

TARIFFS ON INDIA

TRUMP THREATENS 50% TARIFFS ON INDIA FOR BUYING RUSSIAN OIL

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has issued an executive order hitting India with an additional 25% tariff over its purchases of Russian oil.

That will raise the total tariff on Indian imports to the United States to 50% – among the highest rates imposed by the US.

The new rate will come into effect in 21 days, so on 27 August, according to the executive order.

A response from India's foreign ministry on Wednesday said Delhi had already made clear its stance on imports from Russia, and reiterated that the tariff is "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

"It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest," the brief statement read.

"India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests," it added.

The US president had earlier warned he would raise levies, saying India doesn't "care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine".

On Wednesday, the White House said in a statement that the "Russian Federation's actions in Ukraine pose an ongoing threat to US national security and foreign policy, necessitating stronger measures to address the national emergency".

It said India's imports of Russian oil undermine US efforts to counter Russia's activities in Ukraine.



BIHAR SIR

BIHAR SIR: AFTER 'DOG BABU' AND 'SONALIKA TRACTOR', NOW FAKE RESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATE APPLICATION IN TRUMP'S NAME



Diary Times Desk : 'Donald Trump' is the resident of a village in Samastipur district of Bihar, a prankster wanted the authorities concerned to believe.

However, the district administration was clearly not impressed and it has ordered lodging of an FIR so that the mischief monger, posing as the American president, could be tracked down and brought to book. In a statement, the administration said the application for the residence certificate was made online on July 29 and the revenue department official concerned "turned it down on August 4".

The application showed Trump, with his photograph appended, as a resident of Hasanpur village. The prankster seemed to have done a bit of research as the parents' name was stated to be Frederick Christ Trump and Mary Anne MacLeod, the same as the father and mother, respectively, of the US President.

"It appears there is a diabolical attempt to negatively impact the special intensive revision of electoral rolls which is underway as per the instructions of the Election Commission," the administration stated. Notably, this is the fourth incident of its kind reported in the state since the mammoth exercise by the EC began in June. Recently, applications were received in rural Patna and Nawada in the name of canines named 'dog babu', and 'dogesh babu', respectively. In East Champaran district, an application was received in the name of 'Sonalika tractor', with the photograph of a Bhojpuri actress.

SUPREME COURT SETS ASIDE MADRAS HC ORDER BANNING USE OF MK STALIN'S NAME FOR TAMIL NADU GOVT SCHEMES

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a Madras High Court order prohibiting the use of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's name in state government schemes.

The court castigated the petitioner, AIADMK MP C Ve Shanmugam for singling out the state government and its Chief Minister when similar schemes exist in other states. "When such schemes are floated in the name of all leaders of political parties, we do not appreciate the anxiety of the petitioner to choose only one political party and one political leader," the top court was quoted as saying by LiveLaw.

The Madras High Court order that the top court dismissed was passed on July 31. It banned the use of names of former CMs or living political personalities in government welfare schemes.

The order barred use of "the name of any living personality, photographs of former chief ministers or ideological leaders," and "party symbols, emblems, or flags of political parties," including the ruling DMK.



M KHARGE'S JAGDEEP DHANKHAR REFERENCE TO PUSH FOR DEBATE ON BIHAR VOTER LIST

Diary Times Desk : Quoting former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar that "anything can be discussed in the House", the INDIA bloc, led by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, on Wednesday demanded an urgent debate in Parliament on the Bihar voter roll revision exercise.

Mr Kharge accused the government of manipulating the electoral system.

"Opposition MPs have been repeatedly asking for an urgent discussion in the House... I am writing to request you to immediately allow a discussion on this issue that is of paramount concern to crores of voters, especially those belonging to the weaker sections of the society," Mr Kharge said in his letter to Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh.

The Election Commission released the draft rolls comprising 7.24 electors out of 7.89 existing voters after extensive enumeration exercise known as Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

PM MODI TO VISIT CHINA, HIS FIRST SINCE GALWAN CLASH, FOR SCO SUMMIT

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit China to attend the regional summit SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) in Tianjin city from August 31 to September 1 - signalling another step towards normalising ties between the two nations that had frayed after the Galwan clash of 2020.

PM Modi's last visit to China was in 2019. But he had met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan in October 2024.

The visit comes amid the imposition of stiff tariffs from US president Donald Trump and increasing pressure on India regarding oil purchase from Russia. There is expectation that under the circumstances, India's recalibration of ties with China is expected to act as a balancing factor for the US.

India's participation would also be in the backdrop of Chinese support for Pakistan and the shadow of Pahalgam attack.

In June, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had refused to sign a joint statement at a defence minister's meet under SCO because it skipped any mention of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives and instead, mentioned Balochistan, tacitly accusing India of creating unrest there.

INDIA, RUSSIA REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO ENHANCE DEFENCE TIES AMID TRUMP THREAT




Diary Times Desk : India and Russia on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to boost bilateral defence cooperation during a meeting between Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar and Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Colonel-General Alexander Fomin.

According to a statement by the Russian Ministry of Defence, the Indian envoy called on Col-Gen Fomin, who is in charge of international defence cooperation, and the meeting was held in a "warm and friendly atmosphere, customary for Russian-Indian ties".


