

FARMER-CENTRIC
POLICIES

MODI HIGHLIGHTS GOVT’S FARMER OUTREACH,
HIS BOND WITH KASHI

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted his government’s farmer-centric policies and spoke about his deep emotional connection with the people of Varanasi, which he has been representing as an MP since 2014, noting that the uninterrupted stream of development continues to flow in the city.

The prime minister was addressing a public gathering on Saturday in Banauli village, Sewapuri, Varanasi. During his daylong visit to the city, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 52 projects worth around ₹2,200 crore.

He also transferred ₹20,500 crore directly into the bank accounts of over 9.70 crore farmers nationwide under the 20th installment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme. A short film showcasing the success and impact of the scheme on farmers was also screened during the event.

He cited the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi as proof of the government’s firm commitment and recalled how Opposition parties like the Samajwadi Party and Congress had spread rumours in 2019, claiming the scheme would stop after elections or the money would be taken back.

“Has a single installment stopped over the years? The PM-KISAN scheme is running without any break,” he said.

Presenting data, he shared that nearly ₹3.75 lakh crore has been transferred directly to farmers’ accounts so far. In Uttar Pradesh alone, 2.5 crore farmers have received over ₹90,000 crore, while farmers from Kashi have got ₹900 crore.



AXIS MUTUAL
FUND

MASSIVE CRACKDOWN OVER RS 200-CRORE FRONT-
RUNNING SCAM LINKED TO AXIS MUTUAL FUND



Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted extensive searches across multiple cities over the past two days as part of a widening probe into an alleged front-running scam involving Axis Mutual Fund. The searches were carried out in Delhi, Mumbai, Gurugram, Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuji, and Kolkata under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The investigation stems from a December 2024 FIR filed by Mumbai Police against Viresh Gangaram Joshi, the then fund manager and chief dealer at Axis Mutual Fund. Described as the key conspirator in the case, he was arrested on August 2 and has been sent to ED custody till August 8.

According to the ED, Mr Joshi misused confidential trade information from Axis Mutual Fund between 2018 and 2021 to execute trades in advance through proxy accounts, generating massive illicit profits. These acts allegedly cheated retail and institutional investors of the fund, which manages assets worth over Rs 2 lakh crore.

ED officials revealed that Mr Joshi operated from a terminal in Dubai, using mule trading accounts sourced from various brokers. Further investigations have uncovered a network of traders and brokers who also exploited pre-trade data, generating over Rs 200 crore in illegal profits. The illicit gains were routed through several shell companies and bank accounts linked to the accused and their family members.

During the raids, the ED froze assets including shares, mutual fund holdings, and bank balances worth Rs 17.4 crore. Front-running is a serious securities fraud in which insiders trade using non-public client information for personal gain, undermining market fairness and investor confidence.

'INDIA NOT REVIEWING LIST OF US GOODS EXEMPTED FROM
TARIFFS': MEA DEBUNKS FAKE REPORTS

Diary Times Desk : Amid the tariff row between the United States and India, the Ministry of External Affairs has debunked certain fake reports circulating on social media. Taking to X, the fact check unit of the ministry has dismissed reports that India is reviewing US goods exempted from tariffs as it works towards a response to Trump's 25 percent bombshell on New Delhi.

In another post, the fact check unit for MEA dismissed a report which claimed that India is reviewing its bilateral agreements with the United States and considering suspending them "if hostile economic policies continue."

In response to the 25 percent tariff on India, sources close to the matter have told HT that both nations are "intensely engaged in efforts" to establish a mutually beneficial trade agreement.

"We are engaged through virtual mode as of date and likely to iron out remaining differences when the American negotiating team visits India for the sixth physical round this month," one of the people told HT.

The delegation from the US is expected to land in New Delhi on August 24 to participate in the sixth round of talks.

After several rounds of negotiations and talks between the US and India, President Donald Trump took to Truth Social last week and imposed a 25 percent tariff on New Delhi.

The tariff, which kicked into effect on August 1, comes with an additional penalty due to India's oil and military purchases from Russia amid the ongoing war in Ukraine.

PURI BURN CASE: TEEN DIES, COPS SAY NO ONE INVOLVED,
FATHER RELEASES VIDEO

Diary Times Desk : Hours after a teenager from Odisha died of severe burn injuries at AIIMS Delhi, new developments have added a twist to the Puri Balanga minor burn case. Initially, three men were believed to have set her on fire, but the police have now claimed that no other person was involved, and the victim's father has released a video claiming she ended her life due to mental distress.

The girl was admitted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar with 75% burn injuries on July 19 and airlifted to AIIMS Delhi a day later. Despite all efforts by the government and the medical specialists, her life could not be saved, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi informed yesterday.

Minutes later, the Odisha Police stated that their investigation into the burn case had reached its final stage. According to the investigation conducted so far, no other person was involved, they said, without clarifying how the girl was set on fire.

"We request everyone not to make any sensitive comments regarding this matter during this tragic moment," the police said.

PM MODI TO INAUGURATE BENGALURU NAMMA METRO'S YELLOW
LINE ON AUGUST 10



Diary Times Desk : BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Sunday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate Bengaluru's much-anticipated Yellow Line Metro on August 10. Sharing the update on 'X', Surya expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister, highlighting his consistent commitment to boosting Bengaluru's infrastructure.

The new Yellow Line, running 19.15 km from RV Road to Bommasandra and comprised of 16 stations, has been built at a cost of ₹5,056.99 crore. The project is expected to benefit nearly 8,00,000 daily commuters and significantly reduce congestion in high-traffic areas, most notably at the busy Silk Board junction. Surya underscored his belief that expanded public transport like the Metro offers the only lasting remedy to the city's notorious traffic problems.

With the Metro's inauguration set for August 10, the rollout is on track to meet the planned August 15 opening for public operations. Surya credited the punctual launch to Modi's direct involvement, which he said helped clear remaining hurdles and ensured the line would open without further delay.

