

## PRESIDENT'S RULE IN MANIPUR

## LOK SABHA APPROVES **EXTENSION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN MANIPUR** BY 6 MONTHS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed a resolution extending President's Rule in Manipur by another six months beyond August 13, with the government asserting that peace is gradually returning to the violence-hit northeastern state.

"What can be a bigger proof of peace than the fact that since President's Rule was imposed, there has been only one fatality and no casualties in the last four months?" said Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai during the debate.

Rai defended the imposition and extension of President's Rule, calling it crucial to restoring and maintaining peace in the ethnically-divided state.

Highlighting the Centre's commitment to the region, Rai said, "In the past 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited the Northeast 78 times. This has resulted in all-round development, guided by his vision in five key areas — connectivity, optimal use of local resources, inclusive development and empowerment, welfare of women and children, and lasting peace and stability."

He noted that the government had transformed its Look East policy into Act East, then Act Fast, and finally into Act First, to underline urgency and priority for the region.



## PAHALGAM TERRORISTS

## ALL 3 **PAHALGAM TERRORISTS** WERE SHOT IN THE HEAD: AMIT SHAH IN RAJYA SABHA



**Diary Times Desk :** Families of Pahalgam attack victims and many other people wanted the three terrorists to be shot in their heads and they met the same fate in Operation Mahadev, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Replying to the debate on Operation Sindoor in the House, Shah said during investigations the identity of the three terrorists killed in Operation Mahadev clearly established Lashkar-e-Taiba's hand in Pahalgam attack as all three belonged to the terror outfit.

He stated that such barbaric crime never happened where religion was asked before killing people in front of women and children.

Earlier, when Shah began to speak, Opposition parties protested and demanded that the Prime Minister speak, but when the Chair refused to entertain their demand, they staged a walkout.

Continuing his speech, Shah said Congress leader P Chidambaram had demanded his resignation and proof that the terrorists were from Pakistan.

Shah stated that Chidambaram even challenged the justification of Operation Sindoor.

"Priority of Congress is not national security, but politics; it indulges in politics of vote bank, appeasement," the Home Minister said.

He said Chidambaram exposed the mentality of Congress to the whole world that for vote bank they would support Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Taiba and terrorists.

"KAAN KHOLKE SUN LE...": S JAISHANKAR TO OPPOSITION ON TRUMP-MODI PHONE CALL

**Diary Times Desk :** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday during a Rajya Sabha discussion on Operation Sindoor, clarified that no phone calls took place between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi from April 22 to June 16.

"...Main unko kehna chahta hoon, woh kaan kholke sun le. 22 April se 16 June tak, ek bhi phone call President Trump aur Prime Minister Modi ke beech mein nahi hua. (I want to tell them to listen carefully: from April 22 to June 16, not a single phone call took place between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi) " Mr Jaishankar said in the Upper House of Parliament.

He further emphasised India's firm stance against mediation in India-Pakistan matters, asserting that any dialogue must be bilateral and that Pakistan must formally request a cessation of conflict through the DGMO.

"...When Operation Sindoor commenced, a number of countries were in touch with us to see how serious the situation was and how long it would go...



PRIYANKA GANDHI LEADS KERALA NUNS' ARREST PROTEST, SHASHI THAROOR MISSING

**Diary Times Desk :** As Kerala MPs led by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra protested in Parliament over the arrest of two nuns in Chhattisgarh on charges of human trafficking and forced religious conversion, senior party leader Shashi Tharoor was conspicuously absent.

Interestingly, Mr Tharoor was part of a protest on the same issue yesterday, but was not seen today. The absence sparked a buzz as it played out against the backdrop of Mr Tharoor's strained ties with the Congress leadership over his public remarks after the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

The Thiruvananthapuram MP was part of a protest by Kerala Congress MPs in the Parliament complex yesterday. Holding a placard that read, "India for all, proud to be one", Mr Tharoor told the media yesterday, "The nuns are innocent, they must be released. There should not be mob rule in the country. This is the government's responsibility." At the protest today, Ms Gandhi Vadra said the nuns were accused of things they were not doing. "They were manhandled and then taken away by the Chhattisgarh police. We are protesting against these kinds of attacks on minorities," she told the media.

GOVT SLAMS RAHUL GANDHI'S 'TRUMP LIAR' DARE AS IMMATURE, REAFFIRMS STRONG US TIES: SOURCES

**Diary Times Desk :** Senior government sources have hit back at Congress MP and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicly call US President Donald Trump a "liar" in Parliament over his past ceasefire claims between India and Pakistan.

"It's adolescent on the part of Rahul to say the PM should call Trump a liar on the floor of the House," a top government source said, adding that PM Modi had already clarified the matter by stating that "no world leader asked India to stop the war."

Sources also underlined that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had previously informed Parliament that Trump and Modi never spoke regarding any such ceasefire, dismissing the claim altogether.

They further pointed out that India and the US share a long-standing strategic partnership that goes beyond just trade negotiations.

"The Congress has been in power before, it should know how governments function," one official added, urging restraint in matters of foreign policy discourse.

Emphasising the depth of the bilateral relationship, sources cited US support to India during the Doklam crisis as a key example of the trust between the two nations, noting that reducing ties to a single statement undermines broader diplomatic realities.

Rahul Gandhi had earlier, during the Lok Sabha debate on Operation Sindoor.



AIR INDIA WATCHDOG AUDIT REVEALS 51 SAFETY VIOLATIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** India's aviation regulator has uncovered 51 safety violations at Air India during the past year, as part of its annual audit of the country's airlines. Although unrelated to last month's Air India Boeing 787 crash that killed 260 people, the findings come amid renewed scrutiny of the airline after the tragedy.

