We should not only be looking into history because I am saying so... how Congress had treated BR Ambedkar... how much did they dislike him and whatever Babasaheb said used to antagonise Congress," PM Modi said. "Everything is backed by documents... it can be authenticated... Congress left no stone to ensure that Babasaheb gets defeated in elections... because they could not tolerate him... did not consider him fit for Bharat Ratna," PM Modi added. PM Modi was replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. PM Modi said 'sabka sath sabka vikas' is beyond Congress party's comprehension.

Mamata's 'Bengal means business' call rings in big investments from industry

Diary Times Desk : Kolkata's skyline shimmered with promise as the eighth edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit kicked off in grand fashion on February 5. With a vision to make West Bengal a beacon of industrial growth, chief minister Mamata Banerjee set the stage for unprecedented investments, bringing her slogan 'Bengal Means Business' to life. The two-day event saw global policymakers, industry leaders and entrepreneurs forge alliances to chart out a new economic future for the state. The summit witnessed a flurry of commitments from some of India's biggest corporates. RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka reinforced his faith in Bengal's potential by announcing an additional Rs 10,000 crore worth of investment, building on his existing commitment of Rs 40,000 crore. Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani lauded Bengal's governance and declared a massive Rs 50,000 crore investment by 2030.

Man Dies By Suicide, Films It, Alleges Torture By Jammu And Kashmir Cops

Diary Times Desk : A man died by suicide and filmed the act after alleging torture and harassment by police in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua. The incident has triggered outrage among locals who are seeking justice. The police have ordered a high-level inquiry, where an officer of the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) rank has been told to submit a report within 10 days. In the video, 25-year-old Makhan Din, a tribal man from Kathua's Bilawar area, said he is dying by suicide so that no one else is subjected to torture and humiliation by the police the way he was subjected. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has discussed the matter with the Central government and demanded a time-bound probe. He also said that the Jammu and Kashmir government would initiate its inquiry. Before his death, the man talked about his loyalty to the police and having no links with terrorists. He alleged that he was tortured during custody and forced to confess his links with terrorists.

IAF Mirage 2000 fighter jet crashes near MP's Shivpuri, pilots eject safely

Diary Times Desk : Pilots of a twin-seater Mirage 2000 fighter aircraft ejected safely before the aircraft crashed near Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh while it was on a routine training sortie on Thursday. The accident happened near Sunari Chowki. A Court of Inquiry is being ordered to ascertain the cause of the crash, Defence officials cited by news agency ANI said. Visuals from the crash site showed the pieces of the aircraft on fire, with plumes of smoke arising from them. Indian Air Force said in a post on X, "A Mirage 2000 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Shivpuri (Gwalior), during a routine training sortie today, after encountering a system malfunction. Both the pilots ejected safely. An enquiry has been ordered by the IAF to ascertain the cause of the accident." In November 2024, a MiG-29 fighter jet crashed into a field near Uttar Pradesh's Agra during a routine training sortie due to a technical glitch. The pilot ejected himself to safety at the time of the crash.

"Whenever They Lose..": BJP Slams Akhilesh Yadav Over "Dead" Jibe At Poll Body

Diary Times Desk : BJP on Thursday strongly criticized Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav over his remarks declaring that the Election Commission was "dead" and accused the Opposition of repeatedly attacking constitutional institutions whenever they face electoral defeats. Speaking to ANI, BJP MP Sambit Patra said, "As soon as the Parliament session started, the Samajwadi Party broke all decorum and presented a funeral shroud for the Election Commission in front of the Speaker... Such a misdeed had never happened in the parliamentary proceedings of India till now. The Election Commission is a constitutional institution and calling it dead and presenting a funeral shroud for it is a blow to democracy. The BJP demands that the stand of other opposition parties should be clear and the Samajwadi Party and Akhilesh Yadav should apologize for this misdeed in Parliament." Earlier, Akhilesh Yadav citing electoral misconduct on the part of the BJP declared the Election Commission "dead".



