

PM MODI'S

PM Modi To Co-Chair AI summit, Address CEOs Forum During France Visit: Foreign Secretary

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will co-chair the AI summit in France with French President Emmanuel Macron. During his visit to France from February 10-12, PM Modi will also be addressing the India-France CEOs forum. Foreign secretary Vikram Misri, while talking about the development of AI, during a press briefing on Friday, emphasized India's expectation from the summit that AI applications be developed, implemented, and used in a trustworthy, humane, and safe manner.

"PM will co-chair the AI summit alongside President Macron of France. The PM will arrive in Paris in the evening of 10th of February. He will then attend the dinner that is being hosted by President Macron at Elysee Palace. On 11 February Prime Minister will co-chair the AI summit alongside President Macron of France. AI is bound to have and already having profound impact across all sectors of economy, polity, society and governance and therefore summit such as the AI summit is both significant and timely," said Misri.

"We will be interested in AI applications that are designed developed deployed and used in safe humane responsible trustworthy manner," he added. After the AI summit, PM Modi will fly to Marseille and speak at the India-France CEOs forum. Misri informed, "After the AI summit, there will be a bilateral component to the visit and PM Modi and President Macron will address the India-France CEOs forum...PM Modi will travel to Marseille on the evening of 11th February. President Emmanuel Macron will also host a dinner in honour of PM Modi."

During his visit to France, PM Modi will also honour the sacrifices of Indian soldiers in World War I by visiting a military cemetery on February 12. The foreign secretary also informed that PM Modi will visit Cadarshe, the location of the international thermal nuclear experimental reactor, which India is very interested in. "The two leaders will pay a visit to Cadarshe which is the site of the international thermal nuclear experimental reactor, which is a high science project in which India is a partner with few other countries," he said.



INDIA FLAG MISTREATMENT

India Flags 'Mistreatment' of Nationals Deported From U.S.



Diary Times Desk : Days after 104 Indian nationals living illegally in the United States were deported aboard a C-17 Globemaster III military aircraft, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that New Delhi has raised concerns with US authorities regarding the treatment of the deported individuals. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri acknowledged the validity of concerns regarding the mistreatment of deportees and assured that India would continue to raise the issue with US authorities.

"On the issue of mistreatment, it is a valid issue to raise, and we continue to emphasize to US authorities that there should be no mistreatment of deportees. We will continue to take up any instances of mistreatment that come to our attention," said Misri. The statement follows allegations by deportees who returned to India on February 5, claiming they were handcuffed, had their feet tied with chains, and were not allowed to move from their seats throughout the flight. Misri further emphasized the need to dismantle the ecosystem that promotes illegal immigration, calling for action across the system to prevent further instances of unlawful migration.

Responding to queries regarding the use of a military aircraft for deportation, Misri explained that the US classified the operation as a national security matter, which may have influenced the choice of transport. "This particular deportation is somewhat different compared to earlier flights. In the US system itself, it was described as a national security operation, so maybe that's why they used a military plane," he said.

This was the first instance of a US military aircraft being used to deport Indian nationals under Donald Trump's administration's crackdown on illegal immigration. Misri revealed that 487 presumed Indian nationals in the US have received final removal orders.

During a press briefing, he assured that the Indian government is working closely with the US authorities to facilitate the safe return of those identified as illegal immigrants. India continues to monitor the situation and engage diplomatically to ensure that due process is followed in all deportation cases. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, speaking in Rajya Sabha, stated that the deportation of Indian nationals from the US is not a new phenomenon.

Adani's son marries in intimate ceremony, tycoon donates Rs 10,000 crore

Diary Times Desk : Billionaire Gautam Adani's younger son Jeet on Friday married fiancée Diva Shah at a small and intimate, traditional ceremony with a close group of friends and family in attendance. The business tycoon kept the wedding simple and donated Rs 10,000 crore to various social causes, including building infrastructure in healthcare, education and skill development. Sources said a very small number of family and friends were invited for the wedding performed according to Jain tradition at Shantigram here. No celebrity was invited, they said. Adani will throw a reception for employees on Saturday. "With the blessings of Almighty God, Jeet and Diva tied the sacred knot of marriage today," Adani said in a post on X. "It was a small and extremely private function, so we could not invite all the well-wishers even if we wanted to, for which I apologise." Posting pictures of the wedding, he sought blessings and love for the newly wed. Sources close to him said the Rs 10,000 crore that he had pledged will go in the creation of a network of affordable world-class hospitals.



Cabinet clears new Income Tax Bill, to be introduced in Parliament next week

Diary Times Desk : The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the new Income Tax Bill, which will replace the six decades old I-T Act, sources said. The new Bill seeks to make direct tax law simple to understand and not to impose any new tax burden. It will not have provisos and explanations or long sentences. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the New Income Tax Bill, sources said. Sources said the new Income Tax Bill will now be introduced in Parliament next week and would be sent to Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance. The first leg of the ongoing Budget session ends on February 13. The session will reconvene on March 10 and sit through April 4. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in Budget 2025-26 that the new tax Bill will be introduced in the ongoing session of Parliament. Sitharaman had first announced a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act.

NEET-UG medical entrance exam to be conducted on May 4, announces NTA



Diary Times Desk : NEET-UG will be conducted on May 4 in pen and paper mode, NTA announced. The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced that the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG medical entrance exam will be conducted on May 4. A total of 1,08,000 seats are available for the MBBS course. Approximately 56,000 are in government hospitals, and about 52,000 in private colleges. The NEET-UG exam is also a way to secure admissions to undergraduate Dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha undergraduate courses. NTA said the application process for NEET-UG, the largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of candidates, began on Friday, February 7, and will conclude on March 7. In 2024, more than 24 lakh aspirants appeared for the exam. The NTA announced last month that the exam would continue to be conducted in pen-and-paper mode.

