

## DONALD TRUMP

## '5 JETS WERE SHOT DOWN': TRUMP AGAIN TAKES CREDIT FOR STOPPING INDIA-PAKISTAN WAR

**Diary Times Desk :** In a fresh claim, US President Donald Trump said "five jets were shot down" during the conflict between India and Pakistan in May and repeated his assertion that the fighting ended following his intervention.

The US President did not specify whether the jets were lost by either of the two countries or whether he was referring to combined losses by both sides. In virtually rejecting Trump's claim of ending the conflict, New Delhi has been maintaining that the two sides halted their military actions following direct talks between their militaries without any mediation by the US.

Speaking at the White House during a dinner he hosted for Republican senators on Friday, Trump said: "You had India, Pakistan, that was going... in fact, planes were being shot out of the air...four or five. But I think five jets were shot down actually...that was getting worse and worse, wasn't it? "That was looking like it was going to go, these are two serious nuclear countries, and they were hitting each other," he said.

"But India and Pakistan were going at it, and they were back and forth, and it was getting bigger and bigger. And we got it solved through trade. We said 'You guys want to make a trade deal. We're not making a trade deal if you're going to be throwing around weapons and maybe nuclear weapons. Both very powerful nuclear states,'" Trump said.



## PARLIAMENT SESSION

## INDIA BLOC TO RAISE PAHALGAM ATTACK, TRUMP'S CLAIMS ON 'CEASEFIRE', BIHAR SIR IN PARLIAMENT



**Diary Times Desk :** INDIA bloc parties on Saturday resolved to raise during the Parliament's Monsoon session the issues of Pahalgam attack terrorists not being brought to justice, US President Donald Trump's repeated claims of brokering a 'ceasefire' between India and Pakistan and the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar that the opposition alleges "threatens people's voting rights".

Ahead of the start of the session on July 21, the leaders of 24 opposition parties of the bloc held an online meeting and decided to raise eight major issues like foreign policy "failure" and "atrocities" in Gaza, delimitation exercise and "targeting" of SCs/STs, women and minorities in the country.



Addressing the media after the meeting, Congress' deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari said the opposition parties would expect the Prime Minister to be present in Parliament and respond to the issues raised on the floor of the House, asserting that "Parliament is more important than travelling abroad". He also said that an in-person meeting of the bloc leaders would take place "soon" after today's "successful and cordial" online meeting. Leaders who participated in the meeting included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, NCP (SP)'s Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray (SS-UBT), Abhishek Banerjee (TMC), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), Ram Gopal Yadav (SP), Tiruchi Siva (DMK) M A Baby of CPI-M, D Raja (CPI), CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, among others.



SC TO HEAR PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE ON DEADLINE FOR  
ASSENT TO STATE BILLS ON JULY 22

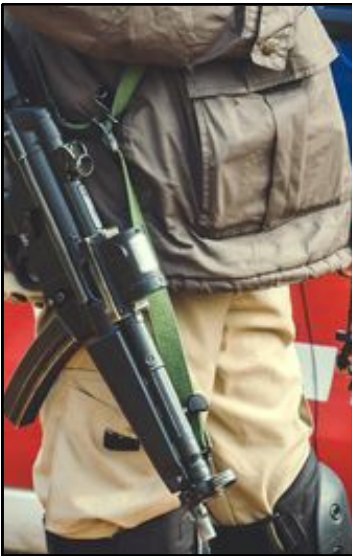
**Diary Times Desk :** A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court will take up the Presidential Reference on issues arising out of the top court's recent verdict setting a deadline for assent to state Bills for hearing on July 22. Headed by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, the Bench will also comprise Justice Surya Kant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice PS Narasimha and Justice AS Chandurkar. Invoking Article 143 of the Constitution, President Droupadi Murmu had in May sought the Supreme Court's opinion on 14 questions arising out of its April 8 verdict fixing deadlines for Governors and the President to take a call on Bills passed by state Assemblies. In an unprecedented verdict, the apex court had restricted the President's discretionary powers on Bills referred by Governors under Article 201 of the Constitution and set a three-month timeframe for her to decide on the Bills reserved for her consideration. Reserving a Bill on grounds such as "personal dissatisfaction of the governor, political expediency or any other extraneous or irrelevant considerations" is strictly impermissible by the Constitution and would be liable to be set aside forthwith on that ground alone, the top court had said.



MOBILE TOWERS TO COME UP IN  
MP TIGER RESERVE TO COMBAT  
NAXALS

**Diary Times Desk :** The wildlife panel of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved the installation of 4G mobile towers in the core zone of the Kanha Tiger Reserve to boost the communication services of the Madhya Pradesh Police which are combating Naxals. The Centre has set a deadline to eliminate Naxalism by March 31, 2026. A core zone of a tiger reserve is the innermost area that is legally protected and human intervention is strictly prohibited. Considering that the proposed mobile tower installation at Supkhar village falls within the core area of the reserve, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had not approved the proposal earlier due to its ecologically sensitive location. "However, since the proposal has been identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as a critical requirement for enhancing communication infrastructure in remote forested areas to support operations.

PATNA HOSPITAL MURDER: 5 HELD IN BENGAL, PRIME  
SUSPECTS MANAGE TO FLEE, SAY POLICE



**Diary Times Desk :** At least five people have been arrested from New Town near Kolkata in connection with the murder of gangster Chandan Mishra in a Patna hospital, police said on Saturday. However, the prime suspects, who were allegedly hiding in the city managed to flee, prompting police to launch a renewed search operation, a senior officer claimed. The five arrested, who were apprehended from a housing complex in the satellite township of the metropolis following raids conducted jointly by the Bihar Police and the West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) in the early hours of Saturday, were "providing logistics" to the five main accused who killed Mishra, an officer said. According to CCTV camera footage, the prime suspects escaped the city in a white vehicle, which was spotted passing through Basanti Highway near here, the officer said. The vehicle was later seen moving through the jurisdictions of three police stations - Anandapur, Kolkata Leather Complex, and Bhangar, he added.

