

RAKSHA
BANDHAN

PM MODI CELEBRATES RAKSHA BANDHAN WITH SCHOOL
KIDS, BRAHMA KUMARI MEMBERS AT HIS RESIDENCE

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday celebrated Raksha Bandhan at his residence here, with school children and members of the spiritual organisation Brahma Kumari tying rakhis on his wrist.

The festival is the celebration of the traditional bond between brothers and sisters.

Modi also posted a message on X, greeting people on the auspicious occasion.

One student lauded him as a “warrior and saviour”, while some made references to Operation Sindoor. A school kid said she has brought a peacock rakhi for “Modi uncle”, while another expressed her wish to be a prime minister like him.

The prime minister was seen enjoying the celebration, praising a student for remembering a number of his government schemes, which she had incorporated in a poem.

Modi also posted a message on X, greeting people on the auspicious occasion.

Posting the video clip, he added, “Here are highlights from a very special Raksha Bandhan celebration earlier today. Gratitude to our Nari Shakti for their continuous trust and affection.”

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also extended heartfelt greetings to the nation on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, a festival celebrating the unbreakable bond of love and trust between siblings.



GLOBAL
PLASTICS
TREATY

INDIA BACKS LIKE-MINDED GROUP; OPPOSES GLOBAL
PHASE-OUT LIST IN PLASTICS TREATY TALKS



Diary Times Desk : For the first time in the global plastics treaty negotiations, India has openly opposed the inclusion of any global list with phase-out dates under the article on plastic products – a move that puts it squarely alongside Kuwait and the Like-Minded Group (LMG) of countries that includes Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Iran.

Speaking at the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) in Geneva, Vir Vikram Yadav, Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board and member of India’s delegation, warned that such provisions would have “larger implications in respect of the right to development of Member States” and should be avoided.

“The instrument needs to have a clearly defined scope... Separate article on supply or any measures to regulate the production of primary plastic polymers has larger implications... Similarly, inclusion of any global list with phase-out dates under the article on plastic products should be avoided,” Yadav told the stocktake plenary.

India also reiterated that all decisions should be taken by consensus and that the treaty’s scope should focus strictly on “addressing plastic pollution only” as mandated by the 5/14 resolution, without overlapping with other multilateral bodies such as the WTO or WHO.

The stance aligns with Kuwait’s call, on behalf of the Arab Group, for a “party-driven process” and for avoiding irreconcilable issues, as well as with Iran’s rejection of stand-alone texts on scope, supply, and exemptions. This bloc has resisted broadening the treaty’s mandate to include production caps or health provisions and has pushed for more procedural control by member states.

8 KILLED AS WALL COLLAPSES AMID HEAVY RAIN IN DELHI

Diary Times Desk : At least eight people were killed after a wall collapsed amid heavy rain in Delhi's Hari Nagar this morning, officials said. The fire department received a call about the incident at 9.16 am, and three fire trucks were rushed to the spot along with police teams, the Delhi Fire Service said.

The victims were identified as Shabibul (30), Rabibul (30), Muttu Ali (45), Rubina (25), Dolly (25), Rukhsana (6) and Haseena (7). The exact cause of the collapse is yet to be ascertained, officials said.

The national capital recorded heavy rain overnight, causing waterlogging in several areas.

In the 24 hours till 8.30 am on Saturday, Delhi's primary weather station at Safdarjung recorded 78.7 mm of rainfall, Pragati Maidan 100 mm, Lodhi Road 80 mm, Pusa 69 mm, and Palam 31.8 mm, according to data shared by the weather department.

The temperature was recorded at 23.8 degrees Celsius on Saturday morning, 3.2 notches below the average.



HUNDREDS OF TROOPS ARE INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE BIGGEST ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS TO TRACK DOWN HIDING TERRORISTS.

Diary Times Desk : The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Saturday said it recorded its highest-ever daily ridership on August 8 with 81.87 lakh passenger journeys across all corridors.

The previous record was 78.67 lakh journeys on November 18, 2024. Other high ridership days include August 20, 2024, with 77.48 lakh journeys, and February 13, 2024, with 71.09 lakh journeys, officials said.

To cater to the festive rush for Raksha Bandhan, DMRC operated 92 additional trips on August 8 and is running 455 extra trips on August 9 to provide more carrying capacity, the corporation said.



"These figures reflect the growing trust of commuters in the Metro's reliability, punctuality and seamless connectivity across Delhi-NCR," a DMRC official added.

FIRST-EVER FREIGHT TRAIN ARRIVES IN VALLEY, MARKS NEW ERA OF LOGISTICAL, ECONOMIC GROWTH



Diary Times Desk : In yet another boost to Jammu and Kashmir's transportation network, the Indian Railways on Saturday ran a freight train for the first time from Rupnagar in Punjab to Anantnag in Kashmir.

The freight train, carrying cement, reached Anantnag Goods Shed in the Kashmir Valley on Saturday around 12 noon, marking a major milestone in connecting the Kashmir region to the national freight network. The goods train comes two months after the successful launch of passenger operations on the complete stretch of 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), or Kashmir line, in June this year. The freight connectivity is expected to give a new lease of life to Kashmiri fruit and handicraft industry by easing access to markets across the country.

