

DELHI GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC ANGER WINS, DELHI GOVERNMENT SAYS WON'T SCRAP OLD CARS AND BIKES

Diary Times Desk : Faced with public fury, the Delhi government has 'put on hold' a contentious order denying fuel to 'end of life' cars - the term for petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa told reporters a fuel ban such as this is difficult to enforce -due to 'technological challenges and complex systems' - and said a system to seize poorly-maintained vehicles, instead of punishing people who take care of their cars and motorcycles, is being worked out.

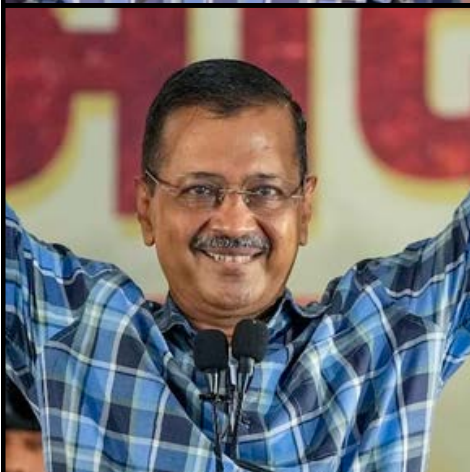
This follows widespread public anger over the 'end of life', or EoL, policy. The Commission of Air Quality Management order, which came into effect July 1, was meant to curb vehicular pollution in the national capital, where people labour under a blanket of toxic smog during the winter months and suffer through poor air quality for the rest of the year.

Over 62 lakh vehicles - cars, two-wheelers, trucks, and vintage automobiles - had been affected by the CAQM order, which acted based on data stating vehicles are among Delhi's top polluters. That data claimed that over 50 per cent of local pollution came from vehicles. End of life' vehicles, or ELVs, were to have been identified by cameras that have been set up across the 498 fuel stations in the national capital region. These cameras are linked to a central database that cross-verifies number plates and alerts the fuel operator about the ELV status.



BIHAR POLLS

AAP WILL CONTEST BIHAR POLLS, SAYS ARVIND KEJRIWAL; BJP REMINDS HIM OF DELHI ROUT



Diary Times Desk : After a decent show in the Gujarat and Punjab bypolls, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced that his party would now contest the Bihar Assembly elections scheduled to take place by the end of this year.

Addressing a press conference in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, Kejriwal also clarified that AAP will fight the Bihar elections solo and that his party's tie with the Opposition's INDIA bloc was only for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

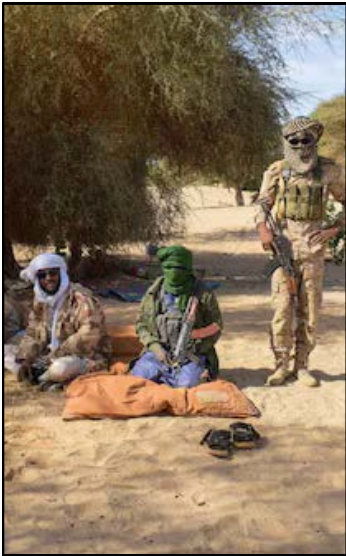
"We will contest the upcoming Bihar elections. There is no alliance with Congress. That is why we contested separately in the Visavadar bypoll. The INDIA bloc was only for the general elections. There is no alliance now," the former Chief Minister said.

Reacting to Kejriwal's plans, the BJP, which is in power along with the Janata Dal (United) in Bihar, questioned the AAP chief's political relevance beyond Punjab.

"Biharis and Purvanchalis shaved off Arvind Kejriwal's head in Delhi and drove him out of Delhi, but that was not enough for him. How much will you use Punjab's ATM? Punjab is already drowning in debt," BJP national spokesperson Ajay Alok said in Patna. "If Kejriwal comes to Bihar, he will understand his political standing. Welcome to Bihar," he added. Kejriwal's renewed push for expansion comes after AAP candidates won the Visavadar and Ludhiana Assembly seats in Gujarat and Punjab last month - a small but symbolic victory that came as a morale booster for the party still reeling from setbacks in its home turf, Delhi.

3 INDIANS ABDUCTED IN MALI AMID AL-QAEDA-LINKED TERROR ATTACKS

Diary Times Desk : India has expressed deep concern over the abduction of three Indian nationals in Mali amid a series of terrorist attacks in various parts of the West African country. A day after the Indians were abducted, New Delhi on Wednesday called upon the Mali government to take all necessary measures to secure their “safe and expeditious” release. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed its “deep concern” regarding the abduction of Indians, employed at the Diamond Cement Factory in Kayes. “The incident occurred on July 1, when a group of armed assailants carried out a coordinated attack at the factory premises and forcibly took three Indian nationals as hostages,” the MEA said. There has been no claim of responsibility for the kidnappings. Al-Qaeda affiliate Jama’at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) has claimed responsibility for coordinated attacks across Mali on Tuesday. The MEA said the Indian embassy in Bamako is in “close and constant” communication with the relevant authorities, local law enforcement agencies as well as the management of the Diamond Cement Factory.



FUEL BAN ON OVERAGE VEHICLES NOT FEASIBLE DUE TO TECH

CHALLENGES: DELHI GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk : The Delhi Government has written to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), arguing the fuel ban on overage vehicles is not feasible due to technological challenges and has requested the panel to put it on hold with immediate effect. Addressing a press conference here, Delhi Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Thursday said that there was discontent among people due to the move and the government stood with them. Sirsa also said the Delhi Government is trying to find out a solution to the ban on end-of-life vehicles, including 10 years and older diesel and 15-year-old petrol vehicles. “We are trying to ensure that the vehicles are not banned according to their age rather on the basis of pollution caused by them,” Sirsa said. The minister citing various challenges and problems faced in implementing the ban on refuelling of overage vehicles since July 1, said.

