

TRENDING  
NOW

‘SIDDARAMAIAH JI, PLEASE JOIN US’: GADKARI WROTE 2  
LETTERS TO KARNATAKA CM AHEAD OF INAUGURATION

**Diary Times Desk :** Ahead of the inauguration of infrastructure projects in Karnataka’s Shivamogga, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari wrote two letters to the chief minister urging him to join physically or through video. Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah said he was not consulted before finalising the Shivamogga National Highway projects’ dedication and foundation ceremony on July 14, despite his name being included.

Even after Gadkari’s office posted the letters, Siddaramaiah maintained that “neither I nor my office was consulted before your Ministry finalized the programme and publicly circulated the invitation with my name printed on it”.

What Nitin Gadkari’s office said

According to Gadkari’s office, the letters were sent on July 11 and July 12. He also posted them on social media platform X, highlighting the Centre’s commitment to cooperative federalism and coordination with state governments.

“In a major step towards boosting regional connectivity, the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony for multiple key infrastructure projects is being held today in Shivamogga, Karnataka. An official invitation was duly extended to the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri @siddaramaiahJi, on 11th July 2025, inviting him to preside over the programme. In light of any possible scheduling challenges.



INCOME  
TAX

INCOME TAX OFFICERS RAID OVER 200 PREMISES TO  
NAB SUSPECTS FACILITATING FAKE I-T REFUNDS



**Diary Times Desk :** The Income Tax department is conducting raids in over 200 premises across the country to nab those individuals who are suspected of facilitating fake tax deductions, official sources said.

“Raids are currently underway at more than 200 premises linked to people who allegedly helped taxpayers claim false deductions under various heads, including political donations, tuition fees, and medical expenses,” said a source, adding the quantum of fake refunds are to the tune of hundreds of crores.

Investigators allege that several intermediaries have been arranging bogus donations—sometimes routed through unregistered or dubious entities—to help taxpayers artificially lower their tax liability.

“It’s recently being seen that net tax collections growth of the central government is much lower than expected. Fake refunds are a major issue,” an Income Tax officer told Moneycontrol. Data released last week showed that centre’s net direct tax collections was down 1.3% on year as of July 10 in FY26, on account of higher refunds.

It has come to light that suspects have aided thousands of taxpayers in filing incorrect Income Tax returns, making bogus deduction claims under various heads such as Political donations u/s 80GGC, medical reimbursements u/s 80D, Tuition fees u/s 80C, HRA u/s 10(13A) and others, said sources.  
Refunds between April 1 – July 10 FY26 stood at Rs 1.01 lakh crore, up by 38% on year.

ABUSE OF FREE SPEECH CLOGS COURTS: SUPREME COURT IN WAZAHAT KHAN CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday flagged concern that the abuse of the freedom of speech and expression by citizens was leading to an increase in litigation and clogging the criminal justice system in India [Wazahat Khan vs. Union of India & Ors.]. A Bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and KV Viswanathan was hearing a plea by Wazahat Khan to club criminal cases filed against him in four States, over allegedly inflammatory and communal social media posts. Notably, a complaint by Khan had earlier led to the arrest of social media influencer Sharmistha Panoli (now out on interim bail), whom he had accused of making remarks against Muslims. The Court today criticised Khan for his own remarks, adding that it was important for all citizens to show reasonable restraint while exercising their rights to free speech.



"95% BODY DAMAGED": FATHER OF ODISHA STUDENT "CAN'T RECOGNISE DAUGHTER"

**Diary Times Desk :** The father of the 22-year-old student who set herself on fire in front of her college in Odisha's Balasore district has said his daughter is in a critical condition and has suffered burns so severe that he is unable to recognise her. "She is on life support. The doctor told me that 95 per cent of her body is damaged," the father told NDTV at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bhubaneswar, where his daughter is being treated. "I went to see her today. I cannot recognise my daughter." His daughter, a student of the integrated Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) programme at Fakir Mohan Autonomous College, attempted self-immolation in protest over inaction on her complaint of sexual harassment against her head of department. The accused, Samir Kumar Sahu, is under arrest. The student had filed a complaint on July 1 with the college's Internal Complaints Committee.

"LT GOVERNOR'S FAILURE TOOK US TO BRINK OF WAR": OMAR ABDULLAH ON PAHALGAM



**Diary Times Desk :** The gloves came off Monday morning after police manhandled Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to stop him from entering the Martyr's Graveyard in Srinagar to pay tribute to Kashmiri protesters killed by Maharaja Hari Singh's Dogra forces on July 13, 1931. Visibly furious, Mr Abdullah spoke to NDTV shortly after videos of police almost assaulting his ministerial colleagues and him made headlines, and repeatedly ripped into the ruling BJP, attacking the "idiots" behind a "foolish, short-sighted decision" and then demanding restoration of J&K's statehood. A furious Chief Minister pointed out that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the centre's rep in J&K, had taken 'full responsibility' for the intel failure leading to the attack. But Pahalgam, Mr Abdullah insisted, would not stand in the way of J&K becoming a state again, warning those who might oppose this, "We have plans if this promise is not fulfilled.

