

NEWS IN BRIEF

PM MODI TO INAUGURATE KEY RS 11,000 CRORE HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN DELHI TODAY

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate two major National Highway projects in the national capital on Sunday, that will help in easing congestion on the roads and also add to smooth and better connectivity in Delhi-NCR region. The two projects, having an estimated cost of nearly Rs 11,000 crore, will be launched by the Prime Minister at around 12.30 p.m. in Rohini, following which he will also address the public gathering.

1.4 LAKH USERS BUY NEW FASTAG ANNUAL PASS ON DAY ONE

Diary Times Desk : The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has successfully implemented the 'FASTag Annual Pass' facility at about 1,150 toll plazas on National Highways and Expressways across the country. The annual pass has received an overwhelming response from the National Highway users, according to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Till 7:00 pm on the first day of implementation on August 15, around 1.4 lakh users purchased and activated the annual pass and around 1.39 lakh transactions were recorded on toll plazas.

MANIPUR GOVERNOR AJAY KUMAR BHALLA GETS ADDITIONAL CHARGE AS NAGALAND GOVERNOR

Diary Times Desk : Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla was on Saturday given additional charge as the Nagaland Governor, according to a communicate issued by the President's office.

The vacancy had arisen due to the demise of Nagaland Governor La Ganesan.

La Ganesan, 80, died on Friday while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chennai, a Raj Bhavan official in Kohima said.

"Consequent upon the demise of Shri La Ganesan, Governor of Nagaland,

the President of India has appointed Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Governor of Manipur, to discharge the functions of the Governor of Nagaland, in addition to his own duties," the note read.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

EC SLAMS VOTER FRAUD ALLEGATIONS, SAYS OPPN MISSED CHANCE TO RAISE OBJECTIONS



Diary Times Desk : Amid allegations of voter fraud in the 2024 Lok Sabha election by the Opposition, the Election Commission of India on Saturday said that the appropriate time to raise any issue with the electoral rolls was during the "Claims and Objections" period ahead of the elections.

"Recently, some Political Parties and individuals are raising issues about errors in Electoral Rolls, including the Electoral Rolls prepared in the past," the Election Commission said in a press release on Saturday.

"The appropriate time to raise any issue with the Electoral Rolls would have been during the Claims and Objections period of that phase, which is precisely the objective behind sharing the Electoral Rolls with all Political Parties and the Candidates. Had these issues been raised at the right time through the right channels, it would have enabled the concerned SDM / EROs to correct the mistakes, if genuine, before those elections," it added.

The poll body said that after the publication of the draft electoral rolls, its digital and physical copies are shared with all political parties and put on the ECI website.

"Following the publication of the draft ER, a full one-month period is available with the Electors and Political Parties for the filing of Claims and Objections before the final ER is published," the Election Commission said.

"After the publication of the final ER, digital and physical copies are again shared with all the recognised Political Parties and published on the ECI website," it added. The Election Commission of India said that utmost transparency remains as the hallmark of electoral roll preparation as per law, rules and guidelines. It also mentioned that "some political parties" and their booth level agents (BLAs) failed to review the electoral rolls timely and did not highlight any errors.

LARGER CONSPIRACY UNDERWAY TO MANIPULATE VOTER LISTS, ALLEGES CONGRESS

Diary Times Desk : The Congress on Saturday alleged that a larger conspiracy was underway to manipulate voter lists and suppress democratic participation and unveiled the route map of the party's upcoming Voter Rights Yatra, set to begin on August 17.

"Those who conspire will not back down, they will try to steal votes.. The way the game of adding and deleting fake votes was being played, BJP people have been caught red-handed. Now even ordinary citizens are providing evidence of vote theft...Today, the right to vote is being taken away from Dalits, the deprived, the oppressed, the exploited, and minorities; tomorrow, their participation will be taken away. A conspiracy was being hatched to attack the poor sections of this country, against which the people of the country have raised their voices," Congress' media and publicity department chairman Pawan Khara said at a press conference in Delhi.

According to the Congress, the Yatra will start from Sasaram in Bihar and cover 1,300 km across the state in 16 days. It will conclude in Patna with a public rally attended by leaders of the INDIA bloc.

Taking aim at the Election Commission, Khara alleged that the institution was functioning as "just a compartment of this double engine" and vowed continued resistance. "We are fighting against this and will continue to do so in the future...The 'Voter Rights Yatra' will be a historic journey. This journey will prove to be a milestone in the fight for the existence of all of us," he added.



NCERT BLAMES JINNAH, CONGRESS, MOUNTBATTEN AS "CULPRITS OF PARTITION"



Diary Times Desk : A new special module by the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has blamed three figures as responsible for the Partition of India, including Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Congress leadership, and then Viceroy Lord Mountbatten. The module, created for 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', observed every year on August 14, states, "Jinnah, who demanded it; second, the Congress, which accepted it; and third, Mountbatten, who implemented it."

This reference appears in a section titled 'Culprits of the Partition' in the module designed for Classes 6 to 8. Alongside, it also carries a speech by Jawaharlal Nehru from July 1947, which reads, "We have come to a stage when we must either accept division or face continued conflict and chaos. Partition is bad. But whatever the price of unity, the price of civil war would be infinitely greater."

NCERT has published two separate modules-one for Classes 6 to 8 (middle stage) and another for Classes 9 to 12 (secondary stage). These are supplementary resources in English and Hindi, not part of regular textbooks, and are meant to be used through projects, posters, discussions and debates. Both modules open with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2021 message announcing the observance of Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. Quoting his post on X (formerly Twitter), the book mentions, "Partition's pains can never be forgotten. Millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced, and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence. In memory of the struggles and sacrifices of our people.

CENTRE WARNS OF "CONSTITUTIONAL CHAOS" AFTER TIMELINE ORDER FOR GOVERNORS



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Such timelines would amount to an organ of the government usurping powers that are not vested in it, thereby upsetting the delicate separation of powers, the government said in a written submission to the top court, warning that it will lead to "constitutional chaos".

"Even under its extraordinary powers vested in Article 142, the Supreme Court cannot amend the Constitution or defeat the intent of the Constitution makers, provided there are no such procedural mandates in the constitutional text," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said in his submission.

Though there may be "some limited problems in implementation" of the assent process, these cannot justify "reducing the higher office of the Governor to a subordinate one," said Mr Mehta. He argued that the offices of the Governor and President are "politically complete" and represent "higher ideals of democratic governance". Any alleged lapses should be redressed through political and constitutional mechanisms, not through "unwarranted judicial" interventions, he said. Under Article 200 of the Constitution, the Governor can give assent to the bills presented to him by the legislature, withhold or reserve it for the consideration of the President. He can also send it back to the House for reconsideration.

DONALD TRUMP

"MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO DO IT": TRUMP ON 25% INDIA TARIFF OVER RUSSIAN OIL



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Friday claimed Russia lost India as one of its oil clients after Washington announced a penalty on New Delhi over the purchases, but indicated he may not impose such secondary tariffs on countries continuing to procure Russian crude oil.