"During the conversation, the sides discussed in detail the pertinent issues of bilateral interaction in the sphere of defence and confirmed their intent toward the further strengthening of relevant cooperation in the spirit of particularly privileged strategic partnership," said the statement.

The meeting took place amid US President Donald Trump's threats to slap harsh sanctions on India for buying crude oil from Russia.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

07-08-2025



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.



LESSONS FROM DISASTER, NOW SOIL CAPACITY WILL BE CHECKED BEFORE BUILDING SCHOOL BUILDING; EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GAVE ORDERS

Diary Times Desk : The education department has taken a big decision regarding the school buildings being damaged by the disaster in Himachal Pradesh. Now the soil capacity will be checked before the new school buildings and rooms to be built in the state. For this, the department has again issued the relevant orders to all the deputy directors. It has been clarified in the orders that it is necessary to check the soil capacity before building a school building. On the basis of this investigation, the work of the building can be carried forward.

This step has been taken for the safety of children and the long life of the school building. According to the soil capacity, steel bars, cement and other construction materials will be used to build school buildings. There are many school buildings in the state, which were built without checking the soil capacity. In such a situation, problems have started coming now. Many school buildings have also started getting damaged. Earlier, the education department has determined the distance of school buildings from drains and ravines. At the same time, if the place selected for building the school building is not as per the rules, then another place will be selected.

It should be noted that schools in the state have suffered a lot in the disaster. Somewhere the wall is falling and somewhere there are cracks inside the school building. Due to this, the studies of school children are getting affected. Many school buildings were also damaged in the rainy season of 2023. The condition of many school buildings had deteriorated after the rain in the rainy season. Many of these schools were declared unsafe. After this, the department had also given instructions to build new rooms. Now even before building such rooms, the soil will be tested in the lab.

HELI TAXI SERVICE WILL START FROM BHARMOUR TO GAURIKUND FROM 9TH, THIS WILL BE THE FARE

Diary Times Desk : For the Manimahesh Yatra, heli taxi service is being started from Bharmour to Gaurikund from 9th August, which will continue till 31st August. This service will provide relief especially to elderly and disabled devotees. The one way fare of the heli taxi service has been fixed at around Rs 3,500. All the necessary formalities have been completed by the administration to ensure that there is no inconvenience during the journey. Two heli taxis have reached Bharmour on Wednesday. Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Secretary of Manimahesh Trust Abhishek Mittal said that the heli service is being started keeping in mind the convenience of the devotees. He said that all the arrangements for the travel management have been completed. Devotees will be able to reach Gaurikund directly from Bharmour by taking advantage of this facility, which will make the journey to Manimahesh Lake easier by avoiding the difficult climb.

MUKESH SAID- HRTC WILL BUY 1,000 BUSES, 110 CRORES FOR ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

Diary Times Desk : 1,000 new buses will be added to the fleet of Himachal Path Parivahan Nigam. The government will purchase the buses. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said that 24 new Volvos have been added to the HRTC fleet. Apart from this, 327 electric buses (297 Type-1 and 30 Type-3), 250 diesel buses and 100 mini buses will be purchased. Orders for the purchase of 297 electric buses have also been issued. He said that in view of the geographical conditions of the state, priority is being given to the purchase of small and convenient buses of 37 to 42 seater capacity, so that transport services can be provided easily even in remote and inaccessible areas. Apart from this, 500 more e-buses will be purchased in the future. Currently the corporation is operating about 3,200 buses. Now for the first time the fleet of 1,000 buses is being changed, this has never happened before in any government.

REVENUE MINISTER JAGAT SINGH NEGI SOUGHT APPROVAL OF NAUTOD FOR TRIBAL AREAS FROM THE GOVERNOR

Diary Times Desk : Members of the Tribal Advisory Council, headed by Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. On this occasion, Negi urged the Governor to grant approval of Nautod forest land to the people in tribal areas. He said that the matter of approval is pending for two years. The Revenue Minister has also met the Governor in this regard earlier. He said that as soon as the state government came to power, it had requested the Governor for allotment of Nautod land in the year 2023. Approval of Nautod forest land is with the Governor under Article 5 of the Constitution. He said that the Forest Conservation Act 1980 should be repealed so that the young generation of tribal areas and border areas of the state can get the benefit of Nautod land. People have less land in tribal areas. Due to this there is unemployment and people are migrating. Allotment of Nautod land to eligible people is very important to strengthen the economy of the people and stop migration. He said that eligible families can be given up to 20 bighas of land under Nautod forest land. On this occasion, member of the Tribal Advisory Council, Lahaul-Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana, Advocate Amar Chand, Surya Prakash Boras, Veer Singh Negi, Sukhdev, Kesar Nand Negi, Jai Kishan Negi, Lalita Devi, Asha Negi, Kesang Rapchik and Veer Bhagat from Spiti were present.



