

NEWS IN BRIEF

**MUMBAI
MONORAIL WITH
442 PASSENGERS
GETS STUCK AMID
HEAVY RAIN, ALL
RESCUED**

Diary Times Desk : A monorail train broke down in Mumbai this evening amid heavy rain, stranding hundreds of passengers for nearly three hours. All 442 passengers have been rescued. The monorail raked, which runs on an elevated track, got stuck between Chembur and Bhakti Park in central Mumbai at 6.38 pm due to a minor power supply issue due to "overcrowding," said the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA). "Our operations and maintenance teams are already on-site and working to resolve it quickly," it said.

**"SAW THEM PUTTING
PAPA'S BODY IN
DRUM": SON OF MAN
KILLED BY WIFE,
LOVER**

Diary Times Desk : Days after a man's rotting body was found in a blue drum in Rajasthan's Alwar, his 8-year-old son has emerged as a crucial witness to the case in which his mother and her alleged lover are the prime accused. He said the drum was used to store water and that he saw the accused putting his father's body in it. Speaking to NDTV, victim Hansraj's eldest son, Harshal, also revealed what transpired in his home in Kishangarh before and after the murder. "My father, mother and uncle (their landlord's son) were drinking together. My mother only had a couple of pegs, but the uncle who killed my father drank a lot. And so did my father, after which he started beating my mother."

**AXIOM CHIEF
SCIENTIST PRAISES
"WONDERFUL JOB"
BY SHUBHANSHU
SHUKLA IN SPACE**

Diary Times Desk : In a historic leap for India's human spaceflight ambitions, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, whose call sign is "Shuk," completed an 18-day journey aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom 4 mission, often called 'Mission Akash Ganga'. The Axiom 4 mission, led by US-based Axiom Space, was the most science-intensive mission the company has flown to date, with over 60 experiments conducted in microgravity. Among the crew were three rookies from India."

**INDIA -
CHINA NEWS****IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN PEACE,
TRANQUILLITY ON BORDER, PM MODI
TELLS CHINA'S WANG YI**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity on the border at a meeting with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi on Tuesday, and reiterated India's commitment to a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable" resolution of the boundary issue.

India-China ties have made steady progress since last year due to respect for each other's interests and sensitivities, and stable and constructive bilateral relations will contribute to regional and global peace, Modi said, ahead of his first visit to China after the end of the four-year military standoff on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Modi met Wang, the first Chinese minister to visit India since the disengagement of forces on the LAC last October, following his talks on the border issue with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. Wang also met external affairs minister S Jaishankar on Monday.

"Glad to meet Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Since my meeting with President Xi [Jinping] in Kazan last year, India-China relations have made steady progress guided by respect for each other's interests and sensitivities," Modi said in a social media post, referring to his meeting with the Chinese leader two days after India and China reached an understanding on ending the face-off at the LAC.

"I look forward to our next meeting in Tianjin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit. Stable, predictable, constructive ties between India and China will contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and prosperity," he said.

**FORMER SUPREME COURT JUDGE B. SUDERSHAN REDDY NAMED
INDIA ALLIANCE CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT POST**

Diary Times Desk : The INDIA bloc has named former Supreme Court judge B. Sudershan Reddy as their candidate for the Vice President post.

A joint statement released by the Opposition parties stated : Shri.B Sudershan Reddy garu is one of India's most distinguished and progressive jurists. He has had a long and eminent legal career including as Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court and Judge of the Supreme Court. He has been a consistent and courageous champion of social, economic and political justice.

The Vice Presidential contest is an ideological battle. The Opposition parties have nominated Shri B. Sudershan Reddy garu as their joint candidate since he reflects fully the values that shaped our country's freedom movement so profoundly and the values on which our country's Constitution and democracy have been anchored. All these values are under assault and therefore, our collective and determined resolve to fight this election."

The Vice Presidential election has been necessitated by the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar from the post last month. The BJP has chosen Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan as the VP candidate. Born in July 1946, Justice Reddy enrolled as an Advocate at Hyderabad on December 27, 1971.

**"NO AMBIGUITY": BJP ALLY BITES
BULLET AFTER INDIA'S ANDHRA PICK
FOR VEEP**

Diary Times Desk : Hours after the INDIA Opposition bloc announced former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy as its candidate for the Vice Presidential election, key BJP ally TDP said there is "no ambiguity" regarding its choice. The Opposition hopes its choice of the Andhra Pradesh-born judge will put the N Chandrababu Naidu-led party in a spot, as language is an emotive issue in the southern state. Whether this tactic yields dividends for the INDIA bloc will be seen in the days to come, but the TDP has sent a message of NDA unity for now.

"No ambiguity - only warmth, respect, and resolve. The NDA stands united," Mr Naidu's son Nara Lokesh, who is TDP's general secretary and Andhra Pradesh minister, said in a post on X. Mr Lokesh recently met NDA's choice CP Radhakrishnan and congratulated him.

Hoping to turn the tables after the BJP created a dilemma for the INDIA ally DMK by naming a Tamil leader for the Vice President election, the Opposition bloc today named Justice (retired) B Sudershan Reddy as its candidate for the September 9 election. The move was aimed at seeking all-round support, including from Telugu heartland parties not aligned with the Opposition.

A key target was the TDP, an important ally for the BJP whose support ensured the Narendra Modi government's third term after the Lok Sabha election last year. The TDP now faced the question the DMK faced -- will it vote against the local candidate and stick to the NDA brief?

**HIMACHAL CLOUDBURST: CLOUDS BURST IN KULLU-
MANDI, TWO BRIDGES, SEVEN HOUSES-SHOPS AND 6
FOOTBRIDGES WASHED AWAY, TWO DEAD**

Diary Times Desk : The period of destruction due to rain and landslides continues in Himachal Pradesh. Heavy damage has been caused by cloudburst at two places in Kullu and Mandi. Two houses, two bridges and three shops have been washed away in Kadaun Panchayat due to cloudburst in Bhubhu Jot of Laghati in Kullu district. Several acres of agricultural land of about 15 families have been washed away. Kullu-Kalang road has been closed for movement. Due to this, the connectivity of four inaccessible panchayats has been cut off.

Bhuntar-Manikaran-Barshaini road has also been closed. Holiday has been declared on Tuesday in schools, colleges, ITI and other training institutes of the area. A shed collapsed in a landslide near Rashol village in Parvati Valley of Kullu. In this, a woman of Nepal origin, Deepa (45) died due to being buried. She was living in the shed with her husband and nephew. On the other hand, another devotee died on Tuesday due to stone hitting the Kinnaur Kailash Yatra.

