

INDIA'S FUEL BILL

HOW MUCH WILL INDIA'S FUEL BILL RISE IF IT STOPS RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS?

Diary Times Desk : India's crude oil import bill could increase by USD 9 billion this financial year and USD 12 billion in the next, if the country stops buying Russian crude oil amid Washington's latest action against New Delhi over the purchases.

A report published by the State Bank of India (SBI) also said India can consider buying oil from Iraq - its top supplier before the Ukraine war - followed by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the event of cutting off the Russian supplies.

The findings come amid escalating tensions between India and US over the latter's decision to slap an additional 25 percent duty and subsequently doubling it to 50 percent on Indian goods over New Delhi's continuous imports of Russian oil. With this action singling out New Delhi for the Russian oil imports, India will attract the highest US tariff of 50 percent along with Brazil.

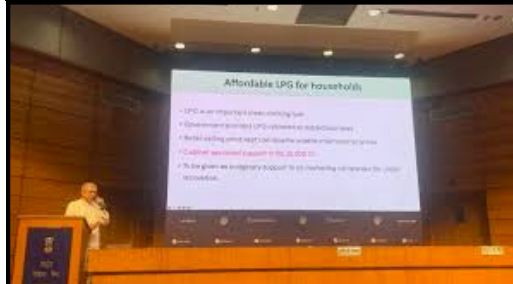
"If India stopped oil imports from Russia during the rest of FY26, then India's fuel bill might increase by only \$9 billion in FY26 and \$11.7 billion in FY27," the report said.

"Russia accounts 10% of global crude supply, if all the countries stopped buying from Russia. So crude price may increase by 10% if no other countries increase their production," it added.



LPG SUBSIDY

CABINET APPROVES RS 30,000-CRORE LPG SUBSIDY TO COMPENSATE OIL FIRMS FOR LOSSES



Diary Times Desk : Cabinet on Friday approved Rs 30,000 crore LPG subsidy to state-run oil companies -- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) -- to compensate for losses incurred from selling LPG at below cost over the past 15 months.

The compensation to oil marketing companies (OMCs) will be paid in 12 tranches, as per an official statement.

The international prices of LPG were at high levels during 2024-25 and continue to remain high. However, to insulate consumers from fluctuations in international LPG prices, the increase in cost was not passed on to consumers of domestic LPG, leading to significant losses for the three OMCs.

Despite the losses, public sector oil marketing companies have ensured continuous supplies of domestic LPG in the country at affordable prices.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved compensation amounting to Rs 30,000 crore to the three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPCL & HPCL) for the under-recoveries incurred on sale of domestic LPG," the statement said.

This compensation will allow OMCs to continue meeting their critical requirements such as crude and LPG procurement, servicing of debt, and sustaining their capital expenditure, thereby ensuring uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to households across the country, it added.

SUPREME COURT RECALLS ORDER BANNING HIGH COURT JUDGE FROM HEARING CRIMINAL CASES

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court has recalled its order banning an Allahabad High Court judge from hearing criminal cases, following a request from Chief Justice of India BR Gavai. The court removed its remarks against Justice Prashant Kumar in their previous order and declared, "We close this matter". On August 4, Justice Kumar was barred from hearing criminal cases until retirement by a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan over the judge's decision to uphold criminal summons in a civil matter. The bench set aside its judgment this morning after CJI Gavai urged Justice Pardiwala to reconsider the order. "We have received an undated letter from the CJI requesting us to reconsider the directions passed in our earlier order," the bench said this morning, adding, "We set aside the impugned order and remanded the matter for fresh hearing in the high court." The Supreme Court does not intend to interfere in the administrative powers of the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, the bench said, accepting that the Chief Justice is the master of the roster. The case has been sent back to the Allahabad High Court, leaving further action to Chief Justice Arun Bhansali.



TAMIL NADU UNVEILS ITS EDUCATION POLICY, STICKS TO TWO-LANGUAGE FORMULA

Diary Times Desk : In a landmark move reaffirming Tamil Nadu's autonomy in education policy, Chief Minister MK Stalin today released the State Education Policy (SEP), presenting it as a futuristic and inclusive framework tailored to the state's social and cultural fabric. Firmly distancing itself from the Centre's National Education Policy (NEP), Stalin reiterated Tamil Nadu's commitment to the two-language policy, Tamil and English, rejecting the NEP's three-language formula, which the state has long opposed as a vehicle for Hindi imposition. "Our education policy is rooted in Tamil Nadu's unique identity but forward-looking in every way," Stalin said at the launch. The SEP mandates Tamil as a compulsory subject till Class 10 across all school boards, but it does not require Tamil as the medium of instruction. Among its key highlights, the SEP removes Class 11 board exams and disallows student detention till Class 8. The policy aims to promote critical thinking, creativity, life skills, physical fitness, and technical literacy, including AI, data science, robotics, and financial planning. School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi said, "Our SEP is unique and inclusive in its approach to language, curriculum, and assessment."

GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORT CLAIMING US ARMS PURCHASE TO BE PAUSED

Diary Times Desk : The Defence Ministry has denied a news report claiming that India plans to pause its arms purchases from the United States after US President Donald Trump announced an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods. A Reuters news report claimed that India has put on hold its plans to procure new US weapons and aircraft, according to three Indian officials familiar with the matter, in India's first concrete sign of discontent after tariffs imposed on its exports by President Trump dragged ties to their lowest level in decades. "The news reports on India pausing the talks related to defence purchases with the US are false and fabricated. It is clarified that the various cases of procurement are being progressed as per the extant procedures," Defence Ministry sources said. The news report also claimed that India had been planning to send Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Washington in the coming weeks for an announcement on some of the purchases, but that trip was cancelled. Trump on August 6 imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods as punishment for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, which he said meant the country was funding Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That raised the total duty on Indian exports to 50 per cent - among the highest of any US trading partner.



AAP LEADER'S SWIPE AT BJP AFTER TOP COURT'S "CROOK" REMARK ON PROBE AGENCY

Diary Times Desk : AAP Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj declared that the Supreme Court branding the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as a "crook" is not just unprecedented-but a damning reflection of how deeply compromised India's institutions have become under BJP rule. "The country's highest court, the Supreme Court, called the ED a crook - this is no small matter. But unfortunately, people sitting in constitutional positions are bowing before power and working solely on the agenda of one political party and its government. The Supreme Court issues orders, but no concrete action is taken against officials; unless concrete action is taken, it will yield no benefit," Saurabh Bharadwaj wrote on social media platform X. The AAP Delhi Unit Chief warned that those occupying constitutional posts are no longer custodians of the Constitution but have become foot soldiers of the ruling party, surrendering their independence and integrity.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

09-08-2025

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.



TWO STAFF NURSES SUSPENDED FOR DRINKING ALCOHOL ON DUTY, ONE SENT TO NALAGARH AND THE OTHER TO BILASPUR

Diary Times Desk : The Health Department has taken strict action in the case of drinking alcohol by two staff nurses posted on duty on the night of August 5 at the Regional Hospital Una. Both the nurses have been suspended and transferred to Bilaspur and Nalagarh. During this time they will have to report to the department headquarters. The department has also instructed the hospital management to ensure proper arrangements.

According to sources, after the incident, the Health Directorate had summoned a report from the hospital management. Some girl students who had come for training also lodged a complaint in their institute and expressed anger over such activities happening in the hospital at night. After this incident, questions were also raised on the functioning of the hospital management. Amar Ujala published this news prominently. After this, the senior officials of the department took cognizance of the matter. It was told that at the time of the incident, one nurse was drunk in the surgical ward and the other in the medical ward. There was a ruckus in the ward and the matter of drinking alcohol with an outsider also came to light.



LEADER OF OPPOSITION JAIRAM THAKUR SAID – EVEN AFTER ONE AND A QUARTER MONTHS, THE SITUATION IN THE DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS IS THE SAME

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said – Even after one and a quarter months, the situation in the disaster affected areas is the same

Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur said that more than one and a quarter months have passed since the disaster, but the situation in most places is the same. Neither the main roads nor the link roads have been restored. Due to this, the products related to agriculture-horticulture and flower production of the people are not able to reach the market. People have tried to open the roads with their own resources, but the roads of the entire area cannot be opened easily. Due to the non-opening of roads, people are forced to pass through deadly paths. It is the failure and insensitivity of the government that even after our repeated requests, the government did not launch a war-footing campaign to restore the roads, due to which the people suffering the brunt of the tragedy are suffering due to the inefficiency of the government.

In a press statement issued on Friday, Jairam Thakur said that the livelihood of most of the disaster-affected areas depends on flower cultivation, horticulture and agricultural products. Most of these products get spoiled very quickly.

PANCHAYATS WITH MORE SMUGGLING AND USE OF CHITTA WILL COME IN RED CATEGORY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

Diary Times Desk : Panchayats with more smuggling and use of chitta will come in red category in Himachal Pradesh, know

The panchayats of the state will be divided into three categories red, yellow and green regarding the use of drugs. Panchayats in which more smuggling and use of chitta is happening will be placed in the red category. Panchayats in which more smuggling and use of cannabis is happening will be placed in the yellow category. No drug panchayats will be placed in the green category. On the instructions of the state government, Himachal Police has started the process of classification of panchayats on the basis of drugs. Data is also being collected on how many cases are registered in which district under the NDPS Act. Information is being obtained from panchayat representatives, Naib Tehsildar and Nambardar to collect data of drug smugglers and users at the panchayat level.

CHIEF MINISTER SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING NOT RETIRING TEACHERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SESSION

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the government is considering not retiring teachers in the middle of the session so that the education of children is not affected. Deliberation is going on to start this new system in the education, technical education and medical education departments. At the same time, there is also a preparation to promote teachers twice a year. While providing appointment letters to 312 art teachers at the state guest house Peterhof on Friday, the Chief Minister also announced to give them the benefit of Old Pension Scheme (OPS). The Chief Minister said that the central government is putting pressure to bring back the new pension scheme, but the state government will not back down from its decision.

HIMACHAL NEWS: THERE WILL BE SPOT EVALUATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS SHOWN IN THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE TEACHER AWARD

Diary Times Desk : The process of checking and evaluating 150 applications received this year for the state level teacher award has started. The Directorate of School Education will conduct spot evaluation of the achievements shown in all the applications. Under this, the teachers will be visited in their schools and their work will be directly inspected. Under this process, the Education Department has constituted special evaluation committees for the selection of 30 teachers. These committees have been entrusted with the responsibility of assessing the reality of each teacher's field of work, achievements and educational innovations. Apart from this, feedback will also be taken from the students to ensure whether the role of the teacher has actually been effective in improving the lives and education level of the students or not.