MANDI CLOUDBURST: ELECTRICITY REACHED BHARAD 35 DAYS AFTER THE DISASTER, EFFORTS TO RESTORE IT SOON IN SURAH

Diary Times Desk : Electricity has finally been restored after 35 days in Bharad village, which comes under the disaster-affected Panchayat Pakharer of Saraj area. Due to the disaster on the night of June 30, this village was completely immersed in darkness. Due to difficult geographical conditions and complete destruction of the road, the work of restoring electricity was extremely challenging. The team of the Electricity Board pulled the electric poles with ropes to bring electricity to the village and installed each pole by walking about three kilometers on foot. 25 laborers and departmental personnel worked continuously day and night in this work. Junior Engineer Thunag, Jagdish said that about 60 families live in Bharad village, who were deprived of electricity for the last 35 days.

JAIRAM THAKUR SAID- BJP WILL RAISE THE ISSUE OF FIR AND DISASTER AFFECTED PEOPLE IN THE ASSEMBLY



Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition and former CM Jairam Thakur said that BJP will prominently raise the issues of FIR registered against the people of Seraj and disaster affected people in the upcoming assembly session. FIR has been registered against about 60 people of Seraj but a case has been registered against four people for insulting the tricolor flag. He asked that the police should tell what evidence is there about those four people. Nothing like this is visible anywhere in the video.

In a press conference in Mandi, Jairam said that the tricolor flag is insulted only when someone does it intentionally. When Minister Jagat Singh Negi adopted an adamant attitude with the public in Seraj, people registered their protest and it is now being called an insult to the tricolor flag. Jairam Thakur took a dig at Minister Jagat Singh Negi and said that when the disaster struck Kinnaur, were the institutions shifted from there but today the institutions are being shifted from Seraj only because it is the area of the Leader of Opposition. The present government has done nothing other than this during its two and a half years tenure.

MELTING GLACIERS,
FRAGILE SLOPES, HUMAN
HUBRIS: WHAT LED TO
UTTARAKHAND'S TRAGEDY

Diary Times Desk : Five dead, dozens missing. Was it a cloudburst or a glacial lake outburst? Experts say the Uttarakhand flash floods reflect the escalating impact of climate change on the Himalayas, where shifting monsoon patterns, glacier melt, and unchecked construction converge to amplify such extreme weather risks.

Climate Change Fuels Extreme Weather

Scientists attribute the increasing frequency and intensity of such events to rising temperatures and humidity. "With the axis of the monsoon trough running through the foothills of the Himalayas, we had already predicted a red alert for Uttarakhand," said Mahesh Palawat, Vice President of Meteorology and Climate Change at Skymet Weather. "While the affected region is prone to cloudbursts, such a turn of events is due to the climate change-led rise in temperatures.

A huge influx of moisture from the abnormal warming of oceans increases the capacity of the air to hold more water vapour. The Himalayas act as barriers, which give rise to vertically developed convective clouds, known as Cumulonimbus clouds.

MORE POLITICAL OPTICS IN
REVANTH REDDY'S DELHI
DHARNA?



Diary Times Desk : The dharna at Jantar Mantar today is meant to create the political optics of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress party as champions of reservation for the backward classes, attempting to put the BJP-led central government on the defensive.

On the face of it, the strategy is to pressurise the central government and President Droupadi Murmu to grant assent to two Bills passed by the Telangana State Assembly in March.

These bills aim to increase reservations for Backward Classes to 42% in education and employment, and also in local bodies. A related ordinance to remove the 50% cap on reservations under the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act is also awaiting approval.

Revanth Reddy and a delegation led by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also plan to personally submit representations to the President.

"UNFAIR, UNJUSTIFIED, UNREASONABLE":
CENTRE ON TRUMP'S 50% TARIFF ON INDIA

Diary Times Desk : India has made it clear that it stands firm on its national interests after US President Donald Trump's move to impose another 25 per cent tariff over the import of Russian oil. In a calm pushback, New Delhi said the extra tariff was "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" and declared that it would "take all actions necessary to protect national interests". The latest "penalty" for Russian imports takes total duties on Indian exports to the US to 50 per cent - 20 per cent more than the tariff on China and 31 per cent more than on Pakistan. The tariff will take effect in 21 days.

The Indian Response

Within hours, the foreign ministry, in a statement, said the United States "has in recent days targeted India's oil imports from Russia".

"We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India. It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest".

"We reiterate that these actions are unfair, unjustified and unreasonable. India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests," the statement added in no uncertain terms.

Earlier this month, as the US announced a 25 per cent tariff on India, the government had said it was studying the implications of Trump's announcements and remained dedicated to securing a fair-trade deal.

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS SHARES UPDATE
ON ELEPHANT MAHADEVI'S RETURN
FROM RELIANCE'S VANTARA



Diary Times Desk : Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday held discussions with officials of the Vantara project, an animal rescue and rehabilitation centre run by the Reliance Foundation in Gujarat's Jamnagar, regarding the return of the elephant Mahadevi.

A Vantara official assured Fadnavis of full cooperation with the Maharashtra government in the legal process, stating that the centre has no intention of keeping Mahadevi, a 36-year-old arthritic elephant, in its possession and is only caring for her in compliance.

CENTRE SPENT RS 1,500 CRORE ON MINISTRY RENT, NOT ANYMORE: PM AT
KARTAVYA BHAVAN

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated Kartavya Bhavan at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, pointing out that many central ministries were functioning from different locations across the national capital, with several housed in rented buildings. He revealed that the government was spending Rs 1,500 crore solely on rent.

