

## US SAID ON INDIA

## WHAT US SAID ON INDIA TIES AFTER PAK ARMY CHIEF ASIM MUNIR'S NUKE THREAT

**Diary Times Desk :** Following Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir's eye-turning visit to the United States, Washington has reaffirmed that its relationship with both India and Pakistan "remains unchanged" and that its diplomats are "committed to both nations". The Pakistani Field Marshal, during his second US visit in two months, threatened to launch a nuclear war against India and take down "half the world". The remarks were the first nuclear threats known to have ever been delivered from US soil against a third country.

Speaking at the State Department briefing, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce reiterated President Donald Trump's claim of US involvement in the India-Pakistan truce following the recent military conflict, saying it was a "very proud" moment for Washington to have been "involved in stopping that potential catastrophe."

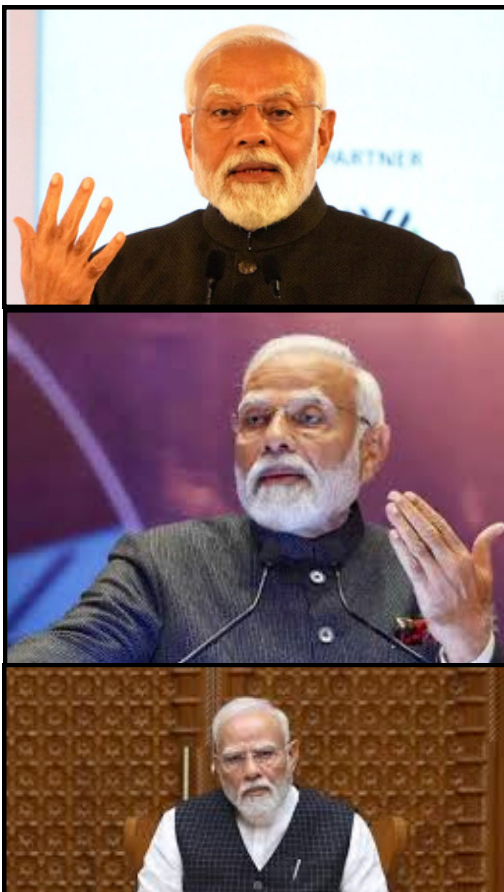
"We had an experience with Pakistan and India, when there was a conflict, that could have developed into something quite horrible. There was immediate concern and movement with the Vice President JD Vance, the President Donald Trump and the Secretary of State Marco Rubio in addressing the nature of what was happening," she said.

"We described the nature of the phone calls and the work we did to stop the attacks, bringing the parties together to create something enduring. It's a very proud moment that Secretary Rubio, Vice President Vance and the top leaders in this nation were involved in stopping that potential catastrophe," Bruce added.



## PM MODI'S NAME

## PM MODI'S NAME ON LIST OF SPEAKERS AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION: REPORT



**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN here.

The 80th session of the UNGA will open on September 9. The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US.

US President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House.

According to the provisional list of speakers for the high-level debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly, India's "Head of Government (HG)" will address the session on the morning of September 26.

The Heads of Government of Israel, China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are also scheduled to address the UNGA general debate on the same day.

PM Modi had travelled to the US in February this year for a bilateral meeting with Trump in the White House in Washington, DC. In a joint statement issued after their meeting, PM Modi and Trump had announced plans to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by the fall of 2025.

Even as trade negotiations were ongoing, Trump imposed tariffs totalling 50 per cent on India, including 25 per cent for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil that will come into effect from August 27.

## VICTIMS' LAWYER ON WHAT COULD BE BEHIND AHMEDABAD DREAMLINER CRASH

**Diary Times Desk :** Two months since the tragic Air India 171 crash in Ahmedabad that killed 241 people on board and 19 on the ground, many questions remain unanswered, the chief one being: Was it a fault with the fuel switch locking mechanism or was it human error? Principal Attorney and Aviation Accident Lawyer, Michael Andrews from law firm Beasley Allen, explains:

Mr. Andrews you are representing at least 65 families who lost their loved ones in this crash, first off what are the charges you are making and what are the demands?

Currently we are actually over 70. Meetings with families who are reaching out to us are continuing but the common theme that we are hearing from every single family is a request for transparency, a request for information. The families want to know what happened. They want to know why it happened and they want to know how to prevent it from happening again. So the initial demand that all of the families have is transparency in terms of the information that is held by Air India into the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder.

The plan rather than starting with what court we would be, we start with what happened. And so in this case if we are able to obtain the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder, we can put those two together with our experts and put together a plan that shows us exactly what happened. We can overlay both of those. We will know what happened, when it happened, what inputs are being made by the pilots, what changes may be commanded by the computers that are not called for by the pilots.

## MUNIR'S NUCLEAR THREAT IS ABOUT INVOLVING A 'THIRD' PLAYER IN INDIA-PAK

**Diary Times Desk :** Field Marshal of the Pakistan army, General Asim Munir, recently raised the spectre of a nuclear contestation in the subcontinent during his trip to the United States. Munir highlighted the element of mutually assured destruction, an assured strike against India's existing and upcoming critical infrastructure in the near future. This latest act of theatrics is worth examining in the new strategic environment defined by Operation Sindoor, an initiative by New Delhi against Islamabad's decades-old sponsorship of terrorism. It is aimed at securing support in both the domestic and international community to delegitimise and constrain India's conventional military options against Pakistan's misadventures.

.Munir's remarks and his nuclear threats are both rhetorical and simultaneously critical for four reasons.