DEAD, SHIFTED, REGISTERED TWICE: 35 LAKH TO BE REMOVED FROM BIHAR VOTER LIST SO FAR, 11 DAYS TO GO

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 35 lakh names are set to be excluded from the list of electors in Bihar when the draft electoral rolls are published, as per details collected so far, the Election Commission (EC) has said. With 11 days of the exercise remaining, the commission said 88.18% of the 7.89 crore names on the earlier list have been covered in the enumeration, as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list ahead of the Bihar assembly elections due in October-November. The EC's move regarding the revision of the electoral list has seen intense criticism from the opposition, and has landed in the Supreme Court too. The assembly elections are scheduled to be held later this year. "Only 11.82 per cent of electors now remain to submit their filled EFs and many of them have sought time to submit their forms with documents in the coming days," the commission said. The poll body said the draft electoral roll will be published on August 1. Names for which no enumeration form has been submitted before July 25 will not appear in the draft roll, it said.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

15-07-2025

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.





## HIMACHAL PRADESH: ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES BANNED FOR TWO MONTHS FROM JULY 15, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON VIOLATION

**Diary Times Desk :** Adventure activities will be banned across the state from July 15 to September 15. Action will be taken by the Tourism Department on the operation of adventure activities during the ban. Adventure activities remain closed for two months every year during the rainy season. Tourists will have to wait for two months for paragliding, river rafting, water sports and other activities. However, adventure activities have already been stopped at some places due to the disaster. Now these activities have been completely stopped for two months. A notification has been issued by the department for this. A letter has also been written to the sub-divisional officers by the department in this regard, so that all areas can be monitored. If anyone conducts adventure activities during the ban, departmental action will be taken. This includes fining the violators and cancelling their license, as well as all types of material used in the activities can be confiscated. Now tourists will have to wait for two months for adventure activities in Bilaspur, Mandi, Kullu, Kangra, Chamba and other districts. District Tourism Officer Bilaspur Ritesh Patial said that adventure activities will be banned in the state from 15 July to 15 September. Departmental action will be taken in case of violation.



## SHIMLA NEWS: SIXTH CLASS STUDENT MOLESTED, CASE REGISTERED AGAINST TEACHER; INCIDENT OF A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN THE CITY

**Diary Times Desk :** A sensational case of molestation of a sixth class student studying in a government school in the capital by a teacher has come to light. The police have registered a case against the accused teacher under various sections of the POCSO Act and started investigating the matter. It is being told that the student, frightened by this incident, was not going to school for the last several days. On being asked, the student told her sister that the teacher teaching in her school molests her and that is why she is scared and is not going to school. After this, a complaint was lodged with the Mahila Samiti. The Mahila Samiti reached the school on Monday and protested against it and demanded strict action against the teacher. The police team reached the spot after getting information about the case and started investigating it. After completing the legal formalities, the police have registered a case against the accused teacher in this regard and started investigating the matter. SSP Shimla Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said that considering the sensitivity of the matter, a case has been registered against the accused teacher and investigation into the matter has been started.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: CLASH BETWEEN TOLL WORKERS AND TRUCK DRIVERS ON KALKA-SHIMLA NH, DISPUTE STARTED OVER SLIP

**Diary Times Desk :** There was a clash between toll workers and truck drivers on Tuesday night at the toll plaza on Kalka-Shimla NH. This dispute started over cutting the slip of the truck. After this, there was also a fight between both the parties. In this, the toll worker has also complained to the police. Police has started investigating the matter on the basis of complaint. According to police information, Amit Singh resident of village Shushialipur Post Office Baragaon District Varanasi has complained that Sonu Kumar, Mukesh and Amit Kumar were posted at Toll Plaza Sanwara. Meanwhile, late in the evening, a truck came on lane five of the toll plaza and a truck on lane 3. In this, the driver on lane 5 was not giving money to Sonu for cutting the slip and was arguing with Sonu, then the driver of the vehicle started hitting Sonu and the driver of the truck standing on lane 3 also came and started hitting Sonu. Meanwhile, when other toll employees started intervening, some other drivers also came.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE SANJEEV KHANNA WILL BE SPECIAL PROFESSOR IN HPNLU



**Diary Times Desk :** Former Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjeev Khanna will be a special professor of Himachal Pradesh National Law University. He has accepted the request to become a distinguished professor of the university. Justice Sanjeev Khanna has a long-term relationship with the university. He has previously served as its Chancellor. Vice Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU) Shimla Prof. (Dr.) Preeti Saxena had requested him for this. Which was accepted by the former Chief Justice Justice.

## HIMACHAL WEATHER: 98 PEOPLE DEAD SO FAR IN MONSOON SEASON, 192 ROADS BLOCKED IN THE STATE, CLOUDS WILL RAIN FOR THIS MANY DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** Rain continues in many parts of Himachal Pradesh. Due to landslides at various places, 192 roads remained blocked in the state till Monday evening. Apart from this, 65 electricity transformers and 745 water supply schemes are affected. Even after 13 days, 157 roads and 133 water supply schemes are stalled in the disaster-affected Mandi district. At the same time, 612 water supply schemes are affected in Dharamshala, Nurgpur and Dehra sub-divisions of Kangra district. At the same time, Mandi-Kullu National Highway was again blocked due to landslide near 4 mile. Due to repeated closure of the road, passengers and tourists going towards Kullu and Manali are facing a lot of trouble. In this monsoon season, 98 people have lost their lives since June 20. 178 people have been injured. 34 people are still missing. 41 people have died in road accidents.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU MET UNION FINANCE MINISTER AND CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER, KNOW WHAT WAS DISCUSSED

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the heavy losses caused by natural disaster in Himachal, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Monday and appealed for special help. He urged to increase the loan limit of the state. The CM said that the state has suffered a loss of 1,000 crores due to recent heavy rains. He raised the demand for assistance from the central government and also discussed in detail various pending matters of the state. On the other hand, the Chief Minister met Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and discussed strengthening air connectivity in Himachal Pradesh. CM Sukhu will meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday and demand a special disaster package. After meeting Nirmala Sitharaman, CM Sukhu said in a conversation with the media that he has understood some issues. Sitharaman has told him that if the state government makes administrative reforms, then the central government will help as per its process. He apprised Sitharaman about the loss due to the disaster. Sitharaman told him that the central government is not giving additional loan to any state nor has it been given to any state till date.



