

## PM MODI

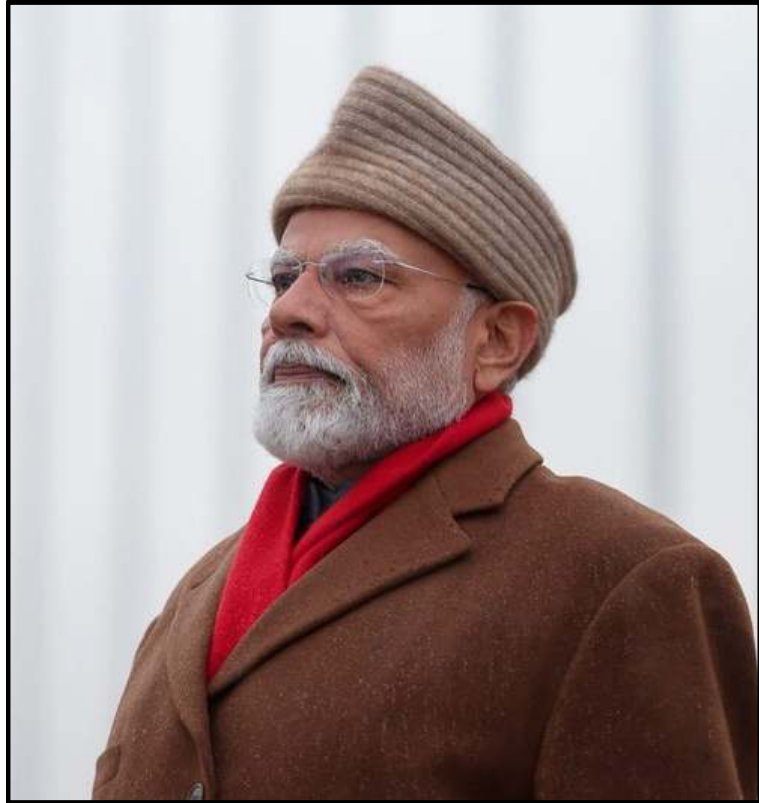
## PM MODI PUSHES FOR GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE AT PARIS SUMMIT

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need for collective global efforts to establish a governance architecture and standards for artificial intelligence (AI) during Paris AI Action Summit. He co-chaired the summit with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Modi highlighted India's expertise in AI, citing its large talent pool and efforts to build AI applications for global good. "India is ready to share its experience and expertise to ensure that the AI future is for good, and for all," he said, noting that India was building its own large language model considering its diversity.

Pitching for India's AI landscape as a unique space with a public-private partnership model for pooling resources like compute power, PM said in India resources are made available to start-ups and researchers at an affordable cost. The Prime Minister, while stressing the emergence of AI as a tool that was "writing the code for humanity and progressing at an unprecedented pace" noted that the key to humanity's collective future and shared destiny was in the hands of humans themselves. The PM was addressing fears that technology can somehow become more intelligent than the human mind. Earlier in his address, Modi said given a deep inter-dependence across borders, "there is a need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards, that uphold our shared values, address risks, and build trust".

Modi also spoke for the Global South when he flagged that governance was not just about managing risks and rivalries but also promoting innovation and deploying it for the global good.



## SUPREME COURT

## DON'T DELETE EVM DATA PENDING VERIFICATIONS, APEX COURT TELLS ELECTION COMMISSION



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission to respond to a plea seeking directions to allow verification of the burnt memory and Symbol Loading Units (SLUs) of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Acting on an interim application filed by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), a Bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta told senior counsel Maninder Singh, representing the EC, not to erase or reload the data in EVMs while carrying out verifications.

As ADR alleged that the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) framed by the poll panel for verification of EVMs was not in accordance with the top court's April 26, 2024 verdict in the EVM-VVPAT case, the Bench asked the EC to file an affidavit explaining the SOP for verification of EVMs. It also sought a direction to the poll panel to check and verify burnt memory/micro-controllers and SLUs of EVMs. Terming the present cost of Rs 40,000 fixed by the EC for verification of EVMs as "too high", it also asked the poll panel to reduce it and posted the matter for the week commencing on March 3.

While dismissing PILs seeking return to the paper ballot system or a 100% cross-verification of votes cast through EVMs with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips, the top court had issued certain directions to the EC to strengthen the current EVM system. It had opened a window for the aggrieved unsuccessful candidates securing second and third places by allowing them to seek verification of microcontroller chips embedded in five per cent EVMs per assembly constituency on a written request upon payment of a fee to the EC.

It had also mandated that five per cent of the EVMs in every assembly constituency should undergo verification by the engineers from EVM manufacturers after the election results were announced.

On Tuesday, ADR counsel Prashant Bhushan contended that the EC's SOP on EVM verification was inadequate as it didn't comply with the court's directions in the April 26, 2024 verdict. "What we want is for someone to examine the software and hardware of the EVMs to see whether they contain any element of manipulation," Bhushan said. The Bench told EC counsel Singh that its April 26, 2024 verdict did not intend to erase or reload the polling data in EVMs and that it only intended.

## Cricket terminology abounds in Lok Sabha in barbs against Congress, BJP

**Diary Times Desk :** Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde on Tuesday described the Congress as a "batter" who is trying to get the other partners of the INDIA bloc "run out". Independent MP from Maharashtra's Sangli, Vishal Patil, also resorted to cricket lexicon to take a swipe at the Mahayuti government, saying that after winning the assembly poll, the alliance got the "12th man" to run the government. Participating in a discussion on the Union Budget in Lok Sabha, Shinde said, "The INDIA bloc is like a cricket team that has a batter named the Congress who is bent on getting others run out." Shinde also lauded the Union Budget saying, "If we call (PM Narendra) Modi ji the captain of Team India then Nirmala Sitharaman is its winning all-rounder." In a swipe at BJP leader and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Patil said, "In the past, people would show the photograph of an eligible person and then get a useless person married in his place. This is what has happened in Maharashtra, they showed the face of Eknath Shinde and after the results some other person became the 'groom'." "The man of the match was made the 12th man and the 12th man is now running the government after becoming the captain," he said.