Seven safety-related lapses were of the highest level, the auditors said, but did not provide details.

Air India said the airline was "fully transparent" during the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) July audit, which was part of routine checks to improve systems. Regular audits are standard for all airlines to assess and improve their processes, an airline spokesperson said.

"We acknowledge receipt of the findings and will submit our response to the regulator within the stipulated time frame, along with the details of the corrective actions taken," the spokesperson added.

India's aviation regulator flagged 263 safety issues across eight commercial airlines in its annual audit, including 44 Level 2 and seven Level 1 findings at Air India.

### YOUR HOROSCOPE

31-07-2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION: ANURAG SINGH THAKUR SAID- ARMY SACRIFICED IN 1971, BUT IRON LADY TITLE WENT TO SOMEONE ELSE

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Union Minister and MP Anurag Singh Thakur, during a discussion in Parliament on Wednesday, raised questions on the letter written by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to the then US President Nixon and said that why was there a need to plead before the US President. The Indian Army sacrificed in the 1971 war, but why did someone else get the title of Iron Lady. The war which the army won in the field, Indira Gandhi lost on the table. This country should decide whether the government of that time was iron or irony.

Anurag Singh Thakur said that after Pakistan attacked India's western fronts on 3 December 1971, Indira Gandhi wrote a letter to Nixon on 5 December. Why was she pleading like a beggar in this letter? Why did the then Prime Minister request the US President to use his influence on Pakistan and stop its aggressive activities against India in such mild words, embarrassing India? Did Indira Gandhi not have faith in the Indian Army at that time or in her government, that she had to extend her hands before the US President? Anurag Singh Thakur said that the Congress Party should answer the country why this letter was written?



HIMACHAL: B.ED SEATS WILL BE GIVEN ONLY TO COLLEGES PAYING AFFILIATION FEES, HPU TAKES STRICT ACTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) has limited the online counseling and seat allocation process of B.Ed courses for the academic session 2025-27 to only those institutions which have deposited the affiliation and inspection fees of the university. According to the notification issued by the Centralized B.Ed Admission Committee of the university, only those government and private colleges will be able to participate in the counseling process of B.Ed, whose affiliation is valid and fees are updated. This step has been taken with the aim of securing the future of the students. According to HPU, out of 56 institutions, only 28 private colleges have paid the pending fees related to affiliation since 2015. The remaining 26 colleges have not deposited the fees. Due to this there is uncertainty over admission in them. Committee Chairman and Dean Student Welfare of the University Prof. BK Shivram said that students must check the list of affiliated colleges on the university website .

HPRCA: CANDIDATES SELECTED IN POST CODE-970 WILL BE APPOINTED AS JUNIOR ENGINEER IN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, KNOW THE WHOLE MATTER

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh government has provided a big relief to the applicants who have appeared for the Junior Engineer (Civil) Post Code-970 examination. The state government has now decided to give appointment in the Public Works Department to the candidates who have passed this examination. Dr. Vikram Mahajan, Secretary, State State Selection Commission (HPRCA), said that the erstwhile Himachal Pradesh Subordinate Services Commission had conducted the examination under post code-970 to fill 11 posts of Junior Engineer in the Engineering Wing of the Forest Department on contract basis, but due to the closure of the Engineering Wing of the Forest Department, the state government had decided to include 10 out of these 11 posts of Junior Engineer in the Public Works Department. These 10 posts include 6 posts of General Unreserved Category, one of EWS category and three posts of Other Backward Class Unreserved. Dr. Vikram Mahajan said that the Commission will now soon declare the result of this examination and recommend the appointment of 10 successful candidates in the Public Works Department.

HEALTH: AIIMS BILASPUR IS GIVING RELIEF TO PATIENTS OF SEXUAL WEAKNESS, TREATMENT IS BEING DONE THROUGH NON-SURGICAL, NON-MEDICINAL METHOD

**Diary Times Desk :** There is news of relief for the patients of sexual disorder in Himachal Pradesh. Sexual disorder patients are being treated with state-of-the-art non-surgical and non-medicinal treatment. The facility of Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ESWT) has now started in the Urology and Renal Transplant Department of AIIMS Bilaspur. At present, this facility is being provided through a demo machine, while the tender for a permanent machine costing about Rs 70 lakh has been issued for the department. This machine is specially designed for sexual disorder therapy. More than 50 patients have been successfully treated so far through the demo machine in the Urology Department of AIIMS Bilaspur. This includes patients suffering from erectile dysfunction (sexual weakness), chronic prostatitis and pelvic pain syndrome. Most of the patients have started getting relief in 2 to 3 sessions only.

The special thing is that this machine, which is permanently available to AIIMS Bilaspur, is available only in a few AIIMS across the country, but the management of AIIMS Bilaspur has issued a tender for it after understanding its need. Patients get such facilities in big private hospitals in other states. But getting such a facility in a hilly state like Himachal is a big initiative. Such a facility has been started for the first time in the state. ESWT is a state-of-the-art non-surgical and non-pharmacological treatment method. In this, shock waves generated from outside the body are delivered to the targeted organ. This technique improves blood circulation, which leads to tissue repair and restoration of organ function. Each session lasts from 15 to 30 minutes and patients can return to normal activities immediately. Experts say that ESWT is extremely useful for those patients who had to depend on medicines and surgery till now. With this technique, patients are getting relief without any incision and medicine.