First, Pakistan, primarily its elites and the military, has drawn both its existence and policy initiatives from its sentiments against India-based existential security threats. The Pakistan military, primarily with its army as the most dominant constituency, leads the narrative within the country and abroad. Hence, Munir's words as Field Marshal matter, as they shape the discourse within the domestic constituency to reestablish the image of the military as an institution and its readiness to safeguard the sovereignty of the state. Second, as a senior-most official in the Pakistan army, Munir's speech on a foreign soil, the US at that, is a move to re-emphasise the threat of asymmetric escalation, an inherent part of Pakistani nuclear doctrine. The underlying motive is intertwined with Munir's religious doctrinal leanings to perceive India's image as a Hindutva ideology-based state threatening Pakistan.

## PHD SCHOLAR SNUBS TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR AT CONVOCAATION, WALKS PAST HIM

**Diary Times Desk :** A PhD scholar refused to receive her degree from Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi at the 32nd convocation of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University on Wednesday, alleging that he has "acted against the interests of Tamil Nadu". Instead, she accepted it from the university's Vice-Chancellor.

The scholar, Jean Joseph, who earned her doctorate in Micro Finance, said that she deliberately avoided the Governor.

"RN Ravi is against Tamil Nadu and its people. He has not done anything for Tamil people. I didn't want to receive my degree from him," she said.

A video footage of the ceremony shows her bypassing the Governor - who was the chief guest - and posing with the Vice-Chancellor N Chandrasekhar with her degree. In the clip, Governor Ravi initially appears to think it was a mistake and tries to reach out, but the student, through her gesture, indicates her choice was intentional. The Governor is then seen nodding in acknowledgement.

A senior professor at the university told NDTV, "We thought she is the Vice-Chancellor's candidate and wanted to receive it from him. Only later did we realise she did it on purpose."

Jean Joseph's husband, Rajan, is a functionary of the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) - which has been locked in a bitter tussle with Governor Ravi. The party has accused the Governor of deliberately delaying assent to Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly, creating hurdles for the elected government, and attempting to run a "parallel administration".

## WILL TRUMP'S INDIA TARIFFS SHUT DOWN WORLD'S BIGGEST CUT DIAMOND SUPPLIER?

**Diary Times Desk :** For Kalpesh Patel, Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated across India, might well mark lights out for his eight-year-old diamond cutting and polishing unit.

The 35-year-old employs about 40 workers who transform rough diamonds into perfectly polished gems for exports at the small factory in Surat, a city located in the western Indian state of Gujarat.

His business has survived multiple speed bumps in recent years. But United States President Donald Trump's mammoth 50 percent tariffs on imports from India might be the final nail in the coffin for his unit, part of an already struggling natural diamond industry, he said.

"We still have some orders for Diwali and will try to complete them," he told Al Jazeera.

Diwali, arguably India's single biggest festival, scheduled for late October this year, usually sees domestic sales of most goods soar.



### YOUR HOROSCOPE

14-08-2025



#### 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.





## CLOUDS BURST AT FIVE PLACES IN HIMACHAL; 5 VEHICLES, FOUR COTTAGES AND TWO SHEDS WASHED AWAY IN GANVI, THREE BRIDGES BROKEN

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the weather department's orange alert of heavy rains, clouds burst at five places in Himachal on Wednesday. Heavy damage has been caused by cloudburst in Bhimdwari and Nanti of Shrikhand, Pooh in Kinnaur, Mayad in Lahaul and Tirthan Valley of Kullu. Two sheds were washed away in Ganvi, while six were submerged in water in the flood caused by cloudburst in Bhimdwari and Nanti. A bridge was damaged here. Water entered the police post which came under the grip of the flood. Tilla and Dogra bridges in Banjar of Tirthan Valley have also been damaged. Bagipul market has been evacuated due to the overflowing of Kurpan Khad of Nirmand. Five vehicles and four cottages were washed away in Tirthan Valley of Kullu. There was no one in the cottage during this time.

Karpat village in Lahaul's Mayad valley has been evacuated and 22 families have been shifted to safer places. Due to cloudburst in Pooh of Kinnaur, the machinery of the company engaged in the construction of Rishi Dogri road for the ITBP camp was washed away in the flood in Hojo Nallah. Five employees of the company are also trapped, they are being rescued. Along with cloudburst at five places, heavy rains occurred in many areas of the state including Shimla on Wednesday.

Due to heavy rains and landslides, 323 roads including two national highways have been closed in the state. Along with this, 70 electricity transformers and 130 drinking water schemes have come to a standstill. Along with power failure in many areas, there is a drinking water crisis. Clouds burst in Shrikhand and Nanti area of Rampur subdivision under Nirmand development block at around 5 pm on Wednesday evening. This caused floods in Kurpan and Ganvi ravines.

## GIRL KIDNAPPED AT GUNPOINT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, ACCUSED THREW HER OUT OF CAR AT CHECK POST AND FLED

**Diary Times Desk :** A girl was kidnapped at gunpoint in Jawali police station area. The accused had come in a vehicle with Jammu and Kashmir number plate. Police and local people became alert as soon as they got information about the girl's kidnapping. Police started a search operation and people also set up check posts on their own. At the check post in Aund, the accused threw the girl out of the car. At some distance from this, the accused left the car on the roadside and fled towards the forest.

The girl's brother Sher Ali said that on Wednesday afternoon, he was returning to his home in Mirthal by tractor. During this, when he reached Basantpur, a black Scorpio with Jammu and Kashmir number plate stopped near his tractor. An accused in it forcibly made his sister sit in the car at gunpoint. While fleeing from the spot, he also hit and damaged several vehicles. Immediately after this incident, he informed Jawali police station.