"The arrival of freight train in Kashmir Valley heralds a new era of logistical and economic growth," the Railway Ministry said in a statement, calling it a historical development. "(It) is not just a logistical achievement but a powerful symbol of progress and integration, paving the way for a more connected and prosperous Kashmir Valley," said the ministry.

2 SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION DURING ENCOUNTER WITH TERRORISTS IN J&K'S KULGAM

Diary Times Desk : Two army soldiers were killed in action during a close combat with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district as the gunfight entered its ninth day on Saturday.

This is one of the longest encounters between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past as terrorists appear to be well entrenched in a densely forest area.

"Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of the Bravehearts, L/Nk Pritpal Singh and Sep Harminder Singh, in line of duty for the Nation. Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us. IndianArmy expresses deepest condolences and stand in solidarity with the bereaved families. Operation continues" Army's 15 Corps headquarters said in a post on X.

Official sources said two more soldiers were injured in the overnight gunbattle, taking the number of injured to 10. Hundreds of troops are involved in one of the biggest anti-terrorist operations to track down hiding terrorists.



YOUR HOROSCOPE 10-08-2025



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.



THREAT OF LANDSLIDE LOOMS OVER SIX VILLAGES OF KULLU DISTRICT, TEAM OF GEOLOGISTS WILL CONDUCT SURVEY

Diary Times Desk : Threat of landslide looms over six villages of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh namely Ghaliad, Darmedha, Talinga, Balu, Kubni and Raunal. Out of these, Ghaliad village of Tirthan valley of Banjar and Darmedha village of Sainj are at greater risk. In view of this, the district administration will get Darmedha and Ghaliad villages surveyed by a team of geologists. More than 100 people from about 30 families live in Ghaliad village of Tirthan valley of Banjar and Darmedha village of Sainj. The district administration has decided to get a survey conducted by a team of geologists regarding the threat of landslide looming over these villages. Geologists will examine the soil of both the villages and will find out the reason for the danger of the hills cracking from behind the villages. Regarding this, SDM Banjar has started preparing a report and it will be sent to the Geological Survey of India through the district administration for survey.

Landslides have been occurring from the hill behind Darmedha village for about two weeks and about 60 members of 14 families of the village are in panic. The administration has also distributed tents for their safety. Arrangements have been made for them to stay in the rest house of Great Himalayan National Park in Ropa. Some people are forced to stay in the rest house while many people are forced to stay at their close relatives' place. Villagers Chet Ram and Rameshwar Thakur said that the danger is not over. The series of landslides from behind the village continues. Landslides are also continuously occurring from the hill behind Ghaliad village of Tirthan Valley of Banjar. The houses of the village are in danger. In view of this, the administration has already evacuated 10 houses of the village. The families are being accommodated in tents in safe places.

EX-SERVICEMAN SUICIDE CASE: FOUR PAGE SUICIDE NOTE FOUND, MENTIONS FAMILY FEUD, WORK PRESSURE AT BANK

Diary Times Desk : A four page suicide note of a former Navy soldier has been found, in which family feud has been mentioned. At the end of the suicide note, it is written for the family that I am leaving. Do not worry about me. No one is responsible for my death.

In the suicide note, the former soldier has described himself as an honest person. Also, it has been written about work pressure. It is written in the suicide note that his wife used to beat the children. He used to forbid it. There is no reconciliation with the ongoing disputes with his father. He used to go to office on time. He used to work on time. Despite this, there is a lot of pressure at the workplace. On the other hand, the police have seized the suicide note and started investigation. The suicide note will be examined by handwriting experts.

HIMACHAL: LIKE BUTTON MUSHROOM, GUCCHI FULL OF MEDICINAL PROPERTIES WILL NOW BE PREPARED IN EVERY SEASON, MUSHROOM DIRECTORATE STARTED RESEARCH

Diary Times Desk : Himachal: Like button mushroom, Gucchi full of medicinal properties will now be prepared in every season, Mushroom Directorate started research

Scientists of Mushroom Directorate Solan have started research work on its climate and seed. Till now Gucchi is found naturally only in winter in the forests of Deodar and Kayal at an altitude of more than 6,500 feet. In the two-day National Mushroom Conference at Khub Directorate Solan, scientists told that success had already been achieved in growing Gucchi in greenhouse, now work is being done to make it production-worthy in every season. Scientist Dr. Anil Kumar said that just like button mushroom is grown throughout the year, similarly Gucchi can also be grown on commercial level. Dr. Anil said that soon its seed will be prepared.

Price 25 to 30 thousand rupees per kg

Naturally grown Gucchi is sold for about 25 to 30 thousand rupees per kg. Gucchi is also exported. Director of Mushroom Directorate, Dr. VP Sharma said that scientists have done successful research on growing Gucchi in greenhouse. Now research is being done on seeds and size. When the seeds are ready, it can be grown in every season. The quality of Gucchi grown naturally and in greenhouse is the same. A presentation was also given on Gucchi in the conference, in which scientists shared their research on the success achieved so far.

Gucchi has many medicinal properties

According to scientists, Vitamin D, C, Iron, Copper, Zinc and Phosphorus are found in good quantity in Gucchi. Its consumption helps in eliminating arthritis, thyroid, bone disease, mental stress. At the same time, it is beneficial in curing heart diseases and healing body injuries quickly. Due to being full of qualities, Gucchi is most liked in foreign countries. It is also prepared on special order in famous hotels.