EC, OPPOSITION LOCK HORNS OVER VOTER ROLL REVISION IN BIHAR AHEAD OF ELECTIONS



Diary Times Desk : A sharp political face-off has erupted between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and opposition parties over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, where state elections are due later this year. Late on Wednesday night, the Election Commission hit out at opposition parties for not attending a scheduled meeting to discuss the SIR process. The EC’s statement came after Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh sharply criticised the voter roll revision, stating that while ‘notebandi’ (demonetisation) had destroyed the economy, ‘votebandi’ would destroy democracy. Accusing the parties of lacking seriousness on the SIR issue, the EC said that only the heads of the CPI and CPI (ML) turned up for the meeting. In a veiled reference to Jairam Ramesh, the EC added that he was not authorised by his party to attend the meeting. “An email was received by the ECI from a counsel claiming to represent 10 political parties on 30 June 2025, requesting an urgent appointment to discuss the ongoing SIR in Bihar any time after 4 PM on 2 July 2025. The parties included the Indian National Congress, All India Trinamool Congress, RJD, Samajwadi Party, DMK, NCP(SP), JMM, CPM, CPI, and CPI(ML).”

AHMEDABAD PLANE CRASH: UK LAW FIRM SUPPORTS BRITISH FAMILIES OVER ‘SERIOUS QUESTIONS’

Diary Times Desk : A London law firm on Thursday said it has been formally retained by a number of British families who lost loved ones in the London-bound Air India AIT71 plane crash soon after take-off from Ahmedabad three weeks ago, to address “serious questions” once the preliminary report into the investigation is released. Keystone Law said its aviation team, supported by international experts in the field, are focused on two specific areas of concern: the “cause of the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) deployment, and then the sequential loss of thrust in both engines”. The firm’s aviation partners, James Healy-Pratt and Owen Hanna, are said to be “working closely” with around 20 British families in relation to the coronial process as well as the London lawyers appointed by Air India and its aviation insurers dealing with interim payments.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

04-07-2025

Aries
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.

Taurus
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.

Gemini
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.

Cancer
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.

Leo
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.

Virgo
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.

Libra
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.

Scorpio
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.

Sagittarius
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.

Capricorn
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.

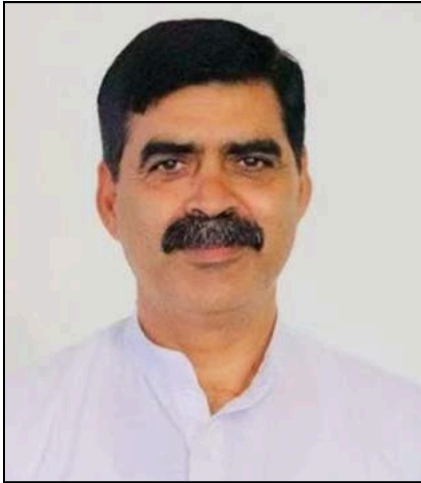
Aquarius
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.

Pisces
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.



BUMBER THAKUR: FIR AGAINST FORMER MLA BAMBER THAKUR FOR PUSHING ASP, CASE REGISTERED UNDER THESE SECTIONS

Diary Times Desk : A case has been registered against former MLA Bamber Thakur in Sadar police station under various sections for pushing and abusing Additional Superintendent of Police outside Deputy Commissioner's office premises on Wednesday during duty. Sections have also been imposed for creating ruckus during VVIP movement and obstructing government work. BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda had a program at Paridhi Grih Bilaspur on Wednesday. Just before his arrival in Bilaspur, former Congress MLA Bamber Thakur also staged a sit-in protest over the fact that the accused of the attack on him in March has not been arrested yet. The police and administration first tried to stop him near his wife's official residence Changar, but he reached near the gate of Deputy Commissioner's office with his supporters. During that time, Nadda's convoy was also to pass from there. Administrative officers SDM Sadar, DSP Headquarters were requesting him to go to Deputy Commissioner's office from the main gate, but Bamber insisted on going through another route.



HIMACHAL : PAHARI NAATI WAS PERFORMED IN THE COURTYARD OF TAJ MAHAL, DILIP SIRMAURI SHOT THE ALBUM 'PAHADAN'

Diary Times Desk : Himachali Nati star Dilip Sirmauri's new album Pahadan was shot at Taj Mahal in Agra. People kept staring at the pair of Dilip Sirmauri and Sakheena Negi who arrived in Pahad attire. Some tourists asked where they would get this beautiful Pahad dress. Let us tell you that folk singer Dilip Sirmauri has created a different image as a mimicry artist along with singing. He has also sung songs with Kumar Sanu and Alka Yagnik. Dilip Sirmauri has made Himachal proud many times in the past by trying to do something different and better for Himachali folk music. This time Dilip Sirmauri shot the Pahadan album at Taj Mahal in Agra. Dilip Sirmauri shot the song with Sakheena. During this, a glimpse of Himachal's culture was presented. During this, tourists from India and abroad who reached Taj Mahal asked the artists where they would get this great looking Pahad dress. Sirmauri said that it has been his dream to touch heights by connecting with the roots of his folk culture.

HIMACHAL : CM SUKHWINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID- WORK OF RESTORATION OF ROAD, ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLY IS GOING ON ON WAR FOOTING

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that the work of restoration of roads, electricity and water supply in the disaster affected areas is going on on a war footing. The Chief Secretary is holding review meetings. The government is making every effort to provide relief to the disaster affected. On Thursday, CM Sukhu kept taking updates from all the field officers including the Deputy Commissioner of Mandi regarding the damage caused by the cloudburst throughout the day. He also held meetings with senior officials at Oakover and the State Secretariat. Apart from this, the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, Director Operations of the State Electricity Board and the Chief Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department have taken charge in Thunag to monitor the restoration work. Teams of Home Guards, Police and Volunteers are also engaged in relief work. The Chief Minister has directed all the departments to work in mutual coordination, especially to do quick and timely work for restoration of road connectivity, drinking water supply and electricity in the most affected areas. The Chief Minister said that relief and rehabilitation work is being done on a war footing in Thunag and Janjehli.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: NOW HIM CARE CARDS WILL BE MADE ONLY FOR FOUR MONTHS IN A YEAR, NEW PREMIUM RATES HAVE BEEN FIXED

Diary Times Desk : Keeping in mind the categories under the Himcare scheme, new premium rates have been fixed by the Himachal Pradesh government. Now new card registration will be done only in four months of the year i.e. March, June, September and December. At present, the registration process of new cards will continue in July 2025. Beneficiaries will have to get the card renewed within 30 days. The validity of these cards will be for one year only. On admission to a registered government hospital under Himcare, a health scheme sponsored by the state government, the family gets the facility of free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. Under Himcare, the facility of making smart cards can be made at Lok Mitra Kendras, cyber cafes or the applicant himself can get it made on the website www.hpsbys.in by uploading Aadhaar card, ration card, mobile number and category certificate and paying the prescribed premium. Under the scheme, an additional fee of Rs 50 will be charged from the beneficiary for enrolling and uploading documents at Lok Mitra Kendra or Common Service Center.



