

INDIA-PAK DE-ESCALATION

US AGAIN CLAIMS ROLE IN INDIA-PAKISTAN DE-ESCALATION. INDIA'S RESPONSE

Diary Times Desk : Washington once again claimed that the Trump administration played a key role in "de-escalations" between India and Pakistan in recent months, as part of its broader commitment to mediating disputes and advancing peaceful resolutions worldwide. New Delhi, however, maintained that the truce with Pakistan following Operation Sindoor was reached at the request of Islamabad.

"Across the globe, the United States continues to work with parties to disputes, wherever possible, to find peaceful solutions," Washington's Representative Ambassador Dorothy Shea said at the UN Security Council open debate on 'Multilateralism and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes' held under Pakistan's presidency of the Council.

Pakistan, currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Council, is the President of the UN body for the month of July. Under its presidency, it is holding two "signature" events on 'Promoting International Peace and Security through Multilateralism and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes' and on 'cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organisations (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation).'

In a meeting presided over by Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the US Representative Ambassador said in the past three months alone, the US leadership has delivered "de-escalations between Israel and Iran, between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, and between India and Pakistan".



LOK SABHA SESSION

LOK SABHA ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY AMID OPPOSITION PROTESTS FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY



Diary Times Desk : The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day at 2 pm on Wednesday amid noisy protests by opposition members protesting against the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

This is the third consecutive day of the Monsoon Session that the House has faced disruptions. Waving placards and raising slogans, opposition members stormed into the Well of the House during Question Hour, leading to the adjournment of the proceedings for the day. Earlier the proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm when the protests and sloganeering continued.

Similar scenes played out when the House reconvened and TDP leader Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the Chair, adjourned the proceedings. Opposition members raised slogans like 'SIR wapas lo (Roll back SIR)'. The opposition is demanding a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, an exercise initiated by the Election Commission ahead of the state assembly polls due later this year.

Speaker Om Birla said the protesting MPs were behaving as if they were on the streets and warned that he would be forced to take "decisive" action against them. You should behave in a manner that reflects the hopes and aspirations of the people who have elected you. You should work in a manner and debate and discuss issues that will make people's lives easier. But you have been showing street-like behaviour in Parliament," he said. Birla also told the members that their behaviour did not behave parliamentarians. "The MPs are not supposed to carry placards.

AMID RAIN HAVOC IN HILLS, CENTRE CONSTITUTES NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

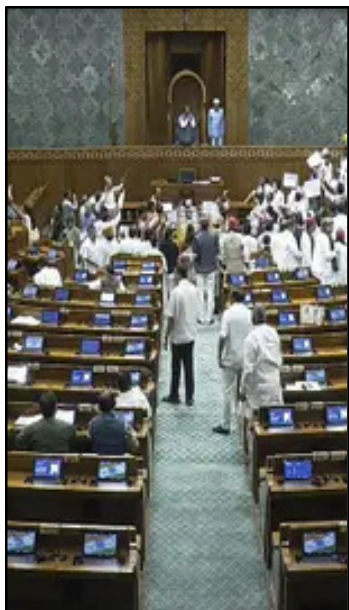
Diary Times Desk : In the wake of persistent rain wreaking havoc across hilly areas of the country, including Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Union Government on Wednesday night constituted the National Crisis Management Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary. A notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said that the committee will have four members, including the union home secretary, defence secretary, secretary coordination in the Cabinet Secretariat and head of department of the National Disaster Management Authority. The committee will be the apex committee for dealing with situations arising out of major disasters with national ramifications, the MHA notification said. The notification added that the chairperson of the national crisis management committee can co-opt any expert or any officer either from the central or the state government or any organisation, depending on the nature of the crisis.



CASH AT JUDGE'S HOUSE: CJI GAVAI TO SET UP BENCH TO HEAR JUSTICE VARMA'S PLEA

Diary Times Desk : Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Wednesday said he will constitute a Bench to hear Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma's petition challenging an in-house inquiry committee report that indicted him for recovery of unaccounted cash at his official residence in Delhi during a fire incident on March 14 when he was away in Madhya Pradesh. Justice Varma has sought a declaration that the May 8 recommendation by the then CJI Sanjiv Khanna to the President and the Prime Minister for initiating the process for his removal was "unconstitutional and in breach of the established constitutional mechanism envisaged under Article 124 read with Article 218 of the Constitution of India." He has also urged the top court to quash and set aside all consequential actions taken pursuant to the in-house committee's final report dated May 3, 2025.

PARLIAMENT TO HOLD DISCUSSION ON OPERATION SINDOOR, PAHALGAM ATTACK NEXT WEEK



Diary Times Desk : Parliament is likely to take up a discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor early next week, with both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha expected to hold a 16-hour debate each. While the government had agreed to the 16-hour discussion in the Lok Sabha at the Business Advisory Committee meeting on July 21, a similar decision was taken at the Rajya Sabha's BAC meeting on Wednesday, amid the Opposition's insistence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak on the issue. The Lok Sabha will begin the discussion on July 28 and the Rajya Sabha a day later if there are no disruptions, sources said. Opposition protests over a host of issues, especially the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar, have washed out the proceedings in both the Houses, except for a few transactions, since the Monsoon session began on Monday. It has also attacked the government for not prioritising a discussion on Operation Sindoor and the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