The deceased has been identified as Gaurav resident Ghaziabad (UP). So far five devotees have died in the Yatra. In view of this, the administration has completely banned the Yatra. The Yatra was to be held till 30 August. The devotees who have set out on the Yatra are also being sent back from Maling Khatta. There was heavy damage in Swad and Silbhudhani due to cloudburst in Taraswan Panchayat of Chauharghati of Mandi. In Silbhudhani, 5 foot bridge, a shop, inn and gharaat were washed away. Along with this, hundreds of bighas of land were washed away. In Swad, 10 tanks of about two fish farms were hit by floods, due to which tons of trout fish were washed away. A bridge and roads were washed away in Swad. Debris also entered the premises of Uchcha Pathshala Taraswan along with the drain.

HARYANA NEWS**MOBILE INTERNET
SUSPENDED IN 2 HARYANA
DISTRICTS AMID UNREST
OVER TEACHER'S DEATH**

Diary Times Desk : Amid widespread public outrage over the death of a 19-year-old teacher, the Haryana government on Tuesday ordered the suspension of mobile internet, and bulk SMS and dongle services, while allowing voice calls, in Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri districts for 48 hours.

Manisha's body was found in a field in Bhiwani on August 13. She had been missing since August 11, after leaving school, purportedly to inquire about admission at a nursing college. The death caused massive outrage, with people blocking key roads in the district and the opposition parties, including the Congress, demanding a CBI probe.

Although the order does not make a reference to the teacher's death, sources said it has been issued in the wake of developments pertaining to the case.

Issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Sumita Misra, the order said that internet suspension will be in force from 11 am on August 19 till 11 am on August 21.

"It has been brought to my notice by ADGP/CID, Haryana and Deputy Commissioner, Bhiwani & Charkhi Dadri vide their requests dated August 19 that there is an apprehension of causing tension, annoyance, agitation, damage to public & private property and disturbance of public peace & tranquillity in the district Bhiwani & Charkhi Dadri. This order is issued to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order," it said.

**BILL TO REGULATE ONLINE
GAMING GETS CABINET NOD,
NEXT STOP LOK SABHA**

Diary Times Desk : A bill to regulate online gaming has been cleared by the union cabinet, and is likely to be introduced in the Lok Sabha tomorrow, sources said. The Bill seeks to bring online gaming platforms under a legal framework and introduce penalties for gambling through digital apps.

The proposed law flags concerns over addiction, fraud, and inconsistencies across state laws and has provisions for penalty and punishment.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology or MeitY could be designated as central regulator for online gaming.

The bill also is meant to put an end to unauthorised online betting.

Unauthorised betting already carries a fine and a seven-year jail term under the new penal code Bhartiya Nyaya Samhita. But its implementation depends on states. The bill comes amid opposition allegations that the central government is "shying away" from its "moral responsibility" to take steps against online gaming.

IN BIG BREAKTHROUGH, INDIA, CHINA TO SEEK EARLY SOLUTION TO BOUNDARY DELIMITATION

Diary Times Desk : Taking the first big steps to reset the entire trajectory of bilateral relations, India and China have decided to work on a settlement of the boundary question and an expert group will be set up to explore an early solution to boundary delimitation.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi,



the Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement on Tuesday and said the two sides have also decided to resume direct flights at the earliest and increase the scale of Indian pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar. PM Narendra Modi will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in China and the two sides also agreed to the reopening of border trade through the three designated trading points - Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La and Nathu La. The relationship, which hit a low after the Galwan clash in 2020 and a prolonged military standoff, has seen a marked thaw of late, and the latest developments come in the wake of US President Donald Trump's announcement of 25% tariffs on India and an additional 25% levy for buying Russian oil. The US and China have also faced off over tariffs.

MUMBAI RAIN NEWS LIVE UPDATES: ALL PASSENGERS RESCUED FROM STRANDED MONORAIL, RED ALERT TOMORROW

Diary Times Desk : Heavy rains lashed Mumbai for the fourth consecutive day, flooding roads, delaying trains and flights and leading to rain-related incidents in the city and state. By 3 pm, Mumbai had received 300 mm of rainfall.

At least eight flights were diverted and many were delayed. The Central Railway suspended its local train services on the harbour line between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Kurla stations due to submergence of tracks in a section after heavy rains. At some places along the tracks, as much as 17 inches of water had accumulated. BEST bus services were also badly hit. Railway tracks were covered in water after the Mithi river began flowing above the danger mark. Nearly 350 persons from Kurla area were shifted to safer locations, while five NDRF teams have been deployed at Kranti Nagar and Kurla.

AAP BACKS EX-SUPREME COURT JUDGE SUDERSHAN REDDY FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S POST

Diary Times Desk : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Tuesday said that retired Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy is the joint candidate of opposition parties for the upcoming Vice Presidential elections and confirmed AAP's support for his candidature.

"Understand this first that he is the candidate of the opposition parties. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal and the party have decided that we will support former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy," Singh told ANI.

His statement came in response to questions over Reddy's nomination as the INDIA bloc's Vice Presidential candidate.

Reddy, earlier in the day, expressed his gratitude to the INDIA bloc for nominating him and appealed to all Members of Parliament to support his candidature.

"Thank you for projecting me as a candidate on behalf of the INDIA Alliance. But for (sic) you, it would not have been possible...As a candidate, I would humbly request and appeal to all the Parliamentarians to support my candidature," Reddy told reporters here.

"I am very, very happy. Thank you," he added.

When asked about him and his competition being from southern India, Reddy said that "south, north, east, west" doesn't matter since both - him and Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan - were Indian nationals.

OPERATION SINDOOR NOW IN NCERT SCHOOL BOOKS, SPECIAL MODULES RELEASED

Diary Times Desk : National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has released special modules on Operation Sindoor, which will be taught to students from classes 3 to 12.

As per a PTI report, the module states that Operation Sindoor was "not just military operation but a promise to protect peace and honour the lives lost."

The NCERT module also talks of Pakistan's alleged involvement in the Pahalgam terror attack.

"Pakistan denied any involvement in Pahalgam terror attack but it was directly ordered by its military and political leadership," reads the NCERT module.

As per a report by The Print, the two modules are titled "Operation Sindoor—A Saga of Valour" for students of Classes 3 to 8, and "Operation Sindoor—A Mission of Honour and Bravery" for students of Classes 9 to 12.

Last week, another NCERT special module for 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', titled the "culprits of Partition."