Darien Gap: Deadly 97-Km Jungle Crossing That Migrants Brave To Reach US

Diary Times Desk : The United States recently deported 104 Indian migrants, handcuffed and shackled for a nearly 24-hour flight back to India. The deportation came after US President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration, a topic he recently discussed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a phone call, AP reported. The illegal journey into the US often involves dangerous crossings through multiple countries, including the treacherous Darien Gap - a vast, roadless jungle that connects Colombia and Panama. The Darien Gap is a 97-km stretch of dense rainforest, swamps, and mountains. It is the only break in the Pan-American Highway - a road system stretching from Alaska to Argentina. This impenetrable region has long been avoided due to its extreme terrain, harsh climate, and lack of infrastructure. But for migrants desperate to reach the US, it has become an unavoidable gateway. Those crossing the Darien Gap face steep mountains, muddy swamplands, fast-moving rivers, and dangerous wildlife. The jungle is home to venomous snakes, jaguars, and deadly insects. However, the most significant threats are from criminal organisations that control the route. The smuggling networks, drug cartels, and armed groups demand payments, rob migrants, or subject them to violence.

Israel's Netanyahu Gifts Golden Pager To Donald Trump: "That Was A Great Operation"

Diary Times Desk : Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gifted US President Donald Trump a golden pager and a regular pager during their meeting at the White House on Tuesday. The gleaming gift - as well as the regular beeper - was a reference to Israel's deadly pager attack on Iran in September, The Jerusalem Post reported. Mr Trump thanked Mr Netanyahu for the unusual offering. "That Was A Great Operation," Mr Trump told the Israeli leader. In a gesture of return gift, the US President gave Mr Netanyahu a photo of the two of them from the visit, with the dedication "To Bibi, a great leader". In September last year, thousands of pagers used by Hezbollah operatives.

Mexico deploys 10,000 troops to border amid US President Donald Trump's tariff threat

Diary Times Desk : Mexico began sending 10,000 troops to its northern border on Wednesday, with National Guard and Army trucks patrolling the area between Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, Texas, in response to President Donald Trump's tariff threat. National Guard troops, masked and armed, combed through the brush along the border near Ciudad Juárez, removing makeshift ladders and ropes from trenches and loading them onto trucks. Patrols were also spotted in other border regions near Tijuana. This follows a tense week at the border after President Trump decided to delay imposing heavy tariffs on Mexico for at least a month. In return, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum pledged to deploy the National Guard to strengthen border security and combat fentanyl smuggling. Trump declared a border emergency despite a significant decline in both migration and fentanyl overdoses over the past year. In response, the US pledged to take stronger action against the trafficking of American guns into Mexico.



Trump trade pick says universal tariffs should be 'considered'



Diary Times Desk : Trump trade envoy nominee Jamieson Greer is being grilled by the Senate Finance Committee and has voiced openness to Trump's campaign suggestion of across-the-board tariffs on US imports. Such universal tariffs should be "studied and considered" as a potential way to reverse offshoring and trade deficits, Greer said. He added that US producers need a "level playing field" to compete globally. Trump has already threatened 25-percent tariffs on Mexico and Canada but has agreed to delay imposing the taxes for a month. Earlier this month, however, he did increase tariffs on China by 10 percent and has also warned the European Union of potential tariffs, as well. Economists have warned that tariffs could spark a trade war - with the US facing retaliatory tariffs in exchange. That would likely have blowback for US consumers, who would have to absorb the higher prices. Congressman Jim Costa has criticised Trump's plan to encourage federal employees to resign.

H-1B visa cap registration to start on March 7 with massive fee hike

Diary Times Desk : The H-1B visa cap registration period for the fiscal year 2025-26 will commence on March 7 and close on March 24. This year, employers sponsoring H-1B visa applicants will reportedly have to pay a higher fee for the E-registration process. After the hike, this year's fee is \$125 per beneficiary, which is much higher than last year's fee of \$10, according to a Times of India report. This increase in registration costs, along with the beneficiary-centric registration and selection process, is part of efforts introduced by the Biden administration. The efforts were introduced by the previous US government to enhance the integrity of the H-1B visa program. The beneficiary-centric approach, first used for the registration and lottery process in 2026, will probably be carried forward in 2026 also as per the reports. Under this system, every beneficiary is entered into the lottery only once.