PM Modi to pay 2-day working visit to US from February 12

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day working visit to the US from February 12 during which he will meet President Donald Trump, the external affairs ministry announced on Friday. Addressing a press conference, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Modi's visit will give further impetus and direction to India-US bilateral relationship. Prior to his US visit, Modi will be in France from February 10-12 to co-chair the AI Action Summit with French President Emmanuel Macron. He will also visit Cadarache, the site of International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor of which India is a partner, Misri said.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 08-02-2025

Aries

Today, special guests will arrive in your family due to a religious event. For working people, if you get success in the workplace, you will be recognized as a leader among your colleagues. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

Gemini

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 a detailed discussion about expanding their business with their business partner. Problems may increase due to deterioration in the health of children.

Leo

Today, you should take special care while traveling. Employed people may get a salary increase due to completing their projects in time in their workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Libra

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. People in employment may have to face problems due to arguments with opponents in the workplace. Businessmen should focus on teamwork, otherwise, due to increased stress, business will suffer losses. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

Sagittarius

Today you should spend more time with family. 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. Paralysis patients should immediately consult a doctor in case of any problem.

Aquarius

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today.

Taurus

Today you should pay special attention to worship. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

Cancer

Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to lose their jobs due to disputes with colleagues in the workplace. There are chances of people doing business making financial gains due to good relations with consumers. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

Virgo

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. For employed people, progress in the workplace will strengthen your relationship with your boss. 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.

Scorpio

Today is going to be a challenging day for you. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.

Capricorn

Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

Pisces

Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. People in employment may be promoted to the post of a senior officer due to their better performance in the workplace. People doing business may have a detailed discussion about expanding their business with their business partner.



Himachal Youth Congress: Himachal Youth Congress President Chhatar Singh Thakur took charge, CM was also present

Diary Times Desk : The newly elected President of Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress Chhatar Singh Thakur assumed his charge at Rajiv Bhawan on Friday, in which Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu also participated. On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that 27 years ago I became the President of Youth Congress, at that time I was also a councilor of Shimla Municipal Corporation. From there, I have reached the post of Chief Minister today. Chief Minister Sukhu said that many Youth Congress presidents became MLAs and today four ministers and 10-12 MLAs have emerged from Youth Congress politics, who worked with me in student politics. He said that the process of election adopted by Rahul Gandhi, the same made Vikramaditya Singh and Chhatar Singh the President of Youth Congress. The Chief Minister said that Youth Congress gives an opportunity to understand the politics of the state. He said that the state government is moving forward to make the state self-reliant by changing the system, in which the role of youth is important. Your new innings has started in Youth Congress and you should raise your demands before the state government. He said that only the Congress government understands the feelings of the youth.



Himachal News: Vigilance action, Food Safety Assistant Commissioner caught taking bribe of Rs 1 lakh 10 thousand

Diary Times Desk : Vigilance has taken a big action in district Kullu. On Friday, the vigilance team caught three people including the food safety assistant commissioner red handed while taking a bribe of Rs 1 lakh 10 thousand. Vigilance took this action in the office of the food safety department in Kullu. Bribe was taken from a hotelier of Manali. It is being told that the food safety team had collected samples of a hotel in Manali yesterday and later a notice was issued to the hotel and this amount was being taken to settle the matter. Vigilance Kullu police station DSP Ajay Kumar has confirmed this.

Himachal Pradesh: Job opportunity for unemployed youth, company will fill 100 posts in Chamba

Diary Times Desk : The unemployed youth of Chamba district have an opportunity to work in a private company. The interview schedule has been released by the District Employment Office Chamba. The interview will be held on February 17 at the District Employment Office Chamba. On February 18, interviews will be held at the Employment Sub Office in Chuwari. The Baddi company will fill 100 posts of apprenticeship and operators. Men and women can appear for the interview for these posts. The educational qualification is 10th to 12th class. The company will give a monthly salary of Rs 12,000. Other facilities will also be provided. Before the interview, the youth will have to register on the EEMIS portal. Original certificates, Aadhaar card, educational qualification, passport size photo will have to be brought along. This information was given by District Employment Officer Chamba Arvind Singh Chauhan.

Jairam Thakur: Leader of Opposition said- Payments have stopped in the entire state, work has stopped, only government's lies are going on

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that in Sukh's government of system change, all development works are stopped, all public welfare works are stopped, payment of important projects of the state is stopped, at present only the lies of the Chief Minister and his ministers are going on in the state. Whatever problems there are in the state, whatever inconvenience the people are facing. The affected people and the opposition are raising their voice against it but the people sitting in the government are dismissing it. The only solution the government has for all the problems of the state is the lie of the government that everything is going well in the state, 'all is well'. The opposition and the people of the state are lying. Jairam Thakur said that there is a plethora of examples of system change in Sukh's government. Due to non-payment, the work of Medical Devices Park, which changed the image and fate of Himachal, has been stopped for a month. This news has been prominently published in the newspapers. The government can blame anyone else in this too.

