

TRENDING  
NOW

SIKKIM DECLARES **YAKTEN** AS INDIA'S FIRST DIGITAL NOMAD  
VILLAGE

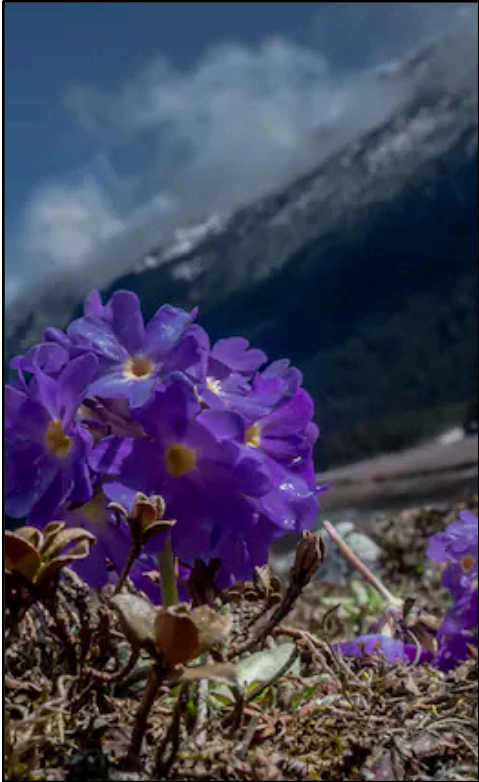
**Diary Times Desk :** A remote village in Sikkim's Pakyong district was officially declared India's first 'Digital Nomad Village' on Monday, under the state government's 'Nomad Sikkim' initiative.

Yakten village, situated in the foothills of Eastern Himalayas and known for its serene landscapes, has been developed in a way that it can host people who want to work remotely while being surrounded by nature, an official said, adding that the village has a good internet connection as well as nice surroundings.

Wi-Fi connectivity across the village, and inverters ensuring uninterrupted power supply – Yakten is a collaboration between the district administration and NGO Sarvahitey under the 'Nomad Sikkim' initiative.

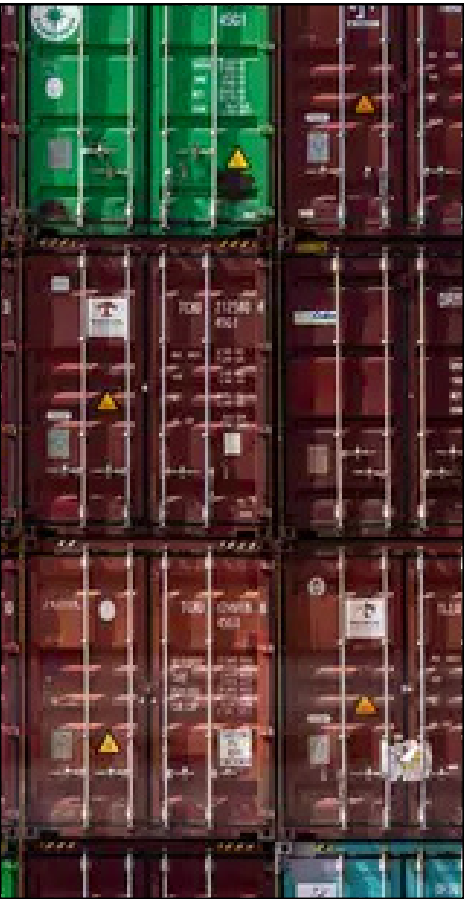
"We have ensured that there is a primary internet as well as a backup internet since the terrain is hilly. Due to rains and landslides, the optical fibres get cut, so our internet link also has generators. I think this will be a game changer and the model will be taken up across the northeast," Prem Prakash, CEO, Nomad Sikkim, said.

Once isolated due to a lack of infrastructure, Yakten has undergone a major transformation to cater to the needs of modern remote workers, District Collector, Pakyong, Agawane Rohan Ramesh said, adding that it has high-speed Wi-Fi with reliable backup, uninterrupted power supply, and eight work-friendly homestays.



INDIA-US  
INITIAL DEAL

US ASKS INDIA TO CUT DUTY ON **AGRI IMPORTS** BY  
**35%**



**Diary Times Desk :** The US asked New Delhi to slash average applied tariffs on American agriculture imports to 5% from the existing level of about 40%, with this likely to be one of the key issues of the four-day long trade deliberations set to start in Washington on Monday, people in the know said.

The US wants parity in the average applied tariff for a mutually beneficial and long-lasting bilateral trade relationship, the people added, requesting anonymity . But accepting the US demand is difficult for New Delhi because Indian farmers, operating at the subsistence level, cannot withstand an unequal competition with American commercial farms, they said.

"While a bilateral trade deal should be based on reciprocity, it must also be based on the principle of equity for mutual gains and endurance," one person said. Washington officially maintains that India's average applied tariff rate on agricultural products is as high as 39% while its average applied rate on such items is only 5%.

Agriculture remains one of the most crucial sticking points between the India-US initial deal, which was expected to be concluded before the July 9 deadline, the initial date to trigger country-specific 16% punitive levy on Indian goods in addition to a 10% baseline tariff already imposed on several countries, including India from April 5. The July 9 deadline is, however, shifted to August 1 with the Trump administration specifying country-specific duties to over two-dozen countries (ranging from 25% to 50%), but sparing India so far.

"Both teams are working hard to conclude a preliminary deal as soon as possible and the current Washington round could hopefully achieve some breakthrough,".

