

INDIA-UK
FREE TRADE

CABINET APPROVES INDIA-UK FREE TRADE AGREEMENT,
TO BE SIGNED DURING PM MODI’S UK VISIT

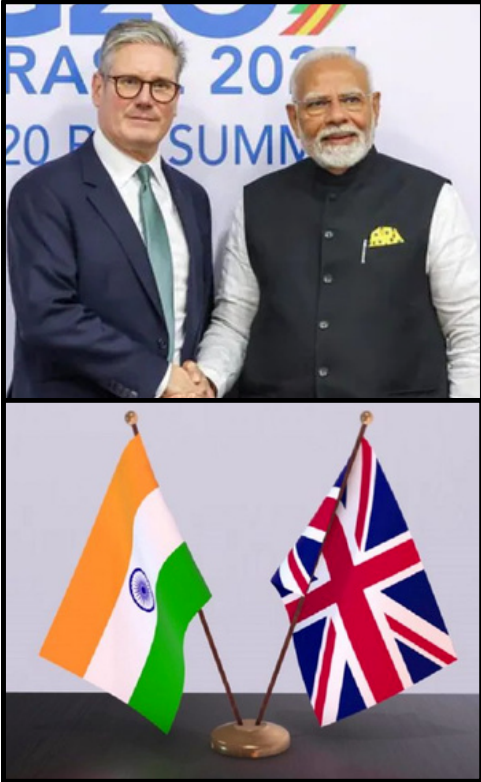
Diary Times Desk : The cabinet on Tuesday approved the free trade agreement between India and the UK, which will be signed in London on July 24, sources said. The pact, officially called as comprehensive economic and trade agreement, will be signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to London. Modi’s four-day visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives begins on Wednesday.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will accompany the prime minister. The two countries announced the conclusion of the negotiations for the trade agreement on May 6.

The trade pact proposes to remove taxes on the export of labour-intensive products such as leather, footwear and clothing, while making imports of whisky and cars from Britain cheaper, in a bid to double the trade between the two economies to USD 120 billion by 2030.

The pact has chapters on issues including goods, services, innovation, government procurement, and intellectual property rights.

The text of the agreement is generally signed by the commerce ministers from both countries. Once the free trade agreement is signed, it will require approval from the British Parliament before it can take effect. The two countries have also concluded the negotiations for the Double Contribution Convention Agreement, or social security pact.



SHUBHANSHU
SHUKLA

‘EARTH LOOKS ONE FROM SPACE, NO BORDER EXISTS’:
SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA’S QUOTE FEATURED IN NEW NCERT BOOK



Diary Times Desk : Shubhanshu Shukla, who became the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS), is now featured in the newly-released NCERT Class V environmental studies textbook with his awe-inspiring words about earth from space.

Shukla, who completed an 18-day mission aboard the ISS on July 15, described how Earth appeared to him from space.

“After seeing earth from outside, the first thought that came to mind was that it looks completely one; no border is visible from outside. It seems that no border exists, no state exists, no countries exist. We all are part of humanity, and the earth is our one home, and all of us are in it,” the book, titled “Our Wondrous World,” has quoted him saying under the chapter “Earth, Our Shared Home”.

The quote was part of his conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and now aims to inspire young minds to think beyond boundaries and embrace unity. The textbook, developed under the framework of the National Education Policy 2020, is part of a new integrated approach to learning that merges science, social science and environmental studies.

Part of ‘The World Around Us’ series, the book aims to cultivate observation, ethical reasoning and environmental awareness in young learners. Alongside Shukla’s reflections, the textbook introduces innovative systems such as DIGIPIN, a digital address identifier for precise location mapping. It also includes content on oral health safety, microbial life, flood preparedness and food preservation techniques.

INDIA OFFERS MEDICAL AID FOR VICTIMS OF FIGHTER JET CRASH IN BANGLADESH

Diary Times Desk : India on Tuesday offered urgent medical aid for victims of the recent fighter jet crash in Bangladesh. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a statement announced, "A team of burn-specialist doctors and nurses with necessary medical support are scheduled to visit Dhaka shortly to treat the victims. They will make an assessment of the condition of patients with recommendation for further treatment and specialised care in India as necessary." "Additional medical teams may also follow depending on their preliminary assessment and treatment," it added. At least 31 people, including a student, have reportedly died and over 170 others — children and adults — were injured and hospitalised, many with serious burns, after an aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force crashed into a school and college campus.



HONG KONG–DELHI AIR INDIA PLANE’S AUXILIARY POWER UNIT CATCHES FIRE AFTER LANDING

Diary Times Desk : In a post-landing scare at the Delhi airport, the Air India flight AI 315 arriving from Hong Kong on July 22 reported a fire in its auxiliary power unit (APU) moments after docking at the gate. The fire broke out while passengers had already begun disembarking. The airline confirmed that the APU, a small engine located in the aircraft’s tail used to power systems while on the ground, was automatically shut down by onboard systems as designed. While there was some damage to the aircraft, all passengers and crew exited safely and without injury. “Flight AI 315, operating from Hong Kong to Delhi on 22 July 2025, experienced an auxiliary power unit (APU) fire shortly after it had landed and parked at the gate. The incident occurred while passengers had begun disembarking, and the APU was automatically shut down as per system design. There was some damage to the aircraft.

AHMEDABAD AIRPORT GETS BOMB THREAT EMAIL, NOTHING SUSPICIOUS FOUND AFTER SEARCH



Diary Times Desk : The Ahmedabad airport on Tuesday received a bomb threat, leading to a thorough sweep of the premises by security agencies during which nothing suspicious was found, officials said. The bomb threat was sent by an unidentified person to the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport through an email. On receiving the email, local police rushed to the spot and scanned the entire airport premises with the help of the cyber crime branch and other security agencies, said Assistant Commissioner of Police, 'G' Division, VN Yadav. "The threat turned out to be a hoax as nothing suspicious was found. The Airport police as well as cyber crime are conducting further investigation," he informed. In a statement, an airport spokesperson said the threat was 'non-specific' and nothing suspicious was found after the search.