YAMUNA NEARS WARNING LEVEL IN
DELHI, RIVERS BREACH DANGER MARK
ACROSS UP



Diary Times Desk : The water level of the Yamuna River in Delhi has reached 204.14 metres, drawing close to the warning level of 204.5 metres. With consistent rainfall in the upper catchment areas of Haryana and Uttarakhand, authorities are on alert as the river shows signs of steady rise.

While the current level is still below the danger mark of 205.33 metres, officials from the Irrigation and Flood Control Department are monitoring the situation around the clock. The highest flood level ever recorded in the capital was 208.66 metres in July 2023, which led to widespread inundation across several low-lying areas of Delhi, including Yamuna Bazar, Rajghat, and Civil Lines.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
04-08-2025

Aries

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

Gemini

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

Leo

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

Libra

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

Sagittarius

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

Aquarius

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

Taurus

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

Cancer

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

Virgo

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

Scorpio

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

Capricorn

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

Pisces

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



CAR AND PRIVATE BUS COLLIDE IN GALUN, INCIDENT HAPPENED DUE TO STRAY ANIMAL COMING IN FRONT

Diary Times Desk : Accident in Himachal: Car and private bus collide in Galun, incident happened due to stray animal coming in front

Late evening a private bus and car collided in Galun under Barsar police station area in Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. The car driver has suffered a lot in the collision. However, no one was injured in the accident.

According to eyewitnesses, the car driver Balwant was coming from Ladrour to Bangana while the private bus was coming from Una to Hamirpur. Suddenly a stray animal came in front of the car near Galun. Due to which the car driver lost control and the car went out of control and collided with the bus coming from the front.

Due to which the accident happened, it was fortunate that no person was passing from there otherwise a big accident could have happened. Barsar police reached the spot as soon as the information was received. After which the police has registered cases of both the parties and started further action. The car driver said that he was driving on his side of the road. The accident happened due to the animal coming in front.



SHIMLA: HEAVY LANDSLIDE IN PANTHAGHATI LATE NIGHT, MEHLI SHOGLHI BYPASS CLOSED; ROAD BLOCKED IN MAJYATH TOO

Diary Times Desk : A heavy landslide occurred in Panthaghati of the capital on Sunday late night. At around 9:00 pm, the hill cracked and its debris reached the Mehli Shoghi bypass road on the lower side. Due to this, the road has been closed for traffic.

According to the local people, due to the hill crack, stones also entered the shops built on the roadside. Fortunately, there were no casualties. Shortly before the landslide, people had removed the vehicles parked on the roadside here. Panthaghati resident and former mayor Rakesh Sharma, who reached the spot, said that this heavy landslide has occurred on the Mehli Shoghi bypass road, just below the passport office.

Trucks also move on this road for the apple season. Due to the closure of the road, this movement has also come to a halt. There was also a jam here late at night. After receiving the information, the administration teams reached the spot late at night. There is still a danger of more landslides at the spot. That is why road restoration work will be started only on Monday morning.

HIMACHAL NEWS: MORE THAN 383 ROADS INCLUDING FOUR NHS CLOSED IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, LOSS OF MORE THAN RS 1500 CRORE

Diary Times Desk : Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi said on the flood situation in the state that the monsoon is not returning at the moment. Heavy rains have occurred in various parts of the state in the last 24 hours, causing problems related to road, electricity, clean water and other problems. More than 383 roads, including 4 national highways, are blocked, efforts are on to reopen them. He said that in addition, 747 DTRs and about 249 water supply schemes are disrupted. During the same period, 98 people died in rain-related incidents and 78 in road accidents. 468 concrete houses were completely destroyed, about 1,009 were partially damaged, and 286 shops were damaged. About 1,327 animals were killed, and more than 1,200 cattle sheds were damaged. There has been unprecedented damage to agricultural land, with many orchards and fields washed away in the floods, causing an estimated loss of over Rs 1,500 crore.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: RESULT OF HIMACHAL POLICE CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT WRITTEN EXAM DECLARED

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission has declared the result of the written exam of Police Constable Recruitment held on June 15. 1,964 candidates have passed the exam conducted for 1,088 posts. Now the process of document verification will be completed. Out of the total posts, there are 380 posts for women and 708 posts for men. Educational certificates like 10th-12th marksheets, Himachali bonafide certificate, print copy of online application form, reservation certificate and other documents will be checked by the commission. It has been made mandatory for the selected candidates to appear with all their necessary original documents on the date and place fixed by the commission. The commission has made it clear that this list is only a preliminary selection list. Final appointment is ensured only after document verification and fulfillment of all other conditions.

HIMACHAL NEWS: ROCKS FELL ON A MOVING CAR IN SUNNI, SHIMLA, ONE DEAD, TWO INJURED

Diary Times Desk : On Sunday, around 11:00 am, in Sunni, district Shimla, on the road from Mandri to Chanawag, a car number HP 21A 5022 was caught in a landslide at a place called Galu Dadgi. This car was going from Dadgi to village Jammu.

The driver Vikas village Jammu age 43 years and Nitesh Kumar village Jammu age 30 years and Lekhraj village Jammu post office Chanawag tehsil and police station Sunni district Shimla age about 37 years were sitting in this car. Lekhraj died on the spot in this sudden incident. While Vikas and Nitesh Kumar have been injured. They have been immediately sent to Civil Hospital Dhambi for treatment.

The car has been badly damaged in this incident. After completing the Panchnama proceedings of the dead body of Lekhraj on the spot, it has been brought to Civil Hospital Sunni for postmortem.

MINJAR MELA 2025: INTERNATIONAL MINJAR FAIR CONCLUDED, SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY PERFORMED THE RITUAL; CM SUKHU COULD NOT REACH

Diary Times Desk : The eight-day historic International Minjar Fair concluded on Sunday with the ritual of immersion of Minjar in the Ravi River. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's chopper could not fly to Chamba on Sunday due to bad weather, so the ritual of immersion of Minjar in the Ravi River was performed by Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania.