GUJARAT POLICEMAN'S SON KILLS 2 WITH SUV WHILE  
RACING WITH FRIEND

**Diary Times Desk :** Two people were killed and at least two others injured after a speeding SUV, allegedly driven by a policeman's son, rammed into pedestrians and a scooter in Gujarat's Bhavnagar earlier this week. The accused, Harshraj Singh Gohil (20), was reportedly racing a friend through a busy street in the Kaliyabeed area around 4 pm. Harshraj was driving a white Hyundai Creta, while his friend followed in a red Maruti Brezza. According to police, the vehicles were speeding between 120-150 km/h when Harshraj lost control. CCTV footage shows the Creta crashing into two pedestrians before ramming a scooter. The scooter's tires burst on impact, and the two riders were injured. Several nearby vehicles were also damaged. The victims have been identified as Bhargav Bhatt (30) and Champaben Vachani (65). Bhatt was recently married and worked at Madhu Silica. Two individuals on the scooter were seriously injured and rushed to Sir T Hospital. Harshraj is the son of ASI Aniruddha Singh Vajubha Gohil, posted at the Local Crime Branch.



**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
20-07-2025

**Aries**  
Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.

**Taurus**  
Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

**Gemini**  
Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

**Cancer**  
Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

**Leo**  
Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

**Virgo**  
Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

**Libra**  
Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

**Scorpio**  
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

**Sagittarius**  
Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

**Capricorn**  
Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

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

**Pisces**  
Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.



## HIMACHAL: RECRUITMENTS WILL BE DONE FROM GROUP-A TO C AS JOB TRAINEES IN HIMACHAL, GOVERNMENT HAS RELEASED A NEW SCHEME

**Diary Times Desk :** Now job trainees will be appointed in Himachal Pradesh by ending the contract system. The state government has decided to start a new scheme for the appointment of job trainees in Group-A, B and C cadres. After completing two years of tenure as a trainee, one will have to pass the examination to become regular. The government has ended the process of appointments on contract. On Saturday, the Personnel Department notified guidelines related to new recruitment. It has been decided to start a new scheme for the appointment of job trainees in Group-A, B and C cadres of the government and its institutions. According to the government, its objective is to institutionalize a transparent, merit-based selection process and promote the development of a professional, well-trained workforce through a structured and performance driven framework. Under this scheme, candidates selected through open competitive examinations will be appointed as trainees on a consolidated fixed amount. During this job trainee tenure, they will be given role specific training and gain practical experience, which will enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and orientation required for public service delivery.



## HIMACHAL WEATHER: 232 ROADS BLOCKED IN THE STATE DUE TO LANDSLIDES, VIDEO OF HILL CRACKING IN KINNAUR GOES VIRAL

**Diary Times Desk :** After continuous rain for several days in Himachal Pradesh, the weather remained clear on Saturday. This helped in the restoration work of closed roads. After about a month, the weather cleared and the sun shone in Kullu valley. This brought relief to the farmers and gardeners along with the administration. On the other hand, till 6:00 pm on Saturday, 146 roads remained blocked in the state. Apart from this, 28 electricity transformers and 58 water supply schemes are affected. Mandi district has the highest number of 94 roads and 40 water supply schemes affected. In Kinnaur district, a hill suddenly cracked between Samdo and Shalkhar on NH 5 going towards Pooh-Kaza in the morning. Due to this, people going towards Kaza faced trouble since morning. After receiving the information, the BRO team went to the spot and restored the closed NH. On the other hand, ADM Pooh Ravindra Thakur said that the NH was closed due to landslide between Samdo and Shalkhar in the morning, but now it has been restored.

## HIMACHAL: CENTRAL TEAM REACHED MANDI TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE DISASTER, TOOK STOCK IN DHARAMPUR AREA

**Diary Times Desk :** The seven-member team took stock of the damage caused by the natural disaster in Dharampur area. During this, the grief of the disaster-affected people overflowed. They said - Neither house nor land was left in the disaster, resettle our village. The members of the central team visited Syathi village, damaged road near Dharampur College, damaged drinking water scheme in Kandhapattan, damaged 33 KV power plant and other affected sites. The central team will visit disaster-affected areas like Thunag, Janjehli and Karsog on July 20 and assess the damage. After taking stock, the central team will submit its report to the Home Ministry. On the basis of this report, the state can get financial assistance from the Center. Deputy Commissioner Apurva Devgan informed the central team about the damage caused by the natural disaster in Dharampur area. He also informed about the relief and rehabilitation work done so far in the affected areas. Local MLA Chandrashekhar discussed the damage caused in the area with the central team at Dwali Kisan Bhawan. The central team comprised Joint Secretary (CS & Public, Judicial) G Parthasarathy in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## HIMACHAL: CM SUKHU SAID- SPECIALIST ROBOTIC SURGEONS WILL BE RECRUITED, HEALTH SERVICES ON THE LINES OF AIIMS IN CHAMIYANA

**Diary Times Desk :** To start robotic surgery services in Himachal Pradesh, the state government will soon start the recruitment process of specialist robotic surgeons. This will provide better and high quality medical treatment facilities to the patients in government health institutions. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu gave this information while chairing the review meeting of the Health Department. A proposal for recruitment rules for these specialist surgeons will soon be presented before the state cabinet for approval. Apart from performing surgery, specialist doctors will also train other doctors in robotic surgery techniques. This will prepare a team of specialist doctors in the state. The Chief Minister said that the state government is committed to providing quality health services to the people through public health institutions. Modern technology and medical equipment are being installed in all government medical colleges and other health institutions of the state. Patients will be provided health facilities similar to AIIMS, Delhi at Atal Institute of Medical Super-Speciality located at Chamiyana and robotic surgery services will start in the institute soon. Also, robotic surgical system will soon be installed in Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College Tanda.