Under spot evaluation, aspects like teachers' teaching work, communication with students, innovation in school, community participation and leadership ability will be tested. Apart from this, the work mentioned by the teacher will also be confirmed by talking to the local school administration, parents and students. After the evaluation process, all the committees will have to submit their report by August 21. After this, the shortlisted teachers will be interviewed by a high level committee headed by the Education Secretary. This committee will announce the names of the finally selected teachers. Departmental officials said that the teacher's merit will be measured not only by his efforts but also by his contribution to the annual examination results of the students. Teachers who have clearly improved the quality of learning of students will be given special preference. The selected teachers will be honored by Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at the Raj Bhavan in Shimla on September 5.

Himachal sends names of three teachers for national award

The Himachal government has sent the names of three teachers of the state to the central government for the national award. 54 applications were received from across the state for the national award. After shortlisting in the districts, the state committee discussed 27 names and finalized three names and sent them to Delhi. The national awards will be given at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on September 5.

HIMACHAL: CM SUKHU SAID- CONGRESS WILL SOON GET A NEW STATE PRESIDENT, STATE CABINET WILL ALSO BE EXPANDED

Diary Times Desk : Himachal: CM Sukhu said- Congress will soon get a new state president, state cabinet will also be expanded

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the state Congress will soon get a new state president. During his Delhi visit, he has informed the party high command about his recommendation by submitting a letter to make either a Scheduled Caste leader or a Cabinet Minister the president. As soon as he reached the capital Shimla on Friday, the Chief Minister also hinted at filling a vacant post in the cabinet and reshuffle. He said that the lottery will be sold online, not in shops. This system is also in place in many BJP-ruled states.

PM MODI, PUTIN TALK ON PHONE ON DEEPENING TIES AMID TRUMP TARIFF ROW

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin had a detailed conversation on several key issues including the latest development in Ukraine and progress in bilateral agenda. The two leaders spoke amid the global trade uncertainty put into motion by US President Donald Trump's tariff announcements. "Had a very good and detailed conversation with my friend President Putin. I thanked him for sharing the latest developments on Ukraine. We also reviewed the progress in our bilateral agenda, and reaffirmed our commitment to further deepen the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. I look forward to hosting President Putin in India later this year," PM Modi said in a post on X. While thanking Mr Putin for his detailed assessment, PM Modi reiterated India's consistent position for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict. The phone call took place less than 24 hours after National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval called on the Russian President at the Kremlin on Thursday.

BANKE BIHARI TEMPLE: SC STAYS ALLAHABAD HC ORDERS, QUESTIONS 'INTEMPERATE' LANGUAGE

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday expressed displeasure over the orders passed by Allahabad High Court in a PIL over historic Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan and questioned the use of "intemperate language" against the Uttar Pradesh government. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi perused the orders of July 21 and August 6 by a single-judge bench of the high court on a PIL which challenged the ordinance Uttar Pradesh Shri Bankey Bihari Ji Temple Trust Ordinance, 2025 and stayed the observations made in them. Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government pointed out to the bench that the high court conducted "parallel proceedings" on the issue and made certain "unwarranted observations" in the order. "What kind of intemperate language is being used by the high court? Like the state committed a sin by passing an ordinance. What is all this? Was the high court not informed that the Supreme Court was seized of the matter?" the bench said.

US RETAILERS WEIGH OPTIONS AS DONALD TRUMP DOUBLES INDIA TARIFF TO 50%

Diary Times Desk : Major US retailers have started discussions with Indian textile exporters after US President Donald Trump imposed a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, several exporters told NDTV Profit on Friday.

The US is the largest export destination for India's textile and apparel industry. The country accounted for 28 per cent of total textiles and apparel exports valued at \$36.61 billion in the fiscal year that ended March 2025.

Higher tariffs are expected to increase costs by 30 per cent to 35 per cent, and could also lead to a 40 per cent to 50 per cent drop in US-bound orders, causing about \$4-5 billion loss.

"Brands are having discussions with us to find alternatives and options if we have any additional capacities in regions with lower tariffs," the management at Gokaldas Exports told NDTV Profit.

An exporter based in Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur, a global textile manufacturing centre, said his US buyer has asked him to stop a shipment of cotton T-shirts and dresses worth \$80,000, as it was "not possible to pass the extra costs" on to their clients. "They want us to lower the price," he said on condition of anonymity, citing business concerns. Some exporters also said they might offer some discounts to avoid an inventory pile-up.

ACTOR HUMA QURESHI'S COUSIN MURDERED IN DELHI AFTER PARKING DISPUTE



Diary Times Desk : Bollywood actor Huma Qureshi's cousin, Asif Qureshi, was murdered in Delhi following an altercation over parking a scooter. The two accused in the case have been apprehended, Delhi Police said on Friday. According to a statement by Delhi Police, Asif Qureshi, son of Ilyas Qureshi and resident of Bhogal, Jangpura, aged 42 years, was murdered on August 7 at around 10:30 pm following an altercation with the accused over the issue of parking of a scooter belonging to the accused. During the altercation, one of the accused attacked the victim with a sharp pointed object (poker) on the chest, which resulted in the death of the victim.