Hamas Tortured, Executed Gay Members Who Raped Israeli Hostages

Diary Times Desk: Hamas reportedly tortured and executed its own members who allegedly had same-sex relations, secret documents from the Palestinian group revealed. According to a report, several members of the Hamas group raped male Israeli victims during the October 7, 2023, attack in which at least 1,200 people were killed. The crimes were reportedly committed with the Israeli men who were held captive by Hamas following the attack as well. Hamas had a list of recruits who failed to comply with its "morality checks" by engaging in homosexuality - for which they paid a "heavy price", reported the New York Post. According to the report, the "crimes" were allegedly committed by 94 recruits of Hamas. These included charges of lumping together "homosexual conversations, flirting with girls without a legal relationship and sodomy". The documents also revealed allegations of child rape and torture. One of the allegations reportedly mentioned: "He (one of the Hamas members) constantly curses God". Another said, "He has romantic relationships on Facebook...He is behaviourally and morally deviant".

Video Shows Naked Iranian Woman Jumping On Police Car In Bold Protest

Diary Times Desk : A daring protest in Iran's second-largest city, Mashhad, has gone viral after a woman was filmed stripping naked and jumping onto a police car. The shocking footage, shared on social media, shows the woman yelling at armed officers as she stands on the hood of the car in the crowded streets. She then climbs onto the windshield, making a defiant gesture. Despite attempts by officers to get her down, she refuses to move, even as one officer reaches into the vehicle, reportedly for a weapon. A male officer, armed with an automatic weapon, appears to hesitate to detain the woman due to her nakedness, as reported by Euronews. While the exact motivation behind her actions is unclear, reports on social media suggest that she was protesting Iran's increasingly oppressive clothing laws for women. The woman's bold protest has sparked a mix of reactions, with some speculating about her mental health and others hailing her as a symbol of resistance against the country's oppressive clothing laws for women. The incident is part of a larger movement in Iran, where women are pushing back against the strict dress code enforced by the morality.

PM, top BJP brass attend Sunil Jakhar's grandson's reception in Capital

Diary Times Desk : In a clear sign of Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar's growing importance in the state and saffron politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led top party brass on Wednesday night attended the former's grandson's wedding reception in the Capital. The Prime Minister, who was in Prayagraj earlier in the day for a holy dip at Sangam, arrived for the reception of Jai Veer and Rudrashree after 9.30 pm, when most of the guests were already at a posh Lutyens' Delhi venue. The PM blessed the couple, posed for pictures with the Jakhar family and interacted with guests. Modi spotted former Haryana Chief Minister and Congress veteran Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his MP son Deepender in the crowd and greeted them. After the PM left, BJP president JP Nadda arrived. Union Ministers Amit Shah, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhupender Yadav and Arjun Ram Meghwal were also in attendance. Shah, the second most influential BJP leader after Modi, spent the longest time at the location posing for pictures with guests. BJP leaders paid their obeisance to Gurinder Singh Dhillon, the spiritual head of Radha Soami Satsang Dera Beas, who graced the event and interacted with guests.



Chandigarh MC tightens leash on dog owners, violators to face hefty fines

Diary Times Desk : Chandigarh residents, beware! Keeping a pet or feeding a community dog without following the rules could soon put a serious bite on your wallet. The draft "Municipal Corporation Chandigarh Pet and Community Dog Bye-Laws-2023" is set to bring sweeping changes to pet ownership and community dog management. Among other things, it introduces strict new regulations and penalties that go up to Rs 10,000—nearly 200 times higher than the existing fines. The rules also have provisions for open sale of a seized dog. The draft, approved by Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria, aims to leash the problem of irresponsible pet ownership while ensuring safety and hygiene across the city. It has been uploaded on the corporation's website and the general public can submit suggestions and objections within 30 days. The draft says the owners are required to register their pet dogs with the Municipal Corporation, pay a fee of Rs 500 per dog, and submit a prescribed undertaking. The number of dogs per household has also been capped—homes on plots up to one kanal.

