

FORTUNE FORECAST

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

79TH INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE



INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE: A NUANCED JOURNEY FROM DOMINION STATUS TO FULL SOVEREIGNTY

Diary Times Desk : India's independence on August 15, 1947, was not a sudden break from colonial rule but the result of a complex, negotiated transfer of power. While widely celebrated as the day India became free from British domination, the transition was legally framed under the India Independence Act passed by the British Parliament, raising questions about the nature of sovereignty at that moment.

The Act granted India Dominion Status within the British Commonwealth, an interim arrangement allowing governance to continue while a new constitution was drafted. This status meant that, in the immediate aftermath of independence, India retained certain institutional and legal ties to Britain. The arrangement was seen as a necessary step to ensure administrative stability during a period marked by political uncertainty and the upheaval of Partition.

The process was shaped by the diverse perspectives of key figures. Jawaharlal Nehru favored a pragmatic approach to governance during the transition, while Mahatma Gandhi focused on unity and non-violence. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel prioritized integration and administrative cohesion, and Lord Mountbatten sought a timely and orderly withdrawal of British power. Their differing views influenced decisions on partition, the division of Punjab and Bengal, and the timeline for independence.

The legal and political shift to full sovereignty came with the adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950. This historic step severed all constitutional links with Britain, enshrining India as a sovereign, democratic republic. The constitution was crafted to ensure "constitutional autarky" — a complete break from any legislative dependence on the British Parliament. The historical reality, as the video explains, is that August 15 marked the beginning of India's self-governance rather than its culmination. Recognizing this distinction deepens the appreciation for the struggles that followed independence and the importance of the constitutional freedoms that define modern India.

Independence Day 2025 : Which Country First Recognised Independent India? If Not Russia, Then Who Stood With Us?

Diary Times Desk : As India prepares to celebrate its 79th Independence Day in 2025, it's worth revisiting an often-overlooked question: which nation was the first to officially recognise India after it gained freedom? India became an independent, sovereign nation on August 15, 1947, breaking free from British colonial rule. But independence alone was not enough — a new nation also needed recognition on the global stage. Only when other countries formally acknowledge a nation's sovereignty does it gain full diplomatic standing.

Many may not know for certain which country first recognised India after independence, and historical records offer no definitive answer. However, some reports suggest that the United States was the first to extend recognition. In fact, the U.S. had already opened its embassy in India even before August 15, 1947. Soon after, nations like the United Kingdom, the USSR, and France also granted recognition.

Interestingly, when it comes to Pakistan, its first recognition came from Iran — then known as the Imperial State of Iran. Over time, countries across the world established diplomatic relations with India, acknowledging it as a sovereign state. Yet, even today, there are nations India does not officially recognise. These include Abkhazia (considered by most of the world to be part of Georgia), Kosovo (a UN member state), Taiwan, and Somaliland. India's diplomatic stance towards these regions reflects its foreign policy priorities and strategic considerations, just as those first recognitions in 1947 reflected the global political climate of the time.



THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



Diary Times Desk : President Droupadi Murmu's address on the eve of Independence day mentioned two key talking points of the day -- buying local and ease of doing business. Both have been areas of concern in the aftermath of the imposition of 50 per cent tariff by the US on Indian goods.

The President's address -- traditionally an apolitical one that focusses on national aims and achievements -- traced 'buy local' to its origin in the Swadeshi movement and Mahatma Gandhi's advocacy of Khadi to its modern avatar "Make in India".

"Last week, on August 7, the country celebrated 'National Handloom Day' which honours our weavers and their products," President Murmu said.

"Since the year 2015, we have been celebrating this day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement launched during our freedom struggle in the year 1905. The spirit of Swadeshi was strengthened by Mahatma Gandhi to promote the products made by the sweat and toil of Indian artisans and crafts-persons, and by their incomparable skills. The idea of Swadeshi has been inspiring our national endeavours like Make-in-India initiative and Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Let us resolve to buy and use Indian products," she said.

The "ease of doing business", she said was as important as ease of living to improve the life of the common man.

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY WARRIORS



Diary Times Desk : India's journey to independence was shaped by the relentless efforts, sacrifices, and vision of countless men and women who stood against colonial rule. These Independence Day Warriors came from diverse backgrounds, but shared a common goal — the liberation of the nation.

PROMINENT LEADERS AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS

- **Mahatma Gandhi** – The leader of the non-violent resistance movement, who mobilized millions through the principles of truth and non-violence.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru** – India's first Prime Minister, who played a key role in shaping the political vision of an independent India.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** – The "Iron Man of India," who was instrumental in unifying the princely states.
- **Subhas Chandra Bose** – The leader of the Indian National Army, whose rallying cry "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom" inspired thousands.
- **Bhagat Singh** – The revolutionary who became a symbol of youthful courage and sacrifice.
- **Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi** – The fearless queen who fought valiantly during the Revolt of 1857.
- **Mangal Pandey** – One of the earliest revolutionaries, whose actions sparked the First War of Independence in 1857.
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** – A nationalist leader and social reformer, famously declaring, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."
- **Annie Besant** – An Irish-born freedom activist and leader of the Home Rule movement.
- **Sarojini Naidu** – The "Nightingale of India," a poet and political leader who championed civil rights and women's empowerment.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

Gallantry awards for 36 Op Sindoor air warriors, 9 IAF officers get Vir Chakra



Diary Times Desk : The Narendra Modi government on Thursday announced gallantry awards for 36 air warriors who played crucial roles in Operation Sindoor. Nine Indian Air Force officers, including fighter pilots who targeted terrorist groups' headquarters in Muridke and Bahawalpur and Pakistan military assets in Operation Sindoor were awarded the Vir Chakra - the third-highest wartime gallantry medal.

One was awarded the Shaurya Chakra. The Shaurya Chakra is awarded for courageous action or self-sacrifice while not directly engaged with the enemy. It ranks after the Ashoka Chakra and the Vir Chakra. 26 others were awarded with the Vayu Sena medal.

Among the recipients of the Vir Chakra are Group Captains R S Sidhu, Manish Arora, Animesh Patni, and Kunal Kalra. Wing Commander Joy Chandra, Squadron Leaders Sarthak Kumar, Siddhant Singh, Rizwan Malik, and Flight Lieutenant A S Thakur were also honoured, reflecting the diversity of roles involved in achieving operational success.

Operation Sindoor, which was launched on May 7, was in direct response to the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives. Indian forces targeted nine terrorist facilities deep within Pakistani territory, resulting in over 100 terrorist casualties. This retaliatory action demonstrated India's military resolve and strategic capability.

The announcement also marks the first-ever conferment of the 'Sarovottam Yudh Seva Medal' to Air Force officers. This prestigious accolade, along with other high military decorations, underscores the exceptional contributions of officers across the Army, Navy, and Air Force in the operation.

The operation saw a significant military exchange, with Pakistan launching drone strikes in retaliation.

INDIA-CHINA IN TALKS TO RESUME BORDER TRADE AFTER 5-YEAR GAP AS TENSIONS EASE



Diary Times Desk : India is working with China to resume trade through lipulekh, Shipki La and Nathu La passes, said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a statement.