## NO LABELS ON SAMOSA OR JALEBI: HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES CLARIFICATION ON HEALTHY EATING ADVISORY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Union Health Ministry has clarified that its recent advisory urging workplaces to display Oil and Sugar Boards is aimed at promoting healthier eating habits and greater public awareness about hidden fats and excess sugar in foods. The Ministry has dismissed recent media reports claiming that it has mandated Warning Labels on food items like samosa, jalebi and laddoo, calling such reports misleading and incorrect.

The advisory recommends that workplaces such as office lobbies, canteens, cafeterias and meeting rooms install boards that highlight the health risks associated with excessive consumption of oil and sugar. According to the Ministry, these boards act as behavioural nudges to encourage individuals to make healthier dietary choices in daily life, especially as the country sees a sharp rise in obesity and related lifestyle diseases.



## DELIBERATE OR MECHANICAL FLAW? PILOTS VS PILOT OVER AIR INDIA CRASH REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's preliminary report on its probe into the Air India crash on June 12, in which 260 people were killed, has stirred speculations and debates on two fronts. Firstly, whether there was a deliberate attempt made by the pilot to turn off the fuel switches from 'RUN' to 'CUTOFF' position during takeoff and secondly, the Wall Street Journal article, which came 20 hours and 8 minutes before the AAIB report was officially released, that focused on "Pilots' Actions and Plane's Fuel Switches".

Earlier on NDTV, Captain Mohan Ranganathan, one of India's leading aviation experts and an ex-instructor of Boeing 737, made a stunning claim that the crash of AI171 may have been the result of deliberate human action because the fuel switches can only be moved "manually". However, former pilots and aviation experts have strongly opposed this view.

## DELHI WITNESSES CLEANEST AIR IN 2 YEARS, LIGHT TO MODERATE RAIN TO CONTINUE



**Diary Times Desk :** Delhi experienced its cleanest air in almost two years on Tuesday, as persistent rain and favourable wind conditions pushed the city's air quality into the 'good' category for several hours.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) settled at 51 at 4 PM -- just into the 'satisfactory' range.

Earlier in the day, the city's AQI hovered between 48 and 50, consistently registering in the 'good' category until mid-afternoon. This marked the cleanest air Delhi has seen since September 10, 2023, when the AQI was recorded at 45.

Delhi typically records its best air quality during the monsoon season, usually between July and September.

Last year, the lowest AQI was 52 in mid-September, and only one 'good air' day was logged in all of 2023. In contrast, 2020 -- a year impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns -- saw five such days.

## 'INFLAMMATORY, IMMATURE': SUPREME COURT SLAMS CARTOONIST FOR PM MODI-RSS SKETCH

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court rebuked Indore-based cartoonist Hemant Malviya for an 'inflammatory' cartoon of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, which is the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's ideological mentor, with a link to Lord Shiva in the comments.

A bench headed by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia expressed dismay over the 50-year-old cartoonist's "immaturity" and called his creation an "abuse of freedom of speech and expression". In a sharp observation Monday, the court asked for the cartoon to be deleted.

The court then posted the matter - Malviya's anticipatory bail plea - for further hearing tomorrow, refusing, as it did, a plea for interim protection against arrest. The court told Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Malviya, nothing would happen in a 24-hour period.



### YOUR HOROSCOPE

16-07-2025

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.





## HIMACHAL: MP KANGANA SAID- AFTER WINNING THE DIFFICULT SEAT OF MANDI, I THOUGHT I WOULD BECOME A MINISTER, THE ENTIRE SALARY GETS SPENT

**Diary Times Desk :** MP of Mandi parliamentary constituency and Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut is once again in the news for one of her old interviews. In this interview, she has openly talked about her role in politics, expectations from the post of minister and the challenges she is facing as an MP.

In a recent interview to a news channel, she said that as per my profile and the profession I come from, I am a film producer, director and writer. I have the country's fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri. I had won a very difficult seat. Looking at my contribution, I felt that I would become a minister and get some department. Many ministers in the cabinet are first-timers.

Kangana said that she is not enjoying working as an MP. While giving the ticket, BJP had said that I have to work for 60 to 70 days. After that keep doing your work. Kangana described being honest and remaining in politics as an expensive hobby and said that her entire salary is spent in going among the public in her parliamentary constituency.



## HIMACHAL NEWS: MINISTER ANIRUDDH SAID- NEW PANCHAYATS WILL NOT BE FORMED IN HIMACHAL, DUE TO THIS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MOVE FORWARD

**Diary Times Desk :** Panchayati Raj Minister Aniruddh Singh has clarified that new panchayats will not be formed in the state at present. He said that the government had received proposals for the formation of 750 new panchayats, but in view of the current financial condition of the state, it is not possible to move forward on it.

The minister said that an annual expenditure of Rs 10 lakh is incurred on a panchayat, while an amount of up to Rs 1.14 crore is spent on the construction of a panchayat building. In such a situation, keeping in mind the tenure of Panchayati Raj representatives ending in December, the government has started preparations for the election process. He said that in the panchayats which do not have buildings, the work of building construction is in progress and there is no shortage of funds for development works.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: CM SUKHU MET UNION HOME MINISTER, DEMANDED TO AMEND RELIEF PARAMETERS TO 30 PERCENT



**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday and informed about the damage caused by the natural disaster in the state. He said that so far heavy rains and landslides in the state have caused a loss of about one thousand crore rupees while the monsoon has just started. Many people have lost their lives due to natural disaster and roads, bridges, buildings, drinking water and irrigation schemes and power supply projects have suffered heavy damage. The Chief Minister urged the Central Government for generous assistance for relief and rehabilitation work. He said that since the year 2023.