KALPANA OF MANALI TIED RAKHI TO A 17-YEAR-OLD TREE, PLANTED A DEODAR TREE IN CHILDHOOD

Diary Times Desk : Rakshabandhan festival, a symbol of unbreakable love between brother and sister, was celebrated with great pomp on Saturday. Kalpana Thakur, daughter of Manali, Himachal Pradesh, tied Rakhi to a 17-year-old deodar tree in Aleu Bihal like every year. Kalpana had planted this tree. Since then, she also ties Rakhi to this tree considering it as her brother. On Saturday, after the fixed time of tying Rakhi, Kalpana Thakur reached Aleu Bihal with her environmentalist and national award winner father Kishan Thakur and after worship, tied Rakhi to the deodar tree.

After this, she also planted a tree on the occasion of Rakshabandhan at the same place. Environment lover Kalpana Thakur, originally from Muling village of tribal district Lahaul-Spiti, planted a deodar tree in Aleu Bihal at the age of three. Since then, she ties Rakhi to this tree considering it as her brother. She also takes care of it. On this occasion Kalpana said that everyone should protect the environment and plant as many trees as possible. This is very important for environmental balance.

HIMACHAL: 202 DRIVERS WILL BE PROMOTED IN PATH PARIVAHAN NIGAM, MANAGEMENT SOUGHT LIST FROM DEPOT

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Path Parivahan Nigam management has released the monthly salary of HRTC employees. Salary has arrived in the employees' account on Friday. On the other hand, 202 drivers will also be promoted in the corporation. There are about 7,500 employees in HRTC at present. These employees are constantly demanding salary on the 1st of the month. This is not happening due to the poor financial condition of HRTC. The management has deposited the salary in the employees' account on Friday.

The corporation management says that the system is being rectified. Efforts are being made to deposit it in the employees' account by the 1st of next month. However, pensioners have not received pension yet. On the other hand, 202 drivers will soon be promoted in Himachal Path Parivahan Nigam (HRTC). These drivers will now be promoted to the post of senior driver.

THE RG KAR HORROR:
WHEN THE "SAFEST CITY"
STOOD IN SILENCE

Diary Times Desk : A year ago, on this day, the rape and murder of a young doctor at a state-run hospital in Kolkata had exposed the worst fears of the women working night shifts in the city known to be the safest among metros. The horror that played out over the previous night at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in a bustling northern neighbourhood, triggered a series of protests and calls for justice – unknown to the city's younger generations. A year later, the lone convict – a civic police volunteer – had already been imprisoned for life. But the doctor's parents aren't convinced. Their fight for justice continues.

RG Kar: Then And Now

RG Kar Hospital is a key landmark in the City of Joy. Surrounded by busy roads, chatters of college goers and honking buses, the hospital caters to a huge population residing in the city's north as well as from across West Bengal. Days aren't much different than the nights here, as is the case with such big hospitals. A few shops would stay open even at midnight, especially near the emergency ward, to cater to the relatives of those waiting the hospital overnight. Tea-points dotted the hospital gates, selling midnight snacks.

'ENORMOUS MISTAKE':
FORMER TRUMP AIDE SAYS
50% TARIFF ON INDIA
COULD BACKFIRE FOR US

Diary Times Desk : John Bolton, former US National Security Advisor, has cautioned regarding President Donald Trump's 50 per cent tariff imposition on India. In an interview with CNN, Bolton highlighted Trump's approach as risky, leading to the deepening of India's ties with Russia and China instead of America. He called Trump's decision an "enormous mistake" and called out the president for showing bias towards Beijing over New Delhi.

Outcomes of high tariffs on India
In the CNN interview, he said, "Trump's tariffs against India are intended to hurt Russia but they could push India closer to Russia and to China to oppose these tariffs." Highlighting the bias, Ex-NSA added, "Trump's leniency on the Chinese, and heavy-handed tariffs on India, jeopardise decades of American efforts to bring India away from Russia and China."
Mr Pawar's comments coincided with the Maharashtra Congress' observance of the 83rd anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

MORE IMAGES SHOW BATTERING THAT PAK
AIR FORCE TOOK IN OPERATION SINDOOR

Diary Times Desk : Several new images of Pakistani military targets struck by India during Operation Sindoor clearly show the neighbouring country's forces, especially its air assets, took a sound beating.

The images were part of a presentation shared by Air Chief Marshal AP Singh earlier today, who for the first time announced the Indian Air Force (IAF) shot down five Pakistani fighter jets and a large aircraft.

The aim of the presentation was to cover what happened during Operation Sindoor and the IAF's thought process during the short but swift conflict that began with the killing of 26 tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam by Pakistan-linked terrorists.

In Pakistan's Arifwala, an IAF loiter munition successfully struck a radar installation. The image shows the actual targeting symbology. The before and after images show the radar head had been damaged.

DELHI RECORDS COLDEST AUGUST DAY IN 14
YEARS AT 26 DEGREE CELSIUS



"NORMAL PARLIAMENTARY
PROCEDURE": KIREN RIJIJU ON NEW
INCOME TAX BILL

Diary Times Desk : Amid criticism of the new Income Tax Bill's withdrawal from the Lok Sabha, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that introducing a Bill in Parliament after necessary amendments is a normal procedure. The new Income Tax Bill was withdrawn from the Lok Sabha on Friday and will be tabled in the House by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday after incorporating around 285 suggestions by a Select Committee, BJP member Baijayant Panda. Concerns were raised over the Bill's withdrawal, especially on social media. "It is being presumed that there will be an absolutely new bill, ignoring the earlier bill for which a lot of work was done, and all the work done and time spent will go down," Mr Rijiju said. "It is a normal convention that when a Select Committee submits a report and there are several amendments which are suggested and accepted by the government, the earlier bill is withdrawn and a new bill with all the amendments as accepted is introduced, so that it becomes easier for the Parliament to consider and pass the bill".