V-P DHANKHAR'S RESIGNATION: CONSTITUTION MANDATES SUCCESSOR'S ELECTION 'AS SOON AS POSSIBLE'

Diary Times Desk : With President Droupadi Murmu accepting the resignation of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, the process for electing his successor has to be completed “as soon as possible”. Article 68(2) of the Constitution mandates that “An election to fill a vacancy in the office of Vice-President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy...” The provision further says that “the person elected to fill the vacancy shall, subject to the provisions of article 67, be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.” The Vice-President works in a dual capacity as he presides over the Rajya Sabha and also acts as President in certain contingencies. While the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha is expected to perform his duties with regard to the Upper House on the V-P’s resignation, it remains unclear who performs his duties of the Vice-President in case of his death or resignation before the expiry of his term.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

23-07-2025

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HIMACHAL NEWS: MUKESH AGNIHOTRI SAID- WE WILL BRING QUALITY IN THE WORSHIP SYSTEM, WILL CONNECT TEMPLES WITH DIGITAL SYSTEM

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, who is in charge of the Language, Art and Culture Department, said that about Rs 550 crore is being spent by the state government on the preservation of the cultural heritage of Himachal. To bring quality in the traditional worship system and connect the temples to the digital system, it will be organized. To bring purity in the worship method and chanting, 15 priests of Shri Chintapurni Temple and 10 priests of Mata Shri Naina Devi Temple have been given online training in the Sanskrit Faculty of Banaras Hindu University from 5 to 25 February 2025. In future, priests of other temple trusts will also be given this training in a phased manner. The government is also ensuring that the rich cultural heritage is promoted and disseminated nationally and internationally. For this, Himachal's folk arts, traditional music, crafts and customs will be shared through cultural festivals, digital platforms, documentation, exhibitions. This will not only give a new dimension to the cultural identity of the state, but will also strengthen the feeling of pride and attachment towards their traditions among the youth.



HP HIGH COURT: HIMACHAL HIGH COURT DIRECTS- DC SHOULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION ALONG THE KIRATPUR-MANALI FOUR LANE

Diary Times Desk : Taking a tough stand on the PIL filed over encroachment on the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane, the High Court has directed the Deputy Commissioners of Bilaspur, Mandi and Kullu districts to take immediate action on illegal constructions. Also, submit your compliance report before the next date. A division bench of Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma, while hearing the Madan Lal vs Union of India case, said that if the encroachments on this highway built at a cost of crores of rupees are not stopped in time, then its utility will end. Bilaspur Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar on Monday filed an affidavit in compliance with the order of July 1, 2025 in the court and apologized unconditionally. He informed that a total of 49 encroachments have been removed so far in four sub-divisions of Bilaspur district. These include 4 from Sadar, 14 from Ghumarwin, 29 from Jhanduta.

HIMACHAL NEWS: SILT IN POWER PROJECTS, PRODUCTION REDUCED BY 650 MW; UNDECLARED POWER CUTS MAY BE IMPOSED IN THE STATE

Diary Times Desk : Due to heavy rains across the state, production has been affected due to silt in almost all the hydroelectric projects of the state including the Electricity Board. An estimated reduction of about 650 MW has been recorded in power generation. There is also unavailability of adequate power in the real time market. The Electricity Board now has to buy supply from the grid to meet the needs of the state. In such a situation, unannounced power cuts can also be imposed due to shortage of power in the state. The Electricity Board management has appealed to all consumers for cooperation. Electricity Board spokesperson Anurag Parashar has said that the unavailability of adequate power in the real time market has made this problem even more complex and has also unexpectedly limited the approval of power availability in this regard. Only 100-200 MW is being approved against the bid of 1500 MW in the real time market. The state is able to get only 9.06 lakh units of power from the real time market. As a result, the Board has been forced to purchase about 700 MW (12.47 LU) additional power from the grid to meet the power supply demand.

HIMACHAL NEWS: THERE IS A BAN ON MARKING OF LAND IN HIMACHAL PRADESH FOR THE TIME BEING, DUE TO THIS THE STATE GOVERNMENT TOOK THE DECISION

Diary Times Desk : Land demarcation has been banned in Himachal Pradesh. This decision has been taken due to the growth of bushes and grass on the land during the rainy season. The government believes that even if the land is demarcated in such a situation, it will not be accurate. This work can be implemented only when the weather clears. Those who have applied for demarcation. Patwari and Kanungo will complete its formalities. Land can be demarcated as soon as the weather clears. More than three hundred demarcations take place every month in the state. The date is fixed by Kanungo and Patwari for the division of land and measurement of the plot. The government has officially issued guidelines at the circle level that Patwari and Kanungo will provide services to the people in the Patwar circle for three days and will work in the field for the other three days. But now Patwari and Kanungo will provide land related documents to the people in the circle itself. Apart from this, those who have applied for demarcation will be given the next date. The government has also decided that in the plots where bushes and grass have grown, if they are cleaned, then demarcation can be done in such a situation.



LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- IF THE POLICY OF JOB TRAINEE WAS TO BE BROUGHT THEN WHY WAS THE GUARANTEE OF PERMANENT JOB GIVEN

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that the job trainee scheme is a cruel joke of the Sukhu government with the youth of the state. Such schemes are not acceptable in the state. The government should withdraw this anti-youth scheme. It is surprising that the government which came to power by guaranteeing permanent employment for 58 years, guaranteeing one lakh government jobs in the first cabinet, guaranteeing five lakh jobs is doing anti-youth work in this manner. Sukhu government has been conspiring to snatch jobs, not give jobs, end jobs, remove people from jobs and end the possibility of jobs since coming to power by lying and giving false guarantees. This government did not make a single honest effort to give jobs to people in its tenure of more than two and a half years. Instead of creating jobs, the government is using all the tricks to remove people from jobs. This is an anti-people, anti-youth, anti-state government. Jairam Thakur has urged the government to take care of the youth of the state like its friends.