## ARUN KUMAR OF CHATARA VILLAGE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH, DIED OF SUDDEN HEART ATTACK WHILE EXERCISING

**Diary Times Desk :** Havaladar Arun Kumar (39) of Chatara village posted in Dibrugarh, Arunachal Pradesh, attained martyrdom while on duty. Arun Kumar, serving in the 7th Jack Rifle, was exercising on Tuesday morning when he suddenly suffered a heart attack. His colleagues immediately rushed him to the Command Hospital, where he breathed his last during treatment. His body will reach his native village Chatara by Thursday, where he will be given a final farewell with state honours. Arun Kumar has left behind his mother Neelam Kumari, wife Shalu, daughters Riya-Jiya and son Arjun.

He joined the 7th Jack Rifle Unit through the recruitment process held at Indira Maidan in Una in 2005. Recently, he came home on leave on the occasion of Holi.

## EDUCATION MINISTER SAID- EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL NOT BE BUILT NEAR RIVERS AND DRAINS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL ITSELF SELECT THE LAND

**Diary Times Desk :** Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that now no educational institution in the state will be built near rivers and drains. Educational institutions completely damaged due to the disaster will be built at new places. For this, the Deputy Director of Education will personally inspect the marked place so that there is no question mark on the construction of institutions in future and they can be built in a safe manner. He said this in a press conference held in Sundarnagar after visiting the disaster affected area Seraj on Wednesday.

Education Minister Rohit Thakur said that now the government will ensure before any government construction that the place where this construction is taking place is not disaster prone. He said that due to the disaster in the state, most of the educational institutions built near rivers and drains have been damaged.

He told that this time the disaster has damaged 523 educational institutions in the state. This has caused a loss of Rs 30 crore. Most of the affected educational institutions are from Mandi district. The number of institutions that have been completely damaged across the state is 109. Of these, the highest number of institutions is 29 in Mandi district. An amount of 16 crore has been released to build new institutions. This work will be done through Himuda.



## 10,880 CANDIDATES OF HIMACHAL PRADESH PASSED THE TEACHER ELIGIBILITY TEST

**Diary Times Desk :** The result of Teacher Eligibility Test June-2025 (TET) conducted by Himachal Pradesh School Education Board has been declared. This year 10,880 candidates of the state have passed the examination. Whereas 20,626 candidates have failed to pass the examination. The result has been released by the board after getting the objections filed by the candidates in the previously released provisional answer keys reviewed by subject experts.

The teacher eligibility test was conducted by the board on ten subjects from June 1 to July 12. 34,599 candidates had applied to appear in the examination, out of which 31,506 appeared in the examination. While 3093 candidates were absent. In the conducted examination, 5282 candidates have passed the TET of TGT Arts, 6153 candidates have failed in the examination. In TGT Medical TET, 710 candidates passed and 3467 candidates failed. In TGT Non Medical TET, 1911 out of 6744 passed, while 4416 failed.

## HAMIRPUR YOUTH DIES AFTER BEING HIT BY TRAIN IN DHARAMPUR, WORKED IN PRIVATE HOTEL

**Diary Times Desk :** A youth died after being hit by a train near Dharampur on Kalka-Shimla railway line. Ranveer (23) was a resident of village Ghumarvi, Tehsil Badsar district Hamirpur and was working in a private hotel in Dharampur. On Tuesday night at around 10 o'clock, he was going to the hotel on duty via the railway track. During this time, he got hit by a train going from Shimla to Kalka. The train driver stopped the train and informed the railway officials about this and the injured youth was put in the train and taken to Taksal in Parwanoo. After reaching there, he was taken to ESI Hospital by ambulance, where the doctor declared him dead.

## COMPLAINT TO DGP AGAINST ASP, FSL INVESTIGATION OF HARD DISK WILL BE DONE; MLA ASHISH SHARMA LASHES OUT AT THE GOVERNMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** The complaint regarding the police raid at the crusher located at Pung Khadd of Praveen Sharma, uncle of BJP MLA Ashish Sharma, has reached the DGP. The crusher owner has sent a complaint to the DGP through email. A complaint has been lodged for illegal entry and theft in private property.

IN TIT-FOR-TAT, BJP  
QUESTIONS SONIA  
GANDHI'S VOTER LIST  
HISTORY FROM 1980: '...  
BEFORE SHE BECAME AN  
INDIAN CITIZEN'

**Diary Times Desk :** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a tit-for-tat attack on Congress, levelling similar "vote chori (theft)" allegations as Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi did last week. It has also raised questions over the timing of the addition of former party president Sonia Gandhi's name to the voter list.

BJP leader Anurag Thakur, addressing a press conference on Wednesday, alleged that Congress and other opposition leaders won seats with the help of "ghuspaithi (infiltrator) voters".

Mounting an attack on the Congress specifically for opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in Bihar, Anurag Thakur said the Grand Old Party looks at "one group" to secure their vote bank and accused it of "appeasement politics".

DMK ADOPTS RESOLUTION  
CONDEMNING 'MASS  
VOTER DELETIONS' BY POLL  
BODY IN BIHAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK has launched a sharp attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing it of acting in concert with the BJP to undermine free and fair polls through what it called "mass voter deletions" under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Bihar. At a meeting of DMK district secretaries chaired by party president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, the party adopted resolutions condemning the removal of 65 lakh voters in Bihar despite the Supreme Court's warning against "mass deletions" without due process. The resolution described the move as "anti-democratic" and an attempt to "shake up the level playing field" ahead of elections. The party alleged that the ECI, especially after the removal of the Chief Justice of India from the selection panel for appointing Election Commissioners, had turned "political" in the conduct of elections and voter roll preparations. The DMK accused the poll body of siding with the BJP's "electoral frauds" and "mocking democracy." The meeting also noted that on July 17, five DMK MPs had met the Chief Election Commissioner with a memorandum urging corrective measures such as deleting only voters who had died.