PRESIDENT PAVES WAY FOR PARLIAMENT TO CONSIDER KASHMIRI PANDIT REHAB BILL

Diary Times Desk : For the first time ever in Parliament, hopes have surfaced for a private member's Bill on the rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits to be taken up. Piloted in the Rajya Sabha on February 2, 2024, by Congress MP Vivek Tankha, The Kashmiri Pandits (Recourse, Restitution, Rehabilitation and Resettlement) Bill, 2022, has now been approved by President Droupadu Murmu to be taken up by the Upper House. A notice by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat today said, "The President of India has been pleased to recommend under Clause (3) of Article 117 of the Constitution the consideration of the Kashmiri Pandits Recourse, Restitution, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2022, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on February 2, 2024." The path stands paved for the crucial private member Bill to be taken up now. Tankha said this is the first time in Parliament that a Bill on rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits will come up.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 24-07-2025

Aries

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

Gemini

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

Leo

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

Libra

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

Sagittarius

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

Aquarius

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

Taurus

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

Cancer

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

Virgo

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

Scorpio

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

Capricorn

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

Pisces

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



MANDI CLOUDBURST: SDRF TEAM ENGAGED IN SEARCH OF MISSING PEOPLE IN DRAINS, NO CLUE OF 27 MISSING PEOPLE FOUND YET

Diary Times Desk : 23 days have passed since the disaster in Seraj valley, but no trace of the 27 missing people has been found so far. Holding on to the thread of hope, SDRF jawans are traversing ravines and drains every day, traversing 8 to 10 kms of difficult mountain paths. SDRF Mandi's woman inspector Khila Devi is leading this operation going on in Thunag and Pandoh. Her team, wearing life jackets and carrying sticks in their hands, leaves the camp at 8 am and returns at 6 pm. Inspector Khila says that stairs have to be built at many places to reach the ravines, and searches are also being conducted under rocks and in the debris. House-to-house searches have been conducted in Thunag's Degi village, Lambathach and Janjheli's Pandav Sheela area. She says that Degi village has changed so much due to the disaster that it is now difficult to recognize that someone once lived here. Many times rain hinders the search operation, yet Khila Devi and her team along with Head Constable Devendra, Constable Rakesh, Jagdish, Sanjay, Raman and Vikrant are continuously engaged. The search operation of SDRF is also going on from Pandoh to Patekhari.



UGC NET RESULT 2025: UTKARSH OF BILASPUR TOPS THE COUNTRY IN UGC-NET JRF, GETS SUCCESS IN SECOND ATTEMPT

Diary Times Desk : Utkarsh Sharma, a promising youth from Bilaspur city, set a new example in music by securing first place in the UGC-NET JRF examination across the country. He has brought laurels to the state by scoring 240 out of 300 marks in his second attempt. There is a wave of happiness in the area due to his success. Utkarsh Sharma is pursuing postgraduate studies from the Music Department of Delhi University. Earlier, he had graduated from Hindu College, Delhi University. Here he secured first place in college and third place at the university level. Utkarsh has secured first place in state level music competitions for five consecutive years. He has been the runner-up in the junior category (2016) and senior category (2018) of the prestigious Hari Vallabh Music Competition. He excelled in classical singing, light music and harmonium in the annual music competitions of Delhi University. He also topped the Open Youth Festival for two years. Along with studies, Utkarsh is taking his musical journey forward by giving stage performances in Bangalore, Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Dehradun, Shimla, Siliguri and Gwalior.

HIMACHAL WEATHER: 345 ROADS BLOCKED DUE TO LANDSLIDES IN THE STATE, 137 PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES SO FAR THIS MONSOON

Diary Times Desk : Many roads are blocked due to landslides in various places in Himachal Pradesh. This has increased the difficulties of the people. Rain continues in many parts. Till Wednesday evening, 345 roads including a national highway remained blocked in the state. 169 electricity transformers and 230 water supply schemes are also affected. The maximum number of 232 roads, 98 electricity transformers and 65 water supply schemes are affected in the disaster affected Mandi district. 71 roads are blocked in Kullu district. During the last 24 hours, 57.0 mm of rain was recorded in Manali, 37.5 mm in Sarahan, 36.2 mm in Ghamarur, 32.2 mm in Nagarota Suriyan, 30.6 mm in Aghar, 29.4 mm in Murari Devi, 27.4 mm in Guler, 27.0 mm in Bilaspur, 25.2 mm in Bharari, 24.2 mm in Kahu and 23.6 mm in Barthin. According to Meteorological Center Shimla, rain is forecast to continue in many parts of the state till July 29. Light to moderate rain is likely at many places on 23, 26.

HIMACHAL NEWS: SIX ACCUSED INCLUDING PRADHAN, DEPUTY PRADHAN, FORMER DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER ARRESTED IN APPLE SCAM

Diary Times Desk : Police has arrested six people including Panchayat representative and former Zilla Parishad member, accused of apple scam of Rs. 1.25 crore in village Panchayat Sanwal of sub-division Churah. Police will present all the accused in Teesa court on Thursday. Earlier, all the accused were on bail from High Court. When their bail petition was rejected, the accused went to Supreme Court with bail petition. They were disappointed there too. Well, now police has arrested six people in this case. It is worth mentioning that there has been a scam of Rs. 1.25 crore in purchase of apple saplings in village Panchayat Sanwal. Police has filed FIR against eight people in this. Now this case is pending in court. Panchayat, Junior Engineer and Gram Rozgar Sevak were found involved in this case. Now the next hearing will be on June 16. It is believed that as soon as the High Court cancels the anticipatory bail of these involved persons, more arrests will be made in this case. SP Chamba Abhishek Yadav said that the people involved in the apple scam have been arrested. The accused will be presented in Teesa court on Thursday.

PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION: '49 MEDICINES MADE IN HIMACHAL FAIL IN QUALITY, 2275 SAMPLES TESTED IN TWO YEARS'

Diary Times Desk : During the monsoon session of Parliament on Wednesday, Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Sikandar Kumar questioned the central government about the declining quality of medicines and biomass energy projects in Himachal Pradesh. In response, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel told the House that in the drug alert issued in May 2025 on the website of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), a total of 186 drug samples were found to be not up to standard quality and 49 of these medicines were manufactured in Himachal Pradesh. He further informed that during the last two years, CDSCO has tested 2275 drug samples of Himachal based pharmaceutical companies. These included medicines like vitamins, antipyretics, antibiotics, anthelmintics etc. The minister said that stringent regulatory measures have been taken to maintain the quality and reliability.

HIMACHAL NEWS: DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER MUKESH AGNIHOTRI WROTE A LETTER TO THE PM TO RELEASE JJM FUNDS

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding the release of the outstanding amount of the budget sanctioned under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). A budget of 6200 crores was sanctioned to Himachal under Jal Jeevan Mission. Out of this, 5100 crores have been received. The remaining amount of 1100 crores has not been released. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that many works are stalled due to lack of budget. The payment of contractors is stopped. Due to non-release of money, works in Himachal have to be stopped. The Himachal government does not have enough money to spend money on making the project. Data entry operators have also been appointed under the project, whose honorarium is not being received. He said that a letter has been written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of the state and he has been requested to release this budget soon. During the time of the previous government, money was released on time but now the money is not being given. The Deputy Chief Minister said that he has also raised this matter with the Union Ministers by going to Delhi several times.



YAMUNA SWELLS TO 204.13 METRES, DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO FLOOD WARNING LEVEL

Diary Times Desk : The water level of the Yamuna at the Delhi Railway Bridge reached 204.13 metres at 4 pm on Wednesday, just 0.37 metres short of the warning level of 204.50 metres. The water level of the river at the Delhi Railway Bridge was 204.1 metres at 9 am, and it rose to 204.13 metres by 10 am. Since then, it has been at the same level. On Tuesday, for the first time this monsoon, water discharge from Haryana's Hathnikund Barrage exceeded the 50,000 cusecs mark, peaking at 54,707 cusecs around 1 am, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC). Even lower discharges from upstream are raising the water level, nearing the warning mark in Delhi. A committee under the Ministry of Jal Shakti had earlier recommended revising the danger levels at the Delhi Railway Bridge, which were already revised a few years ago. Water released from the barrage typically takes 48 to 50 hours to reach Delhi, with the Old Railway Bridge serving as the primary monitoring point. A water expert criticised the revision recommendation as shifting the goalpost.

SOWJANYA RAPE-MURDER: CASE THAT FIRST SPARKED DHARMASTHALA OUTRAGE 13 YEARS AGO

Diary Times Desk : "Sowjanya's power has turned divine. The power of a minor who was brutally raped and murdered is now exposing the horrors that have happened in Dharmasthala", former RSS and Hindu Jagarana Vedike activist Mahesh Shetty Timarody told India Today Digital. Timarody is seeking justice for the alleged victims of Dharmasthala, and his remarks came even as a Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigates the allegations of young women being sexually assaulted and murdered and being buried in different parts of the popular temple town in Karnataka. The SIT was formed after a whistleblower, who claims to be a former sanitation worker employed by the temple trust, alleged that he was forced over the years to burn and bury the bodies of women, including students, who were raped and murdered. Several activists, lawyers, and the state commission for women also demanded a thorough investigation. Some of the alleged perpetrators of the crime are related to the temple trust, they say. The sanitation worker appeared in court under heavy police protection, his body wrapped from head to toe with only a transparent strip over the eyes to help him navigate.

"BIG HEART...": EYE ON PAST STORM, EX-MALDIVES MINISTER PRAISES INDIA, PM



Diary Times Desk : A year on from the India-Maldives diplomatic storm - precipitated by comments about Prime Minister Narendra Modi by three Maldivian ministers, and geopolitical red flags after the island nation seemed to getting friendlier towards China - ties between the nations appear to have been reset. Mr Modi will visit Male - the first foreign head of state to be hosted by President Mohamed Muizzu - on July 25 and 26 to inaugurate development projects funded by India, and after the Indian government extended crucial financial support by rolling over the \$US 50 million Treasury bill for another year. He will also celebrate the country's Independence Day and hold bilateral talks with Mr Muizzu, which will certainly include sounding Male out over national security concerns in the Indian Ocean Region. Ahead of his visit, Maldives' ex-Foreign Minister, Abdulla Shahid, hailed the past relationship between the countries and India's history as a reliable first responder in times of emergency.