HP CABINET DECISIONS: INCOME LIMIT FOR COMPASSIONATE JOBS INCREASED, APPROVAL TO FILL 500 POSTS, KNOW THE BIG DECISIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet meeting was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu. Many big decisions were taken in the cabinet meeting held for the third consecutive day. The state cabinet approved the amendment to the existing compassionate appointment policy. According to the revised policy, the annual income eligibility criteria per family has been increased from Rs 2.50 lakh to Rs 3 lakh. For compassionate appointment, priority will now be given to widows and parentless applicants below 45 years of age along with dependents of government employees who lost their lives while performing their duties. Apart from this, in cases where vacancies are not available under the existing five percent quota for such appointment, the Cabinet has decided to allow a one-time exemption in this quota to benefit the eligible applicants. The Cabinet has approved the filling of 500 posts on compassionate grounds. BSc Nursing seats increased In the meeting, it was decided to increase the number of BSc Nursing seats from 60 to 100 in Sister Nivedita Government Nursing College Shimla. Also, approval was given to establish a new BSc Nursing College with annual admission capacity of 60 seats.

HPU SHIMLA: BA FIRST YEAR PASS PERCENTAGE WAS 70.52%, RESULTS OF DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

**Diary Times Desk :** Himachal Pradesh University has declared the result of BA first year examination held in April. In the declared results, the result of BA first year regular examination was 70.52%. The university has given relief to thousands of students studying in colleges by declaring the annual examination results of all three years of graduation degree courses BA, ABSc and BCom in three months.

After the results declared on time, now the students pursuing UG degree will be able to concentrate on studies without worry in the next year's classes. Controller of Examinations Prof. Shyam Lal Kaushal has issued a notice of declaring the results of BA first year. The result has been uploaded on the university website, students can view and download it using their login ID.

ISRO-NASA LAUNCH NISAR TO SCAN EARTH'S SURFACE TWICE EVERY 12 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** The unique dual-band Synthetic Aperture Radar of NISAR employs advanced, novel SweepSAR technique, which provides high resolution and large swath imagery. NISAR will image the global land and ice-covered surfaces, including islands, sea-ice and selected oceans every 12 days. NISAR mission's primary objectives are to study land & ice deformation, land ecosystems, and oceanic regions in areas of common interest to the US and Indian science communities.

- NISAR mission will help to
- measure the woody biomass and its changes
  - track changes in the extent of active crops
  - understand the changes in wetlands' extent
  - map Greenland's & Antarctica's ice sheets, dynamics of sea ice and mountain glaciers
  - characterize land surface deformation related to seismicity, volcanism, landslides, and subsidence & uplift associated with changes in subsurface aquifers, hydrocarbon reservoirs, etc.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS HARYANA PLEA, SAYS COPS CAN'T SERVE SUMMONS VIA WHATSAPP

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has rejected the Haryana government's application to be allowed to serve police summons electronically via WhatsApp, and reiterated its direction to the police to serve physical notices to individuals required for investigation.

"We are unable to convince ourselves that electronic communication is a valid mode of service of notice under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, since its conscious omission is a clear manifestation of the legislative intent," a bench of justices MM Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh said. The order was passed on July 16, but uploaded to the top court's website on Wednesday.

The state had approached the top court challenging the January 21 order passed by the top court in Satinder Kumar Antil v CBI, where the court sought to address gaps in safeguarding the rights of accused facing investigation under various crimes.

The bench emphasised that any breach of a notice issued by police under Section 41A of the erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure, which requires a person to join an investigation.

TRUMP TO HIT INDIA WITH 25% TARIFFS - PLUS 'PENALTY' FOR TRADE WITH RUSSIA



**Diary Times Desk :** The US will impose 25% tariffs on goods imported from India "plus an unspecified penalty" for buying Russian oil and weapons, President Trump has said.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, he said the measures would take effect from from 1 August, the US deadline for a trade deal. He described India as a friend whose "tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world".

He also criticised India's purchases of Russian military equipment and energy "when everyone wants Russia to STOP THE KILLING IN UKRAINE".

India said it was committed to "concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement". Last year, the US had a trade deficit of \$45.8bn (£26.1bn) with India. Back in April, Trump had announced tariffs of up to 27% on Indian goods, which were later paused.

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR WHO USED SCIENCE TO EXPLAIN HUSBAND'S DEATH GETS LIFE TERM FOR MURDER

**Diary Times Desk :** In a rare courtroom moment that took the internet by storm, former chemistry professor Mamta Pathak who had argued her own appeal in the High Court without a lawyer has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of her husband. The decision, delivered by the Madhya Pradesh High Court in a detailed 97-page judgment, has not only reaffirmed the district court's earlier ruling but also sparked widespread public interest due to the unusual nature of the case and the woman at its centre.

Mamta Pathak, once a chemistry professor in Chhatarpur, was convicted in 2022 for the murder of her husband, Dr Neeraj Pathak, a retired government doctor. The couple reportedly had long-standing disputes, and in 2021, Dr Pathak died under mysterious circumstances at their home. The police initially recorded the death as being caused by electric shock. However, forensic and post-mortem findings raised doubts, and investigators later filed murder charges against Mamta.

'MERE SE NIPAT LO': AMIT SHAH ON OPPOSITION'S 'PM KO BULAO' DEMAND IN RAJYA SABHA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Opposition members on Wednesday interrupted union home minister Amit Shah as he began his speech during the Operation Sindoor debate in Rajya Sabha, eventually staging a walkout.

The members were demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence in the House to answer questions raised by them.

While Shah tried to pacify the Opposition MPs saying that he would answer their questions, they continued shouting "PM ko bulao (call the Prime Minister)."