## I was weak in maths: Deepika Padukone on 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

**Diary Times Desk :** Actor Deepika Padukone says she was a naughty child who would jump from one sofa to another and was weak in maths as she went down memory lane during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC) programme. The PM shared the clip where Padukone discusses her student days on his official X page. "Among the most common topics #ExamWarriors want to discuss is mental health and wellbeing. Therefore, this year's Pariksha Pe Charcha has an episode specially dedicated to this topic which will play tomorrow, 12th February. And we have @deepikapadukone, who is very passionate about this subject, talking about it," he wrote on the microblogging site. Padukone, who was diagnosed with clinical depression in 2014, was part of an episode of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', an annual event in which the prime minister interacts with students appearing for board examinations. In the brief clip from the episode, which will be telecast on Wednesday at 10 am.

## 65 per cent of Indians use AI, more than double the global average: Microsoft



**Diary Times Desk :** A Microsoft study, reflecting the rapid adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India, has found that 65 per cent of surveyed Indians have used AI—more than double the global average. Microsoft on Tuesday unveiled the Global Online Safety Survey, which studies the growing influence of AI. The survey is based on responses from 15,000 teenagers (13-17) and adults that was conducted in 15 countries between July 19 and August 9, 2024. "65 per cent of respondents have used AI (+26 per cent from 2023). This is more than double the global average of 31 per cent in the same time period. "India is most excited about using AI for translations, answering questions, increasing efficiency at work and helping students with schoolwork," the report said. The report showed that millennials (people aged 25-44) lead adoption, with 84 per cent reporting usage. Indian parents are more aware of their children's digital challenges, showing increased awareness compared to the previous year, it said. However, India also has some reservations about AI, including concerns about online abuse, deepfakes, scams, and AI hallucinations, mirroring global trends. Online abuse was among the top worries regarding AI.

## Amid row over Ranveer Allahbadia's remark, YouTube blocks controversial episode

**Diary Times Desk :** An episode of 'India Got Latent' on YouTube, featuring obscene and vulgar comments by Ranveer Allahbadia, has been blocked following orders from the government, officials said on Tuesday. "The 'India Has Latent' episode on @YouTube with obscene and perverse comments by Ranveer Allahbadia has been blocked following Government of India orders," Kanchan Gupta, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said in a post on X. Allahbadia — who has over 600,000 followers on X, 4.5 million on Instagram and 10.5 million subscribers on his YouTube channel — faced backlash from all quarters after his distasteful comment on parents and sex on comedian Samay Raina's YouTube reality show 'India's Got Latent' went viral on social media on Monday.



## YOUR HOROSCOPE 12-02-2025

<p><b>Aries</b> Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b> Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.</p>
<p><b>Gemini</b> Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.</p>	<p><b>Cancer</b> Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.</p>
<p><b>Leo</b> Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.</p>	<p><b>Virgo</b> Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.</p>
<p><b>Libra</b> Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio</b> Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.</p>
<p><b>Sagittarius</b> Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b> Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.</p>
<p><b>Aquarius</b> Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b> Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.</p>



## Himachal News: 4 people including former state spokesperson of BJYM beat up industrialist, accused of demanding ransom

**Diary Times Desk :** An industrialist and his wife, who were returning after having dinner at a restaurant at Ajouli Mor on the Punjab-Himachal border, were assaulted by four people, including former state spokesperson of BJP Yuva Morcha and Zila Parishad member from Laldi, Una, Kamal Saini. The CCTV video of this incident has also gone viral. After this, Nangal police has registered a case under various sections. Efforts have been intensified to arrest the alleged accused of the attack. This was confirmed by DSP Nangal Kulveer Singh. The reason for the assault is said to be an old rivalry. It is clearly visible in the CCTV footage that three-four unknown people who came in a car attacked the husband and wife, who were returning after having dinner from the restaurant, with empty bottles besides kicking and punching them. The victim Rajesh Gupta said that he is a resident of Delhi and he has factories in Gurgaon as well as Singa village of Una district. Ever since he set up a factory in Singa village of Una district, the leader of the attackers was demanding ransom from him, saying that if he wanted to run the factory in Himachal, he would have to pay Rs 5 lakh. He had also complained about this to the police. But, fed up, he paid the workers their wages and closed the factory for some time. But, the threats from the said leader continued.



## Himachal gets second gold in national games, daughters become champions in handball; Celebrated by dancing

**Diary Times Desk :** In the 38th National Games being held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Himachal's daughters have now won gold in handball. In the final match played on Tuesday, Himachal defeated Haryana by a margin of 46-39 and wrote this golden history. This time Himachal Pradesh has won the second gold in the National Games. Earlier, the daughters have won gold in Kabaddi. While this is the second consecutive gold for the women's handball team in the National Games. To win gold in handball, the daughters performed well right from the beginning of the match. Like the previous matches, all the other players including the captain played well. Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association General Secretary Rajesh Bhandari said that in the final match, the team captain Menika Pal scored seven goals, Bhavna scored eight, Gulshan scored seven, Shalini scored four, Mithali scored three, Rimpal scored five and Priyanka scored four goals.

## Himachal News: Employees raised their voice against the government in Mahapanchayat, said- we will not let the electricity board be abolished

**Diary Times Desk :** Electricity board employees, pensioners and outsourced employees have opened a front against the government regarding their demands. Employees and pensioners have raised the slogan regarding their demands through a Maha Panchayat in the Town Hall of Hamirpur. Officers and members of the Electricity Board Employees and Pensioners Association attended the Maha Panchayat. The crowd was so huge that chairs had to be set up outside the Town Hall. About 1,000 participants were present in the Panchayat. The Maha Panchayat started at 11:00 am on behalf of the Joint Struggle Committee Employees, Engineers and Pensioners District Hamirpur. Committee co-convenor Heera Lal Verma said that the downfall of a king who loses his humanity is certain. The conspiracy to abolish the board will not succeed. No one can abolish the Electricity Board. If there is a provision of pension for MLAs, then why not for employees. The Panchayat protested against the tampering with the structure of the electricity board. Convenor Lokesh Thakur said that the electricity board's losses are increasing.