A quote from the module sparked a row between Congress and the BJP which said that the partition was caused by three people - "Jinnah, who demanded it; second, the Congress, which accepted it; and third, Mountbatten, who implemented it".

The partition module and Operation Sindoor module will be provided to students as supplementary readings, as opposed to being part of the main curriculum.

Operation Sindoor was India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack. On April 22, a group of terrorists opened fire on tourists in Pahalgam's Baisaran valley, killing 25 Indians and one Nepali tourist.

In response to this attack, Indian armed forces carried out strikes targeted terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in May.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

20-08-2025

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.

CENTRE MAY BAN ALL FORMS OF REAL MONEY GAMES, PENALISE INFLUENCERS PROMOTING THEM

Diary Times Desk : The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union cabinet on Tuesday cleared the online gaming bill aimed at regulating online betting applications, reports said. The Bill will most likely be tabled in Lok Sabha on Wednesday. This comes as number of cases of fraud increased in the past few months and the investigating agencies also tighten their grip on celebrities endorsing these applications.

With a motive to regulate the online betting, the Centre has cleared the Bill and it could be tabled in Lok Sabha for discussion on Wednesday. "The Cabinet has approved the bill to regulate online gaming platforms that involve real money. The government is trying to table the bill in Parliament on Wednesday," reported PTI, citing a source.

According to reports, the Bill also has measures of penalty and punishment for acts including the promotion of online betting apps. This comes as the Centre is likely to levy a 40% Goods and Service Tax (GST) on online gaming in the revamped regime this Diwali.

'IT IS FAKE': MEA ON DRIVE TO RAISE ₹8.3 CRORE FOR NIMISHA PRIYA USING GOVT'S NAME

Diary Times Desk : The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has flagged a fake claim circulating on social media regarding "donations" to save Kerala nurse Nimisha Priya, who is on death row in Yemen. On X on Tuesday, the fact check unit of the ministry dismissed the claim and said there was no government-affiliated donation campaign for the Indian nurse.

"We have seen claims being made on social media seeking monetary contributions into a Gol designated bank account in the Nimisha Priya case. This is a fake claim," said MEA.

The post in question was made by a blue-tick X account of evangelist KA Paul. In the X post, the account says: "Donate directly to Save Nimisha to the Government of India account designate. We need 8.3 crore rupees."

In July, the evangelist made a video appeal to the Houthi administration. The video, which was made from Sana'a, also featured Nimisha Priya's 13-year-old daughter Mishel and her husband Thomas.

Indian nurse Nimisha Priya has been on death row in Yemen since 2020. The Kerala-based nurse has been accused of murdering a Yemeni citizen in July 2017.

CENTRE'S BILLS FOR REMOVAL OF PM, CHIEF MINISTERS ARRESTED ON SERIOUS CHARGES



Diary Times Desk : A bill to ensure the removal of elected representatives -- be it Prime Minister, Union ministers, Chief Ministers or a minister of a Union Territory arrested or detained on serious criminal charges - from office will be tabled in parliament on Wednesday.

This and two other bills -- the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill 2025, the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill 2025, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill 2025 -- could be moved to a parliamentary committee. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will also move the motion in the Lok Sabha.

So far, under the Constitution, only public representatives who have been convicted could be removed from office. The key bills, therefore, are constitutional amendment bills - the articles involved are Articles 75, 164 and 239AA.

"ALLOW PARLIAMENT TO FELICITATE" SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA: KIREN RIJJU TO OPPOSITION

Diary Times Desk : Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Tuesday appealed to Opposition parties to allow Parliament to felicitate Axiom-4 Mission Pilot and IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, along with Indian scientists, for the country's recent success in space exploration.

In a post on X, Kiren Rijju wrote, "I again.. appeal to opposition parties to allow Parliament to felicitate Capt Subhanshu Shukla and the entire Indian Scientists for India's remarkable and successful space mission. All our heroes deserve appreciation!"

His remarks came after the Opposition created an uproar during a special discussion in Parliament on India's space programme and the successful International Space Station (ISS) mission of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.

The discussion, titled "India's Space Program and Its Role in Viksit Bharat 2047", was aimed at highlighting the nation's scientific progress, national pride, and future security prospects.

"ARE YOU SERIOUS?" SUPREME COURT ASKS KERALA IN PRESIDENTIAL REFERENCE HEARING

Diary Times Desk : 'Are you really serious...' an incredulous Chief Justice BR Gavai asked the Kerala government Tuesday as a five-judge Constitution Bench began hearing the presidential reference over the top court's April 12 order setting the President and Governors to assent to bills passed by states.

"Why can't a five-judge bench hear when the president is asking (a question)? What is wrong with that?" the Chief Justice asked ahead of a potentially landmark hearing concerning power to assent (or withhold assent) to bills passed by state governments, and the larger question of whether the Supreme Court can fix timelines for the President or a Governor to act on a bill.

The Chief Justice's incredulity was in response to former Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Kerala government, referring to a 'series' of earlier verdicts by the top court that held of a presidential reference is not maintainable.

RSS PEACE OFFERING, TAMIL NADU'S 'VAJPAYEE': 2 SIGNALS FROM BJP'S VEEP PICK

Diary Times Desk : Two days after he lavished praise on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in his Independence Day address from Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended another olive branch to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) ideological mentor. The party's parliamentary board picked RSS man and current Maharashtra governor CP Radhakrishnan as the NDA nominee for vice-president.

The choice is replete with signals. It comes amid a standoff with the RSS over the next BJP president. The three-year term of the present incumbent, JP Nadda, ended in January 2024. He continued on extensions because of a lack of consensus on his successor. Traditionally, the BJP appoints its president after extensive consultations with the RSS. It is no longer secret that the conventional route has led to a dead end, explaining the inordinate (and unusual) delay in choosing a replacement for Nadda.

GST REFORMS 2025: WHAT A TAX CUT ON VEHICLES MEANS FOR INDIA'S AUTO INDUSTRY

Diary Times Desk : The government's announcement of next-generation GST reforms marks a significant step toward simplifying India's indirect tax regime. A key proposal under consideration is the reduction of GST on small cars (under 1200cc) and two-wheelers from 28% to 18%, with classification based on engine capacity rather than vehicle type. The GST Council is expected to review this proposal ahead of Diwali.