HIMACHAL WEATHER: 375 ROADS BLOCKED DUE TO LANDSLIDES IN THE STATE; ROCKS FELL ON A MOVING VEHICLE IN KHEGSU, TWO INJURED

Diary Times Desk : The spell of rain continues in Himachal Pradesh. Due to this, incidents of landslides have occurred at many places. 375 roads including three national highways remained blocked in the state till 10:00 pm on Tuesday. 326 electricity transformers and 314 water supply schemes are also affected. The maximum number of 262 roads and 201 electricity transformers are stalled in Mandi district. After a long wait of 37 hours, the Chandigarh-Manali National Highway was restored for traffic at 1:00 pm on Tuesday. On Sunday night, the highway was closed due to landslides at various places from Mandi to Aut. There is also news of trees falling at many places in Shimla city. Rocks fell on a moving vehicle from the hill at Khegsu on the Nitthar-Luri road. Two people in the vehicle have been injured in the accident. The accident is being reported late on Monday night. Due to this, the Nitthar-Luri road remained closed for about 12 hours. The road was restored at around 10 am.

MAHARASHTRA CHALLENGES ACQUITTAL OF MUMBAI TRAIN BLASTS ACCUSED IN SUPREME COURT

Diary Times Desk : The Maharashtra government has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court's recent verdict acquitting all 12 men previously convicted in the 2006 Mumbai train blasts, which claimed over 180 lives and injured hundreds. The top court has agreed to hear the plea on July 24. The state's legal move follows a High Court judgment delivered on Monday, which overturned the convictions handed down by a special court in 2015. That trial had resulted in five death sentences and seven life imprisonments. The High Court found that the prosecution had "utterly failed" to prove its case and declared it "hard to believe the accused committed the crime." One of the death row convicts, Kamal Ansari, died in 2021. The remaining accused were ordered to be released, unless held in other cases. Minister Devendra Fadnavis described the verdict as "shocking" and confirmed that his government would take the matter to the apex court. "I will go through the entire (HC) order. I have discussed with the lawyers, and the high court verdict will be challenged in the Supreme Court," he said.

F-35B FIGHTER LEAVES KERALA AIRPORT AFTER BEING STRANDED FOR 5 WEEKS

Diary Times Desk : The British Royal Navy's F-35B fighter jet, which had been stranded in Kerala for over a month after making an emergency landing, flew out of the Thiruvananthapuram airport this morning. The stealth jet had been grounded in Kerala due to a hydraulic fault that took an expert team from the UK to repair. The fighter received a green signal yesterday, allowing it to return to the skies after five weeks. Visuals this morning showed the aircraft taking off from the Thiruvananthapuram airport. "A UK F-35B aircraft, which landed following an emergency diversion on June 14, departed today from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. A UK engineering team, deployed since July 6, completed the repairs and safety checks, allowing the aircraft to resume active service," said a British High Commission spokesperson, expressing gratitude to Indian authorities and airport teams. The fifth-generation stealth fighter is part of the UK's HMS Prince of Wales Carrier Strike Group, which has been operating in the Indo-Pacific and recently finished joint maritime exercises with the Indian Navy. The jet was flying from the UK to Australia on June 14 when it developed a snag.

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR WAS ADMITTED TO AIIMS, COLLAPSED MID-EVENT BEFORE RESIGNING: REPORT



Diary Times Desk : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar abruptly resigned from the post on Tuesday evening, citing health reasons and sparking concerns along with speculation over his sudden exit. In his resignation letter, Jagdeep Dhankhar said he is resigning to prioritise health care and abide by medical advice. While his decision to step down may look abrupt, there have been several recent incidents when Dhankhar was visibly keeping unwell while attending public events, even though he appeared energetic in Rajya Sabha, which he presided over as chairperson. In March this year, Dhankhar was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi for some days after experiencing uneasiness and chest pain. After his hospitalisation, he was advised to cut back his trips outside of the national capital for some time, reported PTI news agency. Following that, Dhankhar collapsed while attending the Golden Jubilee of Kumaon University during his visit to Nainital in Uttarakhand in June.

CABINET OKAYS FREE TRADE DEAL, TO BE SIGNED DURING PM'S UK VISIT: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar abruptly resigned from the post on Tuesday evening, citing health reasons and sparking concerns along with speculation over his sudden exit. In his resignation letter, Jagdeep Dhankhar said he is resigning to prioritise health care and abide by medical advice. While his decision to step down may look abrupt, there have been several recent incidents when Dhankhar was visibly keeping unwell while attending public events, even though he appeared energetic in Rajya Sabha, which he presided over as chairperson. In March this year, Dhankhar was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi for some days after experiencing uneasiness and chest pain. After his hospitalisation, he was advised to cut back his trips outside of the national capital for some time, reported PTI news agency. Following that, Dhankhar collapsed while attending the Golden Jubilee of Kumaon University during his visit to Nainital in Uttarakhand in June.

BIHAR VOTER LIST TRIMMED BY 52 LAKH BY ELECTION COMMISSION

Diary Times Desk : The electoral roll revision in Bihar has weeded out 52 lakh voters who are dead or migrated, the Election Commission said today, assuring that "all eligible electors are included in the draft electoral roll to be published on August 1". Of the 52 lakh names removed, 18 lakh are reported dead, 26 lakh voters have shifted to different constituencies, and 7 lakh are enrolled at two places, the Commission said two days before the draft lists are expected. Amid Opposition concerns about a chunk of voters being left out -- that led to a massive row and a court case -- the poll body has assured that there will be time to tweak the lists to include anyone who need to be included. "As per the SIR order dated 24.06.2025, from August 1 to September 1, 2025, a full one-month will be available to any member of the public to file objections for any additions, deletions and rectification in Draft Electoral Rolls," the Commission said in a statement today.

