

MALEGAON BLAST

MALEGAON BLAST VERDICT: PRAGYA THAKUR, LT COL PUROHIT AMONG 7 ACQUITTED BY NIA COURT IN 2008 CASE

Diary Times Desk : A special NIA court on Thursday acquitted all seven accused, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and former army officer Lt Col Shrikant Purohit, in the 2008 Malegaon blast case.

The court said suspicion was not enough of a ground for conviction under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act under which the accused were charged and faces trial.

Accused acquitted are former BJP MP from Bhopal Pragya Thakur, former Army officer lieutenant colonel Srikant Purohit Maj (retired) Ramesh Upadhyay, Ajay Rahikar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, Sudhakar Chaturvedi, Sameer Kulkarni.

The accused were charged with conspiracy, murder, attempt to murder, promotion of enmity and voluntarily, causing hurt.

Former BJP MP said acquittal by court not just a win for her but for every 'Bhagwa' (saffron).

On September 29 2008, six people were killed and 101 others injured when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle detonated near a mosque in Malegaon City's Bhikku Chowk.

The judge, while reading out the judgment, said there was no "reliable and cogent" evidence to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt.

The provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were not applicable to the case, the court said.



25 PER CENT TARIFF

X SEES FLURRY OF TARIFF-IC MEMES FOLLOWING TRUMP'S ANNOUNCEMENTS ON TRUTH SOCIAL



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Wednesday made a post on Truth Social, saying he would impose a 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports starting August 1. Moreover, he announced his intent to levy an additional penalty on the country for maintaining trade with Russia for oil and military resources. He also said the US did "relatively little business" with India because the tariffs were "far too high" and the country had "the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country".

Continuing his barrage, he made a second post saying Russia and India could "take down their dead economies together" on Thursday morning. Naturally, these outbursts led to a meme-fest on social media platforms, especially X.

Some memes mock Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friendship with Trump, while others are about US-Pakistan relations, especially their deal to collaborate on developing Pakistan's oil reserves.

One of the most popular posts, seen below, was made by Youtuber Dhruv Rathee. It garnered over 50,000 likes in less than 24 hours.

Trump said in a press conference at the White House, "We are talking to India. Let's see what happens. India's tariffs are 100-150 percent, which are the highest in the world." He also said that India buys most of its military equipment and oil from Russia. This is not good at the time of the Ukraine war.

Trump has said that the matter of 25 percent tariff on India is not final yet, let's see what happens by the end of this week.

"WHO'S RESPONSIBLE THEN?" A OWAISI'S POSER AFTER
MALEGAON ACCUSED ACQUITTED

Diary Times Desk : Justice has not been done in the Malegaon blast case and the Central and the state governments should appeal immediately - preferably within 24 hours as they did in the railway blasts case, AIMIM (All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen) chief Asaduddin Owaisi said today - hours after a special court gave a clean chit to the seven accused saying there was no material evidence against them.

The blast occurred on the night of September 29 2008, near Bhikku Chowk in the communally tense town, located about 200 km from Mumbai, during the holy month of Ramzan. A powerful bomb tore through an area near a mosque, killing six people and injuring more than a hundred.

Today, all seven accused in the case, including former BJP MP Pragya Thakur and former army officer Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit, were acquitted.

Mr Owaisi pointed out that the release made the case inconclusive and it becomes unclear who was responsible for the blasts.



INDIA'S PURCHASES OF RUSSIAN OIL
'POINT OF IRRITATION' IN BILATERAL TIES
WITH US: RUBIO

Diary Times Desk : India's purchases of Russian oil are helping to sustain Moscow's war efforts in Ukraine and it is "most certainly a point of irritation" in New Delhi's relationship with Washington, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Thursday.

"Look, global trade - India is an ally. It's a strategic partner. Like anything in foreign policy, you're not going to align 100 per cent of the time on everything," Rubio said in an interview with Fox Radio.

Rubio was responding to a question on President Donald Trump's announcement of the 25 per cent tariff on India and an additional penalty for buying Russian military equipment and energy, and how disappointed Washington is with Delhi because of this.

Rubio acknowledged India has "huge energy needs" and that includes the ability to buy oil and coal and gas and things that it needs to power its economy like every country does, and it buys it from Russia because Russian oil is sanctioned and cheap.

RAHUL SAYS EVERYBODY EXCEPT PM, FM KNOWS INDIAN
ECONOMY IS 'DEAD'; BJP HITS BACK

Diary Times Desk : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday echoed US President Donald Trump's criticism of the Indian economy and said everybody except Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman knows that the country's economy is "dead", evoking a sharp rebuke from the BJP.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha also alleged that the BJP-led government has destroyed the country's economic, defence and foreign policies, and is "running the country to the ground".

Speaking with reporters in the Parliament House complex, Gandhi claimed that a trade deal with the US will happen and Trump will define it, while Prime Minister Modi will do what the American president tells him to do.

The BJP slammed Gandhi for "echoing" Trump's "dead economy" jibe at India, calling it a "shameful" insult to the aspirations, achievements and well-being of the people of the country.

The ruling party also asked the Congress leader why he "repeats" foreign propaganda that undermines the country.

INDIA-ORIGIN NIKHIL RAVISHANKAR SET TO PILOT AIR NEW
ZEALAND AS CEO

Diary Times Desk : India-origin Nikhil Ravishankar is set to take over as the CEO of Air New Zealand from October this year after being associated with the carrier for nearly five years.

Incidentally, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson is from New Zealand.