This reform comes at a crucial time for the auto industry. In FY25, two-wheeler domestic sales grew by 9% year-on-year to 19.61 million units, compared to 13% growth in FY24. Passenger vehicle sales rose by just 2% to 4.30 million units, down from 8% growth the previous year. Entry-level segments have been particularly affected by rising costs and weak consumer sentiment. In June 2025, car sales by Indian automakers to dealerships fell to an 18-month low of 0.31 million units - a 7.4% year-on-year decline, driven by sluggish demand in urban markets.

The proposed GST cut is expected to revive demand in these segments, especially with the upcoming festive season, which traditionally boosts volumes. Additionally, the recent reduction in the repo rate by RBI to 6% is likely to improve vehicle loan affordability and support retail sales.

Historically, GST rate cuts on auto components- from 28% to 18% in 2018 led to greater formalisation and encouraged investment in quality and safety standards across the auto-component aftermarket. A similar improvement in product standards and service quality is anticipated if the current reforms are implemented.

**TRUCK DRIVER BEHIND US CRASH
CLAIMED HE WAS "SCARED" TO GO
BACK TO INDIA**

Diary Times Desk : At least three people were killed in the United States after a semi-truck driver made a rogue U-turn on a highway in Florida's St. Lucie County last week. The accident occurred on August 12, and the truck driver was identified as Indian-origin Harjinder Singh, who, according to the Donald Trump administration, is an illegal immigrant.

US authorities said Singh, while driving a tractor-trailer, made a hard left turn on the Florida Turnpike near Fort Pierce as he attempted to cross the median through an "Official Use Only" pass. The truck blocked all lanes of incoming traffic, due to which a minivan coming in full speed slammed onto its side.

The high-speed impact resulted in the minivan wedging underneath the trailer, killing a 30-year-old Florida City man, a 37-year-old Pompano Beach woman and a 54-year-old Miami man.

According to a report by the New York Post, Singh, an Indian-origin man, illegally entered the US by crossing the southern border into California in September 2018. He was arrested by the Border Patrol two days after crossing the border and was processed for fast-track deportation by the first Trump administration.

However, during the proceeding for expedited removal, he reportedly claimed that he was scared to return to India, following which the US Citizenship and Immigration Services released him on a \$5,000 immigration bond in January 2019.

He has been in immigration proceedings ever since. Under US law, immigrants claim "refugee" status if they are unable or unwilling to return to their home country because of "persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution" due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin.

**US STATE DEPARTMENT REVOKES 6,000
STUDENT VISAS**

Diary Times Desk : The State Department has revoked more than 6,000 international student visas because of violations of US law and overstay, the department told the BBC.

The agency said the "vast majority" of the violations were assault, driving under the influence (DUI), burglary and "support for terrorism".

The move comes as the Trump administration continues its crackdown on immigration and international students.

While the State Department did not specify what they meant by "support for terrorism", the Trump administration has targeted some students who have protested in support of Palestine, arguing they had expressed antisemitic behaviour.

Of the 6,000 student visas that were revoked, the State Department said about 4,000 of those were revoked because visitors broke the law.

Another 200-300 visas were also revoked for "terrorism done under INA 3B", the State Department said, referring to code that defines "terrorist activity" broadly as acts that endanger human life or violate US law.

**ITALY'S PM MELONI GREETS US AIDE
WITH 'NAMASTE'**

Diary Times Desk : Amid the hubbub of US President Donald Trump's multilateral meeting with European Union leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's arrival grabbed eyeballs as she greeted the Chief of Protocol of the US, Monica Crowley, with 'namaste'. 'Namaste' is an Indian etiquette of greeting with folded hands.

The practice by Meloni has been noted earlier too, as she welcomed leaders at the G7 Meet in Italy in a similar fashion. A video showed PM Modi greeting Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and engaging in a brief conversation with her during the summit. The camaraderie between PM Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has been making waves on social media, with their interactions sparking a trending hashtag #Melodi.

**UKRAINE HIT BY MULTIPLE
RUSSIAN STRIKES AMID US-
LED PUSH FOR END TO WAR**

Diary Times Desk : As diplomatic efforts to end the grinding war in Ukraine accelerate in Washington, there has been no let-up in the fighting as Russia launched 270 drones and 10 missiles in an overnight attack on the country, the Ukrainian air force said.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said Russia had targeted energy facilities in the central Poltava region, home to Ukraine's only oil refinery, causing large fires on Tuesday.

The attack was the largest this month, and came a day after United States President Donald Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White House for talks on his peace efforts.

Russia and Ukraine also said they swapped more bodies of their fallen soldiers on Tuesday as part of deals reached during peace talks in Istanbul, Turkey earlier this year.

"Today, we handed over 1,000 bodies of Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers to the Ukrainian side. They gave us 19," Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky, who led Russia's delegation during the three rounds of talks facilitated by Turkey, said on Telegram.

**SHOCKING MOMENT CAR
CRASHES INTO YOUTUBERS
EATING FOOD AT
RESTAURANT: VIDEO**

Diary Times Desk :

A horrifying footage has emerged showing two social media influencers narrowly avoiding a deadly end after a car rammed into a restaurant where they were recording themselves eating food. Influencers Nina Santiago (known online as NinaUnrated) and Patrick Blackwood were creating content for a YouTube food series at Cuvee Culinary Creations in Houston, Texas, when the incident took place.

The duo had several plates of food in front of them when Mr Blackwood had just taken a big bite out of what appeared to be a burger when an SUV struck the window. Such was the force of the collision that the restaurant window shattered completely while the table was nearly sent flying.

**RUSSIA POUNDS UKRAINE, KILLS MORE CIVILIANS BEFORE WHITE HOUSE
MEETING**

Diary Times Desk : Russian attacks on major Ukrainian cities have killed at least 12 people as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visits Washington, DC, supported by European leaders, for high-stakes peace talks with United States President Donald Trump that could determine Ukraine's future and its fate in the war, now in its fourth year.

An entire family, including a toddler and a 16-year-old, were among seven people killed in an overnight drone strike on a residential neighbourhood in the northeastern city of Kharkiv, authorities said on Monday. The attack also injured 20 people, including six children.

Russian forces killed five people and injured four in attacks in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, where some of the fiercest fighting on the ground rages on and where Russian President Vladimir Putin, feeling Moscow has the upper hand, seeks Ukraine's withdrawal from the third of the region Kyiv still controls.

In Zaporizhzhia, a city in the southeast, 17 people were injured in an attack, according to Governor Ivan Fedorov. Russian air raids also targeted the northeastern region of Sumy and the southern region of Odesa.

Ukraine's air force said Russian forces launched 140 drones and four missiles at Ukraine overnight, adding that 88 drones had been downed.