To this, Shah responded, "Mere se nipat lo, PM aa gaye toh aur takleef hogi (You have to deal with me first. If the PM comes, you will face more difficulty)."

Shah said that while PM Modi was "very much in office", he would address their concerns. "If I can respond and clarify, then why insist on hearing from him?" Shah questioned.

As Shah continued his speech, the members stood up from their seats and continued their slogans in the House.

"CHIEF JUSTICE OFFICE NOT POST OFFICE": SUPREME COURT GRILLS CASH ROW JUDGE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Chief Justice of India's office is "not a post office", and the person occupying it has a duty to the nation, the Supreme Court said today, asking tough questions to Justice Yashwant Varma, who hit headlines for the massive cash recovery during a fire at his Delhi home.

Justice Varma has challenged the findings of a three-member top court panel that probed the allegations against him and recommended his removal as a judge. This was during the tenure of former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

Appearing for the judge before a bench of Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Augustine George Masih, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal said the top court's in-house committee is not empowered to recommend a judge's removal and its ambit is limited to advising the Chief Justice. Mr Sibal cited Article 124 of the Constitution and the Judges (Inquiry) Act and said bypassing the rules laid down would create an extra-constitutional mechanism.

UP SDM TRANSFERRED DAY AFTER DOING SIT-UPS IN FRONT OF LAWYERS TO ADMIT FILTH IN TEHSIL PREMISES

**Diary Times Desk :** Shahjahanpur , A day after a video emerged showing IAS officer Rinku Singh Rahi doing sit-ups in front of lawyers to publicly admit the lack of cleanliness at his new posting in Shahjahanpur's Puwaiyan tehsil, the Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday transferred him to the Revenue Council in Lucknow.

Shahjahanpur District Magistrate Dharmendra Pratap Singh told PTI that Rahi, who was posted to Puwaiyan tehsil only on Tuesday, has now been relieved of the post.

The unusual incident took place on Rahi's very first day in office. During inspection of the tehsil premises, he noticed garbage strewn across the compound, filthy toilets, and some people urinating in the open. He instructed the offenders to do sit-ups as punishment to set an example.

Later, while meeting a group of lawyers who were on strike, Rahi was questioned about the punishment. The lawyers pointed out that the administration was equally at fault for the prevailing unhygienic conditions in the tehsil compound, including the presence of stray animals and filthy washrooms.

Rahi responded by acknowledging the lapse and, in an apparent gesture of humility, held his ears and did sit-ups in front of the advocates - an act that was captured on video and widely circulated on social media.



WHY DID RUSSIAN MEGA EARTHQUAKE NOT CAUSE MORE TSUNAMI DAMAGE?



**Diary Times Desk :** It has been one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded – but so far has not brought the catastrophic tsunami that many feared. When the 8.8-magnitude quake struck eastern Russia at 11:25 local time on Wednesday (00:25 BST), it raised concerns for coastal populations across the Pacific. Millions of people were evacuated, as minds cast back to the devastating tsunami of Boxing Day 2004 in the Indian Ocean and Japan 2011, both triggered by similarly large earthquakes. But today's tsunami has been much less severe, even though it's brought some damage. So what caused the earthquake and tsunami – and why wasn't it as bad as initially feared? What causes a mega earthquake? The Kamchatka Peninsula is remote but lies in the "Pacific Ring of Fire" – so called because of the high number of earthquakes and volcanoes that occur here. The upper layers of the Earth are split into sections – tectonic plates – which are all moving relative to one another. The "Pacific Ring of Fire" is an arc of these plates that extends around the Pacific. Eighty percent of the world's earthquakes occur along the ring, according to the British Geological Survey.

THAILAND-CAMBODIA TRUCE MOSTLY HOLDS AFTER SHAKY START IN WAKE OF FIGHTING

**Diary Times Desk :** A ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia has been mainly holding as border tensions linger, with a truce agreement to end deadly clashes in effect, in part, due to economic pressure from United States President Donald Trump. The two neighbours agreed to an "immediate and unconditional" ceasefire, effective from midnight, at a meeting in Malaysia on Monday after nearly a week of hostilities that saw at least 38 mostly civilian deaths and displaced nearly 300,000 more.

HOW SIGNIFICANT IS UK'S MOVE TO RECOGNISE PALESTINIAN STATE, AND WHY NOW?

**Diary Times Desk :** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Tuesday announced that his country will recognise the state of Palestine by September, unless Israel takes "substantive steps" to end its war on Gaza and commit to a genuine peace process.

A government statement released following an emergency cabinet meeting on Tuesday said Starmer indicated the recognition could take place before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The United Kingdom's decision comes days after Emmanuel Macron, the French president, said his country will recognise the state of Palestine. Here is what we know about the announcement and its implications. **What did Starmer say?** Starmer's announcement is being seen as a big change in British foreign policy. "I've always said we will recognise a Palestinian state as a contribution to a proper peace process, at the moment of maximum impact for the two-state solution," Starmer said. "With that solution now under threat, this is the moment to act." He added: "So today, as part of this process towards peace, I can confirm that the UK will recognise the state of Palestine by the United Nations General Assembly in September, unless the Israeli government takes substantive steps to end the appalling situation in Gaza."

FLIGHTS AT UK AIRPORTS HIT BY MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUE

**Diary Times Desk :** Outgoing flights from United Kingdom airports were disrupted by air traffic control technical problems on Wednesday, according to several airports. Airports across Britain – including Edinburgh Airport in Scotland, Newcastle Airport in north England, and Gatwick Airport in London – posted to X that flights from their transport hubs were suspended. More airports posted that flights were delayed. Inbound flights were still able to land, London's Gatwick Airport said. Monitoring site Flightradar24 showed that no flights were taking off from UK airports at one point, though planes were later seen departing from several hubs. The flights were affected after an air traffic control center controlling 200,000 square miles of airspace experienced a "technical issue," the country's National Air Traffic Services (NATS) said in a statement. Engineers were quickly able to restore the system that was affected, it later added.