"Currently the airline's Chief Digital Officer, Nikhil will officially take over as CEO on 20 October 2025. In the nearly five years that Nikhil has been at Air New Zealand he has gained a deep understanding of the aviation sector, and the airline. He has also led major advances in the airline's technology backbone, loyalty programme and customer proposition," Air New Zealand said in a statement on July 30.

Prior to joining the airline, Ravishankar was Chief Digital Officer at Vector and Managing Director of Accenture.

"I'm both thrilled and humbled to be given this opportunity to lead Air New Zealand... airlines are complex, and safety underpins every decision we make," he said in the statement.

Air New Zealand offers more than 400 flights a day to 49 domestic and international destinations. It has a fleet of more than 100 planes, including Boeing 777s, 787s, Airbus 320s, ATRs and Q300s, as per its website.



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.

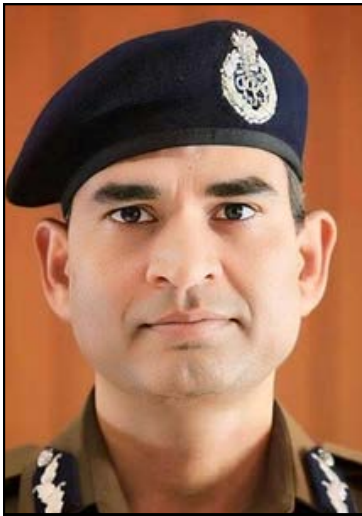
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HIMACHAL NEWS: APT BRANCH NOW SHIFTED FROM STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS SHIMLA TO KANGRA, DGP TIWARI ISSUED ORDERS

Diary Times Desk : The state government has shifted the Armed Police and Training (APT) branch from Shimla to Kangra after the headquarters of the Tourism Development Corporation. Director General of Police Ashok Tiwari has issued orders in this regard. As per the instructions of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, this step has been taken to reduce congestion in Shimla city.

Now the APT branch will be operated from Police Training College (PTC) Daroh, Kangra. ADGP (ATP) will also go to Daroh from the Police Headquarters. This branch is responsible for the deployment and training of police personnel. Earlier in the previous government, there was a plan to shift the APT office from Shimla to Banuri in Palampur, Kangra. DIG of Police Training College Daroh, Soumya Sambasivan said that arrangements have been made for the APT staff at PTC Daroh. This change is expected to improve both the speed and quality of the training work of the police department. Now the Police Training School, College, Academy, Wireless Training Institute and APT Headquarters will all work at one place in PTC Daroh.



HIMACHAL WOMAN MOLESTED IN CHANDIGARH: MAN ENTERED THE GUEST HOUSE... FORCEFULLY HUGGED HER, SAID- YOU ARE MY...

Diary Times Desk : A case of molestation of a woman who had come from Himachal Pradesh to get her husband treated has come to light in Sector-42's NHPC guest house. The woman has made serious allegations against the police that the police changed her statement. The woman has given a complaint to the SSP and demanded the original copy of the statement. The police say that the woman had given the statement on the basis of agreement and there was no molestation with her. The station-in-charge says that no inquiry has been marked by the SSP, if it comes, the matter will be investigated. According to the woman, an FIR has been registered in the case of molestation with her. She had come to get a copy of the FIR. This incident is of 9 June 2025.

The woman told the police in her complaint that her husband is undergoing cancer treatment in a private hospital in Mohali. During this time she was staying at the NHPC guest house in Sector-42.

PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION: MP ANURAG SINGH THAKUR SAID- IT IS RAHUL GANDHI'S HABIT TO CATCH ANTI-INDIA STATEMENTS

Diary Times Desk : Former Union Minister and Lok Sabha MP Anurag Singh Thakur has strongly objected to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi calling the Indian economy dead. He said that during the UPA tenure, Rahul Gandhi saw India as a dead decade of opportunity. That is why if anyone makes an anti-India statement in the world, Rahul Gandhi immediately catches it. In the last 11 years of the Modi government, India has seen a new pace of development, touched new heights of development.

Anurag Singh Thakur said that the job of Rahul Gandhi, the leader opposing India, is only to oppose the country's achievements and the Modi government. Rahul Gandhi forgets that India is among the fastest growing economies of the world, which is growing at a growth rate of 6.5 percent. With a share of more than 48 percent in the digital payments sector worldwide, India has overtaken countries around the world. The work of taking 25 crore poor people out of the poverty line has been done under the Modi government. Anurag Singh Thakur has described the acquittal of all the accused by the NIA Special Court in the Malegaon blast case of Maharashtra as the victory of truth.

HIMACHAL: AFTER CAPSICUM, TOMATO PRICES ALSO INCREASED, CRATES ARE BEING SOLD FOR 500 TO 1000 RUPEES IN THE VEGETABLE MARKET

Diary Times Desk : In view of the weather, tomato prices also started increasing. On Thursday, tomatoes were sold for 500 to 1000 rupees per crate. Farmers are also getting good prices for capsicum. Capsicum is being sold for up to 50 rupees per kg. There is also a possibility of prices remaining stable in the coming days. Every year, crores of rupees worth of vegetables are traded in Solan vegetable market. So far, more than two lakh crates of tomatoes have reached the vegetable market.

According to the information, there is a high demand for capsicum and tomatoes of the state in the big markets of Chandigarh and Delhi. Its prices are also getting good. Most of the people in the rural areas of district Solan are dependent on farming. People grow many other cash crops including tomatoes, capsicum, peas, cabbage, beans and garlic. The main cash crops of Solan are tomatoes and capsicum. At the beginning of the season, farmers could not get good prices for tomatoes, but now farmers are happy with the rise in prices. Apart from this, farmers are getting good prices for other vegetables as well.