"We have remained engaged with the Chinese side to facilitate the resumption of border trade through all the designated trade points—namely Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh, and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim. If there are any updates, we will keep you informed," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a media briefing.

Meanwhile, India and China will be holding a crucial meeting next week to discuss border disputes between the two countries. Both countries will be holding the Special Representative Level talks next week.

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, will be visiting India on August 18 for the talks. He will meet National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Both leaders will discuss the boundary issues between the two nations.



IN INDEPENDENCE DAY EVE ADDRESS, PRESIDENT'S 'BUY LOCAL' CALL, OP SINDOOR PRAISE

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INDIA, CHINA DISCUSS RESUMING BORDER TRADE HALTED SINCE 2020: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : India and China are discussing resuming border trade of locally made goods after more than five years, marking the latest step in a slow but steady effort by the Asian neighbors to ease long-standing tensions, according to officials in New Delhi familiar with the matter.

Both sides have proposed restarting trade through designated points on the shared border, and the matter is currently under bilateral discussion, the people said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are still private.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Thursday that Beijing is "willing to step up communication and coordination with India" on the matter. "Border trade between China and India has long played an important role in improving lives of the two countries' border residents," it said in a response to a query from Bloomberg News.

India's Ministry of External Affairs didn't respond to an email seeking further information.

For over three decades, India and China had traded locally produced goods - such as spices, carpets, wooden furniture, cattle fodder, pottery, medicinal plants, electric items, and wool - through three designated points along their 3,488-kilometer (2,167-mile) disputed Himalayan border. The trade value is relatively small, estimated at just \$3.16 million in 2017-18, according to the most recent government data available.

The trading points were shut during the Covid-19 pandemic, which coincided with a sharp decline in relations between the two nations after border clashes in the Himalayas killed 20 Indian soldiers and at least four Chinese troops.

COOPERATIVE DRAGON-ELEPHANT DANCE "RIGHT CHOICE": CHINA ON INDIA TIES

Diary Times Desk : China on Thursday said that India and Beijing are two important members of the Global South and a "cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant" is the right choice for both sides, per a report by the Global Times.

The two Asian countries have been on US President Donald Trump's radar since he started weaponising tariffs. In April, the US and China had a brief trade war, with the former raising tariffs as high as 145 per cent.

However, China had capped the tariff at 125 per cent, saying, "Even if the US further raises tariffs to even higher levels, it would be economically meaningless and would ultimately become a laughingstock in the history of global economics".

Similarly, recently Trump imposed a whopping 50 per cent tariff on India, including 25 per cent as penalty for buying Russian oil and weapons. The tariffs are set to be effective from August 27th.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said that Beijing is ready to work with India to increase political mutual trust, expand exchanges and cooperation together while also cooperating on multilateral platforms such as Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and handling differences while keeping a note of the bigger picture.

Moreover, as India and China try to revamp their political ties, they are set to resume direct flights as early as next month according to a Bloomberg report. The government has asked airlines in India to be prepared for flights to China on short notice. According to the report, an official confirmation could come as soon as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit at the end of August, in China.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi is also expected to visit India next week to meet National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

AHEAD OF TRUMP-PUTIN TALKS, KEY US OFFICIAL'S BIG WARNING ON INDIA TARIFFS

Diary Times Desk : US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has warned India of increasing secondary tariffs over the Russian oil trade. He said that the raise in tariffs is dependent on the outcome of US President Donald Trump's high-stakes meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on Friday. In an interview to Bloomberg TV on Wednesday, Bessent said, "We've put secondary tariffs on Indians for buying Russian oil. And I could see, if things don't go well, then sanctions or secondary tariffs could go up." Earlier this month, Trump had slapped India with 50 per cent tariffs, including 25 per cent as penalty for buying Russian oil and weapons. Responding to the tariffs, the Ministry of External Affairs has said that the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable. "Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," it said.

YOUR HOROSCOPE 15-08-2025

Aries

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Taurus

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Gemini

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Cancer

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Leo

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Virgo

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Libra

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Scorpio

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Sagittarius

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Capricorn

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Aquarius

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Pisces

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HEAVY RAIN IN 6 DISTRICTS INCLUDING SHIMLA, TWO DEAD; MANY HOUSES AND VEHICLES DAMAGED, DEBRIS FELL ON MOVING BUS

Diary Times Desk : Amid the Orange Alert issued by the Meteorological Department, heavy rains have caused heavy damage in six districts of Himachal including Shimla. Two people died due to heavy rains and landslides on Wednesday night and Thursday, while many houses have been damaged. Vehicles are buried in debris at many places. A Mani Mahesh pilgrim in Chamba and a young girl in Rampur lost their lives due to a stone falling from the hill.

Passengers were rescued by breaking the window after debris fell on a moving private bus in Sarkaghat, Mandi. Due to continuous rain for seven hours in Una, the city was flooded again. Water entered more than a hundred houses and shops. Angry with the waterlogging, people blocked the Chandigarh-Dharamshala NH by parking their vehicles. All educational institutions in the district remained closed on Thursday. Due to rain and landslides, 470 roads have been blocked across the state, including two national highways. Three flights to Kangra were cancelled due to bad weather. Shimla, Mandi, Kangra, Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una have suffered heavy losses due to rain and landslides in the last 24 hours. Devendra Kumar, a resident of Doda in Jammu and Kashmir, who was on the Mani Mahesh Yatra, died after being hit by a stone falling from a hill in Gui Nala in Chamba. After the accident, the administration has banned the movement of pilgrims. Meera (20) died after a stone fell from a hill in Kholti Nala of Taklech in Rampur subdivision.

CONGRESS TOOK OUT A CANDLE MARCH IN SHIMLA WITH THE SLOGAN 'VOTE CHOR GADDI CHHOD', TARGETING BJP

Diary Times Desk : Alleging manipulation in the voter list and electoral fraud, Himachal Congress on Thursday launched the Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod campaign. Under the leadership of state president Pratibha Singh and deputy chief minister Mukesh Agnihotri, a candle light march was taken out from Sher-e-Punjab to the statue of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi via Ridge Maidan late on Thursday evening. Despite the rain, Congress leaders and workers demonstrated by raising slogans of 'Democracy ke hatyaare nahi chalenge'.

State president Pratibha Singh said that the BJP has weakened the country's democracy and questioned the credibility of the Election Commission. The BJP has insulted the public opinion by stealing votes in Karnataka and Maharashtra. Now preparations are being made to play a similar game in Bihar. After the revelations of alleged vote theft in Karnataka.

SECTION LEADER ASHA AND PLATOON COMMANDER RAJNEESH AWARDED MEDALS FOR COMMENDABLE SERVICES, KNOW

Diary Times Desk : Honorary Platoon Commander Rajneesh Katoch has been awarded the Commendable Service Medal for cloudburst in Manikaran and rescue work in Himri Pass. Asha Devi posted at Himachal Pradesh Home Guards State Headquarters has been awarded the Commendable Service Medal for deployment and coordination of Home Guards.

Rajneesh Katoch, a resident of Banjar, who joined the Home Guards as a volunteer on 24 August 1992, has successfully completed several trainings including Basic, Advance, Grade-A in Fire Course and Leadership Course. Rajneesh has received appreciation certificates for excellent work in Independence Day and Republic Day parades.

CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU INAUGURATED THE KEYLONG TRIBAL FESTIVAL, ALSO LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF FIVE BRIDGES

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh on Thursday inaugurated the state-level tribal festival Keylong through virtual medium from Shimla. Sukhu said that for the first time in the state, a festival has been organized with the theme 'Zero Waste'. In the direction of environmental protection, this will prove to be an example not only for the state but for the whole country. Plastic bottles and disposal have been completely banned in the tribal festival. Public taps have been installed at a distance of a few meters in Keylong town for the supply of pure drinking water. A glimpse of the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Lahaul-Spiti will be seen in the tribal festival.

Chief Minister Sukhu said that the Chenab Division of the Public Works Department will now be able to place tenders up to five lakhs offline. Earlier the Executive Engineer had the powers to place tenders up to only one lakh rupees, which has now been increased to five lakh rupees. With this, development work in the valley is expected to pick up pace. MLA Anuradha Rana demanded relief amount for the damage caused to roads, bridges and crops due to the recent floods. On this, the Chief Minister said that a team will be formed under the leadership of Cabinet Minister Rajesh Dharmani and a report of the damage caused in the district will be prepared and sent to the government. Powers have been decentralized by deploying women administrative officers in Lahaul-Spiti, so that women power can take decisions independently. Lahaul-Spiti district has become an example for the entire country today in the direction of women empowerment. The traditional products of the district will be encouraged by including them in the Him-Era brand.



BAN ON FISHING IN HIMACHAL WILL END FROM FRIDAY, 610 CASES OF POACHING CAUGHT

Diary Times Desk : The two-month ban on fishing in water bodies across the state will end from Friday. The fisheries department had banned fishing from 15 June to 15 August.

During the ban, the fisheries department has registered a record 610 cases of poaching. A total fine of Rs 5,58,300 has been collected from the violators in these cases. The highest number of 188 cases of poaching have been registered in Pong Dam, in which a fine of Rs 2,02,750 has been collected. A fine of Rs 96,050 has been collected in 110 cases registered in Bilaspur, Rs 89,800 in 87 cases registered in Mandi, Rs 37,600 in 49 cases registered in Chamba, Rs 34,200 in 38 cases registered in Patlikuhah, Rs 23,500 in 46 cases registered in Solan, Rs 11,700 in 26 cases registered in Sirmour, Rs 5500 in eight cases registered in Shimla, Rs 13,200 in seven cases registered in Una and Rs 44,00 in 51 cases registered in Kangra. Apart from this, the department had registered 109 cases of illegal hunting from April 1 to June 15, in which a fine of Rs 66,500 has been collected. Last year, the fisheries department had registered 442 cases of illegal hunting and collected a fine of Rs 2.93 lakh.

SIX YOUTHS RETURNED SAFELY TO INDIA AFTER FACING HARDSHIPS IN IRAQ... WORKED WITHOUT SALARY, FOUR FROM PUNJAB, TWO FROM HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : With the continuous efforts of Punjab Cabinet Minister for Industry, Commerce, Investment Promotion and Overseas Indian Affairs Sanjeev Arora and the support of Punjab Government, six Indian nationals (four residents of Punjab and two residents of Himachal Pradesh) reached safely at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi today from Iraq, where they were living in painful conditions. The returnees include Saurav (resident of Tarn Taran, Punjab), Gurpreet Singh (village Chaunta, District Ludhiana, Punjab), Sanjeev Kumar (Sherpur Bahtian, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab), Abhilash Kumar (Sherpur Bahtian, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab), Tara Chand (District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh) and Charanjit Swami (District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh). These people expressed their heartfelt gratitude.

"CAN'T CREATE HORROR":
SUPREME COURT'S BIG
STRAY DOGS ORDER
CHALLENGED

Diary Times Desk : Hearing petitions challenging the Supreme Court order to round up all stray dogs in Delhi NCR and move them to shelter homes, another bench of the top court today asked why authorities in several areas started picking up the animals even before the earlier order became public. The court also came down heavily on the authorities for not implementing guidelines for animal control, leading to this situation.

The bench of Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice NV Anjaria heard the matter this morning after an August 11 order of a two-judge bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan sparked a massive row, with animal lovers hitting the streets to protest the order to remove strays from residential neighbourhoods.

Appearing for the Delhi government, Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta pointed to stray dog attacks on children, leading to injury and rabies deaths. "Children are dying. Sterilisation does not stop rabies," he said.

MASSIVE TREE UPROOTED,
CRUSHES BIKER TO DEATH
IN DELHI RAIN CHAOS

Diary Times Desk : A 50-year-old man was crushed to death after a massive tree uprooted and fell on him in Delhi amid heavy rain. The biker, identified as Sudhir Kumar (50), was riding with his daughter, Priya (22), when an old neem tree uprooted and fell flat on the biker and adjacent vehicles in South Delhi's Kalkaji. The national capital, Delhi, has been witnessing a downpour since early morning, leading to waterlogging and traffic jams, disrupting lives.

According to the CCTV footage, at 9:50 am, an old neem tree uprooted and fell on the vehicles in Delhi's Kalkaji. After waiting for a few seconds, one of the cars that came under the tree managed to drive past the incident location. However, the bike remained trapped under the tree. People rushed to rescue the bikers. Police responded swiftly to the PCR call and launched a rescue operation. The two victims were extricated and shifted to the hospital through Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS) ambulance. Both father and daughter were admitted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre. The man died of his injuries.

The visuals from the ground show a tree fallen flat on the ground, blocking the entire road.

JCB has been deployed to cut the tree into smaller parts and remove it from the road.

MUD-BURIED BODIES, INJURED EVERYWHERE:
SHOCKING SCENES AFTER J&K CLOUDBURST



Diary Times Desk : The shocking scenes of physical and psychological trauma unfolded on a massive scale as search and rescue operations were underway, digging out mud-buried bodies and rescuing the injured trapped in slush and rocks after flash floods triggered by a cloudburst devastated Chositi village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday.

A massive cloudburst struck this remote mountain village, killing at least 46 people, including two CISF personnel, officials said. The death toll could go up as more people are believed to be trapped, officials said. Over 160 people have been rescued so far, and the condition of 38 among them is said to be serious.

Blood-stained bodies, mud-filled lungs, shattered ribs and deep wounds packed with stones - these are just some of the harrowing injuries sustained by people, including pilgrims and security personnel, caught in the aftermath of the catastrophic cloudburst in the foothill hamlet of Chositi.

TAMIL NADU GOVERNOR SAYS
DRUGS, SUICIDES AMONG STATE'S
TROUBLES, DMK HITS BACK

Diary Times Desk : On the eve of India's 79th Independence Day, Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the Centre's achievements - from economic growth and poverty reduction to military victories and cultural initiatives.

Notably, the Governor did not offer any words of praise for the Tamil Nadu government or Chief Minister MK Stalin. Instead, towards the end of his nearly hour-long speech, he listed what he described as "very serious challenges" facing the state, calling for urgent corrective action.

The four issues flagged by the Governor were:

1. Educational and social discrimination against the poor and marginalised, with declining learning standards in government schools and continued caste-based segregation.