## MANDI CLOUDBURST: DEATH CERTIFICATES OF MISSING PEOPLE WILL BE ISSUED, NDRF REMOVED FROM SEARCH OPERATION; KNOW

**Diary Times Desk :** The death registration certificates of the missing people in the natural disaster that occurred in Seraj area on June 30 will be issued as per the notification issued in 2024. According to this notification, death registration papers will be issued for those who go missing in a natural disaster. Disaster incident commander Surendra Mohan said that death certificates can be issued as per the guidelines for registration of deaths due to cloudburst and floods. Seven people were killed in the disaster that occurred in Seraj on June 30, while 21 people went missing. To search for the missing people, NDRF and SDRF have launched an extensive search operation from Pandoh Dam to Deji and Pandav Sheela on the other side. Now NDRF has been removed from the search operation and SDRF is continuing the search operation in selected places. This search operation is likely to continue till the end of this week. The families of the missing people in the disaster have performed the last rites on July 12 itself as per Hindu tradition. An amount of Rs 78.75 lakh has been sanctioned to speed up the debris removal and restoration work in the disaster affected areas of Mandi district. Out of this, an amount of Rs 39 lakh has been released to the SDM of Thunag sub-division. Additional District Magistrate Dr. Madan Kumar while giving this information on Tuesday said that an amount of Rs 18.59 lakh has been sanctioned to the Executive Engineer of Public Works Department Janjheli for the construction of three-wire span (rope bridge) in village panchayat Murhag and Jainsala of Thunag sub-division. He said that this amount will be used to restore infrastructure in the affected areas and to facilitate the movement of people. The administration has said to give priority to restoration work. In view of the possible landslide and other natural disasters in Kalang village of sub-tehsil Katola, people have been shifted to a safe place. This information was given here today by Additional District Magistrate Dr. Madan Kumar.

## SHIMLA NEWS: 450 APPLE TREES CUT ON THE FOURTH DAY IN CHAITHLA OF KOTKHA, PANIC AMONG ENCROACHERS; KNOW



**Diary Times Desk :** The action of the Forest Department continued on the fourth day to remove encroachment on forest land in Chaithla village of Kotkhai subdivision. On the orders of the High Court, the department cut 450 apple trees on the fourth day. So far 2,650 plants have been cut in Chaithla village. The action of the Forest Department is going on for eight to ten hours amidst rain in Chaithla.

About 38 hundred trees are to be cut in Chaithla. Many people have prepared apple orchards on government land. After Chaithla, preparations are being made for such action in other villages of the area. Here, Kisan Sabha has stood against this campaign. On the first day, the strategy was decided by calling the gardeners in Theog. On Tuesday, it was opposed in Hatkoti of Jubbal. In view of the apprehensions of Kisan Sabha reaching Chaithla, police vigil has been tightened there. About a hundred police personnel are camping here.

## HIMACHAL NEWS: VEHICLES WITH LOUD SILENCERS AND PRESSURE HORNS WILL BE CONFISCATED, ORDERS TO TAKE ACTION TO ALL SPS; KNOW

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh Police Headquarters has issued instructions to all the District Superintendents of Police of the state to run a special campaign against noise pollution, illegal vehicle operation and those who disturb the peace. Vehicles using loud silencers, pressure horns and illegal lighting will be challaned.

The State Police Headquarters is receiving a large number of complaints that especially the youth in the urban areas of the state are using loud silencers and highly bright, non-standard lights in their vehicles and motorcycles. This trend is causing trouble for other drivers and pedestrians. The Director General of Police has given clear instructions that special campaigns should be conducted in all districts to identify such vehicles and strict action should be taken under the Motor Vehicles Act.

'EVERYONE FORCED HER TO DIE': FATHER OF ODISHA STUDENT WHO DIED AFTER SELF-IMMOLATION

**Diary Times Desk :** The father of the 20-year-old Balasore student, who succumbed to her injuries on Monday after attempting self-immolation, has alleged 'conspiracy' behind her death, saying that "everyone together forced my daughter to die". The student of Fakir Mohan Autonomous College in Odisha's Balasore had set herself on fire on Saturday to protest the inaction over her allegations of sexual harassment by a professor at her college. With 90 per cent burns, she was battling for her life in AIIMS Bhubaneswar, but unfortunately, she passed away late on Monday night. A medical bulletin issued by the hospital said that despite sufficient resuscitation and all possible supportive management, she could not be revived and was declared clinically dead at 11:46 pm on July 14. Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief over her demise and vowed strict action against the culprits. Earlier in the day, her father had told news agency ANI that the accused professor had two to four complaints against him. He added that college authorities asked him to wait for the internal committee report.

"WE WEREN'T DYING, LOVE LIVING NATURAL": RUSSIAN WOMAN ON KARNATAKA CAVE

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian woman Nina Kutina and her two children were rescued by Gokarna Police and processed by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Bengaluru before being sent back to a rescue centre in Tumakuru. Kutina, who had been living with her daughters in a cave near Gokarna, defended her lifestyle and rejected the claims made about her situation. "You give already a lot of lying information. We have big experience to stay in natural, in jungle, and we were not dying, and I did not bring my children, my daughters to die in jungle. They did not feel bad, they were very happy, they swam in waterfall, they lived, had very good place for sleeping, a lot of lessons with art making, we made from clay, we painted, we ate good, I was cooking with gas, very good and tasty food," she said. Dismissing suggestions of neglect or danger, she added, "They have everything best, they were happy, and dressed, and sleeping good, and art lessons, and lessons about how to write and read, and they were not dying from hunger, never, everything not true."

MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT FROM JULY 21, EIGHT NEW BILLS ON AGENDA



**Diary Times Desk :** Eight new bills, and likely a resolution to extend President's Rule in Manipur, are on the agenda for the monsoon session of Parliament that will begin July 21, sources told NDTV Tuesday. There will be a total of 21 sittings till August 21, with a break from August 12 to 18, in a Parliament session that is likely to, once again, deliver stormy confrontations between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the opposition, including the Congress-led INDIA bloc. Among the likely flashpoints will be the Election Commission's 'special intensive revision' ahead of the Bihar Assembly election later this year. The opposition - i.e., the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal - have been protesting the decision to revise the voter list months before the election. The poll panel has said the exercise will ensure a free, fair, and transparent poll.

NEW AUTO FARES IN BENGALURU TO COME INTO EFFECT FROM AUGUST 1

**Diary Times Desk :** In an attempt to meet the long-standing demand of auto-rickshaw drivers, the Regional Transport Authority of Bangalore Urban District has announced a revision in auto-rickshaw fares within the limits of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The new fares will come into effect from August 1, 2025. As per the latest guidelines, the minimum fare for the first two kilometres has seen a 20 per cent increase from Rs 30 to Rs 36. Beyond 2 km, passengers will be charged Rs 18 per additional kilometre, a 20 per cent rise from the earlier Rs 15. A night fare surcharge of 50 per cent on the regular fare will apply between 10 pm and 5 am. The Regional Transport Authority has also ordered meter re-verification. All auto-rickshaw meters must be re-verified and stamped by October 31 and should display the updated fares. An increase in base fare has been a long-standing demand of auto-rickshaw drivers, but the drivers' union seems to be dissatisfied with the latest revision. Their demand was Rs 40 base fare and Rs 20 per additional km.

A WIN FOR DEVANAHALLI FARMERS AS KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT DROPS LAND ACQUISITION

**Diary Times Desk :** Over three years after they began protesting the acquisition of their land in 13 villages, the farmers of Karnataka's Devanahalli taluk have won a major victory. The state government has announced that it will drop the acquisition of 1,777 acres of land. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on Tuesday, July 15, during a press conference held after a meeting with farmers in Bengaluru, that the government would drop the acquisition of land in Devanahalli. He said that the government had taken the decision after hearing the views of farmers' groups, activists, and MLAs such as KH Muniyappa who also spoke in favour of dropping the land acquisition.

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.





**RUSSIA SAYS IT NEEDS TIME TO  
'ANALYSE' TRUMP'S UKRAINE  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Kremlin has said that US President Donald Trump's recent statements, including a threat to impose sanctions on Russia's trading partners, are serious and require time to assess. Amid growing frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump on Monday announced new deliveries of weapons, including Patriot missile systems, to Ukraine via NATO and said that buyers of Russian exports could face severe tariffs if Moscow fails to agree to a peace deal within 50 days, signalling a major policy shift in Washington. "The US president's statements are very serious. Some of them are addressed personally to President Putin," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow on Tuesday. "We certainly need time to analyse what was said in Washington. And if and when President Putin deems it necessary, he will definitely comment." Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev mocked Trump's announcement, calling it a "theatrical ultimatum" and saying that "Russia didn't care".

**TWO DEAD AFTER HEAVY RAINS  
SWAMP ROADS AND RAILS IN NEW  
YORK REGION**

**Diary Times Desk :** The torrential rains that inundated the New York City area left at least two people dead, officials said Tuesday, as road closures and transit disruptions lingered across the region. More than 2 inches of rain fell on Central Park in the span of a single hour on Monday night, the second-wettest hour ever recorded in the city. A state of emergency was in effect in New Jersey, where Gov. Phil Murphy said flooding in the suburb of Plainfield swept away a vehicle on Monday night, killing two people inside. The sprawling storms swelled waterways up and down the Eastern Seaboard, and forecasters warned that flooding was still possible from Washington, D.C., to the Carolinas. The two people who died in Monday night's torrential rains were in a car that was swept away a few yards from a small bridge that crosses Cedar Brook in Plainfield, N.J. Both of the car's occupants died, according to government officials. The victims have not been publicly identified.

**SYRIA ANNOUNCES CEASEFIRE IN DRUZE  
CITY OF SUWAYDA AFTER DEADLY CLASHES**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Syrian Ministry of Defence has announced a ceasefire in the Druze-majority city of Suwayda, saying an agreement has been reached with the city's "notables and dignitaries" after days of deadly clashes with Bedouin tribes. "To all units operating within the city of Suwayda, we declare a complete ceasefire," Defence Minister Murhaf Abu Qasra posted on X on Tuesday, shortly after the ministry deployed government forces to halt the violence that killed dozens since Friday. A curfew was also imposed on the city following the violence, which spread across the Suwayda governorate, killing at least 166 people, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor. The monitor accused Syrian government forces and allied groups of killing 19 Druze civilians in "field executions" around Suwayda, including 12 shot dead at a guest house.

**CHINA'S XI SAYS AUSTRALIA TIES HAVE  
'TURNED AROUND' AS HE HOSTS ALBANESE**

**Diary Times Desk :** Chinese President Xi Jinping says relations with Australia have "turned around" as the two countries stress dialogue and seek to stabilise trade in the face of global tensions. Xi made the remarks as he hosted Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Tuesday. The six-day visit by Albanese – his second as prime minister – aims to boost economic cooperation with Beijing, Australia's top trading partner. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, we should uphold this overall direction unswervingly," Xi said, acknowledging that China-Australia ties had "risen from the setbacks". Relations between Beijing and Canberra have charted a bumpy course over the past decade, a period marked by repeated disagreements over national security and competing interests across the vast Pacific region. Ties improved in December when China called off a ban on imported Australian rock lobster.