The President's remarks came even as New Delhi is yet to confirm any halt in oil purchases from Moscow after Washington announced a 25 per cent duty in addition to a 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods last month. The additional duty is scheduled to come into effect on August 27.

The US had threatened sanctions on Moscow and secondary sanctions on countries that buy its oil if no moves are made to end the war in Ukraine. China and India are the top two buyers of Russian oil.

"Well, he (Russian President Vladimir Putin) lost an oil client, so to speak, which is India, which was doing about 40 per cent of the oil. China, as you know, is doing a lot...And if I did what's called a secondary sanction, or a secondary tariff, it would be very devastating from their standpoint. If I have to do it, I'll do it. Maybe I won't have to do it," Mr Trump told Fox News as he departed for Alaska for a high-stakes meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

On August 6, Mr Trump escalated his tariff offensive against India by slapping an additional 25 per cent duty and subsequently doubling it to 50 per cent on Indian goods over New Delhi's continuous imports of Russian oil. India condemned the "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" move that is likely to hit sectors such as textiles, marine and leather exports hard.

INDIGO AIRCRAFT'S TAIL HITS RUNWAY DURING GO-AROUND AT MUMBAI AIRPORT



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It is common for airline pilots to choose a go-around rather than trying to land in sub-optimal conditions.

Giving details of the incident, an IndiGo spokesperson said, "On August 16, 2025, an IndiGo Airbus A321 aircraft tail touched the runway while executing a low-altitude go-around due to unfavourable weather conditions in Mumbai. Thereafter, the aircraft carried out another approach and landed safely." Stating that it is following all safety protocols, IndiGo said it will be "following the standard protocol and the aircraft will go through necessary checks/repairs and regulatory clearance before resuming operations." "At IndiGo, the safety of our customers, crew, and aircraft is our top priority. We are making all efforts to minimise any subsequent impact on our operations due to this incident," said an IndiGo spokesperson.

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The middle-stage module asserts that Partition "was not inevitable" and resulted from "wrong ideas." It also mentions Nehru and Patel accepted Partition fearing civil war, after which Mahatma Gandhi too gave up his opposition.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

17-08-2025

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.

CIVIC AUTHORITIES
SHOULD CHECK
UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS
BUILT IN SMALL SPACES:
MINISTER PARAMESHWARA

Diary Times Desk : Bengaluru, Thousands of buildings are constructed in small spaces without proper permits and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike must check them, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Saturday.

The minister's remarks came in the wake of a fire accident at plastic articles manufacturing unit here that killed five people.

A family of four and another man were charred to death after a fire broke out at the manufacturing unit in Nagarthapet near K R Market early Saturday, police said.

Police have identified the victims as Madan Singh and Sangeetha and their two children Rithesh and Vihaan and neighbour Suresh Kumar .

Madan Singh was a native of Rajasthan and had been renting the building for nearly 10 years. He ran a small manufacturing unit that made plastic kitchen items as well as mats and steel kitchen utensils. He was residing on the top floor of the building.

DWARKA EXPRESSWAY, UER-II OPENING TOMORROW: NOIDA TO DELHI AIRPORT IN JUST 20 MINUTES



Diary Times Desk : Reaching Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport from Noida will now become much easier following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration of two major road projects: the Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) and the Delhi section of the Dwarka Expressway on Sunday.

Together, these new stretches are expected to reduce travel time from Noida to IGI Airport to just 20 minutes, according to India Today. They will provide commuters from western Delhi and NCR suburbs a smoother journey and ease congestion on the city's busy Ring Road.

Once completed, the projects will also help reduce traffic on inner roads, easing pressure on NH-48, NH-44, Ring Roads, and the Barapullah elevated corridor. The estimated construction cost of UER-II is ₹3,300 crore.

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AFTER TIMELINE ORDER FOR GOVERNORS

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Though there may be "some limited problems in implementation" of the assent process, these cannot justify "reducing the higher office of the Governor to a subordinate one," said Mr Mehta.

He argued that the offices of the Governor and President are "politically complete" and represent "higher ideals of democratic governance". Any alleged lapses should be redressed through political and constitutional mechanisms, not through "unwarranted judicial" interventions, he said.

OVER 350 DELAYS, 15 GO-AROUNDS, 2 DIVERSIONS: FLIGHT OPERATIONS HIT IN MUMBAI AMID HEAVY RAIN

Diary Times Desk : Over 350 flights were delayed, two diverted and over a dozen had to go-arounds amid unfavourable weather at the Mumbai airport on Saturday.

Sources in Mumbai Airport said that 15 aircraft bound for the city had to execute go-arounds on Saturday morning, while two flights were diverted to Nagpur and Ahmedabad. The diversions and go-around were made between 12 am and 6 am on Saturday.

According to the data from Flightradar, 283 departing flights from the Mumbai Airport were delayed, while 77 inbound flights were running behind schedule.

The flight disruptions come as Mumbai received heavy downpour in the early hours of Saturday. The downpour which began at around 1 am on Saturday, continued in the day, with parts of the city receiving over 200 mm of rain.

'OLD RHETORIC': OPPOSITION HITS BACK AT MODI'S I-DAY SPEECH

Diary Times Desk : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of filling constitutional bodies with "people of its ideology", and claimed that the ruling party can go to the extent of immorality to remain in power.

Hoisting the Tricolour in Indira Bhavan — the Congress's new central office — for the first time, Kharge further reminded the opposition party that the fight over alleged manipulation of voter lists is not for winning elections but to save democracy.

"The ruling party has filled the constitutional institutions with people of its ideology instead of merit. Whenever they wanted, they appointed anyone, and whenever they wanted, they took their resignation," he said in his address.

Kharge invoked the history of India's freedom movement and said the story of the freedom struggle is "the story of our party".

Attacking the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the BJP over the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar, Kharge quoted BR Ambedkar, saying "Franchise is one of the most fundamental things in a democracy. No person who is entitled to be brought into the electoral rolls... should be excluded merely as a result of prejudice..."

"But now the ruling party is ready to go to the extent of immorality to remain in power. Large scale irregularities are coming to the fore in the elections. In the name of SIR, the votes of the opposition are being openly cut. Those who are alive have been made dead," Kharge said.

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AIRPORT

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AS 'MASS BURIAL' PROBE HITS DEAD ENDS,
OPPN SLAMS SIDDARAMAIAH GOVT OVER
DHARMASTHALA 'SMEAR CAMPAIGN'

Diary Times Desk : After nearly a month of excavations and other inquiries, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing allegations of mass burials in Karnataka's Dharmasthala is yet to find any credible evidence to substantiate a former temple worker's claims of murder, rape and torture victims having been secretly buried there, ThePrint has learnt.

According to people directly aware of the probe, the startling claims and so-called evidence submitted before the authorities by the former sanitation worker have "failed" to support the allegations so far.

"The human skeletal remains he presented before the court were that of a male. The other skeletal remains we found during excavation and near the identified sites, are that of males. He had claimed that the remains which he exhumed before approaching the police, were that of a woman who was supposedly a victim of sexual assault.