RUSSIAN ESPO OIL PREMIUMS HOLD FIRM IN CHINA DESPITE US TARIFF THREAT

**Diary Times Desk :** Premiums for ESPO Blend crude oil loading from Russia's Kozmino port in late August to early September for delivery into China have held firm as buyers seeking to meet robust demand ignore the threat of increased U.S. tariffs, four traders said on Wednesday. Trump on Monday shortened a deadline for Moscow to make progress toward a Ukraine peace deal or face secondary tariffs of 100% in 10 to 12 days. This set the deadline for Russia at August 7 to August 9, while ESPO cargoes loading in September are being traded. Traders said Russian oil trade continued as usual. ESPO Blend's premium to international benchmark ICE Brent was at \$2-2.20 per barrel for cargoes loading at end-August and early September as increased refining margins boosted Chinese buying interest, they added.

RUSSIA FACES TARIFFS IN 10 DAYS IF NO PROGRESS ON ENDING UKRAINE WAR, WARNS TRUMP

**Diary Times Desk :** U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that the United States would start imposing tariffs and other measures on Russia "10 days from today" if Moscow showed no progress toward ending its more than three-year-long war in Ukraine. Trump first announced on Monday that he was shortening the initial 50-day deadline he set a month ago for action from Moscow.

YOUTUBE TO BE INCLUDED IN AUSTRALIA'S TEEN SOCIAL MEDIA BAN

**Diary Times Desk :** YouTube will be included in Australia's world-first social media ban for children under 16, after the government ditched a previous exemption for the platform. The video sharing site was set to be excluded from the ban – which will limit TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, X and Snapchat and is due to start in December. Under the ban, teenagers will still be able to view YouTube videos but will not be permitted to have an account, which is required for uploading content or interacting on the platform. YouTube – owned by Google – had argued it shouldn't be blocked for children as the platform "offers benefit and value to younger Australians": "It's not social media," it said in statement on Wednesday. Australia's laws are being watched with great interest by global leaders, with Norway announcing a similar ban and the UK saying it is considering following suit. "Social media is doing social harm to our children, and I want Australian parents to know that we have their backs," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told media on Wednesday. **"APOCALYPSE": GAZA FACES FAMINE-LIKE CRISIS BECAUSE OF ACUTE FOOD SHORTAGE** **Diary Times Desk :** A famine-like crisis is now taking hold in Gaza with food and essential services "plummeting to unprecedented levels", a UN-backed food security group has warned.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) called it the "worst-case scenario of famine", citing drastic shortages of food, clean water, and basic health services in the besieged enclave.

The IPC's alert, based on mounting data, reveals that widespread starvation, malnutrition, and disease are causing a rise in hunger-related deaths, CNN reported. "Conflict and displacement have intensified, and access to food and other essential items and services has plummeted to unprecedented levels," the IPC said.

The IPC said health workers treated over 20,000 children for acute malnutrition between April and mid-July, including more than 3,000 who were severely malnourished. "Latest data indicates that famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of the Gaza Strip and for acute malnutrition in Gaza City," the group said. It called for "immediate action" to end the fighting and allow large-scale humanitarian aid.

## TRACTOR RALLIES ACROSS PUNJAB: FARMERS TARGET AAP GOVERNMENT OVER LAND ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

**Diary Times Desk** : Farmers affiliated to different unions that form the Samyukt Kisan Morcha started their tractor rally in villages across Punjab to protest the state government's proposal for acquisition under its Land Pooling Policy.

The biggest show of strength by farmers is being witnessed in Ludhiana district, where 45,861 acres of land is proposed to be acquired. This includes 24,311 acres of land for residential purposes and 21,550 acres for setting up industrial zones.

SKM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal told The Tribune that the tractor rally had been planned in several places of Ludhiana district, including Kumkalan, Balion, Dakha, Jodha and Jagraon. "This will be the biggest-ever march in recent times, as the public in rural areas want to show their anger against the bid to take over their fertile lands and displace them from their homes," he said.

Tractor rallies have been planned in 116 villages of the state.



## MARRIAGE NO SHIELD UNDER POC SO; HC REFUSES TO QUASH RAPE FIR BASED ON COMPROMISE

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that an FIR under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for a minor's rape cannot be quashed on the ground of a compromise, even if the victim subsequently married the accused and had children. The court made it clear that such compromise was unenforceable in law and contrary to public policy, particularly where statutory offences against minors were involved.

Justice Jasgurpreet Singh Puri held that offences under the POC SO Act were statutory crimes against society, and "marriage with the victim, especially where she was a minor, cannot absolve the accused of criminal liability."

The Court observed: "Normalising such compromise undermines the deterrent effect of the POC SO Act and sends a regressive message that child sexual abuse can be legitimised via subsequent marriage and erodes public confidence in child protection laws".

The petition sought quashing of the FIR registered in 2013 on the ground of a compromise, but Justice Puri found the allegations too grave to be brushed aside, especially since the victim was just 13 years old when the offence was committed and had supported the prosecution during the trial.

