

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**FLASH FLOODS BLOCK MAJOR HIGHWAY, HIMACHAL'S MONSOON DEATH COUNT RISES TO 261**

**Diary Times Desk :** Multiple flash flood incidents were reported on Sunday in Mandi district at Panarsa, Takoli, and Nagwain areas along the Mandi-Kullu stretch of the Chandigarh-Manali National Highway. Connectivity on the highway has been blocked at several points, causing major disruption to vehicular movement. No reports of human loss have been received in the incidents, according to Sachin Hiremath, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Mandi.

**BJD PRESIDENT NAVEEN PATNAIK HOSPITALISED, CONDITION STABLE**

**Diary Times Desk :** BJD chief and Leader of the Opposition in Odisha Assembly, Naveen Patnaik, was admitted to a private hospital here on Sunday due to dehydration. His health condition is stated to be stable. "Shri Naveen Patnaik was admitted to SUM Ultimate Medicare, Bhubaneswar, at 5:15 pm today due to dehydration. His condition is stable and he is responding well to treatment," a bulletin issued by the private hospital said. The 78-year-old former chief minister had complained of uneasiness on Saturday night and some doctors had visited his residence, Naveen Niwas, party leaders said. BJD leaders had earlier said that he was admitted due to age-related ailments. Patnaik, who had undergone spinal surgery for cervical arthritis at a hospital in Mumbai, had returned to Odisha on July 12.

**CCTV SHOWS 2 MEN RAINING BULLETS ON ELVISH YADAV'S GURUGRAM HOUSE**

**Diary Times Desk :** CCTV footage surfaced showing two men firing at the controversial YouTuber and Bigg Boss OTT winner Elvish Yadav's house in Gurugram on Sunday morning. The one-minute clip shows three masked men arriving outside Elvish Yadav's house on a bike around 5:30 am. A few minutes later, two of them began raining bullets at the YouTuber's house. They then took a pause - for what supposedly looked like for loading their guns, and continued to shoot at the residence. One of the shooters even stood.

## AFFIDAVIT OR APOLOGY



## AFFIDAVIT OR APOLOGY: ELECTION COMMISSION'S 7-DAY ULTIMATUM TO RAHUL GANDHI

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar hardened his stance today regarding Rahul Gandhi's "vote theft" allegations, saying noting less than an affidavit on the matter or apology to the country will do. He has been given seven days to take either course of action.

"An affidavit will have to be given or an apology will have to be made to the country," Mr Kumar said. "There is no third option. If the affidavit is not received within seven days, it means that all these allegations are baseless," he added.

Mr Gandhi's allegations that the Election Commission is actively helping the BJP by inflating electoral rolls with fake voters in multiple ways and other malpractices has sparked a huge row.

He has alleged that a survey in Karnataka has found that six main irregularities were at play - same voter appearing multiple times in rolls, same voter in multiple states, non-existent addresses, bulk voters at a single address, indistinguishable photo on voter IDs and misuse of Form 6 for first-time voters. Earlier today, he launched a 1,300-km 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' from Bihar's Sasaram to step up the Opposition INDIA bloc's campaign against "Vote theft".

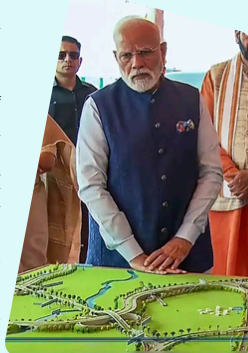
On the occasion, he said there is a "new conspiracy" to "steal" polls by deleting and adding voters through SIR or special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. The Election Commission has repeatedly denied the allegations and has been demanding that he submit an affidavit to back the allegations. The Commission has also fact-checked a video posted by the Congress, alleging that it was AI-generated and is meant to "mislead the voters of Bihar". "Electoral Rolls for each Assembly Constituency of Bihar are being prepared as per law and with full transparency," the Commission said in a post on social media. The matter is pending in the Supreme Court which has asked the Commission to accept Aadhaar from anyone challenging the dropping of their names from the electoral rolls.

## PM MODI INAUGURATES 2 HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN BIG PUSH TO DECLOG DELHI

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major infrastructure push to ease traffic congestion and reduce travel time across Delhi and several other cities in the National Capital Region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated two major projects -- a key stretch of the Urban Extension Road-II and the Delhi section of Dwarka Expressway.

The two projects, with a combined cost of Rs 11,000 crore, reflect Prime Minister Modi's vision of "creating world-class infrastructure that enhances ease of living and ensures seamless mobility", the Prime Minister's Office said ahead of the inauguration event at Rohini today. The new projects will aid the commute of people in the Delhi-NCR region, the Prime Minister said. "I congratulate the people of Delhi-NCR for this modern connectivity. When the world judges India, it first looks at our capital, Delhi. We have to make Delhi a model of a developed India. Our government has worked on this at multiple levels. In the past 11 years, travel has become easier in Delhi NCR."

"After a long time, there is a BJP government in Delhi. The previous governments put Delhi in a ditch. The BJP government has to fill up that ditch and then progress will be seen. But I believe this team you have elected will pull Delhi out of that situation," the Prime Minister said. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari are also present. Mr Saini said Haryana will be the biggest beneficiary of these projects. Mr Gadkari said these two projects are expected to reduce traffic jams in Delhi by 50 per cent.



## MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR CP RADHAKRISHNAN IS BJP'S VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE



**Diary Times Desk :** The NDA candidate for the post of Vice President is CP Radhakrishnan -- the Governor of Maharashtra and one of the party's tallest leaders from Tamil Nadu - the BJP announced today, weeks after the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar. He is expected to face-off with the Opposition candidate on September 9, but given the NDA numbers, appears to be standing on the threshold of victory.

"Mr Radhakrishnan has a 40-year experience in politics and wore many hats," said BJP chief JP Nadda, making the announcement this evening after a meeting with NDA parliamentary party meeting. The BJP, he said, will speak to the Opposition leaders to ensure a "smooth election".

Mr Radhakrishnan has also been the Governor of Jharkhand, held additional charge of Pondicherry, has been a two-term MP from Coimbatore and headed the Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP. With the combined strength of both houses standing at 786, the majority mark is 394. The NDA's combined strength in the two houses is 422 -- 293 members in the Lok Sabha and 129 in the Rajya Sabha. In a post on X, PM Modi said Mr Radhakrishnan has done extensive work at the grassroots level in Tamil Nadu and he was glad that the NDA family has decided to nominate him as the Vice Presidential candidate of the alliance. "In his long years in public life, Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji has distinguished himself with his dedication, humility and intellect," Modi said in a post on X.

## PM MODI URGES STATES TO COOPERATE IN IMPLEMENTING PROPOSED GST REFORMS



**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Centre has circulated the draft of the next-generation GST reforms among states and sought their cooperation to implement the proposal before Diwali.

He said the reform in GST would benefit poor and middle-class people, as well as small and big businesses. Addressing an event after the inauguration of two expressways, the prime minister said the Centre intends to make the GST law simpler and revise tax rates.

Modi had announced the proposal to reform the GST law in his Independence Day speech on August 15 from the ramparts of the Red Fort. "For us, reform signifies the advancement of good governance, which is why we place a strong emphasis on continuous improvement. In the near future, we are set to implement reforms aimed at making life and business operations smoother and more convenient. 'As part of this vision, next-generation reforms will be introduced under the GST framework. This Diwali, these GST reforms will bring a double bonus to the people, enhancing their celebrations," he said. Modi said the Centre has sent the draft proposal of the GST reform to the states.

"I hope that all states will cooperate in the initiatives of the central government," he said, urging them to complete the process at the earliest so that the Diwali festival becomes more fabulous.

"The objective of this reform is to make GST simpler and revise rates," he added. The present GST tax rates of nil/zero on essential food items, 5 per cent on daily use products, 12 per cent on standard goods, 18 per cent on electronics and services and 28 per cent on luxury and sin goods will be replaced by two tax slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent plus a special 40 per cent top bracket for 5-7 demerit goods.