Supreme Court: Daily wage earners will get work charge status, Supreme Court approves the decision of Himachal High Court

Diary Times Desk : More than 500 daily wage earners working in the Forest Department in Himachal for years will get the benefit of work charge status after completion of eight years. The Supreme Court has rejected the SLP petition filed by the government, upholding the decision of the Himachal High Court. The Supreme Court has also advised the government that in future, third and fourth class recruitments should be done under the provisions of the policy and rules. The case was heard in the division bench of Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice Arvind Kumar of the Supreme Court. The court said that everyone should be given benefits under Ashwani Kumar vs Himachal and work charge status should be given after completion of eight years. The court heard 500 cases of daily wage earners, gardeners, daily wage workers working in the Forest Department and fourth class working in various departments. After getting the benefit of work charge status, now these workers will get other benefits including revised pay scale. On January 12, 2023, the High Court had ordered to give work charge status to daily wage earners after completion of eight years. The Himachal government went to the Supreme Court against the decision of the court. The state government had made a policy in the year 2000 to give work charge status to daily wage earners after completion of 10 years. After that, the period was reduced by two years to 8 years.

Himachal News: Case of funeral of a living woman on papers in Solan, suspicion on many people, FIR registered

Diary Times Desk : The police have lodged an FIR on Thursday in the case of cremating a live woman on paper in Salogra, adjacent to the city. On the complaint of the Municipal Corporation, the police have registered a case and started investigation. It is suspected that many people are involved in this fraud. The investigation will also reveal the purpose for which the entire conspiracy was hatched. In this case, those who took wood in the name of cremation have come under suspicion. Also, questions are being raised on how the death certificate was issued by the Municipal Corporation. However, if the Municipal Corporation is to be believed, an application has also been received for making the death certificate. In this too, the family members have duly signed. The woman's Aadhaar card has also been used in this. On the other hand, it is being told that insurance worth.

Himachal: 50 promising students of Himachal went to Singapore-Cambodia, CM sent the meritorious students on exposure visit

Diary Times Desk : 50 talented students of Himachal Pradesh left for an exposure visit to Cambodia and Singapore on Friday. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu flagged off the group of students for abroad. These students will go till Delhi today. From there, they will fly abroad tomorrow. Before this, Chief Minister Sukhu reached the Secretariat on foot from the government residence Oak Over with the students. For the first time, the state government has sent talented students of class 11th and 12th abroad. The meritorious students will be on the tour from 8 to 18 February and will visit the educational institutions of both these countries. State Education Minister Rohit Thakur, Director Higher Education Amarjit Singh also left for the exposure visit with these children. On this occasion, Chief Minister Sukhu said that while wishing all the children, the Chief Minister said that children are the future of the country. Your dreams, your education and your knowledge will make India a strong and developed nation. He said that this is not just a journey, but a golden opportunity.

ACB asks Arvind Kejriwal 5 questions in notice over '₹15 crore' charge: 'Make yourself available'

Diary Times Desk : The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of the Delhi government issued a notice to Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal on Friday, asking him to join a probe into the latter's allegation that the BJP tried to bribe AAP candidates, Calling the allegation "extremely serious", the ACB asked the former Delhi chief minister to "make himself available" for questioning. "The Anti-Corruption Branch, GNCT of Delhi is conducting an enquiry into the allegations of offer of bribe to MLAs of Aam Aadmi Party. These allegations are extremely serious and therefore require urgent enquiry and intervention of ACB to establish the truth in the matter," ACB said in the notice. "You are, therefore, requested to make yourself available at any convenient time today i.e. 07.02.2025 to supply the following information," it added. Days after exit polls predicted a BJP win in the Delhi election, Arvind Kejriwal today claimed that 16 AAP candidates were offered ministerial positions and ₹15 crore each if they switched sides. "Some agencies are showing that the abusive party (BJP) is getting more than 55 seats. In the last two hours, 16 of our candidates have received calls that if they leave the AAP and join their party, they will be made ministers and given ₹15 crore each," the AAP supremo wrote on X.

St. Stephen's College, Delhi and Noida schools receive bomb threats; search on

Diary Times Desk : Two schools in Noida and Delhi, along with St. Stephen's College, received bomb threats via email on Friday. Bomb and dog squads reached the spot. As part of the standard operating procedure, the campuses were evacuated and shut. The police are conducting a thorough search. The schools immediately sent messages to the parents of the students to share the threat to the safety of students on campus. "We are closing the campus down for the day to conduct complete a sweep to ensure safety of all," a message from a school read. The schools advised parents to keep their children at home. Those who had already boarded buses were sent back home. Ahlcon International School in Mayur Vihar Phase I and Shiv Nadar School in Noida got the threat emails. Delhi Police also informed that a bomb threat was received by Delhi University's St. Stephen's College and bomb disposal teams were sent to the spot.

"487 Presumed Indians With Final Removal Orders": Centre On US Deportations



Diary Times Desk : The Centre today announced that they have been told by US authorities that there are 487 presumed Indian citizens with "final removal orders". This announcement comes in the backdrop of a political row over 104 Indian migrants who were sent back to India, chained and shackled, on a C-17 US military aircraft on Wednesday. "We've been told there are 487 presumed Indian citizens with final removal orders," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. A US military aircraft carrying the migrants landed in Amritsar, marking the first mass deportation under President Donald Trump's administration. The deportees, who had attempted to enter the United States through illegal channels, were piled up in an aircraft and were reportedly shackled and restrained throughout the flight, only to be freed upon arrival in India. "Their legal position and status insofar as the US justice system is concerned, we have some information on the number of immigrants concerned."