MEXICAN STATE ACCUSES ADIDAS OF CULTURAL APPROPRIATION OVER NEW SHOE, THREATENS LEGAL ACTION



Diary Times Desk : The Mexican state of Oaxaca is threatening legal action against Adidas, accusing the footwear company of cultural appropriation over a newly unveiled shoe that resembles a traditional handmade sandal.

The "Oaxaca Slip-On," billed as a collaboration between American designer Willy Chavarria and Adidas Originals, features a woven leather surface, open heel, and thick rubber sole – and, in the eyes of the Oaxaca government, bears more than a passing resemblance to the "huarache" handmade sandal from the Oaxacan community of Villa Hidalgo Yalalag. Oaxacan Governor Salomón Jara Cruz on Wednesday accused the company of copying the Yalalag design without asking permission or crediting the community. He also demanded that Adidas withdraw the shoe, engage in talks with the Indigenous community and publicly recognize the Yalalag as the originators of the design.

"This is not just a design, it is about the culture, history and identity of an original (people) and we will not allow it to be treated as merchandise," he said in a video posted on X. He pledged "legal support" for Villa Hidalgo Yalalag, and said he had already spoken with members of the community about taking action against the footwear company.

Adidas did not immediately respond to a CNN request for comment. Neither has it issued a public statement addressing the controversy. One option for the Oaxacan government would be to file a formal complaint with the Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial (IMPI), Mexico's federal agency for intellectual property protection.

FORMER COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ÁLVARO URIBE SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS OF HOUSE ARREST

Diary Times Desk : Former Colombian President Álvaro Uribe was sentenced Friday to 12 years of house arrest after being found guilty of procedural fraud and witness bribery.

Uribe had pleaded not guilty. His defense attorney previously announced that they would file an appeal. Judge Sandra Heredia of Bogotá's 44th Criminal Court announced the sentence four days after she found the former president guilty of the crimes. Heredia had acquitted Uribe of another charge for alleged bribery of a prosecutor.

Uribe, 73, who governed Colombia from 2002 to 2010, is the country's first former president to be criminally convicted.

The case began in 2012, when Uribe, of the now-opposition Centro Democrático party, accused Senator Iván Cepeda, of the ruling Historic Pact, of trying to link him to the creation of a paramilitary group. Cepeda has denied the accusations. The situation took a turn in 2018, when the Colombian Supreme Court decided to open an investigation against Uribe for alleged witness tampering.

TRUMP'S MAJOR CHINA GAMBLE HAS PAID OFF SO FAR. BUT XI STILL HOLDS TRUMP CARDS



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump has placed a massive bet that the United States can take an historically aggressive stance against China, the world's second-largest economy, and emerge stronger because of it.

Although it remains unclear if the gamble will pay off over the long term, Trump has been riding an incredible winning streak in recent months. The stock market is near record highs, the US economy rebounded in the second quarter and inflation has defied predictions of a surge after Trump put his tariffs in action.

But Chinese leader Xi Jinping is on a winning streak of his own. On Monday, Trump opened the door to sending China faster AI chips after releasing previously blockaded mid-tier chips. And despite America's tariffs, China has successfully found other markets to sell to, flooding the world with its goods.

US AND MEXICO AGREE TO LONG-TERM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLAN IN THE SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA REGION

Diary Times Desk :

The governments of Mexico and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding on Thursday to fund and expedite several wastewater treatment projects in the Tijuana River basin.

Untreated wastewater continually affects residents living along the river, which flows across the border from Tijuana and through several of San Diego's southern neighborhoods. Residents living along the river have long battled severe health issues which researchers say stem from the river's contamination.

One research team based at the University of California San Diego found that trace amounts of waterborne chemicals from tires, personal care products, and even illicit drugs present in the Tijuana River are being introduced into the air – exacerbating health concerns for tens of thousands of residents living on its banks.

In Thursday's event celebrated in Mexico City, US Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Lee Zeldin and Mexico's Secretary of the Environment and National Resources of Mexico Alicia Bárcena agreed to a series of actions to be taken by both governments by 2027 to address the deteriorating wastewater treatment crisis.

CHINESE 'OVERKILL' IN DISPUTE WITH PHILIPPINES DAMAGED TWO CHINESE SHIPS. WHY IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE

Diary Times Desk :

It's hard to call the collision of two multi-thousand-ton military ships "fortunate," but that's exactly what analysts are saying about the incident in the South China Sea this week that left a China Coast Guard ship with a heavily damaged bow after it hit a People's Liberation Army Navy guided-missile destroyer.

Dramatic footage released by the Philippine Coast Guard showed the moment the collision took place, leaving the China Coast Guard ship missing a prominent part of its bow. Commodore Jay Tarriela of the Philippine Coast Guard said the incident occurred on Monday while personnel were distributing aid to Filipino fishermen near the disputed Scarborough Shoal, approximately 140 miles west of the Philippine island of Luzon. Tarriela said a China Coast Guard vessel was chasing the Philippine Coast Guard vessel.

ISRAEL'S NETANYAHU HAS 'LOST THE PLOT,' NEW ZEALAND LEADER LUXON SAYS

Diary Times Desk : New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said Wednesday that his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu has "lost the plot" and that Israel's planned occupation of Gaza City is "utterly unacceptable."

Luxon's comments come as his conservative coalition government weighs whether to join other members of the Five-Eyes security alliance, Australia, Britain and Canada, in moving to recognize a Palestinian state; and as international condemnation and anger builds over Israel's recent decision to expand its war to take control of Gaza City, the throttling of aid and mass starvation in the enclave.

Luxon, who leads the right-leaning National Party, said Netanyahu is "not listening" to the international community's demands for "unfettered" humanitarian aid to be delivered to Gaza.

"I think Netanyahu has gone too far. I think he has lost the plot. And I think what we are seeing overnight with the attack on Gaza City is utterly, utterly unacceptable," Luxon said, in some of his strongest comments against Israel's actions in Gaza to date.



'IF ALL WORKS OUT...': DONALD TRUMP ON MEETING WITH UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY ON MONDAY

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Saturday said he will host Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Oval Office in Washington on Monday, days after his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska ended without a breakthrough on Ukraine.

"President Zelenskyy will be coming to D.C., Oval Office, on Monday afternoon," Trump posted on Truth Social. He added, "If all works out, we will then schedule a meeting with President Putin."

"The best way to end the horrific war between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a Peace Agreement, which would end the war, and not a mere Ceasefire Agreement," he said.



MEXICAN PROSECUTOR KILLED IN DRIVE-BY SHOOTING CAUGHT ON FILM

Diary Times Desk : A federal prosecutor in Mexico has been killed in a drive-by shooting that has shocked the nation after video footage of the attack circulated online.

The footage shows the prosecutor sitting on a road in the border city of Reynosa, Tamaulipas state, shortly after his car has caught fire. A white vehicle then drives past and the sound of multiple gunshots rings out. The prosecutor falls to the ground and then lies motionless. It's not clear what caused the fire.