"Many ministries of the Indian government are being run from 50 different locations in Delhi. Most of these ministries are being run from rented buildings, with an annual expenditure of Rs 1.5 thousand crores. This amount is being spent by the central government just to pay rent," he said.

DELHI TO MANILA DIRECT
FLIGHTS SET TO BEGIN ON
OCTOBER 1, SAYS MEA

Diary Times Desk : In a significant step towards enhancing regional connectivity between India and the Philippines, direct flights from Delhi to Manila are expected to commence operations from October 1 this year, the Ministry of External Affairs stated on Tuesday.

During a special press briefing on the occasion of the state visit of the President of the Philippines, Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr, to India, the MEA indicated that the two countries are exploring possibilities of expanding air links to additional destinations shortly to provide a strong impetus to tourism, business, and people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

"Direct Air India flight connectivity from Delhi to Manila will be operational from the 1st of October to the Philippines, hopefully. Further discussions on destinations and how to expand will be further," the MEA stated.

Earlier today, during the joint press statement, President Marcos announced visa-free entry privileges for Indian tourists.

RBI GOVERNOR REACTS TO TRUMP'S
'DEAD ECONOMY' DIG AT INDIA:
'...MORE THAN US'

Diary Times Desk : Reserve Bank of India governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday asserted that the Indian economy is "doing very well" and contributing more to global growth than the US, days after US President Donald Trump's remark of India being a dead economy.

"We are contributing about 18%, which is more than the US where the contribution is expected to be much less - about 11% or something. We are doing very well and we will continue to improve further," Sanjay Malhotra said, replying to a question on Trump's recent comments, news agency PTI reported.

India is expected to grow 6.5%, as against the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) estimate of about 3% global growth in 2025, Malhotra told reporters at the central bank headquarters in New Delhi.

Malhotra said the aspirational growth rate for India should be more than 6.5%, which the RBI is projecting for FY25, and added that the country has grown at a yearly average of 7.8% in the past.



"I WANT PEACE": HIROSHIMA WARNS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATOMIC BOMBING

Diary Times Desk : Exactly 80 years since an atomic bomb was used in war for the first time, thousands bowed their heads in prayer in Hiroshima on Wednesday, as the city's mayor warned world leaders about the nuclear warheads that still exist today.

The western Japanese city of Hiroshima was levelled on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped a uranium bomb nicknamed "Little Boy", killing about 78,000 people instantly. Hiroshima was the headquarters of some military units and a major supply base during World War Two. US war planners calculated that the surrounding mountains would concentrate the force of the bomb and enhance its destructiveness.

"Little Boy" unleashed a surge of heat reaching 4,000 degrees Celsius (7,200 Fahrenheit) and radiation that killed tens of thousands more by the end of the year. It was followed by a plutonium bomb on Nagasaki three days later, and Japan's surrender on August 15.

TWO GHANA GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AMONG 8 KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

Diary Times Desk : Ghana's defense and environment ministers are among eight people killed after a military helicopter crashed in the southern Ashanti region on Wednesday, according to the chief of staff to the Ghanaian president.

Defense Minister Edward Omana Boamah and Environment Minister Ibrahim Murtala Mohammed were among the five passengers on board the helicopter, as well as three crew members.

Ghana's Armed Forces said earlier on Wednesday that it had lost contact with a Z9 helicopter that was en route from the capital of Accra to Obuasi, a mining town in southern Ghana.

Julius Debrah, the chief of staff, said in a video statement that the crash was a "national tragedy" and announced that flags will fly half mast until further notice.

He said that Alhaji Mohammed Muniru Limuna, Ghana's acting deputy national security coordinator, Samuel Sarpong, the vice chairman of the National Democratic Congress and Samuel Aboagye, a former parliamentary candidate, were the three other passengers killed in the crash.

FIVE SOLDIERS SHOT ON GEORGIA MILITARY BASE, SUSPECT IN CUSTODY

Diary Times Desk : Five soldiers were injured in a shooting incident at Fort Stewart, a military base in the US state of Georgia, officials confirmed.

The military base said a suspect was in custody, and the injured soldiers were treated on-site before being moved to hospital for further treatment. It remains unclear how serious are the injuries.

There is no longer a threat to the community, officials said, though they did not provide further details on the gunman.

The shooting took place some 240 miles (386km) south east of Atlanta.

Law enforcement were alerted to a shooting at 10:56 EST (15:56 GMT) and the gunman was apprehended at 11:35 EST.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said President Donald Trump had been briefed on the shooting.

"The White House is monitoring the situation," she wrote in a post on X.

NETANYAHU WANTS TO 'OCCUPY GAZA', WHAT DO ISRAELI PEOPLE, MILITARY THINK?

Diary Times Desk : After 22 months of full-scale war, killing more than 60,000 Palestinians and forcing Gaza to the brink of famine, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly preparing to defy international, domestic and military opinion by escalating the war on Gaza still further and ordering its full occupation.