INDIA RESPONDS TO UK MEDIA REPORT ON VICTIM'S 'WRONG BODY' SENT AFTER AIR INDIA PLANE CRASH

Diary Times Desk : India on Wednesday responded to a report about bungling in identifying the bodies of Britons killed in the crash of Air India flight 171 by saying it is working with the UK to address "concerns and issues". The crash of the Boeing 787 in Ahmedabad on June 12 killed all but one of the 242 people on board, as well as 19 people on the ground. Fifty-two of the dead were British citizens. The aircraft lost power and crashed soon after taking off from Ahmedabad for London. Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported on Tuesday that the remains of two British victims were wrongly identified before being repatriated to the UK. External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded to the Daily Mail's report by saying that Indian authorities are working with their UK counterparts on the issue. The Indian response came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a two-nation tour to the UK and the Maldives.

AHMEDABAD-DIU INDIGO FLIGHT ABORTS TAKEOFF AFTER ENGINE CATCHES FIRE

Diary Times Desk : An Indigo flight from Ahmedabad to Diu, with 60 passengers on board, aborted takeoff when one of the engines caught fire. The incident was reported during the takeoff roll and the flight was immediately vacated, Deccan Herald reported. The aircraft had began its takeoff roll when the pilot sent "Mayday" call to the air traffic control. An IndiGo Spokesperson said the pilots informed the authorities after discovering the technical snag. "A technical snag indication was noticed just before take-off on IndiGo flight 6E 7966 operating from Ahmedabad to Diu on 23 July 2025. Following the standard operating procedure, the pilots informed the authorities and returned the aircraft to the bay. The aircraft will undergo necessary checks and maintenance before resuming operations," the IndiGo Spokesperson said. The incident happened in the flight ATR76, which was scheduled to depart from the Ahmedabad airport at 11 am.

OPPOSITION BOYCOTT OF BIHAR POLLS? TEJASHWI YADAV SAYS "MAY DISCUSS"

Diary Times Desk : Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav has alleged that the Election Commission is taking its orders from the ruling BJP and in such circumstances, holding an election has become meaningless. Asked if the Opposition would consider boycotting the coming assembly polls in Bihar, he said it might be discussed with the allies of Grand Alliance. "If the BJP wants to run the government using fake voter lists, then just give them an extension. What's the point of holding elections if the entire process is dishonest?" Tejashwi Yadav told news agency IANS. Asked if a boycott of the election is possible, he said, "Boycott is an option, but we will think about it". "We will consult our alliance partners and the public before taking a final call," he added. The row over Special Intensive Revision or SIR escalated in parliament today as the Opposition held a "black protest" when the government refused to discuss the matter.



INDIANS CAN TRAVEL TO 59 COUNTRIES WITHOUT VISA, PASSPORT RANKING IMPROVES

Diary Times Desk : The Henley Passport Index report released on Tuesday placed India on the 77th position in the global ranking of passports from countries across the world, weighed as per the number of countries you can travel without visa on the passport. India has pushed itself three spots up from last year's index when it was 80th. It now shares the 77th position with three other countries: Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal, all of which secure visa-less travel to 59 countries. The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations, its website says. The 2025 ranking marks the second consecutive improvement for the Indian passport. When it comes to the absolute number of countries one can visit visa-free, last year it was higher for India, at 62. The ranking, however, is relative to how other countries' passports too are performing in the particular year. India's neighbour Pakistan is 96th on the list, better than its 101st rank last year.

EU READIES €100 BILLION NO-DEAL PLAN TO MATCH US' 30% TARIFF

Diary Times Desk : The European Union plans to quickly hit the US with 30% tariffs on some €100 billion (\$117 billion) worth of goods in the event of no deal and if US President Donald Trump carries through with his threat to impose that rate on most of the bloc's exports after Aug. 1. As a part of a first wave of countermeasures, the EU would combine an already approved list of tariffs on €21 billion of US goods and a previously proposed list on an additional €72 billion of American products into one package, an European Commission spokesman said on Wednesday. The US exports, which include industrial goods such as Boeing Co. aircraft, US-made cars and bourbon whiskey, would face a levy that matches Trump's 30% threat, according to people familiar with the matter. The tariffs would be prepared to come into force next month but only if there is no deal and the US implements its levies after the August deadline, said the people who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private deliberations. The plans come as EU member states, including Germany, have hardened their positions in response to the US stiffening its negotiating.

INDIA SENDS TEAM OF BURN-SPECIALIST DOCTORS TO DHAKA AFTER MILITARY PLANE CRASH

Diary Times Desk : India on Tuesday night announced that it is dispatching a team of burn-specialist doctors and nurses to Dhaka to treat those injured in the military jet crash in Bangladesh. At least 31 people, including 25 children, were killed when a military jet crashed into the Milestone School and College in the Uttara area of the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, on Monday. Most injuries in the crash resulted from burns. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences at the loss of lives in the tragic air crash and conveyed assurances of support and assistance. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "A team of burn-specialist doctors and nurses with necessary medical support are scheduled to visit Dhaka shortly to treat the victims." The team will assess the condition of patients and provide recommendations for further treatment and specialised care in India as necessary. Depending on this preliminary assessment, additional medical teams may also be sent to Dhaka.



"F*** OFF, INDIAN": MAN BRUTALLY ASSAULTED, RACIALLY ABUSED IN AUSTRALIA



Diary Times Desk : An Indian man was allegedly brutally assaulted and racially abused by a group of unidentified men during a car parking dispute in South Australia's Adelaide last week. According to The Australia Today, the incident near Kintore Avenue took place when the man, Charanpreet Singh, was out to see the city's light displays with his wife in their car at around 9.22pm on Saturday. The victim was a student, the report said. Mr Singh said a group of men approached him, hurled racial slurs and launched a vicious physical attack without any provocation. "They just said 'f--- off, Indian', and after that they just started punching," 9News quoted him as saying. "I tried to fight back, but they beat me until I was unconscious," he added. Mr Singh also said: "Things like this, when they happen, it makes you feel like you should go back. You can change anything in your body, but you can't change the colours."