HIMACHAL WEATHER: LANDSLIDES BLOCK 291 ROADS IN THE STATE, ALERT FOR SEVEN DAYS OF HEAVY RAIN IN MANY PARTS

Diary Times Desk : Rain continues in many parts of Himachal Pradesh. Landslides and sudden floods have affected life in many places. Till Thursday evening, 291 roads including a national highway remained blocked in the state. 416 electricity transformers and 219 water supply schemes are also affected. The maximum number of 171 roads are still blocked in the disaster-hit Mandi district. 174 electricity transformers are blocked in Kullu district and 132 in Chamba. 134 water supply schemes are affected in Dharamshala and Nurpur sub-divisions of Kangra district.

Last night, Dharamshala recorded 54.4 mm rainfall, Murari Devi 52.4 mm, Kothi 49.1 mm, Gohar 40.0 mm, Sarahan 34.0 mm, Sundernagar 30.7 mm, Naina Devi 28.6 mm, Pandoh 26.0 mm, Baggi 25.8 mm, Slappar 24.1 mm, Jot 17.2 mm, BBMB 16.4 mm, Bharmour 16.0 mm and Rohru 15.0 mm.

HIMACHAL NEWS: UNION EDUCATION MINISTER WILL VISIT HIMACHAL IN SEPTEMBER, WILL OBSERVE VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Diary Times Desk : Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will visit Himachal in the month of September. Education Minister Rohit Thakur met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi and invited him to visit Himachal. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accepted the invitation of the Education Minister. The Union Minister is scheduled to visit Himachal in the month of September. During this time, he will observe various educational activities going on in Himachal.

Education Minister Rohit Thakur sought maximum cooperation from the Central Government in the field of education in the state. He raised many important demands keeping in mind the geographical conditions and regional disparities of Himachal Pradesh. During this, Director of Comprehensive Education Rajesh Sharma and Director of Higher Education Dr. Amarjeet Sharma were also present with the Education Minister. During this, Secretary of Higher Education Department, Government of India and Acting Chairman of UGC Vineet Joshi, Secretary of Central School Education Department Sanjay Kumar and other high officials were also present.

Education Minister Rohit Thakur demanded from Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to establish Regional Institute of Education (RIE) in Himachal for the northern states. The Education Minister urged to open more Kendriya Vidyalayas in Himachal in view of the geographical disparities of the state. He said that it is necessary to increase the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas to ensure access to quality education in hilly and remote areas. This will give students of rural and remote areas an opportunity to get modern and holistic education.

"GREAT RELIEF": UMA BHARATI APPLAUDS MALEGAON BLAST VERDICT

Diary Times Desk : Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Uma Bharati said the verdict in the Malegaon case was a "great relief" to her. All seven accused in the 17-year-old case were acquitted today by a special court. The judge said the prosecution failed to prove the allegations in the case and that all seven accused deserve the benefit of doubt.

"My reverence to the people because they were the ones to face any torture or physical pain but they were not ready to give the names," Uma Bharati told NDTV in an exclusive interview.

"They were forced to name the people of some right wing organisation, some BJP leaders. It is because of the torture they faced and ultimately they tolerated it... The whole country, the whole Hindu community, the whole organisation now honours them. We worship them," she added.

During the years-long trial, the prosecution had examined 323 witnesses, of whom nearly 40 turned hostile.

SIT FINDS SKELETON AT 6TH SITE IN DHARMASTHALA: WHAT IS THE MASS BURIAL CASE?

Diary Times Desk : Partial human remains were discovered at the sixth site dug by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the mass burial case in Dharmasthala, a town in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. The remains could be the first concrete evidence in the mass burials case.

The SIT has, previously, dug five sites at locations identified by the complainant in the case. However, this was the first to provide a breakthrough in the case. The case originated from an FIR filed by a former sanitation worker, the complainant in the case, on July 4. In his complaint, he alleged that he had been forced to bury several bodies when he was working in Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014. The village is located in Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada district. The complaint states that many of the deceased who were buried were allegedly victims of sexual violence and murder. The complainant claimed that his own relative had been assaulted, thus resulting in him fleeing from the town. The SIT took over the probe from the local police on July 25, and has initiated the digging of sites identified by the former sanitation worker.

SHASHI THAROOR'S 'DESTROY' WARNING AFTER DONALD TRUMP '25% US TARIFF' BOMB ON INDIA



Diary Times Desk : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said the 25% tariff announced by US President Donald Trump on the Indian economy is a very "serious" matter that will "destroy" India's trade with America.

"It's a very serious matter for us... 25, plus an unspecified penalty for our buying oil and gas from Russia, it could take it up to 35-45... There's even talk of a 100% penalty, which will destroy our trade with America... The trade negotiations are underway, and there is a possibility that it may come down. If it doesn't, it will damage our exports, because America is a very big market for us," news agency ANI quoted Shashi Tharoor as saying.

The Congress leader also noted that the Trump administration has to take into consideration the "needs" of the Indian government as well.

"OPERATION SUCCESSFUL, PATIENT DEAD": SUPREME COURT ON BRS MLAS' DEFECTION CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly to decide on petitions seeking the disqualification of 10 MLAs, who jumped ship from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) to the Congress in 2023, under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution in three months.

The defections took place after the state elections in 2023, and one of the MLAs had even fought the 2024 Lok Sabha polls on a Congress ticket.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chauhan set aside a November 22 order of a division bench of the Telangana High Court, which nullified the single bench's directive to the Speaker to fix a schedule to decide on the pleas, observing that it cannot permit a situation of "operation successful but patient dead". "We have referred to various parliamentary speeches, including those by Rajesh Pilot and Devendra Nath Munshi, to emphasise that entrusting disqualification proceedings to the speaker were aimed at avoiding delays that may occur before courts.