AIR CANADA TO RESUME FLIGHTS AFTER PAY DEAL STRUCK WITH UNION

Diary Times Desk : Flight crew at Air Canada have ended a dispute with the airline which had grounded flights and stranded thousands of passengers since Saturday. A tentative agreement was announced by the union representing flight attendants and confirmed by the airline, which said flights will resume later on Tuesday. More than 10,000 staff had walked out in protest at pay and scheduling. The deal has not been disclosed in full, though the union said it achieves "transformational change" for workers and the industry. The agreement will now be presented to members to be ratified. The breakthrough came nine hours after talks began with the help of an approved mediator appointed by the government. "Unpaid work is over," said the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) in a statement early on Tuesday, calling the negotiations a "historic fight" for the industry. The union also advised its members to "fully co-operate with resumption of operations". The dispute between Air Canada and the union had escalated when CUPE rejected an order to return to work issued by the Canadian Industrial Relations Board, which deemed the strike "unlawful" in a ruling on Monday. Following news of a tentative deal, Air Canada said the first flights would restart on Tuesday evening, but it may take days to return to a full service because aircraft and crew are out of position. It added that it would not comment on the terms of the agreed deal until it had been ratified. In contract negotiations, Air Canada said it had offered flight attendants a 38% increase in total compensation over four years, with a 25% raise in the first year.

KIM JONG UN URGES "RAPID EXPANSION" OF NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY



Diary Times Desk : North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called Tuesday for the "rapid expansion" of the country's nuclear weapons capability, citing ongoing US-South Korea military exercises that he said could "ignite a war". "The US-ROK intensified military nexus and the muscle-flexing are the most obvious manifestation of their will to ignite a war," Kim was quoted as saying by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). "The prevailing situation requires us to make a radical and swift change in the existing military theory and practice and rapid expansion of nuclearization," he said. The comments were made as Kim visited a naval destroyer, Choe Hyon, on Monday and received a report about the warship's weapons systems.

ISRAEL DEMANDS RELEASE OF ALL GAZA HOSTAGES, CASTING DOUBT ON CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL

Diary Times Desk : Israel is demanding the release of all 50 hostages held in Gaza, an Israeli official has said, casting doubt on whether it will accept a new proposal for a 60-day ceasefire agreed to by Hamas on Monday.

Israel's stance was "in accordance with the principles set by the cabinet to end the war", the official added, without explicitly rejecting the plan from mediators Qatar and Egypt.

The proposal, which would see the release of around half the hostages, is "almost identical" to a US proposal Israel had previously accepted, Qatar said.

Palestinian sources said 10 living and 18 dead hostages would be handed over while the sides negotiated a permanent ceasefire and the return of the other hostages.

Israel believes that only 20 of the 50 hostages are still alive after 22 months of war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not commented publicly on the proposal, but he did say on Monday that Hamas was "under immense pressure".

FRANCE CALLS FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA IF DIPLOMACY FAILS

Diary Times Desk : French President Emmanuel Macron called Monday for stepping up sanctions against Russia if its leader Vladimir Putin does not move forward on peace with Ukraine. "President Trump believes we can get an agreement and believes that President Putin also wants a peace accord," Macron told reporters after talks at the White House. "But if at the end this process is met by refusal, we are also ready to say that we need to increase sanctions." He pointed to recent secondary sanctions imposed by the Trump administration on India, which has emerged as a major buyer of Russian energy as Western nations cut back due to sanctions following Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The secondary sanctions on India have "had a lot of effects," Macron said. Trump invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to the White House three days after the US president welcomed Putin for talks in Alaska.

THE EXISTENTIAL MEETS THE ABSURD IN LATEST UKRAINE TALKS

Diary Times Desk : It's hard enough to negotiate with an enemy you do not trust. But imagine not being able to trust your most critical ally, either.

When President Donald Trump said Monday that he'd offer Ukraine "very good security" as he pushed Kyiv to come to some sort of truce with Russia, many Ukrainians watched knowing that he may not keep his word. Trump is known, after all, for constantly changing his mind, including about how much he admires Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Yet the U.S. remains a crucial source of military and economic aid to Ukraine. So there was Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office on Monday (in a suit!), hoping to convince Trump to give Kyiv "everything" it needed for its security. He came with other European leaders who urged Trump to keep helping Ukraine, to pursue a ceasefire first and not to fall for dubious Russian long-term peace proposals.

As the visitors made their practiced pitches while sitting around a table with the U.S. president, the whole thing felt absurd. Ukrainians obviously cannot trust Putin, a man with a long history of broken promises. But they also cannot trust Trump, another man with a long history of broken promises.

"I SAID SAME THING": TRUMP AS REPORTER PRAISES "FABULOUS" ZELENSKY IN SUIT

Diary Times Desk : During critical discussions over the Russia-Ukraine war, which has lasted over three years, a US reporter once again commented on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's attire during his meeting with President Donald Trump. "You look fabulous in that suit," said Brian Glenn, a conservative reporter, complimenting Zelensky, whom he had previously criticised for his clothing choices during a February visit to the Oval Office. "I said the same thing," Trump interjected into the conversation between Zelensky and Glenn. "That's the one who attacked you last time," Trump reminded his Ukrainian counterpart, as laughter rippled through the room. "I remember that," Zelensky replied to President Trump.



UKRAINIAN REFUGEES REACT TO TRUMP-ZELENSKY MEETING

Diary Times Desk : The meeting between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has prompted mixed responses from Ukrainian refugees living in the south of England.

Trump said he had spoken to Russian President Vladimir Putin to begin arrangements for him to meet Zelensky, following talks with the Ukrainian president at the White House.

Iryna Bakaliar, who lives in Reading after leaving Lviv in western Ukraine back in 2022, said it offered some hope but it was "surreal" to see them joking when there was still a war on.

Irina Mozhova, who is Ukrainian and lives in Dorset, agreed, saying it was "a mix of hope and just being realistic".

"On one hand, any meeting like this is a good thing," she said.

"The fact they met and had what sounds like a good chat is really encouraging, and we are all desperate for a clear way forwards. But at the same time, we are not naive.

"It's all about what actually happens next... it's a big moment but what we really need is really solid action and support in the future." Natalya Buhiri-Shramko, who lives in Newbury, Berkshire, having fled the war with her son, said she had not expected much from the meeting.

GOVT COMMITTED TO FEBRUARY POLLS:
ASIF NAZRUL

Diary Times Desk : Professor Dr Asif Nazrul, Adviser on Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, has stated that the government is firmly committed to holding the election.