"NEW WINE, OLD BOTTLE": POLL PANEL JABS RAHUL GANDHI IN VOTER FRAUD ROW

Diary Times Desk : The Election Commission snapped back at Rahul Gandhi Friday evening and called his allegations - about voter fraud in collusion with the Bharatiya Janata Party - "new wine in an old bottle".

The panel pointed out the Congress had "tried to mislead the Supreme Court" in 2018, referring to a petition by ex-Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath about mistakes in the state roll.

The Congress had then sought searchable access to the voter list - based on claims 36 voters may have been double-registered, an error the EC said had been rectified - but the court turned them down.

"Now, in 2025, they (the Congress), being aware that the same trick cannot be played in the court, tried to mislead the people by claiming irregularities in the electoral rolls... that same names are occurring at different places," the Election Commission said in a post on X. The poll panel cited one example - a voter by the name of Aditya Srivastava who was registered in three different states. "In fact, the name... was rectified months ago," the EC said.

INCOME TAX BILL 2025 WITHDRAWN, NEW VERSION TO BE INTRODUCED ON MONDAY

Diary Times Desk : The Income Tax Bill, 2025, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13 to replace the existing Income Tax Act, 1961, has been formally withdrawn. A new version of the Income Tax Bill, incorporating most of the recommendations made by the Select Committee chaired by BJP MP Baijayan Jay Panda, will be introduced in Parliament on Monday. To avoid confusion by multiple versions of the Bill and to provide a clear and updated version with all the changes incorporated, the new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced for the consideration of the House. According to Mr Panda, who chaired the Parliamentary Select Committee responsible for reviewing the legislation, the new law, once passed, will simplify India's decades-old tax structure, cut down legal confusion, and help individual taxpayers and MSMEs avoid unnecessary litigation. "The current Income Tax Act of 1961 has undergone more than 4,000 amendments and contains over 5 lakh words.

'KUM KAPDE WALO KO JANE DIYA': DELHI COUPLE 'DENIED ENTRY' AT RESTAURANT OVER INDIAN ATTIRE; CM ORDERS PROBE

Diary Times Desk : A couple was allegedly denied entry to a restaurant in Delhi's Pitampura for showing up wearing Indian attire, an incident which took place on August 3 but has now prompted chief minister Rekha Gupta to order an investigation.

The alleged incident took place at a restaurant on the Pitampura metro premises on August 3.

In the purported videos of the incident doing the rounds on social media, a man in a T-shirt, accompanied by a woman in a 'kurta-salwar', can be seen complaining about allegedly being denied entry for wearing Indian clothing to the restaurant - 'Tubata'.

"Inhone kum kapde pehenne walo ko jaane diya ye bolke ki aapke ethnic dress ko hum allow nahi karenge [They let those wearing short clothes get in and told us we cannot allow ethnic dress]," the man in the video said.

**IN DONALD TRUMP'S TARIFF DEFENCE, A
1929 GREAT DEPRESSION REFERENCE**

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Friday warned of a '1929-style Great Depression' if the court rules against tariffs. The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, is set to pass judgment on Trump's tariffs as a case involving business and states that have been harmed by tariffs sits on its docket.

"Tariffs are having a huge positive impact on the Stock Market. Almost every day, new records are set. In addition, Hundreds of Billions of Dollars are pouring into our Country's coffers", Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The US president has argued that tariffs will promote domestic manufacturing and will substitute for income taxes.

He defended the tariffs and said, "If a Radical Left Court ruled against us at this late date, in an attempt to bring down or disturb the largest amount of money, wealth creation and influence the U.S.A. has ever seen, it would be impossible to ever recover, or pay back, these massive sums of money and honor."

**"TRUMP WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED": US
DOUBLES DOWN ON INDIA-PAK PEACE
CLAIMS**

Diary Times Desk : The United States got "directly involved" when India and Pakistan were involved in a military conflict earlier this year, claimed US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. He reiterated America's earlier claim that US President Donald Trump stopped the war between the nuclear-armed South Asian nations.

Speaking during an interview to EWTN's 'The World Over' on Thursday, Rubio said that Trump is committed to peace and being the "president of peace".

"And so, we saw when India and Pakistan went to war, we got involved directly, and the president was able to deliver on that peace," Rubio said.

The US leader listed other conflicts that President Trump has supposedly helped resolve and said Americans were proud of those initiatives.

"Cambodia and Thailand more recently; Azerbaijan and Armenia, hopefully...DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)-Rwanda - a 30-year war, 7 million people killed - we were able to bring them here to sign it," Rubio said.

**CHINA WELCOMES PM MODI'S SCO
SUMMIT VISIT: 'WILL BE A GATHERING OF
FRIENDSHIP'**

Diary Times Desk : China on Friday said that it welcomes Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is expected to visit the country from August 31 to September 1 for the regional SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) summit.

"China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said in response to a question.

"We believe that with the concerted effort of all parties, the Tianjin summit will be a gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results, and the SCO will enter a new stage of high-quality development featuring greater solidarity, coordination, dynamism and productiveness," Guo added.