Fire breaks out at Maha Kumbh Sector -18 in Prayagraj; fire engines at the spot

Diary Times Desk : A fire broke out at a ISKCON camp in Maha Kumbh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on Friday, fire officials told news agency PTI. The incident took place at Sector 18, Shankaracharya Marg of Maha Kumbh Mela Kshetra. Chief fire officer Pramod Sharma told PTI, "Upon receiving information about the fire at the ISKCON camp in Sector 18, fire tenders were immediately dispatched. The fire has been fully contained." Thick clouds of smoke enveloped the fair area as panic gripped the nearby akhadas. No casualties have been reported. However, the fire spread to over a dozen nearby camps, causing significant damage, PTI reported. Inspector Yogesh Chaturvedi of Khak Chowk police station earlier said, "A fire broke out at a camp near Tulsī Chauraha on Old GT Road. However, firefighters have managed to bring the blaze largely under control."

Indian Consulate Denies Visa To US Politician Kshama Sawant. She Says It's Because..

Diary Times Desk : The Indian Consulate in Seattle was faced with a law and order situation over the emergency visa denial to Indian-American politician Kshama Sawant. The Consulate General of India in Seattle said it was forced to call in relevant local authorities after "certain individuals" tried to enter the Consulate premises without authorization after office hours and refused to leave. "Today, the Consulate was forced to deal with a law and order situation arising from the unauthorised entry by certain individuals into the Consulate premises after office hours. Despite repeated requests, these individuals refused to leave the Consulate premises and engaged in aggressive and threatening behaviour with the Consulate staff," the Consulate General of India in Seattle said in a post on X. The consulate did not provide any further information on the matter, but Ms Sawant, a former City Council Member of Seattle, alleged she was denied the visa because her name was on a "reject list". This is not the first time Ms Sawant's visa application to visit her ailing mother in Bengaluru was denied. She claimed that her Indian visa was rejected thrice while her husband, Calvin Priest, was granted an emergency visa to see her sick mother.



'Kumbh me aag laga di': Akhilesh attacks BJP over 3rd fire incident at Mahakumbh

Diary Times Desk : This is the third major fire at the Maha Kumbh besides multiple minor such incidents. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after a fire broke out at the ISKCON camp in Mahakumbh Nagar. "Sachchai yeh hai ki BJP ne Kumbh mein aag lagadi, Kumbh ki hi aag lagadi.. (Truth is that BJP has set Kumbh on fire)," ANI quoted Yadav as saying. No casualties were reported due to the fire which was reported at 10:35 am. A dozen water tenders were rushed to the spot. "Upon receiving information about the fire at the ISKCON camp in Sector 18, fire tenders were immediately dispatched. The fire was contained fully in half an hour," chief fire officer Pramod Sharma told PTI. The fire spread to over a dozen nearby camps, causing significant damage. Officials said the cause of the fire and the damage incurred due to it were being ascertained.

Army cancels Rs 230 crore drone contracts over alleged use of Chinese components

Diary Times Desk : In a major crackdown against domestic manufacturers, the Army has cancelled contracts worth Rs 230 crore to procure at least 400 drones to be deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh over the alleged use of Chinese components. The contracts were for 200 medium-altitude drones, 100 heavyweight drones, and 100 lightweight logistics drones. One of the affected companies was the Chennai-based Dhaksha, which had secured an order for logistics drones. The deal was put on hold since August 2024 due to concerns over Chinese manufacturing components. Defence sources said investigations have revealed that Chinese-origin electronic components were embedded in these drones, which could have posed a serious threat to national security. However, the issue arising from using Chinese components in security-related equipment is not new.

Greek PM insists no danger from Santorini quake swarm

Diary Times Desk : Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis insisted Friday there was no "immediate danger" from an unprecedented wave of quakes on the tourist island of Santorini that has forced thousands of residents to leave. The state was "fully deployed not because we believe... that something disastrous is going to happen, but because we must be ready for any eventuality," Mitsotakis said during a meeting on the island with local officials. Santorini which is part of a spectacular volcanic caldera and the neighbouring Aegean Sea islands of Amorgos, Ios and Anafi have been hit by hundreds of tremors since the weekend. The activity has baffled scientists, who say that the region has not experienced seismic activity on this scale since records began in 1964. The seismology laboratory of Athens University on Friday said over 7,700 tremors had been recorded since January 26. One of the experts advising the government on the phenomenon, seismologist Costas Papazachos, told the Kathimerini daily Friday that the activity "will continue for two to three weeks" based on the latest data. The barrage was weaker Friday, but was still punctuated by a 4.8-magnitude tremor. The strongest was a 5.2-magnitude quake on Thursday.

US job growth slows in January; unemployment rate dips to 4%

Diary Times Desk : Job creation in the United States was weaker than expected in January, according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on Friday. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 143,000 in January, significantly lower than December's upwardly revised 307,000 and below the 169,000 forecast by Dow Jones. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate edged down to 4%. According to CNBC, the report also included notable benchmark revisions to 2024 payroll data, with substantial downward adjustments to previously reported figures. Government payrolls increased by 32,000, exceeding the forecast of 25,000. The latest data marks the first jobs report since President Donald Trump took office on January 20, with an agenda focused on tax cuts, economic growth, and trade protectionism through higher tariffs.

Inside Trump Family's Middle East Property Deals Amid Gaza "Takeover" Row



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has unveiled a plan to seize control of the Gaza Strip, displace its estimated two million Palestinian residents, and transform the devastated enclave into a luxury destination. Dubbed the "Riviera of the Middle East," the plan is reminiscent of Trump's career-defining real estate projects - including New York's iconic Trump Tower - but with the backdrop of over 60,000 dead Palestinians. Standing next to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, Trump declared that the United States should take over Gaza, describing the project as a "long-term ownership position." This means permanently displacing the Palestinian population and redeveloping the area into a luxurious seaside haven. "If we could find the right piece of land, or numerous pieces of land, and build them some really nice places with plenty of money in the area, that's for sure. I think that would be a lot better than going back to Gaza," the US President said. "Everybody I've spoken to loves the idea of the United States owning that piece of land, developing and creating thousands of jobs with something that will be magnificent."