## HIMACHAL: MP ANURAG OVER DELAY IN WORK OF PGI SATELLITE CENTRE, ORDERS TO COMPLETE IT BY DECEMBER

**Diary Times Desk :** MP Anurag Thakur took a tough stand on the delay in the work of the PGI Satellite Center under construction in Malahat. While chairing the meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (Disha), he reprimanded the officials and directed the implementing agency to complete the construction work with all the facilities by December 2025. He clearly said that all the modern medical services including OPD and IPD should be available on time. He also ordered to solve the problem of the path of the local residents on priority by completing the demarcation of the land. Expressing concern over illegal and unscientific mining in Una district, the MP said that this is causing damage to the property and revenue of the state. He directed to take strict action against tippers carrying debris more than the prescribed limit and impose three to four times the fine on the seized illegal goods. While thoroughly reviewing the progress of centrally sponsored development schemes, the MP said that all the works approved from the MP fund should be completed by December 2025 at all costs.

## HIMACHAL: NOW TRAFFIC WILL BE CONTROLLED BY AI, SMART PARKING FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE, MOU WILL BE SIGNED SOON

**Diary Times Desk :** AI (Artificial Intelligence) controlled traffic management system and smart parking facility will be started in Himachal Pradesh to streamline the traffic system, increase road safety, reduce pollution and promote tourism. After Sikkim, Himachal will become the second state in the country to start such a facility. A team of four MLAs and related officials led by Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh is on a tour of South Korea to study the scheme. A meeting has been held with the CEO of South Korea City Net for technical advice, funding, international partnership and policy guidance regarding the project. An MoU is also likely to be signed soon. Vikramaditya Singh said that AI controlled traffic management system and smart parking can prove to be very effective in the hilly state of Himachal. The AI system will help solve the problem of traffic jams by monitoring the movement, speed and number of vehicles.



SHARDA UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT KILLS SELF OVER  
'STAFF HARASSMENT',  
VARSITY REACTS

**Diary Times Desk :** A second-year Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) student of Sharda University in Greater Noida allegedly died by suicide in the women's hostel, alleging humiliation and mental harassment by two faculty members, police said on Saturday. The incident took place on Friday night, and a case has been filed at the Knowledge Park Police Station in Gautam Buddha Nagar. Two staff members of the university - Mahinder and Shairy - were arrested as protests broke out in the campus over the suicide, the police added. In a statement, Sharda University said a high power inquiry committee has been constituted to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident and to recommend any further institutional measures. "The University is fully cooperating with statutory authorities conducting their own processes," the Director of Public Relations said. "All required documentation and access have been extended, we will continue to cooperate transparently," the Director added.

"CAN'T GET MOUTH OPEN":  
DELHI WOMAN TO LOVER  
MIDWAY THROUGH  
HUSBAND'S MURDER

**Diary Times Desk :** A 36-year-old man's death in Delhi's Uttam Nagar, initially attributed to accidental electrocution, has turned into a murder case following the discovery of a chat between his wife and cousin. Police have arrested the victim's spouse and her lover -- the victim's cousin -- for their role in the killing. The victim, Karan Dev, was declared dead at a hospital in West Delhi's Janakpuri area on the morning of July 13. At the time, his wife Sushmita claimed he had suffered an accidental electric shock at home. The family declined a post-mortem, believing the death to be natural. Police insisted on an autopsy given the victim's relatively young age and the circumstances of his death. The body was sent to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in Harinagar for post-mortem examination. Days later, a conversation retrieved from Instagram turned the course of the investigation. The victim's younger brother, Kunal Dev, recovered an incriminating chat between Sushmita and Rahul -- Karan's paternal cousin -- revealing the murder plot. Kunal preserved the conversation on video and submitted it to the police on July 16. The messages reveal.

RED ALERT IN 5 KERALA DISTRICTS AS HEAVY  
RAINS BATTER NORTHERN REGION



**Diary Times Desk :** The IMD on Saturday issued a 'red alert' for five northern districts of Kerala, where incessant rains lashed several towns and high-range areas, causing inundation and traffic snarls. The red alert, which predicts "extremely heavy rainfall", was issued for Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur, and Kasaragod districts. Districts including Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, and Palakkad were placed under an 'orange alert', warning of "heavy rainfall", as per the latest update from the weather agency. In light of the "extreme rainfall warning", the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) issued guidelines on precautions to be taken during emergencies. In the northernmost district of Kasaragod, the district administration has advised strict safety measures in schools to prevent monsoon-related accidents, sources said. Both Wayanad and Kozhikode experienced intense rainfall throughout Friday night, although there was a slight respite on Saturday morning.

LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION PLANS  
TO ACQUIRE BITRA ISLAND, RESIDENTS  
OPPOSE MOVE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Lakshadweep administration plans to acquire Bitra Island of the Union Territory for transfer to relevant defence and strategic agencies of the Government of India. The initiative is necessitated by the strategic location of the island, its national security relevance, and the inherent logistical and administrative challenges associated with civilian habitation," a notification issued by Lakshadweep's department of revenue on July 11 said. Bitra is an island covering around 91,700 sq m (0.091 sq km) and has a population of around 350. Residents have pointed out that the move could impact the fishing population across the Lakshadweep atolls, as Bitra Island has a 45 sq km lagoon area that is primarily used by fishermen from Bitra and other islands. The residents said they will move to court if needed. "If there is any move to displace people, we will fight it legally. There are around 350 persons here, including children, all dependent on fishing and coconut plantations. There is a school and a health centre in Bitra too.

"LET US LIVE IN PEACE": REVANTH REDDY TO ANDHRA OVER IRRIGATION PROJECTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Saturday urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to allow Telangana's crucial irrigation projects to proceed, while simultaneously issuing a stark warning of confrontation if his pleas go unheard. Mr Reddy underscored the vital importance of projects such as the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, along with Dindi, Kalwakurthy, Bheema, Nettekpadu, and Koilsagar for Telangana's development. He urged his Andhra counterpart to act responsibly and not obstruct the initiatives. "Let us live in peace," he said. The Telangana Chief Minister warned that if Andhra Pradesh continues to obstruct Telangana's water interests, particularly by not withdrawing the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project, Telangana would be prepared to fight for its rights. He highlighted that the Rayalaseema project, which reportedly diverts 3 TMCs of water daily from the Krishna River, poses a significant threat to Telangana's water availability.