HIMACHAL: RS 120 CRORE RELEASED FROM THE CENTER FOR MAJOR DISTRICT ROADS OF HIMACHAL, BUDGET WAS SOUGHT FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk : There will be no delay in the construction of major district roads (MDR) in Himachal Pradesh. The central government has released an amount of Rs 120.63 crore to the Himachal government to speed up the construction of MDR roads. Union Surface Transport Ministry Under Secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar has sent a letter to the Himachal government regarding this. Apart from this, the central government has sought details of the expenditure of the money released earlier. It has been said to give UC regarding this. Work is going on for more than 20 MDR roads in Himachal. Districts are to be connected with these roads. The roads on which work has been done. If they have to be widened and repaired, this amount can also be used in that. This amount has been released to Himachal under CIIF. It is worth mentioning that the construction work of major district roads is going on from Tattapani to Salapad, District Shimla, Sirmaur and Kangra. These roads have reached from one end to the other but there was a shortage of money to make them concrete. In such a situation, the Himachal government had sent a proposal to the Centre to release the money. If it is approved, the work will be able to proceed.

HIMACHAL NEWS: THERE WILL BE NO POWER CRISIS IN WINTER, HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVERNMENT WILL BUY NUCLEAR ENERGY

Diary Times Desk : There will be no electricity crisis in Himachal Pradesh during winter season. The state government will now also buy nuclear energy. An agreement will be made to buy electricity from National Power Grid. Buying nuclear energy will cost Rs 3.50 per unit. The cabinet sub-committee formed to strengthen the electricity board has sent this proposal for the government's approval. A decision has been taken to buy nuclear energy to reduce dependence on water and hydro power. About five to six rupees are spent on per unit of hydro power. To save this cost, preparations have been made to buy nuclear energy. Energy state Himachal Pradesh has surplus electricity during summer season. During this time, supply is given to neighboring states on credit. This supply is withdrawn during winter season.

DELHI GOVT SEEKS PAUSE ON FUEL BAN FOR END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES, MINISTER WRITES TO AIR QUALITY PANEL

Diary Times Desk : Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has urged the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to hold its directions mandating a ban on fuel sales to end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) in the capital, ANI reported on Thursday. The government has said that the fuel ban on overage vehicles (over 10 years for diesel vehicles and over 15 years for petrol vehicles) is not feasible in the city due to technological challenges and complex systems. "We urge the Commission to put the implementation of Direction No. 89 on hold with immediate effect till the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system is seamlessly integrated across the entire NCR," the minister said in the letter to CAQM, according to ANI. "We are confident that the ongoing multi-pronged efforts of the Delhi Government will achieve substantial improvements in air quality," it added. In a press conference, Sirsa also said that people were discontented with this move, and the government stood with them, reported PTI.

MAY MISS CRORES OF NAMES: ASADUDDIN OWAIISI OVER 'RUSHED' BIHAR POLL ROLL REVISION

Diary Times Desk : All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi has expressed scepticism about the Election Commission's plan of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in poll-bound Bihar. He has warned that the revision might disenfranchise crores of voters of the state. Questioning the feasibility of the process, emphasising that it was nearly impossible for booth-level officers to update the records of crores of voters in such a short timeframe: "You (EC) want this whole process to be done in one month. How is it possible? How can you do it in one month? What is the rationale for that?" Mr Owaisi, in an interview with NDTV, also warned that the revision may result in crores of names being missed from the voter list. "You can't rush and undo it. And tomorrow, if the elections are held and I am sure that many names will be missed. Who will take the blame? It is impossible to do it (in such a short period of time) and my apprehension is that not just thousands, but lakhs, maybe names of crores of people that will be missing from the voter list and they will be disenfranchised," he said. He also cited the Lal Babu Hussein case in which the Supreme Court ruled.

GHANAIAI MPS WORE INDIAN ATTIRE DURING PM MODI'S PARLIAMENT ADDRESS



Diary Times Desk : As Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a historic speech at the Ghana Parliament, two members of the parliament (MPs) wore Indian attire to showcase their love for India and Indian culture. As Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin, the current Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana was making his closing remarks after Mr Modi's speech, he noticed two Ghanaian MPs in Indian attire. One MP was seen in a 'pagdi' or traditional headgear and 'Bandhgala', a closed neck suit, while a female MP stood up to show her Indian outfit. The other members of the Parliament broke into applause, including Mr Modi. "I recognise that the honourable member is itching to visit India. I want to assure you that I will not hold my pen from approving your visit ... My attention has been drawn to the fact that he is not alone and has a partner... I thank the members for showing their love for India, its people and their culture," Bagbin said while appreciating the gesture from fellow Parliamentarians in the presence of PM Modi.

ACTOR'S SON JUMPS FROM 50TH FLOOR IN MUMBAI ON BEING TOLD TO GO FOR TUITION

Diary Times Desk : A 14-year-old boy allegedly died by suicide in Mumbai after a disagreement with his mother - an actor who has worked in popular Hindi and Gujarati TV shows - over attending tuition classes, police said on Thursday. The family lives on the 51st floor of the Brooke building in Kandivali. The boy walked down a couple of floors and then jumped to his death on Wednesday. Police said that, in her statement, the boy's mother said she had asked him to go for tuition around 7 pm but he appeared reluctant. After he was told several times, the boy eventually left the house. Minutes later, the watchman arrived at the house and informed the actor that her son had fallen from the building. She found him lying in a pool of blood, the police said. An Accidental Death Report has been filed and the body has been sent for post-mortem. Police said nothing suspicious has been found in the family's statement but a detailed probe is underway.