**"CAN YOU HIT MOSCOW?"  
TRUMP ASKED ZELENSKY TO  
MAKE PUTIN "FEEL THE PAIN"**

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has said he's "disappointed but not done" with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, who is showing no signs of ending the war in Ukraine. Trump gave a 50-day deadline to Moscow to end its conflict with Ukraine or face 100 per cent sanctions. But privately, he reportedly also encouraged Ukraine to step up strikes deep into Russian territory-- as far as Moscow or St Petersburg. Voicing his fresh frustration with Moscow, Trump also laid out an arrangement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to supply Kyiv with new military aid sponsored by the alliance's members. But Trump's departure from his previous stance of ending US involvement in the Russian conflict is reportedly not sudden. Per a report by Financial Express, the US leader's frustration with Putin had been brewing for a while, as in a July 4 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, he had proposed providing long-range weapons to Kyiv to hit targets deep in Russia. "Volodymyr, can you hit Moscow?... Can you hit St Petersburg too?" Trump reportedly asked Zelensky on the call. Zelenskyy replied, "Absolutely. We can if you give us the weapons."

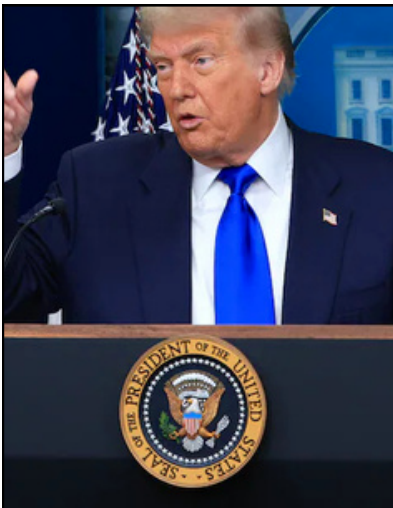
**EU CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON  
NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST  
RUSSIA, KALLAS SAYS**

**Diary Times Desk :** European Union envoys are on the verge of agreeing an 18th package of sanctions against Russia for its full-scale invasion of Ukraine that would include a lower price cap on Russian oil, four EU sources said after a Sunday meeting. The sources said all the elements of the package had been agreed, although one member state still has a technical reservation on the new cap. The sources said they had also agreed to a dynamic price mechanism for the price cap. On Friday, the European Commission proposed a floating price cap on Russian oil of 15% below the average market price of crude in the previous three months. One of the sources said the initial price would be around \$47 a barrel based on the average price of Russian crude for the last 22 weeks minus 15%. Further, the price would be revised based on the average oil price every six months instead of the proposed three months. Slovakia – which has held up the proposed package – is still seeking reassurances from the European Commission on its concerns about plans to phase out Russian gas supply but it has agreed to the new measures, the sources said.

**30% US TARIFF WOULD FORCE EUROPE TO RETHINK EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC  
MODEL**

**Diary Times Desk :** The 30% tariff on European goods threatened by US President Donald Trump would, if implemented, be a game-changer for Europe, wiping out whole chunks of transatlantic commerce and forcing a rethink of its export-led economic model. European ministers meeting in Brussels on Monday remained convinced they can bring Trump back from the brink before his August 1 deadline and reach a deal that would keep the \$1.7 trillion two-way trading relationship broadly intact. But the wild swings in Trump's mood towards the European Union – which he has sometimes labelled as friendly and at other times accused of being set up specifically to destroy the United States – keep the 30% threat very much alive for now.

"It will be almost impossible to continue the trading as we are used to in a transatlantic relationship," EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic said of the 30% rate before meeting ministers and officials of the 27 EU capitals to give them an update.



## VIGILANCE RAIDS SAD LEADER MAJITHIA’S OFFICE, RESIDENCE IN AMRITSAR AGAIN

**Diary Times Desk :** Teams from the Punjab Vigilance Bureau conducted fresh raids at the office of senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia in Majithia and his residence in Amritsar’s Green Avenue here on Tuesday, as part of an ongoing investigation into a disproportionate assets case. During the operation, vigilance officials reportedly carried out detailed measurements of the entire office building and inspected every section thoroughly. Documents stored at the office were examined, with assistance from local administrative staff and office employees. So far, the Vigilance Bureau has not issued an official statement regarding the exact reason behind the raids or the nature of the documents seized for investigation. In view of the raids, Punjab Police have tightened security in the surrounding areas. Heavy police deployment has been made near Majithia’s Green Avenue house, with barricades set up several metres from the residence to prevent public movement.



## PUNJAB ASSEMBLY REFERS ANTI-SACRILEGE BILL TO SELECT COMMITTEE FOR WIDER CONSULTATION

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Monday unanimously decided to refer the Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scriptures Bill, 2025 to a Select Committee of MLAs for consultation with all stakeholders before it is enacted. The decision followed a three-and-a-half-hour debate on the contentious Bill, which was tabled in the House on Monday by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan said the committee will gather public input on the Bill – considered an extremely emotive issue – and return with recommendations within six months. The Chief Minister had earlier proposed a four-month timeline. The Bill proposes stringent penalties for sacrilege-related offences, prescribing a minimum sentence of 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment, along with fines ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. The holy scriptures referred to in the Bill are Guru Granth Sahib or extracts thereof including Pothis and Gutka Sahib, Bhagavad Gita, Quran and Bible. Offences under the proposed law would be cognizable, non-compoundable, and triable by a Sessions Court. Only a police officer of the rank of DSP or above will be authorised to investigate such cases.