SUPREME COURT DIRECTS COURTS NOT TO GRANT BAIL ON UNDERTAKINGS BY ACCUSED TO DEPOSIT MONEY

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court recently directed all High Courts and trial courts across the country to refrain from granting regular or anticipatory bail solely based on an undertaking by the accused or their family members to deposit a specific amount [Gajanan Dattatray Gore v. State of Maharashtra].

A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan remarked,

"By this order, we make it clear and that too in the form of directions that henceforth no Trial Court or any of the High Courts shall pass any order of grant of regular bail or anticipatory bail on any undertaking that the accused might be ready to furnish for the purpose of obtaining appropriate reliefs...This practice has to be stopped. Litigants are taking the courts for a ride and thereby undermining the dignity and honor of the court."

High Courts and trial courts shall decide pleas for regular bail or anticipatory bail strictly on the merits of the case, the Court added.

"The High Courts and the Trial Courts shall not exercise their discretion in this regard on any undertaking or any statement that the accused may be ready and willing to make...We hope and trust that the High Courts as well as the Trial Courts across the country do not commit the same mistake again.

NIA MAKES FIRST ARREST IN KILLING OF 6 MEITEIS INCLUDING INFANT IN MANIPUR'S JIRIBAM

Diary Times Desk : A suspect in the kidnapping and killing of three women and three children from the Meitei community in Manipur's Jiribam in November 2024 has been arrested, marking the first breakthrough in the case being handled by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The Assam Police said they arrested the suspect, identified as Thanglienlal Hmar alias Boya, based on information provided by the NIA, and handed him over to the country's top anti-terror investigation agency.

The arrest comes three weeks after the Manipur High Court ordered the NIA to give a report on the case, and two days after it ordered the NIA to file a chargesheet within a month.

The NIA in a statement said Thanglienlal Hmar, a resident of Assam's Cachar district, "was actively involved in the conspiracy and execution of the horrendous crime."

The members of the Meitei community who were kidnapped from Jiribam, a district bordering Assam.

RAHUL GANDHI'S ENDORSEMENT OF TRUMP'S "DEAD ECONOMY" REMARK BACKFIRES

Diary Times Desk : Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's attempt to latch on to US President Donald Trump's "dead economy" remark to attack the Narendra Modi government has backfired, with his party colleagues and allies taking an opposite stand. Mr Gandhi's endorsement of Trump's remarks also provided the BJP a political opportunity to counter the Opposition's attacks.

While Mr Gandhi endorsed Trump's remarks and used them to slam the Centre, his senior party colleagues Shashi Tharoor and Rajiv Shukla pointed to the strength of the Indian economy, with Mr Tharoor stressing that New Delhi must not cave in to Washington DC's unreasonable demands. Priyanka Chaturvedi, a key opposition voice and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP, has also slammed Trump and said such a claim can "only come from a position of arrogance or ignorance". A day after announcing 25 per cent tariffs on imports from India, Trump dropped a bombshell today. Hitting out at India and Russia, he has said he does not care about New Delhi's dealings with Moscow and that the two "can take their dead economies down together".

TRUMP SAYS TARIFFS MAKING AMERICA 'GREAT AND RICH AGAIN,' CALLS US 'HOTTEST NATION'



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump said Thursday that the sweeping tariffs he has imposed on nations around the world were making the country "great & rich again" as governments raced to strike deals with Washington less than 24 hours before an August 1 deadline.

"Tariffs are making America GREAT & RICH Again," he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"ONE YEAR AGO, AMERICA WAS A DEAD COUNTRY, NOW IT IS THE "HOTTEST" COUNTRY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD," he added.

A day earlier, the US President imposed new tariffs to punish or favor several major trading partners - the latest round of sweeping measures that have roiled markets around the world.

South Korea squeezed in at the last moment, securing agreement on a 15 percent tariff for exports to the United States - significantly below the 25 percent that Trump had earlier threatened to introduce.

But Trump also announced crippling 50 percent tariffs on Brazil and a 25 percent levy on Indian exports, while warning Canada it would face trade repercussions for planning to recognize a Palestinian state.

RUSSIAN EX-PRESIDENT MEDVEDEV'S 'ULTIMATUM GAME' REMARK SPARKS TRUMP'S IRE

Diary Times Desk : In his latest message for India after imposing 25 percent tariffs on his "good friend," US President Donald Trump has also issued a warning to Russia. The Republican's social media post comes days after former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev warned of a war if Trump kept "playing the ultimatum game."

"I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care. We have done very little business with India, their Tariffs are too high.

FIRES AND DESTRUCTION AS MISSILE ATTACKS RATTLE UKRAINE'S CAPITAL

Diary Times Desk : Russia launched a barrage of missile and drone attacks on Kyiv, killing at least six people - including a six-year-old boy and his mother - and injuring 52, according to Ukrainian officials.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday that Russian forces launched more than 300 drones and eight missiles, targeting residential buildings throughout the capital.

"Today the world has once again seen Russia's response to our desire for peace with America and Europe. Therefore, peace without strength is impossible," Zelenskyy said on the Telegram app.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko confirmed nine children were wounded in the attack, the highest number of child casualties in a single night in the city since Russia's full-scale invasion began nearly three and a half years ago.

Yurii Kravchuk, 62, stood beside a damaged building wrapped in a blanket with a bandage around his head.