ONLY DALAI LAMA CAN DECIDE ON HIS INCARNATION: INDIA SNUBS CHINA

Diary Times Desk : A day after China said that the Dalai Lama's successor would be chosen following its seal of approval, India dismissed the assertion, saying the only authority to decide on the Incarnation of the Dalai Lama would be the the established institution and the Dalai Lama himself. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday called the Dalai Lama the "most important and defining institution" of the Buddhists, and said nobody else has the right to make such an important decision. "And all those who follow the Dalai Lama feel that the Incarnation is to be decided by the established convention and as per the wish of the Dalai Lama himself. Nobody else has the right to decide it except him and the conventions in place," Rijiju was quoted as saying by news agency PTI. Rijiju is a practicing Buddhist. He will represent the government at the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday event in Dharamshala on July 6. The 600-year-old institution a spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists would continue, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, had announced.

"NO LANGUAGE SHOULD BE IMPOSED...": AADITYA THACKERAY AMID SLAPGATE ROW

Diary Times Desk : Two assaults in four days by goons from Raj Thackeray's MNS - on a Mumbai man for not speaking Marathi and a Pune man for an 'objectionable' post - have roiled state politics. A third involving an ex-Uddhav Thackeray party MP has added to the unease. The first assault was late Sunday. A shopkeeper in Mumbai's Mira Road suburb was slapped by MNS party workers after a staff member and he did not speak in Marathi. The thugs filmed the assault of 48-year-old Babulal Chaudhary and posted it online. The video went viral but the police acted against only after sustained reporting from NDTV; a case was filed two days after the assault and four of the seven were called for questioning a further two days later. None of the accused have been arrested so far. The second took place Thursday. A man in Pune's Kothrud area was assaulted after an 'objectionable' social media post on Raj Thackeray. MNS workers descended on Kedar Soman's home and beat him.

NO ALLIANCE WITH CONGRESS, INDIA BLOC WAS ONLY FOR LOK SABHA POLLS: ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Diary Times Desk : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that his party has no alliance with the Congress, saying that the INDIA bloc was formed solely for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "The INDIA bloc was only for the Lok Sabha polls. Now there is no alliance from our side," Kejriwal said at a press conference in Ahmedabad. He further accused the Congress of indirectly aiding the BJP in Gujarat. "We have no alliance with Congress. If there was any alliance, why did they contest the bypoll in Visavadar?" Kejriwal asked. "They came to defeat us. The BJP had sent the Congress to defeat AAP by cutting our votes," he was quoted as saying by PTI. In the Visavadar bypoll held last month, AAP candidate Gopal Italia won the seat in Junagadh district by over 17,000 votes, defeating BJP's Kirit Patel. Congress's Nitin Ranpariya finished third with 5,501 votes. The former Delhi chief minister also said that AAP would contest and win the Gujarat Assembly elections in 2027, claiming that voters in the state now have an alternative beyond the BJP and Congress.



IRAN COMMITTED TO NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS

Diary Times Desk : Iran remains committed to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its safeguards agreement, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Thursday, a day after Tehran enacted a law suspending cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog. "Our cooperation with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) will be channeled through Iran's Supreme National Security Council for obvious safety and security reasons," Araqchi wrote in a post on X. President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday enacted the legislation passed by parliament last week to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, a move the U.S. called "unacceptable." Araqchi's comment on X was in response to a call from Germany's Foreign Ministry urging Tehran to reverse its decision to shelve cooperation with the IAEA. Araqchi accused Germany of "explicit support for Israel's unlawful attack on Iran, including safeguarded nuclear sites". Iran has accused the IAEA of siding with Western countries and providing a justification for Israel's June 13-24 airstrikes on Iranian nuclear installations, which began a day after the U.N. agency's board of governors voted to declare Tehran in violation of its obligations under the NPT.

7-ELEVEN EMPLOYEE DIES AFTER MANAGER SAT ON TOP OF HER IN VIOLENT ATTACK

Diary Times Desk : A 7-Eleven employee who was left brain-dead after her manager sat on top of her, preventing her from breathing, died on Wednesday. According to a report in the LA Times, Jessica McLaughlin had been placed on life support after the attack on June 24. She died after she was taken off life support by her grieving family eight days after the attack. McLaughlin was only 24. Police are still searching for the 7-Eleven manager who managed to flee after attacking her. Jessica McLaughlin went to work her shift at a 7-Eleven store in Los Angeles, California on June 24 as per usual. However, she got into an argument with her manager shortly after 2pm. "Jessica walked into work expecting a normal day — but instead, she was violently and senselessly attacked by one of her managers," her brother said in a GoFundMe created to raise funds for her funeral. "She [the manager] held her down, sat on top of her, and didn't let her breathe."

DAYS AFTER TRUMP-MUNIR LUNCHEON, PAKISTAN AIR FORCE CHIEF VISITS US

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan seems to have made another attempt to boost its defence cooperation with the US, with Chief of the Air Staff Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu's official visit to the country. This is the first visit by a serving Pak Air Force chief in decades, making it an important step for Pakistan to step up military engagements. Sidhu's visit to the US comes just days after Pakistan's previous big attempt at improving defence ties with the US -- a visit by Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. Munir's visit had come just weeks after the India-Pakistan conflict and he was also hosted by US President Donald Trump at a private luncheon. As the Pakistan Air Force announced its Chief of the Air Staff's visit to the US, it also called it a "strategic milestone" for the defence partnership with the US. In the US, the Pak air chief met US Air Force Chief of Staff General David W. Elton and US Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs Kelly L. Seybolt. Both countries have reportedly agreed on "new avenues" for bilateral military cooperation. According to news agency PTI, the discussions included plans to establish high-level military ties, enhance collaboration on mutual interests, and expand joint training and technology exchange.