CHHANGUR BABA PRESENTED  
HIMSELF AS RSS BODY MEMBER,  
USED PM'S PIC ON LETTERHEAD

**Diary Times Desk :** Chhangur Baba, the alleged mastermind of a religious conversion racket busted in Uttar Pradesh, presented himself as a senior functionary of an RSS-affiliated body while meeting officials and even used the photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the letterhead of the organisation, investigators said. Chhangur Baba, alias Jamaluddin, was made the general secretary (Awadh) of an organisation named Bharat Pratikarth Seva Sangh, which was being run by another key accused, Eidul Islam. Investigators said the name of the organisation was strategically chosen to create a false impression that it was associated with the RSS. Islam even established a bogus centre in Nagpur - the headquarters of the RSS - to make the outfit look credible. During meetings with officials and political leaders, Chhangur Baba and Islam used to name-drop several prominent RSS functionaries to lend credibility to their claims of affiliation. Chhangur Baba, a spiritual leader from Balrampur, was arrested earlier this month.

PURI HORROR: 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL TIED UP,  
DOUSED WITH PETROL, SET ON FIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** A 15-year-old girl was doused with petrol and set on fire in Odisha's Puri on Saturday, coming on the heels of the death of a college student who self-immolated herself after complaining of sexual harassment by a professor. The minor, who has suffered 70% burn injuries, has been to AIIMS Bhubaneswar and is critical. The incident happened in Bayabar village when the girl was going to her friend's house. She was waylaid by three miscreants, taken to the banks of the River Bhargavi and set on fire. The incident happened just 1.5 km away from the Balanga police station. The trio fled after the incident. The police have launched a manhunt for the miscreants. A senior police officer said that the girl suffered burn injuries to her back, abdomen and other parts. The victim's cousin brother said she was kidnapped, tied up near the river and set on fire. He said the incident happened barely 500 metres from their house. "My sister was going to her friend's place carrying some books. On the way, three people kidnapped her. They tied her up near the river and set her on fire using petrol.



**OVER 20 INJURED AS VEHICLE DRIVES INTO CROWD IN LOS ANGELES' EAST HOLLYWOOD**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) reported that a vehicle drove into crowd in Los Angeles' East Hollywood leaving around 30 injured. 5 people are in critical condition, around 8-10 people are in serious condition and 10-15 in fair condition, the department said on Saturday. The incident took place in Santa Monica Boulevard. The LAFD said in a statement that it is coordinating patient triage and transport at this time. According to Captain Adam Van Gerpen, public information officer for the Los Angeles City Fire Department, the vehicle rammed into a crowd of people waiting to enter a nightclub along a busy boulevard in Los Angeles. Victims were transported to hospitals and trauma centres. Gerpen said that majority of the victims were females as they were waiting to enter a nightclub when the Nissan Versa struck them, along with a taco truck and valet stand.

**TERRORISTS KILL TWO INDIANS, KIDNAP ONE IN DOSSO REGION OF NIGER**

**Diary Times Desk :** In an attack in Niger, gunmen killed at least two Indians and abducted a third according to Indian authorities. The attack took place in Niger's southwest Dosso region. The Indian Embassy in Niger said in a statement on X on Friday that the attack occurred on Tuesday, and that it was in touch with local authorities to repatriate the bodies of the victims and ensure the safe release of the kidnapped individual. The Embassy also advised all Indians in Niger to remain vigilant. The post on X said, "In a heinous terror attack on 15 July in Niger's Dosso region, two Indian nationals tragically lost their lives and one was abducted. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Mission in Niamey is in touch with local authorities to repatriate mortal remains and ensure safe release of the abducted Indian. All Indians in Niger are advised to remain vigilant." Foreigners are increasingly becoming targets of armed groups in Niger and this is the latest such violence targeting foreigners in Niger's conflict-ridden territories. Apart from this incident, several others have been kidnapped this year, including an Austrian woman who has lived there as an aid worker for more than 20 years, a Swiss woman seized.

**INDIAN-ORIGIN DOCTOR IN US CHARGED WITH MEDICAL FRAUD, SEXUAL ASSAULT ON FEMALE PATIENTS**

**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian-origin doctor in New Jersey has been charged with multiple medical frauds such as distributing opioids without a legitimate medical purpose, soliciting sexual favors from patients in exchange for opioid prescriptions, and defrauding New Jersey Medicaid by billing for visits that never happened. Ritesh Kalra, 51, is now on home arrest and has been prohibited from practicing medicine and prescribing medication and will be required to shut down his medical practice while the case is pending. Several of Kalra's former employees reported that female patients complained that Kalra touched them sexually and demanded sexual favors from them, including oral sex, in order to obtain their prescriptions. One patient described being sexually assaulted by Kalra on multiple occasions, including forced anal sex during clinical appointments. Another patient continued to receive opioid prescriptions from Kalra when the patient was incarcerated at Essex County Correctional Facility and had no contact with him.

**SYRIA DECLARES NEW SUWAYDA CEASEFIRE, DEPLOYS FORCES TO 'RESTORE SECURITY'**

**Diary Times Desk :** Syria's security forces have begun deploying in the restive southern province of Suwayda, a Ministry of Interior spokesperson has said, where heavy fighting between Druze and Bedouin armed groups and government forces has left hundreds dead, compounded by Israeli military intervention. The deployment on Saturday came hours after the United States announced that Israel and Syria have agreed to a ceasefire, an as yet uncertain truce amidst overnight fighting. Syria's security forces have begun deploying in the restive southern province of Suwayda, a Ministry of Interior spokesperson has said, where heavy fighting between Druze and Bedouin armed groups and government forces has left hundreds dead, compounded by Israeli military intervention. The deployment on Saturday came hours after the United States announced that Israel and Syria have agreed to a ceasefire, an as yet uncertain truce amidst overnight fighting

**AT LEAST 27 KILLED AFTER VIETNAM TOURIST BOAT CAPSIZES IN HALONG BAY**

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 27 people died after a tourist boat capsized in stormy weather in Vietnam's Halong Bay on Saturday, state media reported. The boat, carrying 53 people, tipped over at around 2 p.m. local time (0700 GMT), as Storm Wipha approached the country across the South China Sea. Strong winds, heavy rainfall and lightning were reported in the area. Most of the tourists were from the capital, Hanoi, local newspaper VnExpress reported. There was no official announcement on the nationality of the tourists as emergency crews kept looking for survivors. Rescue teams found 11 survivors and recovered 27 bodies, eight of them children, the state-run Vietnam News Agency said, citing local authorities. Halong Bay, about 200 km (125 miles) northeast of Hanoi, attracts tens of thousands of visitors every year. Boat tours are hugely popular.