The Mexican Attorney General's Office has identified the killed man as Ernesto Cuitláhuac Vásquez Reyna, who worked in the state of Tamaulipas.

It said the attack on Monday was still being investigated, but preliminary information suggested it may have been linked to organized crime gangs who had been recently targeted by authorities.

It pointed to the seizure by security forces of more than 1.8 million liters of stolen fuel in a bust last month as being among the main lines of investigation. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Tuesday that her security cabinet was in touch with state and federal prosecutors to "do justice in this case."

TRUMP DOUBLES REWARD TO \$50 MILLION FOR ARREST OF VENEZUELA'S PRESIDENT TO FACE US DRUG CHARGES

Diary Times Desk : The Trump administration is doubling to \$50 million a reward for the arrest of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro, accusing him of being one of the world's largest narco-traffickers and working with cartels to flood the US with fentanyl-laced cocaine.

"Under President Trump's leadership, Maduro will not escape justice and he will be held accountable for his despicable crimes," Attorney General Pam Bondi said Thursday in a video announcing the reward.

Maduro was indicted in Manhattan federal court in 2020, during the first Trump presidency, along with several close allies on federal charges of narco-terrorism and conspiracy to import cocaine. At the time, the US offered a \$15 million reward for his arrest. That was later raised by the Biden administration to \$25 million – the same amount the US offered for the capture of Osama bin Laden following the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Despite the big bounty, Maduro remains entrenched after defying the US, the European Union and several Latin American governments who condemned his 2024 reelection as a sham and recognized his opponent as Venezuela's duly elected president.

US CONDEMNS BRAZIL SUPREME COURT ORDER FOR HOUSE ARREST FOR EX-PRESIDENT JAIR BOLSONARO

Diary Times Desk : The US State Department has condemned a Brazilian Supreme Court order for the house arrest of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who is on trial over an alleged plot to overturn the results of the 2022 presidential election.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes issued the order Monday, saying Bolsonaro had failed to comply with restrictions previously imposed on him by the court, including use of social media and cell phones.

The court decision comes at a time of tense relations between Washington and Brasilia, with the case against right-wing populist Bolsonaro being seized on by US President Donald Trump as a threat in trade negotiations.

On Monday, the US State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs accused Justice Moraes of using "Brazil's institutions to silence opposition and threaten democracy," in a post on X.

"Putting even more restrictions on Jair Bolsonaro's ability to defend himself in public is not a public service. Let Bolsonaro speak!," said the post.



US TRADE TEAM'S INDIA VISIT CALLED OFF, LIKELY TO BE RESCHEDULED: SOURCES

Diary Times Desk : Amid a strain in economic ties because of the increased tariff, a planned visit by a US team to India for trade negotiations from August 25 to 29 has been cancelled and is likely to be rescheduled, sources told NDTV Profit on Saturday.

The team was supposed to carry forward negotiations on the bilateral trade agreement between the countries, which is especially important now, given US President Donald Trump's announcement of a 25% levy on Indian goods over Russian oil imports, in addition to the 25% tariffs he had imposed before.

The negotiations would have been the sixth round of talks between the US and India on the bilateral trade agreement and their timing was also crucial because they would have been held around August 27, when the additional 25% tariff is scheduled to take effect. They were also being held ahead of the fall, or September-October timeframe, that was being targeted for the finalisation of the agreement.

VIDEO: B-2 BOMBER SCREECHES OVER PUTIN'S HEAD IN TRUMP'S SHOW OF MIGHT



Diary Times Desk : The United States' military might was on full display on Friday at Alaska when a B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber flanked by US fighter jets thundered across the sky above Russian President Vladimir Putin, as he met President Donald Trump for a high-stakes meeting on the Ukraine conflict.

The B-2 is capable of entering sophisticated air defenses and delivering precision strikes against hardened targets, as they did in June when the US forces bombarded Iranian nuclear sites.

A 22-second viral video showed the two Presidents walking down a red carpet towards a waiting stage at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, when the B-2 bomber and fighter jets flew above them. Mr Putin looked upward as the bomber screeched overhead.

'THE WORLD IS BEHAVING IRRATIONALLY' – PUTIN'S WARM WELCOME GETS COLD REACTION IN UKRAINE

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainians went to bed on Friday night with the frightening possibility that Donald Trump could be seduced by Vladimir Putin into offering significant concessions on the war.

They woke up on Saturday morning to find that the Trump-Putin summit in Alaska instead had fizzled out without any strategic or political agreements. It was a rare example of a failed summit coming as a relief.

In the absence of any real developments, attention in Ukraine turned to the presentational aspects of the summit – the "optics", in political speak. Putin, the man responsible for the devastating war of aggression against Ukraine, had received the warmest welcome possible in Alaska. American soldiers knelt to literally roll out the red carpet for him. Trump applauded him as he approached and offered a friendly handshake. The two leaders rode together alone in Trump's presidential limousine and Putin could be seen laughing as the car pulled away.

For the Russian president, who has been shunned internationally since his full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the greeting marked the beginning of a remarkable return to the global diplomatic stage and set a tone that would continue throughout the day.

In Ukraine, it was not a welcome sight.



DID VLADIMIR PUTIN SEND HIS BODY DOUBLE TO MEET DONALD TRUMP? WELL, THERE ARE THEORIES

Diary Times Desk : A hilarious conspiracy theory has emerged on the internet, where users claimed that Vladimir Putin did not meet Donald Trump in Alaska on Friday, August 15. These conspiracy theorists were convinced the Russian president did not meet the US head in person and instead sent one of his body doubles to American shores.

The conspiracy is based on assumptions about Putin's famous appearance and gait. In a set of funny posts, a section of Twitter users raised suspicion about Putin after claiming the person who landed in Alaska had fuller cheekbones. For others, doubts emerged after the Russian president appeared more jovial than usual while meeting Trump.

Some took the body double claim to the next extreme, accusing the Russian president of having a series of doppelgangers that make public appearances on his behalf from time to time.

ISKCON BANGLADESH BEGINS THREE- DAY JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATION

Diary Times Desk : The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has begun celebrating a three-day Krishna Janmashtami in a festive atmosphere in Bangladesh, priests said on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary of ISKCON Bangladesh, Charu Chandra Das Brahmachari, told ANI. "... Tomorrow is the appearance day of Lord Krishna... Throughout the day, programs are held on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, including kirtan. In the evening, there will be the bathing ceremony... We have a three-day program, and many people will attend it... The government is taking the best security measures. We had a meeting with the police... They have ensured that nothing will happen this time..."

Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus extended greetings to Hindu communities on Krishna Janmashtami.

'NUMBER 1 IS LIVES': TRUMP ON WHY HE MEDIATES TENSIONS; NAMES INDIA-PAK CONFLICT

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Monday reiterated his claims of preventing wars across the globe, including between India and Pakistan, while defending his administration's push for ceasefires in conflicts that, as Fox News host Sean Hannity noted, "do not impact the United States as much as [they do] allies in Europe."