RUSSIAN NAVY DEPUTY CHIEF MIKHAIL GUDKOV KILLED IN UKRAINE'S ATTACK ON KURSK



Diary Times Desk : Major General Mikhail Gudkov, the deputy head of the Russian Navy who also led a brigade fighting against Ukraine, has been killed in Russia's Kursk region, Oleg Kozhemyako, governor of a far eastern Russian region, said on Thursday. Unofficial Russian and Ukrainian military Telegram channels had earlier reported that Gudkov had been killed along with 10 other servicemen in a Ukrainian attack on a command post in Korenevo in the Kursk region, which borders Ukraine. He is one of the most senior Russian military officers to have been killed by Ukraine since Moscow launched its full-scale war against Ukraine in 2022. Kozhemyako, who said he had spoken to Gudkov a lot over the years, said in a statement that Gudkov had been killed "carrying out his duty as an officer" along with others, and expressed his condolences to the dead men's relatives. "When he became Deputy Chief of the Navy, he did not stop personally visiting the positions of our marines," Kozhemyako said on Telegram.

THAI OPPOSITION TO HOLD OFF ON NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk : Thailand's opposition parties said on Thursday that they will hold off on launching a no-confidence vote against suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra pending a court ruling, but they vowed to work together to avoid political deadlock. Thailand's Constitutional Court on Tuesday suspended Paetongtarn from her duties after accepting a petition from 36 senators who accused the prime minister of dishonesty and breaching ethical standards following a leaked phone conversation between her and Cambodia's influential former leader Hun Sen. Leaders of the five opposition parties — including the Bhumjaithai Party which left the government coalition last month — met ahead of the reconvening of parliament on Thursday, vowing to work together to put pressure on the government. "We must wait for clarity on the case being considered by the Constitutional Court."

TWO DEAD, 43 MISSING AFTER FERRY SINKS NEAR INDONESIA'S BALI

Diary Times Desk : Two people died and 43 are missing after a ferry carrying 65 people sank in the Bali Strait on Wednesday night. The vessel, named KMP Tunu Pratama Jaya, was on its way from East Java's Ketapang port to Gilimanuk port in Bali when it went down about 30 minutes after departure. The ferry had 53 passengers and 12 crew members onboard, along with 22 vehicles, including several trucks. So far, two bodies have been recovered and 20 people have been rescued. Many of those saved were found unconscious after floating in rough waters for hours. "The ferry's manifest data totalled 53 passengers and 12 passenger crews," Surabaya search and rescue agency said in a statement Thursday, adding the vessel sunk around 23:20 local time (1520 GMT). Nine rescue boats, including tugboats and inflatable vessels, are actively searching for the missing. Rescuers are facing difficult conditions due to waves as high as two meters. The National Search and Rescue Agency says efforts will continue until all missing people are located.

THERE WILL NOT BE A HAMASTAN: NETANYAHU CALLS FOR END TO HAMAS

Diary Times Desk : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would completely eliminate Hamas in his first public remark since US President Donald Trump claimed that Israel agreed to a 60-day ceasefire plan in Gaza. "There will not be a Hamas. There will not be a 'Hamastan'. We're not going back to that. It's over," Netanyahu said during a meeting at the Trans-Israel pipeline. He added that Israel would destroy Hamas "down to their very foundation." Netanyahu's stern statement came as Hamas said it was considering a new proposal for a ceasefire. The group noted it had received suggestions from mediators Egypt and Qatar and was reviewing them. In a statement, Hamas said its aim was to reach an agreement that would stop the war and lead to Israel withdrawing its forces from Gaza. US President Trump said on Tuesday that Israel had agreed to the key points required for a 60-day ceasefire after a meeting between his representatives and Israeli officials. He described the proposal as a "final" offer aimed at stopping the fighting in Gaza. Meanwhile, the people of Gaza have mixed feelings about Trump's proposal. Kamal, a Gaza City resident, said, "I hope it would work this time, even if for two months, it would save thousands of innocent lives." Another resident, Adnan Al-Assar from Khan Younis.

HIGH COURT TO HEAR BIKRAM MAJITHIA'S PLEA AGAINST 'ILLEGAL ARREST AND REMAND' ON JULY 4

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Thursday fixed July 4 for hearing a petition filed by Shiromani Akali Dal leader and former cabinet minister Bikram Singh Majithia against his "illegal arrest and subsequent remand" days after the Vigilance Bureau registered an FIR under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The hearing was adjourned for a day to enable his counsel to place before Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya's Bench fresh remand orders issued in the case. Majithia, among other things, had challenged the initial remand orders after terming it as illegal. His remand on Wednesday was extended by four days. Among other things, Majithia submitted in his petition that the FIR was a result of "political witch-hunting and vendetta initiated by the present political dispensation with the sole object of maligning and harassing him as he has been a vocal critic and political opponent". The petition was filed through Sartaj Singh Narula, Damanbir Singh Sobti and Arshdeep Singh Cheema. Majithia submitted that the FIR dated June 25 at Vigilance Bureau police station in Mohali was "patently illegal" and his arrest the same day from his residence was carried out in "gross violation of settled legal procedures". The SAD leader added he was kept in illegal custody for over two hours prior to his official arrest at 11:20 am as evident from multiple video recordings and the remand order passed the next day.



SAD CHIEF SUKHBIR BADAL ANNOUNCES 96-MEMBER WORKING COMMITTEE

Diary Times Desk : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Thursday released a list of 96 members of his party's working committee. The prominent leaders in the committee include the SAD chief, Balwinder Singh Bhunder, Kirpal Singh Badungar, Gulzar Singh Ranike, Paramjit Singh Sarna, Manjit Singh GK, Sucha Singh Langah, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Bikam Singh Sekhon. SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema said that 20 senior leaders have additionally been included as special invitees. "For the first time, 16 senior women leaders have been inducted into the party's highest decision-making body. The committee also includes several young leaders. Due representation has been given to all sections of society," said Cheema in a post on X.