**"BRICS WILL END VERY QUICKLY IF...": TRUMP REPEATS 10% TARIFF THREAT**

**Diary Times Desk :** U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday repeated his threat to slap a 10% tariff on imports from members of the BRICS group of developing nations and said the group would end very quickly if they ever formed in a meaningful way. "When I heard about this group from BRICS, six countries, basically, I hit them very, very hard. And if they ever really form in a meaningful way, it will end very quickly," Trump said without naming the countries. "We can never let anyone play games with us." Trump also said he was committed to preserving the dollar's global status as a reserve currency and pledged to never allow the creation of a central bank digital currency in America. Trump announced the new tariff on July 6, saying it would apply to any countries aligning themselves with what he called the "Anti-American policies" of the BRICS group. With forums such as the G7 and G20 groups of major economies hamstrung by divisions and the disruptive "America First" approach of the U.S. president, the BRICS group is presenting itself as a haven for multilateral diplomacy.

**IMRAN KHAN HITS OUT AT ASIM MUNIR OVER HARSH TREATMENT IN JAIL:****'TERRORISTS TREATED BETTER'**

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is lodged in Pakistan's Adiala Jail, said he is being treated worse than terrorists. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder claimed that the harsh treatment he faces in jail has intensified. "In recent days, the harsh treatment I face in jail has intensified. The same applies to my wife, Bushra Bibi. Even the television in her cell has been switched off. All basic rights - both human and those legally granted to prisoners - have been suspended for both of us," he said in a post on X. The 72-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was booked in multiple cases. Khan claims he is aware that the jail authorities (colonel and the jail superintendent) are mistreating him on directions from Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. According to Imran Khan, while he is being treated worse than convicted terrorists, a military officer serving a sentence for murder is enjoying VIP treatment in jail. "Meanwhile, I am subjected to relentless abuse. But no matter what they do, I have never bowed before oppression - and I never will," he said. He has even asked members of his party to hold Asim Munir accountable if anything happens to him or his wife in jail.



**ANTI-SACRILEGE BILL: PUNJAB SPEAKER FORMS 15-MEMBER COMMITTEE LED BY AMRITSAR SOUTH MLA NIJJAR TO CONSULT STAKEHOLDERS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan on Saturday formed a 15-member select committee of the House for wider consultations with stakeholders on an anti-sacrilege Bill. The move came days after the Punjab Assembly unanimously decided to refer the Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scripture(s) Bill, 2025, proposing punishment up to life imprisonment for sacrilege acts against religious scriptures, to a select committee of the House. The panel will submit its report on the Bill within 6 months. The 15-member panel will be headed by AAP MLA from Amritsar South and former minister Inderbir Singh Nijjar, according to a notification issued by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha secretariat on Saturday. The members of the committee are — AAP MLAs Ajay Gupta, Amandeep Kaur Arora, Inderjit Kaur Mann, Jagdeep Kamboj, Neena Mittal, Baljinder Kaur, Budh Ram, Bram Shanker Jimpa, Madan Lal Bagga, and Mohammad Jamil Ur Rahman; BJP MLA Jangi Lal Mahajan, Congress legislators Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal; and Shiromani Akali Dal legislator Manpreet Singh Ayali.

**BRACE FOR HEAVY TO VERY HEAVY RAIN IN CHANDIGARH, PUNJAB, HARYANA OVER NEXT 3 DAYS**

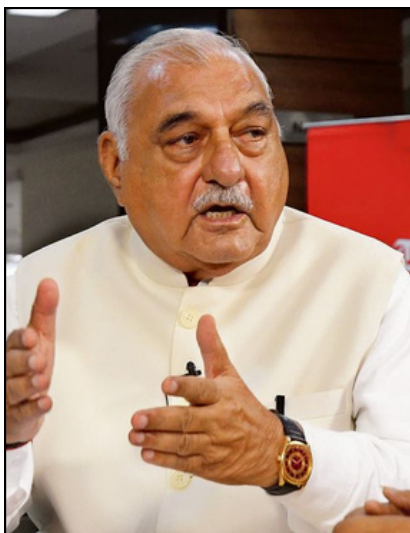
**Diary Times Desk :** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday issued warning while predicting heavy to very heavy rain in Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana from Sunday to Tuesday. "Light rain is likely at isolated places during the next 24 to 36 hours. Thereafter, the rainfall activity is very likely to increase over northern and eastern parts of Punjab and Haryana from the night of July 20," the IMD said. Light to moderate rain is likely at most places on July 21 and 22 and few places on July 20 and 23 in Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana, IMD predicted. Heavy rainfall (7cm or more) is very likely during July 20 to 22 at isolated places over northern, eastern parts of Punjab and northern, eastern and southern Haryana, including Chandigarh, during this spell," the weather department said, while warning that very heavy rain (12 cm or more) is also likely at isolated places on July 21 over parts of Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Ambala, Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ropar districts and their adjoining areas. The MeT observed light to moderate rain at few places in Haryana and isolated places in Punjab during the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, the maximum temperature in Chandigarh.