TRUMP ANNOUNCES 90-DAY NEGOTIATING PERIOD WITH MEXICO: 'DEAL COMPLEXITIES DIFFERENT FROM OTHER NATIONS'

Diary Times Desk : Following a telephonic conversation with his Mexican counterpart Claudia Sheinbaum, US President Donald Trump on Thursday said that the two nations would enter a 90-day negotiation window, though the existing 25 per cent tariffs will stay in place for now.

Taking to Truth Social, Trump said his phone conversation with Sheinbaum was "very successful in that, more and more, we are getting to know and understand each other."

"The complexities of a deal with Mexico are somewhat different than other nations because of both the problems, and assets, of the border. We have agreed to extend, for a 90 day period, the exact same deal as we had for the last short period of time.

TRUMP ESCALATES TRADE WAR WITH CANADA FOLLOWING PALESTINE STANCE

Diary Times Desk : U.S. President Donald Trump intensified his trade war with Canada a day ahead of his August 1 deadline for a tariff agreement, saying it would be "very hard" to make a deal with Canada after it gave its support to Palestinian statehood.

Trump is set to impose a 35% tariff on all Canadian goods not covered by the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement if the two countries do not reach an agreement by the deadline.

OVER 150 FLIGHTS CANCELLED DUE TO UK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OUTAGE

Diary Times Desk : The air-traffic control outage that disrupted UK flights on Wednesday afternoon was caused by an unspecified radar-related issue, leading to more than 150 canceled flights in one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

The service interruption resulted in the cancellation of 84 departing flights and 71 arrivals across the UK, according to data from Cirium. Some flights were diverted to other European airports, while London Heathrow, the country's biggest hub, had the most disruptions with more than 45 flights called off, the aviation data provider said.

The latest breakdown has caught the attention of the UK government, with Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander posting on X that she met NATS Chief Executive Officer Martin Rolfe on Thursday to understand what happened and was assured it was an isolated event. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer also weighed in on the topic, saying Alexander is "getting to the bottom of it."

"The frustration of holiday makers will be palpable, and of course, the airline carriers," Starmer told reporters in Swindon on Thursday. "It was dealt with relatively quickly. But that doesn't take away from the fact that it impacted many, many people."

The technical glitch at NATS, a major facility for air-traffic control in the UK, forced authorities to temporarily limit the number of movements into London on Wednesday afternoon, grounding flights across a large swathe of the country, including at airports from London Gatwick and City to Birmingham and Manchester further north.

MYANMAR JUNTA ENDS EMERGENCY RULE, SETS STAGE FOR DECEMBER ELECTION

Diary Times Desk : Myanmar's junta ended its state of emergency on Thursday, ramping up plans for a December election that opposition groups pledged to boycott and monitors said will be used to consolidate the military's power.

The military declared a state of emergency in February 2021 as it deposed the civilian government of democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, sparking a many-sided civil war which has claimed thousands of lives.

The order gave junta chief Min Aung Hlaing supreme power over the legislature, executive and judiciary -- but he has recently touted elections as an off-ramp to the conflict.

Opposition groups including ex-lawmakers ousted in the coup have pledged to snub the poll, which a UN expert last month dismissed as "a fraud" designed to legitimise the military's continuing rule.

6 INDIAN COMPANIES SANCTIONED BY US OVER IRAN PETROLEUM PURCHASES

Diary Times Desk : Six Indian companies are under the radar of the US Department of State. Their fault? They "engage in Iranian petroleum, petroleum products, or petrochemical trade". This reportedly violates American sanctions under Executive Order 13846. The US claims that the Iranian regime uses revenue to fuel conflict in the Middle East, fund terrorism, and oppress its people.

In a statement, the US Department of State spokesperson said, "The Iranian regime continues to fuel conflict in the Middle East to fund its destabilising activities. Today, the United States is taking action to stem the flow of revenue that the regime uses to support terrorism abroad, as well as to oppress its own people."

The US Department of State Wednesday announced sanctions on 20 entities, including six from India, for trading with Iran.

TRUMP HITS BRAZIL WITH 50% TARIFFS AND SANCTIONS JUDGE IN BOLSONARO CASE

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump has stepped up his diplomatic assault on the government of Brazil's left-wing president, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva. He's signed an executive order which brings total tariffs on Brazilian goods to fifty percent. At the same time, the US Treasury has imposed financial sanctions on the senior Brazilian judge overseeing the criminal case for coup plotting against Brazil's former leader, Jair Bolsonaro. We speak to Brazilian ambassador to London, Antonio Patriota.

LAND POOLING POLICY: PUNJAB GOVT TO GO SLOW IN LUDHIANA AS OFFICIALS, MLAS CITE OPPOSITION

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Government has decided to acquire only around 6,000 acres by the year-end in Ludhiana district under the land pooling policy following suggestions from ruling AAP legislators and officers amid growing opposition to the initiative.

According to sources, the decision to adopt a phased approach came as the MLAs and highly-placed officers told the government that it might not be possible to acquire the targeted 45,000 acres in one go due to massive opposition to the scheme. A source said the decision was conveyed to the Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) and the Ludhiana district administration by the government in a fresh directive.

The government has set a target to acquire around 45,000 acres in the district for both residential and industrial projects — the maximum in the state.

According to sources, the focus in the first phase will be on the acquisition of land in Zones 1 and 2, covering 10 villages.



SOLDIERS KILLED IN BOULDER ACCIDENT IN LADAKH CREMATED WITH MILITARY HONOURS IN PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : The two soldiers killed in an accident in Ladakh were cremated with full military honours at their native places in Punjab on Thursday.