SHARAD PAWAR CLAIMS 'SEAT
GUARANTEE' OFFERED AHEAD
OF POLLS, D FADNAVIS SAYS...

Diary Times Desk : NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar has claimed that ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, two individuals approached him offering a "guarantee" of 160 seats for the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance, well above the 145 needed for a majority in the 288-member House.

"I introduced them to Rahul Gandhi. He dismissed the offer and felt we should not get involved in such matters, but instead go directly to the people," Mr Pawar said in Nagpur.

This marks the first time in recent years that the veteran leader has publicly questioned the Election Commission of India (ECI). The BJP has countered that if the incident was genuine, Pawar should have alerted authorities at the time.

Reacting to Pawar's statement, Chief Minister Fadnavis questioned its timing. "Why did Mr Pawar remember this after meeting Rahul Gandhi? For many years, even though Rahul spoke of EVMs, Mr Pawar said it was wrong to raise such doubts. This change is the impact of their meeting," he said.

'INDIA HAS INDEPENDENT STANDING':
ECONOMIST JEFFREY SACHS CALLS
DONALD TRUMP'S TARIFFS
'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'

Diary Times Desk : Famed economist Jeffrey Sachs has warned that India would not reap any security benefits by siding with the United States. Sachs' statement comes amid US President Donald Trump's imposing 50 percent tariffs on imports from India. According to the economist, US politicians do not care about India. "US politicians don't care at all about India. Please understand this. India is not going to reap long-term security by siding with the United States in the Quad against China. India is a great power that has an independent standing in the world. Everything that Trump is doing on tariffs is unconstitutional," said Sachs during an interview with Hindustan Times. Sachs explained that India should not count on some great trade relationship with the US, even though New Delhi could reduce Washington's dependence on the Chinese supply chains. "When I was in India in the spring, I said, don't count on some great trade relationship.

RAILWAYS ANNOUNCES DISCOUNT ON RETURN JOURNEY TICKETS AHEAD OF
FESTIVE SEASON

Diary Times Desk : The Ministry of Railways has announced an experimental "Round Trip Package for Festival Rush" scheme aimed at easing passenger congestion and ensuring smoother travel during the upcoming festive season.

According to a Railway Board circular issued on August 8, the scheme offers a 20 per cent rebate on the base fare of the return journey for passengers booking confirmed tickets for both onward and return travel for the same set of passengers, class, and origin-destination pair.

The initiative aims to redistribute crowding, facilitate hassle-free bookings, and enhance the utilisation of train services, including special trains, in both directions.

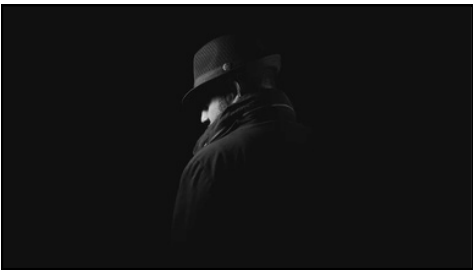
Under the scheme, bookings will open on August 14, 2025, for onward journeys scheduled between October 13 and October 26, 2025. The corresponding return journey must be booked using the connecting journey feature for travel between November 17 and December 1, 2025. Advance reservation period norms will not apply to the return journey booking. The scheme will be valid across all classes and trains, except those operating with flexi-fare pricing, and will only apply to confirmed tickets.

INDIA ENDORSES US-RUSSIA SUMMIT IN ALASKA, CITES PM MODI'S REMARK

Diary Times Desk : After US President Donald Trump announced that he will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin next Friday, 15th August, in Alaska for talks aimed around ending the war in Ukraine, the Ministry of External Affairs in a statement said that India welcomes the understanding between the US and Russia for a meeting.

"India welcomes the understanding reached between the United States and the Russian Federation for a meeting in Alaska on 15th August 2025", the statement said, adding "This meeting holds the promise of bringing to an end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and opening up the prospects for peace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said on several occasions, "This is not an era of war".

This will be Putin's first trip to the United States since 2015, when he met former President Barack Obama.

"WILL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THEM": IRAN ARRESTS 20 ALLEGED ISRAELI SPIES

Diary Times Desk : Iran has arrested 20 people it alleges are operatives of Israel's Mossad spy agency in recent months, the judiciary said on Saturday, warning that they will face no leniency and will be made an example of.

On Wednesday, Iran executed a nuclear scientist named Rouzbeh Vadi, who was convicted of spying for Israel and passing on information on another nuclear scientist killed in Israel's air strikes on Iran in June, state media reported.

Judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangiri told reporters in Tehran on Saturday that charges against some of the 20 suspects arrested had been dropped, and they were released. He did not give a number.

"The judiciary will show no leniency toward spies and agents of the Zionist regime, and with firm rulings, will make an example of them all," Jahangiri was quoted as saying by Iranian media.