PM Modi's trip to China for the SCO Summit is expected to be clubbed with a visit to Japan for the annual bilateral summit with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

**CHINA WELCOMES NEW US-RUSSIA
CONTACT AS TRUMP SEEKS END TO
UKRAINE WAR**

Diary Times Desk : China's President Xi Jinping has told Russia's Vladimir Putin he is pleased to see Moscow maintain contact with the United States to advance a political resolution of the Ukraine crisis.

The remarks during a phone call between the two leaders on Friday come after the Kremlin said President Putin would meet US President Donald Trump in the coming days.

During the phone call, Xi said China would maintain its stance on the need for peace talks and a diplomatic solution to the Russia-Ukraine war, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported.

The Kremlin said Putin had called his Chinese counterpart to update him on the latest US-Russia talks, during which Xi expressed support for a "long-term" solution to the Ukraine conflict.

**AT LEAST 10 DEAD, 33 MISSING IN
FLASH FLOODS IN CHINA'S
GANSU PROVINCE**

Diary Times Desk : At least 10 people have been killed and 33 are missing in flash floods in northwestern China's Gansu province, according to state media.

"From August 7, continuous heavy rain ... has triggered flash floods. As of 3:30pm (07:30 GMT) on August 8, 10 people have died and 33 are missing," state broadcaster CCTV reported on Friday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping ordered "all-out" rescue operations with "utmost effort" to save the missing people, CCTV said.

Due to the "frequent occurrence of extreme weather", Xi ordered all regions to "resolutely overcome complacency" and strengthen efforts to identify risks, the broadcaster added.

Footage shared by Chinese fire authorities on the social media platform Weibo showed rescuers guiding people through rushing grey water in a village.

Photos posted by Gansu's government showed roads covered in silt and large stones.

Record rainfall has lashed China's north and south in recent weeks in what meteorologists describe as extreme weather linked to climate change.

Heavy rains and flooding have killed at least 60 people across northern China, including Beijing, since late July.

**US HAS NO PLANS TO
RECOGNISE PALESTINIAN
STATE: JD VANCE**

US Vice President JD Vance met with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Friday at a stately home south of London, with the two leaders saying the agenda includes global economics and the Israel-Hamas war and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Taking questions from reporters before their talks, Vance addressed the UK decision to recognise a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza, saying he wasn't sure what such recognition would even mean, "given the lack of a functional government there."

Asked whether Trump had been given a heads up on Israel's announced intent to occupy Gaza City, Vance said he wouldn't go into such conversations.

**TRUMP TO HOST ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN LEADERS FOR 'HISTORIC PEACE
SUMMIT' AT WHITE HOUSE**

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump will host the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan on Friday for what he called a "Historic Peace Summit" aimed at ending a decades-long conflict between two former Soviet republics.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan "will join me at the White House for an official Peace Signing Ceremony," Trump posted Thursday on his Truth Social platform.

Bringing two sworn enemies together as they potentially seal a peace deal would be just the latest diplomatic push by a US leader convinced that his mediation efforts in various international conflicts deserve the Nobel Peace Prize.

Baku and Yerevan, sworn enemies for decades, went to war twice over the disputed Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan recaptured from Armenian forces in a lightning 2023 offensive, sparking the exodus of more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians.

The two countries have held talks aimed at securing a peaceful resolution, including last month in the United Arab Emirates, but a breakthrough has proved elusive.



PUNJAB GOVT TAPS DEPARTMENTS FOR RS 1,441 CRORE AMID FINANCIAL CRUNCH, PPCB OBJECTS

Diary Times Desk : As the government struggles to fill its empty coffers, the state government has directed various departments to deposit a collective amount of Rs 1,441.49 crore by today. The decision was taken following a meeting held on Wednesday. The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), an autonomous body, has also been directed to transfer Rs 250 crore to the state treasury by today. The move has irked PPCB employees and pensioners. They wonder why this development has taken place shortly after the stay imposed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on the ambitious land pooling policy. The meeting minutes show that Forest and Wild Life Conservation has been directed to deposit Rs 84 crore, School Education (Secondary) Rs 62.49 crore, Excise And Taxation Rs 35 crore, Department of Good Governance and Information Technology Rs 60 crore, Department Of Food, Civil Supplies And Consumer Affairs Rs 115 crore, Department Of Industries and Commerce would deposit a whopping Rs 734 crore, Department of Horticulture Rs 20 crore, Department of Science Technology and Environment Rs 272 crore, which mentions non-NGT funds out of surplus of PPCB may be considered for transfer amounting to Rs 250 crore, Department of Home Affairs and Justice Rs 41 crore, Department Of Social Security and Development of Women and Children Rs 18 crore. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary KAP Sinha regarding deposits of amounts lying in department bank accounts. Lovneet Dubey, interim member secretary of PPCB, confirmed the development and said they received directions to deposit Rs 250 crore. He added the matter was under consideration, and the amount hadn't been transferred yet since PPCB is an autonomous body.

THOUSANDS RALLY BEHIND FARM LEADER JAGJIT SINGH DALLEWAL AT LUDHIANA AGAINST PUNJAB LAND POOLING POLICY

Diary Times Desk : Four months after farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal ended his fast, thousands of his supporters gathered at the grain market in Jodhan to protest against the Punjab Land Pooling Policy — a move that has already drawn the ire of landowners across the region.