INSURANCE FIRM TOLD TO PAY RS 3L TO GURDASPUR WOMAN FOR DENYING CLAIM

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered Star Health and Allied Insurance Company to pay Rs 3 lakh along with costs to Neelam Saini, a resident of Pakho Chak village in Gurdaspur district for denying her a health claim, saying that the company was not liable to make any payment for pregnancy-related cases. The order reads that "as of today most deliveries are taking place through caesarean sections, so excluding deliveries and caesarean sections (from the insurance claims) amounts to a business malpractice". Neelam delivered twins in Dr Rama Sofat Hospital, Ludhiana, on June 11, 2022. Following complications in the caesarean procedure, she was referred to Dayanand Medical College and Hospital in the city. She remained in the hospital till July 17 and incurred an expenditure Rs 4.8 lakh. A claim of Rs 3 lakh was made as per the insurance terms, which was rejected by the company on 'vague grounds'. State commission president Justice Daya Chaudhary and members Simarjot Kaur and Vishav Kant Garg upheld the earlier order of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal.

CHIEF JUSTICE NAGU FLAGS 'DANGEROUS TREND' OF FILING VAKALATNAMAS TO SHIFT CASES FROM 'PARTICULAR BENCHES'

Diary Times Desk : Expressing serious concern over alleged tactics to secure favourable Benches, Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Sheel Nagu on Thursday termed the emerging "trend" of advocates filing powers of attorney merely to have matters transferred away from specific judges as "very dangerous." "This is a very dangerous trend that you all are developing. You file a power, earn money, and sit down in your home and enjoy life. You don't want to work," Chief Justice Nagu observed during a hearing, cautioning that such practices threatened the integrity of court processes and the Bar itself. Chief Justice Nagu's observations came while dealing with a petition filed by M3M group director Roop Bansal. The case was originally filed sometime in January and listed for the first time before the Judge "holding the roster of matters pertaining to Prevention of Corruption Act qua the State of Haryana." The Judge recused himself on January 14, following which the matter was listed before another Bench in accordance with the standing instructions in the "prevailing roster." The case came up for hearing on February 13 before the other Bench, but was dismissed as withdrawn following a request by the petitioner's counsel.

VICTIM CAN NOW DIRECTLY APPEAL AGAINST ACQUITTAL BEFORE SESSIONS COURT: HC

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court today said that heavy pendency was preventing appeals against acquittals from being heard for years together before making it clear that victims of crimes — including ones in cheque bounce cases — could now cut delay by directly appealing before the Sessions Court. In a significant judgment aimed at relieving litigants of procedural delays and the courts of mounting pendency, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar held that victims could directly move the Sessions Court without first seeking leave to appeal — a procedural hurdle previously required when approaching the high court. Justice Brar's ruling, in line with the Supreme Court's view, is significant as it says such appeals by victims no longer need prior permission. "This court is clogged with thousands of cases filed under Section 378(4) of the CrPC seeking leave to appeal against judgments of acquittal. Today itself 10 cases involving a leave to appeal, out of 43 listed in the motion list, were put forth before this Bench. One of them pertains to the year 2016. However, arguments have not been addressed till date," Justice Brar asserted.

HARYANA: CRACKDOWN BEGINS IN REGISTRY SCAM, OVER 100 OFFICIALS FACE CHARGESHEET

Diary Times Desk : In a major crackdown, the Haryana Government is likely to chargesheet over 100 revenue officials — including District Revenue Officers, Tehsildars, and Naib Tehsildars — in connection with a large-scale registry scam that unfolded during the tenure of former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala. The alleged violations are linked to the unauthorised registration of sale and lease deeds without mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the District Town Planner (DTP), a requirement under Section 7-A of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975. This section is meant to curb unauthorised colonies and haphazard development. Initial action was taken in June 2020, when three Sub-Registrars and five Joint Sub-Registrars in Gurugram district were chargesheeted. Subsequently, six FIRs were also registered. Based on preliminary inquiries, the state government directed all Divisional Commissioners to investigate violations in their jurisdictions. The Divisional Commissioners' reports revealed widespread irregularities, where many Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars had registered land instruments without obtaining NOCs, especially in notified areas.

MUSTARD OIL PRICE HIKE SPARKS UPROAR IN HARYANA

Diary Times Desk : A recent decision by the Haryana Government to raise the price of mustard oil for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya card holders has sparked strong criticism across the state. The price of mustard oil, which was earlier Rs 20 per litre, has now been increased to Rs 50 per litre. Many political leaders and parties have come forward to oppose this decision. Congress leader and Kalanwali MLA Shishpal Keharwala called the hike "anti-people" and said it was a direct attack on the rights of the poor. In his statement, he said that the government, which claimed to work in the public interest, had shown its real face. He added that this decision would add more pressure on families already suffering from inflation. He also reminded people that the same government had earlier increased electricity prices. According to him, the government's slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" is just a cover-up, and in reality, only the rich benefit. Ashok Buwaniwala, Chairman of the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee's Industry Cell, strongly condemned the government's move. He called it "inhumane". He said the move would deeply affect around 48 lakh poor families who relied.

URGENT RESCUE EFFORTS NEEDED IN SERAJ, JAI RAM THAKUR URGES CM SUKHU

Diary Times Desk : Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur has urged the state government to intensify rescue and relief efforts in the flood-ravaged Seraj Assembly constituency of Mandi district, where more than 24 persons were missing and the scale of destruction has been described as “unprecedented”. Thakur visited the disaster-hit areas of Kuklah and Bagsyad of Mandi today. He expressed concern over the lack of electricity and communication services in the region for the past three days. “Reaching Thunag has become nearly impossible, as the main road to Janjehli has completely been swept away,” he added. He said, “Many tourists are stranded but administrative teams have not been able to reach villages like Pakhrair, where cloudbursts have swept away people.” Thakur said that roads were blocked due to massive landslides and over 25 bridges, both large and small, had either collapsed or had been severely damaged.

15 ARMY TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS EVOLVING AS ‘CENTRES OF EXPERTISE’ FOR ADOPTING 33 NICHE TECHNOLOGIES

Diary Times Desk : With recent conflicts having established that technology will play a decisive role in the outcome of all future conflicts, 15 major Army training establishments are evolving as ‘Centres of Expertise’ for adopting 33 niche technologies. A comprehensive plan has been developed to adopt all these technologies by 2030, with a planned investment of Rs 390 crore in research and development, infrastructure development and training over the next five years, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Army Training Command (ARTRAC), Lt Gen Devindra Sharma, said at an investiture ceremony on Thursday. Highlighting recent initiatives by ARTRAC and the lines of effort towards the Army’s roadmap for ‘Decade of Transformation’ and ‘Year of Technology Absorption’, he said that ARTRAC has undertaken 57 initiatives in the domains of jointness and integration, force re-structuring, technology absorption and modernisation, systems, processes and functions and human resources management. This, he said, would require ‘whole of nation’ approach.