## GOLDEN TEMPLE RECEIVES BOMB THREAT ON SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY, SECURITY BEEFED UP

**Diary Times Desk :** The management at Golden Temple has received a second consecutive bomb threat via email today. According to Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) officials, the email claims that explosive material, specifically RDX, has been packed inside pipes within the temple premises, aiming to cause blasts inside the shrine. Authorities, however, have not disclosed the exact contents of the threatening message due to security concerns. Bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs have been deployed at the site to conduct intensive checks. Both the SGPC and Amritsar police are on high alert. The police personnel and commandos have been stationed around the Golden Temple complex, while strict surveillance is being maintained on every individual entering or exiting the area. Notably, a similar threat had also been received on Monday via email. SGPC secretary Pratap Singh said that “some mischievous elements” are behind the threats, aiming to disturb peace and spread fear among devotees. “Those who send such threats do not belong to any religion. They speak of targeting all religious places, not just the Golden Temple. Their goal is to create panic,” he said. He urged the government to immediately trace and apprehend the culprits.

## PUNJAB’S OBSESSION FOR SUVs, GUNS AND EXPENSIVE DOGS IS NO BIG SWAG

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab’s love for SUVs, tractors, and guns is no secret. But expensive dog breeds like Pitbull Terriers and Mastiffs (Boerboels) are fast catching the fancy of Punjabis. The bigger the dog at home, the more the swag. Despite bans on certain dog breeds and events to showcase the canines, pet owners are willing to pay thousands to lakhs to own their favourite breeds, which are being delivered to their doorsteps. Despite the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rules in place, illegal dog breeding continues to thrive in the state. The recent arrest of a Rajpura resident who allegedly reared and trained Pitbulls for the illegal hunting of protected animal species, including a porcupine, and promoted the same through social media videos in Punjab—to attract views—also attracted the wrath of animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi. Earlier in January, illegal greyhound dog races were stopped in Punjab after People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India intervened to prevent these illegal events and ensured that the police raided just before these races, which were scheduled for multiple locations.



## JALANDHAR POLICE IDENTIFY VEHICLE INVOLVED IN HIT AND RUN THAT KILLED FAUJASINGH; ACCUSED ARRESTED

**Diary Times Desk :** After identifying the car that hit 114-year-old marathoner Fauja Singh, the Jalandhar Rural Police have arrested the accused." After zeroing in on the car which hit 114-year-old marathoner Fauja Singh, the Jalandhar Rural Police teams have arrested the accused. The white Fortuner (registration Punjab 20 C 7100) was identified as the vehicle involved in the hit-and-run incident, based on parts found at the scene, including a headlight and a section of the bumper. Due to the lack of CCTV coverage at the accident site, police teams spent hours reviewing footage from surrounding areas to trace the vehicle’s movements. Eyewitnesses reported that a white SUV, possibly a Fortuner or an Innova, struck Singh. We reviewed all videos to identify similar vehicles with missing parts. We also found that this vehicle had intact parts just before the accident site. This evidence led us to confirm that this was the vehicle involved in the incident," stated SSP Jalandhar Rural, Harvinder S Virk.

## SIDHU MOOSEWALA’S ‘SIGNED TO GOD’ 2026 WORLD TOUR ANNOUNCEMENT SPARKS GLOBAL BUZZ

**Diary Times Desk :** A cryptic yet electrifying post from the official social media account of late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala has stirred excitement and emotion among fans across the world. The post, titled “Signed to God” 2026 world tour, has quickly become a trending topic, with admirers interpreting it as a bold and mysterious hint at a major global tribute tour. Despite his untimely death, his legacy has continued to grow, with posthumous releases, fan tributes and references by major artists in India and abroad. While no official details regarding tour dates, cities, or ticketing have been revealed yet, the post has been seen as a symbolic announcement that something significant is being planned for 2026. According to sources close to his team, the world tour being hinted at may incorporate innovative formats, possibly including 3D hologram technology or augmented reality, allowing fans to experience his presence on stage in a powerful, futuristic way. The fan response has been overwhelming. From Punjab to Canada, the UK, the US and Australia, global admirers have flooded social media with emotional reactions, expressing joy and curiosity.



## 220 ROADS CLOSED IN HIMACHAL; YELLOW WARNING ISSUED

**Diary Times Desk :** The Met office on Tuesday forecast heavy rainfall in two to nine districts of Himachal Pradesh this week and issued yellow warning in the state, where a total of 220 roads are closed following rains. Since the onset of monsoon on June 20 till July 14, about 105 people lost their lives, 61 in rain-related incidents and 44 in road accidents and 184 have been injured, while 35 are missing, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses of more than Rs 786 crore. The state has witnessed 31 flash floods, 22 cloudbursts and 18 landslides this monsoon, according to the department. About 160 roads in the disaster-hit Mandi district are closed. Also, 153 water supply schemes and 67 power distribution transformers were affected as on Tuesday morning. Meanwhile, Jubbarhatti in the suburbs of Shimla received 56 mm of rain since Monday evening followed by Kahu 39.5 mm, Bilaspur 30.8 mm, Slapper 30.1 mm, Kasauli 28 mm, Dharampur 24.2 mm.

## CONG MLA INAUGURATES MAHILA MANDAL BHAWAN

**Diary Times Desk :** The Congress MLA from the Shahpur constituency and deputy chief whip, Kewal Singh Pathania, inaugurated the newly constructed Mahila Mandal Bhawan in Rakkad Ka Baag Panchayat on Saturday. He announced a grant of Rs 1 lakh to the Mahila Mandal to help them purchase essential items and assured them that a religious tour would be arranged as requested by local women. Speaking on the occasion, Pathania said the state government was giving top priority to the development of rural areas. He said a detailed project report (DPR) of Rs 45.55 crore had been prepared and submitted for the upgradation of the Rait-Chambi-Dharamshala road. Highlighting the development works in Rakkad Ka Baag Panchayat, he said Rs 22 lakh was spent by the Rural Development Department while the Jal Shakti Department had invested Rs 20 lakh to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. The Electricity Department also spent Rs 18 lakh on power system upgrades.