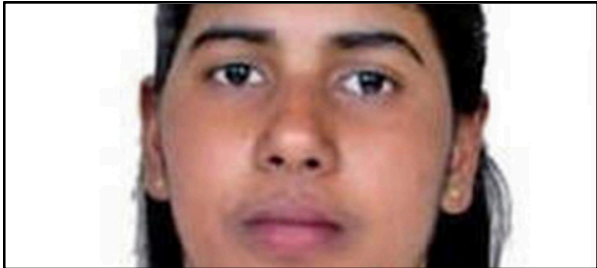
AIR INDIA CRASH INITIAL  
REPORT FOUND NO  
MECHANICAL OR  
MAINTENANCE ISSUES: CEO

**Diary Times Desk :** A month after India witnessed one of its worst air crashes in decades, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson pointed out that the preliminary report on the AI171 crash found no mechanical or maintenance issue with the doomed aircraft or its engines. His remarks came in a letter to the airline's employees, disapproving of media speculations, rumours, and theories that emerged over the past few weeks, especially after the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) released its initial report a few days ago. "Instead of focusing on such interpretations, I suggest we note that the Preliminary Report found no mechanical or maintenance issues with the aircraft or engines, and that all mandatory maintenance tasks had been completed. There was no issue with the quality of fuel and no abnormality with the take-off roll," said Mr Wilson. He said the pilots had passed their mandatory pre-flight breathalyser and there were no observations regarding their medical status. The June 12 crash killed 241 passengers and crew members on board the London-bound aircraft, while 30 others died in the crash impact on the ground. The AAIB report.

'WILLING TO WORK WITH  
INDIA': CHINA FOREIGN  
MINISTER AT SCO MEET IN  
BEIJING; ECHOES  
JAISHANKAR'S POINTS

**Diary Times Desk :** China is willing to work with India to handle conflicts and differences properly, the country's foreign minister Wang Yi reportedly said in a conversation with India's S Jaishankar in Beijing on Monday during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Wang Yi was speaking as Jaishankar also stressed at the meeting that "differences should not become disputes, nor should competition ever become conflict". The Chinese minister expressed his country's willingness to "safeguard the multilateral trading system" and thus ensure "stability of the global production and supply chain with India". Besides, of course, the last few years' hostilities between India and China, Wang Yi's comments come also in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff policies for his 'America First' approach. Wang Yi said of India and China that both sides should "trust rather than suspect each other; cooperate rather than compete with each other", news agency Reuters.

"UNFORTUNATE, BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO  
WHAT WE CAN DO": CENTRE ON NURSE  
EXECUTION CASE



**Diary Times Desk :** India can't do much more to stop the execution of Nimisha Priya - the Kerala nurse sentenced to death by Yemen for killing a man harassing her - the Supreme Court was told Monday. "It is unfortunate... there is a point till which we can go. We have reached it," Attorney General R Venkataramani said. The counsel for the 'Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council' seemed at a loss too; they told Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta this afternoon, "The only way is if the family (of the Yemeni man) agrees to accept the 'blood money' (i.e., financial compensation)." The Yemeni man's family has been offered \$1 million, or Rs 8.5 crore, but this has not been accepted so far. The Attorney General said the family had refused the money "as it is a question of honour". Advocate Subhash Chandran KR, appearing for the petitioner, told NDTV the diplomatic hurdles gacing the government include the fact Ms Priya is being held at a place controlled by the rebel Houthi group.

INDIA'S SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA,  
AXIOM-4 CREW BEGIN JOURNEY  
BACK TO EARTH: WHEN, WHERE  
THEY'LL LAND

**Diary Times Desk :** Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and the three other crew members of the Axiom-4 space mission started their journey back to Earth on Monday, around 4.50 pm IST, after 18 days aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The Dragon spacecraft's undocking from the ISS was scheduled for anytime after 4.15 pm. Some steps in the process were delayed, NASA said, but the process saw no glitches. The spacecraft will bring back, along with the Ax-4 crew, over 550 pounds (250 kg) of cargo, including equipment and samples of dozens of experiments, the US space agency added. As per the schedule, it is to make a splashdown off the coast of California on Tuesday, July 15, around 3 pm IST. "The flight is likely to last around 22-and-a-half hours," the NASA livecast commentator said. With Shubhanshu Shukla as pilot, the Axiom-4 mission began on June 25 when the Dragon spacecraft of Elon Musk-owned SpaceX left Earth just after noon.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS ORISSA  
HIGH COURT'S POWER TO SUO MOTU  
DESIGNATE SENIOR ADVOCATE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the Orissa high court's full court decision to confer senior designation to five lawyers in 2021, reiterating that the procedure laid down by the top court for senior designations does not take away the high court's suo motu power to designate senior advocates based on fairness, transparency and objectivity. A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan further said that nobody can claim senior designation as a matter of right based on seniority, experience or popularity as this discretion is conferred upon the high court or the Supreme Court, which should be satisfied that the advocate possesses outstanding ability, integrity, and professional standing. The top court had the occasion to consider the matter on a petition filed by the Orissa high court which appealed against its own decision passed on the judicial side on May 10, 2021, striking down the rule which permitted the full court (comprising all judges of the high court) to suo motu recommend a lawyer for designation.