The protest rally, being dubbed as a “show of strength” by farmers, has been called by the Bharti Kisan Union (BKU-Sidhupur), an outfit led by Dallewal. Nearly 1,000 police personnel have been deployed around the Jodhan grain market to maintain law and order.

While farmer leaders, including Dallewal, and national leaders from Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra were yet to address the massive gathering, Dallewal strongly cautioned the government against what he termed its “sinister designs” to destroy the existence of villages.

GATE RALLIES HELD AT ALL VERKA MILK PLANTS, STATE-LEVEL PROTEST SLATED FOR AUGUST 18 AT 4 MAJOR PLANTS

Diary Times Desk : Gate rallies were held at all Verka milk plants on Thursday to protest the alleged “negligent policies” of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab. Employees accused the government of ignoring their legitimate demands. Verka Dairy Contract Workers’ Union state president Pavandeep Singh said that the AAP government, which came to power promising to regularise outsourced and in-house contractual employees, was now leaving employees in the lurch just like the previous governments. Rupinder Singh, president of the Verka Dairy Contract Workers’ Union, Chandigarh, said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann had said in the Assembly that outsourced employees were being exploited by contractors and companies.

PUNJAB STUDENT'S DEATH IN CANADA: MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER FOR SHOOTING



Diary Times Desk : The man who fired the stray bullet that killed 21-year-old Indian student Harsimrat Randhawa in Canada has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder, an official said.

Hamilton Police, who arrested 32-year-old Jerdaine Foster at Niagara Falls in Ontario on Tuesday, also charged him with three counts of attempted murder, CBC News quoted Acting Det-Sgt Daryl Reid as saying in a news conference.

Randhawa, a second-year student enrolled in a physiotherapy course in Mohawk College, was hit by a stray bullet while standing near a bus stop at the intersection of Upper James Street and South Bend Road on April 17. She succumbed to the injury in the hospital.

The Indian student had reportedly just got off the bus and was waiting to cross the street when the bullet struck her.

HIGH COURT ALLOWS PUNJAB TO MAKE HARYANA PARTY IN BBMB CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday permitted the State of Punjab to make Haryana a party to its petition seeking directions to quash Bhakra Beas Management Board's actions of allegedly allowing “illegal” water allocation to Haryana beyond its agreed share. As the onset, Punjab Advocate-General Maninderjit Singh Bedi prayed for a short adjournment to implead State of Haryana as a party. “Let the same be done by filing appropriate application,” the Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry asserted, while fixing the case for further hearing on August 21.

JUVENILE AMONG TWO HELD FOR PRO-KHALISTAN GRAFFITI IN AMRITSAR

Diary Times Desk : The Amritsar Commissionerate Police has solved the pro-Khalistan graffiti case reported during the night of August 6-7 outside a prominent educational institute, district courts and a temple in the city, said the Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab, Gaurav Yadav, on Friday.

According to the police, two accused, including a minor and both residents of Dargabad village in Batala, have been apprehended within 24 hours of the incident.

Banned pro-Khalistani organisation ‘Sikhs For Justice’, headed by designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannu based in US, had claimed the responsibility in a video message uploaded on social media.

“In a major breakthrough, Amritsar Commissionerate Police cracks the Pro-Khalistan Graffiti case reported on the night of August 6-7 at three locations in the city. Two accused, including a minor—both residents of Dargabad village, Batala—have been apprehended within 24 hours,” said DGP Punjab Gaurav Yadav in a social media post on Friday.

NIA RAIDS 13 LOCATIONS LINKED TO GANGSTERS LAWRENCE BISHNOI, VISHAL PACHAR

Diary Times Desk : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday raided at least 13 locations linked to gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Vishal Pachar in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh and Dausa districts.

Pachar is a close aide of Bishnoi, who is currently lodged in a Gujarat jail. According to police sources, the raided properties included the house of their aide Sahil, who is lodged in a jail. His family was questioned. Houses of Pachar and his aide Shubham were also raided in Purani Abadi of Sriganganagar. A source said the operation lasted till afternoon and the sleuths seized illegal weapons, narcotics, electronic equipment, documents and cash during the raids.

The raids were carried out as part of investigation into two cases related to organised crime and terror activities.

The central agency had been investigating the cases for the past over two months.

Sriganganagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Amrita Duhan said the NIA was assisted by 12 teams of the district police.

HEAVY RAIN TO CONTINUE
TILL AUG 13; ORANGE ALERT
ISSUED FOR MANY HIMACHAL
DISTRICTS

Diary Times Desk : The state has suffered a loss of Rs 1,952.51 crore due to natural disasters triggered by torrential rains since the arrival of the monsoon.

As per the state Revenue Department records, the Public Works Department has been hit the most, suffering a staggering damage to the tune of Rs 1,040 crore. The Jal Shakti Department and Power Department have suffered loss of Rs 661.76 crore and Rs 139.46 crore, respectively, so far. The horticulture as well as the agriculture sector, two of the most important contributors to the state economy, have suffered loss of Rs 27.43 crore and Rs 11.45 crore, respectively. A total of 108 persons have died in natural disasters, including cloudbursts, flashfloods and landslides, across the state. Till now, the state has witnessed 58 flashfloods, 51 landslides and 30 cloudbursts, including the one that occurred in the Tacklech area in Shimla district on Wednesday night. No loss of life was reported in the incident.