"The die is cast – we are going for a full occupation of the Gaza Strip," Israeli media cited an anonymous official, supposedly quoting Netanyahu, as saying. Meeting with senior security officials on Tuesday, Netanyahu was said to have come out in support of the military taking complete control of Gaza, even if it meant that the remaining Israeli captives there might be harmed or killed.

The fate of the captives taken during the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, has been a constant theme throughout Israel's war on Gaza and rescuing them was one of the war aims Netanyahu claimed at its outset.

TRUMP SAYS LULA CAN CALL HIM. "I WILL CALL PM MODI," REPLIES BRAZIL LEADER

Diary Times Desk : Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Tuesday turned down his US counterpart Donald Trump's offer to call him anytime to discuss tariffs, saying Brasilia would instead use all available resources, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to defend its interests. Bilateral tensions between Washington and Brasilia have recently escalated following the US decision to slap a 50 per cent tariff on Brazil, to fight what Trump has called a "witch hunt" against former President Jair Bolsonaro, who is on trial on charges of plotting a coup following his election loss in 2022.

Lula referred to the day the tariffs were imposed as "the most regrettable" time in the bilateral history between the two countries, and said his government was already taking action to strengthen foreign trade with other nations, including BRICS partners.

"In 2025, we will resort to all possible measures, starting with the WTO, to defend our interests...In fact, the government was already taking action to strengthen foreign trade and generate new opportunities for domestic companies before the change of administration in the United States," Lula said, speaking at an event in Brasilia.

TRUMP'S RELENTLESS TARIFF STRATEGY FINALLY CRASHES INTO DELICATE**GEOPOLITICAL REALITY**

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump's relentless use of tariffs to coerce foreign counterparts into favorable deals is about to run headlong into the limits of geopolitical reality.

Trump's willingness to dramatically escalate the long-running US economic warfare in response to Russia's war on Ukraine is real, advisors say. His threat to accelerate sweeping tariffs on India is certain to come to fruition, they insist. But he also faces the backdrop of a looming deadline to extend a trade truce with the world's second-largest economy that requires a degree of caution as White House deliberations come to a head.

"He's pissed," one person close to Trump said of his rapidly deteriorating view of Russian President Vladimir Putin in recent weeks. "But he's also aware of the competing priorities here."

Trump faces a unique challenge balancing all of his simultaneous demands: He is threatening punishing sanctions on the Russian energy production that serves as the financial linchpin of Putin's war.

US SAYS SECONDARY SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA TO GO AHEAD, EVEN THOUGH PUTIN-WITKOFF MEETING 'WENT WELL'

Diary Times Desk : New sanctions against Russia will still kick in on Friday, the White House said, even as President Donald Trump praised a meeting between US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Russian President Vladimir Putin as "highly productive" on Wednesday.

"The meeting with Russia and Special Envoy Witkoff went well. The Russians are eager to continue engaging with the United States. The secondary sanctions are still expected to be implemented on Friday," a White House official said.

Trump wrote on social media that "great progress was made," adding that he has already updated some of America's European allies.

The meeting, which Russian state media said lasted around three hours, took place after a frustrated Trump imposed a deadline on Moscow to agree to a ceasefire or face tough secondary sanctions, hitting countries that buy Russian oil with a 100% tariff.

Oil and gas revenues are a key source of cash for the Kremlin, making up roughly a quarter of Russia's government budget, so losing customers would be painful – and could hurt Moscow's ability to finance the its war on Ukraine.

'LET SIDHU MOOSEWALA REST IN PEACE', BEGS MOTHER AFTER GUNSHOTS FIRED AT SON'S STATUE IN HARYANA

Diary Times Desk : Gunshots were reportedly fired at a statue of late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in Dabwali, Haryana.

This sparked outrage, especially from Moosewala's mother, Charan Kaur, who took to Instagram to express her sorrow and anger. In a heartfelt post written in Punjabi on Tuesday, Charan Kaur described the attack as not just vandalism, but an emotional blow.

"This is a wound to my soul. Even after his death, his enemies are not letting him be in peace," she wrote. Kaur emphasised that her son stood for justice and the rights of the people, and that even after his passing, attempts were being made to silence his voice. "My son was not just a singer—he was a movement. And that movement will live on. His memory will never die," she said, adding, "One day, the guilty will be punished. Our silence is not our defeat."



SILENT THREAT IN PUNJAB'S PADDY FIELDS: RICE STUNTING VIRUS RESURFACES CAUSING YIELD LOSSES

Diary Times Desk : In the heart of Punjab's paddy belt, a silent adversary has resurfaced — the Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV). First identified in the region in 2002, has once again struck the kharif crop, stunting rice plants across eight districts.

As farmers grapple with yield losses and uncertainty, scientists and agricultural experts are racing to contain the damage and decode the virus' resurgence. The virus' spread has sparked concern among farmers, many of whom are urging the state government to conduct a girdawari (crop loss assessment) and announce compensation.

What is the virus affecting crops

SRBSDV belongs to the Fijivirus genus and was first reported in Southern China in 2001. It made its presence felt in Punjab three years back when farmers began noticing mysterious dwarfing of crops in their fields.