"We are keeping this in mind — the election will definitely be in February, and we leave in February," he said.

He made the remarks on Tuesday (19 August) while responding to journalists' questions after a meeting at the Cabinet Division in the Secretariat. Commenting on differing statements from political parties regarding the election schedule, he said such discussions are part of the political process.

The government has announced that the election will take place in February. Different political parties, however, are expressing varied opinions, which has created some confusion regarding the timing of the election. In response to this, the Law Adviser said, "Organising the election is the responsibility of the government, not of any political party."

CHINESE REFINERS SWEEP UP RUSSIAN
OIL AFTER INDIAN DEMAND FALLS:
ANALYSTS

Diary Times Desk : Chinese refineries have purchased 15 cargoes of Russian oil for October and November delivery as Indian demand for Moscow's exports falls away, two analysts and one trader said on Tuesday.

India has emerged as the leading buyer of Russian seaborne oil, which has sold at a discount since some Western nations shunned purchases and imposed restrictions on Russian exports over Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Indian state refiners paused Russian oil purchases last month, however, as those discounts narrowed. And US President Donald Trump is also threatening to punish countries for buying Russian crude.

China had secured 15 Russian Urals cargoes for October-November delivery by the end of last week, said Richard Jones, a Singapore-based crude analyst at Energy Aspects.

TRUMP VOWS TO CHANGE HOW POLLS ARE RUN. HE DOESN'T
HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL POWER

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump on Monday vowed more changes to the way elections are conducted in the US, but based on the Constitution, there is little to nothing he can do on his own.

Relying on false information and conspiracy theories that he's regularly used to explain away his 2020 election loss, President Trump pledged on his social media site that he would do away with both mail voting — which remains popular and is used by about one-third of all voters — and voting machines — some form of which are used in almost all of the country's thousands of election jurisdictions. These are the same systems that enabled Trump to win the 2024 election and Republicans to gain control of Congress.

President Trump's post marks an escalation even in his normally overheated election rhetoric. He issued a wide-ranging executive order earlier this year that, among other changes, would have required documented proof of citizenship before registering to vote. His Monday post promised another election executive order to "help bring HONESTY to the 2026 Midterm elections."

The same post also pushed falsehoods about voting. He claimed the US is the only country to use mail voting, when it's actually used by dozens, including Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Similar complaints to President Trump's, when aired on conservative and conservative-leaning networks such as Newsmax and Fox News, have led to multimillion-dollar defamation settlements, including one announced Monday.

HURRICANE ERIN AN EAST
COAST WAVE DANGER;
STORM SURGE, TROPICAL
STORM WARNINGS IN NORTH
CAROLINA

Diary Times Desk : Hurricane Erin is forecast to grow in size, and that will generate dangerous high surf and rip currents along the entire Eastern Seaboard. It is also expected to push tropical storm winds and surge flooding into parts of North Carolina and the Virginia Tidewater.

Erin's center is currently about 650 miles south-southeast of Hatteras, North Carolina, moving northwest. While its maximum sustained winds may not be as extreme as they were the past several days, it remains a powerful hurricane. Just as importantly, though, the size of Erin's tropical-storm- and hurricane-force winds has increased dramatically since last weekend, as expected.

TRUMP PROMISED UKRAINE
'SECURITY GUARANTEES':
HERE'S WHAT THEY COULD
LOOK LIKE

Diary Times Desk : On the face of it, talks on Monday between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders went well.

The U.S. and Ukrainian leaders were pictured looking jovial and smiling together — a far cry from the extraordinary shouting match and public humiliation inflicted on Zelenskyy during his last trip to the White House in February.

Monday's talks, which involved a raft of European leaders, appeared to make progress toward ending the protracted war between Russia and Ukraine, with Trump saying a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy would be arranged, followed by a trilateral meeting that he would join.

The most significant development result for Kyiv and Europe, however, was Trump's statement that security guarantees for Ukraine would be "provided" by European countries in "coordination with the U.S."

Describing that as a "major step forward," Zelenskyy said later that the package of security guarantees for Ukraine — highly coveted by Kyiv's leadership and seen as a deterrent to future Russian aggression — will include a massive purchase of American weapons, with financing reportedly supported by Europe. The agreement would be "formalized on paper within the next week to 10 days," he said.

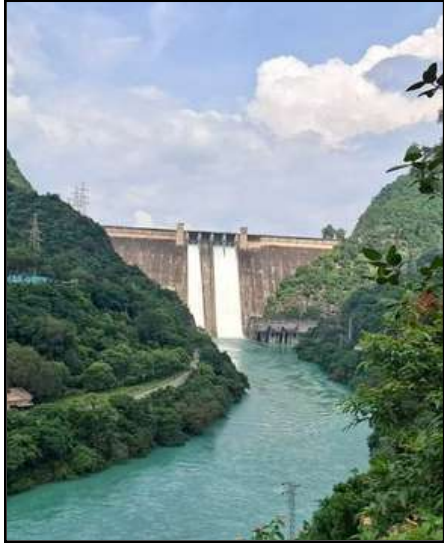
FLOOD GATES OF BHAKRA DAM OPENED, BBMB ISSUES WARNING

Diary Times Desk : With the water level in the Bhakra Dam rising close to its capacity, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has started releasing water in a controlled manner today.

According to a schedule issued by the Senior Design Engineer, Water Regulation, BBMB Nangal, the floodgates of the dam were opened at 3 pm. While in the first phase the flood gates were opened by one foot, in the second phase at 4 PM, water will be released by two feet. In the third phase at 5 PM up to three feet including radial and flood control gates.

The BBMB administration has directed officials to strictly follow the plan to ensure the water release process remains safe and smooth.

The sources here said that the as per the rules formed by BBMB till August 19th the water level at Bhakra Dam should have been 1662 feet. However, today it was 1665 feet which 3 feet above the rules set. Besides there where predictions of heavy rains in Sutlej catchment area on August 24 and 25th.



PATIALA ADMIN SOUNDS FLOOD ALERT IN OVER A DOZEN VILLAGES ALONG GHAGGAR RIVER



Diary Times Desk : The Patiala administration on Tuesday sounded a flood alert, asking residents of over a dozen villages situated along the Ghaggar to stay vigilant as the water level in the seasonal river touched the danger mark following heavy rainfall in the areas fed by it. According to the district administration, the “water level in the Ghaggar river will rise in the next 10 to 12 hours due to heavy rainfall in the upstream” areas of Chandigarh and Derabassi. “The level had risen abruptly to 8 ft in the Chandigarh region,” read the late evening orders.