"ABHI PICTURE BAAKI HAI": RAHUL GANDHI'S  
TEASER AFTER VOTE ROW PROTEST



**Diary Times Desk :** Hours after Chief Justice of India BR Gavai assured a relook at the two-judge bench order on moving all stray dogs in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) to shelter homes, the matter has been referred to a larger bench, which will hear the case on Thursday. On the directions of Chief Justice Gavai, a three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria will take up the case. The relocation had been ordered by a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan on Monday and the issue was raised before the Chief Justice on Wednesday. Seeking urgent listing, Advocate Nanita Sharma informed Justice Gavai that there had been two conflicting rulings on the issue by the Supreme Court and an earlier bench had asked for the implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, which state that sterilised and vaccinated stray dogs should be returned to the same locality.

TOP COURT'S 'VOTER-FRIENDLY'  
POINT ON BIHAR REVISION, AND AN  
IAS-IPS REMARK

**Diary Times Desk :** Hearing petitions linked to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists in Bihar, the Supreme Court disagreed with the argument that the Election Commission's document check exercise is an "anti-voter" and exclusionary move. Senior Advocate Abhishek Singhvi was arguing before the bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi this morning when the bench noted that the number of eligible documents during the summary revision of voter lists was seven, but this was raised to 11 for the Special Intensive Revision. Justice Bagchi said, "We get your exclusionary argument from Aadhaar. But the point on the number of documents is, in fact, voter-friendly and not against it. Look at the number of documents by which you can prove citizenship." Echoing his brother judge's view, Justice Kant said, "If they ask for all 11 documents, it is anti-voter."

SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION NEAR LINE OF CONTROL IN MAJOR  
PROVOCATION BY PAKISTAN

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major provocation from Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, a soldier was killed in action near the Line of Control after terrorists backed by the Pakistan Army intruded into Jammu and Kashmir's Uri sector, official sources said. According to sources in the Army, infiltrators tried to enter India late on August 12. This was different from a routine infiltration attempt, as the intruders received firing support from the Pakistan Army. Such an infiltration attempt is typically carried out with the support of Pakistan's Border Action Teams, the dirty tricks department of the Pakistan Army. As Indian soldiers retaliated to the infiltration attempt, a gunfight broke out and a soldier succumbed to his injuries. The infiltration attempt was foiled, but the intruders took advantage of the bad weather and managed to escape. An official Army statement on the incident is awaited. This is the first major provocation by Pakistan after the uneasy calm in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, India's counterstrike to the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 innocents dead. Following India's targeted airstrikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Pakistan's drone attacks along India's western border, the two sides had agreed on a ceasefire after Islamabad reached out to New Delhi. The past couple of months have seen Pakistani leaders make reckless public statements. Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir recently made headlines for his threats to nuke India. Speaking in the US, Munir reportedly threatened to take down "half the world" if Pakistan faced an existential threat in a future war with India.

FLIGHTS FROM HYDERABAD  
CANCELLED, DIVERTED DUE TO  
HEAVY RAINS



**Diary Times Desk :** Several flights to and from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport were cancelled or diverted on Wednesday due to unfavourable weather conditions, airport sources said. IndiGo flights to Kochi, Chennai, Patna and Ahmedabad—and return services from these destinations—were cancelled, they added. As many as 11 flights were diverted to other airports. Seven of them later returned and landed in Hyderabad by evening. The IMD said a 'red alert' has been issued for various parts of Telangana until Thursday. An official from the Met Centre told reporters that an 'orange alert' for "heavy to very heavy rainfall" has also been issued for several districts, including Hyderabad.

IN US, PAKISTAN ARMY CHIEF ASIM MUNIR  
THREATENS TO HIT RELIANCE'S JAMNAGAR  
REFINERY: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** An application filed by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's lawyer earlier today without his consent will be withdrawn, the lawyer Milind Pawar said. Mr Pawar in the application filed in a Pune court had alleged threat to Mr Gandhi's life from followers of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He is representing Mr Gandhi in a defamation case filed by Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew of Savarkar, over certain statements made by the Congress leader against the late freedom fighter and Hindutva ideologue. Mr Pawar said he will submit another application on Thursday to withdraw the application filed before judicial magistrate (first class) Amol Shinde. The lawyer said he drafted the application without consulting Mr Gandhi, and the Congress leader has taken a "strong exception to the filing... and expressed his disagreement with its contents", the lawyer said in a statement on Wednesday.



WHAT ARE ZELENSKY, EUROPE DEMANDING OF TRUMP AHEAD OF PUTIN SUMMIT?

**Diary Times Desk :** European leaders are scrambling to convince United States President Donald Trump to use his upcoming summit with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, to amplify pressure on Moscow to end the war in Ukraine on terms acceptable to Kyiv.

Trump, who has promised to end the three-year war, plans to meet Putin in Alaska on Friday, saying the parties are close to a deal that could resolve the conflict.

Trump recently told reporters that, "I'm going in to speak to Vladimir Putin, and I'm going to be telling him, 'You've got to end this war. You've got to end it.'"

The US president said Kyiv and Moscow would both have to cede land in a compromise. "There'll be some land swapping going on," he said. Trump has, in the past, discussed the possibility of land swaps. However, neither Russia nor Ukraine have been interested in ceding land to each other as part of a peace agreement.

European leaders worry that major concessions to Russia could create security problems for the region in the future. On Wednesday, August 13, major European leaders are first convening among themselves and with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and are then scheduled to speak to Trump and US Vice President JD Vance.

NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS APPEAR IN WASHINGTON DC AS MAYOR REJECTS TRUMP'S 'AUTHORITARIAN PUSH'

**Diary Times Desk :** US National Guard troops have begun appearing on the streets of Washington DC, a day after President Donald Trump deployed the troops to the city and took control of its police force as he argued violent crime was out of control.

Armoured vehicles were spotted at urban centres and tourist sites around the US capital on Tuesday evening.

Officials have said that 800 National Guard troops are expected to be deployed, as well as 500 federal law enforcement agents.

US RESPONDS TO CHINESE COLLISION, DEPLOYS 2 WARSHIPS TO SOUTH CHINA SEA

**Diary Times Desk :** The United States deployed two warships on Wednesday in a disputed South China Sea shoal, where two Chinese navy and coast guard ships collided two days ago while trying to drive away a smaller Philippine ship in a high-seas accident captured on video, alarming several Western and Asian countries.

Both China and the Philippines claim Scarborough Shoal and other outcroppings in the South China Sea. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also lay overlapping claims in the contested waters.

The USS Higgins, a guided missile destroyer, and USS Cincinnati, a littoral combat ship, were shadowed by a Chinese navy ship while sailing about 30 nautical miles (55 kilometres) from the Scarborough Shoal. There were no reports of any untoward incident, Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela said, citing information from U.S. officials and a Philippine surveillance flight.

GERMANY REJECTS US CENSORSHIP CLAIMS IN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Human rights, such as freedom of expression, are under threat in Germany and other European countries, according to the 2024 Human Rights Report by the US State Department.

The report, which in former years has been seen as a reliable point of reference for global human rights advocacy, has been criticized by human rights groups as containing numerous omissions and mischaracterizations to fit the current US administration's political aims.

The German government rejected the report.

"There is no censorship in Germany," Deputy Government Spokesman Steffen Meyer said.

"We have a very high level of freedom of expression in Germany, and we will continue to defend it in every form," he added.

"The human rights situation in Germany worsened during the year," an executive summary of the report's Germany entry said.

"Significant human rights issues included restrictions on freedom of expression and credible reports of crimes, violence, or threats of violence motivated by antisemitism," the report said. The report stated, however, that the German government "took some credible steps to investigate, prosecute, and punish officials who committed human rights abuses."

PUTIN LAUDS 'HEROISM' OF NORTH KOREANS IN LIBERATING KURSK, PYONGYANG SAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin lauded the "bravery" and "heroism" of North Korean soldiers in retaking Russia's Kursk region from Ukrainian forces during a call with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, North Korean state media has reported.

Putin told Kim that he "highly appreciated" North Korea's support and the "self-sacrificing spirit" displayed by its troops during the liberation of the western region, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Wednesday.

Kim expressed his "heartfelt thanks" to Putin and said Pyongyang would "always remain faithful" to the spirit of the mutual defence treaty signed by the sides last year, as well as "fully support all measures to be taken by the Russian leadership in the future", the KCNA said.

"The heads of states of the two countries exchanged views on the issues of mutual concern," the KCNA said.

"Kim Jong Un and Putin agreed to make closer contact in the future."

GAZA CEASEFIRE IN DOUBT AS FIGHTING PERSISTS, STARVATION WORSENS

**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli planes and tanks kept bombarding eastern areas of Gaza City overnight, killing at least 11 people, witnesses and medics said on Tuesday, with Hamas leader Khalil Al-Hayya arriving in Cairo for talks to revive a U.S.-backed ceasefire plan.

The latest round of indirect talks in Qatar ended in deadlock in late July with Israel and Hamas trading blame over the lack of progress on a U.S. proposal for a 60-day truce and hostage release deal.

Hamas' meetings with Egyptian officials, scheduled to begin on Wednesday, will focus on ways to stop the ongoing conflict, deliver aid, and "end the suffering of our people in Gaza," Hamas official Taher Al-Nono said in a statement.

However, the gaps between Hamas and Israel appear to remain wide on key issues, including the demands for Hamas to disarm and the extent of any Israeli military withdrawal.

Hamas was ready to relinquish Gaza governance on behalf of a non-partisan committee, but it would not relinquish its arms before a Palestinian state is established, Reuters reported, citing a Hamas official, who asked to be anonymous. Netanyahu said on Tuesday that he believes the prospects for a partial ceasefire and hostage-release deal with Hamas are no longer possible in an interview with Israeli broadcaster i24.

SMALL TABLE, FLOOR MATTRESS: INSIDE THE CELL OF SOUTH KOREA'S EX-FIRST LADY

**Diary Times Desk :** South Korea's former first lady Kim Keon Hee will spend her first day in jail on Wednesday in a cell much like the one her husband and ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol occupies as prosecutors pursue the once high-flying couple in a widening criminal probe.

Kim was formally booked into the Seoul Nambu Detention Center on the western edge of the capital, a comparatively new correctional facility that opened 11 years ago and one of the few run by a female warden. She will be treated in the same way as other inmates but will receive minor adjustments in her daily routine given her status as a high-profile figure, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Kim was imprisoned after a court approved a warrant for her arrest late on Tuesday on the grounds that she might destroy evidence amid an ongoing investigation into allegations of bribery, stock fraud and influence peddling.



## AAP'S LUDHIANA MLA RAJINDERPAL KAUR CHHINA INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN HARYANA

**Diary Times Desk** : Aam Aadmi Party MLA from the South Assembly seat in Ludhiana, Rajinderpal Kaur Chhina, on Wednesday met with an accident.

Her Innova car collided with a divider near the Khanauri border. She suffered facial injuries. She was immediately admitted to a private hospital in Kaithal, Haryana.