"IF THE MARRIAGE...": TOP COURT ALLOWS SPOUSE'S RECORDED CALLS AS  
EVIDENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** The secretly recorded telephonic conversation of a spouse is admissible evidence in a matrimonial dispute case, the Supreme Court ruled today. The top court set aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court ruling that secretly recording a spouse's telephone conversation amounted to a breach of privacy and cannot be admitted as evidence in a family court. Dictating the order, Justice BV Nagarathna said some arguments have contended that allowing such conversations as evidence would jeopardise domestic harmony and matrimonial relationships and encourage snooping on spouses. "We don't think such an argument is tenable. If the marriage has reached a stage where spouses are actively snooping on each other, that is in itself a symptom of a broken relationship.





**TRUMP THREATENS TARIFFS ON RUSSIA  
IN ULTIMATUM TO PUTIN OVER UKRAINE  
PEACE DEAL**

**Diary Times Desk :** Donald Trump has threatened Russia with "very severe tariffs" should it fail to reach a cease-fire deal with Ukraine within 50 days, signaling a hardened U.S. stance as the war enters a volatile new phase. "We're going to be doing secondary tariffs if we don't have a deal in 50 days," the U.S. President said during a meeting at the White House with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte. "It's very simple, and they'll be at 100%." The proposed measures would target any country continuing to do business with Russia, effectively pressuring global partners to isolate Moscow economically. Trump also confirmed that the United States would send Patriot missile systems to Ukraine as part of a broader weapons package coordinated through NATO. "We're going to have some [Patriots] come very soon, within days," he said. "A couple of the countries that have patriots are going to swap over." The Patriot system is a highly effective air-defense platform that includes a radar station to detect incoming threats, a command center to coordinate the response.

**AUSTRALIA HOSTS LARGEST-EVER  
MILITARY WAR GAMES**

**Diary Times Desk :** Exercise Talisman Sabre, the largest ever war drills in Australia, is under way and expected to attract the attention of Chinese spy ships. Talisman Sabre began in 2005 as a biennial joint exercise between the United States and Australia. This year, more than 35,000 military personnel from 19 nations, including Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, and the United Kingdom, will take part over three weeks. Australia's Department of Defence said on Sunday. Malaysia and Vietnam are also attending as observers. The exercise will also take place in Papua New Guinea, Australia's nearest neighbour. It is the first time Talisman Sabre activities have been held outside Australia. Chinese surveillance ships have monitored naval exercises off the Australian coast during the last four Talisman Sabre exercises and were expected to surveil the current exercise, Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy said.

**INDIA'S EXPORTS STILL HAVE ROOM TO GROW EVEN IF TRUMP WALKS THE TALK  
FOR 10% ADDITIONAL TARIFF**

**Diary Times Desk :** Even as India and the United States move closer to concluding a long-anticipated trade agreement, a new report by SBI Research suggests that India has significant room to grow its exports, regardless of whether the deal delivers all it promises. "We believe that even if the India-US deal doesn't come up as desired and 10% additional tariffs are imposed on India, there are various avenues for India to diversify its exports," the report notes. The note comes as US President Donald Trump signaled that BRICS nations, including India, will "pretty soon" face a 10% tariff under his renewed push for reciprocal trade. Titled "Tariff Truce on the Horizon: India, USA Set to Seal the Trade Deal", the report highlights that recent tariff hikes by the US on 23 countries have reshaped global trade dynamics. India, relatively less affected by the new tariff regime, is now well-positioned to capture market share in key sectors such as chemicals, apparel, agricultural goods, and processed foods, both in the US and in tariff-impacted Asian markets.

**EUROPEAN UNION TO SEEK DEAL WITH U.S.  
AS TARIFF DEADLINE LOOMS; PREPARES  
COUNTERMEASURES: EU OFFICIAL MAROS  
SEFCOVIC**

**Diary Times Desk :** "The European Union will try to reach a good trade deal with the United States, while preparing possible countermeasures if the talks fail," EU trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic said on Monday (July 14, 2025). "We continue to engage with the U.S. administration and prioritise a negotiated solution by the new deadline of August 1. I cannot imagine walking away without any effort," Mr. Sefcovic said before a meeting with EU Trade Ministers in Brussels. "But the EU would have to prepare for all outcomes," he said, "including, if necessary, well considered, proportionate countermeasures to restore the balance." U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday (July 12, 2025) he would impose 30% tariffs on most EU imports from August 1, though there was still time to hammer out an agreement to secure lower tariffs.