## INDO - CHINA NEWS

**CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI TO MEET PM MODI ON TUESDAY**



**Diary Times Desk :** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday during his two-day visit to India, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Wang Yi, who is set to visit India on Monday, will also hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval with both sides expected to deliberate on a range of issues, including border situation, trade and resumption of flight services.

The Chinese foreign minister's visit to India comes ahead of PM Modi's scheduled visit to China to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Wang Yi's visit is largely seen as part of ongoing efforts by the two countries to rebuild their relationship after it came under severe strain following the Galwan Valley clashes in 2020.

Earlier, Hindustan Times reported that Wang's visit was a follow-up to Doval's trip to Beijing last December and part of preparations for PM Modi's visit to China for the SCO Summit.

The two sides are expected to discuss new confidence-building measures for durable peace and tranquillity along their contested border during Wang's visit, PTI quoted people familiar with the matter as saying. The visit of the Chinese leader comes amid increasing tensions in India-US relations following President Donald Trump doubling tariffs on India to 50 per cent. Wang Yi will land in New Delhi at around 4:15 pm on Monday and will meet Jaishankar for bilateral talks at around 6 pm. Meanwhile, Wang and NSA Doval are scheduled to hold a new edition.

**'BJP KO BHAGAIYE, HUME JITAIYE': LALU YADAV CLAIMS MODI GOVT 'STEALING VOTES' AT BIHAR RALLY**



**Diary Times Desk :** Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday called for removing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from power in Bihar. The RJD leader referred to the ruling party as "thieves", who are "harming democracy" by stealing votes.

"Choro ko hataiye, BJP ko bhagaiye, aur hume jitaiye, (Remove the thieves, make the BJP run away, help us win)," Lalu Yadav was quoted as saying during the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar's Sasaram.

During his speech, the RJD leader urged Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi to present a united front to "uproot the BJP and throw them away." "At any cost, do not let the BJP, which is a thief, come to power. Everyone, stand united, and together, Rahul Gandhi, Tejashwi Yadav, uproot them and throw them away. Save democracy," Yadav added. RJD's Tejashwi Yadav also accused the Election Commission and PM Narendra Modi of trying to deceive the people of Bihar.

RAM GOPAL VARMA BRINGS UP STRAY DOG ATTACKS IN RANT AGAINST DOG LOVERS PROTESTING SC ORDER: 'DEAD CHILDREN DON'T COUNT?'

**Diary Times Desk :** Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has weighed in after a section of the people, including celebrities, protested against the Supreme Court's recent order to move all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR to shelters within eight weeks. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Ram Gopal raised the issue of children getting attacked by street dogs.

RGV asked "dog lovers" to shower love on the animals "in your own homes, in your luxury bungalows, in your manicured lawns." He added that "dog menace" exists not in lavish villas but in the streets and slums. He questioned people's compassion for small children being attacked.

His note read, "Hey dog lovers. All you Dog lovers are shouting hoarse about the injustice to dogs regarding the Supreme Court's order. But where were they when a four-year-old child was brutally killed in broad daylight on the streets ..Likewise, thousands get attacked every year. Where was your compassion then? Or is compassion reserved only for those with wagging tails while dead children don't count?"



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The one-minute clip shows three masked men arriving outside Elvish Yadav's house on a bike around 5:30 am. A few minutes later, two of them began raining bullets at the YouTuber's house. They then took a pause - for what supposedly looked like for loading their guns, and continued to shoot at the residence. One of the shooters even stood on the main gate and opened fire.

At least over 25 shots were fired at Mr Yadav's house.

The three men fled the scene immediately.

Mr Yadav was not at home at the time of the incident. According to the police, he had gone outside Haryana for some work. However, the caretaker of the house and some family members were inside, but no one was injured.

Hours after the incident, the notorious Himanshu Bhaugang took responsibility for the firing in a social media post, accusing the YouTuber of promoting gambling. The post featured two gun illustrations and the text 'BHAUGANG SINCE 2020'. The gang is reportedly led by Portugal-based fugitive gangster Himanshu Bhaug.

PARLIAMENT TO HOLD SPECIAL SESSION ON SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA'S SPACE MISSION

**Diary Times Desk :** As the Indian Air Force (IAF) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was given a grand welcome as he arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi in early hours of Sunday, the Lok Sabha will hold a special discussion on India's space journey and Shukla's historic mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), according to a notice issued by the Lower House.

The House will debate on "India's first astronaut aboard the ISS -- critical role of space programme for Viksit Bharat by 2047", a subject that can possibly end the deadlock in Parliament to hail India's new milestone in space journey.

Shukla landed in New Delhi following his two-week long mission aboard the ISS in June-July, where he was received by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh.



SC TAKES SUO MOTU NOTICE OF PLIGHT OF CADETS DISCHARGED AFTER TRAINING INJURIES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has taken a suo motu cognisance of the challenges faced by cadets who were discharged from their services at military training institutes after suffering disabilities during their training period, PTI reported. The case was registered on August 12 following a media report that brought attention to the condition of these cadets, who had trained at prestigious military academies like the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Indian Military Academy (IMA).

The case will be heard by a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan on Monday.

As per the report, since 1985, around 500 officer cadets have been discharged from these institutions due to various disabilities acquired during training. These individuals are now burdened with rising medical expenses, while the financial aid they receive is insufficient to meet their needs.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

18-08-2025

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.



KARNATAKA DCM  
ANNOUNCES ACTION  
AGAINST ILLEGAL  
BUILDINGS AFTER FATAL  
BENGALURU FIRE, AWARDS  
₹5 LAKH EX-GRATIA:

REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** In the wake of a deadly fire that claimed five lives in Bengaluru’s Nagarathpete area, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has held the owners of such unauthorized buildings accountable for the tragedy. Visiting the scene on Sunday, Shivakumar stated that all structures in the locality lacking proper permits would be served notices. Owners will be required to either reinforce their buildings or face demolition. “It is the fault of the building owner. I am going to issue a notice to everyone. They have to strengthen the building. All buildings here are illegal buildings... If they don’t strengthen the buildings, we will have to break all of them. I have instructed the authorities to take strict action here... Five people died here. All were from Rajasthan... The government has announced a compensation of ₹five lakh each... What has happened is very painful,” he said, as quoted by news agency ANI.

DELHI MAN RAPES 65-  
YEAR-OLD MOTHER TWICE  
AS ‘PUNISHMENT’,  
ARRESTED: POLICE

**Diary Times Desk :** A 39-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly raping his 65-year-old mother twice, claiming he was punishing her for an alleged relationship she had in the past. According to police, the woman, accompanied by her 25-year-old daughter, approached the Hauz Qazi police station and lodged a complaint. The assaults took place shortly after the family returned from a religious trip to Saudi Arabia. As per the complaint, the woman lives with her husband, a retired government employee, her accused son, and younger daughter in Delhi’s Hauz Qazi area. The family also has an elder daughter who is married and lives nearby with her in-laws. On July 17, the woman, her husband, and younger daughter travelled to Saudi Arabia. During their trip, the accused called his father and insisted he return to Delhi immediately. He also asked his father to divorce his mother, and accused her of having had illicit relationships during his childhood. The complaint stated that after the family returned to Delhi on August 1, the accused locked his mother in a room, forced her to remove her burqa, and beat her. He allegedly told her she had “spoiled” him in childhood.