MANDI CLOUDBURST: DEATH TOLL MOUNTS TO 13, SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR 29 MISSING

Diary Times Desk : With the recovery of two more bodies, the death toll in the cloudburst and flash flood-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi has mounted to 13 while search is underway for 29 others missing, officials said on Thursday. Ten cloudbursts, three flash floods and a landslide were witnessed in different parts of Mandi district on Tuesday. Officials said two bodies were recovered this morning. While seven bodies were recovered from Gohar, five were from Thunag and one in Karsog subdivisions of Mandi district. Over 150 houses, 104 cattle sheds, 31 vehicles, 14 bridges and several roads were damaged in the calamities. A total of 162 cattle perished in the calamities, while 370 people, including 316 in Mandi, were rescued and five relief camps have been set up, the state emergency operation centre (SEOC), said. The Mandi-Keylong road was blocked following floods in a drain near Solang Nallah and the traffic has been diverted through Rohtang Pass. Men and machinery has been deployed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), officials said. A total of 261 roads, including 186 in Mandi district, are closed for traffic in the state while 599 transformers and 797 water supply schemes have been disrupted due to heavy rains in the past few days, the SEOC added.



HEAVY RAIN CONTINUES TO WREAK HAVOC IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, CAUSE 495 CRORE LOSS

Diary Times Desk : Total loss caused by torrential rain in Himachal Pradesh has reached Rs 495.82 crore as heavy rainfall continues to wreak havoc across the state for the last 13 days. So far, as many as 43 persons have lost their lives due to multiple cloudbursts, flashfloods, landslides, etc., while 110 have suffered injuries and 37 remain missing. As many as 246 roads remain blocked for vehicular traffic throughout the state. These include 145 in Mandi district, 36 in Kullu, 25 in Sirmaur, 22 in Shimla, 12 in Kangra, three in Una, two in Chamba and one in Solan district. Also, as many as 404 distribution transformers, including 353 in Mandi, 30 in Chamba, 15 in Kullu, three in Kangra and on each in Shimla and Chamba districts, are damaged. As many as 784 water supply schemes, including 605 in Mandi, 104 in Hamirpur, 49 in Kullu, 21 in Sirmaur, four in Chamba and one in Shimla district, are disrupted. Meanwhile, another flashflood warning has been issued for several districts of the state for the next 24 hours as heavy rainfall continues to occur in isolated areas of the state. As per the Hydromet Division of Indian Meteorological Department, moderate risk of flashflood is very likely in few watersheds of Shimla, Mandi, Kangra, Hamirpur and Sirmaur districts during the next 24 hours, resulting in surface run off and inundation at some fully saturated soils.

HIMACHAL CM VISITS CLOUDBURST-HIT DHARAMPUR, PROMISES RELIEF FOR HOUSE REBUILDING

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today visited Syathi village in Laungani panchayat of Dharampur subdivision in Mandi district, which was severely affected by recent cloudburst and heavy rainfall. He met disaster-hit families, expressed solidarity with them and listened to their grievances. He also assessed relief and rehabilitation efforts underway in the area. A total of 61 residents had been affected by the cloudburst that caused extensive damage to houses, cowsheds and livestock in Dharampur. The district administration has so far provided Rs 1.70 lakh in financial aid, along with ration, tarpaulin and other essential relief items. The Chief Minister assured the affected people of all possible government support and directed officials to ensure proper arrangements for them. Sukhu said that a special relief package would be provided to help the affected people rebuild their destroyed homes and compensation would be enhanced for the loss of livestock and damaged cowsheds. Sukhu, while interacting with the affected people, said that the entire Syathi village was swept away in the cloudburst, leaving villagers without even land to pitch tents. He added that government land would be allotted for resettlement.

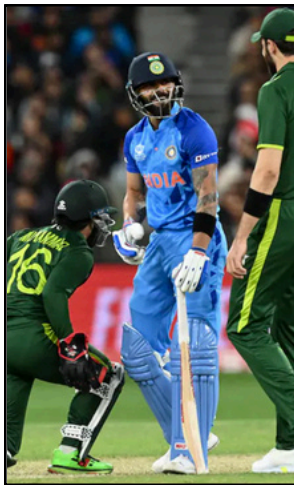
‘CM SUKHU UNREACHABLE’: LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAI RAM SLAMS HIM OVER ‘POOR’ DISASTER RESPONSE IN HP’S MANDI

Diary Times Desk : Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today criticised the Himachal Pradesh Government and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here over what he termed as an “insensitive and apathetic” response to the recent rain-triggered devastation in Mandi district. Addressing a press conference here today, Jai Ram Thakur expressed dissatisfaction with Chief Minister Sukhu’s recent remarks in Solan that Jai Ram Thakur should visit his Assembly constituency instead of making political statements. Responding firmly, Jai Ram said, “I do not need the Chief Minister’s advice. He should instead focus on ensuring timely relief and rescue efforts in the disaster-affected areas of the state.” Calling the Chief Minister “insensitive”, the former CM alleged that he had been trying to reach out to Sukhu since morning regarding the ongoing crisis but received no response. “Even during such a serious disaster, the CM remains unreachable. His government has been completely exposed by its inaction and lack of preparedness,” said Jai Ram Thakur.



INDIA VS PAKISTAN CRICKET TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER AFTER OPERATION SINDOOR? REPORT: "BCCI IS..."