## Anurag Thakur: MP Anurag Thakur said- Chitta is ruining the young generation, the state government is not taking any steps

**Diary Times Desk :** MP and former Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that the drug business is flourishing rapidly in the Congress rule. The menace of Chitta is increasing in the entire state. This is very worrying. In a statement issued, he said that Chitta is ruining the young generation in Himachal Pradesh but the present government is not taking any concrete steps on this matter. The stains of Chitta are reaching the khakis as well. Many leaders are on the radar. Recently, the STF raided the hideouts of police personnel and smugglers in many districts of the state. In the preliminary investigation, it is coming to light that apart from some Himachal Police personnel, politicians are also involved in Chitta smuggling. The STF has raided only a few houses. According to an alleged list, names of some police personnel and leaders are also included in it. He said that due to the raid by the Himachal Pradesh Police STF.

## JEE Main Result 2025: Aavya Singh of Shimla, the capital of Himachal, scored 99.76 percentile in JEE Main Session-1

**Diary Times Desk :** Three bright students of the capital Shimla have scored 99 percentile in JEE Main Session-1 examination. Among them, Aavya Singh Mehta has scored the highest 99.76 percentile. While Pratyush has scored 99.66 and Yuvraj Singh has scored 99.21 percentile. The first session of JEE was conducted by the National Testing Agency in January. In the examination conducted for admission in the country's renowned IITs and engineering institutes, all three students have brought laurels to the city and district by performing commendably. With this, they have crossed the first step for admission in IIT. All three students will also appear in CBSE board examination now. The students have given the credit for this to the director of the coaching institute, Prof. Yogendra Kumar Meena. Aavya Singh, who scored 99.76 percentile in JEE Main Session-1 examination, dreams of getting admission in Computer Science Engineering in a good IIT of the country. Aavya told that he took JEE coaching along with the 12th board exam and studied online and offline day and night. Aavya said that his elder brother is also pursuing Computer Science Engineering from Chennai.

## Himachal News: Agriculture Minister Chandra Kumar lashed out at his own party, said- Congress organization has become paralyzed

**Diary Times Desk :** Agriculture Minister Professor Chandra Kumar took a dig at his own party's high command and said that the Congress organization has become paralyzed. Congress did not fight the Delhi elections seriously. Chandra Kumar was talking to the media at the Secretariat. He said that the government and the organization should go hand in hand. In Himachal, the state executive and block executive of the Congress have been dissolved for three months. The high command has not given any orders regarding the new organization and neither have committees been formed to form a new organization. He said - how will elections be possible without an organization. Assembly elections are to be held in Himachal in 2027. Chandra Kumar also said that the Congress did not fight the Delhi elections with full seriousness. When the elections are announced, then the ticket is given and sent to contest the elections. The result of Delhi should be taken seriously. He said that when our organization itself is not strong, then how will we fight the elections.

## Himachal News: Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said- Employment and self-employment opportunities will be created through skill development

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, while chairing a meeting of Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam (HPKVN), stressed the need for skill development to create employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth. He directed the corporation to prepare an action plan of training program in line with the market demand and ensure their implementation so that the capacity of the youth can be built and support can be provided for setting up small scale start-ups. The Chief Minister said that the state government will allocate Rs 25 crore to complete the construction of eight under-construction buildings of the corporation. The construction work of these buildings has been targeted to be completed by June 2025. The need for their maximum utilization has been emphasized. He directed the corporation to hand over the adjoining HPKVN buildings to the Technical Education Department for training of youth.

## AAP To Replace Chief Minister In Punjab? What Bhagwant Mann Said

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann today laughed off a question on whether he may be replaced in the top post in the aftermath of AAP's Delhi debacle and party leader Arvind Kejriwal's defeat in his seat. Mr Mann spoke to the media after an AAP meeting in Delhi attended by Mr Kejriwal, senior leader Manish Sisodia and all Punjab MLAs, besides other key party functionaries. The meeting of Punjab MLAs at the national capital's Kapurthala House had attracted attention, with a senior BJP leader claiming that Mr Kejriwal was trying to replace Mr Mann as Chief Minister. Manjinder Singh Sirsa, newly elected MLA from Rajouri Garden, claimed in a video that the AAP national convener was trying to remove Mr Mann by branding him "incompetent". "After losing the Delhi elections, Arvind Kejriwal has called a meeting of Punjab MLAs in Delhi. Reports suggest that he is trying to remove @BhagwantMann Ji from the CM post by branding him as incompetent. He failed to fulfill his promise of giving Rs 1,000 to women, was unsuccessful in curbing drug abuse and has worsened Punjab's situation. Now, he wants to put all failure on Bhagwant Mann. He is making AAP Punjab MLAs say that Kejriwal is a 'good man' and should be made Chief Minister instead," he said.

## "Misguided Crusade": 6 US Lawmakers Slam Team Biden Over Adani Action

**Diary Times Desk :** Six US Congressmen on Monday wrote to new Attorney General Pam Bondi and demanded a probe into the previous Department of Justice's (DoJ) indictment of Adani Group officials. In November last year, the Adani Group had rejected as baseless the move by the DoJ under the Biden administration to name the conglomerate in a case of alleged wrongdoing. In a strongly worded letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi, the six US lawmakers - Lance Gooden, Pat Fallon, Mike Haridopolos, Brandon Gill, William R Timmons and Brian Babin - said the previous DoJ's action was a "misguided crusade" that came at the "risk of harming" America's relationship with a "strategic geopolitical partner" like India. They called it one of the "unwise decisions" by the Biden administration. "This case rests on the allegation that preparations were made by members of this company in India to bribe Indian officials, also exclusively located in India. Instead of deferring the case.