STREE SHAKTI DAY ONE: 12 LAKH WOMEN  
TRAVEL FREE IN ANDHRA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Stree Shakti scheme, providing free travel to women in RTC buses, launched on Friday by the coalition government, has become a grand success, with over 12 lakh women passengers travelling within 30 hours. According to sources, there was a tremendous response from all parts of the state for the free bus ride to women, one of the promises under the much-publicised Super Six. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the implementation of the scheme from time to time and issued necessary instructions to officials. Women saved up to Rs 5 crore by utilising the free travel in RTC buses on the very first day the scheme was rolled out. As per requests made by women passengers, the Chief Minister directed officials to allow free travel to women on buses operated on ghat roads. Initially, the RTC management did not permit free travel to women on buses running on ghat roads due to overload concerns. However, following the Chief Minister’s directions, the RTC decided to extend the free ride to women on buses running on ghat roads. With the possibility of more women, particularly employees, travelling in RTC buses from Monday (August 18), officials were told to make arrangements accordingly. Apart from Aadhaar cards, the government will also allow other identity cards proving the locality of women for free travel. In addition to original Aadhaar cards and Xerox copies, the government is considering allowing soft copies of Aadhaar on mobile phones.

NGO ALLEGES ‘STATISTICAL PURGE’ IN  
CHALLENGE TO EC’S 65 LAKH

DELETIONS FROM BIHAR DRAFT ROLLS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Election Commission (EC) is facing a legal and procedural challenge over its decision to remove approximately 65 lakh voters from Bihar’s electoral rolls following a month-long ‘special intensive revision’ (SIR). A Maharashtra-based civil society group, Vote for Democracy (VFD), has presented a report to the Supreme Court alleging the exercise was a “statistical purge” riddled with anomalies. The EC maintains that the process was a transparent and successful clean-up of the rolls, conducted with “overwhelming participation” from electors. The revision, the first of its kind in Bihar since 2003, concluded with 7.24 crore voters re-affirming their eligibility and 65 lakh (8.31% of the electorate) marked for deletion. A one-month period for claims and objections to the draft rolls, published on August 1, is currently underway.

WHAT KANNADA ACTOR DARSHAN SAID AS HIS BAIL WAS  
CANCELLED IN RENUKASWAMY MURDER CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major development in the sensational Renukaswamy murder case that gripped Karnataka earlier this year, the Supreme Court on Saturday cancelled the bail of seven accused, including Kannada film star Darshan and his associate Pavithra Gowda. The order effectively paves the way for the high-profile actor’s return to jail. A bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan delivered the verdict while hearing the Karnataka government’s plea challenging the Karnataka High Court’s earlier decision to grant bail. The apex court held that the High Court order contained “errors” and that bail had been extended “for certain reasons” which could not be justified. The bench stressed that “no one is big or small before the law” and even criticised the prison administration for allegedly allowing Darshan a comfortable stay in custody. The court observed that the jail superintendent “should have been suspended” for the reported preferential treatment. Darshan, who had been out on bail since the High Court’s ruling, was reportedly in Tamil Nadu when the Supreme Court verdict came. Sources told News18 that the actor had recently returned from an overseas film shoot and was visiting temples with his wife, Vijayalakshmi. His exact location at the time of the announcement remains unclear, but he is believed to have been at a prominent temple in Tamil Nadu. According to police sources, Darshan’s mobile phone has been switched off since the verdict, although officers have managed to establish contact. “He has said he will surrender himself,” one official told reporters.

CONGRESS LEADER’S RSS  
“INDIA’S TALIBAN” REMARK,  
BJP’S MAHATMA GANDHI  
REPLY

**Diary Times Desk :** Senior Congress leader BK Hariprasad’s “Indian Taliban” remark for BJP’s ideological parent, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has drawn a sharp response from the ruling party. The BJP has said that the Congress abuses every nationalist organisation and loves banned radical outfits such as PFI and SIMI. Speaking to news agency ANI, Mr Hariprasad, former MP and currently a member of the Karnataka legislative council, criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for praising the RSS in his Independence Day address. “They (RSS) are trying to disturb peace in the country. I will only equate RSS with Taliban, they are Indian Taliban and the Prime Minister is appreciating them from Red Fort,” he said. “Did any ‘Sanghi’ participate in the freedom struggle? It’s a shame that RSS is not a registered organisation. We don’t know where they get funds. Any NGO that wants to work in the country should register, as per the Constitution,” the former Rajya Sabha MP said.

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**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.

**"YOU CAN SINGLEHANDEDLY...": WHAT  
MELANIA TRUMP SAID IN LETTER TO  
PUTIN**

**Diary Times Desk :** US First Lady Melania Trump wrote a "peace" letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the plight of children in the Ukraine war, urging him to "protect their innocence". US President Donald Trump hand-delivered the letter to his Russian counterpart during their meeting in Alaska on Saturday.

Without naming Ukraine, Ms Trump highlighted the impact of the conflict on children and said that every child "dreams of love, possibility, and safety from danger".

"Every child shares the same quiet dreams in their heart, whether born randomly into a nation's rustic countryside or a magnificent city-center. They dream of love, possibility, and safety from danger. As parents, it is our duty to nurture the next generation's hope. As leaders, the responsibility to sustain our children extends beyond the comfort of a few. Undeniably, we must strive to paint a dignity-filled world for all – so that every soul may wake to peace, and so that the future itself is perfectly guarded," she wrote.

**"NEW WAVE OF GENOCIDE": HAMAS  
SLAMS ISRAEL'S GAZA RELOCATION  
PLAN**

**Diary Times Desk :** Hamas said on Sunday that Israel's planned Gaza relocation plan by Israel constitutes a "new wave of genocide and displacement" for hundreds of thousands of residents in the area.

The group said the planned deployment of tents and other shelter equipment by Israel in the southern Gaza Strip was a "blatant deception".

**SAUDI ARABIA'S LAND TAX  
TO UNLOCK REAL ESTATE  
SUPPLY AS NEW FOREIGN  
BUYERS EYE PROPERTIES**

**Diary Times Desk :**

New land tax rules that came into effect in Saudi Arabia this month are expected to spur the development of property projects and boost housing supply.

The kingdom increased the annual levy on undeveloped land to as much as 10 per cent of the value of a plot. It introduced fees of between 5 per cent to 10 per cent on long-term vacant buildings, as part of regulations introduced by the government last week.

The changes apply to plots measuring 5,000 square metres or more, within the approved urban boundaries, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Municipalities and Housing said.

The plan comes as the kingdom opens up foreign ownership of property from January 2026, particularly in the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah.

"By raising the annual levy on undeveloped land and introducing a fee of up to 10 per cent on long-term vacant buildings, the reforms make it significantly more costly for owners to hold assets without putting them to productive use. This is expected to push many landowners to develop, sell, or lease their properties, bringing more projects to market," Nils Vanhassel, legal director and tax adviser at DLA Piper Middle East, told The National.

**'WILL LEARN TO LIVE IN  
HARMONY FROM KRISHNA,'  
SAYS BANGLADESH ARMY  
CHIEF GEN ZAMAN ON  
JANMASHTAMI**

**Diary Times Desk :**

Bangladesh army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman reaffirmed the secular foundations of the country on the occasion of Janmashtami, saying that the people would follow the ideals of Krishna and live together.

"This country belongs to everyone. There will be no division based on religion, ethnicity, or community. You will live in this country without fear. We will always stand by your side," General Zaman said in a speech originally in Bangla at a gathering Saturday in Dhaka.

In a symbolic show of solidarity, General Zaman, Navy chief Admiral M.Nazmul Hassan, and air force chief Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan attended the central Janmashtami festival and procession at the Palashi intersection.

**FEWER SOUTH KOREANS & ISRAELIS, MORE SOUTH AFRICANS NOW SEE  
INDIA FAVOURABLY—LATEST PEW SURVEY**

**Diary Times Desk :** Up to 60 percent or more respondents in Kenya, the UK and Israel hold a highly favourable opinion of India, while most respondents in Turkey and Australia held an unfavourable view, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

Significantly, in South Korea, favourability fell by 16 percentage points from 2024, while in the US opinion was almost evenly divided.