Lt Colonel Bhanu Pratap Singh Mankotia and Lance Dafadar Daljit Singh died, and three officers were injured, when a boulder fell on their army vehicle in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday.

The accident occurred in Charbagh near Durbuk in Galwan, some 200 km from Leh.

Earlier in the day, the bodies of Mankotia and Daljit Singh were brought to their native places in Pathankot and Gurdaspur's Shamsherpur village.

A large number of mourners gathered at their houses to pay their last respects to the army men who died in the line of duty.

Daljit's father said Daljit had spoken to his mother on Tuesday and asked her to find a mason to build a house. "He hung up saying he will call back," the father, still in shock with his son's death, said.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann offered condolences to the soldiers' kin.

ASF OUTBREAK REPORTED IN PATIALA, RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED TO CONTAIN THE DISEASE

Diary Times Desk : An outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) has been confirmed at a pig farm in Ravas Brahmanan village, prompting immediate action from district authorities. The village has been declared an infected zone and stringent restrictions have been enforced to contain the disease. The incident took place last week when pigs' deaths were reported in the farm. The animal husbandry department team visited the farm and carried out the post-mortem and sent the lab report to the Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RDDL) in Jalandhar.

CENTRE DENIES PERMISSION TO PUNJAB MINISTER HARBHAJAN SINGH ETO TO VISIT US

Diary Times Desk : The Centre has declined to grant political clearance to Punjab Power and Public Works Department Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO for his proposed visit to the United States.

The Aam Aadmi Party leader was scheduled to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Legislative Summit 2025, to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, from August 4 to 6.

The official communication denying permission was reportedly received by the Punjab Government on Thursday.

This marks the fourth instance in which a minister or senior functionary from Punjab's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has been denied approval for foreign travel. Last year, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was not granted clearance to travel to Paris during the Olympics, where he intended to watch a hockey match.

OVER 3,000 TEACHERS ORDERED TO ATTEND STATE EVENT AMIDST PROTESTS AGAINST LAND POOLING IN PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Government's plan to roll out a drug prevention curriculum for students of classes IX to XII from August 1 has landed over 3,000 government school teachers and Education Department officials in an uncomfortable situation.

In what many see as a show of strength amid the ongoing farmers' agitation against the land pooling policy, the state has directed hundreds of educators to attend a massive state-level function in Arniwala (Fazilka) on Friday. The event will be presided over by AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann.

District Education Officers, Deputy DEOs, DIET Principals and District Resource Coordinators from across the state have been instructed to attend. Additionally, over 2,800 school heads and teachers from Faridkot, Moga, Ferozepur, Muktsar, Fazilka and Bathinda have been ordered to report at the venue.

Schools' heads have been asked to arrange live telecast viewings for students from classes IX to XII, starting at 12 noon on Friday.

30-YEAR-OLD BRITISH SIKH MAN STABBED TO DEATH IN LONDON ATTACK

Diary Times Desk : A 30-year-old British Sikh man has been stabbed to death in east London in an attack involving people known to each other, the UK police believe.

Gurmuk Singh, known as Gary, died last week in Felbrigg Road, Ilford in East London, and was formally named by Metropolitan Police on Thursday.

The force said its officers had arrested Amardeep Singh, 27, on suspicion of the murder that took place on July 23. He has since been charged with one count of murder and remains in custody until his next court appearance at London's Old Bailey for trial on January 5, 2026.

"Police were called by the London Ambulance Service to reports of an altercation at a residential address," said the Met Police statement. "Officers attended as Gary was treated for stab wounds. Despite the best efforts of the paramedics, he sadly died at the scene," it said.

Detectives also arrested a 29-year-old man and three women aged 29, 30 and 54 in connection with the fatal stabbing.

LIKE HARYANA, PUNJAB MULLS STILT-PLUS-FOUR FLOORS

Diary Times Desk : In a move that is bound to result in burden on the existing infrastructure and civic amenities, Punjab, on the pattern of Haryana, has proposed allowing the construction of stilt-plus-four floors on residential plots in licensed colonies and sectors.

By allowing four storeys, besides stilt parking, the Housing and Urban Development Department in the draft "Punjab Unified Building Rules, 2025" has allowed an increase in the height of the buildings up to 17.5m. The waiver would come with a rider that the plot should be situated on roads that are 12m (40ft) or wider.

With an eye on revenue generation and making rules user-friendly, the government has proposed additional ground coverage that would be purchasable as per the collector rates in the respective areas.

Once notified after considering the public option, the unified rules would be applicable in the urban areas governed by the Urban Housing Department and the Local Bodies Department.

Sources in the government said the waiver for allowing additional floors was bound to create chaos in old cities and congested areas, especially in the civic bodies where areas are already struggling with solid waste and sewerage challenges, besides parking chaos.

HC DENIES BAIL TO ED, CBI OFFICERS IN SCHOLARSHIP SCAM

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has turned down the regular bail pleas of two senior law enforcement officers Vishal Deep and Balbir Singh in the Himachal Pradesh scholarship scam. Two FIRs under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act were registered by the CBI in the matter in December last year.

Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul asserted the court was conscious of the settled principle that bail was the rule and jail exception. But in cases involving public trust, corruption and institutional breach by law enforcing officers, such exceptions were required to be tempered “by the imperative to preserve the integrity of the process and prevent any likelihood of tampering with evidence or witnesses, especially when the complainants are yet to be examined”.

Vishal Deep was Assistant Director, Enforcement Directorate (ED), while Balbir Singh was working as a Deputy Superintendent of Police in the CBI. “In view of the seriousness of the allegations, the nature of evidence collected, the position and influence wielded by the petitioners at the time of the offence in question.