Amritsar airport records an upswing in overseas, domestic passenger traffic

Diary Times Desk : Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport in Punjab's Amritsar has reached a historic milestone, breaking multiple previous records for passenger footfall. An analysis of recent data released by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) reveals that the airport welcomed an astounding total of 3,40,408 (approximately 3.40 lakh) passengers in the month of December 2024. This includes 2.29 lakh domestic passengers and a record 1.11 lakh international passengers, marking only the second time international footfall has crossed the 1-lakh mark, surpassing the previous record of 1.06 lakh international passengers. This figure surpasses the previous record of 3,38,712 passengers set in December 2023. Sameep Singh Gumtala, global convener of FlyAmritsar Initiative, an advocacy group dedicated to promoting and enhancing connectivity at Amritsar airport, said, "The airport not only achieved its highest-ever monthly passenger footfall in December 2024 but also recorded unprecedented yearly traffic for the same year." Achieving another milestone, the calendar year 2024 became the busiest year.

Villagers shave head of 2 eve-teasers in Nuh

Diary Times Desk : Villagers in Nuh shaved the heads of two men from a nearby village to teach them a lesson for harassing girls. The incident occurred in Mandarka village, where men from the nearby village Chilawali had been coming every day and harassing girls. The men would write lewd comments on chits and throw them at the girls. They would also stop girls on roads, tease them outside school, and engage in other forms of harassment. Villagers claim they repeatedly warned the men, their parents, and even the village panchayat to stop the harassment. When their efforts proved futile, the villagers took matters into their own hands and "punished" the men. On Wednesday, when two men came to the village and began throwing chits, villagers captured them and shaved their heads. They also filmed the incident and posted it on social media. After doing so, they called the police. The local SHO confirmed the incident and stated that the two men had been handed over to the police. "These men had become a constant nuisance and had no fear of the police. If we had called the police earlier, they would have been easily let off, but the village has taught them a lesson they will never forget. We have also asked their panchayat to punish them," said a Panchayat member from Mandarka.

BJP to fight municipal corporation, council poll on party symbol

Diary Times Desk : Gearing up for the upcoming municipal poll in Haryana, the BJP top brass today formally decided to contest the municipal corporation and municipal council poll on the party symbol. However, the final call on fighting the municipal committee election on party symbol would be taken in due course. The core committee of the saffron party, at its meeting in Panchkula, decided to pitch development as the major poll issue in the MC poll, besides deciding to bring separate 'sankalp patra' (election manifesto) for each municipality. "The BJP is aiming at the formation of triple-engine government on the strength of the development works undertaken by the state and the Central governments. The BJP is already in the election mode after its stupendous victory in the Assembly poll," Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said. Sources said a committee would tour various civic bodies, where elections are scheduled. After preparing a panel of prospective candidates, the committee would submit lists to the core committee.

Rape complainant among 6 booked after singer alleges honey-trapping, 2 arrested

Diary Times Desk : In a recent development, the Panchkula police have filed charges against six individuals, including a woman who had previously accused state BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli and singer Jai Bhagwan, alias Rocky Mittal, of rape. The charges stem from allegations of orchestrating a honey trap with the intent to extort Rs 50 lakh. The police confirmed today that two of the accused—one woman and one man—have been arrested and placed under a two-day police remand. According to the complaint lodged by Mittal, a former chairman of the Haryana Government's publicity cell, the woman, along with another woman Mehak, initially contacted him on September 9, 2024. They allegedly threatened to implicate both Mittal and Badoli in a fabricated case unless their financial demands were met. Mittal reported that the accused pressured him to arrange a meeting with Badoli and demanded Rs 50 lakh. Upon his refusal, the threats intensified, leading him to file a complaint with Haryana Director-General of Police on September 14. Subsequently, on September 18, the group reportedly confronted Mittal at his residence in Panchkula.



Bus service announced between Una, Vrindavan

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today announced a bus service between Radha Krishna Temple in Baba Bal Ashram near Una city and Vrindavan in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh. He was at the temple to pay obeisance during the 12-day-long annual religious festivities organised at the temple from February 1. The Radha Krishna temple is located in the Baba Bal Ashram, having a formidable following. A branch of the ashram is also being run at Vrindavan where the followers travel frequently. Agnihotri participated in the religious procession, holding the deity's palanquin. He said Una district is home to many religious destinations, including Mata Chintpurni shrine, adding that these places of worship will be preserved and developed to cope up with the increasing number of devotees coming in to pay obeisance. He is also holds charge of the Art, Language and Culture department.