2. Alarming rise in suicides, claiming Tamil Nadu's suicide rate is more than double the national average.

"FASCIST DMK": SUPERSTAR VIJAY VOCAL OVER SANITATION
WORKERS' PROTEST

Diary Times Desk : Tamil superstar Vijay has ripped into the DMK government, accusing the MK Stalin administration of arresting sanitation workers at midnight when they were protesting peacefully for their rights.

"Condemnation to the fascist DMK government for arresting sanitation workers, who have been peacefully fighting for their rights, in an inhumane and anarchic manner in the dead of night," said Vijay, who heads the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) party.

Nearly 900 agitators were detained early this morning outside Ripon Building, headquarters of Greater Chennai Corporation, following a Madras High Court order to clear the protest site.

Vijay alleged that some women workers fainted during the police action, while some sustained injuries while being dragged away.

"Witnessing this midnight arrest operation, it is evident that violence has been unleashed on women to an extent that no one with a conscience can bear," he said, calling for immediate medical assistance and treatment for the injured. He also alleged that they have been detained at various locations and are unable to contact their families. "To detain them in a way that prevents even communication with their families-are sanitation workers anti-national elements? Does the ruling government have even a shred of conscience? Looking at this cruel action, it becomes crystal clear that what is happening in Tamil Nadu is not democracy but tyranny," said the actor.

NAME 65 LAKH TAKEN OFF
BIHAR VOTER LIST, GIVE
REASON: TOP COURT TO POLL
BODY

Diary Times Desk : The names of 65 lakh people removed from the voter list in Bihar must be uploaded on the Election Commission websites along with the reason for deletion by Tuesday, the Supreme Court told the poll body today. The court also said this list must be publicised so that every voter can access it. In a key ruling, the court also said those whose names have been wrongly deleted can submit their claims along with a copy of their Aadhaar cards. This is significant because the petitions challenging the Special Intensive Revision had flagged the exclusion of Aadhaar as proof and said this would affect many voters.

Hearing petitions challenging the Special Intensive Revision of voter lists in poll-bound Bihar, Justice Surya Kant noted that the Election Commission has said 22 lakh people out of the 65 lakh names struck off the list have died. "If 22 lakh people have died, why is it not disclosed at the booth level?"

ACTOR DARSHAN ARRESTED HOURS AFTER
SUPREME COURT CANCELLED HIS BAIL

Diary Times Desk : Hours after his bail was cancelled by the Supreme Court in connection with the murder of his fan Renukaswamy, actor Darshan has been arrested by the Bengaluru Police.

Darshan went to his wife's residence in Bengaluru's Hosakerehalli on Thursday afternoon and entered the complex from an alternate gate and in a car that he does not usually use. He met his wife and son. The police arrived after they were informed of the actor's presence there and he was taken into custody. He was taken to the Annapoorneshwari police station and, after completing formalities and a medical check-up, he was produced before a court.

In the evening, Darshan and the other accused were sent to the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

Earlier on Thursday, a Supreme Court bench had cancelled the bail given to the popular Kannada actor by the Karnataka High Court in December. Ordering that he be taken into custody, a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan.

FIRE AT OIL REFINERY AS UKRAINE LAUNCHES DOZENS OF DRONES AT RUSSIA

Diary Times Desk : Ukraine fired dozens of drones at Russia between late Wednesday and early Thursday, wounding three people and sparking fires in two southern regions, including at an oil refinery, officials said. Videos posted on Russian social media purported to show a large fire at an oil refinery in the southern city of Volgograd, about 470 kilometres (around 300 miles) from the front line.

"The debris from the attack caused oil products to spill and catch fire at the Volgograd oil refinery," Volgograd region governor Andrei Bocharov said in a statement on Telegram.

The governor of Russia's Belgorod region, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said a Ukrainian drone struck a car in the centre of the region's capital, setting it alight and wounding three people.

"Emergency services are working at the scene," he wrote on Telegram.

Ukraine did not immediately comment on the reported attacks.

Since Russia launched its full-scale military assault on Ukraine in February 2022, Kyiv has responded with drone strikes on Russian infrastructure hundreds of kilometres from its border.

DOES ANYONE IN ISRAEL SUPPORT THE PLAN TO ESCALATE ITS OFFENSIVE IN GAZA?

Diary Times Desk : The Israeli cabinet's decision to escalate its war on Gaza, disregarding the humanitarian crises it has caused there already, appears to have angered as many in Israel as in the international community, though not necessarily for the same reasons.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had to backtrack on his idea of seizing all of Gaza after pushback from a military widely regarded as being exhausted.

Under the new "plan", Israel will seize Gaza City and, according to an anonymous Israeli official talking to the Associated Press, Gaza's "central camps" as well as al-Mawasi in the south.

Defending his new idea on Sunday, Netanyahu told journalists that Israel had "no choice".

ARAB WORLD SLAMS NETANYAHU'S 'GREATER ISRAEL' REMARKS

Diary Times Desk : The Arab League has condemned in the strongest terms the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding the annexation of parts of the territories of sovereign Arab states, in preparation for the establishment of what he called "Greater Israel."

The League considered these statements to be a violation of the sovereignty of Arab states and an attempt to undermine security and stability in the region.

In a statement released Tuesday, the League said these remarks represent a serious threat to collective Arab national security and a flagrant challenge to international law and the principles of international legitimacy. The statements also reflect expansionist and aggressive intentions that cannot be accepted or tolerated, and they reveal an extremist mindset steeped in colonial delusions.

Within the same contest, Egypt has condemned the statements raised in some Israeli media regarding the so-called "Greater Israel," while affirming its commitment to establishing peace in the Middle East.

PUTIN MUST 'PROVE HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT PEACE,' SAYS STARMER

Diary Times Desk : Sir Keir Starmer and Volodymyr Zelensky believe there is a "viable" chance of a ceasefire in Ukraine but Vladimir Putin must "prove he is serious about peace," Downing Street has said.

The UK prime minister held a breakfast meeting with the Ukrainian President ahead of a summit between US President Donald Trump and Putin in Alaska on Friday to discuss ending the war in Ukraine.

No 10 said Sir Keir and Zelensky agreed there was "a powerful sense of unity and a strong resolve to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine" at their meeting.

Zelensky and other European leaders, who are not attending the meeting in Alaska, held a joint call with Trump on Wednesday to reiterate their position.

A red carpet was rolled out for Zelensky's arrival at No 10, and he was pictured strolling through the Downing Street rose garden with the PM in a carefully co-ordinated show of support from the UK, scheduled just 24 hours before the summit in Alaska.

MAPS SHOW THE KEY REGIONS IN UKRAINE THAT PUTIN WANTS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin are meeting Friday for a summit in Alaska aimed - on the US side at least - at bringing an end to the grinding war that has followed Russia's full-scale invasion of 2022. Any peace deal around Ukraine would need to involve agreement on territory, with Russia currently occupying almost a fifth of Ukraine's land.

Last Friday, Trump suggested a ceasefire deal could involve "some swapping of territories," but it is not yet clear what areas he was referring to, and Ukraine has categorically rejected ceding parts of its land. Russia, too, has rejected the idea.