Earlier, on the occasion of the closing of the Minjar Fair, a grand procession was taken out from Akhand Chandi Palace. The procession was led by Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania. The procession that started from Akhand Chandi Palace was led by the city's main deity Lord Raghuveer. Apart from Lord Raghuveer, local deities took part in the procession. Apart from this, contingents of police and home guard jawans were also present. When the procession reached Manjari Garden, folk singers sang traditional Kunjari Malhar. Thereafter, after the rituals of distributing paan and applying perfume, the Vidhan Sabha speaker prayed for happiness and prosperity by floating coconut and minjar in the river Ravi amidst chanting of mantras.

Thousands of people gathered to see the procession. On this occasion, former Chairman of Haj Committee Dildar Ali Butt, Executive President of District Congress Committee Kamal Thakur, Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Repswal, SP Abhishek Yadav, ADM Amit Mehra, AC to DC Aparajita Chandel, SDM Priyanshu Khatri and DSP Jitendra Chaudhary, besides officials of various departments, many others were present.



INDIA BLOC TO HAVE
DINNER MEETING ON
AUGUST 7, MARCH TO EC
DAY AFTER

Diary Times Desk : Opposition INDIA bloc leaders are likely to have a dinner meeting on August 7 to discuss strategy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) issue, sources said on Sunday.

The opposition parties are also planning to take out a march to the office of the Election Commission of India on August 8 in protest against the SIR of electoral rolls exercise, they said.

This comes amid a standoff on the SIR issue in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which has been a near washout as the Opposition's demand for a discussion has failed to draw a positive response from the ruling alliance.

According to the sources, the INDIA bloc party leaders will hold a dinner meeting on August 7 to discuss their strategy on the SIR issue. The meeting also comes as the election for the post of Vice President has been announced, and several opposition leaders have indicated that they may also field a joint candidate.

KARNATAKA SCHOOL
WATER TANK POISONED TO
REMOVE MUSLIM PRINCIPAL

Diary Times Desk : A government school's water tank was poisoned to allegedly remove its Muslim headmaster from his post in Karnataka's Belagavi district. The incident, which occurred on July 14, has led to the arrest of three people, including a local leader affiliated with a right-wing group called Sri Ram Sene.

According to the police, the accused aimed to create panic and suspicion around Headmaster Suleman Gorinaik, who has been in service at the Government Lower Primary School in Hulikatti for the past 13 years. Police said the plot was allegedly intended to malign his reputation and force his transfer. Twelve students fell ill after consuming water from the school's tank. The symptoms, though not fatal, were sufficient to raise alarm among school authorities and parents. The children were treated promptly and have since recovered, health officials confirmed.

The police traced the poisoning to an act carried out by a fifth-grade student. The boy, upon questioning, disclosed that he had been given a bottle containing a harmful substance and instructed to pour it into the water tank. The person who handed him the bottle was identified as Krishna Madar. Further investigation revealed that Krishna had acted under duress.

"VOTER ID SHOWED BY YOU DOES NOT EXIST":
POLL BODY NOTICE TO TEJASHWI YADAV

Diary Times Desk : The Election Commission -- which has refuted Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav's claim that his name is not in the draft voter list -- has now asked him to provide details of the voter ID card he had showed at a press conference yesterday to back his claim. Staunchly denying his claim, the Commission had said the EPIC number of the ID is not "officially issued".

Read: A Fact-Check From Poll Body After Tejashwi Yadav's "Name Missing" Claim

Mr Yadav's claim had come yesterday -- a day after the Commission had published the draft electoral rolls after the hugely controversial Special Intensive Revision or SIR exercise.

Today, the Commission sent him a notice, that said: "After investigation, it was found that your name is mentioned at serial number 416 of polling station number 204 (Library Building of Bihar Animal Science University), whose EPIC number is RAB0456228. According to you, as per the quote of your press conference, your EPIC number is RAB2916120." "According to preliminary investigation, EPIC number RAB2916120 does not appear to be officially issued. Therefore, you are requested to kindly provide the details of the mentioned EPIC card (along with the original copy of the card) mentioned by you in the press conference held on 02.08.2025 to the undersigned, so that it can be thoroughly investigated," the notice read.

NPPA SLASHES PRICES OF 37 ESSENTIAL
DRUGS, INCLUDING PARACETAMOL,
ATORVASTATIN, AMOXYCILLIN

Diary Times Desk : The government has set retail prices for 37 commonly consumed essential drug formulations. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers issued the notification on Saturday under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.

Price ceilings, issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), cover medicines used to treat various conditions ranging from infections, heart ailments, and inflammation to diabetes and vitamin deficiencies.

According to reports, these new prices are for 35 formulations produced and sold by major pharmaceutical firms. Some of these include frequently prescribed medications like Paracetamol, Atorvastatin, Amoxycillin, Metformin, and recently introduced fixed-dose combinations utilized in the management of chronic illnesses.

Among the drugs affected is a composition of Aceclofenac, Paracetamol, and Trypsin Chymotrypsin for use as an anti-inflammatory.

PM MODI MEETS PRESIDENT
MURMU AMID PARLIAMENT
DISRUPTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Details of the meeting were not immediately available.

"Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on X.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of the logjam in Parliament over the opposition demand for a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar ahead of the Assembly elections in the state.

Except discussions in both Houses on Operation Sindoor, Parliament has seen little business ever since the Monsoon session began on July 21.

The prime minister's meeting with the President also came days after US President Donald Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs on exports from India and an unspecified penalty because of New Delhi's purchases of Russian military equipment and oil.