UK will not follow US on ICC sanctions, PM's spokesperson says

Diary Times Desk : Britain supports the independence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and has no plans to sanction its officials, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's spokesperson said on Friday. The spokesperson was asked about the ICC after U.S. President Donald Trump authorised economic and travel sanctions targeting people who work on ICC investigations of U.S. citizens or allies such as Israel. "That's a matter for the U.S.," the spokesperson told reporters. "As for the UK, we support the independence of the ICC, and therefore have no plans to approve individual court officials." The spokesperson was asked about the ICC after U.S.

Relief For Indians In US, Court Blocks Donald Trump's Citizenship Order Indefinitely

Diary Times Desk : In a big relief for Indian students and professionals living in the United States on visas and awaiting green cards, a federal judge in Seattle has indefinitely blocked President Donald Trump's executive order that seeks to end birthright citizenship. Slamming the order, the court reportedly said Trump is trying to skirt the rule of law to play "policy games" with the Constitution. US District Judge John Coughenour's preliminary injunction is the second major legal blow to Trump's efforts to alter the US law as part of a broader immigration crackdown after a federal judge in Maryland issued a similar ruling. It has become ever-more apparent that to our president, the rule of law is but an impediment to his policy goals. The rule of law is, according to him, something to navigate around or simply ignore, whether that be for political or personal gain," Judge Coughenour said during a hearing on Thursday in Seattle, according to a report by CNN. "In this courtroom and under my watch, the rule of law is a bright beacon which I intend to follow," Coughenour continued. The judge noted that the Constitution is not something with which the government can play policy games. "If the government wants to change the exceptional American grant of birthright citizenship, it needs to amend the Constitution itself," he stressed.

'Normalise Indian hate': Elon Musk's DOGE employee resigns after racist posts surface - Report

Diary Times Desk : The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), formed under Donald Trump's administration and headed by Elon Musk, has been marred by controversies since its beginning. The newest one came in the form of Marko Elez's resignation. According to the Wall Street Journal, the DOGE staffer quit over resurfaced racist social media posts. This came after he was granted restricted access to a \$5 trillion Treasury payment system. According to the outlet, Elez was linked to a now-deleted social media account that advocated racism and eugenics on several occasions. One of the posts, shared from the account, also made a racist remark against Indians. "Normalize Indian hate" was written from the account on a post highlighting the prevalence of Indians in Silicon Valley.

US Cannot Withdraw From A Body It No Longer Belongs: UNHRC

Diary Times Desk : The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has said that as of January 1, 2025, the US' term as a member had ended, making it ineligible to withdraw from an intergovernmental body it was no longer part of. "For the record, the United States was a member of the Human Rights Council from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024. Since January 1, 2025, the United States is no longer a member of the Human Rights Council and automatically became an observer state, like any of the 193 UN member states that are not Council members. An observer state of the Council cannot withdraw from an intergovernmental body it is no longer a part of," Pascal Sim, spokesperson for the UNHRC, said on Thursday in a statement sent to Xinhua news agency. "As a matter of principle, and in the spirit of multilateral dialogue that characterises the Council, we welcome and encourage the engagement of every UN Member State -- whether as a Council member or an observer -- in the work of the Council and its mechanisms," the statement added.



Punjab forms SIT after US deportations to probe human trafficking and illegal migration

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Police on Friday constituted a four-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the issue of human trafficking and illegal migration in the wake of deportation of 104 Indians, including 30 Punjabis, from the United States. DGP Gaurav Yadav said Parveen Sinha, ADGP NRI, will head this fact-finding committee. Other members include ADGP/Internal Security Shive Verma, IGP/Provisioning Dr S Boopathi, and DIG Border Range Satinder Singh. He said the committee has been tasked with taking appropriate action as per law against any person involved in illegal migration or human trafficking. It has been empowered to co-opt any other police officer in the investigation, and will maintain coordination with the concerned SSPs/CP, who have been directed to provide all the required assistance and infrastructural facilities to SIT. This move comes after several cases of immigration fraud were reported in Punjab. In December 2024, three travel agents were booked in Ludhiana for cheating people of lakhs of rupees by promising them visas and jobs abroad. The police filed cases against Sachin Punj of Lakshmi Nagar and Neha of Welcome Immigration, Ferozpur Road, on the complaint of Ankita Sharma.



Paid Rs 1 cr to agent, didn't expect journey to US via 'Dunki' route

Diary Times Desk : Mandeep Singh (29), a resident of Chohla Sahib who was deported from the US along with 30 other Punjabis, reached his native village last night. He shared the tragic journey to the US via 'Dunki' route. Mandeep had left India two and a half years ago. He had gone to Spain where he was doing well. However, he always wanted to go to the US. After making significant savings while working in Spain, he contacted the agent who had helped him reach Spain. The agent assured him of a safe journey to the US. Mandeep claimed that he paid around Rs 1 crore to the agent to realise the 'American dream'. "I was sure of Donald Trump's victory and asked the agent to send me before the US election results," he said. Mandeep said the agent repeatedly assured him of a smooth passage. Following the assurances, Mandeep obtained a visa for Serbia, a Central European country. He first travelled to Dubai and reached Serbia via Armenia. From there, he along with several other immigrants, reached Tijuana, a border city in Mexico. He was taken into custody by 'donkers' associated with the agent. There were many others like him waiting to cross the US border. Mandeep described his days in the custody of these 'donkers' as torturous.