## German pilots stuck in Bengaluru traffic, miss Aero India opening ceremony: Report



**Diary Times Desk :** A group of fifteen German pilots visiting Bengaluru for the first time faced an unexpected challenge—getting through the city's notorious traffic. According to a Deccan Herald report, their journey to Aero India on Monday turned into a frustrating ordeal as they found themselves delayed for hours, ultimately missing the inaugural event and the much-anticipated aircraft displays. The pilots, who had traveled to the city in an A330 passenger aircraft and were staying at a hotel 17 km from the event venue, set out early in the morning, expecting a smooth ride. However, their private cab got caught in a traffic snarl, turning what should have been a short commute into an hours-long wait. By the time they reached Yelahanka Air Force Station, the opening ceremony had already concluded, the DH report added. Reflecting on the situation, one of the pilots noted with irony that he had been discussing Bengaluru's infrastructure with a local guide the previous day.

## 7 Dead, 2 Injured After Pilgrims' Bus Returning From Maha Kumbh Rams Truck In Madhya Pradesh

**Diary Times Desk :** Seven Andhra Pradesh pilgrims returning from Maha Kumbh died and two other sustained injuries after a mini-bus in which they were travelling collided with a truck in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Tuesday, a police official said. The accident occurred on a 4-lane highway near a Canal area of Mohla Bargi village under Sihora police station limits in the district on Tuesday. The pilgrims travelling in the mini-bus are residents of Andhra Pradesh and were returning to their home after attending Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj. The truck was going from Jabalpur to Katni when the driver lost his control and moved into the opposite lane and collided with the mini-bus. Upon receiving the information about the incident, the police reached the spot, removed the truck with the help of a crane and then rescued the passengers in the mini-bus, the police added.

## Mukesh Ambani and family take holy dip at Sangam in Maha Kumbh Mela

**Diary Times Desk :** Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, along with his family, visited the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Tuesday and took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam. Accompanied by his mother, Kokilaben Ambani, and other family members, including his son Akash, daughter-in-law Shloka, and son Anant with Radhika, Mukesh Ambani participated in the religious event. According to CNBC-TV18, on the eve of Maghi Purnima, Ambani arrived via helicopter and later travelled by car to the sangam. Security at the mela was heightened to ensure the safety of the attendees. The Reliance Foundation has been enhancing the pilgrimage experience at Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj with its "Teerth Yatri Seva" initiative. This includes providing free meals, medical aid, transport assistance, safety measures, and improved connectivity, ensuring a smooth spiritual journey for pilgrims. Before the Ambani family's visit, many other prominent industrialists and leaders, including President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took the holy dip.



## Ahead Of Big Day At Kumbh, Authorities Work On Security, Smooth Traffic Flow

**Diary Times Desk :** The administration is gearing up for another big day at the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj. Several measures have been put in place for the safety of the devotees after a stampede killed 30 last month during 'Amrit snaan' or holy dip. Prayagraj, where the Maha Kumbh is taking place, has been turned into a 'no vehicle zone' ahead of the Maghi Purnima Snan which will mark the end of the Kalpvas period, a tradition central to the festival which began on January 13. Kalpvas refers to the practice of living near a sacred river for a set period, adhering to fasting, self-discipline, introspection and spiritual purification. Performing Kalpvas during the Maha Kumbh is considered auspicious. This year, more than 10 lakh devotees have undertaken Kalpavas at the Triveni Sangam - The point of confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical river Saraswati. A total of 133 ambulances have been deployed for the safety of devotees. Over 40 hospitals in Mahakumbhnagar.

## New Income Tax Bill To Be Tabled In Parliament On Thursday: Sources

**Diary Times Desk :** A new Income Tax bill -- promised by Union finance minister in her last year's budget -- will be tabled in parliament on Thursday, sources have told NDTV. The bill is meant to simplify the language of the tax laws and it would later be sent to Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance. It will not change the existing tax slabs or review the tax rebates given. Sources said simplification of the language will make the Act concise, clear, and easy to understand, which will reduce disputes, litigations, and provide greater tax certainty to taxpayers. The CBDT had set up an internal committee to oversee the review. Also, 22 specialised sub-committees have been established to review the various aspects of the proposed law that would replace the six-decade-old law. Ahead of drawing up the bill, the government had sought inputs from the people under four categories -- simplification of language, litigation reduction.

## Indian-Origin Mother Flies 5 Days A Week To Balance Work And Family

**Diary Times Desk :** For most people, a daily work commute involves traffic jams or packed trains, but for this Indian-origin mother in Malaysia, it means boarding a flight to and from her office. Racheal Kaur, an assistant manager in AirAsia's finance operations department, wakes up at 4 am to catch her 5:55 am flight from Penang to Sepang to balance work and time with her children. "With them growing, I feel that the need for their mother to be around more often," Ms Kaur told CNA Insider in an interview. With this arrangement, she is able to go home every day and see them every night. Previously, Ms Kaur rented a home in Kuala Lumpur and only visited her family in Penang on weekends. But with two children aged 11 and 12, she made the decision to commute five days a week by air. "I can help them with any last-minute homework. You know kids, there's always something last-minute," she added.

## Khaleda Zia's party says Bangladesh government keen on holding polls in December

**Diary Times Desk :** Bangladesh is working towards holding general elections by December, the party of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said after some of its officials held a meeting with Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government. The South Asian nation has been in charge of a caretaker government led by Nobel Peace laureate Yunus since August last year when mass protests forced then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee to neighbouring India. Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and rival Hasina's Awami League have governed Bangladesh for most of the past three decades. The BNP expects Yunus to soon announce a roadmap for general elections, its secretary general, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, told reporters. "We have once again pressed them on this matter," he said on Monday. "He (Yunus) told us that they are working to hold the election by December." There was no comment on the meeting from the interim administration. It is the most specific date since prior suggestions by Yunus of possible timeframes for the end of 2025 or the middle of 2026. The BNP was among parties pushing for early elections.