**FOUR KILLED IN SMALL PLANE CRASH AT  
LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** An aircraft has crashed at the London Southend Airport, police have confirmed. The Beechcraft B200 aircraft crashed at around 4 p.m. on Sunday, soon after taking off from Southend airport, and was seen in flames with dark smoke billowing from it, according to photos circulating on social media, BBC reported. The East of England Ambulance Service said four crews were at the scene including a rapid response vehicle, a hazardous area response vehicle and a senior paramedic. David Burton-Sampson, the Labour MP for Southend West and Leigh, posted on X: "I am aware of an incident at Southend airport. Please keep away and allow the emergency services to do their work. My thoughts are with everyone involved." Essex police said it was at the scene of a "serious incident", BBC reported. A statement from the Essex Police said: "We were alerted shortly before 4 p.m. to reports of a collision involving one 12-metre plane. We are working with all emergency services at the scene now and that work will be ongoing for several hours."

**IRAN TELLS PAKISTAN IT WON'T  
HALT URANIUM ENRICHMENT  
AMID TALKS OF NUCLEAR DEAL  
WITH US**

**Diary Times Desk :** Iran on Monday said it will not stop enriching uranium amid talks of a renewed nuclear deal with the United States, calling it one of its "red lines." The statement was made by Ali Akbar Velayati, an adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, during a meeting with Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, according to a report by Iran International. "Uranium enrichment is one of our red lines," Velayati said. "If negotiations are to be contingent on halting enrichment, they will definitely not take place." Naqvi arrived in Tehran on Sunday to participate in trilateral talks with Iranian and Iraqi officials ahead of the annual Arbaceen pilgrimage. Further details of his meeting with Velayati have not yet been released. Velayati's comments come just days after reports emerged that Russian President Vladimir Putin had encouraged Iran to accept a "zero-enrichment" clause as part of any renewed nuclear agreement with the United States. According to a report by Axios, which cited European and Israeli officials, Moscow proposed that Iran consider shifting its enrichment activities outside the country under strict international supervision. Putin reportedly conveyed this suggestion to both US President Donald Trump and Iranian representatives during meetings held on Saturday.

**MORE THAN 30 KILLED IN  
SECTARIAN CLASHES IN  
SYRIA'S SWEIDA, INTERIOR  
MINISTRY SAYS**

**Diary Times Desk :** More than 30 people were killed and 100 injured in armed clashes in Syria's predominantly Druze city of Sweida, the Syrian interior ministry said early on Monday, in the latest bout of sectarian clashes. The violence erupted after a wave of kidnappings, including the abduction of a Druze merchant on Friday on the highway linking Damascus to Sweida, witnesses said. This is the first time sectarian fighting has erupted inside the city of Sweida itself, the provincial capital of the mostly Druze province. Last April saw clashes between Sunni fighters and armed Druze residents of Jaramana, southeast of Damascus, which later spread to another district near the provincial capital. "This cycle of violence has exploded in a terrifying way and if it doesn't end we are heading toward a bloodbath," said Rayan Marouf, a Druze researcher based in Sweida who runs the Suwayda24 website.



## ANTI-SACRILEGE BILL INTRODUCED IN PUNJAB ASSEMBLY; LIFE TERM, RS 10 LAKH FINE PROPOSED

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday introduced the Punjab Prevention of Offences against Holy Scripture(s) Bill, 2025, which proposes punishment ranging from a minimum of 10 years to life imprisonment for acts of sacrilege. Though the Bill was tabled in the Vidhan Sabha in the afternoon, discussion on it has been deferred till Tuesday morning. Following the debate, the Bill is expected to be referred to a Select Committee for discussions with all stakeholders. The holy scriptures referred to in the Act include the Guru Granth Sahib or its extracts—such as Pothis and Gutka Sahib—as well as the Bhagavad Gita, Quran, and Bible. Individuals convicted under the proposed law will also be liable to pay a fine of Rs 5 lakh, which may be extended to Rs 10 lakh. Offences under this law will be cognizable, non-compoundable, and will be tried by a Sessions Court. Only police officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and above will be authorised to investigate such cases.



## FACING BACKLASH, PUNJAB'S GOVT TWEAKS LAND POOLING POLICY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab Government has tweaked its land pooling policy, allowing small landholders to club their land to reach the minimum threshold required to get both commercial and residential plots under the initiative. The development is being seen in political quarters as an attempt to woo farmers, who had been apprehensive of the initiative, with several village panchayats in Mohali, Jalandhar and Ludhiana urging Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to roll back the policy. The move has come weeks after the government discontinued the provision of offering commercial sites to owners contributing less than 3 kanals of land, a benefit that was provided by the previous Congress government. According to an order issued recently, the government has allowed a maximum of eight owners to club their land to get both residential and commercial sites by breaching the minimum threshold. The owners may be members of a family or from outside it. Explaining the change in the policy, a government functionary said, "Now, eight persons owing 1 kanal each can club their land to make it an acre." The new policy was unveiled in May to boost urban development, with the government claiming that it would benefit farmers and landowners who would get plots of higher value than the cost of actual land.

## REALTOR BAJWA'S WHEREABOUTS UNDER LENS AS HC SEEKS CCTV FOOTAGE, JAIL RECORDS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court today directed Punjab to produce CCTV footage of the Ropar Civil Hospital spanning an entire month from June 14 to July 13 amid allegations that Jarnail Singh Bajwa – a prominent real estate developer associated with multiple residential projects – was "wandering free" and was operating from a hotel and meeting clients. The Bench was hearing a protection plea filed on the ground that the petitioner was "not only pursuing his own case, but also been assisting other complainants in legal proceedings against Bajwa. The directions came as Justice Sandeep Moudgil's Bench was told by the petitioner that Bajwa purportedly hospitalised for treatment since March was allegedly using mobiles and was issuing cheques. At the onset, the petitioner placed before the Bench the details of the mobile numbers allegedly used by Bajwa while in jail. He also provided information regarding several cheques issued by him as "part of compromise/settlements with certain complainants in various cases", adding these were subsequently dishonoured. "Apart from that, three photographs have also been produced claiming the same to be of June 14, with the assertion that the respondent is 'wandering free' and not detained in Ropar district jail.