On Wednesday, French President Emmanuel Macron said that Trump was "very clear" on a call with European leaders that Washington wants to obtain a ceasefire and that Ukraine's territorial issues cannot be negotiated without its president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

One proposal, elements of which have emerged over the past week, reportedly presented to US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow, would have Ukraine give up the remainder of the eastern Donetsk region and Luhansk, together known as the Donbas, in exchange for a ceasefire.

ISRAEL KILLS 61 PEOPLE IN GAZA CITY, AT LEAST 100 ACROSS ENCLAVE

Diary Times Desk : At least 100 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza since dawn, according to medical sources, with Al Jazeera's team on the ground reporting the intensification of strikes on the northern parts of the besieged enclave, where 61 people were killed in Gaza City alone.

Israeli air strikes on groups trying to secure the distribution of aid north of Gaza City killed at least 12 people on Wednesday.

At least 37 people desperately seeking any food for their families were killed by Israeli fire, including 16 killed near an aid point north of Rafah, according to the Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza and another 14 killed and 113 wounded by Israelis forces waiting for aid in the north, according to the Gaza Emergency and Ambulance Service.

In the last 24-hour reporting period, at least eight people, including three children, died from Israeli-imposed starvation and malnutrition, bringing the total number of hunger-related deaths since the war began in October 2023 to 235, among them 106 children, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

TRUMP SAYS HE "COULD" TALK TO PUTIN ABOUT RUSSIA HACKING US COURT SYSTEM

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Wednesday acknowledged reports that Russian actors may have breached the federal court's electronic filing system, saying he "could" bring up the issue with their leader, Vladimir Putin, during their upcoming meeting in Alaska.

"I guess I could, are you surprised?" Trump said during a press event at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, when asked if he would raise the matter with Putin. "They hack in, that's what they do. They're good at it, we're good at it, we're actually better at it."

Trump and the Russian President are scheduled to meet on August 15 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, in what the White House describes as a "listening exercise" to gauge Moscow's willingness to end the war in Ukraine.

On Tuesday, The New York Times reported that hackers linked to Russia "compromised" sealed court records, including sensitive documents related to national security cases. Some targeted files involved mid-level criminal cases in New York City and other jurisdictions.



PUNJAB CABINET APPROVES DENOTIFICATION OF LAND POOLING POLICY

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Cabinet has given its approval for denotification of the Land Pooling Policy. This happens three days after the state government withdrew the contentious policy. The decision to denotify the policy was taken in the meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann here this afternoon. The government has claimed that the decision has been taken in the interests of the farmers.

It may be mentioned that the state government, through the policy brought in June this year, wanted to acquire 65,533 acres of land, of which 46,861 acres were to be acquired through land pooling in Ludhiana alone. This led to widespread protests by farmers and farmer unions and all Opposition parties.

Last week, the policy was also stayed citing many procedural lacunae.

Even the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture headed by Charanjit Singh Channi directed the government to furnish details of the withdrawal of the notification.



BUS SERVICES HIT AS 8,000 CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF PRTC OBSERVE STRIKE



Diary Times Desk : Commuters across the state faced significant travel disruptions as approximately 8,000 contractual employees of the Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) and Punbus staged a strike across 27 depots in Punjab.

The protest resulted in a halt of government-run buses, leaving many passengers stranded and chasing private buses in the rain to reach their destinations.

At the new interstate bus terminus, Harkesh Vicky, vice president of the PRTC Contractual Employees Union, expressed frustration over the lack of action from the government. Despite 45 meetings with Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema and transport minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, he claimed that their demands, including job regularisation and pay parity, remain unaddressed.

Vicky warned that if their demands are not met, the union plans to gherao Chief Minister Mann during the state-level Independence Day function in Faridkot. He highlighted new regulations penalising conductors and contractual staff for passenger fare evasion, stating, "Our demands are simple. We urge the government to regularise all contractual staff and end the draconian guidelines."

Union secretary Jasdeep Singh Lalli pointed out that while PRTC operates 1,200 buses, Punjab Roadways has around 1,600, and no new buses have been added to the PRTC fleet in four years. He noted that the government pays taxes for routes totaling 5,000 km each month where no buses are currently operating due to this shortage.

CHILD MARRIAGE FOILED IN PUNJAB; GIRL, 16, RESCUED BY OFFICIALS IN FARIDKOT

Diary Times Desk : A 16-year-old girl was rescued from getting married at a village in Punjab's Faridkot by a team of District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), officials said.

Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister, Baljit Kaur, commended the action taken by officials and stakeholders, stressing that strict enforcement of child protection laws is essential to safeguard the rights of minors.

Kaur said that the intervention was carried out under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The rescued minor from Sangrahoor village was produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which provided counselling and issued necessary directions. She was then handed over to her parents after they provided a written undertaking to ensure her safety, education, and overall well-being.

PUNJAB BJP ANNOUNCES HARJIT SANDHU AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR TARN TARAN BY POLL

Diary Times Desk : The BJP on Thursday named Harjit Singh Sandhu as its candidate for the bypoll to the Tarn Taran Assembly seat in Punjab.

The seat fell vacant following the death of AAP MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal in June.

The date of the bypoll is yet to be announced.

Sandhu (40) is the president of the BJP's district unit of Tarn Taran. Prior to joining the BJP in 2022, Sandhu was with the SAD.

He had joined the Youth Akali Dal in 2007 and remained the circle president from 2009 to 2012. He had also been general secretary of the Youth Akali Dal.



"Little stars shining bright for Independence Day"

photo by kumud sharma

PUNJAB POLICE'S AGTF ARREST 2 WANTED LAWRENCE BISHNOI GANG OPERATIVES

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) arrested two most-wanted operatives of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang from the Patiala-Ambala highway near Shambhu village and seized a 9-mm pistol along with six live cartridges from their possession.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said those arrested have been identified as Akshay Delu and Ankit Bishnoi alias Kakkar, both residents of village Khairpur in Abohar, Fazilka. The accused were operating on the instructions of their foreign-based handlers identified as Anmol Bishnoi and Arzoo Bishnoi.

Investigation revealed that they fled to Nepal after committing a murder and returned on directions of their foreign-based handlers to commit a sensational crime in Punjab. "Both the accused have an extensive criminal history with over 15 heinous crime cases pertaining to murder, attempt to murder, extortion, Arms Act, and NDPS Act registered against them in Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. They were also wanted in the recent murder of Bharat Ratan alias Vicky that took place in Fazilka on May 2," he added.

PUNJAB ON HIGH ALERT AHEAD OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Police have beefed up security across the state and all field units have been directed to remain on high alert ahead of the Independence Day functions.

As directed by the Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, police teams conducted flag marches at all sensitive areas in all 28 police districts simultaneously, followed by cordon and search operations (CASOs) at all vulnerable spots.

Special DGP, Law and Order, Arpit Shukla, said police teams, led by CPs/SSPs, conducted flag marches in sensitive and vulnerable areas of their respective districts. The exercise was aimed to boost the confidence of the general public, besides preparing police personnel to tackle any untoward situation, he said.

The Special DGP said the CPs/SSPs were also directed to conduct a special Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) under the supervision of SP-rank officer at all crowded places, including railway stations, bus stands, markets, shopping malls, public parks etc across the state.