IN LANDMARK OPINION, UN COURT SAYS CLIMATE CHANGE AN 'EXISTENTIAL THREAT'

Diary Times Desk : The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has begun delivering a historic advisory opinion on climate change, which it has called an "urgent and existential threat". Reading the opinion at the Peace Palace in The Hague, ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa said on Wednesday that greenhouse gas emissions are "unequivocally caused by human activities" and have cross-border effects. "The consequences of climate change are severe and far-reaching: They affect both natural ecosystems and human populations. These consequences underscore the urgent and existential threat posed by climate change," said Iwasawa. "Climate change treaties establish stringent obligations on states," Iwasawa said, adding that failing to comply with them was a breach of international law. The reading of the opinion is ongoing, and the ICJ, also known as the World Court, has yet to announce its conclusions.

SINGAPORE WOMAN DIES A DAY AFTER ACCUSING INDIAN WORKER OF FAKING WORKPLACE INJURY FOR COMPENSATION

Diary Times Desk : A woman in Singapore died on Saturday, a day after posting accusations on Facebook against an Indian employee, alleging she faked a workplace injury to claim compensation. According to Channel News Asia (CNA), the woman, Jane Lee, owned an eatery called Sumo Salad and had shared two detailed posts about the incident. Her sudden death has prompted an investigation by the Singapore Police Force (SPF), which is treating it as an "unnatural death." Ms Lee was in her 40s and a mother of two children, per the outlet. A day before her death, Ms Lee said that Sran Kiranjeet Kaur, a woman from India, staged an accident to file a false work injury claim, which would have entitled her to compensation. "I never imagined that someone could act with such deceit simply for the sake of money."

COLUMBIA PUNISHES 80 STUDENTS OVER ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTS

Diary Times Desk : Columbia University said Tuesday it has issued various punishments, including expulsions and degree revocations, against various students involved in anti-Israel protests on campus. The sanctions, which a student group said targeted nearly 80 people, come as the New York institution negotiates with President Donald Trump's administration to restore \$400 million in cut federal funding. Trump has applied intense pressure on the prestigious university and others, accusing them of failing to address alleged anti-Semitism amid nationwide protests last year against Israel's war in Gaza. Columbia, which was the epicenter of the campus protests, has agreed to implement a series of policy reforms in an attempt to regain the federal funding, sparking anger from many students. Fellow Ivy League institution Harvard has also been targeted with billions in funding cuts, but is fighting the pressure campaign in court. The latest sanctions by Columbia stem from a library sit-in this past May, as well as an encampment set up during alumni weekend in spring 2024, the university said in a statement. The library protest disrupted hundreds of students during an exam study period, it said, with punishments including "probation, suspensions (ranging from one year to three years), degree revocations, and expulsions." "The University does not release individual disciplinary results of any student," the statement said.

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

Diary Times Desk : SP Gurjot Singh Kaler of Punjab Police scaled the Shinkun East Peak, situated at an altitude of 6,080 metres in the remote highlands of Lahaul, Himachal Pradesh, in the early hours of July 20. The final push to the summit involved an intense, continuous ascent of 1,500 metres, navigating dangerous crevasses, snow-laden ridges, and the harsh effects of extreme altitude. SP Kaler unfurled the Indian national flag, alongside a banner dedicated to "Yudh Nasheyana Virudh" (War against Drugs), a flagship anti-drug campaign jointly launched by the Punjab Police and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab. Kaler said the gesture was a symbolic effort to carry Punjab's message of drug resistance to one of the highest summits in the Indian Himalayas. "Climbing this peak was not just a personal goal, but a way of reminding ourselves and our youth that the fight against drugs must reach every frontier," said Gurjot Singh Kaler. "This banner at 6,000 metres stands for a Punjab that rises above addiction and walks the path of hope."



MIRACULOUS ESCAPE: ALL 11 FAMILY MEMBERS RESCUED AFTER CAR PLUNGES INTO SIRHIND CANAL

Diary Times Desk : A family of eleven, including five children, miraculously escaped a fatal accident on Wednesday morning when their car lost control and plunged into the Sirhind canal near the Bahiman Bridge on the Bathinda branch. The family was returning to their village Beed Talab from Bhucho Mandi when the incident occurred. Eyewitnesses at the scene immediately rushed to the spot and began rescuing the occupants. Locals, along with police personnel from a nearby PCR point, bravely jumped into the canal to save the family members. Among the rescuers was Senior Constable Jaswant Singh, who was celebrating his birthday. He, along with other officers and locals like Krishna from the Gauri Shankar Pad Yatra Kanwar Sangh, who stopped his pickup truck to help, did everything within their means to save the family. The submerged car's windows were locked due to water pressure, making the rescue challenging. Fortunately, rescuers were able to brake open one window thereby braking others, too, allowing the people to be rescued. Ramesh Kumar said, "My son Labbu Kumar was driving the car and lost control while trying to avoid an oncoming vehicle."