Chhina had returned from a conference in America. She had landed at Delhi airport the previous night. Her husband, son, gunman, and driver had gone to receive her. While returning in the morning, a motorcycle reportedly came in front of her car, causing the car to go out of control and ram into the divider. The biker also sustained injuries in the accident and was hospitalised. She is said to have been referred to a hospital in Ludhiana for further treatment.



## PUNJAB TELLS HC NO FEAR OF CONGRESS MLA SUKHPAL KHAIRA'S ARREST IN VIGILANCE INQUIRY 'AS OF NOW'



**Diary Times Desk** : The state of Punjab on Wednesday told the Punjab and Haryana High Court that there was no apprehension "as of now" of Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira's arrest in a vigilance inquiry into alleged disproportionate assets, and the Vigilance Bureau had not even issued him any notice to join the investigation.

Appearing before Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya's bench, Punjab Additional Advocate-General Chanchal K Singla did not dispute that an inquiry was pending against petitioner-Khaira, but contended "there is no apprehension of his arrest as of now, nor has the Vigilance issued any notice to him to join investigation". The statement came in response to a petition filed by Khaira seeking anticipatory bail.

Khaira, through advocates PS Ahluwalia, Keerat Dhillon and Siddharth Sihag, contended that a vigilance inquiry regarding disproportionate assets was pending against the petitioner since February 12, 2024, and there was an apprehension that he would be arrested in the matter anytime now. "The apprehension is evident on account of the fact that petitioner being an opposition MLA, has been opposing various acts of omission and commission on the part of the state government, and more particularly the Chief Minister," the counsel added.

## PUNJAB GOVT'S EXTENSION OF PEDA DIRECTOR'S SERVICE QUASHED BY HIGH COURT FOR VIOLATING RULES

**Diary Times Desk** : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has set aside the Punjab Government's decision to withdraw the retirement of Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) Director, and extend his service by a year. Justice Harpreet Singh Brar ruled that the move violated the statutory rules and lacked reasons. Allowing the petition filed by Additional Director Jaspal Singh, Justice Brar asserted he was next in line for the sole post of Director, and ruled that the October 4, 2024, order rescinding the September 30, 2024, retirement "suffered from an incurable illegality". Appearing on the petitioner's behalf, senior advocate Rajiv Atma Ram with counsel Aman Bahri and Bawa Karanveer contended that Justice Brar's bench the respondent was granted an extension from September 30, 2024, to September 29, 2025, with the approval of Punjab Chief Minister.

## SWOLLEN BEAS RIVER FLOODS 22 VILLAGES IN PUNJAB'S SULTANPUR LODHI

**Diary Times Desk** : The swollen Beas river has inundated 22 villages in the Mand areas of Sultanpur Lodhi, and the water level in the River has been increasing, said Sultanpur Lodhi SDM Alka Kalra. According to SDO Drainage Khushwinder Singh, the water level in the Beas river is 119,000 cusecs. He said it is very difficult to plug the 100-ft-wide breach as the flow of gushing water is very high, and work on plugging would start when the water level decreases. The department was readying sandbags to plug the breach. The SDM said that the worst-affected villages — Baupur, Baupur Kadim, Jadid, and Sangra — had standing paddy crops submerged under four to six feet of water. She said residents of Baupur are not ready to leave their houses in the Mand areas but are shifting their belongings to safer places. Meanwhile, environmentalist and Rajya Sabha Member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal has pressed into service two motorboats to deliver cooked food and fodder for animals in the worst-affected village Baupur. Followers were also rendering help to flood-affected farmers suffering from ailments by bringing them to the hospital in the motorboats for treatment. Sant Seechewal said that his followers have filled sand into more than 20,000 bags to plug the breach when the water level decreases in the river. District authorities are maintaining strict vigil at the dhussi bundh, which is in an intact position.

## POST LAND POOLING JOLT, PUNJAB EYES GMADA ASSETS TO FUND SCHEMES

**Diary Times Desk** : After withdrawing the land pooling policy, the Punjab Government is eyeing the Rs 20,000-crore property of the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) to raise a loan against it to fund its populist schemes. Following consultations with the Finance Department, the Housing and Urban Development Department was asked to prepare an inventory (properties to be auctioned) of GMADA, including residential, commercial and industrial sites in Mohali. The issue was discussed at a recent meeting chaired by Chief Secretary KAP Sinha. The Chief Secretary, however, did not respond to calls for comments. Sources said with meagre land capital and limited properties to auction, six of the eight housing development authorities — Amritsar, Bathinda, Patiala, Jalandhar, Sri Anandpur Sahib (Urban) and Dera Baba Nanak — were struggling to meet their administrative expenses. Only GMADA and the Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority were financially sound. At present, GMADA owes a loan of nearly Rs 5,000 crore to financial institutions.

## ZIMBABWEAN STUDENT ATTACKED NEAR POLICE STATION IN TALWANDI SABO

**Diary Times Desk** : Despite police claims of strict security arrangements in view of the Independence Day, barely two kilometres from the police station, youths armed with sticks and batons attacked a Zimbabwean student studying at a private university in Talwandi Sabo, leaving him seriously injured. Although the alleged attackers' car was damaged after it crashed into a tree while they were fleeing, they managed to escape on foot after abandoning the vehicle. Police have begun a serious investigation into the matter. The incident came to light when BJP leader Gopal Krishan Bansal released a video showing an unconscious injured foreign student lying on the road and a damaged car. It has been learned that the stick-wielding youths arrived in a Skoda car and brutally assaulted the foreign student. When the student was badly injured and the attackers tried to escape in the car, they lost control and hit a tree. However, they managed to flee, leaving the vehicle behind. As soon as the incident was reported, SHO Yadvinder Singh reached the spot and had the injured student taken to the hospital in an ambulance.