ACCUSED FLEES FROM COURT AFTER BEING REMANDED TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY, SEARCH LAUNCHED IN HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : Rasham Singh, an accused in a Narcotics Drugs and Psychotic Substances (NDPS) Act case, fled from the court after he was remanded to judicial custody.

The 23-year-old, released on bail by the high court, appeared before the local trial court today to surrender, after having missed several previous hearing dates.

He hails from Kotdhar village in Shimla. A search has been initiated to nab him, informed Solan SP Gaurav Singh.

The Dharampur police had recovered 22.48g heroin from him on May 23, 2020, following which he was booked under Section 21, 29 of the NDPS Act.

ARMY RESCUES 4 PERSONS STRANDED IN FLOOD-HIT KINNAUR

Diary Times Desk : The Army's swift response averted a potential tragedy following a flash flood at Hojis Lungpa Nala on Thursday evening. The Army helped four stranded civilians move to the higher and safer ground and evacuated an injured individual to Regional Hospital, Reckong Peo.

Triggered by a cloudburst in the higher reaches of the Rishi Dogri Valley, the deluge engulfed the bridge across river Sutlej, leaving one person injured. On receiving an urgent request from the Superintendent of Police, Kinnaur, the Army immediately mobilised a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) column. Braving darkness, fast currents and unstable terrain, the team reached the location and discovered four civilians stranded on the far bank.

An Army spokesperson said the HADR team illuminated the general area to aid night rescue operations. "The Army deployed its new generation equipment to assist in this operation, which included the Logistics Drone High Altitude (LDHA) system to ferry essential items including eatables, coconut water across the floodwaters to help sustain the stranded.

RAIN FURY: FLASH FLOODS HIT HIMACHAL PRADESH, 300 ROADS CLOSED; WATERLOGGING IN DELHI

Diary Times Desk : Heavy rainfall across northern and eastern India has triggered flashfloods, road closures, and widespread waterlogging, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warning of further intense weather over the next 24 hours.

In Himachal Pradesh, relentless rain has caused severe disruption, particularly in Shimla and Lahaul and Spiti districts. One person is missing in Kullu district as he is suspected to have been washed away in Parvati River as a result of a flashflood triggered by a cloudburst in the district. Cloudbursts and flashfloods since Wednesday have damaged infrastructure and cut off access to several remote areas:

Over 300 roads, including two National Highways, have been closed.



FLASHFLOODS IN LAHAUL'S MIYAR VALLEY DAMAGE RURAL ROADS, FARMLAND

Diary Times Desk : Flashfloods triggered by heavy rainfall caused heavy damage to infrastructure and agricultural land in Dhodhul, Karpot, Changut and Udgos villages of the Miyar valley in Lahaul and Spiti district yesterday. Lahaul and Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana, along with district administration officials, local representatives and Deputy Commissioner Kiran Bhadana, visited the flood-affected areas today. However, they could not proceed beyond Changut due to the rise in the water level of rivulets. The MLA said that immediate restoration of road connectivity was the top priority and heavy machinery had been deployed for the purpose.

Meanwhile, the district administration provided essential supplies, including food and ration, to the affected villagers. Efforts to restore water and electricity supply were underway. Besides, the government would soon release an emergency relief of Rs 10,000 to every affected family. Though no loss of life had been reported so far, agricultural land and crops had suffered significant damage. Field officers would conduct a detailed damage assessment in the coming days.

CLOUDBURSTS HIT ANNI AREAS IN KULLU, VEHICLES WASHED AWAY

Diary Times Desk : A few cottages and vehicles were washed away in flashfloods triggered by cloudbursts in Bhimdwari near Bagipul and Bathahar in Anni subdivision of Kullu district this evening. Fortunately, no loss of human life was reported so far.

Deputy Commissioner, Kullu, Torul S. Ravish said that preliminary information suggested that three or four cottages and an equal number of vehicles were swept away in Bathahar due to the cloudburst. In Bhimdwari that also received heavy rainfall, no damage or casualties were reported.

As a precautionary measure, the district administration has evacuated low-lying areas of Banjar subdivision after the water level in rivers rose. Emergency response teams have been placed on high alert and the situation is being monitored closely. The local authorities, State Disaster Response Force and the District Disaster Management Authority have urged residents to remain vigilant and avoid going near rivers. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall has been forecast in the Kullu region, increasing the risk of more flashfloods and landslides.

LONGER MONSOON SESSION WILL HELP MEET MANDATORY 35 ASSEMBLY SITTINGS IN A YEAR: SPEAKER KULDEEP PATHANIA

Diary Times Desk : Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania today said that by holding a longer monsoon session of the 14th Vidhan Sabha — comprising 12 sittings — the norm of holding a minimum of 35 sittings in a year will be met.

Addressing a press conference here today, the Speaker said 15 sittings have already been held in the budget session earlier this year and 12 will be held in the monsoon session, which will take the total tally to 27.

"The total number of sittings in this 14th Vidhan Sabha in the last two-and-a-half years will touch 85 after the monsoon session. Our endeavour is to ensure that this time we are able to meet the 35 sittings norm after the completion of the winter session later this year," he said.

He said an all-party meeting had been convened at 12 noon on August 18, the opening day of the monsoon session. He said Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Leader of Opposition, Deputy Chief Whip of the Congress and Chief Whip of the Opposition will attend the meeting to ensure the smooth conduct of the session.

"I hope the members, cutting across party lines will extend their full cooperation to ensure the smooth conduct and optimum utilisation of the 12 sittings during the session," he said.



CHENNAI GMS: KEYMER WINS, ENTERS WORLD TOP 10

Diary Times Desk : Vincent Keymer claimed his fourth victory of the Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters in round seven, defeating Awonder Liang with black to extend his lead in the standings and become the first German since Robert Hübner to enter the world's top ten. Karthikeyan Murali and Nihal Sarin also won in the Masters, while Pranesh M and Leon Luke Mendonca emerged as co-leaders in the Challengers after both secured important wins, with former leader Abhimanyu Puranik now half a point behind.

Vincent Keymer continued his remarkable run in Chennai by defeating Awonder Liang in the Masters section to claim his fourth win of the tournament. This victory, achieved with the black pieces, also secured him a historic personal milestone: he has now crossed the 2747 mark in the live world ratings, climbing into the world's top ten for the first time in his career. No German player has reached that elite bracket since Robert Hübner in the early 1980s.

Keymer, who began the event with three straight wins before drawing with Anish Giri, Vidit Gujrathi and Arjun Erigaisi in rounds four to six, took on Liang a day after the American had impressed with a positional exchange sacrifice against Pranav Venkatesh.



THE MULTI-FACETED DR VECE PAES, WHO INFLUENCED INDIAN SPORTS LONG AFTER CALLING IT QUILTS

Diary Times Desk : A hockey great whose influence extended well beyond the field, the multi-faceted Dr Vece Paes was a rare combination of sporting and academic excellence that healed and helped athletes across disciplines. Paes, 80, breathed his last in Kolkata early this morning after battling multiple age-related ailments, including the debilitating Parkinson's disease. To those who knew him closely Paes was a mild-mannered, and highly intelligent man, who did the country proud on the hockey field with an Olympic medal (bronze in 1972, Munich Games) and later helped hockey, cricket, tennis and even football with his sports medicine expertise.