## YOUTH DIES AS POWER CORPORATION ENGINEER OPENS FIRE OVER CAR PARKING DISPUTE IN AMRITSAR

**Diary Times Desk** : A youth was killed and two others injured after a junior engineer with Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) allegedly opened fire at several persons in Ganda Singh Wala area on Majitha road here following a minor altercation over a car parking issue late Tuesday night. The deceased has been identified as Vicky, a resident of Ganda Singh Wala. He reportedly suffered a bullet injury in the chest and died on the spot. The injured were rushed to a hospital and further investigations are in progress.

## JALANDHAR HOSPITAL DEATHS: 3 DOCTORS SUSPENDED, 1 DISMISSED FOR 'UNPARDONABLE NEGLIGENCE'

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh has said that the recent deaths at a hospital in Jalandhar were caused due to negligence by Hospital Superintendent, Senior Medical Officer (SMO) and the doctor on duty. Three patients had died at the Civil Hospital in Jalandhar on Sunday night due to a glitch in the oxygen supply that lasted 25 to 30 minutes.

"I feel sorry that we could not save the lives of critically ill patients," he has said. He stated there was negligence on their behalf, which reflected their callous attitude. "There were four sources of oxygen at the hospital, but poor management led to the deaths," the minister said.

Dr Balbir Singh said the technical committee constituted to look into the incident had submitted its report. He announced that the Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Raj Kumar, SMO Dr Surjit Singh and Consultant Anaesthetist Dr Sunakshi were being placed under suspension.

"House Surgeon Dr Shivinder Singh is being dismissed from service," he announced.

## PUNJAB TO MARK 350TH MARTYRDOM ANNIVERSARY OF GURU TEGH BAHADUR WITH WEEK-LONG EVENT IN ANANDPUR SAHIB

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab government will commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of the ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur, with a week-long event in Anandpur Sahib from November 19 to 25. This event is expected to draw millions of devotees from across India and abroad.

Three cabinet ministers—Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, Power Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO and Tourism Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond—along with senior officials from the tourism department and district administration convened a meeting to finalise the preparation.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said the government is organising the event on a large scale to ensure the comfort and participation of all devotees. A tent city will be set up in Anandpur Sahib to provide temporary accommodation for the expected influx of pilgrims. Ongoing development works in and around the city have been fast-tracked to meet the deadline.

He added that on November 19, a four-day religious pilgrimage will begin from Shrinagar to Anandpur Sahib before proceeding to Delhi. Similar yatras will leave from various parts of Punjab.

## ROPAR AAP MLA RELEASES VIDEO, ASSURES FARMERS THEIR LAND WON'T BE TAKEN WITHOUT CONSENT

**Diary Times Desk** : During a tractor march that was taken out in Ropar district today, farm leaders blamed the central leaders of AAP for trying to forcibly implement the Land Pooling Policy in the state.

Witnessing the uproar over the issue, Dinesh Chada, AAP MLA from Ropar, released a video in a bid to placate the farmers. He assured the farmers that if they had not given assent for the land pooling policy, not even an inch of their land would be acquired by the state.

However, when contacted, he refused to comment over the issue.

Earlier, AAP MP from Anandpur Sahib parliamentary constituency Malvinder Singh Kang had openly spoken against the land pooling policy of the Punjab Government.

The rally of farmers started from Morinda around 11 am and ended in Ropar in the afternoon. The farm leaders alleged that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had been kept in the dark about the Land Pooling Policy, which had been brought by AAP's Delhi leadership.

They said they had been offered 2-kanal land for every one acre land they gave under the policy.

## COL BATH ASSAULT CASE: DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY RECOMMENDS ACTION AGAINST 4 PATIALA COPS

**Diary Times Desk** : In a major development in the alleged attack case on a serving Army Colonel, a departmental inquiry by Patiala SSP has recommended severe action against four erring inspectors and two other officials, including deduction in service and stay on promotions.

The recommendations have been issued against the officers, who will be given a chance to respond to them.

According to officials, three years of service deduction for these officers, and no salary increments for the same period have been recommended. "Also, these police officers will not get any promotions for three years, and there will be no salary additions for them too," said an official.

The police have also made it clear in their recommendations that all these officials will remain suspended and will be posted "only outside Patiala." The Punjab and Haryana High Court has already handed over the probe in the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which has registered an FIR in the matter. Despite the case being over four months old, no accused policeman has been arrested so far.



120 SHEEP, GOATS KILLED BY  
LIGHTNING IN KANGRA’S BOH  
VALLEY

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 120 sheep and goats were killed by a lightning strike near the Droneshwar Mahadev temple in Kanikot Jot Dhar, Boh Valley, in Kangra district.

The lightning reportedly struck late last night. The affected sheep herders – Uttam Chand of Sapera village, Buddhi Singh of Sapeda village (both in Kangra), and Nathuram of Bhiora village, Chamba district – discovered the mass deaths in the morning. Nathuram informed fellow herders after walking to a nearby camp.

The chairman of State Co-operative Wool Procurement and Marketing Federation Limited, Manoj Kumar Thakur, said, “I understand the pain of the herders. Their entire livelihood depends on animal husbandry. We will ensure that all possible help is provided by the state government and the district administrations.”

An official team comprising veterinary pharmacists Harbans Singh and Surendra Kumar, along with animal husbandry attendants Kewal Ram and Karan Singh, visited the site to assess the damage and document the loss.

Local youths Avdesh Kaushal, Riharu Ram, Pankaj Kumar, Raju Ram, Vikas Kumar, Rajkumar, Jeet Kumar and Goda Ram also assisted the visiting team to assess the losses.

**HIMACHAL’S SPITI VALLEY TO  
HOST ARMY’S DRONE  
COMPETITION IN AUGUST  
FOR FUTURISTIC SOLUTIONS  
IN BATTLEFIELD**

**Diary Times Desk :** Months after Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army is seeking drones which can provide present-day and futuristic solutions for the battlefield in high altitude areas.