ORANGE ALERT ISSUED  
FOR HIMACHAL'S  
VARIOUS DISTRICTS  
FOR 2 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** As many as 332 roads across the state that were damaged due to torrential rain, remain blocked for vehicular traffic. As per the status report issued by the state Emergency Operation Centre, as many as 191 roads are blocked in Mandi district alone, while 74 in Kullu, 25 in Kangra, 15 in Chamba, seven each in Shimla and Una, four each in Solan and Sirmaur, two, including National Highway 1, in Lahaul and Spiti and one in Bilaspur district remain blocked as they were damaged due to heavy rains.

Heavy rainfall is set to continue across the state till August 18 as the state's Meteorological Department has issued an orange weather warning for various districts of the state for the next two days, resulting in very heavy to heavy rain in isolated areas of the state. The department has also issued a yellow weather warning from August 15 till 18, resulting in heavy rain in isolated areas of the state during this period.

MAN DIES AFTER  
FALLING FROM  
MAKESHIFT BRIDGE IN  
BHAWNAS IN MANDI  
DISTRICT

**Diary Times Desk :** A man lost his life after falling from a makeshift wooden bridge into a swollen stream near Bhawnas village in Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh. The deceased, identified as Puran Chand of Bhawnas, was returning home from Jarol last evening when the tragedy occurred. According to eyewitnesses, the incident took place at the Halen area, where an old and fragile wooden footbridge spans a river that swells dangerously during rains. As Puran Chand attempted to cross the temporary structure, he slipped and was swept away by the strong current. Despite the efforts of local residents who managed to pull him from the water after he had drifted nearly 100 meters downstream, he was declared dead on arrival at the Janjehli hospital. Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur stated that this was not an isolated incident.

191 ROADS STILL BLOCKED, MANDI APPLE GROWERS STARE AT  
LOSSES

**Diary Times Desk :** The apple growers of Mandi are grappling with a major crisis as 191 roads in the district are blocked for over a month due to incessant rains and landslides. In the worst-affected Seraj and Karsog Assembly constituencies, farmers are concerned over their inability to transport their apple produce to markets.

In Seraj, 85 Public Works Department (PWD) roads are closed, while in Karsog, 17 roads are still blocked. Several other village link roads, which are managed by local panchayats, are also blocked, further cutting off the farmers of remote areas.

Guman Singh, an apple grower of Bagrathach in Seraj, says, "We are in a dilemma. The fruit is ready but without road access, how we will take it to markets? We fear we will suffer heavy losses if the situation does not improve soon."



2 HIMACHAL MPS MEET RAILWAY  
MINISTER, SEEK SURVEY OF 'DEV'  
CIRCUIT TO LINK SHRINES

**Diary Times Desk :** Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur and Kangra MP Rajiv Bhardwaj today met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and sought a survey for a new 'Dev' circuit railway line between Una and Kangra to help promote religious tourism. Anurag said that the 'Dev' circuit would help link various temples at Kaleshwar Mahadev, Jwalamukhi, Chintpurni and Baglamukhi. "The railway line on this route, which is visited by millions of devotees from across the country throughout the year, will also benefit thousands of students and teachers studying in many institutions like the NIT, IIT, Medical College and the Central University of Himachal Pradesh," he added. He said, "I have been making efforts for sustainable railway development in the Hamirpur parliamentary constituency and on Tuesday, I along with the Kangra MP met the Union Railway Minister and requested him for a survey of a new railway line between Una and Kangra." This railway line connecting the Hamirpur and Kangra parliamentary constituencies with the whole country would provide special benefits to students, pilgrims, traders, soldiers and tourists, he added.

YOUTH MUST JOIN FIGHT  
AGAINST DRUGS: HIMACHAL CM  
SUKHVINDER SUKHU

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today exhorted the youth to not only stay away from drugs but also support efforts to make Himachal a drug-free state by sharing information about drug traffickers with the police.

Sukhu, while speaking on the occasion of International Youth Day here, said that the government was committed to rehabilitating drug victims. He said that the government was creating employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth, besides encouraging start-ups. "To promote tourism, the government will invest Rs 3,000 crore in the coming years. At present, about 8,000 homestays are operational in the state and tourism activities have begun along the China border," he added. Sukhu said that reforms in the education sector had elevated Himachal Pradesh's ranking from 21st to fifth in the country. "Ten Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding Schools will become operational from next academic session.

IIT-MANDI TECH INNOVATION HUB, NAGENT AI LAUNCH HYBRID  
UPSKILLING PROGRAMME

**Diary Times Desk :** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, through its Technology Innovation Hub (TIH), has partnered with Nagent AI to launch a practical, hybrid upskilling programme designed to close India's growing talent gap in artificial intelligence.

Limited to 30 participants, the 23-hour program combines self-paced online modules with an on-campus immersion at IIT-Mandi. It offers working professionals hands-on training in building and deploying AI agents across key sectors like healthcare, supply chain, and customer experience. The initiative supports India's "AI for All" strategy by fostering a lab-to-market pipeline for AI innovation. Programme outcomes will directly benefit sectors such as healthcare, supply chain, and customer experience, with a focus on rapid, real-world deployment.

The programme aims to compress traditional 6 to 12-month AI upskilling cycles into weeks, responding to industry's time-to-value pressures. "Buzzwords can bury real breakthroughs in hype, so we're cutting straight across the substance. This programme will show how humans and intelligent agents can team up to reinvent what's possible—today, not someday," said IIT-Mandi TIH CEO Somjit Amrit.