He was also the father of a very famous son, whose career he shaped with his gentle guidance.

Leander Paes never missed a chance to tell the world how much his father meant to him and his career. Paes senior was his manager too for a long time and served as the Indian Davis Cup team's doctor for a decade. The father-son duo made for one of the most famous sporting combinations in India.

"He was so dedicated to sports medicine that he fully concentrated on it after his hockey career."

RUTURAJ GAIKWAD, PRITHVI SHAW INCLUDED IN MAHARASHTRA SQUAD FOR BUCHI BABU TOURNAMENT

Diary Times Desk : India batters Ruturaj Gaikwad and Prithvi Shaw were on Thursday named in Maharashtra's 17-member squad for the All India Buchi Babu Invitational Tournament to be played in Chennai from August 18 to September 9. Ankit Bawane has been named captain of the Maharashtra squad. It will be the first assignment for top-order batter Shaw who had left Mumbai before the start of the season and joined Maharashtra. The 25-year-old will be eager to make a fresh start after a torrid run last season with Mumbai, being dropped on the grounds of fitness and discipline by the domestic giants.

Gaikwad, who featured in the warm-up matches between India A and India ahead of the national team's Test series in England, will also be keen to make his mark.

However both Gaikwad and keeper Saurabh Nawale are expected to leave after playing one game as they would need to link up with the West Zone squad in Bengaluru for the Duleep Trophy. West Zone have received direct entry into the semi-finals and will play their first game on September 4.

Squad: Ankit Bawane (c), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prithvi Shaw, Siddhesh Veer, Sachin Dhas, Arshin Kulkarni, Harshal Kate, Siddharth Mhatre.

VIRENDER SEHWAG MAKES SHOCKING CLAIM, REVEALS MS DHONI'S DECISION ALMOST FORCED HIM INTO ODI RETIREMENT

Diary Times Desk : Virender Sehwag is one of the best openers in the history of world cricket. The right-handed carved out a niche for himself by playing quickly while opening the innings. In a generation when other batters used to play cautiously against the new ball, Sehwag used to smash it right from the first ball of the game. He batted with a strike rate of 82.23 in Tests and 104.33 in ODIs. Sehwag finished his ODI career with 8273 runs. The former India vice-captain was an integral part of the 2011 World Cup-winning team.

But Sehwag would have missed out on playing the 2011 World Cup if he hadn't listen to Sachin Tendulkar. Speaking to Padamjeet Sehrawat on his YouTube channel, Sehwag made a shocking claim and revealed how MS Dhoni's decision almost forced him into ODI retirement.

WAYNE ROONEY HITS BACK AT TOM BRADY OVER 'WORK ETHIC' JIBE: "FOOTBALL IS NOT NFL"

Diary Times Desk : Wayne Rooney has described criticism of his work ethic by Birmingham minority owner Tom Brady as "unfair" and said the NFL legend did not understand football. Former Manchester United and England captain Rooney, was sacked as Birmingham manager in January 2024 after less than three months in charge. Seven-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Brady, who became a minority shareholder at Birmingham in August 2023, said he was "a little worried about our head coach's work ethic" during a recently-aired documentary after visiting Blues' training ground two months later.

"I think Tom came in once, which was the day before a game where the days are a little bit lighter anyway, and I don't think he really understood football that well," Rooney said on his new podcast, The Wayne Rooney Show.

"Football is not NFL -- NFL works for three months a year. Players do need rest as well, so I think he's very unfair, the way he's come out and portrayed that."

Following Rooney's departure, Birmingham appointed Tony Mowbray and Gary Rowett as managers in the 2023/24 season but were relegated to League One.

"When I went into Birmingham, they were in a mess really," added Rooney. "Hence the fact that the players weren't really the players who could take the club forward."

REAL MADRID SIGNS ARGENTINE TEENAGER FRANCO MASTANTUONO TO SIX-YEAR DEAL

Diary Times Desk : Real Madrid signed Argentine teenage forward Franco Mastantuono to a six-year deal on Thursday. The former River Plate player, who turned 18 on Thursday, underwent his medical and signed the contract alongside Madrid president Florentino Perez. "I promise I'll give everything I have for this shirt," Mastantuono said. "It has always been a dream of mine to play for the greatest club in the world." Madrid had already reached a deal for his signing but had to wait until he turned 18. The club reportedly paid 45 million euros (\$52.5 million).

Mastantuono was presented with a replica model of Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, a watch and a jersey with his name and number 30.

This offseason, Madrid also signed young Spain central defender Dean Huijsen and England right back Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Madrid is in its first season under coach Xabi Alonso, who replaced Carlo Ancelotti. It is coming off a disappointing season by its high standards, losing the Spanish league title to Barcelona and failing to reach the final in the Club World Cup and the Champions League.



TRUMP’S TARIFF WAR

By BBC Correspondent Cherylan Mollan : In a sweeping shift in American trade policy, former President Donald Trump has launched a bold tariff offensive targeting key global partners, reshaping the rules of international commerce and igniting widespread controversy.

Targeted Tariffs on Major Trading Partners: Trump has imposed steep tariffs—up to 25%—on imports from Canada and Mexico. Simultaneously, goods from China and the European Union face tariffs of around 10% and 20%, respectively . This move reflects a broader strategy dubbed “reciprocal tariffs,” where duties are calibrated based on each country’s trade surplus with the U.S. .

Escalating Trade Tensions Worldwide: China responded promptly with retaliatory tariffs—34% on U.S. imports—and restrictions on critical exports such as rare-earth minerals. These measures have significantly heightened global economic tensions .

Economic Fallout at Home: The tariffs have led to rising wholesale prices in the U.S., signaling mounting inflationary pressures throughout the supply chain. Economists warn that sustaining these tariffs may hinder economic recovery and restrict the Federal Reserve’s ability to lower interest rates . Meanwhile, households are projected to spend an additional \$2,400 in 2025 as a result of higher prices—a burden largely driven by these trade policies .

Diplomatic Fallout: The U.S.–India Rift: In a significant escalation, Trump imposed up to 50% tariffs on Indian imports, accusing India of harboring unfair practices and maintaining close ties with Russia . In retaliation, India has temporarily paused major U.S. defense procurements—though the defense ministry called these reports “false and fabricated”.

Legal and Global Ramifications: Washington’s unilateral tariff moves have spurred global instability. Britain’s exports to the U.S. hit their lowest in three years, despite a newly signed trade deal offering some tariff relief, and export volumes plummeted across sectors such as automobiles and machinery . On the U.S. side, courts have begun to push back—ruling that some of Trump’s so-called “Liberation Day” tariffs exceeded presidential authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.



CHIKUNGUNYA IN CHILDREN



Diary Times Desk : Chikungunya is a viral illness transmitted by infected Aedes mosquitoes, the same type responsible for spreading dengue and Zika. While the disease can affect people of all ages, children may be more vulnerable to certain complications due to their developing immune systems.