DONALD TRUMP REPEATS ROLE IN INDIA-PAKISTAN TRUCE; ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN SAY HE DESERVES NOBEL PRIZE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Friday renewed his claims of brokering peace between India and Pakistan while signing a peace accord between Armenia and Azerbaijan at the White House. He also highlighted his role as a mediator in several other countries, including Thailand and Cambodia.

After the signing of the accords, the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan also stated that they would nominate Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for the historic agreement, news agencies reported. Azerbaijan President Aliyev said that both countries will issue a joint letter for the Nobel Peace Prize, stating, "Who, if not President Trump, deserves the Nobel Peace Prize?"

Speaking at the ceremony alongside the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Trump said, "Today's signing follows our success with India and Pakistan."

3 INJURED IN SHOOTING AT NEW YORK'S TIMES SQUARE, SUSPECT TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

Diary Times Desk : Three people were injured in a shooting at New York City's Times Square on Saturday, reported the Associated Press. The incident reportedly took place around 1:20 am (local time). Purported videos on social media showed people running away from the scene and police cordoning off the area and attending to the wounded people. A suspect has been reportedly taken into custody and is being questioned. No charges have been pressed so far.

UK POLICE ARREST AT LEAST 200 PEOPLE AT PALESTINE ACTION PROTEST IN LONDON

Diary Times Desk : Police in London say they have arrested at least 200 people at a protest in support of the group Palestine Action, which was classified as a "terror organisation" by the British government last month.

The Metropolitan Police said on Saturday that 200 demonstrators had been arrested at Parliament Square "for showing support for a proscribed organisation".

"It will take time, but we will arrest anyone expressing support for Palestine Action," the police force said in an earlier post on X.

The arrests are the latest at a series of protests denouncing the government's ban on Palestine Action, a move critics say infringes on freedom of speech and the right to protest, as well as aims to stifle demonstrations against Israel's war on the Gaza Strip.

Under the Terrorism Act 2000, membership in or support for the group is now a criminal offence punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

Reporting from Parliament Square on Saturday, Al Jazeera's Sonia Gallego said the threat of arrest or punishment "hasn't deterred any supporters" of Palestine Action from expressing their backing for the group.

VANCE AND LAMMY HOST UKRAINE TALKS AHEAD OF US-RUSSIA SUMMIT

US Vice-President JD Vance and UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy are hosting a meeting of senior security officials near London to discuss the war in Ukraine.

Earlier on Saturday, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer had a call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and said they agreed it would be a "vital forum" to discuss progress towards peace.

Zelensky has stressed he will make no territorial concessions to Russia ahead of a summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin next week to discuss the future of the war.

Trump earlier signalled Ukraine may have to cede territory to end the war, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Saturday's meeting is understood to be taking place at Chevening, Lammy's official country residence in Kent, where Vance and his family are currently staying, and to have been called at the request of the US.

Senior security officials from the US, Ukraine and Europe will take part.

"NOT GOING TO OCCUPY GAZA, WILL FREE IT FROM HAMAS": NETANYAHU AMID BACKLASH

Diary Times Desk : Israel's military will "take control" of Gaza City under a new plan approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet, touching off a wave of criticism Friday from both inside and outside the country.

Nearly two years into the war in Gaza, Netanyahu faces mounting pressure to secure a truce to pull the territory's more than two million people back from the brink of famine and free the hostages held by Palestinian militants. Israel's foe Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 attack triggered the war, denounced the plan to expand the fighting as a "new war crime".

Staunch Israeli ally Germany meanwhile took the extraordinary step of halting military exports out of concern they could be used in Gaza, a move Netanyahu slammed as a reward for Hamas.

Under the newly approved plan to "defeat" Hamas, the Israeli army "will prepare to take control of Gaza City while distributing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population outside combat zones", the premier's office said Friday.

Netanyahu in a post on X said "we are not going to occupy Gaza -- we are going to free Gaza from Hamas".



PUNJAB SOLDIER'S WIFE MOURNS, HER HANDS STILL ADORNING MEHNDI, ARMS WITH WEDDING BANGLES MOVE MANY TO TEARS

Diary Times Desk : Army soldier Lance Naik Pritpal Singh was killed during an anti-terrorist operation in the dense forests of Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday night. Another soldier who was killed has been identified as Sepoy Harminder Singh from Badinpur (Mandi Gobindgarh).

The operation has been ongoing since August 1. His family in Khanna's Manupur village was informed at 5 am on Saturday. The devastating news shattered the household, especially his wife Manpreet Kaur, who had married Pritpal just six months ago on February 26.

The sight of her hands still adorned with mehndi and arms with wedding bangles moved many to tears. Pritpal joined the Indian Army in 2015, right after completing his Class 12. He is survived by his elderly parents, wife, and two brothers, Manpreet and Harpreet Singh. The family said they were dependent on him financially and emotionally.