AFTER CLINCHING GOLD IN SOUTH KOREA, SKATING CHAMPION AMANDEEP GETS ROUSING WELCOME IN MALOUT

Diary Times Desk : Amandeep Kaur, a 24-year-old roller skating champion from Jandwala Charhat Singh village near Malout, received a grand welcome on her return home after clinching the gold medal in a team event at the 20th Asian Roller Skating Championship, held in South Korea recently. Amandeep, a mother to a young child and tax assistant in the Income Tax Department in Mumbai, was felicitated with garlands as locals took out a celebratory procession through Malout town. She was seen waving from the sunroof of a vehicle, while being cheered on by proud residents. Her husband, Sehajpreet Singh, a national-level hockey player from Danewala Satkosi village in Fazilka district, accompanied her during the reception. "This is a proud moment not just for our family but for the entire region," he said.

PATIALA VILLAGES NEAR GHAGGAR RIVER ON ALERT AS WATER LEVEL REACHES DANGER MARK



Diary Times Desk : The Patiala administration has issued an advisory to over a dozen villages near the Ghaggar river, asking them to stay on alert, as water level has reached the danger mark. Villagers have been asked to avoid venturing towards the river in Rajpura, Ghanaur and other nearby areas.

The handlers radicalised vulnerable youth and induced them to unleash terror in lieu of money and drugs. Gursidak Singh and Vishal Gill were involved in multiple instances of picking and dropping of grenades and weapons as per the NIA investigations, which are ongoing. Flowing from the Shivalik Hills, the seasonal river had wreaked havoc in 2010 and 2023, besides causing damage almost every alternate year. Residents claim that it was only after they alerted the local authorities that water was almost touching the bridges that an alert was issued by the administration. Meanwhile, Patiala DC Preeti Yadav appealed to citizens to remain calm, avoid the spread of rumours, and promptly report any water-related emergencies to the district control room at 0175-2350550.

TARN TARAN: CROPS ON 12,000 ACRES SUBMERGE AS BEAS SWELLS

Diary Times Desk : Standing crops on around 12,000 acres were inundated here as the Beas river swelled following heavy rainfall in its catchment area in the past five days. At least 25 villages have been hit by flooding, with farmers fearing permanent damage to their crops. The worst-hit villages included Verowal, Bodal Kiri, Kiri Shahi, Hansawala, Akabarpura, Dhunda, Goindwal Sahib, Dhunn Dhai Wala, Jauhal Dhai Wala, Bhail Dhai Wala, Mundapind, Gharka, Karmunwala, Chamba Kalan, Gujjarpura and Harike.

LAND POOLING POLICY PUT ON HOLD: PUNJAB ADVOCATE-GENERAL ASSURES NO ACTION TILL AUGUST 7

Diary Times Desk : Just about a week after Punjab's Land Pooling Policy came under the judicial scanner, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday questioned the state on the provision for rehabilitation of landless labourers and others dependent on land for their sustenance. The state was also directed to inform the court whether an environmental impact assessment had been carried out before notifying the policy.

The queries came as state Advocate-General Maninderjit Singh stated before the Bench of Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal and Justice Deepak Manchanda that the policy would be kept on hold and no further steps would be taken till August 7 — the next date of hearing.


At the outset, Maninderjit Singh sought time to inform the court whether a social impact assessment was also conducted prior to the policy's notification, and to respond to the arguments raised by the petitioner.

'EMBASSY OF KHALISTAN' SET UP AT NIJJAR'S FORMER GURDWARA PREMISES IN CANADA

Diary Times Desk : A self-styled 'Embassy of the Republic of Khalistan' has been set up in Surrey, Canada, on the premises of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, once led by slain Khalistani sympathiser Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The move, led by banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), comes amid renewed efforts by India and Canada to mend ties after a diplomatic freeze following Nijjar's 2023 killing.

The symbolic embassy openly supports Nijjar and coincides with preparations for another Khalistan referendum. Many have expressed concern, calling it further proof of Canada's inaction against extremist elements.

One wrote on X: "How is the declaration of a 'Republic of Khalistan' (at Guru Nanak Sikh Gurudwara, Surrey, BC) within  is being allowed to stand? Is this not a direct challenge to our national sovereignty & unity? Isn't it unconstitutional & potentially seditious under Canadian law." Another questioned: From Republic of Canada to Republic of Khalistan, this is what Canada wanted to become". Meanwhile, Canada's own intelligence agency, CSIS, has recently acknowledged the ongoing threat from Khalistani extremists operating within its borders.

CONTROLLED WATER RELEASE
FROM PONG DAM BEGINS,
ALERT SOUNDED

Diary Times Desk : With the water level of Pong Dam in Kangra district rising to 1,372 feet, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has begun controlled release of 20,000 cusecs of water through the gates and spillways of the dam on Wednesday evening. The decision was taken as a precautionary measure amid continuous inflow due to heavy rain in the catchment areas of Beas river and water discharge from Pandoh Dam in Mandi district.

The local tributaries like Dehar Khud, Buhal Khud and Dehri Khud were also in spate, further contributing to the inflow of water in Pong Dam. The maximum storage capacity of the dam is 1,410 feet, with 1,390 feet marked as the danger level. Normally, in general practice, the BBMB authorities release water when it's level crosses 1,365 feet.