## PUNJAB LOP PARTAP SINGH BAJWA SEEKS JUDICIAL PANEL TO PROBE RISE IN GANGSTER ACTIVITY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, on Sunday sought the constitution of a judicial commission to investigate the alleged rise in gangster activity after AAP came to power in Punjab in 2022. Interacting with mediapersons here, he said the commission should be headed by a High Court judge to investigate as to how gangsters were operating from jails. Bajwa, a senior Congress leader, made the demand after paying tributes to slain Abohar businessman Sanjay Verma at a prayer meeting. Meanwhile, Bajwa wrote to Punjab Assembly Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan, seeking debates on the state's law and order and the land pooling policy during the remaining two days of the special House session. In his letter, Bajwa reminded the Speaker that the extension of the session by two days followed a verbal assurance to the Congress that one day each would be allocated to deliberate on deteriorating law and order and the land pooling policy.



## SUPREME COURT QUASHES APPOINTMENT OF 1,158 ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, LIBRARIANS IN PUNJAB

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday quashed the appointment of 1,158 assistant professors and librarians in Government Degree Colleges in Punjab, holding there's "total arbitrariness in their selection that was done in violation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) norms. "In the case at hand, the state did not adhere to UGC regulations and took the posts out of the purview of the Commission without following the procedure prescribed under the law. And this was done suddenly without any valid reason and thus, it would amount to arbitrariness and cannot be sustained in the eyes of law," a Bench led by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and K Vinod Chandran said. The Bench – which also included Justice K Vinod Chandran -- set aside the September 23, 2024 verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which had upheld these appointments. Allowing the appeal filed by Mandeep Singh and others, the top court directed the Punjab government to initiate the recruitment process afresh as per the 2018 UGC regulations now in force in the state.

## AMID RISING UNDERTRIAL NUMBERS, HC RAPS PUNJAB POLICE AGAIN FOR FAILURE TO DEPOSE IN DRUG CASES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted that the repeated absence of police witnesses from testifying in drug and other criminal trials – despite coercive measures ordered by the court – reflects "not just a casual approach but blatant disregard for judicial authority." Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul also recorded its "strong disapproval of the dereliction shown by the prosecution witnesses" before directed the State Director-General of Police to "take appropriate measures to ensure that police officers summoned as prosecution witnesses in criminal trials appear without fail." The court's assertion comes at a time when the prolonged detention of undertrial prisoners and the resulting overcrowding in Punjab jails remains a pressing concern, even as the State continues to grapple with the drug menace. Summoned as prosecution witnesses in NDPS and other trials, the police officials are simply not showing up leading to prolonged incarceration of undertrials and trampling of constitutional rights.



AUNT TO RAISE 10-MONTH-  
OLD INFANT ORPHANED BY  
MANDI CLOUDBURST

**Diary Times Desk :** Ten-month-old Neetika, who lost her parents in the flash floods triggered by the recent cloudburst in Mandi district, will now be raised by her father's younger sister. The infant was orphaned after a cloudburst struck Talwara village of Parwara panchayat in Mandi district on the intervening night of June 30 and July 1. Her father Ramesh (31) died, while her mother Radha Devi (24) and grandmother Purnu Devi (59) are still missing. On the tragic night, Ramesh had stepped out to divert the flow of water entering the house, while his wife and mother followed to help. They never returned. Their neighbour Prem Singh found the infant crying alone in the house and informed Balwant, a cousin of Ramesh who worked as a personal security officer for former chief minister and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur. After the 'Shudi' ceremony was performed on the 13th day of the family's death, the relatives decided that Neetika will be raised by her aunt Kirna Devi, who already has a son and lives in Shikauri village.

TOURIST DIES IN  
PARAGLIDING CRASH  
NEAR DHARAMSALA

**Diary Times Desk :** A tourist who sustained serious injuries after his paraglider crashed near Kangra district's Dharamsala died in hospital on Monday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Satish (27) from Gujarat. He took off from Indru Nag paragliding site, located in the suburbs of the city, on Sunday in a tandem flight with paraglider pilot Suraj, but their paraglider crashed after a short distance. A video of the crash is circulating on the internet. Satish suffered serious injuries in this accident and was brought to Zonal Hospital Dharamsala and later referred to Tanda Medical College, where he died on Monday, police said. Suraj is still under treatment. The family members of the deceased have been informed about the incident, and the body will be handed over to them after post-mortem, said Kangra Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Hitesh Lakhnarpal. The local station house officer (SHO) has been directed to investigate the case, with the tourism department officials.