## NEPALI MAN FOUND MURDERED IN SHIMLA'S THEOG

**Diary Times Desk :** An unidentified body of a Nepali man — who has allegedly been murdered — was found in Theog subdivision, Shimla, police said here today. As per a complaint filed by Ankush Shamra, a resident of Kalind village in Theog, he alleged that he had employed two Nepali workers. On Monday, while they were en route to Mahori from Kalind, they noticed someone lying along the pathway. He stated that they informed him about the body, and he subsequently notified the gram panchayat and the police. A police team from Theog reached the spot and recovered the body. A thorough search of the crime scene was conducted and crucial evidence collected. Theog Deputy Superintendent of Police Siddharth Sharma confirmed the report and said a case under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, has been registered and further investigation is going on. He said, prima facie, the man was murdered.



## TRAINING FOR 246 COPS BEGINS



**Diary Times Desk :** A training course for the 38th batch of the Upper Class Course for police officers commenced at the Himachal Pradesh Police Training College in Daroh, located around 20 km from here. As part of this ambitious programme, 246 trainees will undergo training to become sub-inspectors. The course was officially inaugurated by Soumya Sambasivan, IPS, principal of the institute. The training will span 48 days. Principal Sambasivan said the course includes comprehensive modules on yoga, physical training, parade drills and criminal law education. She emphasised that the training curriculum has been specially designed to focus on the new criminal laws, aiming to strengthen the trainees' capabilities in investigating offences under the updated legal framework. "This course will not only develop physical and mental discipline but also ensure that officers are well-versed in the legal tools they'll need in the field," she added.

## ALL PANCHAYAT OFFICE-BEARERS QUIT OVER LIQUOR VEND OPENING

**Diary Times Desk :** All office-bearers of the Chebri gram panchayat, which falls in the Basantpur block in Shimla district, has resigned from their posts in protest against the opening of liquor vend in their panchayat. "The government did not seek any NOC from the gram sabha for opening the vend. The panchayat residents, especially women, are totally against having a liquor vend in the panchayat. There's no point in holding the posts if we can't do what people want. So, all officer-bearers, including pradhan, vice-pradhan and five ward members, tendered their resignation to the district panchayat officer today," said pradhan Chawinder Pal. Along with the panchayat office-bearers, mahila mandal members, too, have resigned. The pradhan said women had been protesting for close to two weeks against the opening of the liquor vend, but their agitation drew no positive response. "We have met the official concerned and even our MLA, but no action has been taken to address our concern," he said. He further said that instead of addressing our genuine concern, FIRs had been filed against the people, including women, for protesting against the liquor vend.

## CHAMBA HEALTH WORKERS GET A PUSH WITH OEEE TRAINING



**Diary Times Desk :** A six-day training programme under the Ayushman Arogya Mandir's expanded package was inaugurated at Chamba on Monday. The programme, organised under the aegis of Chief Medical Officer Dr Bipen Thakur, is aimed at equipping health supervisors and health workers with essential skills for care related to the oral, eye, ear, throat, nose, and emergency (OEEE) domains. Speaking at the inaugural session, District Programme Officer Dr Kavita Mahajan highlighted the importance of the training. "The key objective of this initiative is to create awareness at the community level about common ailments related to the mouth, eyes, ears, nose, throat and emergency care. The training will empower frontline health workers to identify such cases early and ensure timely treatment," she said. Dr Mahajan further said after the completion of this training at the block level, ASHA workers will also be trained on OEEE care. These ASHA workers will play a crucial role in identifying individuals suffering from related illnesses at the village level and assist in getting them the required medical care. In addition, they will conduct health education sessions to raise awareness and promote preventive practices among rural populations.

LA28 CRICKET ACTION TO START TWO DAYS EARLY

**Diary Times Desk** : LA28 unveiled the schedule for the Olympic Games on Monday (July 14), exactly three years ahead of the event. Cricket will be played from July 12 to 29, 2028, two days ahead of the scheduled start of the Games, with the medal matches slated for July 19 and July 29. The Los Angeles Olympics are officially scheduled from July 14 to 30, 2028, but cricket and a few other events will begin a couple of days earlier. The organizers are referring to these early start dates as 'Minus 2' (July 12) and "Minus 1" (July 13). The first set of matches will take place from July 12 to 18, with the medal matches to be played on July 19. The second set of matches will run from July 22 to 28, culminating in the final on July 29. The Games conclude the next day. LA28 organisers have not announced the order of competitions but presumably the men's and women's matches will follow one after the other with women's games following the men's competition. Asked for clarification, LA28 said, "The gender sequence for events in the 2028 Games is not yet available. As stated in today's release, 'A more detailed schedule with medal events and gender order will be released later this year.'" LA28 has confirmed that both men's and women's competitions will feature six teams each and the venue will be the Fairgrounds Cricket Stadium, Pomona, about 48 kilometres away from downtown LA. The organisers are calling it a top-tier structure, purpose-built to highlight cricket. "For nearly a century, this location has served as the home of the annual LA County Fair and hosts a variety of year-round events, including trade shows, conventions and sporting events. The sprawling grounds will serve as the backdrop for Cricket's triumphant return to the Olympic Games-128 years in the making," LA28 release states. Meanwhile, the International Cricket Council (ICC) which will hold its annual conference from July 17 to 20 in Singapore where it will decide on the qualification process for the Quadrennial Games.

JADEJA OPENS UP ON INDIA'S DRESSING-ROOM MOOD AFTER FACING STINGING LOSS TO ENGLAND: 'NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CONSOLE...'