The Army’s Central Command will be carrying out a special competition in August among Indian drone-makers at Sumdo, in Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh. The Central Command has been tasked to secure the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Drone Federation India will partner with the Army.

The drone-makers – who cannot use any Chinese parts – will have to show how their machines perform over natural obstacles at an altitude of 10,700 feet.

KANGANA RANAUT ASKS GOVERNMENT WHAT ACTION IT HAS  
TAKEN TO CURB ADULT OTT CONTENT

**Diary Times Desk :** The government on Wednesday informed Parliament that 43 Over the Top platforms had been blocked so far for violation of the content code.

Replying to a question by Mandi MP Kangana Ranaut who asked whether the government has taken effective measures to regulate OTT platforms in order to curb the spread of explicit, adult, violent or culturally insensitive content and ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said 43 platforms had been blocked for violation.

Vaishnaw said the government had notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media, Ethics Code) Rules on February 25, 2021 under the IT Act, 2000.



70 ROADS BLOCKED, WATER AND POWER  
SUPPLY HIT DUE TO LANDSLIDES IN KANGRA  
DISTRICT

**Diary Times Desk :** Intermittent moderate to heavy rain over the past several days triggered landslides at multiple locations in Kangra district, blocking at least 70 roads, including key national and state highways as well as several link roads.

According to reports reaching the district headquarters, 70 roads were found blocked on Wednesday morning, mainly due to landslides. More than 40 of these roads have since been cleared of debris and reopened for traffic.

A bridge on the Jawalaji-Khundian road was damaged, halting vehicular movement via Surani. The alternate route via Gummer-Kota-Baggi was also blocked due to landslides.

In the Shahpur area, at least 11 roads have been rendered impassable. These include the Bhanala-Drini road, Drini-Boh road, Boh-Lam road, Ridkmar-Kutharna road, Bhitloo-Kut road, Chadhi-Ghera road, Ghera-Kareri road, Kareri-Kutharna road, Ridkmar-Ghatarda road (washed away), Rait-Nerti road, and Shahpur-Chakban-Lapiana road.

The Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa said most of the main highways have now been cleared for traffic.

**THREE OF FAMILY KILLED IN MANDI  
FLASHFLOODS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Flashfloods triggered by a cloudburst in the Jail Road area of Mandi district in the wee hours today claimed the lives of three members of a family and left another critically injured. The flashfloods caused extensive damage to infrastructure and private property and swept away over 40 vehicles and severely affected more than 12 houses in Tungla Colony.

The deceased have been identified as Balbir Singh, Aman Preet Singh, aka Sunny, and Sapna – all members of the family of Krishna Devi, a former councillor of the Mandi Municipal Corporation. She lost her son, daughter-in-law and grandson in the calamity. Her another son, who was also caught in the floodwaters, suffered a leg fracture and multiple injuries but was rescued from the debris in a critical condition. He is undergoing treatment at the zonal hospital, Mandi.

According to eyewitnesses, the family members were trying to move their auto-rickshaw to a safer location when a sudden surge of water overwhelmed them. Within minutes, the rising waters washed away all four of them. While three bodies were recovered shortly after the incident, the fourth person was pulled out alive from the debris in an injured condition.

**NO GOVT INSTITUTION TO BE BUILT WITHIN 150 METRES OF RIVERS: CM**

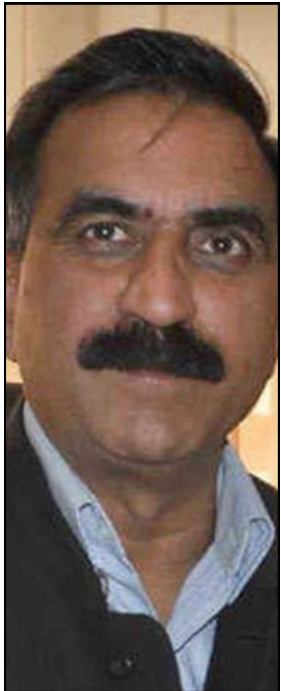
**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that all government institutions would be constructed at least 150 metres away from rivers to prevent damage in the event of a disaster.

Sukhu said that it had been decided that no government construction would be allowed within 150 metres of rivers, nullahs and other water bodies to avoid damage in case of a disaster. “All government institutions will be constructed at a considerable distance from rivers so as to avoid expenditure that has to be made on site development,” he added. A committee would be constituted to look into all these aspects, including the study of the strata.

He said that a high-level committee had also been constituted to look into the issue of the relocation of people residing close to rivers so as to avoid loss of human lives and damage to public and private property. “We are regularly monitoring the situation in Mandi where three persons died in a cloudburst on Tuesday. The teams of the district administration, SDRF and the NDRF are working round the clock to extend rescue and relief to the affected people,” he added.

Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi and Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Tuesday criticised Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur for seeking an area-specific relief package in the wake of the rain disaster.

He said, “It is wrong to seek area-specific relief and the entire state should be treated equally. There should be no discrimination and selfishness and Jai Ram Thakur, who is a former Chief Minister and the present Leader of the Opposition, should know this.”



"ABSOLUTELY UNNECESSARY" – GILL SLAMS OVAL PITCH RESTRICTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Shubman Gill said Oval curator Lee Fortis was out of line in asking India's support staff to observe the pitch from a distance two days out from the fifth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. The India captain was responding to questions about Tuesday's flashpoint between Fortis and head coach Gautam Gambhir, with the latter's animated and expletive-fuelled response providing souring the build up to the series finale.