Causes and Transmission: The chikungunya virus is spread through the bite of an infected Aedes aegypti or Aedes albopictus mosquito. These mosquitoes are most active during the day, especially in the early morning and late afternoon. The virus is not spread from person to person through casual contact but can be transmitted from mother to child during childbirth in rare cases.

Symptoms in Children: Symptoms usually appear 4–8 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Common signs in children include:

- Sudden high fever
- Severe joint and muscle pain
- Headache
- Fatigue and irritability
- Skin rashes
- Swelling in the joints
- Loss of appetite

In very young children or infants, symptoms can be harder to detect and may include excessive crying, drowsiness, and poor feeding.

Possible Complications: Most children recover fully within one to two weeks, but in some cases, joint pain and fatigue may persist for several weeks or months. Severe complications are rare but can include neurological issues, especially in newborns and infants.

Prevention: There is currently no specific vaccine or antiviral treatment for chikungunya. Prevention focuses on reducing mosquito bites and controlling mosquito breeding sites:

Use mosquito nets or protective clothing.

- Apply child-safe mosquito repellents.
- Keep doors and windows screened.
- Remove standing water from containers, plant pots, and open drains.

Treatment and Care: Treatment is mainly supportive, aimed at relieving symptoms:

- Adequate rest and hydration.
- Fever and pain management with paracetamol (avoid aspirin in children).

PUTIN PRAISES TRUMP EFFORTS TO HALT UKRAINE WAR BEFORE ALASKA TALKS

Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised United States President Donald Trump's efforts to end the war in Ukraine, as the two leaders prepare to meet in Alaska for talks on the more than three-year conflict. The summit on Friday will be Putin's first known trip to a Western country since he launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who met British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday, is not scheduled to take part in the talks. The summit will open at 19:30 GMT with a one-on-one session attended only by interpreters, followed by talks between both delegations, a working lunch and a joint news conference. "The US administration ... in my view is making quite energetic and sincere efforts to end the fighting," Putin told senior officials in Moscow on Thursday. Trump and Putin agreed last week to hold the meeting as the US president pushes for a breakthrough in the three-and-a-half-year war. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said Ukraine would be "obvious to everyone" as the main focus, but the agenda also includes wider security and economic issues.



INDIAN WOMAN'S SCATHING REVIEW OF "EXPENSIVE" EIFFEL TOWER LUNCH SPARKS DEBATE

Diary Times Desk : An Indian woman shared a video criticising her expensive lunch at Le Jules Verne, a two-Michelin-starred restaurant on the Eiffel Tower's second floor. In the video, Ishwarya described the bread as "impossible to chew," the starter as cold (rating it 2/10), the main dish as average (7/10), and the dessert as overly creamy (1/10), calling it her "most expensive" and worst meal. An elderly New Zealander seated nearby echoed her complaints about the bread. When Ishwarya asked about alternatives, the waiter said it was the only option. She later noted that while the meal was edible, it was average and didn't meet her expectations, especially given the high price and prestigious location. Ishwarya later helped the woman get biscuits from a supermarket due to her struggle with the food. The video was shared by Make Travel Easy, a page run by Ishwarya and her UK-based Tamil husband, Sakthivel. "I will never go here again. The most expensive lunch I had turned out like this," the video was captioned. The video has sparked debate online. Some users called the restaurant a "tourist trap," while others defended the hard bread as typical European fare, meant for dipping in soup, and accused Ishwarya of not understanding French cuisine.

"TRUMP IS NOT HAPPY WITH INDIA BECAUSE..." : WHAT EX-DIPLOMAT SAID

Diary Times Desk : One of the reasons behind Washington's punitive tariffs on New Delhi is that US President Donald Trump is miffed with India for ignoring his so-called role in brokering a peace deal with Pakistan following the military conflict in May, said former diplomat Vikas Swarup. The former High Commissioner to Canada, who is also a renowned author, described the United States' current relationship with Pakistan as a short-term, tactical arrangement driven largely by financial interests, while stressing that US-India ties remain strategic. In an interview with the news agency ANI, Swarup lauded New Delhi's decision not to cave in to the Trump administration's pressure in trade talks and said US President Donald Trump's tariffs will eventually lead to ratcheting up inflation in America. "We have to understand why these tariffs have been imposed.... One, Trump is not happy with India because we are a member of BRICS... he has got this notion that BRICS is an anti-American alliance.

ARAB WORLD SLAMS NETANYAHU'S 'GREATER ISRAEL' REMARKS

Diary Times Desk : The Arab League has condemned in the strongest terms the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding the annexation of parts of the territories of sovereign Arab states, in preparation for the establishment of what he called "Greater Israel." The League considered these statements to be a violation of the sovereignty of Arab states and an attempt to undermine security and stability in the region. In a statement released Tuesday, the League said these remarks represent a serious threat to collective Arab national security and a flagrant challenge to international law and the principles of international legitimacy. The statements also reflect expansionist and aggressive intentions that cannot be accepted or tolerated, and they reveal an extremist mindset steeped in colonial delusions. Within the same contest, Egypt has condemned the statements raised in some Israeli media regarding the so-called "Greater Israel," while affirming its commitment to establishing peace in the Middle East. In a statement issued by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening, Egypt demanded official clarifications regarding these statements due to the indications they carry and that could trigger instability.

WILDFIRES FANNED BY HEATWAVE AND STRONG WINDS RAGE ACROSS EUROPE

Diary Times Desk : Wildfires caused by arsonists or thunderstorms and fanned by a heatwave and strong winds wreaked destruction across southern Europe on Wednesday, burning homes and forcing thousands of residents and tourists to flee. Fire has affected nearly 440,000 hectares (1,700 square miles) in the eurozone so far in 2025, double the average for the same period of the year since 2006, according to the EU Science Hub's Joint Research Centre. Flames and dark smoke billowed over a cement factory that was set alight by a wildfire that swept through olive groves and forests and disrupted rail traffic on the outskirts of the Greek city of Patras, west of Athens. "What does it look like? It looks like doomsday. May God help us and help the people here," said Giorgos Karvanis, a volunteer who had come from Athens to Patras to help. Authorities ordered residents of a town of about 7,700 people near Patras to evacuate on Tuesday and issued new alerts on Wednesday, advising residents of two nearby villages to leave. On the Greek islands of Chios, in the east, and Cephalonia, in the west, both popular with tourists, authorities told people to move to safety as fires spread. In Spain, a volunteer firefighter died from severe burns and several people were hospitalised.

3 KILLED, OVER 60 INJURED IN PAK'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Three people, including a senior citizen and an 8-year-old girl, were killed during Independence Day celebrations in Pakistan's Karachi due to "reckless" aerial firing, while over 60 others sustained gunshot injuries, Geo News reported, citing a rescue official. The incidents occurred across the city, with the young girl hit by a stray bullet in Azizabad and a man named Stephen killed in Korangi. At least 64 others suffered gunshot wounds in the citywide incidents, Geo News reported. Rescue officials said dozens were injured due to celebratory gunfire. Authorities condemned the practice as reckless and dangerous, urging citizens to mark Independence Day in safer ways. Police have initiated their investigation and assured that strict action will be taken against those found involved in aerial firing. According to a report obtained by ARY News, at least 42 people, including five women, lost their lives in firing incidents across Karachi in January.