MAHARASHTRA: BOMB THREAT TO
NITIN GADKARI'S RESIDENCE IN
NAGPUR, SUSPECT ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk : In a recent development, the police have successfully arrested the individual responsible for issuing a bomb threat to the residence of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in Nagpur. The bomb threat, which was made on Sunday morning at 8:46 AM, warned that Gadkari's house on Wardha Road would be blown up.

Following the alarming call, the police immediately alerted the local police station. The information was passed to the Pratap Nagar Police, who registered a case against an unknown individual and launched an investigation. Authorities have now confirmed that the suspect, identified as Umesh Vishnu Raut, was arrested shortly after the threat was made.

Raut, a resident of Tulsi Bagh Road, Mahal, is employed at a local country liquor shop near Medical Chowk. He made the call from his mobile phone, threatening to blow up Gadkari's residence within 10 minutes.

CASE AGAINST ARMY OFFICER AND SPICEJET STAFFER HE ASSAULTED OVER
LUGGAGE

Diary Times Desk : A violent clash at the Srinagar airport has led to a police case being filed against an Army officer and a SpiceJet staffer he is accused of assaulting over a dispute concerning excess cabin luggage.

The incident, which occurred on July 26, during the boarding of SpiceJet flight SG-386 bound for Delhi, resulted in serious injuries to four SpiceJet employees, including a spinal fracture and severe jaw injuries.

According to a statement released by SpiceJet, the incident began when the Army officer, identified as Ritesh Kumar Singh, attempted to board the Delhi-bound flight with two pieces of cabin luggage weighing a total of 16 kilograms. Under Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulations, cabin luggage exceeding 7 kilograms incurs additional charges for domestic flights.

When informed of the excess weight and the associated fee, the officer reportedly refused to comply and attempted to forcibly enter the aerobridge without completing the mandatory boarding process, breaching aviation security protocols.

FAMILY CONDEMNS HAMAS VIDEO
SHOWING EMACIATED ISRAELI
HOSTAGE

Diary Times Desk : The family of Israeli hostage Evyatar David held by Hamas in Gaza has accused the group of deliberately starving him as part of a "propaganda campaign". The family statement on Saturday came a day after Hamas released a video showing an emaciated Mr David in a narrow concrete tunnel.

Mr David, 24, has been in captivity since his seizure by Hamas at a music festival in southern Israel on 7 October 2023.

"We are forced to witness our beloved son and brother, Evyatar David, deliberately and cynically starved in Hamas's tunnels in Gaza - a living skeleton, buried alive," the family statement added.

The hostage's family also urged the Israeli government and the world community to do "everything possible to save Evyatar".

In the video released by Hamas, Mr David is heard saying "I haven't eaten for days... I barely got drinking water" and is seen digging what he says will be his own grave.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had spoken to the families of Mr David and another hostage, Rom Braslavski, on Saturday.

"IT'S THAT FACE, THOSE LIPS": TRUMP'S
PRAISE FOR WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY
SPARKS ROW



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump offered high praise for his White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, commenting on her "face" and "lips."

"She's become a star," Trump said during a recent interview. "It's that face. It's that brain. It's those lips, the way they move. They move like she's a machine gun."

"She's a star. She's a great person, actually."

CHINA AND RUSSIA BEGIN JOINT
MILITARY DRILLS IN SEA OF JAPAN

Diary Times Desk : China and Russia have begun joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan as they seek to reinforce their partnership and counterbalance what they see as a United States-led global order.

The Chinese and Russian governments have deepened their ties in recent years, with China providing an economic lifeline to Russia in the face of Western sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The Joint Sea-2025 exercises began in waters near the Russian port of Vladivostok and will last for three days, China's Ministry of National Defence said in a statement on Sunday.

The two sides will hold "submarine rescue, joint anti-submarine, air defence and anti-missile operations, and maritime combat".

Four Chinese vessels, including guided-missile destroyers Shaoxing and Urumqi, are participating in the exercises, alongside Russian ships, the ministry said.

TENS OF THOUSANDS PROTEST ISRAEL'S
WAR ON GAZA IN AUSTRALIA'S SYDNEY

Diary Times Desk : Tens of thousands of demonstrators have marched across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia, calling for peace and aid deliveries in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian crisis of man-made starvation has been worsening as a result of Israel's punishing blockade.

Pro-Palestinian protesters braved heavy winds and rain on Sunday to march across the bridge, chanting "Ceasefire Now" and "Free Palestine". Some of those attending the march, which the organisers dubbed the "March for Humanity", carried pots and pans as symbols of the forced starvation wracking Gaza.

The protest came less than a week after a joint statement by Australia and more than a dozen other nations expressed the "willingness or the positive consideration ... to recognise the state of Palestine as an essential step towards the two-State solution".

France, Britain and Canada have in recent weeks voiced, and in some cases qualified, intentions to diplomatically recognise a Palestinian state as international concern and criticism have grown over the hunger crisis in Gaza.

At least 175 people, including 93 children, have died of starvation and malnutrition across the territory since Israel launched its war on Gaza after the Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel in October 2023, according to the latest Gaza Health Ministry figures.

PAKISTAN'S SHARIF HOSTS
IRAN'S PEZESHKIAN, AGREES TO
SECURITY, TRADE BOOST

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan and Iran have signed agreements pledging to raise bilateral trade to \$10bn and committing to work more closely to eliminate the menace of "terrorism" in favour of peace and prosperity in the region, as both nations have recently been embroiled in conflicts with their respective regional foes.

Sunday's agreements across various sectors, including energy and trade, were signed during the two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

"We have set a target of \$10bn in trade and hope to achieve it as soon as possible," Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, addressing a joint press briefing.

Sharif reiterated Pakistan's stance of supporting Iran's right to a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes under the United Nations charter.

RUSSIAN VOLCANO ERUPTS FOR
FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN 500
YEARS

Diary Times Desk : A volcano in far eastern Russia has erupted for the first time in more than 500 years, which experts say may be linked to last week's massive earthquake.