PUNJAB MINISTER BAINS CLEANS DEVOTEES' FOOTWEAR AS PART OF 'TANKAH' FOR SRINAGAR EVENT

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains today undertook 'tankah' (religious atonement) at Gurudwara Shishganj Sahib in Anandpur Sahib. The "tankah" was imposed by five Sikh high priests, including the officiating Jathedar of the Akal Takht, for permitting song and dance during an event commemorating Guru Tegh Bahadur's 350th martyrdom anniversary in Srinagar — an act deemed a violation of Sikh maryada (code of conduct). As part of the penalty, Bains was ordered to undertake a barefoot pilgrimage: walking from the Golden Temple to Gurdwara Guru Ke Mahal, visiting Gurdwara Kotha Sahib and Gurdwara Baba Bakala, and offering prayers at Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib in Delhi. He was also directed to perform two days of sewa (voluntary service) including cleaning devotees' footwear and sweeping the gurdwara premises in Anandpur Sahib, offer a deg (karah prasad) worth Rs 1,100, and join in ardas seeking forgiveness. Additionally, he is to repair and maintain roads leading to these sacred sites — a first in incorporating infrastructure work into such religious atonement.

LAND POOLING POLICY NOTIFIED IN HASTE; LACKS SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES: HC

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has come down strongly on Punjab's Land Pooling Policy-2025. The court asserts that the state proposed to take over "tens of thousands of acres of fertile land" for proposed development work without carrying out social or environmental impact assessment studies. "We are, prima facie, of the view that the policy appears to have been notified in haste and all concerns, including social impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, timelines, and redressal grievance mechanism should have been addressed at the very outset in the policy before its notification," the division bench of Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal and Justice Deepak Manchanda asserted.

CONGRESS MLA SUKHPAL KHAIRA'S FORMER PSO HELD IN 2015 DRUGS CASE



Diary Times Desk : Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Saturday said police have arrested Joga Singh, former personal security officer of Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira, in a 2015 drug case. He said Joga had been absconding after being named as an accused on September 28, 2023, and despite numerous police raids, he remained at large.

His bail was denied by the Fazilka session court in October 2023 and thereafter by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in January 2024, said Cheema.

Joga was detained by the immigration authorities at the New Delhi airport as he was attempting to flee to Australia, said the finance minister.

He was caught as a look-out circular (LoC) was active against him since November 2023. Joga was produced before a court in Jalalabad, which granted a five-day police remand. Cheema alleged that Joga played a key role in facilitating communication between Khaira and siblings Gurdev Singh and his UK-based sister, Charanjit Kaur.

OVER 2,000 ADVOCATES DEMAND URGENT JUDGE APPOINTMENTS, END TO 'JUDGE-SON' NEXUS

Diary Times Desk : In a sweeping call for systemic overhaul in judicial appointments, more than 2,000 advocates have backed a requisition seeking the immediate filling up of approximately 283 vacant high court judges' posts, including 35 (now 26 after oath of 10 judges on August 4) in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, warning that judicial delays, institutional favouritism, and in-breeding are threatening the credibility and independence of the higher judiciary.

HARSIMRAT BADAL TIES RAKHI TO BROTHER MAJITHIA IN NABHA JAIL AFTER HIGH-VOLTAGE DRAMA

Diary Times Desk : Former minister and Member of Parliament Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Saturday visited Nabha jail and tied a rakhi to her brother, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia, who was arrested in a disproportionate assets case.

Majithia is lodged in New Nabha jail at Patiala after the Mohali court extended his judicial custody until August 14.

However, high-voltage drama unfolded before the ceremony this afternoon as Harsimrat lambasted the government for not letting her tie a Rakhi to her brother.

"I came amidst the rain from Delhi to tie a Rakhi on the wrist of my brother, Bikram Majithia, who is lodged in Nabha jail on false charges, but was denied this right. I have been trying for the last four days to get permission to observe Raksha Bandhan with my brother, but to no avail."

"Earlier, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann denied me permission to visit my brother in jail for 1.5 months. AAP Punjab has stooped to a new low by disrespecting the sacred bond between a brother and a sister and has also violated my human rights," said Badal in a social media post on X.

ON WAY TO TIE RAKHI, 80-YEAR-OLD WOMAN DIES WHILE BOARDING BUS IN PUNJAB'S SULTANPUR LODHI

Diary Times Desk : An 80-year-old woman died after a fall while boarding a bus at the Dudwindi bus stop in Sultanpur Lodhi. The victim, identified as Krishna Kaur, wife of Swarn Singh and a resident of Mothanwal village in Kapurthala district, reportedly slipped while trying to board the bus. She fell on the ground, and one of the bus' tyres ran over her leg, fracturing a bone.

Bystanders and police personnel rushed her to the Civil Hospital in Sultanpur Lodhi, but she succumbed to her injuries during treatment. Family members alleged that the accident was the result of negligence on the part of the bus driver and conductor, insisting that Krishna Kaur was in good health and spirits before the incident. They have demanded strict legal action against those responsible.

SUKHU HANDS OVER
APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO
312 DRAWING TEACHERS

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today handed over appointment letters to 312 drawing teachers at a formal ceremony held in Shimla. "The Prime Minister also distributes appointment letters, so we have learnt from him. Besides, the BJP keeps saying that no jobs have been given. So, we decided to issue appointment letters this way so that they can see," Sukhu quipped after the function.

The CM also gave send-off to a group of five students from government schools on an educational tour to Japan. These students would visit various academic institutions and historical sites across Japan. During the event, the Chief Minister launched several educational initiatives, including the student-centric news platform edsk Express, Baseline School Ranking Accreditation Report, Geo-tagged and Geo-fenced Smart 'Upstithi' (attendance monitoring system) and the Vidya Samiksha Kendra.