Bride disappears with money, jewellery within hours of wedding in Hamirpur

Diary Times Desk : A youth in Sahi village of this district has lodged a police complaint alleging fraud and cheating in marriage after the bride disappeared with money and jewellery within hours of wedding, officials on Thursday said. Alleging that a fraud has been committed with him, the groom identified as Jitesh Sharma asserted that one Baldev Sharma took Rs 1.50 lakh from him for getting him married, they said. The complainant said that he got married with Babita on December 13, 2024 at a temple in his village with full rituals in front of his family as non-availability of the girl's birth certificate caused a hindrance in court marriage, police said. Sharma alleged that the bride went to her house in Haryana's Yamunanagar after marriage as her mother was ill and took the jewellery with her. The bride assured the complainant husband that she would return after two days and she stopped picking his calls later, they said. Meanwhile, Baldev Sharma, who arranged the marriage, also started avoiding the matter.

Snowfall in Manali brings cheer to tourists



Diary Times Desk : Tourists had a gala time as Manali town received around three inches of fresh snowfall today. Tourist vehicles were permitted up to Nehru Kund, where there was plenty of snow, and 4x4 vehicles were also allowed to reach Solang Nala. Visitors enjoyed memorable moments engaging in adventure activities in the snow. Many tourists were seen taking selfies and sharing videos on social media. The beauty of Manali blossomed after snowfall and tourists were delighted by the snow-covered hills. The mercury dipped in the entire region as the higher reaches experienced snowfall, while the lower areas were lashed by rain throughout night. The tourism beneficiaries are hopeful that this fresh snowfall will improve the influx of tourists. Manali remains a major attraction for both Indian and international tourists due to its snowy landscapes. The region's natural beauty and adventure sports opportunities, including skiing, paragliding, horse riding, snow scooter driving, snow sledding, mountain biking and snow tubing in Solang Nala, add thrill to this destination.

BJP MLA Sudhir Sharma receives threat to life, police launch investigation

Diary Times Desk : BJP MLA from Dharamsala, Sudhir Sharma, has received a threatening letter at his residence, prompting him to file a complaint with the Dharamsala police station. The letter, posted from Dhaultapur area of Una district, threatened to eliminate Sharma and his family. Sharma, who was in Delhi at the time of the incident, stated that this was the second time he had received a threat to his life after quitting the Congress and voting for BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan during the Rajya Sabha election from Himachal. Initially, he had received a phone call, which he didn't take seriously, thinking it was the handiwork of disgruntled Congress workers. However, after recent reports of Punjab gangsters issuing threats to Himachal residents, Sharma decided to file a police complaint. SSP Kangra, Shalini Agnihotri, said that a case in the matter has been registered on the complaint of Sudhir Sharma's personal assistant. The police are investigating the matter. This incident is not the first time Sharma has faced threats. Last year, he filed a police complaint about a drone flying over his house in Dharamsala.

Following snowfall, 275 roads closed for movement of traffic

Diary Times Desk : Light to moderate snowfall and rain has been recorded across the state since Tuesday evening. Apart from the higher reaches, light to moderate snowfall has been recorded at some places in the districts of Kullu, Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba, Kinnaur and Shimla. Tourist destinations like Manali, Narkanda and Kufri also recorded a few centimetres of snowfall. Shimla recorded intermittent rainfall and hail on Tuesday night. In most parts of the state, light to moderate rainfall has been recorded. As per the State Disaster Management Authority officials, 275 roads, including three national highways have been obstructed. Besides, 55 water schemes and 291 power distributions transformers have also been disrupted. Due to the snowfall, the roads in upper Shimla had become quite slippery and the traffic was obstructed in early hours of the morning. Later, as the snow melted, normal traffic was restored. In Kinnaur, light snowfall was recorded in Chitkul and Rakchham, but the traffic remained largely unobstructed in the district.