The Krashennnikov Volcano in Kamchatka threw up an ash plume up to six kilometres (3.7 miles) high overnight. There are no threats to populated areas, Russia's emergency ministry said.

Hours later, another large earthquake in Russia led to tsunami warnings in three areas of the peninsula.

Both events may be connected to a massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake which hit a similar area last week, which caused tsunami warnings as far away as French Polynesia and Chile.

Russian experts had warned strong aftershocks were possible for several weeks after Wednesday's earthquake.

UKRAINE DRONE ATTACK
CAUSES FIRE AT SOCHI OIL
DEPOT, RUSSIA SAYS

Diary Times Desk : A massive oil depot fire near Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi has been blamed by Moscow on an overnight Ukrainian drone attack.

Krasnodar region Governor Veniamin Kondratyev said drone debris hit a fuel tank and 127 firefighters were on Sunday tackling the blaze, which was later put out.

The airport near Sochi - the venue of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games - briefly suspended flights.

4 MISSING MEMBERS OF INDIAN-ORIGIN FAMILY FOUND DEAD AFTER US CAR
CRASH

Diary Times Desk : Four Indian-origin members of a family from New York, who went missing en route to a spiritual site in West Virginia, were found dead on Saturday, Marshal County Sheriff Mike Dougherty said on Sunday.

The victims were identified as Asha Divan (85), Kishore Divan (89), Shailesh Divan (86) and Gita Divan (84). The family was travelling from Buffalo to Prabhupada's Palace of Gold in Marshall County, West Virginia, in a 2009 lime green Toyota Camry with a New York license plate EKW2611, authorities said.

"Marshal County Sheriff Mike Dougherty has confirmed that the four individuals who were reported missing from Buffalo, New York, have been found deceased following a vehicle crash. The victims have been identified as Dr. Kishore Divan, Mrs. Asha Divan, Mr. Shailesh Divan, and Mrs. Gita Divan," the Sheriff's office posted on Facebook.

The victims and the crashed vehicle were found at around 9.30pm (local time) on Saturday off a steep embankment along Big Wheeling Creek Road, the Sheriff said. "First responders were on the scene for more than five hours. Sheriff Dougherty extends condolences to the families of the victims. Further information will be released upon the completion of the investigation," he added.

The senior citizens were reportedly last seen at a Burger King outlet in Pennsylvania on July 29.

MISSING POLICE FILES, DOC’S TESTIMONY LED TO COPS’
CONVICTION IN TARN TARAN STAGED ENCOUNTER

Diary Times Desk : Two missing police files, three arms and ammunition reports, cremation of the bodies as unclaimed despite identification in police records, besides the autopsy reports were the key evidences that proved the two encounters in 1993 by the Tarn Taran police as fake and led to the conviction of five Punjab Police retired cops.

A CBI court in Mohali convicted former Bathinda SSP Bhupinderjit Singh and DSP Davinder Singh, Inspector Suba Singh, ASI Gulbarg Singh and ASI Raghubir Singh (all retired) on Friday.

They were found guilty of criminal conspiracy, murder and destruction of evidence and fabrication of records.

Seven persons, including four Special Police officers (SPOs) – Desa Singh, Shinder Singh, Sukhdev Singh and Harwinder Singh, all residents of Rani Vallah village in Amritsar – labelled as “terrorists” were gunned down by the Sarhali and Verowal police in two separate staged encounters in July 1993.

As per the CBI probe Shinder, Desa and Sukhdev were forcibly picked up on June 27, 1993, by the Sarhali police from the residence of government contractor Joginder Singh. A week after the abduction of the SPOs, the Sarhali police Balkar Singh, alias Kala, of Rani Vallah was arrested from his house, it said.

They, along with Mangal Singh, Sarabjit Singh, alias Saba, of Hansawala and Harwinder Singh (SPO) were later shot dead in connection with two FIRs registered on charges of dacoity with the Sarhali and Verowal police in Tarn Taran in June-July 1993. However, the police neither handed over the police files of two cases to the CBI nor produced these before the court and later shown as missing from police records.

COLONEL BATH ASSAULT CASE: SC TO
TAKE UP PETITION AGAINST TRANSFER
OF PROBE TO CBI ON MONDAY

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court will take up on Monday a petition challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court’s order transferring the probe into the alleged assault of a Colonel by Punjab Police personnel over a parking dispute in March.

A Bench of Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma was likely to hear the matter relating to the alleged incident, which took place on the intervening night of March 13 and 14 when Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath and his son were having food at a roadside dhaba in Patiala. Colonel Bath has filed a caveat in the top court to pre-empt any ex-parte orders.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on July 16 had transferred the probe to the CBI -- two days after it reprimanded the Chandigarh Police over their probe into the matter.

On April 3, the high court assigned the probe to Chandigarh Police and directed them to complete it in four months.

2 GANGSTERS INJURED IN FAZILKA
ENCOUNTER; LINKED TO ABOHAR
BIZMAN’S MURDER

Diary Times Desk : Two suspected gangsters, who received bullet injuries in an encounter near Arniwala on Saturday night, were also involved in the July 7 murder of Abohar businessman Sanjay Verma, co-owner of New Wear Well Emporium, police said. Officials said that based on inputs, a police team led by Inspector Lekh Raj, SHO, Police Station City Fazilka, conducted a raid in the Arniwala area. During the operation, two suspects tried to escape but were injured as police opened fire. Both received bullet injuries in the legs and were immediately admitted to the Civil Hospital.

The suspects have been identified as Sahil Josan, a resident of Chak Chukar, and Sukhpal Singh Palu, a resident of Arniwala. According to police, both have many serious cases registered against them, including charges of murder.