The Pew survey was carried out this year from January to April across 24 countries, just before the Pahalagam terror attack and the announcement of tariffs on Indian imports by US President Donald Trump. Its findings were made public on 13 August.

In roughly half of the surveyed countries, more respondents held a positive view of India than a negative one, the survey report notes. Also, in half of the countries surveyed, men were more likely than women to have a favourable view of India, with differences by gender in double digits in Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, Argentina and France.

The report also indicated a gradual change in perception of India in several countries, with 46 percent respondents in South Africa expressing a favourable opinion, marking the highest level since 2008 when the question was first asked, and up 17 percentage points since 2023.

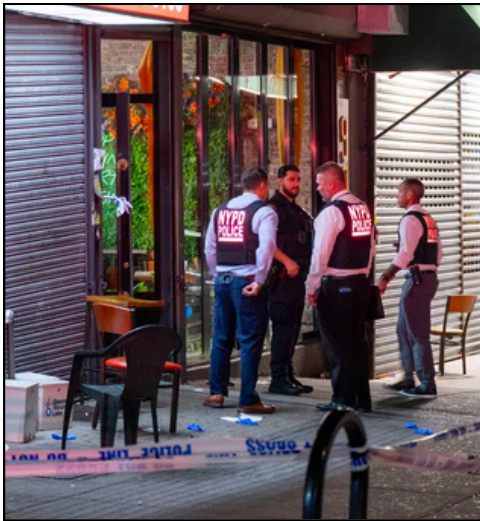
## GANG-RELATED ATTACK KILLS 3 IN SHOOTOUT AT A BROOKLYN BAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Four people opened fire at a Brooklyn bar early Sunday morning, killing three and wounding nine in what appeared to be a gang-related attack that sent patrons diving for cover and running for the exits.

The police said the shooters used 9-millimeter and .45-caliber firearms after a "dispute" at the bar, Taste of the City Lounge at 903 Franklin Avenue in Crown Heights, around 3:30 a.m. Nine men and three women were shot, their ages ranging from 19 to 61, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said on Sunday.

Three men were killed, ages 19, 27 and 35, the police said. Around 10:20 a.m., the police wheeled out a gurney bearing what appeared to be a body in a black bag. Officers loaded it into a black-and-white city van.

Nine people who were wounded were treated at hospitals for injuries that Commissioner Tisch said were for now "non-life-threatening." No suspects had been arrested as of Sunday afternoon.



## ASIM MUNIR'S 'RARE EARTH' PLAN TO BRING PAKISTAN OUT OF DEBT, ECONOMIC CRISIS

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan Army chief of staff Asim Munir has revealed a plan to pull Islamabad out of its economic crisis and debt. In a conversation with Pakistani writer Suhail Warraich, the Field Marshal hinted at a "rare earths treasure", shortly after US expressed its interests in Pakistan's mineral reserves.

In a column published Saturday in Pakistan's Geo Group, Warraich claimed Munir revealed his ambition for the rare earths plan during a meeting in Brussels, Belgium.

"Regarding the solution to the economic crisis, he had a complete roadmap, which planned to put Pakistan in the ranks of the developed countries of the world within five to ten years. He calculated and said that from next year, there will be a net profit of two billion dollars every year from Reko Diq, which will increase every year," wrote Warraich.

"He [Munir] said that Pakistan has a rare earth treasure, with this treasure, Pakistan's debt will also be reduced and Pakistan will soon be counted among the most prosperous societies," he added further.

Munir's remarks come as the US and Pakistan continue to strengthen their ties under US President Donald Trump.

## ISRAELI MILITARY BOMBS POWER PLANT NEAR YEMENI CAPITAL SANAA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Israeli navy has carried out attacks on a power plant near the Yemeni capital Sanaa, according to Israeli media reports.

Houthi-affiliated Al Masirah TV reported on Saturday that the "aggression" damaged generators at the Hezyaz power plant, sparking a fire that was later contained. The country's deputy prime minister confirmed emergency crews managed to prevent further damage. Residents in Sanaa also reported hearing at least two loud explosions.

The Israeli military claimed that the site was being used by Houthi fighters. But it did not present evidence to justify hitting a civilian power station, raising concerns that the strike may constitute a war crime.

In a statement carried by Israeli outlets on Sunday, the military said the assault was a direct response to repeated Houthi attacks, including missiles and drones launched towards Israel.

The Houthis have repeatedly fired rockets and drones at Israel since 2023 in response to Israel's genocide in Gaza. Israel has retaliated by bombing Yemen's infrastructure, including Hodeidah port, a vital lifeline for humanitarian aid deliveries.

## ZELENSKY WILL BE FLANKED BY EUROPEAN LEADERS AT WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH TRUMP



**Diary Times Desk :** European leaders focused on security guarantees for Ukraine among other critical matters during discussions today in preparation for Monday's meeting in Washington, a European Commission spokesperson said.

Leaders also discussed the need to "stop the killing" in Ukraine, maintaining pressure on Russia through sanctions, and the principle that Ukraine must make decisions on its own territory.

"This was also the occasion for the leaders to reaffirm once again their unity in supporting Ukraine towards a just and lasting peace," the spokesperson said.

## BOLIVIA VOTES AS SUPPORT FOR LEFT WANES AND INFLATION IS TOP OF MIND

**Diary Times Desk :** Voters in Bolivia began taking to the polls in a general election on Sunday that has been overshadowed by inflation at a four-decade high and the absence of former leftist President Evo Morales, who is barred from running.

Leading the race are opposition conservative contenders Samuel Doria Medina, a business magnate, and Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga, a former president, but neither commands more than 30% support, opinion polls show, with around a quarter of Bolivians undecided.

The August race marks the first time in almost two decades that polling indicates Bolivia's incumbent Movement for Socialism, or MAS, could face defeat. Support for MAS-affiliated and other left-leaning candidates trails the opposition, totaling around 10%, according to the latest August Ipsos CEISMORI survey. If no presidential candidate wins more than 40% support with a 10 percentage point lead, the election will head to a runoff on October 19.

Morales, who co-founded MAS and governed the country from 2006 to 2019 under its banner, has been barred from running for another term as president.

Early on Sunday Morales took part in the electoral process, casting his vote in the central Cochabamba department.



## RUSSIA COMPLICATING END TO WAR, SAYS ZELENSKY, AS TRUMP PURSUES PEACE DEAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Volodymyr Zelensky has said that Russia's refusal to agree to a ceasefire is complicating efforts to end the war.

"We see that Russia rebuffs numerous calls for a ceasefire and has not yet determined when it will stop the killing. This complicates the situation," the Ukrainian president said in a statement on X.

On Monday, Zelensky will travel to Washington DC, where US President Donald Trump has said he will urge the Ukrainian leader to agree to a peace deal.

Trump said he wants to bypass a ceasefire in Ukraine and move directly to a permanent peace agreement after his meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a major shift in position, the US president wrote on Truth Social following Friday's summit that this would be "the best way to end the horrific war", as ceasefires often "do not hold up".

Following a phone call with Trump after the summit, Zelensky called for a real, lasting peace, while adding that "the fire must cease" and killings stop.

He later outlined Ukraine's requirements for "a truly sustainable and reliable peace", including a "credible security guarantee" and the return of children he says were "abducted from occupied territories" by Moscow.



EUROPEAN LEADERS TO JOIN ZELENSKY AT WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH TRUMP

**Diary Times Desk :** European leaders have said they will join Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at his meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday.

It comes after Trump failed to reach a deal on ending the war in Ukraine during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on Friday.

The US president has since said he wants to bypass securing a ceasefire in Ukraine in favour of a permanent peace agreement.

Those travelling to Washington include Sir Keir Starmer, the British prime minister, French President Emmanuel Macron, Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

Securing a ceasefire in Ukraine had been one of Trump's core demands before meeting Putin, but he afterwards posted on social



media that they "often times do not hold up" and that it would be better "to go directly to a peace agreement".