HIMACHAL AMONG TOP
PERFORMERS UNDER
PMGSY-III

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand have emerged as key performers under the Centre's ambitious Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III), with significant progress made in constructing and upgrading rural roads in some of the country's most challenging terrains. These hill states have together built over 3,800 kilometres of rural roads under the scheme as of July 28, 2025.

In Himachal Pradesh, 30 roads spanning over 1,039.75 kilometres have been completed with a total sanctioned outlay of Rs 3,123.12 crore and a recorded expenditure of Rs 3,345.82 crore, including the state's share. Jammu and Kashmir has seen even greater advancement, with 169 roads completed, covering 1,465.65 kilometres. The expenditure here has reached Rs 2,245.46 crore against a sanctioned amount of Rs 1,752.12 crore.

Uttarakhand has constructed 64 roads with a combined length of 1,378.79 kilometres, spending Rs 1,865.34 crore from a sanctioned project value of Rs 2,287.95 crore.

1 DEAD, OVER 700 RESCUED FROM KINNAUR KAILASH YATRA ROUTE
IN HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : One pilgrim lost his life while over 700 stranded pilgrims were safely rescued from the route of Kinnaur Kailash Yatra in Kinnaur district, officials said here today.

As per the district administration, on August 5, as many as 402 pilgrims, who had gone for yatra from Mallig Khata village, were stranded after which a rescue operation was launched to rescue the pilgrims. Out of these, 177 pilgrims were brought back safely to Mallig Khata the same day. However, due to worsening weather conditions and rising water levels in a stream flowing through the region, as many as 225 pilgrims got stranded in a cave. To rescue these pilgrims, a team from the Forest Department, led by the Naib Tehsildar of Kalpa, was dispatched via the Purvani route on Tuesday evening. A leaf shelter has been set up for the rescued pilgrims at the Shongtong Army Camp, where 183 individuals have already arrived.



SCHOOLS, COLLEGES SHUT AT SEVERAL PLACES,
MANY ROADS CLOSED IN HIMACHAL FOLLOWING
HEAVY RAIN

Diary Times Desk : The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a weather warning on Wednesday morning, forecasting light to moderate rain at most places in Himachal Pradesh, with a few spells of intense to very intense rain likely in Bilaspur, Solan, Shimla, Sirmaur and Mandi districts over the next few hours.

Also, light to moderate rain is expected at many places in Chamba, Kangra, Hamirpur, Una, Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur and Kullu districts. Heavy rain has disrupted normal life in Shimla, leading to the closure of many educational institutes in the district.

Authorities in six subdivisions -- Chopal, Kumarsain, Rampur, Sunni, Jubbal and Theog -- have ordered the closure of all educational institutes, including government and private schools, colleges, ITIs, and anganwaris, on August 6. In Chopal, Kumarsain, Rampur, Sunni, and Jubbal subdivisions, the decision was made following the relentless rain since midnight.

3 DEAD, 1 INJURED AS CAR FALLS INTO
RIVER IN SHIMLA DISTRICT

Diary Times Desk : Three persons were killed and one other injured after the car they were travelling in plunged into the Pabber river in Rohru subdivision of Shimla district.

The deceased have been identified as Vishal Thakur, Abhay Khandiyan and Himanshu, while the injured has been identified as Harsh Chauhan, all residents of the Chirgaon area of the district. According to reports, the accident took place around 12 am today when the driver lost control of the car and it veered off the road and plunged into the river. As a result, three of them died on the spot while one sustained minor injuries as he fell out of the car.

The police team reached the spot as soon as it received the information and took out the bodies. The bodies were then taken to Civil Hospital, Rohru, where postmortem would be conducted. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Rohru, Pranav Chauhan confirmed the report and said further investigation was going on.

HIMACHAL'S APPLE BARFI BY SHG CHARMS COUNTRY

Diary Times Desk : A unique and innovative sweet dish made from apples—apple barfi—crafted in Shimla's Chauhara block has taken the country by storm. Prepared by the Jai Devta Jabal Narayan Self-Help Group (SHG), this one-of-a-kind delicacy is in high demand and is now being showcased at the popular Aspirational Haat at The Ridge in Shimla. Priced at Rs 325 per box, the sweet treat is not only popular with locals but is also gaining traction in districts like Kullu and beyond.

According to Sapna, a member of the SHG, the barfi is made using a detailed, hygienic process that ensures both flavour and longevity. "We begin by selecting the best quality apples, washing them thoroughly three to four times. The pulp is then extracted and slow-cooked. Dry fruits are added during the cooking process and once the mixture turns a deep brown, it is spread into trays. After setting for three to four days, it is cut into pieces and packed," she explained. The barfi is known to remain fresh and fungus-free for up to a year.



INDIA YOUNGSTER BACKED BY GREG CHAPPELL TO BECOME NEXT TOP TEST ALL-ROUNDER: 'SURPRISED...'