49 JUDGES, 4.34 LAKH CASES, 245 MATTERS LISTED BEFORE BENCH ON SINGLE DAY: HC ORDER REFLECTS JUDICIAL STRAIN

Diary Times Desk : A single-day listing of 245 cases before a Bench and a staggering 4,34,571 pending matters before the Punjab and Haryana High Court have laid bare the crushing weight under which judges function daily. Contrary to the popular perception of delays stemming from slow motion syndrome, an order passed by the High Court reveals the relentless pressure and punishing caseloads that underpin the system – leaving little room for reprieve. The startling revelation came during the hearing of an application moved by a woman advocate seeking advancement of her main matter listed for October. The Bench noted that despite the absence of any compelling reason, it took up the request in the interest of justice – even though the day's board already comprised 245 listed matters. On a prior occasion, 191 matters had been fixed, many under the national mediation initiative. A senior advocate says these are not stray spikes, but reflect judiciary's daily grind. "The present case was listed before this Bench on July 14. However, on the said day, the matter could not be taken up due to a heavy cause list of 191 cases, inclusive of the cases listed specially under the Mediation of Nation Drive."

HC FLAGS NON-APPEARANCE OF POLICE WITNESSES IN TRIALS, SAYS APATHY 'DESERVES REDRESSAL'

Diary Times Desk : Holding that trials under the NDPS Act are being stalled indefinitely due to the "indifference or wilful non-cooperation of official witnesses" who routinely failed to appear before trial courts, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted that such "exhibition of laxity and apathy" by police officials "deserves redressal". The Bench further observed that the seeming abdication of duty by senior police officers was "a malady to which this Court finds itself unable to turn a Nelson's eye." Justice Sumeet Goel's Bench was dealing with a bail plea when it took note of repeated adjournments caused by the non-appearance of official witnesses, most of whom were police personnel. The court observed the petitioner was arrested in July 2022 and the challan was presented a year later. As many as 13 prosecution witnesses – primarily official/police witnesses – were cited, but the entire prosecution evidence was yet to be concluded.



VIKAS BARALA, HARYANA BJP MP'S SON OUT ON BAIL IN DJ KUNDU STALKING CASE, APPOINTED LAW OFFICER

Diary Times Desk : Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala's son Vikas Barala has been appointed as Assistant Advocate-General (AAG) in Haryana at the Advocate-General's Delhi office. He and a friend were booked in 2017 for allegedly stalking and attempting to kidnap DJ Varnika Kundu, daughter of IAS officer VS Kundu. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for August 2, 2025. The other high-profile appointments in the AG office include Anu Pal – the younger sister of Justice Lisa Gill of the Punjab and Haryana high court and the sister of UT home secretary Mandeep Singh Brar; Swati Batra – daughter of former HC judge Lalita Batra; Ruchi Sekhri – a BJP leader from Punjab and Nitin Kaushal, son of Punjab's former chief secretary Sarvesh Kaushal. In all, the appointments of more than 95 law officers as Assistant Advocates-Generals, Deputy Advocates-General, Senior Deputy Advocates-General and Additional Advocates-General have been notified.

MC PANIPAT TO TURN WASTE-RIDDEN, WATERLOGGED LAND INTO GREEN ZONE UNDER IOCL'S SUPERVISION

Diary Times Desk : In a major step towards civic improvement, the Municipal Corporation (MC) Panipat has received a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) refinery to develop the area adjoining its pipeline corridor. The 3.75-km stretch, which runs through the residential areas of wards 21, 25 and 26, will now be transformed into a green zone. As per refinery norms, construction in this zone remains restricted due to safety and operational concerns. However, the MC plans to utilise the open stretch in accordance with IOCL's safety guidelines by developing green parks and beautifying the area to address long-standing issues of sanitation and public health. Currently, the land remains underutilised and suffers from severe waterlogging and solid waste accumulation. "This has become a serious health and sanitation issue for residents," said an MC official, citing a formal letter sent to IOCL requesting permission and assistance. To tackle the nuisance and prevent vector-borne diseases, the MC proposed turning the unused land into open recreational space. In addition to seeking permission, the civic body also requested financial assistance from IOCL under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

5 STUDENTS FROM GOVT MEDICAL COLLEGE SUSPENDED FOR MAKING FALSE RAGGING ALLEGATIONS

Diary Times Desk : The administration of a government medical college here on Wednesday suspended five MBBS students for making false allegations of ragging against their seniors. In 2023, the five students from Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College and Hospital (SLBSGMCH) in a complaint alleged that they were ragged. After the complaint, the college's anti-ragging committee launched a detailed investigation into the matter, an order issued by the office of principal D K Verma said. "The inquiry revealed that the allegations were fabricated with an intent to malign the college's reputation and falsely implicate innocent students. This kind of behaviour cannot be tolerated in an institution of medical education," the order said, adding that the false complaint was made due to rivalry.

POWER SHORTAGE HITS HIMACHAL PRADESH, THANKS TO ACCUMULATION OF SILT

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) has been forced to implement load-shedding measures across various substations due to a significant reduction in power generation. Following heavy rainfall in the past couple of days, heavy silt accumulation has affected several hydroelectric power projects, resulting in an estimated deficit of around 650 MW on July 21. The sudden reduction in power generation has been further worsened by the non-availability of sufficient power in the real-time market. "Against the demand of around 1,500 MW, we could get just 100 MW to 200 MW from the real-time market," said HPSEBL spokesperson Anurag Parashar. He added that this forced board to draw around 700 MW of additional power from the grid to meet the demand. The low frequency posed a threat to grid security, prompting the HPSEBL to take measures to stabilise the power system. The HPSEBL has implemented load-shedding measures ranging from around 600 MW across various substations to manage the critical situation and ensure grid security. The spokesperson said that the HPSEBL.