The US President's remarks came just hours after a highly anticipated summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin yielded no agreement to resolve or pause Moscow's war in Ukraine.

In an interview on Hannity, the Fox News primetime show, Trump was asked why he was investing time and energy into disputes seemingly far from US shores.

Sean Hannity asked him: "This (Ukraine war) does not impact United States as much as it does our allies in Europe. But you are doing it anyway. Why?"

Trump responded that his actions were motivated by a desire to save lives and avoid catastrophic escalation.

Donald Trump said, "Number one, to save lives in all cases. Cause wars are wars. See what would have happened with Cambodia as an example. I was involved with negotiating a trade."



Trump went on to claim that India and Pakistan ceasefire wouldn't have been possible without his involvement, a claim that has been repeatedly denied by India. "Take a look at India and Pakistan. They were shooting down airplanes already. And that would have been maybe nuclear. I would have said it was gonna get nuclear, but I was able to get it done. Number one is lives, number two is everything else," Trump said. Trump said he had warned the two Southeast Asian nations that Washington would not pursue trade deals with them unless they agreed to halt fighting. "We got them settled in 24 hours," he added.

WHY DID RUSSIA SELL ALASKA TO THE UNITED STATES?

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin are set to meet in Anchorage, Alaska, on Friday to discuss how to end the war in Ukraine.

On Wednesday, following a virtual meeting with European leaders including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Trump warned of "severe consequences" if Putin refuses to accept a ceasefire after more than three years of war.

The venue for the high-profile meeting is Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, a US military installation on the northern edge of Alaska's most populous city.

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is Alaska's largest military base. The 64,000-acre outfit is a key US site for Arctic military drills and readiness.

THE NOT-SO-SUBTLE MESSAGE THAT TOP PUTIN AIDE CARRIED TO TRUMP MEET



Diary Times Desk : The sartorial choice of Sergei Lavrov, Russia's top diplomat, during US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin's Alaska meeting on Friday, drew the attention of many across the globe. In what's seen as a not-so-subtle act of trolling, the Russian Foreign Minister was seen wearing a sweatshirt emblazoned with "CCCP", the Russian initials for the USSR.

Seventy-five-year-old Lavrov's attire is being seen as a nod to Kremlin's imperial ambitions, forwarding Putin's long-running narrative: Russians and Ukrainians are "one people" -- a claim that denies Ukraine's legitimacy and territorial integrity while promoting a broader notion of unity with Russia.

On Telegram, Russian fashion bloggers identified the \$120 sweatshirt as the work of Chelyabinsk-based brand, Selsovet, that specialises in "Soviet heritage" clothing.

Former Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis was quick to point out Lavrov's clothing choice on X and wrote. "Just give us half of Ukraine and we promise we will stop," says negotiator wearing USSR sweatshirt."

PUNJAB EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL ADMISSIONS UNDER EWS QUOTA

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Education Department has issued guidelines for admission of EWS students in private schools, fixing 25 per cent quota for the disadvantaged children.

The department has issued standard operating procedure for EWS admissions in private schools, under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The instructions have been issued following directives from the Punjab and Haryana High Court. According to these instructions, all private, unaided schools, except minority schools, would admit children belonging to the EWS and disadvantaged groups in nursery or LKG or UKG or Class I, whichever is the entry-level class of the school, to the extent of at least 25 per cent of the total seats as mandated by the RTE Act.



PUNJAB BJP CHIEF SUNIL JAKHAR SEEKS EC ACTION AGAINST AAP'S MANISH SISODIA OVER 'SAAM, DAAM, DAND, BHED' REMARK



Diary Times Desk : Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar has written a letter to the Election Commission demanding action against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia over a viral video. Jakhar alleged that the AAP leader advocates winning elections "by hook or by crook" in the video, promoting undemocratic methods and violating Indian laws.

In his letter, Jakhar stated that on the eve of Independence Day, a day of national unity, Manish Sisodia, the AAP in-charge for Punjab, delivered a speech where he mentioned using 'saam, daam, dand, bhed, sach, jhooth, sawaal, jawaab, ladai, jhagda' to win the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections'. Jakhar said these remarks mock the values of peace, freedom and integrity and clearly indicate the AAP's intention to undermine the democratic process. The BJP president said these statements threaten the peace, development and prosperity of Punjab. They provide evidence of a clear intent to engage in corrupt practices, intimidate voters, incite hostility and disturb public peace. Jakhar said these acts constitute serious offences under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, including bribery under Section 123(1), undue influence under Section 123(2), promoting enmity under Section 123(3A).

TO EASE TRAFFIC, FOUR-LANE FLYOVER PROPOSED FROM PGI TO SARANGPUR: PUNJAB GOVERNOR GULAB CHAND KATARIA

Diary Times Desk : To decongest traffic, the UT administration has proposed a four-lane flyover from PGIMER to Sarangpur, said Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria while addressing a gathering at Parade Ground, to celebrate the 79th Independence Day here yesterday.

He said the 1.3-km long flyover would be constructed at a cost of nearly Rs 90 crore to ease traffic on the road. He added that work on the proposed flyover at the Tribune Chowk would also be started to get rid of frequent traffic jams. He further said that the UT Estate Office had reclaimed nearly 55 acres of government land worth Rs 2,500 crore from encroachers.

NRI FAMILY ATTACKED IN MP'S BHIND; SIKH COMMUNITY PROTESTS, SEEKS ACTION AGAINST CONSTABLE, SHO

Diary Times Desk : An NRI family from the United Kingdom was pelted with stones after a dispute with police in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, leaving two children injured and their car damaged, an official said on Saturday.

The incident took place on Thursday on Station Road near Fatehpur village in Gohad tehsil. Following which, the Sikh community held protests, including near Gohad Chauraha police station during the day, seeking stringent action against those involved. The protesters wanted an FIR to be registered against constable Kuldeep Kushwaha and transfer of the station house officer. They called off the stir after Superintendent of Police Asit Yadav assured them of strict action following a fair probe, local Sikh community leader Karan Singh told PTI.

Kushwaha was line attached on Thursday itself, SP Yadav told PTI while denying that the constable was taken off field duty on Friday after the NRI family contacted embassy authorities in Delhi. "The two children sustained only bruises. The constable was not directly involved in the incident. First, we will register an FIR against unidentified people who indulged in the act.

BJP MISUSING EC TO STAY IN POWER: MP MANISH TEWARI

Diary Times Desk : Chandigarh MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari said that the BJP, driven by its greed to remain in power, is misusing the Election Commission, which clearly reflects its ill intentions.

While interacting with party workers in Ludhiana, Tewari said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has already exposed, in front of the people, the BJP's conspiracy to steal votes by manipulating the electoral process. After winning the Maharashtra Assembly elections through such means, the BJP had to face a major defeat in the Lok Sabha elections because of its vote-rigging practices.