Diary Times Desk : Mohammed Siraj is ready to become both the 'spiritual and actual' leader of the Indian bowling attack, regardless of whether Jasprit Bumrah is part of the side or not, former India coach and Australian legend Greg Chappell said on Tuesday. Siraj, who bowled 185.3 overs in five Tests, ended with 23 wickets and his nine-for in the final Test at the Oval earned India a memorable series levelling six-run win over England. "To be fair, he has turned in many fine performances before, at the MCG, the Gabba, Perth, Lord's, Cape Town and Birmingham, but what he did at The Oval was his true coming of age. With or without Bumrah, he is ready to be the spiritual as well as actual leader of Gill's attack," Chappell wrote in his column for the 'ESPN Cricinfo'. Indian batters scored 12 hundreds in the five Tests, highest for the country in any series but Siraj's effort trumps all those efforts, feels Chappell, who was India's coach from mid 2005 to early 2007. "I don't think it is unfair to say that, despite the many wonderful batting efforts, Siraj was the main reason that India was competitive in the series," Chappell wrote.



WHY R PRAGGNANANDHAA AND D GUKESH ARE NOT PLAYING IN 2025 CHENNAI GRAND MASTERS: 'WE WOULD'VE LOVED TO HAVE THEM BUT...'

Diary Times Desk : The third edition of the Chennai Grand Masters tournament is set to begin on Wednesday, boasting one of the strongest line-ups in Indian chess outside the global stage. With a main field featuring stars like Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, Anish Giri, and Jorden van Foreest, and a vibrant Challengers section spotlighting emerging Indian talents, the tournament continues its rise as a staple fixture on the chess calendar. But the absence of two of India's biggest stars, reigning World Champion D Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa R, has been a talking point in this year's edition, especially given the tournament's symbolic stature in Chennai, the home of Indian chess. Tournament Director and Grandmaster Srinath Narayanan addressed their absence candidly, pointing to unavoidable calendar conflicts as the primary reason. "Ideally, we would have loved to have Gukesh and Pragg playing. But this year, we had to clash our event with the Grand Chess Tour because the calendar was insanely full.

HOW MANCHESTER UNITED FIT AFFORD SESKO?



Diary Times Desk : Manchester United and Newcastle target Benjamin Sesko trained away from the first-team squad at RB Leipzig, the German club said on Wednesday.

Sesko has been the subject of bids from United and Newcastle for fees of around £69.7 million (\$92.7m) plus add-ons, sources have told ESPN.

Leipzig released a squad update on Wednesday saying that Sesko would be training individually along with teammate Lukas Klostermann.

This comes after Sesko was left out of Leipzig's squad for their preseason friendly against Atalanta on Saturday.

BCCI TO HAVE 'HONEST CONVERSATIONS' WITH VIRAT KOHLI, ROHIT SHARMA; 2027 WORLD CUP UNCERTAIN: 'BOTH WILL BE PUSHING 40'

Diary Times Desk : When Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma announced their retirements from T20I cricket together shortly after India won the T20 World Cup last year, many felt it was a conscious call to stretch their Tests and ODI careers. Then, a couple of months ago, when both called time on their Test careers – within a span of five days – it was believed that they took the decision to ensure they are fit and ready for the 2027 World Cup – the only limited-overs ICC tournament they have yet to win together. However, it now seems that the road to the World Cup in South Africa in two years' time is easier said than done. With the Indian team transitioning and transitioning quickly in Tests, the same pattern may apply to the ODI fold as well. This means that with more youngsters stepping up, it is far from given that Kohli and Rohit will feature in the World Cup.



SHUBMAN GILL AMONG NOMINEES FOR ICCS PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARD

Diary Times Desk : India captain Shubman Gill was on Wednesday named among the three nominees for ICC's Player of the Month award for July along with South Africa's Wiaan Mulder and England skipper Ben Stokes. Gill led India remarkably in the recently-concluded Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England as his young side emerged with a hard-fought 2-2 draw, a series in which the 25-year-old rewrote batting records. Gill scored 754 runs in the series against England with four centuries, including a double ton at 75.40 to break legendary Sunil Gavaskar's record (732) for the highest run tally for an Indian captain in a five-Test series. Gill's returns are now also the second-best behind Sir Donald Bradman (810 runs) in the all-time list for captains.

"Shubman Gill had a sensational month, amassing 567 runs at an impeccable average of 94.50 in three Tests during India's gripping series in England," the ICC wrote on its website.

"He played a starring role in India's record-breaking win at Edgbaston, where he scored a monumental 269 in the first innings followed by 161 in the second.

EX INDIA COACH BREAKS SILENCE ON KKR RETURN AFTER BEING SACKED BY

BCCI

Diary Times Desk : Lauded by KL Rahul for playing a big role in his development as a white-ball batter, yet Abhishek Nayar was sacked by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Suprisingly, Nayar returned to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise he was playing for before joining Gautam Gambhir's backroom staff in the Indian team as assistant coach. However, even before Nayar's sacking from the Indian team was made official, the news of Nayar re-joining KKR became public.

Speaking on the return to IPL, Nayar said that the franchise is actually like a 'family' to him. Hence, he didn't waste any time in completing the U-turn.

"KKR is family to me. Everyone throws his weight way too much around the fact that it's family, but for me, I think it's family because the speed at which I came back [to the team] was a testament to the fact that that's where I belong in a lot of ways," he said.

"I've always looked at anything as opportunities, and this is an opportunity, which I'm very, very excited for in that regard," Nayar told PTI.