THUNDERSTORM AND RAIN PREDICTED IN
SEVERAL PARTS OF PUNJAB, IMD ISSUES ALERT

Diary Times Desk : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a tehsil-level nowcast alert for several regions in Punjab, warning of possible thunderstorms, lightning and rain over the next few hours. According to the latest bulletin on Sunday, moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning is very likely to affect parts of Sangrur, Samana, Patiala, Nabha, Rajpura, Dera Bassi, Fatehgarh Sahib, Amloh, Mohali, Bassi Pathana, Chandigarh, Kharar, Khamanon, Chamkaur Sahib and Rupnagar. In addition, light rain is expected in a wider range of areas, including Sardulgarh, Budhlada, Lehra, Mansa, Sunam, Barnala, Tapa, Dhuri, Malerkotla, Moonak, Patran, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, Rampura Phul, Khanna, Payal, Ludhiana, Samrala, Nihal Singhwala, Raikot, Jagraon, Phillaur, Balachaur, Nawanshahr, Anandpur Sahib, Garhshankar and Nangal. The IMD has not issued any warning yet but has urged the public to stay alert and be prepared as weather conditions evolve. Residents in the affected areas are advised to take necessary precautions, especially during thunderstorms, and avoid unnecessary travel.

KAPURTHALA MAN DIES IN DUBAI ROAD
ACCIDENT

Diary Times Desk : Navjot Singh, a resident of Sultanpur Lodhi who had been working in Dubai as a tanker driver, died yesterday when the tanker he was driving overturned. Although he was rushed to hospital, he succumbed to his injuries before any medical intervention could be provided.

Navjot had moved to Dubai in November 2024 in search of better employment opportunities. He was the only brother of two sisters.

His father, a Granthi Singh serving at the local gurdwara, was reportedly at the gurdwara when the family received the news. They are seeking assistance from both the Indian and Punjab governments to facilitate the repatriation of Navjot’s body to India, so that he may be given a final farewell in accordance with religious and cultural rites.

The family hopes that the government will act swiftly to ensure that Navjot’s remains are brought home without delay.

2 MEN FROM PUNJAB KILLED AS
SUV FALLS INTO GORGE IN J-K’S
KATHUA

Diary Times Desk : Two people lost their lives and three others sustained critical injuries when the SUV they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir early on Sunday, police said.

All five passengers were members of a community kitchen service for the Amarnath Yatra from Punjab. They were en route to the campsite at Chanderkote along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway when the accident occurred near Kainta Morh on the Kathua-Basohli road around 12.40 am, officials said.

Following the vehicle’s plunge into the deep gorge, local volunteers promptly initiated a rescue operation. All five individuals were taken to the Government Medical College Hospital in Kathua.

200 MORE AAM AADMI CLINICS
TO BE OPENED ACROSS PUNJAB:
CM BHAGWANT MANN

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said his government will open 200 new Aam Aadmi Clinics in the state, taking the total number of such healthcare centres to 1,081. Earlier, Mann launched a WhatsApp chatbot for the clinics.

“It is a historic day in the healthcare sector of Punjab as a total of 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics across the state have been connected to a WhatsApp chatbot,” said Mann.

These clinics cater to nearly 70,000 patients daily, and in today’s digital age, the chatbot will be most beneficial for patients, said Mann.

Mann said the initiative is expected to bring revolutionary changes in healthcare services as approximately 90 per cent of Punjabis own a smartphone, and they can now be directly reached through WhatsApp.

“Patients will receive complete health-related information via WhatsApp, and doctors’ prescription slips will be accessible through the chatbot,” said Mann.

Diagnostic test reports will also be shared, and patients will receive reminders about their next consultation dates from the doctor, he said. Regular WhatsApp updates will be provided on care for elderly people with diabetes or blood pressure, pregnant women, and newborns, Mann said, adding that it will eliminate the need for patients to physically store prescriptions or medications, as they can access the information anytime on the messaging platform.

CLOULBURST DAMAGES
MALANA-1 HYDROPOWER
PROJECT DAM IN KULLU

Diary Times Desk : A cloudburst severely damaged the Malana-1 hydroelectric power project dam in the Parbati valley of Kullu district yesterday. This is the second time the dam has suffered damage. Flashfloods had damaged it in August last year as well and the repair work was still underway when the cloudburst occurred on Friday. Though no human life were lost at the dam site, flashfloods after the cloudburst caused extensive damage. Machinery, including a hydra crane, dumper, rock breaker, camper and a car involved in the repair operations, were swept away in the flashfloods in the Malana nullah. Eyewitnesses stated that the water level in the nullah rose abruptly, creating panic among workers. While they managed to escape, floodwaters submerged the equipment and vehicles, resulting in huge losses. On August 1 last year, a cloudburst had caused the dam gates to remain shut, obstructing the release of excess water. The pressure had led to the collapse of the dam wall, causing severe damage in downstream areas. Once again, the site suffered major damage due to a cloudburst on the same day on August 1. The footbridge connecting Malana and Pahal villages was washed away, severing access to the area.

HC FLAGS WEEKEND
GRIDLOCK AT PARWANOO,
PROPOSES UNIFIED

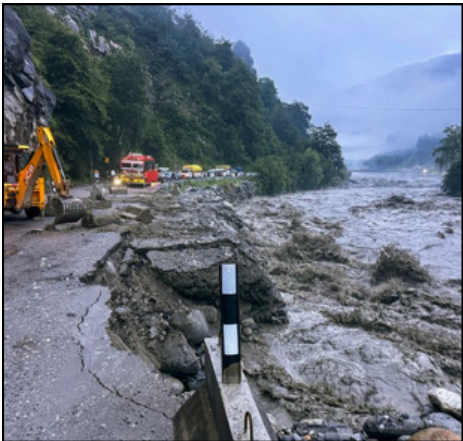
COLLECTION AT SANWARA

Diary Times Desk : Traffic snarls and the meandering, unending queue of vehicles at a barrier near Timber Trail in Parwanoo may soon find a way out, with the Himachal Pradesh High Court suggesting that the State and its functionaries explore the feasibility of a common facility at the barrier/collection centre at Sanwara—15 kilometers ahead.