**WHERE STONES REMEMBER:
THE FORGOTTEN REBELLION
OF A HILLTOP CITADEL**

Diary Times Desk : Perched on a rugged ridge straddling the Kangra and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh, the Rajpura-Jaswan Fort sits quietly, its weathered stones cloaked in moss and memory. Once a proud sentinel of the hills, the fort now crumbles, not from conquest, but from neglect. Yet, within its ivy-covered ramparts survives a legacy too powerful to be erased — one of courage, cultural richness and resistance against imperial might.

Belonging to the Jaswal Rajputs, a valiant offshoot of the ancient Katoch dynasty, the fort served as more than a fortress. It was a crucible of art, administration and aristocracy, nestled near Nehru in Amb. Close by lies Pragpur, Himachal's only heritage village — named after Princess Prag Dei, a Jaswal royal whose name still graces the region. But it was in the year 1848 that Rajpura-Jaswan carved its boldest chapter into the chronicles of history. Long before 1857 shook the foundations of British rule, the hills trembled with an uprising of their own.

5 OF FAMILY KILLED AS CAR FALLS INTO GORGE IN HIMACHAL'S
CHAMBA

Diary Times Desk : Six people were killed when a boulder hit a moving car causing it to veer off the road and plunge into a gorge in Chanwas area of Churah sub-division in Chamba district on Thursday night.

Police said the family was on the way to their native village when a rock rolled down the hill and hit their vehicle. The car veered off the road and tumbled into the gorge. Locals rushed to the spot on hearing a loud sound. The deceased have been identified as Rajesh Kumar, a 40-year-old schoolteacher from Bulwas; his wife Hanso, 36; their daughter Aarti, 17; and son Deepak, 15. Also, among the dead were Hemraj, 37, serving in the army; and a villager, Rakesh Kumar, 44.

Hemraj, who was behind the wheel, had come home on leave about 15 days ago. On Thursday evening, he was going to drop off his sister, brother-in-law, and their children at their native village. Rakesh Kumar had taken a lift.



WATER RECEDES FROM ARTIFICIAL LAKE, NALAGARH
VILLAGERS HEAVE SIGH OF RELIEF

Diary Times Desk : Villagers heaved a sigh of relief after water gradually receded from a nearly 60-foot artificial lake developed due to accumulation of water at Kumarhatti village on the Shimla- Kunihar Ramsheher- Nalagarh road last evening following incessant rain.

An alert had been sounded by the Nalagarh administration after a sizable quantity of water had accumulated following a heavy downpour in the area on Tuesday night. With rain continuing to hit the area in the day yesterday, the administration was fearful that sudden water release from the spot could have triggered flooding in the adjacent area last evening. This situation had arisen due to a major land subsidence spanning about 300 m which had also halted the movement of vehicular traffic as large quantity of muck and boulders had flowed down on the road. Motorists were forced to take a detour from Mittan- Metha- Gol Jamala-Nalagarh route to reach their destination. A temporary road, created after a similar disruption had taken place in the monsoon of 2023, had also eroded in the torrential rain, informed an official of the Public Works Department.

NO REPRIEVE FOR HIMACHAL AS FLASH
FLOODS, LANDSLIDES BLOCK 358 ROADS

Diary Times Desk : With light to moderate rain in the past 24 hours, flash floods and landslides continued in various locations across Himachal Pradesh, and a total of 358 roads, including two national highways, were closed on Friday, officials said.

The Chandigarh-Manali National Highway 21, which was opened after 40 hours on Thursday afternoon, was closed again on Friday following a landslide in Mandi district, while the Auto-Sainj road NH 305 was blocked near Jahed and Banjar in Kullu district. Reports of damage to private orchards have also poured in from the Narkanda-Shilaroo area of the Shimla district as floods from drains entered the lands. A landslide occurred on the road in front of the famous Baba Balak Nath Temple, Diyotsiddha, in the Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh on Friday. The local MeT office issued a yellow warning of heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning in three to six districts on Saturday and Sunday, and an orange alert of heavy rains in isolated areas of the state from Monday to Thursday.

500 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DAMAGED IN RAINS: HIMACHAL EDUCATION MINISTER

Diary Times Desk : Education Minister Rohit Thakur today said that over 500 educational institutions have sustained damaged due to heavy rains this monsoon. "The estimated losses are worth around Rs 30 crore. The officials have been directed to utilise the funds received under Post Disaster Needs Assessment in a judicious manner to repair the buildings, giving priority to the schools that have sustained over 75 percent damage," said the minister after heading a review meeting of the department here today.

He further stressed that physical monitoring of reconstruction works should be carried out regularly to ensure timely and quality completion of repair and restoration efforts.

A key decision taken during the meeting was the inclusion of horticulture as a vocational subject in schools. He instructed Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education to prepare a suitable curriculum for the subject and submit the proposal within two weeks. The minister reviewed the implementation of several important initiatives, including the Rajiv Gandhi Model Day Boarding Schools and Atal Adarsh Vidyalayas. He directed the officials to expedite the recruitment process to ensure timely filling of vacancies in schools and colleges.