## FBI uncovers 2,400 JFK assassination files after Donald Trump's order: Report

**Diary Times Desk :** The Federal Bureau of Investigation has uncovered around 2,400 secret records related to the assassination of former US president John F Kennedy that were never provided to a panel tasked with reviewing and disclosing the documents, an Axios report claimed. The revelation came as a part of the review triggered by US President Donald Trump's executive order seeking the declassification of the files on the assassinations of JFK, along with Senator Robert F Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI found that the records, which have been kept secret to this date, are stored in 14,000 pages of documents. The White House was made aware of the discovery last week when the Office of the Director of National Intelligence submitted its plan to disclose the assassination documents under President Trump's orders. According to Axios, the contents of the newly found records are closely held secrets, kept away from the eyes of many of the officials.

## "All Hell Will Break Loose": Trump's Hostage Warning To Hamas



**Diary Times Desk :** A shadow of doom looms over the future of Gaza and Palestinians living in the enclave as US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his threat to take over the territory and end the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. The American President has warned Hamas that "all hell will break loose" following its threats to postpone the exchange of hostages under the war truce with Israel. He also stressed that his plan to "take over Gaza" would not include a right of return for the more than 2 million Palestinians that he has said have "no alternative" but to leave because of the destruction left by Israel's military campaign. The Republican leader set a Saturday deadline for all hostages to be released from Gaza, saying that otherwise "all hell" would break out and he would call for the Israel-Hamas ceasefire to be cancelled. The United States' latest extraordinary intervention in the Middle East came after Hamas threatened to postpone any further hostage-prisoner exchanges, placing the fragile six-week truce that took effect on January 19 at risk.

## Bomb blast kills at least five in Afghanistan

**Diary Times Desk :** A bomb blast has killed at least five people and wounded seven in northeastern Afghanistan, local police report. The blast took place at 8:35am (04:05 GMT) on Tuesday near a Kabul Bank branch in Kunduz province. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast yet. The bank's security guard and four others, including civilians and members of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban group, were among those killed, police said. "A suicide bomber, who had improvised explosive devices, detonated himself," Jumadin Khaksar, spokesman for Kunduz province police, noted. "The Kunduz province police command is working with relevant organisations to find the perpetrators of the incident and bring them to justice," he added. The number of bomb blasts and suicide attacks in Afghanistan.

## Arab Countries Reject Trump's Gaza Plan, Egypt Minister Tells Marco Rubio

**Diary Times Desk :** Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty told U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday that Arab states support Palestinians in rejecting U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to displace Palestinians in Gaza and take control of the enclave. In a statement, Egypt's foreign ministry said Abdelatty, in a meeting in Washington, stressed the importance of expediting Gaza's reconstruction while Palestinians remain there. Abdelatty, who arrived in Washington on Sunday, said he was looking forward to working with the new U.S. administration to achieve "comprehensive and just peace and stability" in the region, according to the statement. Any suggestion that Palestinians leave Gaza, which they want as part of an independent state, has been anathema to the Palestinian leadership for generations and neighbouring Arab states have rejected it since the Gaza war began in 2023. Egypt's foreign ministry said on Monday that the international community should unify behind Palestinians to right "historic injustice" and restore their "legitimate and inalienable rights."

## 3 women kept as slaves at human egg farm were 'fed hormones, treated like cattle': Report

**Diary Times Desk :** A horrific allegation by three women who claimed to have escaped from a human egg farm has shocked the world. According to the Bangkok Post, these three Thai women were lured into the human-egg harvesting scheme under the pretext of being surrogates for childless couples. Tapped through social media, they allegedly found themselves victims in the scheme operated by Chinese gangsters in the former Soviet republic of Georgia. "They took us to a house where there were 60 to 70 Thai women. The women there told us there was no (surrogacy) contracts or parents," the woman said, reported Reuters. She continued that the women in captivity "would be injected to get treatment, anaesthetised and their eggs would be extracted with a machine. After we got this information and it was not the same as the advertisement, we got scared, we tried to contact people back home." According to the Bangkok Post, founder of the Pavena Foundation for Children and Women, Pavena Hongsakula's efforts prompted the freedom of the three women. Foreign Affairs Police coordinated with Interpol to free the three women on January 30.



## 7-year-old boy honoured for completing 1,200-km Abohar-Ayodhya run

**Diary Times Desk :** Seven-year-old Mohabbat has been felicitated for his incredible achievement of completing a 1,200-km run from Abohar to Ayodhya. Deputy Commissioner Amarpreet Kaur Sandhu and Superintendent of Police Pardeep Singh Sandhu visited Mohabbat's village, Killianwali, to honour him for his remarkable feat. Mohabbat's journey began on November 14, and he completed it in 56 days. He was also felicitated by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath upon reaching his destination. Earlier in the day, Mohabbat participated in an 8-km rally from Balaji Dham Abohar to Killianwali, aiming to raise awareness about drugs and the environment. The village panchayat organised a reception for Mohabbat, where the DC praised him for bringing glory to Fazilka district at the national level. She expressed hope that Mohabbat's achievement would inspire others to work towards creating a drug-free society. SP Pardeep Singh Sandhu also commended Mohabbat, stating that he has emerged as a role model for society. Sandhu emphasised the importance of guiding Mohabbat's energy in the right direction, starting from the school level. Sarpanch Desa Singh awarded Mohabbat Rs 5,000 on behalf of the panchayat, in recognition of his outstanding achievement.



## Alternative road to Chandigarh airport to be completed by December: Punjab to HC

**Diary Times Desk :** Alternative road to the Chandigarh airport is all set to take-off by year-end. The Punjab Government has informed the Punjab and Haryana High Court that an 8.5-km alternative road to Chandigarh International Airport is under construction and will be completed by December. The submission came during the hearing of a petition filed in public interest on infrastructure and accessibility issues related to the airport. Appearing before the division bench of Justice Arun Palli and Justice Sudeepti Sharma, Punjab Additional Advocate-General Shekhar Verma submitted that the proposed 50-m wide road was currently being laid at the site in accordance with the plan. The information was furnished in response to court query "as to what is the progress with regard to the alternative road to the airport that had been suggested long ago". According to available information, the shorter route is expected to pass through Sector Junction 65-66 (near Bawa White House) and continue towards Sector 66-B. Currently, the PR-7 road remains the sole access point for traffic from Punjab and Haryana to reach the international airport in Mohali.