The suggestion came after a Division Bench of Chief Justice G.S. Sandhawalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma took suo motu cognisance of the recurring chaos caused at the entry tax collection point near Timber Trail on the Chandigarh-Shimla highway. The Bench was hearing a petition filed in public interest against Himachal Pradesh and other respondents by law student Uttansh Monga through counsel Ganesh Barowalia on the issue of toll barriers.

2 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AMONG 307 ROADS CLOSED IN HIMACHAL,
ORANGE ALERT FOR VERY HEAVY RAINS

Diary Times Desk : Moderate to heavy rains continued to lash parts of Himachal Pradesh, resulting in the closure of 307 roads, including two national highways on Sunday, officials said. The local Meteorological office has issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rains in isolated areas of the state on Monday and Tuesday. Since Saturday evening, several regions have experienced moderate to heavy rainfall, with Bharari recording 108.2 mm, followed by Murari Devi with 82 mm, Naina Devi at 74.4 mm, Malraon at 56.2 mm, Brahmani at 45.4 mm, Una at 38 mm, and Jot at 36.2 mm. A total of 307 roads have been closed for vehicular traffic as of Sunday morning. The majority of these, 156 roads, are in the disaster-affected Mandi district, while 68 are in Kullu district, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC).



HIMACHAL TO RECEIVE HEAVY RAIN ON AUGUST 4,
5; ALERTS ISSUED

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh is set to receive heavy rain for the next two days as the State's Meteorological Department has issued an orange weather warning for Bilaspur, Una and Hamirpur districts and yellow weather warning for Kangra, Mandi, Solan and Sirmaur districts for August 4. For August 5, an orange alert has been issued for Una, Bilaspur, Kangra and Sirmaur districts and yellow alert for Shimla, Hamirpur, Mandi and Solan districts. As per the State's Meteorological Department, the state will continue to experience light to moderate rain along with a few spells of very heavy to heavy rainfall till August 9. Maximum temperatures are also very likely to fall by 2°C to 4°C in the next two to three days while minimum temperatures are expected to remain normal across the state. Meanwhile, heavy rain at isolated places and light to moderate rainfall continued across the state during the last 24 hours. Bharari in Hamirpur district received 110 mm rain, which was the highest, followed by 80 mm in Murari Devi in Mandi district. Naina Devi in Bilaspur received 70 mm rain, Una 38 mm, Hamirpur and Chamba received 18 mm each, Palampur 10.8 mm, Bhuntar 9.2 mm, Kangra 8.1 mm and Shimla received 5.4 mm rain.

KIRATPUR-MANALI HIGHWAY RESTORED
TO ONE-WAY TRAFFIC AT PANDOH IN
MANDI

Diary Times Desk : The Kiratpur-Manali National Highway was restored to one-way traffic between Mandi and Kullu, at Kainchi Mod in the Pandoh area of Mandi district today. The highway was blocked following a massive landslide triggered by continuous rainfall yesterday morning. Traffic movement had halted and a large number of heavy vehicles, including buses and trucks, were stranded following the landslide. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had managed to temporarily restore the highway late last evening but it was blocked again shortly afterwards, as fresh debris fell on it. This morning, NHAI teams resumed clearance operations with the support of heavy machinery and restored one-way traffic on the highway at Kainchi Mod. Police personnel were deployed at the disruption point to regulate and monitor traffic. Stranded vehicles finally left for their destinations after the highway was opened for one-way traffic. However, more than 172 internal roads in Mandi district are still blocked due to landslides, fallen trees and damaged infrastructure.

MIGRANT LABOURER CRUSHED TO DEATH IN HAMIRPUR

Diary Times Desk : A migrant labourer was crushed to death in a village here on Sunday while he was unloading marble from a truck, the police said.

The incident occurred at Bohni village when Ramesh Kumar, who hailed from Uttar Pradesh, was unloading huge slabs of marble from the truck when a few slabs fell on him, crushing him under their weight, the Superintendent of Police (SP), Hamirpur, stated. By the time the other workers on the spot managed to remove the slabs, Kumar had already succumbed to his injuries, the police said.

Kumar was brought to the Hamirpur hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. After the post-mortem examination, his body was handed over to his family, police added.

RELAX FOREST NORMS FOR REHABILITATION OF DISASTER-HIT FAMILIES, CM URGES CENTRE

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has asked the Central Government for relaxation in forest norms for the grant of one bigha each to the disaster-affected families. He called on Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi yesterday.

Sukhu urged the Union Minister to allow the grant of one bigha each for the rehabilitation of the disaster-affected families, which had been rendered homeless and landless. As 68 per cent of the state is under forest cover, he emphasised the need for relaxation in forest norms to facilitate rehabilitation. He apprised the Union Minister about the losses the state had suffered due to recent cloudbursts and heavy rain. He added that massive damage had been caused to buildings and infrastructure like roads, bridges, water supply schemes, residential properties, besides the loss of precious human lives during the current monsoon season.

ENGLAND NEED 35 TO WIN ASTONISHING FINAL TEST

Diary Times Desk : England need 35 more runs with four wickets in hand to beat India in an astonishing final Test after a barely believable fourth day was halted by rain and bad light.

In scenes of incredible tension and in a raucous atmosphere at The Oval, England reached 339-6 in pursuit of a record-breaking 374 when the weather wiped out the final hour's play.

Sublime centuries from Harry Brook and Joe Root looked to have England coasting to their target, only for India's outstanding seamers to deliver a grandstand finale.

Brook, on 111, lost his bat in miscuing Akash Deep to mid-off, Jacob Bethell was bowled attempting a wild hack and a poking Root was caught behind for 105.

Jamie Overton joined Surrey team-mate Jamie Smith on their home ground with 37 required. Chris Woakes, not seen since the first day because of a suspected dislocated shoulder, prepared to bat.