**Diary Times Desk** : The 3rd Test match between India and England at Lord's for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy had its own ebbs and flows, but none more than the ones which transpired in front of our eyes in the last two sessions on Day 5. India were down and out at 112/8. Reporters were preparing themselves for an early finish and figuring out what to have for supper in London. News channels were looking for their evening broadcast lift, and fans' Monday blue turned a little bluer way too soon. But then, something unreal happened. India's tail, heavily under fire for their performances in the five innings of the series thus far, showed the stomach for a fight. At the centre of it was Ravindra Jadeja, shepherding India's No. 10 and 11 batters in the best way possible, remaining unbeaten on 61 from 181 balls.

JOFRA ARCHER: 'I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO BE ON PLANE TO AUSTRALIA'

**Diary Times Desk** : Jofra Archer has reiterated his desire to be involved in the winter's Ashes after making a stirring return to Test cricket in England's dramatic victory over India at Lord's. Archer had not played a Test for more than four years due to a combination of elbow and back injuries, but finally made his return in whites after a carefully managed comeback. He took a wicket with his third ball and then produced key interventions in India's fourth-innings chase, on the way to match figures of 5 for 105. Having got through 39.2 overs, while maintaining his speeds in the region of 90mph/145kph, Archer will now have a week to recover before the fourth Test, which starts at Old Trafford on July 23. He said he would be keen to play in both remaining matches against India, though England will likely closely manage his workloads. "We told him that it was an unfortunate match for us and could have gone either ways.

ENGLAND RECALL LIAM DAWSON FOR FOURTH TEST

**Diary Times Desk** : Left-arm spinner Liam Dawson has been included in England's Test squad for the fourth Test against India at Old Trafford, Manchester. He has replaced Shoaib Bashir who was ruled out of the series following a fracture to a finger on his left hand. Dawson, 35, last played a Test for England in July 2017 against South Africa. He has been a consistent performer for Hampshire in the last two years, earning the PCA Player of the Year award in 2023 and 2024. He has played only three Tests so far and has seven wickets to his name. Meanwhile, bowlers Sam Cook and Jamie Overton have returned to their respective counties to play in the County Championship. Luke Wright, England Men's National Selector, spoke on Dawson's selection and said that the man from Hampshire has earned his spot in the side. "Liam Dawson deserves his call-up," he said. He has been in outstanding form in the County Championship and consistently puts in strong performances for Hampshire." England have made no other changes to the squad that was announced ahead of the third Test. Squad: Ben Stokes (c), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Liam Dawson, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes

STARC, BOLAND RUN RIOT IN SABINA PARK AS WI FOLD FOR 27

**Diary Times Desk** : West Indies were bowled out for just 27 on the third day at Sabina Park, the second-lowest total in the history of Test cricket, which gave Australia a big 176-run win and a 3-0 clean sweep of the series. What followed after lunch on Day 3 was scarcely believable even by the wild standards of pink-ball Test matches, as Mitchell Starc registered the fastest five-wicket haul (15 balls) and Scott Boland picked a hat-trick to tear through the West Indian batting in a stunning spell of swing and seam bowling. Chasing 204 in conditions that had been tricky right through the match, West Indies never got going. Starc, playing in his 100th Test, struck with the very first ball of the innings and triggered a collapse. He got rid of John Campbell, Kevlon Anderson and Brandon King all in the same over, with the last two falling to full deliveries that swung in late and sneaked through the gap between bat and pad. At 0 for 3, the hosts were already in big trouble but Starc was not done. In his third over, he trapped Mikyle Louis in front to reach 400 Test wickets, becoming only the fourth Australian to do so, and two balls later he removed Shai Hope with another sharp inswinger. It was classic Starc with the pink ball, bowling fast, getting the ball to move late and giving nothing to the batters.

A FEW MISTAKES, NOT BIG ONES, COST INDIA THE LORD'S TEST

**Diary Times Desk** : What a Test match! What a series! But I guess a result that would still sadden Indian fans. I have taken a holistic view of this Indian tour of England. It's a conscious decision I took when the squad was selected with Rohit, Virat and Shami missing. This was a new age Indian team about to be put to a stiff test. Fortunately, conditions in England resembled those in India more and pitches have been flatter than ever before. Add to that the weakest England attack ever. But what this Indian team led by Shubman Gill has achieved so far has been nothing short of incredible. No other nation's next gen team would be able to compete with a major cricketing nation in their own backyard. That India fell short by 22 runs at Lord's from taking a 2-1 lead was the icing on the cake. But as I said this team has already won me over. India lost at Lord's because of a few mistakes, not big ones, but enough to let England have their nose in front after three Tests, starting with a tendency to bring spin on late.

'UNFORTUNATE': WHAT KING CHARLES TOLD INDIAN CRICKET TEAM ON MOHAMMED SIRAJ'S WICKET

**Diary Times Desk** : The United Kingdom's King Charles met India's men's and women's cricket teams at St. James's Palace in London on Tuesday, a day after India lost to England after a five-day test match at Lord's Cricket Ground in the city. King Charles also met the coaches and BCCI officials and posed with them, along with both the teams, for pictures. This was followed by an interaction between them. During the interaction, Indian test cricket team captain Shubman Gill said that King Charles called the way Mohammed Siraj got out during the last day of the test match between India and England "unfortunate". At a crucial moment during the match Monday, when it seemed India would upset the odds and beat the opponent, England's Shoaib Bashir's delivery got the better of Mohammed Siraj as the ball rolled back onto the stumps. Gill also said that it was "very kind and generous" of King Charles to call and meet them. "It was amazing to meet King Charles III and he was very kind and generous to call us. We had some really good conversations. King Charles III told us that the way our last batsman got out in the previous test match was quite unfortunate, the ball rolling on the stumps," Shubman Gill told ANI news agency.