HIMACHAL GOVT WORKING
ON REGULATING
UNCHECKED
CONSTRUCTIONS TO
MITIGATE DISASTER IMPACT:
MINISTER

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh government is working on a three-tier policy to check haphazard construction near the banks of rivers and nullahs, as well as flash floods and landslide-prone areas, Town and Country Planning Minister Rajesh Dharmani said on Saturday.

Safety norms and strict regulations would be brought to regulate the construction of houses in rural areas, the minister said. Construction of buildings, bridges and other structures would require certification by a safety council, and their designs are as per norms set by the public works department, he told PTI Videos.

So far, about 112 people have died in rain-related incidents in the current monsoon season as cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides wreaked havoc, with losses of over Rs 1,900 crore to the state.

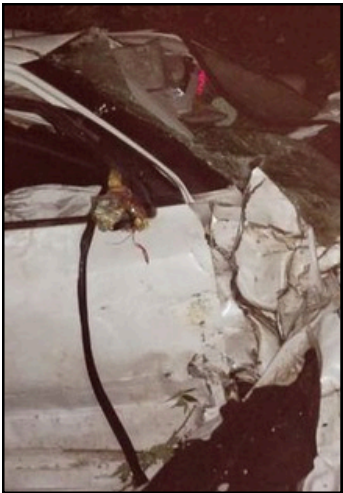
SIX KILLED AS BOULDER CRUSHES CAR IN CHAMBA, VEHICLE
PLUNGES INTO GORGE

Diary Times Desk : In a tragic accident on Thursday night, six persons, including four members of a family, lost their lives when a boulder fell on the car they were travelling in, causing it to veer off the road and plunge into a gorge near Chanwas in Churah subdivision of Chamba district.

The police said victims were travelling to their village when a massive rock rolled down from the hillside and hit their vehicle. Local residents, upon hearing a loud crash rushed to the spot and also informed the police. A joint rescue team comprising police and home guard personnel also reached the spot. Bodies could be extricated after hours-long operation due to a sheer slope.

The deceased have been identified as Rajesh Kumar, a 40-year-old government school teacher, his wife Hanso, 36, their daughter Aarti, 17, and son Deepak 15, residents of Bulwas village, said Chamba Superintendent of Police Abhishek Yadav.

Also among the dead were Rajesh's brother-in-law Hem Pal, 37, a resident of Salancha, and a villager Rakesh Kumar, 44, from Bulwas, who had taken lift in the ill-fated car.



'20 LANDSLIDES IN 10 MILES': AMERICAN VLOGGER
SHARES TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE AMID HIMACHAL
LANDSLIDES

Diary Times Desk : American travel vlogger Drew Binsky has shared a chilling account of being stranded in Himachal Pradesh, caught in the chaos of massive landslides during peak monsoon season.

In a now-viral Instagram video, Binsky described the danger, saying, "There are actually 20 landslides within 10 miles of us right now. Absolutely insane and very scary."

Filming from the scene, Binsky showed the damage around him, blocked roads, and rising rivers. "We don't know how many days we'll be stuck. Rocks are still falling. All the workers are trying to fix it," he said. "We're basically stuck in no man's land for an unknown amount of time."

The video, viewed nearly 4.5 lakh times, drew concern and mixed reactions. While many sympathised and wished him well, others questioned his decision to travel during the monsoon.

"Avoid mountain areas during monsoon," one user warned. Another commented, "You're brave, but this wasn't the best time to visit."

LANDSLIDES HALT TRAFFIC ON MANDI-
KULLU HIGHWAY; ALTERNATIVE ROUTE
CLOSED TOO

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.

SUKHU BATS FOR SC LEADER OR MINISTER AS NEW HPCC CHIEF

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu wants the new Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president to be either from the Scheduled Caste community or from amongst his Cabinet colleagues. "I've written to the high command that the HPCC reins should be handed over to someone from the SC community or any minister if willing," the Chief Minister said here today after returning from Delhi.

For me, all are equal

For me, all are equal. Whoever becomes the party president, he will take the Congress legacy further.

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister

Sukhu further said that he had not suggested any name for the post of the HPCC president. "For me, all are equal. Whoever becomes the party president, he will take the Congress legacy further," the CM said. Sukhu, his senior ministers and HPCC president Pratibha Singh recently met the party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC state in-charge Rajni Patil, to discuss issues related to the government and party in the state. From the SC community, the names of Deputy Speaker Vinay Kumar and Kasauli MLA Vinod Sultanpuri have been doing the rounds for the post of the party president. Among the ministers, the name of Education Minister has cropped up following the Delhi meeting.



'WORLD-CLASS POTENTIAL' – SESKO JOINS MAN UTD FOR £74M

Diary Times Desk : Manchester United have completed the signing of RB Leipzig striker Benjamin Sesko in a move worth £73.7m. The deal for the Slovenia international, who has joined on a five-year contract, includes a guaranteed payment of £66.3m, with the remainder in add-ons.

He is United's third major signing in attack following the arrivals of Matheus Cunha for £62.5m and Bryan Mbeumo for £65m with £6m in add-ons, with the trio presented to the club's fans prior to Saturday's pre-season home game against Fiorentina.

Sesko, 22, was also a target for Newcastle United but has chosen to join Ruben Amorim's side.

United finished 15th in the Premier League last season, while the Magpies were fifth and qualified for the Champions League in a campaign in which they also won the EFL Cup.