Diary Times Desk : Is India vs Pakistan cricket clash in Asia Cup a strong possibility in September? That is the question on everyone's mind after a sports ministry source said Pakistan's hockey teams will not be stopped from competing in next month's Asia Cup and the junior World Cup in India. While the Asia Cup is scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 27 to September 7, the junior World Cup will be organised in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10. If it happens it will be one of the first instances of a sporting team from Pakistan travelling to India after Operation Sindoor. When asked whether this means India will be allowed to play against Pakistan in the Asia Cup of cricket in September, the source said, "The BCCI is yet to reach out to the ministry on this. We will address this query when they approach us." India and Pakistan have been avoiding bilateral sporting engagements for close to two decades but even multi-lateral face-offs were in doubt after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were gunned down in April. "We are not against any team competing in India in a multi-national competition. If we try to stop Pakistan it would be seen as a violation of the Olympic Charter. But bilateral is different and there will be no relaxation on that front," the source said.



SHIKHAR DHAWAN BREAKS SILENCE ON EXIT FROM INDIAN TEAM: "MY CAREER WAS OVER WHEN..."

Diary Times Desk : One of the finest opening batters India has produced in the last 10-15 years, Shikhar Dhawan didn't have the finest of exits from the team. Despite delivering consistently in the white-ball cricketing spectrum, Dhawan suddenly found himself surplus to requirements in the early 2020s. His exit from Test cricket was already sealed in 2018 but soon nailing a spot in the white-ball teams also started becoming difficult. In an interview, Dhawan has opened up on the nature of his departure from the team. Dhawan thought that he would be picked in India's 2021 T20 World Cup squad. But, when a call-up didn't come, he didn't even bother calling anyone in the team or the selection committee. The disappointment was there, but Dhawan decided to move on. "I knew that my name was not going to come. I could sense that thing. It's not that you are going to be spoon-fed for everything," Dhawan said in a chat with Hindustan Times. He "never bothered to call anyone" after the T20 World Cup squad came out. "I didn't ask anyone why my name didn't come. Even if I had asked, they were going to have their own perspective on it.

TOUGHEST PART IS TRAINING, GETS VERY LITTLE TIME: NEERAJ CHOPRA

Diary Times Desk : Double Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra on Thursday said shouldering the organisational responsibilities and managing his personal preparations at the same time were his biggest challenges ahead of the international javelin event that carries his name. The Neeraj Chopra Classic, which will have a top-class field, is set to take place at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday, and the ace athlete is coming after two highly competitive events in Paris and Ostrava, Czech Republic. The Ostrava Golden Spike competition was on June 24 while the Paris Diamond League was on June 20, and the Indian had won both the events. "The toughest part is the training. We get very little time to train. I competed in Paris and Ostrava and then travelled to Bengaluru, so I will try my level best. We also have to arrange everything together," Chopra said during a felicitation function organised by the Karnataka Olympic Association. "We also have to talk to all the athletes about how to make it better. But everything is going well. We will handle this and also compete. But the biggest goal is to make it (the event) bigger," said Chopra, who also met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday.

ANGRY BEN STOKES, CHRIS WOAKES COMPLAIN AGAINST RAVINDRA JADEJA, UMPIRE WARNS INDIA ALL-ROUNDER

Diary Times Desk : Ravindra Jadeja's tussle with top English players is nothing new. Who can forget his infamous feud with the legendary James Anderson during India's tour of England in 2014? It started on Day 2 of the first Test at Trent Bridge and continued till the last Test. Both Jadeja and Anderson were fined but evaded serious sanctions. Anderson is now retired. In fact, his name, along with the legendary Sachin Tendulkar's, now features in the trophy that India and England are currently fighting for. Jadeja is still going strong. While his current on-field duel with Chris Woakes and Ben Stokes was nowhere near what transpired between him and Jadeja a decade ago, it surely rattled the England team, albeit briefly. Jadeja ruffled the feathers of England captain Ben Stokes and fast bowler Chris Woakes on Day 2 of the second Test at Edgbaston. During the second over on Thursday, Woakes was not happy with Jadeja for taking a couple of steps and then deciding against taking a run. The England bowler was worried that Jadeja was doing it deliberately to rough up certain areas of the pitch. Umpire Saikat had a quiet word with Jadeja, who obliged by jumping away from the danger area while running for a single in the very next ball.



RISHABH PANT PULLS UP SHUBMAN GILL AFTER INDIA CAPTAIN JUMPS THE GUN OVER STUMP MIC CALL: 'PEHLE HI MAT DECIDE KAR'

Diary Times Desk : As Shubman Gill led from the front with a resilient century and Rishabh Pant threatened briefly during his stay at the crease, the stump mic picked up a moment that gave a clear insight into the action on the ground during India's first innings at Edgbaston. Amid shifting momentum and a softening ball, the duo were heard recalibrating their approach in real time, showcasing how India's batters were adapting after a series of collapses haunted them in the first Test. "Dekh lenge call pe. Pehle hi mat decide kar kuch bhi. Call rakhenge ek," Pant was heard telling Gill during their brief stay together at the crease. The conversation came after Pant observed that the ball had lost some of its hardness and was no longer carrying well through the off-side, which made quick singles riskier. Gill, at the striker's end, appeared to agree with the observation, indicating they wouldn't push for sharp singles. But Pant, ever instinctive, cautioned against jumping to conclusions. His message: make the call in the moment, but don't predetermine the outcome.

FORMER ENGLAND STAR POINTS OUT INDIA'S "BIGGEST SHORTCOMING" IN TEST MATCHES

Diary Times Desk : Former left-arm spinner Monty Panesar believes India's biggest shortcoming is their ineffectiveness to scalp 20 wickets in a Test match, a factor which could hinder them in the second contest against England in Birmingham. India fell flat in the series opener after falling short in their endeavours to defend a 371-run target at Headingley last week, despite enjoying the services of the world number one, Jasprit Bumrah. England gunned down their second-highest successful chase without breaking a sweat to race to a 1-0 lead. The beleaguered tourists lined up without their ace in the hole in the second contest, Panesar believes India would need to figure out a way to scythe 20 scalps to stand triumphant for the first time in Birmingham. "I think they will have to rest a little. Not everyone can win a Test match. I think India will have to think that we can win even without Bumrah. And they have never won at Edgbaston. So even if they win, it is a very historic thing," Panesar told ANI. "India will have to think that, forget the history, playing in a test match, 20 wickets is the biggest shortcoming of India.