## May 'dislodge' AAP govt, says Bittu after cases against aides

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Minister and BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu on Monday warned the police against "blindly following" political orders, saying his party could "dislodge" the AAP government and take action against cops for registering "false cases" against his two aides. The statement came as the police arrested his two close associates Rajiv Raja and Rajesh Attri. Raja was booked in an extortion case on Sunday while Attri, arrested on Monday, faces charges under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act for allegedly making casteist remarks over a phone call with a Patiala resident. Angry Bittu, in a statement, said, "We will sort this thing out when we assume power in the state. Police officials should remember power changes with elections." Bittu said his "close family friends for three generations have been booked on false and motivated complaints to settle scores with me". "Raids have been conducted on the houses of relatives and friends, and some in government service have been transferred," he said. The Union Minister also dared Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to arrest him, announcing his intention to go to his official residence in Chandigarh on February 13. The remarks came amid an increasing attack.

## Supreme Court 'shocked' at police chaining Gurugram man to hospital bed

**Diary Times Desk :** Shocked to know that Haryana Police handcuffed a man from Gurugram, chained him to a hospital bed and did not inform him the reason for his arrest, the Supreme Court has declared his arrest as illegal and ordered his forthwith release. "The state of Haryana shall issue guidelines/departmental instructions to the police to ensure that the act of handcuffing an accused while he is on a hospital bed and tying him to the bed is not committed again," a Bench of Justice AS Oka and Justice N Kotiswar Singh ordered. The Bench directed the state government "to ensure that the constitutional safeguards under Article 22 are strictly followed. If necessary, the state government would amend the existing rules/guidelines." The top court directed that a copy of the judgment be forwarded to the Haryana Home Secretary for compliance. Setting aside the Punjab and Haryana High Court's August 30, 2024 order refusing to set aside the "illegal arrest" of accused Vihaan Kumar, the Bench referred to the "shocking" treatment given to him by the police.

## Will submit reply to show-cause notice to party high command: Anil Vij



**Diary Times Desk :** A day after BJP issued a show-cause notice, Haryana Cabinet Minister Anil Vij on Tuesday said that he will submit his reply to the party high command. Reacting to the media queries, minister Anil Vij said, "I will give my reply to the party. I was in Bengaluru for the last three days. I will go home first, take a cold shower, have food and then send my reply to the party high command." BJP had issued a show-cause notice to Anil Vij for allegedly breaching party discipline through his public statements against Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and state party chief Mohan Lal Badoli. In the notice, issued by Mohan Lal Badoli on the directions of the national party president, Vij was asked to respond within three days.

## Kargil war veteran saves 5 from drowning in Punjab's Sirhind canal

**Diary Times Desk :** Harjinder Singh, 49, an ex-armyman and Kargil War veteran, and his two teenaged sons managed to save five persons from drowning whose SUV plunged into Sirhind canal between village Pvaat and Beholpur village near Machhiwara in Ludhiana on Monday night around 11:30pm. One person did not survive in the accident after his body was fished out of the freezing cold water. The veteran of 15 Punjab (Patiala), now re-employed in the security detail of Mukesh Ambani's Antilia, had come home on vacation. On Monday he, alongwith his two sons Gurlenpreet Singh, 18, and Harkirat Singh, 17, were returning after attending a marriage party in Bathinda when they saw a vehicle plunged in the Sirhind canal with six victims trapped inside the vehicle. "I was sleeping in the backseat of my car when my sons who were driving the car stopped to see the vehicle sliding in the canal. After realising that six youths around 25 to years of age were struggling to get out of the vehicle. Me and my two sons were lucky to bail them out by the grace of God," the former commando said. Harjinder alongwith his son rescued the persons by breaking open the window glasses. His sons took the help of a fallen tree to arrest the slide of vehicle further into the muddy water. The trio brought the victims to safety on the road head and called up the police. Three PCR's and an ambulance reached the spot after around one hour. One person was declared brought dead in the hospital.



## 42% departure from normal storage in 3 water reservoirs

**Diary Times Desk :** The 42 per cent departure from normal storage in the three major reservoirs of Gobindsagar, Pong and Kol Dam in Himachal presently, could result in a possible shortfall in hydel power generation and irrigation projects. The Central Water Commission (CWC) bulletin regarding water storage situation in 155 reservoirs across the country on February 6, 2025 has indicated a 42 per cent departure from normal. Himachal is one of the four states apart from Punjab, Odisha and Goa having lesser storage in percentage than last year for the corresponding period. There is 42 per cent departure in Himachal in storage in the three main reservoirs. As compared to 28 storage as percentage of live capacity last year, the departure reflected in the latest CEC bulletin for the corresponding period indicates 46 storage as percentage of live capacity. The normal storage as percentage of live capacity for the three dams is 48. This shows that the shortfall in the water storage in the three main reservoirs is higher this time as compared to last year.

## 99.84 per cent family members verified on e-Parivar register: CM

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that 99.84 per cent of family members have been successfully verified on the e-Parivar register. "Out of a total of 75,18,296 family members, 75,05,913 have been verified under this initiative," he stated here today. He said e-Parivar is a crucial step towards digitising family records, facilitating the seamless addition of new families and modifications to existing records. Additionally, the process of mapping family details with ration cards is currently in progress to enhance service delivery. "Each Panchayat Secretary has been provided with secure login credentials to enter and update family data within their respective panchayats. To ensure accuracy and efficiency, the system was made mandatory from April 27, 2024," he said. E-Parivar system is an online platform designed to manage family records at the Gram Panchayat level.