When the Wing Commander tried to withdraw his money from the app on August 13, he received a notification from the alleged customer care number that he would have to deposit Rs 42 lakh 96 thousand 603 first as short term capital gain, only then would he be allowed to withdraw the money.

'BOTH WILL HAVE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS': MARCO RUBIO ON UKRAINE-RUSSIA PEACE DEAL

**Diary Times Desk :** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that both Ukraine and Russia will have to make concessions to reach a peace deal to end the war.

Rubio's statement comes amid reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin put a condition on ending Moscow's war with Ukraine, saying Kyiv should hand over the eastern region of Donbas to Russia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had earlier ruled out giving up any territory for peace.

Rubio said that the US would continue to do everything it could to help Ukraine and Russia reach an agreement, but also added that it may not be possible for Washington to create a scenario to end the war that has been raging for more than three years.

"If peace is not going to be possible here, and this is just going to continue on as a war, people will continue to die by the thousands."

ISRAELIS HOLD NATIONWIDE PROTEST TO END GAZA WAR, 'BRING BACK THE HOSTAGES'

**Diary Times Desk :** Thousands of protesters in Israel have taken to the streets demanding an end to the war in Gaza and a deal to free captives held there, as the military intensifies attacks on Gaza City to force tens of thousands of starving Palestinians to flee again.

Israeli schools, businesses and public transport have been shut down, with demonstrations planned in major cities as part of a national day of action by two groups representing a number of the families of captives and bereaved families.

Protesters, who fear further fighting could endanger the 50 captives believed to remain in Gaza, only about 20 of whom are thought to be alive, chanted: "We don't win a war over the bodies of hostages."

"Military pressure doesn't bring hostages back – it only kills them," former captive Arbel Yehoud said at a demonstration in Tel Aviv's.

HUNGARIAN OPPOSITION LEADER DEMANDS RUSSIA REFRAIN FROM INTERFERENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** Hungarian opposition leader Peter Magyar has sought assurances from Russia that it will refrain from interference in his country's politics, saying there would be no scope for meaningful cooperation without respecting its sovereignty.

Earlier this week, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) published a statement describing Magyar as being loyal to "globalist elites" and alleging that the European Commission was considering "regime change in Budapest."

Magyar, whose Tisza Party is ahead of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's Fidesz in most polls ahead of parliamentary elections due next spring, published an open letter to Russia's ambassador in Hungary, asking what was the intended effect of the SVR statement.

"I demand clear assurances that the Russian Federation will refrain from any actions that could be deemed as interference in Hungary's domestic politics, including disinformation campaigns, cyber operations or the intimidation of politicians and citizens," Magyar said in the letter published on Facebook on Sunday.

In power since 2010, Orban has been criticised by some fellow EU leaders for his government's warm ties with Moscow and opposition to military aid for Ukraine. Orban has also accused EU leaders of plotting to topple him.

Magyar, a former government insider, has previously said he would strive for "pragmatic relations" with Russia, which supplies Hungary with most of its energy and is also involved in an expansion of its Paks nuclear plant.



"BEST WAY TO END HORRIFIC RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR IS...": TRUMP AFTER PUTIN MEET

**Diary Times Desk :** Donald Trump on Saturday dropped his push for a ceasefire in Ukraine in favor of pursuing a full peace accord -- a major shift announced hours after his summit with Russian leader Vladimir Putin yielded no clear breakthrough.

Prior to the high-stakes meeting in Alaska, securing an immediate cessation of hostilities had been a core demand of Trump -- who had threatened "severe consequences" on Russia -- and European leaders, including Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, who will now visit Washington on Monday.

The shift away from ceasefire would seem to favor Putin, who has long argued for negotiations on a final peace deal -- a strategy that Ukraine and its European allies have criticized as a way to buy time and press Russia's battlefield advances.

GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICISES 'AGGRESSIVE' CHINA AHEAD OF TRIP TO JAPAN



**Diary Times Desk :** Germany's foreign minister on Sunday criticised what he called the "aggressive behaviour" of China in the Taiwan Strait ahead of a trip to Japan and Indonesia, and stressed the need to strengthen internationally binding rules.

Speaking to reporters, Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl praised Japan's solidarity with Europe over Ukraine as he prepared to board a plane, and highlighted the importance and economic potential of the two populous Asian countries.

His ministry also published a separate statement from Wadepuhl in which he expressed concern about China.

"China's increasingly aggressive behaviour in the Taiwan Strait and the East and South China Seas also affects us in Europe: fundamental principles of our global co-existence are at stake here," the minister said.

"We are countering this together through our commitment to an international order, which is supported by the strength of the law and binding rules for all."

FLOOD-LIKE SITUATION: PUNJAB PUTS HEALTH, CIVIL ADMINISTRATION ON ALERT

**Diary Times Desk** : As “controlled release” of water from the Pong dam continues and around 20 villages that fall in the riverbed of Beas, mainly in Sultanpur Lodhi, get affected, the Punjab government has put the health and civil administration authorities on alert.

The water level in Pong dam is 1,379 feet, as against the dam’s capacity to hold 1,390 feet. With incessant rains continuing in north India, the authorities have gone in for controlled release of 57,000 cusecs of water from the spillways of the dam. An official in the Punjab irrigation department told The Tribune that the water level in the Bhakra dam has reached 1,661 feet. “But it is still far from the danger mark of 1,680 feet and there is no need to worry or go in for controlled release,” said the official.



NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE FOR FARIDKOT STUDENT AS CAR PLUNGES INTO SIRHIND CANAL



**Diary Times Desk** : A 20-year-old student from Faridkot, Karanveer Singh Brar, faced a harrowing near-death experience today while travelling to Chandigarh for his studies. The incident occurred on the Doraha-Neelon stretch near village Rampur when Karanveer swerved to avoid a speeding biker coming from the opposite direction.

In an attempt to avert a collision, Karanveer lost control of his vehicle, which struck a pole and plunged into the Sirhind canal. Trapped inside, he struggled to open the car window as water rushed in. Despite shouting for help, no one responded initially, and the biker, who caused the accident, looked on without offering assistance. Recalling the terrifying moment, Karanveer said, “As the water began to fill the car, I thought of my parents and summoned all my strength to break the window. I managed to swim to the surface and reach the bank, narrowly escaping a tragic fate.” Witnesses, including local villager Harchand Singh, described Karanveer’s quick thinking and bravery in breaking the window. Despite efforts from onlookers to throw turbans as lifelines, their attempts were in vain. The biker fled the scene immediately after the accident, leaving Karanveer to fend for himself. Doraha police later arrived and recovered the submerged vehicle with the help of cranes and divers. Kulwinder Singh, the officer on duty, confirmed the biker’s departure from the scene, emphasizing the need for accountability in such dangerous situations.

NAPA CONDEMNS ATTACK ON ELDERLY SIKH MEN IN ENGLAND’S WOLVERHAMPTON

**Diary Times Desk** : The North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) Executive Director Satnam Singh Chahal strongly condemned the attack on two elderly Sikh men in Wolverhampton.

Terming it as a disgraceful and unacceptable racist and hate-filled assault, Chahal said the shocking act of violence is not only an attack on two innocent individuals, but also a direct assault on the values of equality, respect and harmony that form the foundation of any civilised society. Notably, the two elderly men — one of them a turbaned Sikh — were attacked a day ago and during the reportedly unprovoked attack, man’s turban was removed. A video of the incident has been doing rounds on social media.

SAD LAUNCHES SCATHING ATTACK ON AAP’S MANISH SISODIA OVER POLL REMARKS

**Diary Times Desk** : Paropkar Singh Ghuman, Advocate and Vice President of Shiromani Akali Dal, launched a scathing attack on Aam Aadmi Party and its senior leader Manish Sisodia over his controversial remarks during a recent meeting with the party’s women volunteers. The meeting was attended by Bhagwant Maan and Aman Arora, who seem to be following the hidden agenda of AAP.