AIR INDIA HONG KONG-DELHI FLIGHT CATCHES FIRE AFTER LANDING, PASSENGERS SAFE

Diary Times Desk : The auxiliary power unit of Air India flight AI-315, flying from Hong Kong to Delhi, caught fire shortly after the plane landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, the airline said Tuesday. The fire was detected while passengers were exiting the plane, the airline said. The auxiliary power unit, or APU, was automatically shut down once the system detected the fire, and passengers and crew continued to disembark safely, the airline also said. Air India said there was "some damage" to the aircraft - a twin-jet Airbus A321 - which has been grounded pending an investigation. The Director-General of Civil Aviation has been notified. The Delhi incident is the latest worry for a domestic carrier that has received nine notices in six months for five safety violations, junior Aviation Minister Murlidhar Mohol told Parliament Monday. This is also the third near-miss for Air India in 48 hours. On Monday a Kochi-Mumbai flight veered off the runway while landing, damaging both the plane and the tarmac.

FIRST BATCH OF APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTERS ARRIVE IN INDIA, ARMY CALLS IT 'MILESTONE MOMENT'

Diary Times Desk : The Indian Army received its first batch of Apache attack helicopters from Boeing on Tuesday, in what is being seen as a major boost to the defence forces. The Army informed about a development of getting three helicopters from Boeing through a post on social media platform X. "#Apache for Indian Army. Milestone moment for Indian Army as the first batch of Apache helicopters for Army Aviation arrive today in India," the post read. The Army affirmed that the induction of the Apache attack helicopters into the force would 'significantly boost' its operational capabilities. "These state-of-the-art platforms will bolster the operational capabilities of the Indian Army significantly," the Army said in the social media post. The American aerospace giant delivered the AH-64E Apaches choppers as part of a contract to supply six helicopters to the Indian Army. The AH-64 Apache is one of the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopters and is flown by the US Army.



UNESCO "DEEPLY REGRETS" US WITHDRAWAL, BUT "PREPARED" FOR IT

Diary Times Desk : The head of the UN cultural agency UNESCO said Tuesday she regretted the US decision to withdraw from the organisation, but added the move had come as no surprise. "I deeply regret President Donald Trump's decision to once again withdraw the United States of America from UNESCO," Director-General Audrey Azoulay said. "However regrettable, this announcement was expected, and UNESCO has prepared for it".

WOMEN WATCHED BY MEN USING TOILETS IN TRUMP-ERA DETENTION CENTRES: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : According to a report titled, 'You Feel Like Your Life is Over': Abusive Practices at Three Florida Immigration Detention Centres Since January 2025, undocumented migrants were being exposed to degrading treatment at several US immigration facilities. The report published conditions at three overcrowded south Florida facilities. It claimed migrants were in shackles with their hands tied behind their backs and made to kneel and eat food from Styrofoam plates "like dogs". Dozens of men had been packed in cells for hours and denied lunch till 7pm. They remained in shackles with food in chairs in front of them. "We had to eat like animals," one detainee named Pedro said. This incident took place at a Miami immigration jail. At the Krome North service processing center in west Miami, female detainees were forced to use toilets in full view of male detainees. Women were denied access to gender-appropriate medical care, showers or adequate food. The jail was full far beyond capacity, and to deal with that, detainees were held in a bus at a parking lot for more than 24 hours. Men and women were cramped together and unshackled only when they had to use the single toilet. Soon after, the toilet became clogged. "The bus became disgusting. It was the type of toilet in which normally people only urinate but because we were on the bus for so long, and we were not permitted to leave it, others defecated in the toilet," one man said.

INDIA SENDS BURN-SPECIALIST DOCTORS TO TREAT THOSE INJURED IN DHAKA AIR CRASH



Diary Times Desk : India on Tuesday night said it is sending a team of burn-specialist doctors and nurses to Dhaka to treat those injured when a military jet crashed into a school. At least 31 people, including 25 children, were killed when the military jet crashed into the Milestone School and College in the capital Dhaka's Uttara area on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed condolences at the loss of lives in the tragic air crash and had conveyed assurances of support and assistance. "A team of burn-specialist Doctors and Nurses with necessary medical support are scheduled to visit Dhaka shortly to treat the victims," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "They will make an assessment of the condition of patients with recommendation for further treatment and specialised care in India as necessary," it said in a statement.

INDIA MAKES BIG JUMP IN HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX, VISA-FREE ENTRY TO 59 COUNTRIES NOW

Diary Times Desk : According to the Henley Passport Index 2025, the Indian passport has made a long jump and climbed eight places - from 85th to 77th - after dropping five spots last year, despite only gaining two destinations to its visa-free tally. The count of visa-free countries accessible to India stands at 59. The countries on the list are sorted on the basis of the number of destinations their holders can enter without having a prior visa. Currently, India has visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 59 destinations in the world. Malaysia, Indonesia, Maldives, Thailand are some countries that offer visa-free access to Indian passport holders. Countries such as Sri Lanka, Macau, Myanmar etc., offer visa-on-arrival (VOA). Asian countries are taking the lead when it comes to mobility across the globe. Singapore provides visa-free entry to 193 destinations.

BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST FINDS GIRL'S BODY IN RIVER WHILE REPORTING HER DISAPPEARANCE

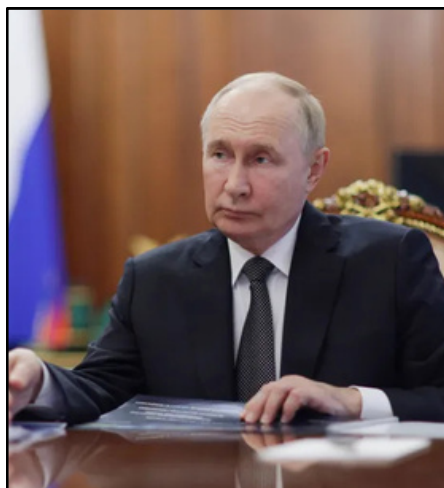
Diary Times Desk : In a terrifying moment, a Brazilian journalist stumbled upon the body of a missing teenage girl while reporting about her disappearance. The journalist, Lenildo Frazão, was standing in the Mearim River in northeastern Brazil's Bacabal, where the teenager was last spotted, according to The Sun. The victim, Raissa (13), drowned while swimming with her friends in the river. Frazão was talking about the depth of the river at the spot where the girl was last seen swimming. However, moments after standing in the middle of the river, Frazão jumped up, saying he had felt something brush against him from inside the water, The Sun reported. With water up to his chest, Frazão immediately tried to scramble away from the spot. After making his way back to the shallower part of the river, he looked back at the spot and was heard telling his team that there was something there.

IRAN'S FM SAYS NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT WILL CONTINUE, BUT OPEN TO TALKS

Diary Times Desk : Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi has said that Tehran cannot give up on its uranium enrichment programme, which was severely damaged by waves of US and Israeli air strikes last month. "It is now stopped because, yes, damages are serious and severe, but obviously, we cannot give up our enrichment because it is an achievement of our own scientists, and now, more than that, it is a question of national pride," Araghchi told the US broadcaster Fox News in an interview aired on Monday. Araghchi said at the beginning of the interview that Iran is "open to talks" with the United States, but that they would not be direct talks "for the time being". "If they [the US] are coming for a win-win solution, I am ready to engage with them," he said. "We are ready to do any confidence-building measure needed to prove that Iran's nuclear programme is peaceful and would remain peaceful forever, and Iran would never go for nuclear weapons, and in return, we expect them to lift their sanctions," the foreign minister added. "So, my message to the United States is that let's go for a negotiated solution for Iran's nuclear programme." Araghchi's comments were part of a 16-minute interview aired on Fox News, a broadcaster known to be closely watched by US President Donald Trump.

'NO MIRACLES': RUSSIA DOWNPLAYS UKRAINE TALKS AS DEADLY ATTACKS CONTINUE

Diary Times Desk : Russia has played down expectations of any breakthrough in upcoming talks with Ukraine in Türkiye, as Ukrainian officials said one child was killed and more than 20 people were wounded in overnight Russian attacks. "We don't have any reason to hope for some miraculous breakthroughs," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday, saying this was "hardly possible in the current situation". We intend to pursue our interests, we intend to ensure our interests and fulfil the tasks that we set for ourselves from the very beginning." Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's announcement late on Monday that talks would take place generated some hope that negotiators would deliver progress on ending the war that began with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. United States President Donald Trump has been putting more pressure on Russia to hold talks, which have stalled as Russian President Vladimir Putin stood his ground on his demands.



PUNJAB HIKES COMPENSATION FOR ACQUIRED LAND, OFFERS PLOTS AND COMMERCIAL SITES TO FARMERS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Council of Ministers on Tuesday gave its assent to increasing the annual compensation for farmers whose land is to be acquired — from Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 per acre. The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, also decided to allot residential plots and commercial sites to farmers whose small landholdings, ranging from 1 kanal to 7 kanals, are acquired. For example, a farmer giving up 1 kanal of land through pooling will get a residential plot of 125 square yards and a booth of 25 square yards. A person parting with 7 kanals will receive three residential plots of 500, 250, and 125 square yards respectively, an SCO (Shop-Cum-Office) of 100 square yards, and a shop site of 75 square yards. If a farmer opts out of taking a commercial site, the size of the residential site allotted to them will be three times larger. "The Cabinet also approved giving the enhanced compensation until the development work on the acquired land begins. Farmers will be allowed to continue cultivation and retain the income generated," said CM Mann, reiterating that no one will be forced to part with their land.



NO VESTED RIGHT TO HOLD CURRENT CHARGE OF HIGHER POST, SAYS HC; ADVISES NON-ARBITRARY PROCESS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that the assignment of current charge of a higher post must be guided by a non-arbitrary process. The assertion came as the court advised the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board (HSAMB) to follow a fair and consistent approach by entrusting such charge to the senior-most eligible employee with an unblemished record. Ruling that no civil post holder has a vested right to continue holding current charge of a higher post, Chief Justice Sheel Nagu held that such assignment can be withdrawn without adhering to the principles of natural justice. "It is settled in service jurisprudence that no civil post holder has a right to hold current charge of any higher post for any particular period of time," the Bench observed. The ruling came in a case where nine petitioners — all substantively holding the posts of Junior Engineers (Civil) — had challenged the withdrawal of current charge of Sub Divisional Engineer (SDE), entrusted to them between 2012 and 2018.

'UNJUST AND UNLAWFUL': TRICITY CHEMISTS SLAM NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU OVER ARREST OF 3 PANCHKULA WHOLESALERS

Diary Times Desk : Outrage erupted across the tricity today as chemists shut shops and took to the streets against the alleged illegal and arbitrary arrest of three medicine wholesalers by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Members of the District Chemists Association, Panchkula, gathered near the Sector 7-8-17-18 roundabout in Panchkula as a mark of protest. Extending support, the members of the Chandigarh Chemists Association and Mohali Chemists Association, too, shut shops for two hours and staged demonstrations near Matka Chowk (Chandigarh) and Phase 7-8 light point (Mohali), respectively. The said wholesalers were arrested for supplying certain controlled medicines to a retail shop in Pinjore, which possessed only a partial drug licence. However, association members said, the restrictions on the said licence were never communicated to the suppliers — neither by the Drug Department nor by the purchaser — leading to unintentional compliance issues. The associations condemned the "unjustified" detention of these trade members, who they said had been in custody for the past two weeks without fair cause.