## Drug association ties up with NIPER to set up pharma research centre in Baddi



**Diary Times Desk :** Facing challenges to access essential technical services, quality testing, research and development, besides regulatory services at competitive rates, a Contract Research Organisation (CRO)-cum-Centre of Excellence is being set up at Baddi nearly two-and-a-half decade after the drug firms began their operations here. The Central Government is contributing Rs 20 crore for this centre, while the state government is providing land as its share. The Himachal Drug Manufacturing Association (HMDA) is partnering with Mohali-based National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) to address the technological requirements through this centre. It is the first such initiative in the state to promote research and development, along with modern technology adoption. "In a bid to work out the future strategy, the HMDA held its first meeting with representatives of NIPER at Baddi today where the broader nitty-gritty details of this centre were discussed," said HMDA president Dr Rajesh Gupta. Elaborating further, Dr Gupta said, "The upcoming CRO will strengthen the pharmaceutical sector, which contributes 5.5 per cent of the State Gross Domestic Product."

## Snowfall in higher reaches of state likely today

**Diary Times Desk :** The higher reaches of the state will receive fresh snowfall on February 11. As per the State's Meteorological Department, light snowfall as well as rainfall is expected to occur at isolated areas of the of the higher reaches of Shimla, Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Kangra and Chamba districts on February 11, while weather will remain dry in mid, lower hills and plains for the next one week. Similarly, light snowfall is also expected to occur in the higher hills of the state on February 15 and 16. Meanwhile, weather was mostly dry across the state during the past 24 hours. Minimum temperature in Shimla was 8.6°C, Dharamsala 5.2°C, Manali and Bhuntar 5.4°C, Sundernagar 6.5°C, Dalhousie 8°C, Bilaspur 6.7°C, Solan 5.2°C, Mandi 7.6°C, Kalpa 0.4°C, Chamba 8.8°C, Nahan 8.5°C, and Keylong - 4°C. With 28°C maximum temperature, Una was the hottest place in the state while Tabo village in tribal district Lahaul and Spiti was the coldest as it recorded -5.6°C minimum temperature. The higher reaches of the state will receive fresh snowfall on February 11. As per the State's Meteorological Department, light snowfall as well as rainfall is expected to occur at isolated areas of the of the higher reaches of Shimla.

## PWD Minister Vikramaditya says UPS will be discussed in Cabinet

**Diary Times Desk :** Giving a hint that the state government was open to discussing the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh today said that the scheme would be discussed in the Cabinet and the government would then take a decision on this. "When Old Pension Scheme was restored in the state, the UPS option was not there. We will discuss it in the Cabinet meeting. The main agenda is to protect the interests of the employees. We will see whether it can be achieved through the OPS or the UPS," the minister said. He further said that the financial implications of both the schemes would be studied and then the decision would be taken by the government. Stunned by the minister's statement, the employees did not waste any time in making it clear that they were against the UPS and any decision taken towards implementing it would be opposed. Incidentally, the Centre has been sending repeated reminders to the state government to implement the UPS instead of the OPS in the state. "There are several shortcomings in the UPS and that's the reason why employees have rejected it across the country," said Pradeep Thakur, an employee leader.

## Eight arrested for duping Kinnaur man of Rs 17.5 lakh

**Diary Times Desk :** The police have arrested eight individuals, including four key masterminds, for allegedly duping a resident of Kinnaur district of Rs 17.5 lakh through a digital arrest scam. The accused have been identified as Mehul Thakor alias Jimmy and Jignesh Vashani alias Rock, both residents of Gujarat and the main masterminds, along with Muhammad Nawaz, Revathi, Sudarshan, and Ravi Kumar from Telangana, and Aanand and Shintu Kumar Mishra from Bihar. According to the complaint, on November 18, 2024, a resident of Skiba village in Kinnaur district received a WhatsApp call from fraudsters posing as police officers. They allegedly threatened to arrest him digitally if he did not transfer Rs 17.5 lakh. A case has been registered against the accused under Sections 318(4) (fraudulent inducement), 351 (2) (criminal intimidation), and 61 (2) (criminal conspiracies) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. The police have also sealed all bank accounts linked to the accused that were used for fraudulent transactions. Superintendent of Police (SP) Kinnaur Abhishek S confirmed the arrests. The accused were presented before a court in Rampur, which remanded them to police custody for further investigation, he said.



## Gautam Gambhir's potential backup plan for Jasprit Bumrah gets negative review: 'We're told Rana is Dube's replacement'

**Diary Times Desk** : The Indian team management is in a tricky spot with uncertainty over Jasprit Bumrah's availability for the Champions Trophy as the squad-locking deadline nears. Bumrah has reportedly joined the NCA for rehabilitation, where the medical team is assessing him to prepare a report on his match availability for the Champions Trophy, which will start on February 19. The BCCI also has to prepare a backup plan if he fails to get the fitness certificate, and it seems like Gautam Gambhir has identified Harshit Rana as the potential replacement. The young Delhi pacer, who made his international debut on the Australian tour last year during BGT, was picked over Arshdeep Singh in the XI for the first two ODIs against England. However, former India opener Aakash Chopra isn't very convinced with the potential backup plan of Gautam Gambhir and Rohit Sharma, as he feels that if Bumrah fails to make it, then they have to make a pivot. "India will have to change the entire goalpost if Bumrah isn't there. They will have to make a solid pivot and it's good if they do that because if they don't and become adamant that the team would be ready if they only keep Harshit for Bumrah, would we be really ready?" Chopra said on his YouTube channel.