“Manish Sisodia himself has hammered a nail into AAP’s coffin. Now the people of Punjab will use ‘saam, daam, dand, bhed’ to drive the last nail into its coffin and pack this party out of the state,” Ghuman asserted.” Ghuman said Sisodia’s irresponsible words exposed the true face of AAP and its mission to loot Punjab. “Such a statement is unbecoming of a senior leader. No matter how much criticism one does of this, it is still not enough,” he added.

Sisodia’s speech, delivered publicly from the stage, has stirred a political storm. He had openly declared, “Even if we have to lie, even if we have to use ‘saam, daam, dand, bhed’, we must win the 2027 elections at any cost.” This is what they did by using social media platforms to defame the Shiromani Akali Dal by levelling false allegations of sacrilege and drugs, Ghuman said.

'48% DECLINE IN ACCIDENTAL DEATHS': PUNJAB CM MANN LISTS ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 1-DAY SPEECH IN FARIDKOT

**Diary Times Desk** : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, during the Independence Day celebrations in Faridkot today, hoisted the national flag and outlined his government’s achievements and future plans for the state.

His address focused on road safety, support for military families, rural development, education, and law enforcement. He claimed that there had been a 48-per cent reduction in accidental deaths in Punjab, attributing it to a new 5,000-strong police force. The initiative was praised by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, he said. He said Punjab was the first state to provide Rs 1 crore in aid to the family of any soldier of the state who is martyred. The benefit is also extended to the families of Punjab Police officers, who will receive a total of Rs 2 crore rupees from the government and their bank.

IAF OFFICER FALLS PREY TO FAKE TRADING APP, DUPED OF RS 1 CRORE



**Diary Times Desk** : An Indian Air Force (IAF) officer, Wing Commander Robin Sebastian, posted at Suratgarh Air Base Station, fell prey to a fake trading app on social media. The fraudsters allegedly cheated him of about Rs 1 crore 12 lakh. As soon as this fraud was detected, the Wing Commander immediately lodged a complaint on the National Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP). The Cyber Police of Sriganganagar took prompt action and got about Rs 7 lakh put on hold in various bank accounts.

The fraud reportedly started when the Wing Commander joined the “Growth Club” WhatsApp group on June 10. On July 7, a link was shared in the group, claiming that this link is to download an app for IPO subscription and trading. According to Sebastian, from June 10 to August 8, he transferred a total of Rs 1.12 crore from SBI Bank branch to some given accounts in Yes Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bandhan Bank, IDFC and Bank of Baroda.



RAIN WREAKS HAVOC:  
355 ROADS BLOCKED,  
OVER 1,000  
DISTRIBUTION  
TRANSFORMERS  
DISRUPTED IN  
HIMACHAL

**Diary Times Desk :** As many as 355 roads, including three National Highways (NH), remain disrupted for traffic movement as heavy rainfall continues to wreak havoc across the state. As per the State Emergency Operation Centre, 202 roads — including NH 21 — are disrupted in Mandi district alone. Additionally, 64, including NH 305 in Kullu, 28 in Sirmaur, 27 in Kangra, nine in Chamba, eight in Shimla, seven in Una, six in Lahaul and Spiti, two, including NH 5, in Kinnaur and one each in Bilaspur and Hamirpur districts are disrupted for vehicular movement, causing inconvenience to commuters. As many as 1,067 distribution transformers — including 557 in Kullu, 385 in Mandi, 112 in Lahaul and Spiti, 11 in Kinnaur, two in Chamba — and 116 water supply schemes — including 44 in Mandi, 41 in Kangra, 14 in Hamirpur, nine in Kullu, four in Shimla, three in Lahaul and Spiti and one in Solan district — also remain disrupted.

WATER LEVEL IN PONG  
DAM TOUCHES 1,379.98  
FEET, BBMB ORDERS  
RELEASE OF 57,221  
CUSECS

**Diary Times Desk :** With the water level of Pong Dam in Kangra district rising to an alarming position at 1,379.98 feet at 9 am on Sunday, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has begun controlled release of 57,221 cusecs of water through its turbines and spillways of the dam.

This is the highest release of water from the dam in the ensuing monsoon season. The BBMB has issued an alert to the district administrations of Kangra in Himachal Pradesh and Hoshiarpur in Punjab to take precautionary measures in the low-lying areas. Already, a flood-like situation has emerged in the 'Mand' areas of the Beas river in both the states. Many villages, settlements have reportedly submerged in both states.

OVER 150 STRANDED TOURISTS AT KINNAUR'S YULLA KANDA  
RESCUED

**Diary Times Desk :** Around 150 stranded tourists were rescued from the Yulla Kanda trek route in Kinnaur district, police said here today. According to reports, around 150 tourists from across the country had gone to pay obeisance at Lord Sri Krishna Temple, in Yulla Kunda on the occasion of Janamashtami. While they were returning from the temple, the trek route was completely obstructed due to overflowing of water in a nearby nallah. As a result, the tourists were not able to cross it and were left stranded. On receiving the information, a police team from Tapri reached the spot and conducted a rescue operation. They were safely able to evacuate the stranded tourists with the assistance of locals. The rescue operations continued for a few hours. Superintendent of Police (SP) Kinnaur Abhishek Shekhar said that due to heavy rainfall in the region, the trek route to the temple was blocked, leaving the devotees stranded. He said that all the people have been safely rescued.



KANGRA ADMINISTRATION BANS  
PLYING OF HEAVY VEHICLES ON  
DHARAMSALA-MCLEODGANJ ROAD

**Diary Times Desk :** In view of the growing threat of landslides and sinking soil, the Kangra district administration has banned the movement of heavy motor vehicles on the Dharamsala-McLeodganj bypass road with immediate effect.

The alternate Khada-Danda road, which also connects Dharamsala to McLeodganj, has already been declared unsafe for four-wheelers after a portion of it collapsed, last week. The District Magistrate Hemraj Bairwa issued the order on Sunday evening after reports confirmed of subsidence at multiple locations on the bypass — which is a national highway.

The officials of the local police and National Highway Authority of India also warned that the soil beneath the road had turned unstable and might not be able to bear the load of heavy vehicles during spells of heavy rainfall.

SHIMLA-MANDI ROAD SINKS  
NEAR TATTAPANI; HEAVY RAIN TO  
CONTINUE TODAY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Shimla-Mandi road near Tattapani has sunk as a result of heavy rainfall, disrupting the traffic movement on the road. As per the district administration, due to the continuous sinking of the road into the Sutlej river, only 4.2-m-wide road is left, and half of the road is unavailable for vehicular traffic.

Meanwhile, heavy rain is likely to continue across the state as the State's Meteorological Department has issued an orange weather warning for Kullu, Mandi, Chamba, Kangra, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Una, Solan and Sirmaur districts for the next few hours, resulting in light to moderate rain in many areas along with few spells of heavy rain at one or two places of these districts. Similarly, a yellow weather warning has been issued for Shimla, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti for the next few hours. As a result, light to moderate rain at isolated areas is very likely to occur in these districts.

CLOUDBURST IN MANDI TRIGGERS CHAOS; KIRATPUR-MANALI ROAD  
BLOCKED, PROPERTY DAMAGED

**Diary Times Desk :** A severe cloudburst over Shalana Nala in Mandi district on Sunday morning caused widespread destruction.

Water and debris flooded the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane at Takoli, disrupting traffic and damaging property. The cloudburst led to the collapse of walls around the office and colony of the infrastructure firm Afcon, and the employees ran for their lives. No casualties were reported, though several houses suffered significant damage.

Heavy rain triggered landslides, blocking the Kiratpur-Manali highway between Mandi and Kullu at Jhalogi. District police have deployed teams to manage the situation and begin restoration work. According to officials, it may take four to five hours to clear the highway. The alternative route via Kataula-Kamand between Mandi and Kullu has also been affected, but authorities expect to restore it soon for light motors. The Mandi police have urged people to avoid non-essential travel. Travellers are advised to stay alert and follow official updates. The dam authorities at Pandoh have issued an alert that water may be released from the dam following the cloudburst in Takoli area.