Partap Singh Bajwa accuses Punjab Government of misusing Ayushman funds

Diary Times Desk : Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Punjab Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa on Thursday accused the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab Government of misusing funds under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. It has been more than four months since the Punjab and Haryana High Court asked the AAP Government to furnish details of the expenses incurred on advertising and purchase of new vehicles. However, the state government has failed to comply with the directions. The high Court was hearing a petition about the non-release of funds under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. "There are fair chances that the AAP Government misused the funds. Instead of clearing the dues of over Rs 500 crores of the private hospitals registered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the government misutilised the funds perhaps on other things, including advertisements, purchasing new vehicles and renovation of the houses of ministers and MLAs," Bajwa added. Senior Congress Leader Bajwa said the private hospitals in the state suspended treatment of Ayushman card holders, claiming that their dues were not cleared by the state government.

Congress to fight municipal corporation elections on party symbol

Diary Times Desk : The Congress will contest the elections of the municipal corporations in Haryana, including the elections for the posts of Mayor, on the party symbol. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Haryana Congress leadership held in Delhi on Friday. The meeting, chaired by Haryana Congress president Uday Bhan, was attended by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and former Union minister Birender Singh, besides party MPs, MLAs and other state leaders. Sirsa MP and former Union Minister Kumari Selja and the party's Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala were, however, conspicuous by their absence at the meeting. As per party sources, the state Congress leadership has decided to contest only the Municipal Corporation and mayoral elections on its symbol. "The meeting authorised the party's state president to take decision on contesting the elections of the municipal councils and committees on party symbol," sources said, pointing out that a majority of participants were against the use of party symbol in the committee elections.



38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela kicks off in Faridabad

Diary Times Desk : The 38th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela was inaugurated by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday. The 16-day long event, running from February 7 to February 23, will showcase the artistic talents of craftsmen and artisans from across India and various international participants. Addressing the gathering, Shekhawat highlighted India's growing prominence as a cultural tourism hub. "With India hosting major events like the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj and the Surajkund International Crafts Mela, the country has emerged as a prime destination for cultural and artistic tourism," he said. The inauguration was attended by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini along with Heritage and Tourism Minister Dr Arvind Sharma. Shekhawat described the Mela as a symbol of India's unity, culture and artistic legacy. "It is not just a marketplace for crafts but a crucial platform for artisans to showcase their ancient skills. The event aligns with the vision of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' (One India - Best India), as promoting art and culture has been a priority for the Modi government," he said. He also emphasised the growing significance of the "Orange Economy," which recognises cultural and creative industries worldwide. "The Surajkund Mela will provide Indian craftsmen with new opportunities in both domestic and international markets, thanks to supportive policies at both levels," he added.

MC tightens leash on dog owners, violators to face up to Rs 10K fine

Diary Times Desk : Keeping a pet or feeding a community dog without following the rules could soon put a serious bite on residents' 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 in the city. Among other things, the draft bylaws introduce strict regulations and penalties that go up to Rs 10,000 - nearly 200 times higher than the existing fines. The rules also have provisions for an open sale of a dog impounded by the MC. The draft, approved by Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria, is aimed at leashing 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.

Delegation gets assurance from CM over water tariff issue

Diary Times Desk : A delegation of Congress leaders from Solan and Palampur who met Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at Shimla recently for slashing the revised water tariff have received a positive assurance of re-looking at the issue. Following this assurance, the councillors of Solan Municipal Corporation have heaved a sigh of relief as the revised water tariff had imposed a fourfold increase on the water dues. MLA Palampur Ashish Butail, DR Shandil, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Mayor Solan Municipal Corporation Usha Sharma, former Mayor Punam Grover and councillors Rajiv Kaura and Abhay Sharma from Solan met the Chief Minister and apprised him how the revised rate of Rs 100 per kilo litre notified by the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) in September 2024 would put a huge monetary strain on the Solan residents. "As against the existing rate of Rs 27.71 per kilo litre the enhanced rate of Rs 100 per kilo litre has burdened the civic body with a monthly levy of crores. We have decided not to impose this enhanced rate on the public who will continue to get billed on old rates. We have been assured by the Chief Minister and the issue of revised water tariff would be put up before the Cabinet for further action," informed Usha Sharma. Additional Chief Secretary, JSD Onkar Sharma confirmed that since the issue of revised water tariff was a Cabinet decision, it would be put up once again before the Cabinet for further action.

Driver-conductor body presents demand charter to Deputy CM

Diary Times Desk : Office-bearers of the Una district unit of the Himachal Pradesh Semi-Government Drivers and Conductors Federation met Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who also holds charge of the Transport department, in Una today and presented him a charter of their demands. Federation vice president Beant Singh said their demands include restoration of the revision of pay scale after 1,9 and 14 years of service and additional pay increments on completion of 8, 15 and 20 years of service in place of the existing pay revision on completing 15, 20 and 25 years of service.

Road connectivity restored in many Lahaul-Spiti areas



Diary Times Desk : The BRO has intensified snow-clearing operations across the Lahaul and Spiti region following heavy snowfall yesterday that disrupted traffic in the district. The snowfall caused extensive disruption in the movement of vehicles, especially in remote areas of the district. However, the BRO and local authorities have worked tirelessly to restore road connectivity and ensure the safety of commuters. Today, a tourist vehicle was rescued from the Lahaul Valley and safely brought to Manali, marking a significant achievement in the snow clearance efforts. The BRO also restored road connectivity between Manali and Keylong via the Atal Tunnel on the Manali-Leh Highway, specifically for the movement of 4x4 vehicles. This move ensures smoother access to the region despite the harsh weather conditions. The road leading to Killar in Chamba district, starting from Tandri in Lahaul and Spiti, has been cleared for the movement of light vehicles. Keylong and Darcha, two key locations in the district, also saw restored connectivity today, further facilitating the movement of essential traffic.