PANIC IN SHIMLA AS MULTIPLE PRIVATE SCHOOLS RECEIVE BOMB THREATS

Diary Times Desk : Panic gripped Shimla town on Wednesday after several private schools received emails threatening to blow up the schools. A number of prominent private schools received the bomb threat emails, saying explosives had been placed in the school buildings. Taking prompt action, bomb disposal squads along with police teams reached the schools and conducted extensive searches. However, no such explosives were found and the classes resumed later. Police officials said the situation is under control. They said the police are trying to ascertain the source of the emails. Earlier, similar threat emails had been received by the Himachal Pradesh High Court, several sessions courts, deputy commissioners' offices, office of the chief secretary and the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat.



PAONTA-SHILLAI NH EXPANSION: YOUTH'S SONG 'YE JO ROAD HAI NARAK DIKHAEGA' STRIKES A CHORD



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HIMACHAL BRACES FOR CONTINUED HEAVY RAINFALL TILL JULY 29

Diary Times Desk : Heavy rainfall is set to continue in Himachal Pradesh till July 29 as the state's Meteorological Department has issued a yellow weather warning for several districts from July 27 to 29. As per the department, light to moderate rainfall will continue across the state till July 29 with few spells of heavy rain from July 27 to 29. Maximum temperatures in the state are also very likely to rise by 3°C to 5°C in three to four days while minimum temperatures are expected to remain normal. Meanwhile, monsoon activity in the state was normal during the past 24 hours. Mandi received 57 mm rainfall which was the highest in the state, followed by Sarahan in Shimla district which received 37.5 mm rain. Similarly, Bilaspur received 27 mm rainfall, Palampur 22.4 mm, Nadaun 20 mm, Bhuntar 17.6 mm, Narkanda 17 mm, Dharamsala 12.8 mm, Sundernagar 10.2 mm, Keylong 10 mm, Solan 9.2 mm, Kangra 6.6 mm, Mandi 6.2 and Shimla 5.6 mm. Maximum temperatures during the past 24 hours were in the range of 16°C to 31°C while minimum temperatures were in the range of 12°C to 26°C. Meanwhile, the Hatkoti-Theog road in Shimla district was blocked for over an hour.

NADDA URGES GADKARI TO EXPEDITE ROAD RESTORATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Diary Times Desk : Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda today urged the Centre to expedite restoration of roads damaged in the monsoons in Himachal. Nadda, who met Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkar in Delhi today, sought assistance for undertaking repair and restoration of the damaged roads in Himachal during the monsoons. Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan also accompanied Nadda at the meeting. Gadkari assured Nadda of full cooperation from the Union Government. Nadda said the Union Minister had assured him that the repair of all roads that had suffered damages would be undertaken on a war footing. "From the manner in which the minister presented the vision of the Central Government regarding the use of latest technology for road construction, tunnels and bridges in Himachal Pradesh, it seems the state is bound to benefit immensely," he said. Nadda said the slow pace of development in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh would now get accelerated. "The Central Government has approved a material budget of Rs 201 crore in the first phase to the state under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Now with this amount, small and big works under the MGNREGA at the panchayat level will be accelerated," he said.



"BOWLERS WITH 30-40 TESTS DO NOT...": R ASHWIN COMPARES ANSHUL KAMBOJ TO INDIA GREATS

Diary Times Desk : As Haryana pacer Anshul Kamboj gears up for his potential Test debut, the young pacer has received a big praise from former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. Injuries to Akash Deep and Arshdeep Singh paved the way for Kamboj to be added to the India squad ahead of the 4th Test in Manchester. While there are those who feel Praisdh Krishna deserves to be picked ahead of Kamboj for the penultimate contest of the series, Ashwin has drawn similarities between Kamboj and India greats like Zaheer Khan and Jasprit Bumrah. "This England team, man to man, will not match India skills-wise. Looking at how Siraj and Bumrah bowled, if you bring Anshul Kamboj in, I'm telling you that is a serious bowling attack. People will tell he hasn't played but he was there on the A tour. He's been in cracking form in first-class cricket. He is used to bowling long spells and you need that in England. He will be a really good foil for Siraj and Bumrah. Prasidh is also an option but I would rather go with Anshul," Ashwin said in a video on his YouTube channel.



"BAT, BALL OR BARE HANDS...": YUVRAJ SINGH'S SPECIAL TRIBUTE FOR RETIRING ANDRE RUSSELL

Diary Times Desk : Former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh wished West Indies star Andre Russell shared good wishes as the explosive all-rounder bid farewell to international cricket on Wednesday. Taking to Instagram story, Yuvraj shared a heartfelt message along with Russell's picture, calling him one of the fiercest cricketers in the world. "One of the fiercest competitors on the field be it with bat, ball or bare hands! Didn't matter what the situation was, few could turn a game like you! Much respect, big man! Good luck for the next innings!" Russell, known for his power-hitting and game-changing abilities, has left a big mark on the T20 circuit. West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell bowled out of international cricket on a losing note during the second T20I against Australia at Jamaica on Wednesday, but not without serving his fans one last bit of entertainment with a quickfire knock. During the second T20I, Russell turned back the clock, smashing a blistering 36 in just 15 balls, with two fours and four sixes. His runs came at a strike rate of 240.00. It was his knock, along with opener Brandon King (51 in 36 balls, with three fours and four sixes), that powered WI to 172/8 in 20 overs.