“Based on the current situation, Ghaggar at Sarala is expected to rise further to 14 to 15 ft in the next 12 hours. An alert advisory is requested to be issued based on Bhankarpur-Chandigarh levels in the towns of Ghanaur and Sanour,” read the advisory issued to the SDMs in these two towns. Meanwhile, villages put on high alert are Untsar, Nanherhi, Sanjarpur, Lacchru, Kamalpur, Rampur, Saunta, Marhu, Chamaru, Bhasmara, Jalahkheri, Haddana, Pur, and Sirkapra in Sanour, Ghanaur, and Rajpura subdivisions of the district.

Residents have been asked not to venture near the Ghaggar and to inform the district flood control room in case of any emergency related to the water level, said officials. The river Ghaggar originates in Himachal Pradesh and runs a course of 165 km through Punjab, entering the state at Mohali’s Mubarikpur village, where it caused some losses today.

BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY TO BE RENAMED AFTER MANMOHAN SINGH

Diary Times Desk : The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed a bill to rename Bengaluru City University as Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University.

As per the bill, the amendment to the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, (Karnataka Act 29 of 2001) was deemed necessary to honour the legacy of Manmohan Singh -- an esteemed economist, academician, bureaucrat, and statesman who spearheaded economic reforms in the nation and served as Prime Minister for two successive terms.

The state cabinet had approved the proposal in July, and the renaming was first announced during the Karnataka budget speech on March 7. The move makes this the first university in the country to bear Dr Singh's name.

Manmohan Singh is closely associated with a clutch of Bengaluru infrastructure milestones completed during his tenure as prime minister.

ASHVIR SINGH JOHAL BECOMES FIRST SIKH MANAGER OF A FOOTBALL CLUB IN ENGLAND

Diary Times Desk : Leicester-born Ashvir Singh Johal on Tuesday became the first British Sikh manager of a professional England football club (FC) as he took charge of Morecambe FC in Lancashire, north-west England.

Johal (30) has spent 10 years at Leicester City football club, coaching younger players in the academy. His new appointment comes after he completed the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Pro Licence with the Football Association (FA), one of the youngest to acquire the highest qualification in management and football coaching, back in June.

“I think the fans can expect someone who is extremely hard-working and really proud to represent them and their town, make sure they have got a team that really represents them on the pitch,” said Johal, in his first interview conducted by the club following his appointment.

“Every single day that I am here, that’s my responsibility and it’s something I’ll make sure I achieve and make sure we don’t leave a day when we are not working towards that objective. I think the immediate priority is going to be to identify the players that we need in this building to make sure Morecambe Football Club this season can perform well in the National League. For me, that’s the priority,” he said.

HIGH COURT ADMONISHES PUNJAB FOR SCUTTling LAND COMPENSATION DECREE EXECUTION

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has come down heavily on Punjab for attempting to thwart the execution of a decree in a land compensation matter that had attained finality. Terming the state’s stand “highly deplorable”, Justice Pankaj Jain of the high court ruled that a revision petition filed in the matter by Punjab was “nothing, but a ploy at the hands of state to scuttle the decree”.

Dismissing the revision petition, Justice Jain asserted that the act of the state to disobey a decree passed by a competent court was “evident”. The ruling is significant as it says the state cannot devise excuses or take refuge in technicalities to avoid compliance once a decree has attained finality. The case has its genesis in a civil suit filed by a plaintiff-respondent, which was decreed and subsequently upheld up to the high court in a regular second appeal. The decree-holder, thereafter, filed an execution petition. The state contended that the executing court should have deployed police personnel for handing over possession as the land stood acquired.

BEAS RIVER FLOODS WREAK HAVOC IN PUNJAB’S MAND AREAS: CROPS DAMAGED, VILLAGES INUNDATED

Diary Times Desk : The flood situation in the swollen Beas river remained grim today as the water level remained static at 1.16 lakh cusecs, causing damage to standing wheat crops sown over 25 to 30 acres of agricultural land in the Mand areas of Sultanpur Lodhi, according to an official from the drainage department. Drainage Department SDO Khushwinder Singh, when contacted, confirmed that the flood situation remained unchanged in the swollen Beas river, which inundates more than 20 villages.

Meanwhile, followers of Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal strengthened the weak points on the banks of the advance bund near village Ahli Kalan by putting one thousand sandbags to save the bund from the fury of floods. Ahli Kalan farmers Balwinder Singh and Ranjit Singh expressed their gratitude to Sant Seechewal for strengthening the bund at Ahli Kalan and saving their nearly 150 acres of paddy crops from the fury of floodwater.

RUCKUS IN HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY: OPPOSITION WALKS OUT AS CHARGES FLY OVER UNMET DEMOCRATIC NORMS, DUES UNDER HIMCARE SCHEME

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha today witnessed frayed tempers as Opposition and treasury benches traded charges over the flouting of democratic norms and traditions of the House as pandemonium prevailed on the second day of the monsoon session.

Trouble broke out during a Point of Order when Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi accused Leader of Opposition (LoP) Jai Ram Thakur of not upholding traditions during his tenure as chief minister. As he was speaking, the opposition legislators started raising slogans, forcing the Speaker to adjourn the house for five minutes amidst the pandemonium. The Opposition leaders eventually left the House.

The situation remained unresolved even after the house re-assembled and the Opposition MLAs left the House again, raising slogans.

Giving the ruling after the House reassembled after the adjournment, Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania said nothing would be part of the record, which was against the prestige of not just the Revenue Minister but also other members. Earlier, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, through a Point of Order, had objected to the remarks made by the LoP during Question Hour that the government had broken all traditions.

PWD MINISTER VIKRAMADITYA SINGH TO TIE THE KNOT WITH CHANDIGARH GIRL

Diary Times Desk : PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh will tie the knot with Chandigarh-based Amreen Kaur on September 22 in Chandigarh. When contacted, Vikramaditya Singh confirmed the development. Amreen Kaur is the daughter of Jotinder Singh Sekhon and Opinder Kaur.

UK'S ROYAL NAVY APPOINTS HIMACHAL PRADESH CADET AS FIRST-EVER HINDU CHAPLAIN

Diary Times Desk : The UK's Royal Navy has appointed its first-ever Hindu chaplain, the first non-Christian to be appointed for the official role of offering spiritual support to fellow naval officers based on the tenets of Hinduism.

Bhanu Attri, originally from Himachal Pradesh, took over his new role last week after undergoing a somewhat different course from other Navy cadets.