VERY HEAVY RAINFALL LIKELY IN HIMACHAL ON TUESDAY, YELLOW ALERT  
TILL JULY 20

**Diary Times Desk :** Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur in isolated areas of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday as the state's Meteorological Department has issued an orange weather warning for Shimla, Solan and Sirmour districts and a yellow weather warning for Kangra, Kullu and Mandi districts. Yellow weather warning has also been issued for the state till July 20. This spell of heavy rain is very likely to trigger landslides and mudslides as well as waterlogging in many areas of the state where an orange weather warning has been issued. People have been advised to avoid going to vulnerable areas and areas that face the waterlogging problems frequently. People have also been advised to avoid going near water bodies, avoid trekking and to limit outdoor activities. The Meteorological Department has mentioned that no major changes will be recorded in minimum and maximum temperatures as they are most likely to remain normal during the next few days. Meanwhile, monsoon activity was normal over the state with heavy rainfall in isolated areas and light to moderate rainfall at many places during the past 24 hours.



IN SERAJ, VILLAGERS PERFORM LAST  
RITES OF MISSING LOVED ONES

**Diary Times Desk :** Thirteen days after a natural disaster struck the Seraj Valley in Mandi district, families of those missing have begun to reconcile with the harsh reality of losing their loved ones. On Saturday, in heart-wrenching ceremonies filled with tears and prayers, family members performed the last rites of those whose bodies remained untraceable. The tragedy unfolded when the Daizy and Bakhli rivulets unleashed massive destruction across multiple villages, including Daizy, Pakhrair, Thunag market, Pandav Sheela, Talwara, Ropa and Lambathach. In the aftermath, 11 people from Daizy and Pakhrair, four from Thunag market, two each from Pandav Sheela and Talwara and two from Ropa and Lambathach went missing. In line with Hindu customs, families conducted pind daan, shraddh, havan, pooja and bhoj (communal meals) for the peace of departed souls. In Payala village, rituals were held for Gokul Chand, Dolma Devi, Bhuvaneshwari Devi, Urvashi and Suryansh from Daizy Pakhrair. Mukesh, who lost his wife, two children, and both parents in the calamity, sat silent throughout the ceremony — his once cheerful demeanor now overtaken by shock and sorrow. In Rakchui, last rites were performed for Balo Devi, while in Kater, prayers were offered for Kanta Devi and her three daughters.

HIMACHAL VILLAGE'S  
COMMUNITY-LED TOURISM  
MODEL A GAME-CHANGER

**Diary Times Desk :** Tucked away near the misty meadows of Khajjiar, popularly known as the "Mini Switzerland of India", lies a small village that's scripting a quiet transformation. Mystic Village, Himachal Pradesh's first Gaddi community-based tourism destination, is showing how responsible, rural tourism can breathe new life into local economies, empower women and preserve the fragile mountain heritage. Once just another sleepy hamlet near a busy tourist spot, Mystic Village is now drawing attention for all the right reasons. Through a unique collaboration between the Mystic Village Development Committee, NotOnMap, an organisation promoting responsible tourism and social impact initiative ACT, the village has become a beacon of community-driven, culturally rooted tourism. Now, the newest addition to the village attraction is — "Gaon ki Hatti" and "Mahila Kitchen". The hatti, or local store, offers tourists more than just souvenirs—it's a showcase of Chamba's rich traditions. Visitors can browse hand-knit woolens, embroidered caps, artisanal pickles like the famed Chamba Chukh.

OF 655 PHARMACEUTICAL UNITS, MERE 122 REGISTER FOR UPGRADE IN HIMACHAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Despite manufacturing every third drug in the domestic market, the state's pharmaceutical industry is battling a major crisis. Reason: Only 18 per cent units have registered for the revised Schedule M stipulation of the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) norms by May 11. The norm made mandatory by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in December 2023 had been conditionally extended for the small and medium manufacturers having turnover of Rs 250 crores or less, up to December end. Though the industry had sought extension to improve their infrastructure, training of personnel and arranging financial resources, they were required to submit their plan for upgrading their unit before the central licence approving authority by May 11 to convey their seriousness. Once upgraded, it will bring them on a par with the global World Health Organisation's manufacturing standards. The large manufacturers, having turnover of more than 250 crores have, however, implemented the norm by June 2024. Majority of the firms fall under the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) category.



ENGLAND TRIUMPH IN FINAL-DAY LORD’S THRILLER AS INDIA FALL SHORT DESPITE JADEJA HEROICS

**Diary Times Desk :** At the end of an undulating Test match that morphed into an intense battle of the wills, it was England who emerged victorious. India were 23 runs short of their target when, at 4.54pm local time, Mohammed Siraj repelled a bouncing delivery from Shoaib Bashir, only to see it trickle back onto the stumps and send a bail falling to the ground. It was a galling way for the tourists to go 2-1 down, while the hosts still resembled the survivors of a disaster movie. Both sides deserve credit for five dramatic days; the second of two back-to-back Tests that began in a heatwave and hit boiling point once a row about time-wasting blew up on the third evening.



WIMBLEDON 2025: SINNER’S WIMBLEDON PURGE AND ITS EFFECT ON HIS RIVALRY WITH ALCARAZ

**Diary Times Desk :** For all of Carlos Alcaraz’s brilliance, big-match temperament and high skill, it is Jannik Sinner who currently holds three of the four Grand Slam titles, and came within a whisker of the other at Roland-Garros last month. In a parallel universe, the World No. 1 would have held all four Slams at once, making him the first man since Rod Laver and Novak Djokovic to do so in the Open Era. Hindsight, of course, is 20/20, but this is just to show how good the Italian has been. Starting from his first Major triumph at the 2024 Australian Open he has by far been the best player, with a stupendous win-loss record of 99-9. And the 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory over two-time defending champion Alcaraz in Sunday’s Wimbledon final, that snapped a run of five straight defeats to the Spaniard including the five-set reverse at French Open from being three championship points up, is surely the acme.