Both Smith and Overton struggled to lay bat on ball as Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna summoned one final effort. The scoreboard barely moved.

Overton had just survived a review for caught behind off Krishna when the umpires decided the light was not sufficient, then the rain arrived.

It means this epic series will be concluded on Monday morning. Either England will win 3-1 or India will level at 2-2. The outcome is on a knife-edge.

After seven weeks of drama, needle and outstanding cricket, perhaps it is only fitting that this memorable series will be decided on the last possible day.

Both sides might feel that this Test should already be won.

WCL ORGANISERS BREAK SILENCE ON
VIRAL VIDEO OF INDIA, PAKISTAN
STARS ON SAME FIELD

Diary Times Desk : The World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025 organisers broke their silence over the viral video that claimed the India Champions players walked off the field after spotting Pakistan Champions players on the field. According to the video, the incident took place during the semifinal clash that was cancelled after India's refusal. The WCL organisers made it clear that the incident actually took place during the group stage when India played West Indies and Australia took on Pakistan on the same day. The Indian Champions players were entering the field while Pakistan Champions players were leaving after the completion of their match.

NORRIS HOLDS OFF PIASTRI IN
THRILLING BATTLE TO WIN HUNGARIAN
GRAND PRIX

Diary Times Desk : Lando Norris has won the Hungarian Grand Prix after holding off a thrilling late-race challenge for the lead from McLaren team mate Oscar Piastri, the Briton having made an alternative strategy work in his favour to take victory. Polesitter Charles Leclerc had made a strong start to hold P1 when the race got underway, allowing the Ferrari driver to build up a steady lead over Piastri in P2 during the opening stages of the race – a position he maintained amid the first round of pit stops, despite Piastri's attempt to undercut his rival.

However, the picture started to evolve as different strategies played out amongst the frontrunners, with Leclerc and Piastri – both on two-stop plans – finding themselves behind the one-stopping Norris.

MOHAMMED SIRAJ BLASTED BRUTALLY OVER BIG FIELDING BLUNDER: "WHAT
WAS HE THINKING?"

Diary Times Desk : Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting offered no clemency to Mohammed Siraj, who was the culprit of dropping Harry Brook during the final hour of the morning session of Day 4 of the fifth Test against England at The Oval on Sunday. Harry Brook and Joe Root started to threaten India's chances of levelling the series by orchestrating a fierce riposte. Prasidh Krishna offered a way out for India to avoid the misery that Brook was capable of unleashing while relying on his skillset.

On the first delivery of the 35th over, Brook top-edged his pull, and Prasidh started celebrating as soon as the ball shot sky high. Siraj arrived at the landing position, completed the catch. However, to his and India's agony, he took a step back and touched the boundary rope, turning the wicket-taking delivery into a maximum.

He sunk his face in his hands, trying to fathom the gravity of his blunder. Brook made the most of the unprecedented lifeline and returned unbeaten after the end of the opening session. Ponting wondered what went through Siraj's mind when the situation didn't demand that he move his body.

"What was he thinking? He wasn't thinking at all. He didn't have to move to take the catch, so how costly might that be? Brook is still in and reads the bowlers so well. He bats in a Test match, how you would try and read a bowler in a T20," Ponting said as quoted from Sky Sports.

Former India head coach and cricketer Ravi Shastri enjoyed the seesaw confrontation with both teams scuffling for control and said, "That session was Test cricket at its best. It was a watchful first hour – good bowling and plenty of chat out there, fielders getting in the face of the batters."

While Prasidh and Siraj made early inroads to reduce England to 106/3 in defence of a 373-run target, Brook's belligerent strokeplay restored the balance. For Shastri, Brook's magic resonated with India vice-captain Rishabh Pant's past exploits.

JAISWAL, TONGUE ASSESS THE
STATE OF PLAY AT THE OVAL

Diary Times Desk : Following an action-packed day three at The Oval, India's Yashasvi Jaiswal and England's Josh Tongue threw their weight behind their respective teams to find a favourable result to conclude the gruelling five-Test series.

Jaiswal's stylish 118 off 164 in the second innings at The Oval set the stage for India, as the visitors raced through to a massive 373-run lead at the end of their second innings. Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar posted half centuries down the order to help India set a 374-run target for England to finish the series.

After stumps, Jaiswal opened up about his mental approach heading into what was India's last batting effort of the series.

"I think, yeah, it's very important for all of us that we need to keep pushing ourselves. And this was our last innings here. Mentally, I was ready. I need to keep pushing on this game and try to get as much as I can.

"And, of course, seeing the wicket in the first inning, I was thinking, what can be the best option in this wicket? And I was just trying to play like that and be positive.

ENGLAND BATTER JOE ROOT
SCRIPTS HISTORY, BECOMES
FIRST EVER TO...

Diary Times Desk : England's talismanic batter Joe Root became the first player in the World Test Championship history to cross the 6000-run threshold after another clinical masterclass on the fourth day of the fifth Test against India at Kennington Oval. Root, a maestro at work, with his robust technique and sublime drives, enchanted the spectators as his name reverberated throughout the stadium under London's gloomy sky. He left no stone unturned to frustrate India seamers, bereft of his regular tormentor's company, Jasprit Bumrah. He stayed unruffled during England's pursuit of a 374-run target and added another feather to his cap by crossing 6,000 runs during his 69th Test appearance in the tournament. With 20 centuries and 23 fifties, Root sits at the summit as the top run-getter, followed by Steve Smith (4,278), Marnus Labuschagne (4,225), Ben Stokes (3,616) and Travis Head (3,300) in the WTC charts. The 34-year-old brought up his fifty by pushing the ball towards deep backwards square leg for a single. He celebrated the landmark moment with a gentle raise of the bat towards the England dressing room. He continued to pile up runs on the board and levelled former South Africa cricketer Herbie Taylor's record.