SA20 TEAMS REVEAL PLAYER RETENTIONS AND PRE-SIGNING AHEAD OF SEASON 4 AUCTION

Diary Times Desk : Pretoria Capitals will enter the auction for the fourth edition of the SA20 league with the biggest purse as all six franchises on Wednesday announced the list of players retained and signed. The teams were permitted a total of six retained or pre-signed players comprising a maximum of three South African and three overseas players during the retention window which closed on July 18. "The teams also strategically completed their 6 Wildcard signings, with all the focus now on the remaining slots and the collective maximum purse of USD 7.4 million, to be spent on the 84 available slots at the auction on 9 September in Johannesburg," SA20 said in a release. "For Season 4, a wildcard player could be any overseas player or a South African player who was part of the team's squad in Season 3." Durban's Super Giants will enter the auction with a purse of USD 1.6 million, having retained Sunil Narine, Noor Ahmad, Jos Buttler and Heinrich Klaasen (wildcard) as their players. Joburg Super Kings will have a purse of USD 1.2 million as they announced having Faf du Plessis, James Vince.

KL RAHUL SURPASSES VIRAT KOHLI, JOINS TENDULKAR, DRAVID IN ICONIC RUN-SCORING CLUB DURING MANCHESTER TEST

Diary Times Desk : KL Rahul became only the fourth Indian batter to breach the 1000-run mark in Tests against England in England, surpassing Virat Kohli's tally of 976 on the first day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford, Manchester. The 32-year-old opener continued his excellent form on the tour, reaching another milestone during a knock that also saw him cross 400 runs in the series. Rahul, who has already struck two centuries on this tour, one at Edgbaston in the second Test and another at Lord's in the third, is now behind only Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar in terms of most Test runs by an Indian in England. Tendulkar leads the pack with 1575 runs, followed by Dravid (1376) and Gavaskar (1152). Rahul's composed batting has been one of the constants for India in an otherwise see-saw series.

GUKESH MAKES 'SHOCKINGLY' RARE APPEARANCE IN TITLED TUESDAY ONLINE CHESS EVENT, LOSES 3 MATCHES TO FINISH 18TH

Diary Times Desk : Gukesh Dommaraju, the youngest world chess champion in history, made a rare appearance in the popular online tournament Titled Tuesday. Not particularly known for his play in blitz formats, the 18-year-old surprised fans by entering the early edition of the event. He had eight wins out of 11 games and finished in 18th place. Hikaru Nakamura went on to win the event, marking his record 105th Titled Tuesday title. The online Titled Tuesday tournament is hosted weekly by Chess.com, offering a \$1,000 prize for the winner. Played in a Swiss format with 3 minutes per player and a 1-second increment per move, the event regularly features elite players like Magnus Carlsen and Nakamura. However, Gukesh is rarely among them, often citing his preference for classical over-the-board play and acknowledging blitz as a format less suited to his style. "He has played this event before, but it's very rare to see him play," Nakamura said in a video recap.

UNNATI HOODA ADVANCES TO ROUND OF 16 OF CHINA OPEN, TO FACE PV SINDHU

Diary Times Desk : Unnati Hooda delivered a commanding performance to outplay experienced Scottish shuttler Kirsty Gilmour 21-11, 21-16 in just 36 minutes at the China Open 2025, as per Badminton Association of India (BAI). With this impressive win, 17-year-old Unnati advanced to the Round-of-16, where she will take on compatriot PV Sindhu in an all-Indian clash. PV Sindhu brushed off an early scare to book her berth in the next phase at the Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium in Changzhou. Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki threatened to end Sindhu's campaign, but the two-time Olympic medallist roared back to qualify for the pre-quarter-finals. Sindhu clinched a 21-15, 8-21, 21-17 victory over Miyazaki in a fixture that lasted for 1 hour and 2 minutes. In her second meeting against the sixth seed, Sindhu dominated her Japanese opposition in the opening game, built an early healthy lead and clinched the game. In the second game, Sindhu fought for control against Miyazaki and eventually conceded a comprehensive 8-21 defeat.

ENG VS IND: FAROKH ENGINEER, CLIVE LLOYD HONOURED WITH STANDS AT OLD TRAFFORD

Diary Times Desk : Former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer and legendary West Indies captain Clive Lloyd were on Wednesday honoured by Lancashire County Cricket Club with stands named after them at Old Trafford, Manchester. The unveiling took place on the opening day of the fourth Test between England and India. Engineer, who represented Lancashire from 1968 to 1976, featured in 175 matches, amassing 5,942 runs, 429 catches, and 35 stumpings. His arrival marked a turning point in the club's fortunes, helping them end a 15-year silverware drought by winning the Gillette Cup four times between 1970 and 1975. Despite his deep-rooted ties to Indian cricket — including memorable performances at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium — Engineer surprisingly does not have a stand named after him in his home country. Now 87, he continues to live in Manchester, a city he has called home since his retirement. Lloyd, a two-time World Cup-winning captain, joined Lancashire in the early 1970s as an overseas player. His association with the club spanned two decades, during which he played a pivotal role in reshaping Lancashire's cricketing culture and identity. His impact, both on and off the field, remains one of the most influential in the county's history.