AIDEN MARKRAM, HAYLEY MATTHEWS NAMED ICC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

**Diary Times Desk :** South Africa batter Aiden Markram and West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews were announced as the winners of the ICC Men’s and Women’s Player of the Month awards respectively for June 2025. Markram won the men’s award ahead of teammate Kagiso Rabada and Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka for his Player of the Match effort in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final against Australia at Lord’s. The 30-year-old opener struck a solid 136 off 207 balls and featured in a 147-run third-wicket stand with captain Temba Bavuma in a successful chase of 282. The five-wicket victory helped South Africa win an ICC title for the first time in 27 years. Markram also picked up a wicket each in both innings. Matthews, who has previously won the awards in November 2021, October 2023 and April 2024, edged South Africa’s Tazmin Brits and compatriot Afy Fletcher to become only the second player to win the award four times after Australia all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner.

SAINA NEHWAL ANNOUNCES SEPARATION FROM PARUPALLI KASHYAP AFTER 7 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** Star badminton player Saina Nehwal announced her decision to separate from long-time partner Parupalli Kashyap on Sunday, July 13. Saina took to Instagram to announce her decision via a brief statement. Saina and Parupalli are set to separate after nearly 7 years of marriage. Saina and Parupalli grew up together through the ranks of Indian badminton at the Pullela Gopichand academy in Hyderabad. While Saina became a global icon with her Olympic bronze and World No. 1 ranking, Kashyap carved his own legacy with a Commonwealth Games gold and consistent performances on the international stage. "Life takes us in different directions sometimes. After much thought and consideration, Kashyap Parupalli and I have decided to part ways. We're choosing peace, growth, and healing for ourselves and each other. I'm grateful for the memories and wish nothing but the best moving forward. Thank you for understanding and respecting our privacy during this time," Saina Nehwal announced a shock statement late on Sunday night. Kashyap, on the other hand, was yet to respond to the statement or announce the separation. Saina and Parupalli tied the knot in 2018 after having been in a relationship for over a decade.

NEERAJ CHOPRA IMPRESSED BY ROGER FEDERER: "SO GROUNDED AFTER WINNING SO MUCH"

**Diary Times Desk :** Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra attended the finals at Wimbledon 2025 on Sunday. Chopra felt amazed by watching the passion among everyone for tennis. He also praised former Swiss tennis player Roger Federer, picking him as his favourite tennis player and felt he is a very solid athlete. In a video posted on Instagram by Star Sports, Neeraj Chopra said, "I am feeling very good, I'm amazed by the passion among everyone for tennis. I feel Roger Federer is a very solid athlete, and the way he has performed for Switzerland, especially at Wimbledon. As a human being, I have met him in person, the way he is, so grounded after winning so much is truly inspiring." In 2022, Federer announced he was retiring from professional tennis at age 41 after winning 20 Grand Slam titles over two decades. Ever since turning pro in 1998, Federer went on to clinch some of the most memorable wins in the history of the sport and won numerous titles. His 24-year run at the highest level of the sport showcases the consistency and longevity he had. Federer secured the number one position in the ATP Rankings numerous times, ending as the year-end top-spot player.

VARUN AARON NAMED SRH BOWLING COACH

**Diary Times Desk :** Former India fast-bowler Varun Aaron has been named as the new bowling coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad, the franchise announced in a social media post on Monday (July 14). The 35-year-old, from Jharkhand, had retired from representative cricket earlier this year. Aaron, who was one of the few Indian fast bowlers in the 2010s with fiery pace, has 18 caps (nine in Tests and nine in ODIs) and 29 wickets to his name at the international stage. He also played the Indian Premier League for nine seasons, from 2011 to 2022, and represented five franchises across this time while claiming 44 wickets at an economy of 8.93. Aaron has recently been in the commentary box and will link up with Sunrisers Hyderabad for his first major gig as a coach. Sunrisers, having finished as runners-up in 2024, had a poor 2025 season with a sixth-place finish. Despite posting the highest score of the season - 286 for 6 against Rajasthan Royals - in their tournament opener, the team struggled with the ball, being unable to control the run-scoring across the IPL 2025 season.

SIRAJ FINED FOR BEN DUCKETT SEND-OFF AT LORD’S

**Diary Times Desk :** India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj has been fined 15 percent of his match fee and handed one demerit point for sending off Ben Duckett on the fourth day of the third Test against England at Lord’s. It amounted to a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct. The incident occurred in the sixth over of England’s second innings on Sunday, when Siraj celebrated the dismissal of the opener with what the ICC described as "excessive celebration at close proximity to the dismissed batter," a violation under Article 2.5 of the ICC Code, which may "provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal." This was Siraj’s second demerit point in a 24-month period, taking his tally to two. His previous demerit point came during the Adelaide Test against Australia on December 7, 2024. Players who accumulate four or more demerit points within a 24-month period are subject to suspension. Siraj admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Richie Richardson, eliminating the need for a formal hearing. The charge was levelled by on-field umpires Paul Reiffel and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, third umpire Ahsan Raza and fourth umpire Graham Lloyd.