“I would venture to guess that Anon, who wrote so many poems without signing them, was often a woman.”  
— Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

### American getting nervous

Americans are still opening their wallets, with unemployment remaining low and businesses blunting the effects of President Donald Trump's widespread tariffs.

But consumers remain skittish over Trump's erratic trade war, according to recent surveys. Still, they haven't cut back and consumer prices have remained somewhat tame.

Businesses have played a key role in keeping the economy afloat, despite persistent economic jitters. For instance, companies mostly have not ramped up layoffs to deal with the cost pressures arising from Trump's tariffs. Unemployment remains low at 4.2%, and if Americans have a job, then they're able to spend and save.

Companies have also managed Trump's confusing onslaught of tariffs through a series of maneuvers that have, so far, kept inflation from surging; a recent report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond detailed all those strategies.

Economists have long said that tariffs will likely stoke consumer inflation, but so far, that hasn't happened. That might be because of how businesses have handled the situation, according to a recent analysis from the Richmond Fed that looked at survey responses from businesses.

The report said that businesses have delayed ordering inventories, delayed the timing of when a tariff is charged and negotiated partnerships with suppliers and customers to share costs. Many businesses also stocked up on inventories in the beginning of the year to avoid tariff-induced sticker shock.

And fortunately for the American worker, one of those strategies hasn't been to trim headcount. New applications for unemployment benefits remain low, according to Labor Department data.

That's done the trick in keeping a lid on consumer inflation, but it might not last for much longer. The latest Producer Price Index, which measures the prices businesses pay their suppliers, surged 0.9% in July from the prior month, lifting the annual rate to 3.3%. The monthly and annual figures both rose much more than economists had expected.

"Sensing from businesses suggests that the impact of tariffs on their price-setting has been lagged, but it is starting to play out," Richmond Fed economists said in their paper. "Nonetheless, it remains highly uncertain how tariffs will impact consumer inflation."

Consumer sentiment remains well below where it was late last year, after the presidential election. But it hasn't — and probably still won't — predict how Americans spend in the months ahead.

Consumer sentiment fell 5% this month to a preliminary reading of 58.6, the University of Michigan said Friday, falling for the first time in four months. Sentiment had improved, with consumers feeling a sense of relief that the worst of Trump's trade war might finally be in the rearview mirror.

But the effects of Trump's tariffs are still very much up in the air.

"Consumers are no longer bracing for the worst-case scenario for the economy feared in April when reciprocal tariffs were announced and then paused," Joanne Hsu, the survey's director, said in a release. "However, consumers continue to expect both inflation and unemployment to deteriorate in the future."

Their expectations for inflation rates in the year ahead rose to 4.9% this month, up from 4.5% in July. Still, Americans will likely continue to spend, just as they did in 2022 when sentiment fell to a record low because inflation was running at 40-year highs. Or in 2023, when a standoff in Congress over the debt ceiling prompted sentiment to fall, yet spending remain robust all throughout that year.



**Bryan Mena**  
Since the beginning of the year, Trump has rewritten US trade policy, with a new wave of tariffs that went into earlier this month. Businesses have scrambled to deal with the fallout.

## flight strike

# Air Canada suspends

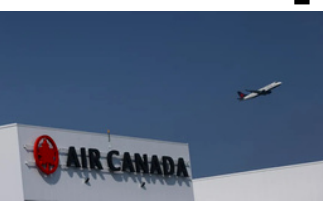
Air Canada suspended all operations as more than 10,000 Air Canada flight attendants went on strike early Saturday after a deadline to reach a deal passed, leaving travelers around the world stranded and scrambling during the peak summer travel season.

Canadian Union of Public Employees spokesman Hugh Pouliot confirmed the strike has started after no deal was reached, and the airline said shortly after that it would halt operations.

A bitter contract fight between Canada's largest airline and the union representing 10,000 of its flight attendants escalated Friday as the union turned down the airline's request to enter into government-directed arbitration, which would eliminate its right to strike and allow a third-party mediator to decide the terms of a new contract.

Flight attendants walked off the job around 1 a.m. ET on Saturday. Around the same time, Air Canada said it would begin locking flight attendants out of airports.

Federal Jobs Minister Patty Hajdu met with both the airline and union on Friday night and urged them to work harder to them to reach a deal "once and for all."



"It is unacceptable that such little progress has been made. Canadians are counting on both parties to put forward their best efforts," Hajdu said in a statement posted on social media.

"CUPE has engaged with the mediator to relay our willingness to continue bargaining — despite the fact that Air Canada has not countered our last two offers since Tuesday," he said in an email. "We're here to bargain a deal, not to go on strike."

A complete shutdown will impact about 130,000 people a day, and some 25,000 Canadians a day may be stranded abroad. Air Canada operates around 700 flights per day.

Montreal resident Alex Laroche, 21, and his girlfriend had been saving since Christmas for their European vacation. Now their \$8,000 trip with nonrefundable lodging is on the line as they wait to hear from Air Canada about the fate of their Saturday night flight to Nice, France.

How long the airline's planes will be grounded remains to be seen, but Air Canada Chief Operating Officer Mark Nasr has said it could take up to a week to fully restart operations once a tentative deal is reached.

Passengers whose travel is impacted will be eligible to request a full refund on the airline's website or mobile app, according to Air Canada.

The airline said it would also offer alternative travel options through other Canadian and foreign airlines when possible. But it warned that it could not guarantee immediate rebooking because flights on other airlines are already full "due to the summer travel peak." Laroche said he considered booking new flights with a different carrier, but he said most of them are nearly full and cost more than double the \$3,000 they paid for their original tickets.

"At this point, it's just a waiting game," he said. Laroche said he was initially upset over the union's decision to go on strike, but that he had a change of heart after reading about the key issues at the center of the contract negotiations, including the issue of wages.

"Their wage is barely livable," Laroche said. Air Canada and the Canadian Union of Public Employees have been in contract talks for about eight months, but they have yet to reach a tentative deal. Both sides say they remain far apart on the issue of pay and the unpaid work flight attendants do when planes aren't in the air.

## draft reports

### HOW AI IS BEING USED BY POLICE DEPARTMENTS



**Clare Duffy**  
"The biggest problem in public safety right now is hiring. You cannot hire enough police officers," Isner said. "Anything a police department can adopt to make them more efficient is kind of the name of the game right now."

In his nine years at the Fort Collins, Colorado, police department, Officer Scott Brittingham says he has taken a lot of pride in the process of writing reports after each call for service.

But when the department decided to test a tool to speed things up, he was intrigued. Now, a report that might have previously taken him 45 minutes to write takes just 10 minutes.

"I was a little bit skeptical, I'm not a big technology person," Brittingham said in a March interview at the Fort Collins police station for CNN's Terms of Service podcast. But spending less time writing reports means Brittingham can "take more calls for service" and "be proactive in preventing crime," he said.

Brittingham is referring to Draft One, artificial intelligence-powered software that creates the first draft of police reports, aiming to make the process faster and easier. And his experience may increasingly become the norm for police officers as departments across the country adopt the tool. It's gaining traction even as some legal experts and civil rights advocates raise concerns that AI-drafted police reports could contain biases or inaccuracies, as well as presenting potential transparency issues.

Axon — the law enforcement tech company behind the tool that also makes tasers and body cameras — said Draft One has been its fastest growing product since it launched last year. And Axon isn't the only player in this industry; law enforcement tech company Truleo makes a similar AI police report tool called Field Notes.