HOWE SAYS HE 'CAN'T INVOLVE' ISAK
AT NEWCASTLE – IS THERE A WAY
BACK?

Diary Times Desk : Eddie Howe says it is "clear" that he "can't involve" Alexander Isak at Newcastle United as things stand.

Newcastle rejected a £110m bid from Liverpool last week after the striker wanted to explore his options.

Isak missed Newcastle's pre-season tour of Asia with a "minor thigh injury", but the 25-year-old went on to train alone at former club Real Sociedad.

Howe previously warned no player could expect to act "poorly and train with group as normal".

Howe has not closed the door on Isak one day representing Newcastle again – but the head coach stressed on Friday that the situation "had to be right for that to happen".

"We've had discussions and it's clear at the moment that we can't involve him with the group," he said after Newcastle's 2-2 draw in a friendly against Espanyol. "I don't know how long that will be for, but that's the latest."

LONDON SPIRIT SNEAK HOME IN
FINAL-BALL THRILLER TO MAINTAIN
WINNING START

Diary Times Desk : London Spirit snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in Cardiff to clinch a last-ball thriller against Welsh Fire in the Hundred and maintain their 100% record at the start of this year's competition.

Having been bowled out for 124, Spirit were staring down the barrel with Welsh Fire well set on 73 for 1 in reply, but the home side stumbled as the finish line approached and ultimately fell short.

With just 24 runs needed from the last 20 balls, and eight wickets in hand, the result seemed a formality but Sophia Dunkley and Jess Jonassen fell as Spirit inched their way back into the contest, and Grace Harris held her nerve with ball in hand to defend seven runs from the final five balls.

That the visitors were in the game at the halfway mark at all, despite having been bowled out, was predominantly due to Charli Knott, who made 47. Knott's effort – for which she was awarded Meerkat Match Hero – knitted together what was a strange innings, with wickets falling in clusters. Legspinner Katie Levick took two in two and recorded figures of 3 for 26.

"ANY TEAM WITH JASPRIT
BUMRAH...": AUSTRALIA GREAT
BACKS INDIA PACER AMID
WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT
CRITICISM

Diary Times Desk : India pacer Jasprit Bumrah received a lot of backlash on social media for playing only three matches in the recently-concluded five-match Test series against England. In order to manage his workload, Bumrah missed the second and the fifth Test of the series, which ended in a 2-2 draw. Despite Bumrah's absence, India's pace attack performed brilliantly as Mohammed Siraj took the onus on his shoulders and emerged as the highest wicket-taker of the series with 23 scalps to his names. Former Australia skipper Michael Clarke came to Bumrah's defense and stated that winning without the right-arm pacer was truly commendable but having him in the XI, makes the team a strong one.

"To win the last match and level the series. Wow! Phenomenal, absolutely brilliant. And the other thing as well. In the two Test matches that India won, the best bowler in the world didn't play in Bumrah. Bumrah didn't play the two Test matches that India won. So, to the other bowlers in the Indian squad, they deserve a lot of credit to be able to step up," said Clarke on Beyond23 Cricket Podcast.

FROM 150S TO DEBUT
HEROICS: NZ'S HISTORIC
BULAWAYO WIN IN
NUMBERS

Diary Times Desk : Innings and 359 runs win against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo is New Zealand's biggest victory margin in terms of runs in Tests. Overall, this is the third biggest innings win margin in Test cricket. The previous largest (by innings and 301 runs) for them was against the same opponent in Napier in 2012. This is also the heaviest defeat for Zimbabwe in Tests. The top three best wins for New Zealand have come against Zimbabwe.

This is the second time New Zealand has won by innings and 300-plus runs, only the third team to do so after West Indies (3) and Australia. Zimbabwe also became the second team to lose by innings and 300-plus runs twice after New Zealand.

601/3 dec. by New Zealand in the 2nd innings is their highest team total against Zimbabwe, bettering 582/4 dec. at the same venue in 2016. This is also the sixth-highest team total against Zimbabwe in Tests. This effort by New Zealand is also the sixth most runs by any team while losing just three or fewer wickets in a Test inning. 476-run lead by New Zealand after their first innings is the 3rd biggest first-innings lead by any team while declaring after losing just three wickets.

MOHUN BAGAN OUTCLASS DIAMOND HARBOUR 5-1, ENTER DURAND CUP
QUARTER-FINALS

Diary Times Desk : Dominant Mohun Bagan Super Giant overcame Diamond Harbour FC 5-1 to storm into the quarterfinals of the Durand Cup here on Saturday. In a crunch Group B match, Anirudh Thapa gave the lead to the Mariners as Luka Majcen equalised after five minutes but Jamie MacLaren, Liston Colaco, Sahal Abdul Samad and Jason Cummings ensured that Mohun Bagan qualified for the quarterfinals as group winners. Diamond Harbour will now have to rely on other results to get their place in the knockouts as one of the best second-placed teams. Mohun Bagan broke the deadlock in the 19th minute as Anirudh Thapa collected a first-time pass on the edge of the box and curled a beautifully-struck shot into the top-right corner. Diamond Harbour responded emphatically just four minutes later. A defensive mix-up from Mohun Bagan left Luka Majcen with space in the box, and he capitalised clinically by slotting home past the advancing Vishal Kaithi to restore parity.