NDRF TEAM IN ROPAR FOR FIVE DAYS TO FAMILIARISE CADETS WITH FLOOD PLAINS OF SUTLEJ

Diary Times Desk : A team of National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) is in Ropar for five days to familiarise itself with the flood plains of Punjab. Deputy Commissioner, Ropar, Varjeet Singh Walia, while talking to The Tribune said that the team that is putting up in Nangal town of Ropar district is here for five days. During July 21 to 25, the team would familiarise itself with the flood plains of Punjab. It would also be conducting a mock drill in Nangal tomorrow. "It would be carrying out community awareness programmes for public and school children to tackle any kind of disaster situation," he said. Ropar district has flood plains of Sutlej river and its tributaries. Though the river has been tamed at Bhakra Dam and Nangal Dam, its tributaries in the district, including the Swan river and Sirsa river still cause floods in monsoons. The rivers are prone to getting inflows of more 1 lakh cusec water during monsoons which causes floods in costal areas. After the water from Swan and Sirsa rivers enters Sutlej river in Ropar district, it also causes floods in areas lower from Nangal dam. The sources said that the NDRF would familiarise itself with the flood plains of Ropar district so that its cadres have experience in carrying out rescue operations in case of floods.

MAJITHIA CASE: HEARING ON CHANGE OF BARRACK, BAIL ON JULY 25

Diary Times Desk : A Mohali court today fixed July 25 as the next date of hearing in the regular bail application of SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia in a Prevention of Corruption Act case as the prosecution sought time to go through the 630-page application and reply. Majithia is currently in lodged in New Nabha jail near Patiala. His judicial custody was extended till August 2 on Saturday. Majithia had filed an application on July 12 seeking change of barrack, citing security concerns. The court today sent the application and the reply of the prosecution to ADGP (Prisons) to assess Majithia's representation and inform the court whether the prison rules are being complied or not, on July 25. Talking to mediapersons outside the court, Prosecution counsel PIP Singh said, "Majithia has not submitted any application to the Jail Superintendent in this regard. All the rules are being complied and complete security arrangements have been made in the jail." The defence counsel had also moved another application seeking a copy of 'Grounds of Arrest' to which the prosecution counsel informed the court that the Grounds of Arrest were provided to Majithia at the time of his arrest on June 25 and his wife had signed the document as a token of receipt. The court was apprised about it on June 26 itself, he added.

DILJIT IN AMRITSAR FOR 'BORDER 2' SHOOTING, PORTRAYS 1971 INDO-PAK WAR HERO NIRMAL JIT SEKHON

Diary Times Desk : Singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh landed in Amritsar to shoot for the next schedule of his much-anticipated film 'Border 2', based on the 1971 war. Dosanjh shared some behind-the-scene clicks from a rural location on his Instagram, announcing his arrival in Punjab. Currently shooting at an undisclosed location near Tarn Taran, Diljit was seen with his long-time manager Sonali Singh and the film crew, including director Anurag Singh. In the film, Diljit reportedly plays the role of Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, an Indian Air Force officer and the only recipient of the Param Vir Chakra from the IAF. Sekhon is known for his bravery during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, particularly his heroic defence of the Srinagar Air Base. Diljit also shared a picture of Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon on his Instagram stories as Indian Air Force marked the 80th birth anniversary of Sekhon on July 17. On his arrival at the Amritsar airport, Dosanjh was seen wearing an attire that resembled another one of his now famous on-screen characters, Jaswant Singh Khaira. Portraying the slain Sikh human rights activist in his biopic Punjab 95, Diljit's attire is a straightforward representation of Khaira's everyday clothing — a check shirt and pants. The film is yet to release in India and is embroiled in a controversy with the Censor Board of India.



MINOR GIRL SEXUALLY
ASSAULTED IN KANGRA
HOTEL

Diary Times Desk : Students of the Government Senior Secondary School in Lamu village in the tribal belt of Bharmour in Chamba district staged a protest on Tuesday against the state government's failure to provide adequate teaching staff. The protest began on the school premises and continued until 12:15 pm, after which the agitated students blocked the Choli-Quarsi road in the village. The blockade was still in place at the time of filing this report. Students expressed concern over the absence of subject teachers, especially after the only political science lecturer, who was also the only teacher posted at the school, was transferred. The lecturer had filed a case in court seeking his transfer after completing the mandatory two-year tenure in the tribal area. Once relieved, the school will have no teachers left to conduct classes. The situation has severely impacted academic activity.

DAMAGE TO PUBLIC
UTILITIES, PRIVATE
PROPERTIES IN KARSOG
REVIEWED

Diary Times Desk : An Inter-Ministerial Central team visited Karsog subdivision in Mandi district yesterday to assess the damage caused by recent natural disasters, including heavy rainfall, landslides, and cloudbursts. The team conducted an on-ground assessment of the affected areas and reviewed the extent of destruction to infrastructure, agriculture and essential services. The team visited several disaster-hit locations such as Shankar Dehra, Sanarli, Sarkol and Kutti, where they inspected the damage to public utilities and private properties. Particular attention was given to the water supply schemes of the Jal Shakti Department, damaged roads under the Public Works Department and the destruction of cultivable land and orchards under the Agriculture and Horticulture departments. Additional District Magistrate Mandi Madan Kumar briefed the Central team about the scale of destruction in the Karsog region and the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts. He provided detailed reports on the measures taken by the district administration to mitigate the impact.