Police reports sit at the heart of the criminal justice process — officers use them to detail an incident and explain why they took the actions they did, and may later use them to prepare if they have to testify in court. Reports can also inform prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and the public about the officer's perspective on what took place. They can influence whether a prosecutor decides to take a case, or whether a judge decides to hold someone without bond, said Andrew Guthrie Ferguson, an American University law professor who studies the intersection of technology and policing.

"Police reports are really an accountability mechanism," Ferguson said. "It's a justification for state power, for police power."

For that reason, proponents of Draft One tout the potential for AI to make reports more accurate and comprehensive, in addition to its time-saving benefits.

But skeptics worry that any issues with the technology could have major ramifications for people's lives. At least one state has already passed a law regulating the use of AI-drafted police reports.

Draft One's rollout also comes amid broader concerns around AI in law enforcement, after experiments elsewhere with facial recognition technology have led to wrongful arrests.

"I do think it's a growing movement. Like lots of AI, people are looking at how do we update? How do we improve?" Ferguson said of AI police report technology. "There's a hype level, too, that people are pushing this because there's money to be made on the technology."

After an officer records an interaction on their body camera, they can request that Draft One create a report. The tool uses the transcript from the body camera footage to create the draft, which begins to appear within seconds of the request. The officer is then prompted to review the draft and fill in additional details before submitting it as final. Each draft report contains bracketed fill-in-the-blanks that an officer must either complete or delete before it can be submitted. The blank portions are designed to ensure officers read through the drafts to correct potential errors or add missing information.

"It really does have to be the officer's own report at the end of the day, and they have to sign off as to what happened," Axon President Josh Isner told CNN.

Draft One uses a modified version of OpenAI's ChatGPT, which Axon further tested and trained to reduce the likelihood.

DURAND CUP 2025: EAST BENGAL FC EDGE PAST MBSG TO REACH SEMIS, JFC SUFFER DEFEAT

**Diary Times Desk :** East Bengal FC booked their place in the semi-finals of the Durand Cup with a hard-fought 2-1 win over arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the Kolkata Derby at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan on Saturday. Dimitrios Diamantakos (38, 52') scored a brace for East Bengal FC while Anirudh Thapa (68') struck to give MBSG hope, but it was not enough to prevent them from crashing out. The result sees East Bengal FC set up a clash with Diamond Harbour FC, who beat Jamshedpur FC earlier in the day. The opening half in Kolkata was played at an even tempo with both sides enjoying spells of possession. However, despite matching East Bengal FC in the middle of the park, MBSG failed to test Prabhsukhan Gill in goal and went into the break without a single shot on target. East Bengal FC, on the other hand, showed more attacking intent with Bipin Singh's runs down the flank troubling the Mariners' backline.



CARLOS ALCARAZ FROZEN AFTER 4 DOUBLE FAULTS IN A GAME; FANS ROAR: 'FACE CARD SO HARD, SERVICE SO BAD'

**Diary Times Desk :** Carlos Alcaraz reached his second final at the Cincinnati Open on Saturday after defeating Alexander Zverev in the semifinal. It also marked the seventh consecutive time he reached an ATP Tour final, increasing his season match win total to 53 in a year that already included five titles. The 6-4, 6-3 scoreline, however, belies the struggles Alcaraz faced. The first came in the opening set when Zverev found the antidote to his cross-court game, leaving him trailing 2-3 before a late surge helped him regain the lead. The second came at the start of the second set, when Alcaraz committed four double faults in the second game—three of them consecutively—handing the German an early advantage. The sight left Alcaraz frozen in shock as he walked to his bench during the change of play. His expression quickly went viral on social media. Zverev, however, failed to capitalize on the advantage as he began feeling unwell and took a medical timeout off court after the third game of the second set. Zverev, who has retired in only two matches since 2014, returned to finish what was a patchy match from Alcaraz, who had double-faulted four times in the second game of the second set but won the last 12 points with Zverev running on fumes.

SHUBMAN GILL UNLIKELY FOR ASIA CUP SQUAD AS AJIT AGARKAR ALL SET TO REWARD SHREYAS IYER: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Ajit Agarkar and the rest of the All India Men's Senior Selection Committee will convene on Tuesday, August 19, to pick the squad for the upcoming Asia Cup. Suryakumar Yadav has cleared the fitness Test and is all set to lead India in the eight-team tournament, beginning September 9. There are several major decisions in front of the selectors. However, the biggest question is whether there can be a place for Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal. Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma have made the most of their chances in the shortest format. Hence, there are no grounds for dropping them. However, Shubman Gill (Test captain) and Jaiswal are two of the biggest names in Indian cricket right now. Hence, it needs to be seen whether the selectors are willing to take a brave call and keep the duo out for now. According to a report in Sportstar, the selectors are all set to make a bold call and leave Gill and Jaiswal out of the squad for the Asia Cup. Ajit Agarkar is all set to retain the core group that has excelled under Gambhir in T20Is recently. The Asia Cup ends on September 28, and the first Test against the West Indies begins on October 2. Considering the turnaround period, the selectors are likely to keep Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal fresh for the red-ball assignments.

JOAKIM ALEXANDERSSON NAMES 23-MEMBER SQUAD FOR SAFF U17 WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

**Diary Times Desk :** India U-17 women's team head coach Joakim Alexandersson on Sunday named a 23-member squad for the SAFF U-17 Championship to be played in Thimphu, Bhutan from August 20 to 31. Alexandersson, who historically guided the India U-20s to their first AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup qualification in two decades earlier this month, will now lead the U-17s as they gear up for the SAFF Championship in the lead-up to the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, which will be held in October in Kyrgyz Republic. In a new format that will provide the players more game time, the SAFF U-17 Women's Championship will feature four teams -- India, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh -- competing in a double round-robin league. Each team will play six matches, and the one with the most points will be crowned champion. India will begin their campaign against Nepal (August 20), followed by contests against Bangladesh (August 22), Bhutan (August 24 and 27), Nepal (August 29), and finally, Bangladesh again (August 31). All matches will be played at the Changlimithang Stadium.



PAKISTAN SQUAD FOR ASIA CUP 2025: BABAR AZAM, MOHAMMAD RIZWAN SNUBBED; CAPTAIN WILL BE...

**Diary Times Desk :** Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan both missed out as Pakistan announced their 17-member squad for Asia Cup 2025. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the squad for both the tri-series featuring Afghanistan and United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as the Asia Cup. Salman Ali Agha will be leading the team with Mohammad haris picked as the wicket-keeper. Star pacer Shaheen Afridi made the cut along with Fakhar Zaman but there was no place for the experienced duo of Babar and Rizwan. The other prominent players to feature in the Pakistan squad were Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, and Faheem Ashraf. Younger stars like Saim Ayub and Hasan Nawaz also made the cut. The Asia Cup 2025 will be held in UAE from September 9 to September 28. Pakistan were placed in Group A along with India, UAE and Oman. They will be play their first game against Oman on September 12 before facing India on September 14 and UAE on September 17.

UFC 319: CHIMAEV DOMINATES DU PLESSIS TO WIN MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

**Diary Times Desk :** Khamzat Chimaev is the new undisputed UFC middleweight champion after a dominant display against title holder Dricus Du Plessis at the United Center in Chicago. Billed as a battle between the undefeated UFC middleweights, Du Plessis put his belt on the line for the third time on Saturday against Chimaev, the No 3-ranked contender and considered one of the most feared pound-for-pound fighters on the UFC roster. But Chimaev was in control of the bout from the beginning until the end in one of the most one-sided title fights in UFC history; all three judges scored the bout 50-44 for the Chechen fighter, who holds dual Russian and United Arab Emirates citizenship. "I am happy, always," Chimaev said post-fight. "I never have a game plan, just go in and work like I do in the gym. That guy [Du Plessis] is strong. I couldn't finish. I respect that guy. He is the only champion that would say my name. This guy has big heart." The victory extends Chimaev's unbeaten UFC win streak to 15. Du Plessis experienced his first UFC loss and drops to 23-3 for his mixed martial arts (MMA) career.