**ANANDPUR SAHIB TO GET HERITAGE STREET MODELLED AFTER AMRITSAR'S ICONIC STREET**

**Diary Times Desk :** Anandpur Sahib to get heritage street modelled after Amritsar's iconic street to commemorate Sikh legacy. The historic city of Anandpur Sahib, the birthplace of the Khalsa and a cornerstone of Sikh heritage, is set to undergo a major beautification drive with the development of a heritage street on the lines of the famed one in Amritsar. The tourism department of Punjab government has proposed the project such that it coincides with the 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of the ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur. Official sources said the heritage street would be developed along the main road leading to Takht Shri Keshgarh Sahib, one of the five Takhts (seats of authority) in Sikhism. The stretch will undergo thematic transformation, with shopfronts and street architecture redesigned to reflect the rich cultural and spiritual legacy of Anandpur Sahib. Ropar Deputy Commissioner Varjeet Singh Walia confirmed the development and expressed optimism over the cooperation received from local shopkeepers. "Most of the shopkeepers running businesses along the Keshgarh Sahib road have given their nod to start the project. Their consent is crucial, as the aim is to preserve the essence of the city's history while enhancing its visual and spiritual appeal," he said.

**CRIME OUT OF CONTROL UNDER BJP RULE, SAYS HOODA; CITES NCRB DATA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda today launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led Haryana Government, alleging a collapse of law and order and saying residents no longer feel safe. "The graph of crime has been continuously going up ever since the BJP came to power," he said at a press conference. "Crime has become so out of control that it seems that the mafia, and not the government, is running the state. Haryana, which was known for prosperity and greenery during the Congress tenure, is now known for hooliganism and bullets." Hooda cited the Social Progress Index (SPI) report of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council to claim Haryana has been described as the "most insecure state in the country." He said "the NCRB report also states the same." Quoting annual crime data, Hooda said: "Within a year, 1,020 murders took place in the state, that is, three murders every day. During this period, 1,786 rape cases were reported in Haryana, or 4-5 rapes took place every day." On crimes against women, he said: "16,743 cases came to light within a year, or 46 cases were registered every day. With a crime rate of 118.7, Haryana ranks first in the country."

**AAP'S ANMOL GAGAN MAAN RESIGNS AS KHARAR MLA, QUILTS POLITICS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Anmol Gagan Maan on Saturday resigned as the MLA from Kharar and announced her decision to quit politics altogether. She submitted her resignation to Punjab Assembly Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, requesting that it be accepted at the earliest. The singer-turned-politician was elected from the Kharar Assembly seat in the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls. She also became a minister and held the portfolios of tourism and culture, investment promotion, labour and hospitality. But last year, the Bhagwant Mann government dropped four ministers, including Maan, from the Cabinet. In her brief statement, the AAP leader confirmed she is stepping away from political life, though she did not disclose the reasons for her decision. "With a heavy heart, I have decided to quit politics. My resignation from the post of MLA, submitted to the Speaker, may be accepted. My best wishes are with the party. I hope the Punjab government will live up to the expectations of the people," she said in a post on X in Punjabi.

**WOMEN, CHILDREN CAUGHT IN THE WEB AS SIRSA DRUG CRISIS DEEPENS**

**Diary Times Desk :** What began as a hidden issue in isolated pockets has now turned into a full-blown drug crisis in Sirsa district — a crisis that has crept into homes, classrooms and even hospital wards. Once limited to a few localities, drug abuse now afflicts both urban and rural communities, with a growing number of women and children getting drawn into the dark world of addiction and trafficking. At the de-addiction centre of Sirsa's civil hospital, over 100 people seek help each day — either to quit drugs or to manage the severe health issues that accompany long-term use. "Back in 2014, the centre had recorded just 1,405 patients in a year. That number soared to over 33,000 by 2024," a hospital official revealed, pointing to the explosive growth of the crisis. The most commonly abused substances are heroin, locally known as chitta and pharmaceutical drugs. Police sources say traffickers have changed tactics to evade the law, often supplying small quantities that qualify for bail. To carry out deliveries, minors and women are frequently used, sometimes near schools, colleges and even hospitals. A 28-year-old man, Ravi (name changed), is undergoing treatment at the centre. Once a healthy young man weighing 80 kg, he now weighs barely 45 kg.

## 6 YEARS ON, NURPUR LANDSLIP VICTIMS TO BE REHABILITATED

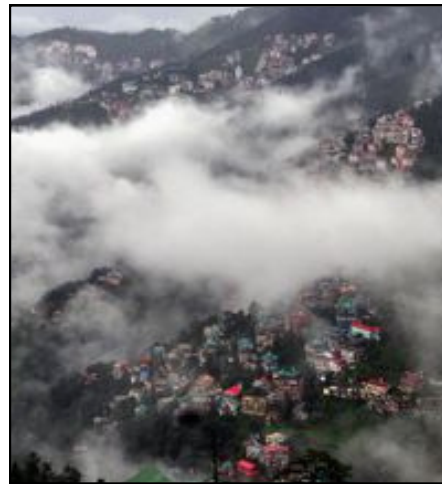
**Diary Times Desk :** In a long-overdue relief, 17 Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Scheduled Caste (SC) families of Nurpur town, who were rendered homeless by a landslide on September 19, 2019, have finally been allotted 4 marlas of government land each for reconstruction of their homes. They have been allotted land in Rampuri revenue upmohal in Ward No. 6 of the town. These families had been living in limbo for nearly six years after their houses were severely damaged in the landslide, which left wide cracks in the structures and rendered them uninhabitable. Despite repeated appeals and sustained efforts to seek permanent rehabilitation, the process was mired in bureaucratic delays. Initial assessments by the local administration revealed that a total of 20 houses were damaged in the landslide. While two families had their own land and managed to relocate and one family rebuilt on the same spot, 17 families were identified as landless and in need of government assistance.

## KANGRA ADMN SETS UP SURVEILLANCE CHECKPOSTS AT KEY TREKKING ROUTES

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid rising concerns over trekkers going missing in the Dhauladhar ranges, the District Administration of Kangra has launched a comprehensive safety initiative aimed at preventing future mishaps. With many adventurers previously losing their way due to the absence of a proper tracking system, the administration has now set up surveillance checkpoints at the starting points of the 10 most popular trekking routes in the district. The District Magistrate has invoked the Disaster Management Act, making registration at these checkpoints mandatory for all trekkers. Talking to The Tribune, Kangra DC Hemraj Bairwa said, "It was essential as we earnestly want to ensure the safety of people." Failure to comply the guidelines will invite legal action under the Disaster Management Act. Trained and dedicated volunteers have been stationed at the checkpoints to assist trekkers, maintain real-time record and ensure that they are well-informed before embarking on their journey.