He added that in Bihar, the votes of Dalits, minorities and other sections of society were deliberately removed just because the BJP believed they would not support the party. However, the Supreme Court has delivered a significant judgment by directing the Election Commission to make the details of the deleted votes public.

GURPREET SINGH GP APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF SC WING OF PUNJAB AAP

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday appointed Gurpreet Singh GP the president of the scheduled caste wing of its state unit.

GP had unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha poll from Fatehgarh Sahib seat.

The party also appointed 10 state secretaries for the SC wing in the state, said a statement.

Two secretaries each have been appointed for the Majha and Doaba zones, while six secretaries have been appointed for the Malwa zone, it said.

For the Doaba zone, Jarnail Nangal and Robin Kumar Sampla have been appointed secretaries, while for the Majha zone, Ravinder Hans and Contractor Amarjit Singh have been appointed to the post.

For Malwa Central, Baljinder Singh Chonda and Balaur Singh have been given the responsibility of secretaries.

In addition, the party has also appointed 28 district in-charges of the SC wing across the state. In several districts, separate district In-charges have been appointed for rural and urban areas, said the statement.

SPECIAL RELIEF
PACKAGE FOR
DISASTER-HIT PEOPLE
ENHANCED BY 25 TIMES:
DEPUTY CM

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said the state government had announced a special relief and rehabilitation package for disaster-affected people, which had been enhanced 25 times.

Agnihotri was speaking at the Independence Day function, held here on Friday. He said the state had suffered largescale damage during the monsoons. "In 2023, the state witnessed one of the worst natural disasters but, despite limited resources, the state government provided relief packages to the people. This year too, the state has witnessed immense loss of life and property as a result of natural disasters triggered by heavy rainfall and state government is providing relief packages to the people," he said.

Expressing concern over the rising drug menace in the state, Agnihotri said that a special task force has been constituted for curbing drug menace in the state and PIT NDPS Act is being strictly enforced in the state.

HIMACHAL PILOT
SUMANGLA SHARMA
RECOGNISED FOR HER
ROLE IN OPERATION
SINDOOR

Diary Times Desk : Squadron Leader Sumangla Sharma, a serving pilot in the Indian Air Force from Himachal Pradesh, has earned a place among the first few women officers in Indian military history to receive a gallantry commendation for her role in Operation Sindoor.

An alumnus of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shimla, Sqn Ldr Sharma was officially "Mentioned in Dispatches". The recognition was announced as part of the Independence Day honours. A trained pilot with specialisation in weapon control systems, she served as the Operations Officer during a high-tension air defence engagement on the night of May 8, 2025, when a hostile Pakistani UAV intruded into Indian airspace.

GOVERNOR MUST ACT ON LEGISLATURE'S DIRECTIVES AS
CHANCELLOR NOT A CONSTITUTIONAL POST: HIMACHAL CM SUKHU

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said it was the state legislature which had given the powers to Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla in his capacity as Chancellor of the Horticulture and Agriculture Universities, so he should act on the directives of the government. "The powers that the Governor enjoys as the Chancellor of a university are not constitutional but given by the Vidhan Sabha Act, so he must act on the directives of the legislature and the government," said Sukhu on the ongoing stalemate over the appointment of Vice Chancellors to the Horticulture and Agriculture Universities at Nauni in Solan and Palampur. "Now as the Assembly session is to be held, Governor was apprised by the Agriculture Minister, cabinet and Secretary (Agriculture) that the advertisement for the appointment of the two VCs had been withdrawn. He was told that the directive of the government was to withdraw the advertisement, yet he chose to extend the deadline for receiving applications for the post," the CM said.



SUNNI WATERLOGGED AS SUTLEJ
WATER LEVEL RISES



Diary Times Desk : Several areas of Sunni in Shimla district were waterlogged on Friday due to a rise in the water level of the Sutlej river, triggering panic among local residents.

According to reports, the Sutlej river swelled as a result of heavy rainfall, submerging a bridge that connects Thali village with Sunni. River water also entered the building of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), a park and several houses near the river.

As a precautionary measure, houses near the reservoir were vacated and residents were shifted to safer places.

Rakesh Verma, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), said that the water is now receding but several areas of the town remain waterlogged.

He added that rehabilitation and restoration work is currently underway.

TWO DELHI TOURISTS KILLED BY
SHOOTING STONE NEAR YULLA
KANDA IN KINNAUR

Diary Times Desk : Two tourists from Delhi were killed after being hit by a shooting stone near Yulla Kanda in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, following a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall.

The deceased have been identified as Rashmi Ram (25) and Prasheel Baghmare (27), both residents of Delhi.

According to reports, the incident occurred while they were on their way to Lord Sri Krishna Temple at Yulla Kanda. They were caught in a landslide and hit by shooting stones, sustaining serious injuries and dying on the spot.

Police reached the spot as soon as it received the information and recovered the bodies. The deceased were taken to Civil Hospital, Bhawanagar, where post-mortem examinations were conducted.

Kinnaur Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhishek Shekhar confirmed the report, and said an investigation is underway.

313 ROADS REMAIN BLOCKED IN HIMACHAL AS HEAVY RAINFALL
CONTINUES TO WREAK HAVOC

Diary Times Desk : Over 313 roads across the state remain disrupted for traffic movement as a result of being blocked due to torrential rains.

As per the records of the State Emergency Operation Centre, as many as 175 roads in Mandi district, 64, including national Highway 305, in Kullu, 25 in Kangra, 12 in Chamba, 13 in Shimla, seven each in Una and Sirmaur, four in Lahaul and Spiti, three, including National Highway 5, in Kinnaur, two in Solan and one in Bilaspur district, remain blocked for vehicular movement.

As many as 348 distribution transformers — including 322 in Mandi, 11 in Kinnaur, seven in Kullu, six in Lahaul and Spiti and two in Chamba district — and 119 water supply schemes — including 44 in Mandi, 41 in Kangra, 11 in Shimla, nine in Kullu, seven in Chamba, three in Hamirpur and one in Solan district — also remain disrupted.

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall is very likely to continue in Himachal Pradesh as the State's Meteorological Department has issued yellow weather warnings for various districts till August 19. For August 17, a yellow alert has been issued for Shimla, Mandi, Kangra, Chamba and Sirmaur, resulting in heavy rainfall in isolated places of these districts.



“Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.”
— Robert A. Heinlein

Ken Paxton keeps pushing

The morning after news broke that Texas House Democrats planned to return to the state, effectively ending their efforts to block Republicans from redrawing the state's congressional maps, Attorney General Ken Paxton took a victory lap.

The firebrand conservative ally of President Donald Trump had used his office to wage several legal battles against the absent Democrats at once, drawing outsized attention as he challenges Sen. John Cornyn in next year's Republican Senate primary.

And he obtained a court order preventing former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke's political action committee from raising money to assist those boycotting Democrats. Then, he claimed O'Rourke violated that court order and sought his arrest.