FIRST TIME IN 35 YEARS: WEST INDIES HUMILIATE PAKISTAN IN 3RD ODI TO  
SCRIPT HISTORY

**Diary Times Desk :** An inspired Jayden Seales led the West Indies to a crushing 202–run victory over Pakistan in the third and deciding one-day international in Trinidad on Tuesday. The fast bowler blew away the Pakistan top order en route to figures of 6–18 as the tourists were bundled out for just 92 in a chase of 295 to win. The Windies had reached 294–6 in their 50 overs batting first, powered by captain Shai Hope’s brilliant unbeaten hundred. The Caribbean side sealed a much-needed first ODI series win against Pakistan since 1991, after being swept aside 3–0 and 5–0 in Test and T20 series respectively by Australia earlier in the summer.

"We stress on negatives a lot in West Indies," said Hope. "So many positives to shout about. Great to see the guys pulling off history."

"Seales is a quality bowler... He’s a class act. Anything you ask him to do, he puts his hands up."

Pakistan’s reply got off to a horrendous start as Seales removed Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique and Mohammad Rizwan inside the first three overs to reduce them to 8–3.



SUPREME COURT CANCELS OLYMPIAN  
SUSHIL KUMAR’S BAIL IN MURDER CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Wednesday cancelled the bail granted to Olympian wrestler Sushil Kumar, who stands accused of murdering another wrestler, Sagar Dhankhad, in 2021 [Ashok Dhankad v. State NCT of Delhi].

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra passed the order, setting aside the Delhi High Court’s March 4 decision to grant bail to Kumar.

Kumar has been ordered to surrender back to jail within a week.

The top court held that the High Court had erred in granting Kumar bail.

"The (High) Court erred by inter alia, not considering the grievous nature of the crime, the possibility of influencing the trial by the Accused and the conduct of the accused during investigation," it observed.

The Bench also pointed out Kumar had evaded arrest for days before he was eventually apprehended, after non-bailable warrants were issued. Referring to the seriousness of the allegations against the accused wrestler, the Court added.

PSG LOOK TO ADD FIFTH TROPHY  
AGAINST TOTTENHAM



**Diary Times Desk :** One month after the end of the best season in their history, Paris St-Germain kick off the new one with the chance to win yet another trophy.

The French club won the Treble last season, including their first Champions League trophy, but lost 3–0 to Chelsea in the Club World Cup final in New Jersey last month.

Now the European champions face another London club, as they meet Europa League winners Tottenham in Udine, Italy in the Uefa Super Cup.

Playing fantastic football with a young, hungry squad, PSG blew nearly everyone away in the latter stages of last season with devastating pace, passing and pressing – and look like a team who could dominate for some time to come.

"HAVING HIM IN SIDE CHANGED THE DYNAMICS": JURGEN KLOPP ON LATE FOOTBALLER  
DIOGO JOTA

**Diary Times Desk :** Ahead of the 2025–26 Premier League season, Liverpool manager Arne Slot and former boss Jurgen Klopp reflected on the late Portugal forward Diogo Jota’s impact at the club. Earlier in July, Jota died in a car accident in Spain at the age of 28. At the time of the accident, Jota was with his brother in the car, as reported by Sky Sports. In September 2020, Jota was signed by Premier League club Liverpool. With the Reds, he won the Premier League 2024–25 title. He was also part of the Liverpool squad that lost to Real Madrid 1–0 in the 2021/22 Champions League final, where he came on as a substitute. For Liverpool, the player featured in 26 games this season and scored six goals.

Slot looked back on last season’s tight battle with Arsenal, stressing the importance of fighting for fine margins again this year.

Speaking on JioHotstar’s special show, 'Preview of the Season 2025–26', Slot praised Jota’s achievements over the past year.

"He was a champion for his family, which is the most important thing. He was a champion for his country, winning the Nations League for a nation he loves [Portugal] and cares deeply about. And he was a champion for us by helping win the Premier League," Slot said.

Klopp hailed Jota’s influence on the team’s dynamics. Further, Klopp also highlighted Jota’s impact on the team, saying, "Diogo was an incredibly important player for us. Having him in the side changed the dynamics."

TIME TO END SPLIT  
CAPTAINCY? BCCI SENT  
CLEAR SHUBMAN GILL 'AURA'  
MESSAGE AHEAD OF ASIA CUP

**Diary Times Desk :** India currently has three designated captains. In Tests, Shubman Gill is the skipper, while in T20Is, Suryakumar Yadav holds the reins. In ODIs, Rohit Sharma is the incumbent captain, though there are rumours that he might be phased out ahead of the 2027 World Cup. This is quite a new situation in Indian cricket, where one captain has mostly been in charge of all three formats. Shubman Gill, the current Test captain, was not part of the 2024 T20 World Cup squad. However, with the form he is in—scoring over 750 runs in five Test matches against England—fitting Gill into the format seems non-negotiable.

A PTI report has even claimed that Gill is in the race to be vice-captain. Amidst this, former BCCI selector Devang Gandhi said, "Split captaincy doesn’t work in India in the long run."

"Gill has built an aura similar to what Virat had in 2017. Virat was groomed under MS Dhoni.

SELES REVEALS MYASTHENIA  
GRAVIS DIAGNOSIS



**Diary Times Desk :** Nine-time Grand Slam champion Monica Seles has revealed she was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis – a neuromuscular autoimmune disease – three years ago.

The 51-year-old has chosen to go public with the rare long-term condition, which causes muscle weakness, to raise awareness before this month’s US Open.

Seles first noticed symptoms of the condition, which can affect most parts of the body – including the muscles that control the eyes, around five years ago.

"I would be playing [tennis] with some kids or family members, and I would miss a ball," former world number one Seles told The Associated Press.

"I was like, 'Yeah, I see two balls.' These are obviously symptoms that you can't ignore."

"It took me quite some time to really absorb it, speak openly about it, because it's a difficult one. It affects my day-to-day life quite a lot."