Himachal government school students embark on first-ever foreign exposure trip

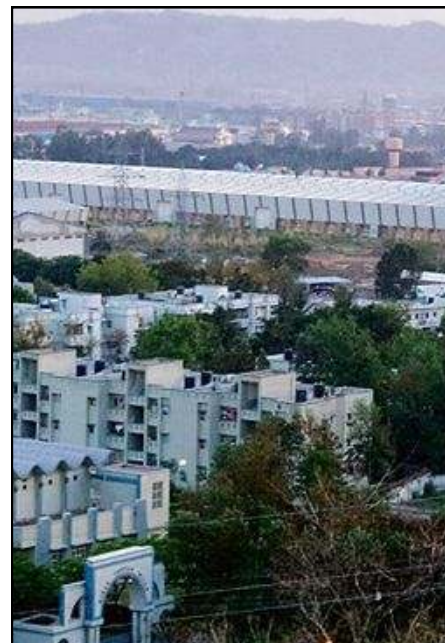
Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu flagged off a week-long international exposure trip for students of government schools in Shimla on Friday. This marks the first-ever foreign exposure trip for government school students in the state, with 50 students being sent to Singapore and Cambodia. "This is one of several initiatives we have taken to improve our education system. Several decisions have already been taken, and many more are in the pipeline," said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Twenty students each have been selected from Class XI and XII based on their performance in the Class X board examination. Ten spots have been allocated to students who have excelled in sports and cultural activities. "We had never thought that we would ever be sent on a foreign trip by the education department. We are so excited and happy to go on this trip," said one of the students going on the tour. Education Minister Rohit Thakur said the idea was to reward children who excelled in academics and other co-curricular activities and offer them global exposure. "We are facing a significant challenge in declining enrollment in government schools.

HP, other non-BJP ruled states to oppose draft UGC regulations

Diary Times Desk : The Congress-ruled states and a couple of other non BJP-ruled states have decided to oppose the Draft University Grant Commission (UGC) regulations "tooth and nail" and get it legally examined to force the UGC withdraw it. "The draft is a direct assault on our federal structure and autonomy of the states. We will not take it lying down and get it legally examined," said Education Minister Rohit Thakur, who attended the conclave of education ministers of six states in Bengaluru on Wednesday to discuss various provisions of the draft that was released by the UGC last month. Education Minister from six states of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Jharkhand participated in the conclave. "We all agreed to get the draft legally examined. Also, we will next meet in Kerala on February 20 to decide our future course of action," said Rohit Thakur. Alleging that the draft has been prepared on the directions of the Central government, Thakur said the objective of the draft was to negate the role of state governments in higher education.

Steel industries threaten closure if power tariff hike not rolled back

Diary Times Desk : Citing heavy financial strain after hike in power tariff, Himachal Pradesh Steel Industries Association has threatened to close their factories from February 25 if the hike is not rolled back. Himachal Pradesh Steel Industries Association has also given a call to abstain from depositing the upcoming electricity tariff amounting to Rs 100 crore if the adverse decision of imposing power hike is not reconsidered. At present, 28 steel units operate in various industrial clusters across the state. The government had imposed a milk cess of 0.10 paise per unit, an environmental cess ranging from 0.02 to 0.10 paise per unit on industrial consumers and withdrew a Re 1 per unit power tariff subsidy in September 2024, thus burdening the industry. "Despite repeated requests over the last three months and assurances by the Chief Minister that the hike of Re 1 per unit on the power tariff would be reconsidered, no action has been taken. The industry has instead been levied an additional cess of 20 paise per unit, thus making their operations financially unviable," points out the association members. "Power is a crucial component of steel manufacturing, contributing nearly 50 per cent to the total production cost. Even a minor increase in tariff severely impacts the competitiveness. In the last two years, the total power tariff has surged by as much as 46 per cent, making operations unsustainable," lamented Rajiv Singla, association's general secretary.



Smith and Carey dominate with hundreds in double-century stand

Diary Times Desk : Seemingly having a ball experimenting with the reverse sweep, Steven Smith's mastery in Asia continued and he combined with a dashing Alex Carey to defy a sharp-turning, deteriorating Galle surface as Australia grabbed firm control of the second Test. The game was in the balance when Australia were 91 for 3 just after lunch on day two in reply to Sri Lanka's first-innings of 257. But stand-in skipper Smith and Carey produced an unbroken 239-run partnership to deflate a Sri Lankan team staring down the barrel of a hefty series defeat. Carey was fluent from the get go and motored past a tiring Smith by stumps as Australia build a sizeable first innings lead on a very dry surface. Smith reached his 36th Test century in style with a boundary in the final session on day two and raised his baggy green before nodding several times to his team-mates in the terraces. He broke a couple of Australian records in Asia along the way having overtaken Ricky Ponting for most runs and his seventh ton lifted him past Allan Border. After a few modest years by his lofty standards, Smith has rearound the clock in recent months having now scored four centuries in his last eight Test innings.



England cricketers take their caps off before shaking hands with Rohit Sharma; next up was Virat Kohli...