"R ASHWIN ASKS CSK TO RELEASE HIM": SOCIAL MEDIA POST STIRS INTERNET
AMID SANJU SAMSON RUMOURS

Diary Times Desk : There are a few months to go before the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise finalises their plans for the 2026 season but rumours of potential trades and exits are already doing rounds on social media. For a couple of days, the exit of Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson has been buzzing the world of cricket, with Chennai Super Kings being rumoured as the ideal destination for the wicket-keeper batter. A social media post has now claimed that Ravichandran Ashwin, who returned to CSK last year, has asked the franchise bosses to release him. Ashwin's homecoming to the Chennai franchise last year created plenty of buzz, considering it was the same franchise with whom the off-spinner started his career. But Ashwin's return home seems to be lasting for just one year.



CLUTCH SHELTON CLAIMS ATP
MASTERS 1000 BREAKTHROUGH IN
TORONTO

Diary Times Desk : Ben Shelton has surged to a career-high World No. 6 and become the youngest American ATP Masters 1000 champion in two decades after a pulsating final victory over Karen Khachanov at the National Bank Open Presented by Rogers Thursday night in Toronto.

The 22-year-old American has built a reputation as one of the game's best frontrunners, but Shelton's victory in his first Masters 1000 final was underpinned by his ability to rebound from adversity – and to come up clutch when it mattered in the tense 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-6(3) victory.

Shelton rallied from 0/40 to serve out the second set and then, serving from behind during a tense final set when Khachanov breezed through a string of service games, forced his way to his third third-set tie-break of the tournament, where he won his 14th consecutive point on serve to close it out.

"It's a surreal feeling," Shelton said. "It's been a long week, not an easy path to the final. My best tennis came out when it mattered most. I was clutch, I persevered, I was resilient. All the qualities I like to see in myself."

11 ISL CLUBS WRITE LETTER TO AIFF, DEMAND SITUATION TO BE TAKEN TO
SUPREME COURT 'URGENTLY'

Diary Times Desk : Eleven Indian Super League clubs on Friday urged the AIFF to urgently bring the "current situation" of Indian football arising out of the uncertainty over ISL's future to the attention of the Supreme Court before which a case relating to the constitution of the national federation is pending. The ISL clubs, in a letter, said that they will have no option but to seek judicial recourse independently if the All India Football Federation does not act on their request. Out of the 13 ISL clubs, Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal did not sign the letter. The development came a day after the AIFF proposed the Super Cup in September to ensure sufficient competitive matches for the clubs after ISL organisers FSDL put a "pause" on the league due to uncertainty over the renewal of Master Rights Agreement (MRA) it signed with the national federation in 2010. Following a directive from the Supreme Court, the AIFF has been asked not to negotiate new terms of the MRA (with FSDL) until a final judgment is delivered in the AIFF draft constitution case.



VIRAT KOHLI LOOKS
UNRECOGNISABLE LESS THAN A
MONTH AFTER HIS LAST PUBLIC
APPEARANCE; FANS CONCERNED:
'THE END IS NEAR'

Diary Times Desk : Virat Kohli has sparked concern among fans after a new picture of the Indian batting superstar emerged on Friday. Kohli was clicked with a guy called Shash Kiran in London, and while social media could not confirm who the person is, Virat's grey beard grabbed all the attention. Kohli looks visibly different, even borderline unrecognisable because of the greyness in his beard, and the fact that he is 36, closing in on 37, hit his fans like a brick. Less than a month after he last made a public appearance – in an event hosted by Yuvraj Singh on July 10 – Kohli's appearance has left fans shocked and concerned.

It was during the YouWeCan event that Kohli broke silence on his decision to retire from Test cricket. Although he did not elaborate in detail, Kohli did mention, "I just coloured my beard two days ago. You know it's time when you are colouring your beard every four days." While it became fodder for memes to aim potshots at Kohli, with many believing he was hiding the real reason behind his humour, the fact that Virat has a lot of grey proves his point.

"WHEN THERE'S BEEN A
CHALLENGE...": EX-INDIA
STAR'S NO-NONSENSE
VERDICT ON SHUBMAN GILL

Diary Times Desk : Former Indian wicket-keeper batter Parthiv Patel hailed Indian Test skipper Shubman Gill for answering all the critics with a record-breaking performance during the England tour, which ended in a well-fought 2-2 draw. During the five-match series, Gill scored a massive 754 runs at an average of 75.40, with four centuries and a career best score of 269. He outbatted the other players by miles, with his best outing being at Birmingham, when he scored 269 and 161 across both innings. Gill had headed into the series with sub-par numbers outside Asia, having not breached the 40-run mark since his iconic 91-run knock against Australia at Brisbane in 2021, despite getting some solid starts.

Speaking on 'Follow The Blues', the JioStar expert Parthiv said, "Four centuries, an average of 75.40, and more than 750 runs -- all scored across different conditions. Earlier, when he walked out to bat, there were questions: Will he be able to perform in the SENA countries? Can he deliver consistently? But look at the answers he has given. 147 runs in the first innings at Headingley. In the second innings, people said he threw his wicket away after that big score."