The India captain had not turned up for practice two days out from the game when the said blow-up took place but was present on Wednesday (July 30) – the eve of the match – to assess and study the match wicket. The same luxury had been accorded to the England team as well when they trained in the morning after opting to rest yesterday.



CHANCE TO END ALL SQUARE AT THE OVAL

**Diary Times Desk :** There are two ways to reach The Oval on the London Underground. The Northern Line drops you near enough to hear the hum of the turnstiles. Well almost. You get off at the station with the same name as the ground, rise from the platform through corridors lined with cricket-themed tiles, and step out into the light. A short turn and the sandblasted brickwork of the old Surrey pavilion comes into view. Or, you could take the Victoria Line to Vauxhall, cross the steady tide of commuters spilling out of the national rail station, pass a couple of watering holes, then follow the curve of the road until the ground reveals itself, tucked behind red-brick flats and the gleaming Alec Stewart gates. Both routes get you there. One's quick, the other throws up more sights and sounds along the way. India and England have taken the scenic route to The Oval. Five-day Tests, all four of them. No result handed over easily, no match blown away in a blur. Every session – there have been 59 in all – has stretched and breathed. Fitting, really, for a series just renamed after Tendulkar and Anderson – two men who made longevity in this format an art. But the series hasn't just gone the distance, it's also taken a toll. Seven bowlers have sent down more than 100 overs.

INDIA-PAKISTAN LEGENDS SEMIFINAL CALLED OFF, PAKISTAN THROUGH TO FINAL

**Diary Times Desk :** The semifinal between India and Pakistan in the World Championship of Legends, scheduled for Thursday (July 31) in Birmingham, was cancelled following refusal of the Indian team to play against the arch-rivals from across the border. According to sources in promoters group, the match was awarded to the Pakistan side, who will play in the final. The Indian players had also refused to play against Pakistan in the league stage, in particular taking objection to the presence of Shahid Afridi in their side, and they are believed to have taken the same stance for the semifinal. The development comes amid a strong wave of anti-Pakistan sentiment in the country. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has faced intense criticism for agreeing to host the Asia Cup, a tournament where India and Pakistan could potentially face off as many as three times. In May, India carried out a targeted, non-escalatory military operation – Operation Sindoor – in response to a gruesome terror attack in Pahalgam the previous month. Earlier on Wednesday, a tournament sponsor announced its disassociation with the match. "Despite entering into a 5-year sponsorship agreement with the World Championship.

BEN STOKES RULED OUT OF FINAL TEST AGAINST INDIA



**Diary Times Desk :** England's captain and star all-rounder Ben Stokes has been ruled out of the final Test against India with a shoulder injury. The in-form player was the Player of the Match in both the third and fourth Tests of this series for his all-round show. In his place, Ollie Pope has been named as the captain of the team to take on India at The Oval, London, starting on Thursday, July 31. Also missing out from the eleven that drew with India in Manchester are pacers Jofra Archer, Brydon Carse and spinner Liam Dawson. Jacob Bethell has been included in the squad and slotted to play at No. 6 while Gus Atkinson, Jamie Overton and Josh Tongue are the other additions. England's XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (c), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Jamie Overton, Josh Tongue

SHUBMAN GILL REFUSES TO RULE OUT JASPRIT BUMRAH FOR OVAL FINALE, BUT ARSHDEEP SINGH 'ASKED TO GET READY'

**Diary Times Desk :** India captain Shubman Gill, on Wednesday, refused to rule out pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah for the fifth and final Test match of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series against England. However, he revealed that Arshdeep Singh, who was ruled out of selection for the fourth Test in Manchester, has been asked to get ready for his potential debut at The Oval in London.

Bumrah has been India's standout bowler in the series, picking up 14 wickets in five innings at an average of 26, including two five-wicket hauls. However, the team management has been carefully managing his workload. So far, the pacer has bowled 119.4 overs in the series – the third-most by an Indian bowler after Mohammed Siraj (139) and Ravindra Jadeja (136.1). When the Indian squad was announced in May, the selectors made it clear that Bumrah would not feature in more than three Tests during the England tour – a decision made in consultation with the BCCI medical team. The 31-year-old has already fulfilled that condition. After playing the opener in Leeds, he was rested for the second Test before returning at Lord's.

ABHISHEK SHARMA BECOMES WORLD NO.1 IN T20IS, JOINS KOHLI, SURYAKUMAR; PANT REWARDED FOR GRITTY FIFTY THROUGH FRACTURE

**Diary Times Desk :** Abhishek Sharma has climbed to the pinnacle of T20I batting, becoming only the third Indian men's player to hold the No.1 spot in the ICC rankings for batters. The 24-year-old left-hander has dethroned Australia's Travis Head for the position. His rise marks a significant moment in Indian white-ball cricket, as he joins the elite company of Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav, two modern-day giants who previously held the same position.

Abhishek burst onto the international scene last year with a blistering T20I century against Zimbabwe, but it's his consistency since then that's propelled him to the top. Head, who had overtaken Suryakumar during the 2024 T20 World Cup, had retained the top position for over a year but missed Australia's recent series in the Caribbean. That opened the door for Abhishek. While Abhishek made headlines in T20Is, it was a significant week for India's Test stars as well. India's fight in Manchester, where they batted five sessions and dominated the English bowling attack to secure a draw, also saw gains in the latest ICC Test rankings. Rishabh Pant, who continues to battle injury, moved up one spot to seventh after his gritty half-century. Ravindra Jadeja reached a new career-high batting rating, moving five places to 29th after his unbeaten century in the second innings. Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah remains unchallenged at No.1.