Paxton asked the state Supreme Court to expel 13 of them from office. He asked an Illinois court to help enforce the Texas House speaker's civil arrest warrants for

the Democrats who had holed up outside Chicago. On Wednesday morning, Paxton said his strategy worked: Democrats planned to end their quorum-breaking effort faster than they had in previous standoffs, including 2003 and 2021.

"The idea of putting pressure on them from different angles — I think it got to them. Because they certainly came back faster than they have in the past," Paxton told conservative talk radio host Mark Davis.

Paxton's actions, and his comments in the radio interview, offered a window into how one of the nation's most controversial attorneys general has long operated. He has pushed legal boundaries — riling up conservatives and using the courts to place himself at the center of political fights with national consequences, even when his lawsuits have little chance of success.

The three-term attorney general's willingness to wage those battles has earned him deep support among conservatives — including those in the state Senate who acquitted him two years ago, after the Republican-dominated House had impeached him over allegations of corruption and bribery.

It has also alienated many Democrats and some moderate Republicans — and it's why Democrats believe the state's Senate race could become competitive next fall if Paxton ousts Cornyn in the GOP primary. The swirl of controversy surrounding Paxton intensified last month, when his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, filed for divorce, alleging infidelity.

Still, as his primary against Cornyn looms, Paxton has effectively silenced his Republican critics as the party waged a pressure campaign to return the absent House Democrats to Texas. And he did so using tools unavailable to Cornyn — who asked US Attorney General Pam Bondi to investigate the source of the Democrats' funding, but could not launch his own probe.

Paxton is "one of the most innovative AGs in terms of using his office for advancing his political vision," said Paul Nolette, a professor and the director of Marquette University's Les Aspin Center for Government who has written extensively about attorneys generals' use of their offices to influence national policy.

"What's new and unusual is that he's really been the one who has modeled how to use tools that don't, on their face, seem partisan, for greater partisan effect," Nolette said.

Steve Vladeck, CNN Supreme Court analyst and professor at Georgetown University Law Center, said that among legal experts, "I think everyone views Paxton the same way — as someone who will stop at nothing to use and abuse his office to advance whatever he views as the partisan political imperative of the moment."

"He views himself less as the attorney general of Texas than as the attorney general of the Republican Party," Vladeck said. "And that may endeavor him to the folks who vote for him and who his actions benefit."



Eric Bradner
He initiated a lawsuit seeking to have Obama's signature domestic achievement

land swaps

Putin wants all of Donbas

Russian President Vladimir Putin spelled out his demands for "land swaps" with Ukraine during his nearly three-hour summit with US President Donald Trump yesterday, including his insistence Ukraine gives up the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine, according to European officials familiar with Trump's accounting of the meeting to his counterparts afterward.

But he didn't back away from a demand to eliminate what Russia calls the "root causes" of the war in Ukraine — code for reducing the size of Kyiv's military, abandoning its aspirations to join NATO and becoming a neutral state.

The details of Putin's conditions emerged when Trump briefed European leaders on the talks as he was arriving back in Washington early this morning. Trump said he believed a deal could be reached quickly if Putin's conditions were met, and that he would discuss the matter with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House on Monday, the officials said.

European leaders also said Trump voiced openness to providing US security guarantees for Ukraine once the war ends, though the specifics of what he's

Zelenskyy learned of plan from US officials

The comments come as US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin prepare to meet in Alaska on Friday. It also comes as Russian forces on the ground have been closing in on a key territorial grab around the city of Pokrovsk.

On Tuesday, Zelenskyy said diplomatic discussions led by the US, focusing on ending Moscow's war, have not touched on security guarantees for Ukraine to prevent future Russian aggression, and that meeting formats currently being discussed do not include Europe's participation, both key demands of Kyiv.

Zelenskyy said the necessity of territorial concessions was conveyed to him by US officials ahead of Friday's summit in Alaska and in further meetings at the level of national security officials.

A call with Trump and special envoy Steve Witkoff after the latter's bilateral meeting with Putin gave more details about this, he said.

Witkoff reportedly told Zelenskyy that Russia was ready to end the war and that there should be territorial concessions from both sides. Some European partners were also part of the call.

He then reiterated that Ukraine would not withdraw from its own land, saying that would be unconstitutional and would serve only as a springboard for a future Russian invasion.

willing to provide remained unclear.

Taken together, Trump's recounting of the meeting provided little optimism among European officials, though leaders' public responses to the summit were calibrated to avoid contradicting Trump.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin wants Kyiv to withdraw from the parts of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region that it controls as part of a ceasefire deal.

Speaking at a press briefing in the Ukrainian capital, Zelenskyy said Putin wants control over the 9,000 square kilometres of Donetsk under Kyiv's control, where the war's toughest battles are grinding on.

"We will not leave Donbas. We cannot do this. Everyone forgets the first part—our territories are illegally occupied," Zelenskyy told reporters at the briefing on Tuesday. "Donbas for the Russians is a springboard for a future new offensive."

Jota's name

PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON AS LIVERPOOL WINS

The highly anticipated new Premier League season kicked off at Anfield on Friday, with some supporters still wiping away tears from their eyes on a bright, sunny day. Those same supporters likely wiped very different tears away once the final whistle sounded following a six-goal affair that saw the home club walk away with a 4-2 victory.

The emotions were on full display ahead of the opener between Liverpool and Bournemouth as fans paid tribute to late Reds star Diogo Jota, who tragically passed away along with his brother André Silva in a car crash earlier this summer.

Banners, signs, balloons and scarves emblazoned with Jota's name, face, and No. 20 kit number were raised above heads by those in attendance when the collective sang out Liverpool's beloved anthem, "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Broadcast of the match showed some fans teary-eyed while singing the traditional song. The club's star player, Mohamed Salah, looked upward while the anthem rang out through the ground.

The match got underway with the crowd full of enthusiasm. In the 20th minute, in reflection of Jota's number, fans around the ground

stood, clapped in unison and chanted in honor of their much-loved forward.

As for the match itself, the reigning Premier League champions looked the part in a thrilling win featuring their dramatically changed roster.

Liverpool are favored to repeat as title-winners after bolstering the squad with multiple high-profile signings, including a trio from the Bundesliga: Florian Wirtz and Jeremie Frimpong from Bayern Leverkusen and Hugo Ekitike from Eintracht Frankfurt. New defender Milos Kerkez started as well and faced his former side on Friday.

Ekitike will forever remember this day after he scored on his Anfield debut. In the 37th minute, the new striker powered through the Bournemouth backline to slot home, giving the home side a 1-0 lead. The Frenchman held his fingers to form the No. 20 – Jota's former number.

The match went to half with that score – a bad sign for the opponents. According to the Premier League, going into Friday, Liverpool had yet to lose any of the club's last 155 league matches at home when the Reds have led at the break (W141 D14).

Ekitike was involved in Liverpool's second tally too. The Reds doubled the lead in the 49th

minute when the forward softly laid off the ball to Cody Gakpo, who dribbled across the area to set himself up for a shot that found the back of Djordje Petrovic's goal.