AFTER 1999 BAN, CABINET APPROVES RESUMPTION OF LOTTERIES IN HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : The cash-strapped state of Himachal Pradesh has decided to allow the operation of lotteries with an expected annual revenue between Rs 50 to Rs 100 crore.

The decision was taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held here today. Himachal Government had banned sale of tickets of all types of lotteries operated by Himachal, other states and UT’s in 1999. This was done under Sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998. The lotteries will be sold in the state after tendering its operations under the various laws in this regard. The debt burden of the state government has already crossed Rs 1 lakh crore and the state government is keen to generate additional revenue from other sectors, including mining, tourism and power.

BUS PLUNGES INTO GORGE IN MANDI; 1 KILLED, 9 INJURED

Diary Times Desk : A tragic road accident occurred today evening near Tuna village in Gohar subdivision of Mandi district when a private bus lost control and plunged into a deep gorge. The mishap claimed the life of a 44-year-old woman and left nine others injured, including the driver and conductor.

The ill-fated bus was en route from Jehal to Chailchowk when it veered off the road near Kashawari in Tuna and fell into a steep gorge. Locals rushed to the scene and immediately launched a rescue operation to evacuate the injured. The deceased has been identified as Nirmala (44), wife of Kishori, a resident of Naun village. Gohar SDM Bachittar Singh, confirmed the incident and said four critically injured victims have been referred to the medical college in Nerchowk, while five victims are admitted to Civil Hospital Gohar in Mandi for treatment. Mandi SP Sakshi Verma stated that a case has been registered and investigation is underway to ascertain the actual cause of this accident.



HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY’S MONSOON SESSION TO BE HELD FROM AUGUST 18 TO SEPTEMBER 2



Diary Times Desk : The monsoon session of the Vidhan Sabha will be held from August 18 to September 2.

This will probably be one of the longest monsoon sessions with 12 sittings.

HOW IS HIMACHAL GOVT UTILISING FUNDS GIVEN BY CENTRE FOR FLOOD-HIT MANDI, ASKS KANGANA RANAUT

Diary Times Desk : BJP MP from Mandi, Kangana Ranaut, asked the Central Government to explain how the relief funds it had provided were being utilised by the Congress-led state government for flood and landslide-affected areas of her constituency. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, Kangana said, “My constituency, Mandi, is suffering heavy losses, both in terms of lives and property, due to back-to-back floods and landslides. Several bridges have collapsed, and many villages are inundated.”

She demanded clarity on how the “thousands of crores in relief funds” provided by the Centre were being used by the state government. “We want to know how much financial assistance has been given by the Centre, when it was disbursed, because the state government is not acknowledging it,” she said.

The actor-turned-politician also highlighted the situation in Mandi Sadar, which was hit by yet another flood on Tuesday, causing losses worth crores. She sought details on the deployment and response time of the NDRF and ITBP in such emergencies.

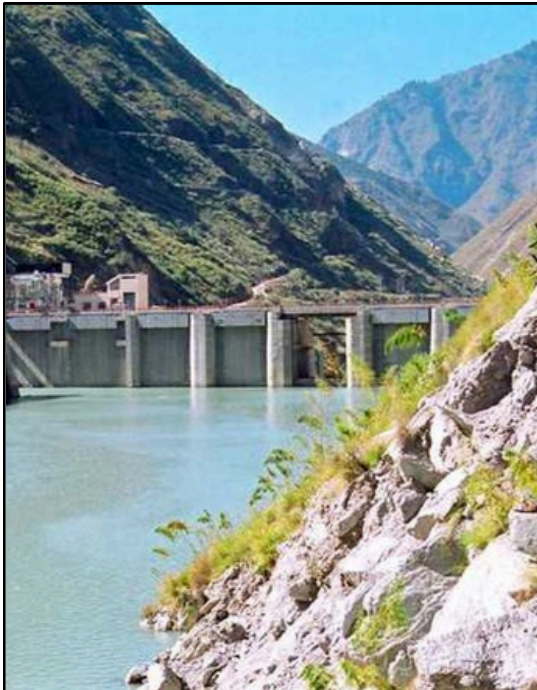
HIMACHAL: CANCELLATION OF 172 HYDROPOWER PROJECTS BELOW 5 MW OKAYED

Diary Times Desk : The Cabinet today approved the cancellation of 172 hydroelectric power projects below 5 MW capacity under the HIMURJA scheme, where the construction work was stalled even during the extended period. These 172 cancelled projects would be re-advertised.

The Cabinet decided to enforce a uniform free power royalty of 12 per cent along with an additional one per cent for the Local Area Development Fund for all hydroelectric power projects of up to 5 MW capacity to be allotted in the future.

It gave approval for the cancellation of 22 hydroelectric projects above 5 MW capacity, where agreements had not been signed, previously allotted by the Directorate of Energy. For the remaining projects, time up to August 5 was allowed for the submission of replies to the notices served. It decided to constitute a committee to negotiate with 14 project developers for an out-of-court settlement for the refund of the principal amount of upfront premium without interest.

The government is keen that the condition of uniform free power royalty of 12 per cent along with an additional one per cent be imposed on the projects that will be re-allotted to ensure additional revenue generation.