CM lays foundation stone of green hydrogen plant

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's vision of making Himachal India's first green energy state by 2026 received a major boost as he laid the foundation of North India's first 1 MW Green Hydrogen Plant at Dabhota in Nalagarh tehsil today. This pioneering project, being developed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) in collaboration with Oil India Limited, is set to be established at a cost of Rs 9.04 crore. He directed the officials to ensure its completion within a year. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister reaffirmed Himachal Pradesh's commitment to becoming India's first Green Energy State by March 2026. He emphasised that the Dabhota Green Hydrogen Plant marks a major milestone in the state's renewable energy journey. He said "This initiative is a crucial step in Himachal Pradesh's efforts to establish itself as a leader in renewable energy and sustainability." To further this vision, the state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil India Limited on April 26, 2023, focusing on the development of solar energy, green hydrogen, geothermal energy, and compressed biogas. He said that following a detailed assessment, a 4,000-square-meter land parcel in Dabhota was selected for the plant. "As the state's first large-scale green hydrogen initiative, this project underscores the government's commitment to sustainable energy solutions. The plant will utilise power from renewable sources to produce hydrogen through electrolysis, using an alkaline potassium hydroxide solution as an electrolyte. This method significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions and supports a cleaner energy ecosystem," he added.



Clinical India take early lead in ODI series



Diary Times Desk : A complete all-round performance by India, on Thursday (February 6), helped them secure a comfortable win against England in the first One-Day International in Nagpur. Half-centuries by Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel backed up the fine effort by the bowlers and the fielders earlier in the innings as India overhauled England's total with 68 balls to spare and four wickets in hand. While India were clinical in all three departments, they were massively aided by the conditions. The pitch which was two-paced in the first half, flattened out for them in the second, making England's decision to bat first prove counter-productive, although the spinners did find some help later on. Earlier in the day, India handed two debut caps - to Yashasvi Jaiswal and Harshit Rana, with Virat Kohli having to miss the contest due to soreness in his right knee. Rana was in for some action early on in the contest, his four overs witnessing extremes of good and bad. In the opening over, he was put away for 11 overs but returned to bowl a maiden. In his third, Phil Salt carted him for 26 runs - the most conceded by a bowler on debut - and then returned to snap two wickets in one over. But before Rana could send back Ben Duckett and Harry Brook in the 10th over, courtesy some excellent catching by Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul.

Gautam Gambhir Sent Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli "Pressure" Alarm Ahead Of ODI Series

Diary Times Desk : A poor Border-Gavaskar Trophy tour of Australia and the following Ranji Trophy campaign see Indian cricket stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma enter the ODI assignment against England at a low point in their careers. Both have had their places in India's Test team questioned but the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is in urgent need to see them hit their A-game. Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar admits that skipper Rohit is bound to be under pressure. Hence, his approach at the top would be interesting to see. "The only interesting thing would be whether Rohit Sharma will play in the fashion like in the 2023 ODI World Cup, he was giving flying starts. There is pressure on him to score big so he might hold back himself slightly," Manjrekar said on ESPNCricinfo. "Rohit Sharma because he is opening, they will try to get 2-3 wickets, England have several pace options. If there is slight assistance on the pitch, it can be slightly testing for Rohit Sharma. But, I don't think they won't score in this series," he added.

Kusal Mendis fights for Sri Lanka as Starc and Lyon stand out

Diary Times Desk : Australia's trio of specialist bowlers toiled manfully during a see-saw day one against a fighting Sri Lanka on a dry Galle surface that did not live up to the hype, but occasionally spun sharply and is expected to deteriorate significantly. By the end of 90 overs, the second Test was intriguingly poised after several shifts of momentum. Sri Lanka's top-order built a strong platform to reach 93 for 1 before they lost 4 for 34 in a horror period after lunch. But Kusal Mendis and Ramesh Mendis combined for a seventh-wicket partnership of 65 to lift Sri Lanka to what might just be a competitive first innings total. Kusal and Dinesh Chandimal made well-compiled half-centuries as Sri Lanka batted through the day's play to reach stumps at 229 for 9. After Sri Lanka suffered their worst defeat in Test cricket on a slow surface, there had been much speculation that this new surface.