## MONSOON MAYHEM: 18 KILLED IN UP, RAIN HAVOC IN RAJASTHAN, ALERT IN HIMACHAL, U'KHAND AND BENGAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Uttar Pradesh bore the brunt of monsoon fury as rain-related incidents claimed 18 lives, with the IMD on Saturday issuing alerts for heavy rain in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala. While torrential rain caused a flood-like situation in parts of Rajasthan; heavy rainfall and landslides in some areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim affected normal life and disrupted traffic movement. In Uttar Pradesh, 18 people died in a period of over 24 hours ending at 8 pm on July 18. Of the total, eight died of drowning following excessive rain, while two were a result of snakebites. In Chitrakoot, two deaths due to drowning were reported on July 17 and 18, three in Moradabad on July 17, and one drowned in Ghazipur on July 18, according to an official statement. Rain-related incidents after downpour claimed three lives in Banda and two each in Mahoba and Chitrakoot, and one in Lalitpur on July 18, the statement said. In Rajasthan, heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours has resulted in flood-like conditions in several cities, including Ajmer, Pushkar, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, and Pali.



## ORANGE ALERT ISSUED FOR HEAVY RAINS IN HIMACHAL ON JULY 21, 22

**Diary Times Desk :** The local Meteorological office has issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in isolated areas across four to nine out of 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh on Monday and Tuesday. A yellow alert for heavy rainfall in isolated places has also been issued until Sunday. Thunderstorms and lightning are also anticipated in Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmour on Monday; and in Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Sirmour on Tuesday, the MeT stated. The monsoon activity has been weak over the last 24 hours, resulting in light rainfall in a few areas of the state. Hamirpur recorded 13.5 mm of rain since Friday night, followed by Karsog with 8.1 mm, Kasauli at 5 mm, Jubbarhatti at 4.8 mm, Kothi at 4 mm, Slapper at 3.9 mm, Shimla at 3.6 mm, Ghaghas at 3.4 mm, and Kufri at 3 mm. As of Saturday evening, a total of 141 roads remain closed in the state. Additionally, 58 water supply schemes and 28 power distribution transformers have been affected, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). The maximum number of road closures occurred in disaster-hit Mandi (94) and Kullu (33). According to the SEOC, since the onset of the monsoon on June 20 till July 19, approximately 119 people have lost their lives.

## SC UPHOLDS HIMACHAL GOVT'S RIGHT TO 18% FREE POWER FROM JSW

**Diary Times Desk :** Holding that regulations cannot override freely negotiated contracts, the Supreme Court had said that JSW Hydro Energy Ltd must supply 18 per cent free electricity to the State of Himachal Pradesh as per the 1999 agreement, despite the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regulations capping free power at 13 per cent for tariff determination. We hold that CERC Regulations, 2019, do not prohibit respondent no. 1 (JSW Hydro Energy Ltd) from supplying free power beyond 13 per cent to the appellant-State of Himachal Pradesh, and not stand overridden by the operation of these regulations," a Bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Joyymalya Bagchi said in its July 16 verdict. Allowing an appeal filed by the State of Himachal Pradesh against the May 28, 2024 order of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, the Bench held that CERC tariff regulations did not override contractual obligations between a state and a generating company to supply free power beyond the regulatory cap of 13 per cent. Writing the judgment for the Bench, Justice Narasimha faulted the high court for having entered into the domain of interpreting CERC regulations on tariff.

## HELP RESTORE ROADS IN SERAJ, JAI RAM URGES JCB MACHINE OWNERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur has appealed to the owners of private JCB and heavy machines to come forward and assist in reopening blocked roads in disaster-affected areas of Seraj in Mandi district. During a visit to the affected areas, Thakur took stock of the ongoing relief work and interacted with the affected families, which had lost homes, land and livelihoods due to recent landslides and flashfloods. Thakur emphasised the urgency of restoring connectivity in the region. "Many main and link roads are still blocked after the rain disaster. The apple season is about to begin, so the transportation of fruit from the remaining undamaged orchards to the market has become a major challenge," he added. He appealed to the JCB machine owners to contribute by offering their equipment to help reopen roads. He said that the cost of fuel and maintenance would be covered. "If the JCB machine owners come forward to support us, we are ready to bear the fuel expenses. This will allow us to carry out the road restoration work on a war-footing," he added. Thakur welcomed the gesture of some citizens who had voluntarily offered to deploy their machinery at their own cost to help clear roads. "Many people have come forward with an offer to help and I express my heartfelt gratitude to them. This kind of support is crucial in this time of crisis. If we get adequate machinery support, we will ensure that all major and link roads are restored well in time for the apple season," he added.





## "HE'S AT HIS PRIME, I SEE HIM GETTING A LOT OF HUNDREDS": RAVI SHASTRI ON STAR INDIA BATTER

**Diary Times Desk** : Former India coach Ravi Shastri said tweaking "front-foot" technique has helped KL Rahul to be more productive with the bat against England, and hoped that the senior batter will continue at the top of his game for the "next three or four years". Rahul has so far scored 375 runs from three Tests with two hundreds and a fifty at an average of 62.50. He is the fourth highest run-getter behind Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and Jamie Smith. "What I am seeing is a slight adjustment he's made with his front foot, in his stance and while defending," Shastri told ICC Review. "It just opened up a bit, which allows his bat to come through cleanly. Even when he's hitting it towards mid-wicket, it's the full face of the blade," he added. Shastri said the new technique has also reduced the chances of Rahul getting bowled or leg before as it was the case in the past. "He doesn't need to close the face of the blade, and fall over and get into trouble like he used to in the past. "He would get out leg before, would get out bowled, he would get across too far and then be out leg before as well," he noted.