KULDEEP YADAV IGNORED AGAIN, KARUN NAIR RETURNS AS INDIA MAKE 4 CHANGES FOR OVAL TEST VS ENGLAND

Diary Times Desk : Spinner Kuldeep Yadav was ignored once again as India made four changes to their playing XI for the fifth and final Test against England at The Oval on Thursday. Batter Karun Nair, who was dropped for the Manchester Test last week, was recalled to the side, alongside pacer Prasidh Krishna, who has missed the last two matches after underwhelming shows at Leeds and Edgbaston, respectively. Dhruv Jurel will take over wicketkeeping duties, with Rishabh Pant ruled out due to a toe fracture. Shardul Thakur has been dropped while pace spearhead Japrit Bumrah was rested owing to workload concerns. Anshul Kamboj, who made his debut in Manchester, has been dropped. He was replaced by Akash Deep, who also returns after recovering from an injury scare. "Don't mind losing the toss as long as we win the game.



FERRARI'S LEWIS HAMILTON, CHARLES LECLERC BACK BOSS FRED VASSEUR

Diary Times Desk : Charles Leclerc said it was important for Ferrari to silence rumours around Fred Vasseur's future at the team by announcing a contract extension for the team principal on Thursday. Ferrari confirmed Vasseur would remain at the team on a multi-year deal ahead of this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix, putting an end to speculation about the security of his position at the team beyond the end of the season.

Leclerc, who was already at the team when Vasseur joined at the end of 2022, said he never doubted Vasseur was the right person for Ferrari's top job. "I'm really, really happy," he said of the news. "It's not that it's coming as a surprise, but I'm really happy.

"Especially in the past month, there were quite a few rumours, like it's always the case around the team. To finally have the official news out is important and I'm really happy. "Without going into comparing the different eras, Fred has an incredible vision.

KUMAR DHARMASENA'S OVAL TEST BLUNDER HANDS ENGLAND BIG ESCAPE IN SAI SUDHARSAN'S CASE; ATHERTON FUMES: 'IND WOULD WANT...'

Diary Times Desk : Sri Lankan umpire Kumar Dharmasena made a major blunder during the fifth and final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy on Thursday, allowing England to escape a close call involving Sai Sudharsan without burning a DRS review.

The incident occurred on the second ball of the 13th over, when Josh Tongue delivered a searing inswinging yorker that caught Sudharsan by surprise. The batter lost his balance while defending, falling to the ground as the ball struck him low on the pad. England erupted in a loud appeal for LBW, but umpire Dharmasena shook his head and signalled an "inside edge" with his finger, a gesture that helped the hosts avoid burning a review.

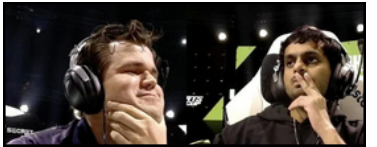
Replays showed the delivery was a low full-toss, and while Sudharsan was caught in a tangle, the ball had in fact brushed his bat before he fell to the ground. The misjudgment from Dharmasena, though inadvertent, gave England a major reprieve.

ENGLAND RIGHT ON TOP AS STRUGGLING INDIA GO 5 DOWN



Diary Times Desk : England are in command as India are five down in the ongoing fifth Test at Kennington Oval, London. Josh Tongue has picked two wickets while Gus Atkinson and Chris Woakes have scalped one wicket each. Shubman Gill was run-out. Sai Sudharsan fell at the score of 38, but other players from the top-order failed to play noticeable knocks. England's stand-in captain Ollie Pope won the toss and opted to bowl first. India Playing XI: Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill(c), Karun Nair, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel(w), Washington Sundar, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj England Playing XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope(c), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Smith(w), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue

MAGNUS CARLSEN SMILES AS NIHAL NARIN REJECTS DRAW OFFER, THEN DOMINATES INDIAN GM: 'I JUST GOT COMPLETELY CRUSHED TODAY'



Diary Times Desk : It was supposed to be a showdown between a speed demon and probably the greatest-ever Grandmaster in chess history. But it turned out to be a complete whitewash as Magnus Carlsen thrashed Nihal Sarin in their Esports World Cup quarter-final showdown, winning 2.5-0.5 on Thursday. The first game saw both GMs play out a draw and then in the second game, Carlsen bagged a win, even though earlier, he had offered a draw by repetition to his opponent, which was rejected. Carlsen simply smiled in response. Then in the third game, it was all Carlsen as he totally destroyed Sarin and clinched victory to qualify for the semi-finals. Speaking after his defeat, Sarin said, "Of course, I just got completely crushed today, but yeah, I mean, I for sure could have played better.

F1 CHAMPION MAX VERSTAPPEN SAYS HE'S STAYING WITH RED BULL TEAM FOR 2026

Diary Times Desk : Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen says he is staying with the Red Bull team next year, ending months of speculation over his future. "Some people just like to stir the pot, some people just like to create drama. But, for me, it's always been quite clear, and also for next year," the four-time champion said Thursday ahead of the Hungarian Grand Prix. "I'm discussing with the team already the plans – the things that we want to change for next year, so that means that I'm also staying with the team for next year." Verstappen has a contract with Red Bull through 2028. At recent races he had deflected questions about whether he'd stay with the team next year, and there had been indications that a performance-related clause could allow him to exit the contract early. The details of any clause are not public. Mercedes driver George Russell had said he believed his team was holding talks with Verstappen, and speculation was further fuelled by reports that Verstappen and Mercedes boss Toto Wolff's yachts were off the Italian island of Sardinia at the same time. "If my boat is next to Toto's, then the boat is next to Toto's," Verstappen said Thursday. "You can have a personal relationship with someone even if you don't have a working relationship with someone." Verstappen's comments come less than a month after Christian Horner was removed from his role as Red Bull team principal after 20 years and replaced by Laurent Mekies.