Bournemouth struck back through star forward Antoine Semenyo. In the 64th minute, the Cherries caught the Reds on the break with David Brooks centering to Semenyo, who one-timed the ball past Alisson Becker.

Semenyo struck again just over 10 minutes later with a wonderful individual effort to level the match at two.

In the 76th minute, Semenyo was played through on another fast break, quickly driving at Liverpool's goal with speed. He struck his second tally of the match into the bottom corner, sending the Liverpool faithful into a quiet hush as the lead was now gone.

But Liverpool had a look about them after the equalizer on a day they were celebrating the life of their former teammate.

As the clock approached the 90th minute, up stepped Reds substitute Federico Chiesa – for a moment that he too will likely never forget.

Salah's teasing cross into the area wasn't adequately dealt with by Petrovic or the Cherries' defense, with Chiesa stepping up to drive home the go-ahead goal as Anfield erupted.

In the 94th minute, Salah put the proverbial cherry on top with a goal of his own, which capped the six-goal thriller. The Egyptian took on four Bournemouth defenders and niftily avoided a tackle to score the final goal of the night. He looked to have tears in his eyes as he acknowledged the crowd after the game.

SUNIL CHHETRI FINDS NO PLACE IN NEW COACH KHALID JAMIL'S LIST OF 35 PROBABLES FOR CAFA NATIONS CUP

Diary Times Desk : The newly appointed India football coach Khalid Jamil has left talisman striker Sunil Chhetri out of the 35 probables for the upcoming CAFA Nations Cup, which will be played in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. However, in the official release issued by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), no reason has been provided for leaving out Chhetri, who came out of international retirement earlier this year.

Chhetri has played four matches for India in 2025 after coming out of retirement. It is unlikely that he has been dropped on the basis of form. The striker's club, Bengaluru FC, is yet to start pre-season training. It must be mentioned that earlier this year, Bengaluru FC suspended salaries for first-team players and staff, due to uncertainty surrounding the ISL's future. However, the list of 35 probables does include other Bengaluru FC players such as goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, defenders Chinglensana Singh, Rahul Bheke, Roshan Singh Naorem, and midfielder Suresh Singh.



MASSIVE BOOST FOR TEAM INDIA DAYS AHEAD OF ASIA CUP SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENT

Diary Times Desk : Ahead of the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel's meeting to pick India's Asia Cup squad, T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav has cleared his fitness test at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. The swashbuckling batter, who last featured in the IPL and was adjudged Player-of-the-Series, had undergone surgery for a sports hernia in the lower-right abdomen in Munich, Germany, in June. "Fitness tests are mandatory before Return to Play (RTP) post-surgery. Surya has cleared the fitness test," a BCCI source told PTI.

After surgery, Yadav had posted on Instagram: "Life Update: Underwent surgery for a sports hernia in the lower-right abdomen. Grateful to share that after a smooth surgery, I'm already on the road to recovery. Can't wait to be back." With fitness regained, the stylish batter is now set to attend the selection committee meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The Asia Cup will be played in the UAE from September 9-28, with India scheduled to open their campaign against the hosts on September 10, while the marquee fixture against arch-rivals Pakistan is slated on September 14, both in Dubai. The 34-year-old enjoyed a stellar IPL season.

U19 MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP: LINE-UP LOCKED IN FOR 2026 EDITION

Diary Times Desk : The line-up for the Under 19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 has been finalised, with USA becoming the 16th and final team to book tickets for Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Led by wicketkeeper-batter Arjun Mahesh, the Americans breezed through the double round-robin Qualifier on home soil in Rydal, Georgia and qualified with a game in hand to be played against Canada on 16 August.

A look at how the U19 World Cup will look next year in Namibia and Zimbabwe. The top 10 teams from the 2024 edition in South Africa secured automatic qualification for the 2026 event, as well as Full Member hosts Zimbabwe. The final five spots were decided through regional qualifiers around the world.

Joining Zimbabwe in automatic qualification included Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, South Africa and the West Indies. Attention then turned to regional qualifying, beginning with Division 2 qualifiers in four of the five regions across the globe, feeding into Division 1 action in 2025.

Tanzania's feat was made more remarkable considering the team had entered the competition at Division 2 level, and it was the skipper, already boasting marked senior international experience, leading the way.

CSK CLARIFY DEWALD BREVIS SIGNING AFTER ASHWIN REMARKS

Diary Times Desk : Chennai Super Kings have issued a clarification around the mid-season signing of South Africa's Dewald Brevis in IPL 2025, stating that the deal was "in complete compliance" with tournament regulations. The statement came after R Ashwin, speaking on his YouTube channel, suggested that the franchise had signed the 21-year-old for more than his eligible price of INR 2.2 crore.

"Dewald Brevis had a great time in the IPL last year after CSK got him in in the back half of the season," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. "I even heard that two-three teams were also talking to him but they had to let him go after not being able to pay extra money. He had a base price in the auction but discussions and negotiations would have happened with his agent, that I'll join the team only for a certain sum of money'.

"His concept would have been that 'If I play this season, my value (for the next auction) will go higher'. So he might have told CSK, 'I'll need the extra money'. And the team was willing to pay him extra, which is why he came in," added Ashwin.

AFTER PANT INJURY, BCCI INTRODUCES 'SERIOUS INJURY REPLACEMENT' RULE



Diary Times Desk : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has amended the playing conditions and allowed injury replacements in multi-day cricket for the upcoming domestic season, an idea that has been in vogue since the recent Anderson-Tendulkar series in England.

"If a player sustains a serious injury during the course of the relevant match, a Serious Injury Replacement may be permitted in the following circumstances," the newly-introduced rule in the Playing Conditions states. "The serious injury must have been sustained during play and within the playing area described in clause."

The supposed rule change has led to a polarised opinion on the matter, with Ben Stokes calling it a ridiculous suggestion and Gautam Gambhir welcoming it. One player from each side - Rishabh Pant and Chris Woakes - suffered major injuries during the fourth and fifth Tests, rendering them unfit to continue in the Tests.

CLUTCH MAXWELL STEERS AUSSIES HOME IN FINAL-OVER THRILLER

Diary Times Desk : Glenn Maxwell has produced another piece of run-chasing brilliance to guide Australia to a series victory in the third BKT Tyres T20I against South Africa in Cairns.

Maxwell (62no from 36 balls, eight fours, two sixes) was the last recognised batter with 51 runs required from the final six overs, forced to turn down singles to shield the lower order from the strike.

It proved another masterstroke from the mercurial allrounder, who timed the chase to perfection and singlehandedly hit the 10 runs required of Lungi Ngidi's final over to seal the win by two wickets with one ball remaining.

As the equation came down to four required from two balls, Maxwell finished the job with a trademark reverse sweep off the match's penultimate delivery.

Earlier, South Africa were held to 7-172 after another Dewald Brevis blast looked to have them set for at least 200. And when Mitch Marsh plundered five sixes to launch Australia to 0-52 in the Powerplay, the result looked beyond doubt early in the chase.



But South Africa's bowlers had other ideas.