STUDENTS PROTEST IN BHARMOUR'S LAMU VILLAGE OVER LACK OF
TEACHERS

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HEAVY RAIN A BANE FOR HIMACHAL,
A BOON FOR PUNJAB'S RESERVOIRS

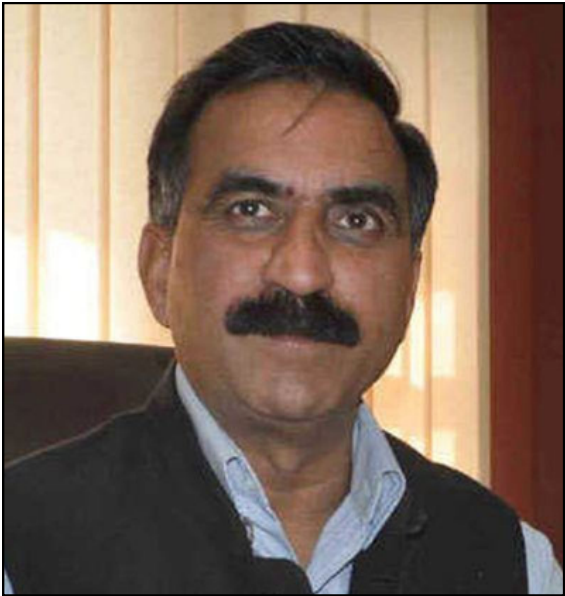
Diary Times Desk : Heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh has increased the water levels in the Bhakra and Pong dams, with both reservoirs crossing last year's levels for the same day. According to senior irrigation department officials, the water levels in the Bhakra, Pong and Ranjit Sagar dams are crucial for irrigation and power generation in the region. "The water level in the Bhakra dam's Gobind Sagar reservoir and the Pong dam reservoir stood at 1,603 feet and 1,334.35 feet, respectively, on Tuesday. The water level at Bhakra reservoir increased by 3 feet, and at Pong dam by 4 feet on Monday. The levels in Bhakra dam and Pong dam were 1598.5 feet and 1,330.4 feet, respectively, on the same day last year," said a senior power official. At the Ranjit Sagar Dam, the water level reached 504.4 metres against 494.5 metres on the corresponding day last year. Inflow levels recorded on Monday were 69,000 cusecs at Bhakra, and 96,000 cusecs at Pong, and 21,800 cusecs at Ranjit Sagar. The discharge figures were 25,680 cusecs (Bhakra), 13,650 cusecs (Pong) and 7,680 cusecs (Ranjit Sagar). Power generation on Monday stood at 224 lakh units at Bhakra, 55.3 lakh units at Pong and 46 lakh units at Ranjit Sagar.

HIMACHAL PRADESH FACING
FINANCIAL CRISIS, WILL MEET PM
FOR FUNDS: JAI RAM THAKUR

Diary Times Desk : Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today asked the state government to announce a special financial package for disaster-hit Seraj, Nachan and Karsog areas and other parts of Mandi district, which had suffered an estimated over Rs 1,235 crore loss, including Rs 1,000 crore in Seraj alone. "Considering the financial constraints faced by the state government, the Central Government must extend financial help for which I will personally meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. An inter-ministerial high-level team from the Central Government has visited Mandi to assess the damage caused," he added. Thakur, while addressing mediapersons here, said project specific aid should be given to ensure proper utilisation of funds. He expressed anguish over the non-seriousness of the state government in dealing with such a huge disaster that had claimed 42 lives and wiped off many villages in Mandi district on the night of June 30. "I am pained that the state government has so far not taken the tragedy seriously," he added.

STAY VIGILANT, TAKE PROACTIVE STEPS, SUKHU DIRECTS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

Diary Times Desk : Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur today asked the state government to announce a special financial package for disaster-hit Seraj, Nachan and Karsog areas and other parts of Mandi district, which had suffered an estimated over Rs 1,235 crore loss, including Rs 1,000 crore in Seraj alone. "Considering the financial constraints faced by the state government, the Central Government must extend financial help for which I will personally meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. An inter-ministerial high-level team from the Central Government has visited Mandi to assess the damage caused," he added. Thakur, while addressing mediapersons here, said project specific aid should be given to ensure proper utilisation of funds. He expressed anguish over the non-seriousness of the state government in dealing with such a huge disaster that had claimed 42 lives and wiped off many villages in Mandi district on the night of June 30. "I am pained that the state government has so far not taken the tragedy seriously," he added.



SHUBMAN GILL ALL BUT CONFIRMS 24-YEAR-OLD'S DEBUT IN 4TH TEST, ENDS SUSPENSE OVER KARUN NAIR, RISHABH PANT AND AKASH DEEP

Diary Times Desk : Indian cricket team captain Shubman Gill cleared a lot of air ahead of the side's 4th Test against England in Manchester, that starts on Wednesday. India have been dealt with big injury blows with allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy being ruled out of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, while Arshdeep Singh has been ruled out of the fourth Test. Gill confirmed that even fast bowler Akash Deep, who took 10 wickets in India's win over England in Birmingham, will not play the fourth Test either. India trail England 1-2 in the five-match series after the first three games. Akash Deep is unavailable, so is Arshdeep, but we have good players in the team to pick twenty wickets. It is not ideal to have different bowlers, but I was prepared," Gill said on Tuesday. "He (Anshul Kamboj) is very close to making his debut. We will see between Prasidh and Anshul tomorrow. "We have seen his (Kamboj's) skill set. We have the belief that he can win matches for us. It is never easy when there are injuries. Nitish (Reddy) is missing and Akash is also unavailable for this match. (But) we have good enough players to take 20 wickets."