Marcus Stoinis retires from ODI cricket with immediate effect

Diary Times Desk : Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has brought down the curtains on his ODI career, Cricket Australia announced on February 6 (Thursday) and added that he wants to focus on T20 cricket. Stoinis leaves the format having featured in 71 games since making his debut back in 2015. Stoinis was earlier named in the squad for the Champions Trophy, and will now need to be replaced. "Playing ODI cricket for Australia has been an incredible journey, and I'm grateful for every moment I've had in the green and gold. Representing my country at the highest level is something I'll always cherish," Stoinis said. "This wasn't an easy decision, but I believe it's the right time for me to step away from ODIs and fully focus on the next chapter of my career. I've got a fantastic relationship with Ron (Andrew McDonald) and I've hugely appreciated his support," he added. Stoinis's career-best effort with the bat came in just his second outing - an unbeaten 146 against New Zealand in Auckland in 2017. He last featured on the tour of Pakistan last November, and finished with 1495 runs and 48 wickets in the format. Stoinis was also part of Australia's World Cup-winning squad in 2023 and was the team's ODI cricketer of the year in 2018-19.

Cummins, Hazlewood ruled out of Champions Trophy

Diary Times Desk : Australia are in the midst of a personnel crisis for the Champions Trophy 2025 as the 2023 ODI World Cup champions will need to make as many as four changes to their squad for the upcoming eight-team competition. Skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood have been officially ruled out of the tournament due to injuries while the ODI retirement of Marcus Stoinis and the withdrawal of Mitchell Marsh due to a back injury has left the Australian squad short-staffed. "Unfortunately Pat, Josh and Mitch are managing some ongoing injuries and haven't come up in time for the Champions Trophy," said George Bailey, the chairman of the selection panel. "While disappointing, it does present a great opportunity for other players to perform for Australia in a world event." Hazlewood is having a hip problem, having earlier suffered hip and calf strains. Meanwhile, the unavailability of Cummins, who is still recovering from an ankle injury he suffered during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, will mean Australia will have to name another captain for the Champions Trophy. Earlier, having mentioned that Cummins was heavily unlikely to feature in the Champions Trophy, head coach Andrew McDonald had said that Steve Smith and Travis Head are the two cricketers with whom the management.

Not Abhishek Sharma, This India Star Nominated For Big ICC Award

Diary Times Desk : Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy was on Thursday nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month for January following a stellar outing against England in the recent five-match T20I series. Chakravarthy bagged 14 wickets from five matches at an excellent average of 9.85 and at an economy rate of 7.66. His efforts contributed immensely to T20 world champions India clinching the home series 4-1. His bowling was lethal from the start, with English batters struggling to read his spin. West Indian spinner Jomel Warrican was another nominee, after helping his side draw the two-match away Test series against Pakistan. The left-arm spinner Warrican was named player of the series against Pakistan after emerging as the top wicket-taker, grabbing 19 wickets. His Pakistan counterpart Noman Ali, who took 16 wickets in that series, is also in contention for the award. Indian opener Gongadi Trisha, who was the player of the tournament during the recent ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup, was nominated for the award in the women's category.

Babar Azam Suffers Mishap Ahead Of Champions Trophy 2025. Pakistan Star Says: "I Have Lost..."

Diary Times Desk : The Champions Trophy 2025 is just days away with all the teams in the final phase of their preparation. This time the Champions Trophy will be played in Pakistan and Dubai (all India matches). All eyes will be on Pakistan and India, the two arch-rivals who will be facing for the first time after the 2024 T20 World Cup. Babar Azam will be a crucial cog in Pakistan's wheel at the Champions Trophy 2025. Being the hosts, Pakistan will be expected to do well. The last time Pakistan did well in an ICC event was at the 2017 Champions Trophy which it won. However, off the field, Babar Azam has suffered a mishap. He took to X and wrote about it: "I have lost my phone and contacts. Will get back to everyone as soon as I find it." Tickets for the highly-anticipated clash between archrivals India and Pakistan in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Dubai were snapped up within minutes of going on sale on Monday. The rush was so intense that over 1,50,000 eager fans queued online, causing waiting times to exceed an hour. The much-awaited India vs Pakistan match will take place at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on February 23.