## IPL Franchise Gujarat Titans Get New Owners, Majority Shares To Be Sold To...

**Diary Times Desk** : Former IPL champions Gujarat Titans are set to have new owners as Indian business conglomerate, the Torrent Group, is in line to acquire a majority stake in the franchise. The Ahmedabad-based conglomerate will purchase a 67 per cent stake in the team from CVC Capital Partners (Irelia Company Pvt Ltd), who had bought the team in 2021. The deal is awaiting final approval from the IPL governing council, which would allow Torrent Group to take control ahead of the upcoming season, which will begin on March 21. "The talks of Torrent Group taking two third ownership (67 per cent) is at an advanced stage. The lock-in period for CVC group as sole owners ends in February 2025 after which they are free to sell the stakes," an IPL source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. "Torrent group is one of the biggest names in Pharmaceutical sector in India and in 2021 when BCCI invited bids for two new teams, they had shown active interest. Obviously any change in ownership pattern requires approval from BCCI which is expected to be given in coming days," he added.

## Nair, Dubey set up Vidarbha's semi-final date with Mumbai

**Diary Times Desk** : Harsh Dubey starred with bat and ball, while Karun Nair continued his glorious run from the 2024-25 Vijay Hazare Trophy as Vidarbha beat Tamil Nadu by 198 runs. Up next in the semi-finals are Mumbai, who they will host at home in Nagpur by virtue of progressing through to the knockouts as the team with most points in the group stages. Dubey, the season's highest wicket-taker with 55 scalps coming into the game, added three more second-innings wickets on Tuesday, the fourth day of the quarter-finals, as Tamil Nadu were bowled out for 202 chasing 401. Long before he came on to bowl in the second innings, Dubey had already left his mark on the game, hitting two half-centuries, which also took him past the 400-run mark. Yet for all those efforts, it was Nair who was named player of the match for his 122 that set up the game for Vidarbha on the first day.

## R Vaishali sets sights on consistency and Candidates qualification

**Diary Times Desk** : Indian chess Grandmaster R Vaishali has set her sights on two key objectives this year -- to deliver a series of consistent performances and secure a coveted spot in the prestigious Candidates Tournament. The past year has already proven to be a remarkable chapter in the 23-year-old's career, with a series of career-defining milestones. These include becoming only the third woman from India to earn the esteemed Grandmaster title, playing a vital role in India's gold-medal-winning performance in the women's event at the Chess Olympiad, and clinching a bronze medal at the World Blitz Championship. "My main goal is to show consistent performance and play some good games," Vaishali told PTI. "Of course, by the end of the year, I aim to qualify for the Candidates Tournament. I had the opportunity to play in the Candidates last year, and I hope to qualify for it again." Reflecting on her bronze at the Blitz World Championship, Vaishali said the result was especially important for her confidence, following a series of disappointing tournaments.

## Mumbai ride on Dias, Rahane, Shardul efforts to seal Ranji semi-final spot

**Diary Times Desk** : A maiden five-wicket haul from left-arm seamer Royston Dias studded Mumbai's 153-run win over Haryana at Eden Gardens. Up next in the semi-final will be Vidarbha, in a repeat of last year's final. Dias fittingly picked up the final wicket when he had Jayant Yadav top-edge a pull to Suryakumar Yadav at mid-on to complete his five-wicket haul. Shardul Thakur, who picked up 6 for 58 in the first innings, was the other contributor. He ended with a match haul of 9 for 84 as Mumbai completed a sensational turnaround from 94 for 6 on the first morning. Mumbai's turnaround was orchestrated by Tanush Kotian and Shams Mulani, who put together 165 for the eighth wicket as they posted 315 in the first innings. Haryana responded solidly with Ankit Kumar, the captain, hitting 136, but from 218 for 3, Haryana collapsed to be bowled out for 301, thereby conceding a 14-run lead. Mumbai converted a slender lead into a match-winning one courtesy Ajinkya Rahane's 108. The Mumbai captain put together a 129-run stand with Suryakumar, who ended a lean run of form with a typically robust 70 to set up the innings. Shivam Dube then made 48 to swell the lead further. Haryana were a bowler short for the entire second innings with seamer Ajit Chahal injured. Mumbai were poised for a lead of over 400, but collapsed on the fourth morning, losing 6 for 25 to set Haryana a 354-run target. They weren't in the chase at any stage, stumbling to 60 for 5 very quickly. Opener Lakshay Dalal top scored with 64.

## Confident Australia gear up for final round of Champions Trophy preps

**Diary Times Desk** : The last time Sri Lanka and Australia played an ODI in Colombo, the R Premadasa Stadium was transformed into a sea of yellow. It was the day (and night) Sri Lankan fans from around the country came together and showed their gratitude collectively to the Australian team for being here to provide some relief from the desperate economic crisis that had crippled the country. They are all set to fill up the Premadasa again on Wednesday, which also happens to be a national Poya holiday, but this time in their traditional blue jerseys to throw their support behind their own team. It's a two-match ODI series that might not have much at stake for either team. While Australia will use these two games as their preparation for the Champions Trophy that starts next week, for Sri Lanka there's basically pride and a trophy to play for. Especially after the Test team proved to be a massive disappointment in Galle over the last two weeks. Both teams held their customary match-eve training session inside an empty Premadasa on Tuesday, with the Australian session quite indicative of the bit of uncertainty around the make-up of their team. Not for this series but also the Champions Trophy, with the four late withdrawals having impacted the core of their otherwise settled team quite a bit.

## Varun Chakravarthy Snubbed, WI Star Claims Player Of The Month For January 2025

**Diary Times Desk** : West Indies' Jomel Warrican has been awarded as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for January 2025. Warrican won the accolade on the back of a splendid run in Pakistan, during which he secured his career-best figures while also leading West Indies to their first-ever Test win in the Asian country in 35 years. This is Warrican's maiden ICC Men's Player of the Month award from two other standout spinners from January's contests, Pakistan's Noman Ali and India's Varun Chakravarthy. The 32-year-old's exceptional month saw him take 19 wickets in two Test matches at an average of just 9.00. He became the first West Indian to win the award since fellow spinner Gudakesh Motie back in May 2024. In the first Test in Multan, he claimed career-best bowling figures of 10-101 and scored an unbeaten 31. However, Pakistan, led by Sajid Khan's 9-115 got the better.