Diary Times Desk : England cricketers Brydon Carse and Harry Brook took off their caps before shaking hands with India captain Rohit Sharma after the first ODI at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur on Thursday. After India beat England by four wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, Rohit led out the Indian team for the post-match handshake. He first shook hands with England counterpart Jos Buttler, followed by Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Jacob Bethell, and Phil Salt. When it was Carse's turn to shake hands with Rohit, he took his cap off. The gesture was repeated by England vice-captain Brook, who was the last English player in the queue. Virat Kohli, who was not playing in the series opener due to a knee injury, as the next Indian cricketer in line. He too was seen shaking hands with the England cricketers. While taking the cap off before shaking hands with the opponent players is nothing new, it is not mandatory. Neither is it a mark of disrespect if one doesn't take it off.

Rohit Sharma's "Aura" Defined By England Team's Reaction To This 'Act' In Nagpur

Diary Times Desk : The 'superstar culture' in Indian cricket sees Test and ODI skipper Rohit Sharma sitting at the top pedestal, alongside the 'king' Virat Kohli. Quite often, social media wars between Kohli and Rohit's fans keep cricket lovers engaged. While the duo seem to be nearing the pinnacle of their respective careers, there's still no dip in their fan following. Former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen, who was in Nagpur for the first ODI between Rohit and Jos Buttler's teams, summed up the 'aura' of Rohit after he witnessed the England team's reaction to an incident. In a chat after the match, Pietersen highlighted the sort of attention and respect Rohit commands, not just from Team India's fans but also from opponents. Narrating an incident, Pietersen revealed that the fans roared as Rohit came out of the dressing room.

Context is king as Pakistan and New Zealand open pre-Champions Trophy tri-series

Diary Times Desk : A triangular ODI series is something of a curiosity that belongs in a museum more than it does in 2025. Pakistan last hosted one in 2004, and there have been none in the ODI format anywhere since 2008. When this particular series was announced not long ago, it stood out - it is the only ODI tri series in the current FTP. Pakistan, New Zealand and South Africa will play a truncated version of the classic tri-series, with just one round of matches followed by a final. The schedule was likely squeezed by the SA20 at one end and the Champions Trophy at the other, and it is that upcoming ICC event - the first hosted by Pakistan in nearly three decades - which gives the series context. While South Africa's squad is weakened by player commitments at the SA20 and injuries, Pakistan and New Zealand, who take each other on in the opener, have pretty much full-strength sides. Both have named near-identical squads for this series and the Champions Trophy, and had two practice sessions at the rebuilt Gaddafi Stadium, which will officially be inaugurated on Friday, on the eve of the first game.

Rohit Sharma, Gautam Gambhir Slammed For Lack Of Faith In Star: "Should Have Allowed..."

Diary Times Desk : Former India batter Aakash Chopra has questioned the team management over their utilisation of star wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul in the first ODI against England on Thursday. Despite being preferred over Rishabh Pant in the playing XI, Rahul came out to bat at no. 6 as Axar Patel was promoted up the order in Nagpur. Although Rahul was dismissed for cheap by spinner Adil Rashid, Chopra feels that the veteran batter should've been allowed to bat at his usual form. "What are we going to do with Rahul? It's an important talking point. It's slightly intriguing. Jacob Bethell and Adil Rashid were bowling. So you didn't send Rahul, okay fine, but you played Rahul ahead of Pant. However, are you going to show that much faith in Rahul? You haven't done that thus far because there were three matches in Sri Lanka, the first match got tied, you lost the second match, and you dropped him in the third match. Rishabh Pant played in the third match," Chopra said in a video on his YouTube channel. Chopra also felt that India could have played both Rahul and Pant as Virat Kohli was not in the XI due to injury. He also pointed out Rahul's batting position keeps getting rotated, be it any format.

'If you want to tell me anything...': Rohit Sharma confirms Shubman Gill's elevation as India's next ODI captain

Diary Times Desk : Shubman Gill had a dream start to his new journey as India's designated ODI vice-captain. The right-hander scored 87 off 96 balls to walk away with the Player of the Match award in India's four-wicket win over England in the first ODI at Nagpur on Thursday. Gill, who batted at No.3 as India handed debut to Yashasvi Jaiswal, braved cramps and hit 14 boundaries in his spotless innings. He was India's top-scorer as they knocked down England's 249-run target in 38.4 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. After the match, Gill, who is set to be India's vice-captain even in the Champions Trophy, said India captain Rohit Sharma had told him to give his inputs without any hesitation. "In batting not much has changed," Gill said when asked about being elevated as the vice-captain of the ODI team. "...but on the field I want to know what the thinking is and what Rohit bhai thinks and give my inputs. He tells me if you want to tell me anything in the match, do not hesitate." India were rocked early in the chase when Jaiswal and Rohit were dismissed early. Gill said he tried to be positive at that stage and the arrival of Shreyas Iyer helped a lot. Iyer smashed 59 off 36 balls to take all the pressure off Gill and put it right back on England.

La Liga president criticizes Real Madrid for complaints on referees

Diary Times Desk : Spanish league president Javier Tebas lashed out at Real Madrid on Thursday, saying the club leadership has lost its mind for accusing Spain's referees of being biased against the defending champion. The head of La Liga said it was considering taking legal action for the letter that Madrid published this week in which it accused the league of being adulterated to favor other clubs. Tebas told reporters, They have built up an exaggerated tale of victimization that is completely baseless with, in my opinion, the goal of undermining the competition. It is completely over the top. They have lost their minds. The letter was sent two days after Madrid felt it was hurt by alleged refereeing mistakes in a 1-0 loss at Espanyol. Madrid mostly complained of a hard foul on Kylian Mbappé by Espanyol defender Carlos Romero in the 60th minute. Romero was shown a yellow card.