HS PRANNOY SAVES FIVE MATCH POINTS TO PROGRESS, LAKSHYA SEN EXITS CHINA OPEN

Diary Times Desk : Grandmaster Koneru Humpy held China's Tingjie Lei to a comfortable draw with black pieces, while Divya Deshmukh's solid defence frustrated former women's world champion Zhongyi Tan in the first game of the FIDE Women's World Cup semifinals here on Tuesday. With two Indians and two Chinese making up the final-four, the Asian dominance in women's chess remains undisputed. But it's now a battle of nerves for the final two spots. From the look of it, the two Indians have had a great beginning drawing with black and in the return game both will play as white. If the results remain tied in this USD 691,250 event, then the games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner. Also, three spots are up for grabs for the next Women's Candidates Tournament -- ensuring at least one Indian will qualify. Divya was the first to get off the hook against Zhongyi Tan who boasts of a remarkable resume as a woman chess player. The former world champion did not find any flaws in Divya's opening repertoire as the game embarked on a queen's gambit declined opening path.

YOUR CAREERS WILL END: INDIAN BADMINTON PLAYERS THREATENED AT WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

Diary Times Desk : Several Indian badminton players at the World University Games were threatened by team officials after they raised concerns about severe mismanagement behind the scenes. Multiple sources confirmed to India Today that the players were warned to remain silent or face consequences once they returned to India. Controversy erupted on Monday, July 21, just hours after India secured its first-ever medal in the mixed team event at the Games, being hosted in Germany this year. Under the leadership of World No. 47 Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, the team comprising Devika Sihag, Saneeth Dayanand, Tasnim Mir, Varshini Viswanath Sri, and Vaishnavi Khadkekar clinched the bronze medal. What should have been a historic moment quickly.

KONERU HUMPY, DIVYA DESHMUKH HOLD FIRM WITH DRAWS IN FIDE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALS

Diary Times Desk : Grandmaster Koneru Humpy held China's Tingjie Lei to a comfortable draw with black pieces, while Divya Deshmukh's solid defence frustrated former women's world champion Zhongyi Tan in the first game of the FIDE Women's World Cup semifinals here on Tuesday. With two Indians and two Chinese making up the final-four, the Asian dominance in women's chess remains undisputed. But it's now a battle of nerves for the final two spots. From the look of it, the two Indians have had a great beginning drawing with black and in the return game both will play as white. If the results remain tied in this USD 691,250 event, then the games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner. Also, three spots are up for grabs for the next Women's Candidates Tournament -- ensuring at least one Indian will qualify. Divya was the first to get off the hook against Zhongyi Tan who boasts of a remarkable resume as a woman chess player. The former world champion did not find any flaws in Divya's opening repertoire as the game embarked on a queen's gambit declined opening path.

'ENGLAND OPENERS CAME OUT 90 SECONDS LATE' - GILL ON LORD'S SLEDGING

Diary Times Desk : India captain Shubman Gill has questioned England's conduct at Lord's when they ran down the clock on the third evening and made sure India could bowl just one over in the seven minutes available to them. Gill said his issue was more with the openers turning up 90 seconds late and not with Zak Crawley getting medical attention when a delivery from Jasprit Bumrah brushed his glove. India became visibly confrontational after that, which led to an equal response from England when India batted in the fourth innings. Their coach Brendon McCullum was seen at the Lord's balcony asking his players to turn the verbals higher when Washington Sundar came out to bat. Washington had spoken to the media the day before about India winning the game comfortably. England have been saying India instigated the sledging, and that it has eventually hurt them. Gill was asked about his views a day before the Old Trafford Test. "A lot of people have been talking about it, so let me just clear the air once and for all," Gill said. "The English batsmen on that day, they had seven minutes of play left. They were 90 seconds late to come to the pitch. Not 10, not 20. Ninety seconds late. "Yes, most of the teams, they use this [tactic].

ASHWIN'S WILD SUGGESTION FOR MANCHESTER TEST: 'PICK KULDEEP YADAV AS FOURTH SEAMER, HE DESERVES TO PLAY'

Diary Times Desk : Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin made a wild suggestion for India captain Shubman Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir. Ashwin said India could then consider playing Kuldeep Yadav as their "fourth seamer" in the all-important fourth Test in Manchester, starting Wednesday. India is down 1-2 in the five-match series, and they desperately need to win the fourth Test to stand a chance of winning the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. It is easier said than done as India are currently dealing with a few injury concerns. Nitish Kumar Reddy is already ruled out of the series and pacer Akash Deep, India's hero of the Edgbaston Test, is doubtful. With Gambhir and Gill once again set to ring in changes, the name of Kuldeep Yadav has once again started doing the rounds. The coach-captain combo of Gambhir and Gill attracted a lot of criticism for not picking Kuldeep in the second Test when Jasprit Bumrah was not available due to workload management. That, incidentally, is the only Test that India have won in the series. They retained the same combination at Lord's and nearly pulled off another win.

BCCI TO COME UNDER NATIONAL SPORTS BILL, SAY SOURCES. HOW WILL IT IMPACT IT?

Diary Times Desk : A top Sports Ministry source confirmed to India Today on Tuesday, July 22, that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will come under the ambit of the National Sports Bill. While the BCCI does not rely on government funding, its inclusion was widely anticipated, especially with Indian cricket teams set to participate in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The draft Sports Bill was unveiled by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Tuesday to reform the sports ecosystem in India. With the Sports Bill coming into effect, the BCCI as a National Sports Federation (NSF) is expected to come under its ambit. Until 2019, the BCCI was not recognised as a National Sports Federation (NSF). It came under the ambit of the RTI Act in 2020. However, with the new Sports Bill set to cover the BCCI, it will automatically be deemed an NSF, bringing it under the purview of all Sports Ministry rules and guidelines. It remains to be seen if the Lodha Committee recommendations, including age cap limits and conflict of interest clauses.