## MAGNUS CARLSEN'S 'NERVOUS SYSTEM STARTED COLLAPSING' VS D GUKESH, R PRAGGNANANDHAA AS WORLD NO. 1 MAKES HUGE ADMISSION

**Diary Times Desk** : The Pakistan Cricket Board is keen to release interim red-ball coach Azhar Mahmood, a former Test all-rounder, but is constrained by the contract signed with him by the previous management of the board, according to an insider. The source said that if Azhar is released before his contract expires, the PCB will have to compensate him with six months' salary -- a payment of approximately PKR 450 million (USD 160,000, INR Rs 1.38 crore). "Which is why the PCB recently named him as interim head coach of the national red-ball team until his contract expires next year in April-May," the insider said. He said that, as per information, PCB is paying the all-rounder a salary of approximately PKR 7.5 million per month. "The problem arose when Mike Hesson, the recently-appointed white-ball head coach made it clear he would have his own support staff and Azhar was not among his selections."

## VIRAT KOHLI WOULD'VE EASILY COMPLETED RUN CHASE IN LORD'S TEST: STEVE HARMISON

**Diary Times Desk** : Former England fast bowler Steve Harmison feels India would've easily won the third Test at Lord's, had Virat Kohli played in the match. India suffered a heartbreaking 22-run loss in the fixture as they failed to chase down the target of 193 runs and got all out for 22 runs. Recently, Steve Harmison analysed India's performance so far in the series and said that despite them dominating the major part of the three Test matches, England have found a way to win two games and take a lead. The former fast bowler said that India need to keep believing in themselves and also mentioned that Virat Kohli would've won the match for them in the fourth innings. "India has scored more hundreds, more top-order runs, and more new ball wickets, but England has got a knack of finding a way to win.

## MAGNUS CARLSEN'S 'NERVOUS SYSTEM STARTED COLLAPSING' VS D GUKESH, R PRAGGNANANDHAA AS WORLD NO. 1 MAKES HUGE ADMISSION

**Diary Times Desk** : Magnus Carlsen is still the current world No. 1 and his position as the best chess player is still obvious, but his authority has been challenged this year, especially from the young crop of Indian Grandmasters. Carlsen has been facing the heat, especially since he criticised D Gukesh's World Championship victory over Ding Liren, downplaying the quality of the showdown. Carlsen has also been at war with FIDE, and also took shots at Viswanathan Anand, who is vice-president. At Norway Chess, Carlsen eased past Gukesh in the opener, but then the Indian GM had the last laugh. He responded in style in a later round to beat Carlsen, but it wasn't enough as the Norwegian won the competition. The Round 6 defeat also saw Carlsen slam his table in frustration as it became a viral meme. Then ahead of the SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz Croatia, Carlsen mocked Gukesh and called him 'one of the weaker players'. Once again, Gukesh had the last laugh, beating Carlsen in the Rapid round. But then the Norwegian bounced back in the Blitz stage to beat Gukesh.

## "NOT EXPECTED FROM NO. 3": KARUN NAIR SLAMMED AHEAD OF TEAM SELECTION FOR INDIA VS ENGLAND 4TH TEST

**Diary Times Desk** : Former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer slammed batter Karun Nair for his back-to-back poor performances in the ongoing five-match Test series against England. Nair, who returned to Team India after a hiatus of eight years, completely failed to leave a mark in the first three matches. So far, he has scored 131 runs in three games, with his highest score being 40. India are currently trailing 1-2 in the five-match series and the questions are being raised on Nair's spot in the Playing XI for the fourth Test, which will be played from July 23. Engineer criticised Nair for his mediocre performances and stated that big scores are expected from a batter who is batting at No.3. "Karun Nair has been getting brilliant 20s and 30s. He's (Nair) scored beautiful 30 runs, beautiful cover drives and all that. But a beautiful 30 is not expected from a No. 3. You've got to get a not-so-beautiful 100. You need runs on the board. You need (to score) bigger. The expectation should be much higher," he told the Times of India. Engineer further stated that young player like Sai Sudharsan should get another chance in the team. "We should pick the best XI. I haven't seen much of Sai Sudharsan. You've got to pick the best player for the time being.

## END OBSESSION WITH JASPRIT BUMRAH, CRICKET IS A TEAM SPORT: GREG CHAPPELL

**Diary Times Desk** : India trail England 1-2 in the 5-match Test series after playing 3 Test matches. Interestingly, India have lost both Tests where Bumrah has played. In fact, records show that India have won 70 per cent of the Tests that Bumrah does not play, and only win a little over 40 per cent of the games when Bumrah is in the team. As experts and fans try and analyse this unique statistic, former Australia captain Greg Chappell has said that India must end their obsession with Jasprit Bumrah. In a column at ESPNcricinfo, Chappell said that cricket is a team sport, and India can only win matches on the day they turn up as a unit. He said that the conversation on Jasprit Bumrah takes away from that point and focuses on the wrong things in a high-pressure series. "And a word on Bumrah: the obsession with whether he plays or doesn't is missing the point. India have won plenty of Tests without him recently. The key is not individual brilliance, it's collective performance. Teams win when everyone does their job. When the captain makes sure each player is clear, confident, and committed to the plan. That's the formula," Greg Chappell said.

## ANDRE RUSSELL PUTS SALT TO INDIA'S OLD WOUNDS, RECALLS BEST 'MOMENT OF HIS CAREER' AFTER INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT

**Diary Times Desk** : Who can forget India's heartbreaking loss in the 2016 T20 World Cup semi-final against West Indies at the Wankhede Stadium? The Daren Sammy-led side chased more than 190 runs to make their entry into the final, which they eventually won by getting the better of England. Andre Russell hit the winning runs for the Windies as he hit a six off the bowling of Virat Kohli in the final over. Days after announcing his international retirement, Russell has listed the above-mentioned game as the "best moment" of his career. Russell will bow out of international cricket after the first two T20Is against Australia in Jamaica. The all-rounder confirmed his retirement earlier this week. In the semi-final against India, Russell was at his brilliant best. He scored an unbeaten 43 off 20 balls with three fours and four sixes, helping Windies chase down 193. With the ball, he had earlier dismissed Ajinkya Rahane for 40 off 35 balls. During an interview with Cricket West Indies, Russell spoke fondly about the match against India, labelling it the "best moment" of his career.