He went through six weeks of officer instruction, including sea survival with four weeks at sea aboard the warship HMS Iron Duke, and three weeks focused on the role of a military chaplain.

To become the first-ever Hindu chaplain in the fleet is a profound honour," said Attri.

"As a Hindu brought up in India, the chance to represent individuals from other diverse religions brings meaningful representation for the Hindu community and reflects the Navy's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and spiritual care for all," said the 39-year-old.



HELP IN GETTING SPECIAL RELIEF PACKAGE, RELAXATION IN FOREST LAW, SUKHU ASKS BJP

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said both BJP and Congress should come together to get a special relief package and relaxation in the Forest Conservation Act from the Central Government for the rehabilitation of disaster-affected people in Himachal Pradesh.

Sukhu was responding to the BJP's allegation of discrimination in the distribution of disaster relief on political grounds during a debate under Rule 67 on the opening day of the monsoon session in the Vidhan Sabha today. He sought cooperation from the BJP in getting financial help from the Central Government.

Sukhu said, "We are willing to go under your leadership to thank the Prime Minister if Himachal is given a special financial package. The blame game will not help, as the incidents of cloudburst are happening every day."

He said, "In times of rain disasters and profound grief, the state government and the Opposition must join hands in providing relief to the affected people, as a catastrophe can hit any part of the state."

KINNAUR KAILASH YATRA CLOSED AMID HEAVY RAINS, SAFETY CONCERNS IN DISTRICT

Diary Times Desk : In view of continuous rainfall and erratic weather conditions, the Kinnaur district administration today announced the closure of Kinnaur Kailash Yatra with immediate effect till further orders. In an official order issued by Kinnaur DC Dr Amit Kumar Sharma, he mentioned that following continuous incessant rainfall, shooting stones, and dense fog in the region, which have already resulted in tragic incidents and loss of lives, it has been decided to close the yatra to ensure the safety of pilgrims.

He stated that in view of the prevailing weather conditions and forecasts predicting more rainfall and cloudy conditions in the next five to seven days, immediate precautionary measures were necessary to ensure public safety. Therefore, exercising the powers under Section 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the yatra stands closed for the year 2025 with immediate effect and will remain so unless modified by further orders.


EVERY STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO GET CENTRAL ASSISTANCE: HIMACHAL DEPUTY CM

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today said that in a federal structure, it was the right of every state to get financial help from the Central Government.

Agnihotri, while speaking in the Vidhan Sabha during a debate on the rain disaster, said that many people had pointed towards a faulty development model in Seraj after logs were seen floating in floodwaters but we shot down such criticism. He added that any area could face a disaster, so it was wrong to do politics during such times.

He said, "The Leader of the Opposition and the BJP must get special funds from the Central Government, as there is an impression that in the past, you went to New Delhi to stall the financial help to be given to the state but now you are seeking an area-specific relief for Seraj. However, we have no problem even to this." He added that the Jal Shakti Department alone had suffered Rs 300 crore losses during the ongoing monsoon season so far.





“You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation.”
— Brigham Young

Kylie Jenner’s surgery

Cosmetic surgery has, despite its obvious prevalence, long been taboo among the rich and famous. The few stars who do publicly discuss procedures are usually bowing to intense speculation or pressure to account for changes in their appearance.

Even then, celebrities often share less invasive procedures (Ariana Grande admitting that she previously had lip fillers and Botox), offer medical justification (Zac Efron saying his newly chiseled

features were necessitated by a jaw injury) or caveat their decision with regret (Bella Hadid telling Vogue she wished she had “kept the nose of my ancestors”).

So, when “Keeping up with the Kardashians” star Kylie Jenner detailed her breast augmentation on TikTok this week, it was not just the specificity that surprised fans — it was the jubilant tone and casual, almost offhand manner with which she did it.

Responding to a direct request from content creator Rachel Leary (“please can you just tell me/us/anyone that’s interested, what it is you asked for when you had your boobs done?” Leary had implored in a video), Jenner unexpectedly replied with the implants’ exact size, type and placement, as well as the Beverly Hills surgeon responsible.

“445 cc, moderate profile, half under the muscle!!!!!! silicone!!! garth fisher!!! hope this helps lol,” she wrote in a comment, which has since been deleted.

In some quarters, Jenner’s frankness was celebrated as the act of a “girl’s girl” (which is, incidentally, the name that her multi-million-dollar company, Kylie Cosmetics, gave to a shade of lip plumper). “The people’s princess for real,” read one reply on TikTok. “This is why she’s for the girls,” wrote another user.

The beauty mogul was also praised by several fashion publications for her apparent openness. Harper’s Bazaar heralded a “new era of plastic surgery transparency,” with the magazine’s beauty director Jenna Rosenstein contending that celebrity secrecy is “gatekeeping the names of reputable, trustworthy plastic surgeons.”

Jenner follows in the footsteps of her own mother, Kris, whose representative last month reportedly took the unusual step of confirming that the star’s much-hyped facial transformation (where she appeared to reverse age by decades) was the work of plastic surgeon Dr. Steven Levine.

Various other stars have, in this age of bare-all social media, gone public about not only what they’ve had done, but who carried it out — from Kelly Ripa shouting out her dermatologist (while getting Botox injections) to Amy Schumer publicly thanking the doctor who performed liposuction following her pregnancy. In 2021, fashion designer Marc Jacobs documented his facelift recovery, complete with blood-stained post-op selfies, on Instagram. For better or worse, Jenner’s frank revelation further chips away at the surgery taboo. But some critics see her comment as an overly flippant endorsement of an invasive procedure that can lead to illness or infection and has been linked to BIA-ALCL, a form of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (a cancer of the immune system). Breast augmentations are on the rise in the US: The country’s surgeons carried out over 300,000 of the procedures in 2023, up from 212,500 in 2000, according to the latest data from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. But so, too, are breast implant removals, which jumped 9% in 2023 alone.

Indeed, Jenner has previously expressed regret about getting implants. “I had beautiful breasts. Just gorgeous. Perfect size, perfect everything,” she said on a 2023 episode of “The Kardashians,” recounting the breast augmentation she underwent before the birth of her daughter Stormi in 2018. “And I just wish, obviously, I never got them done to begin with.”

“Being open about body modification makes total sense to me in this day and age, because I understand it as part of a larger culture in which good looks lead to social.

climate change projected our lives

It takes a moment to fully grasp what you’re seeing in Edoardo Delille and Giulia Piermartiri’s photographs of the Maldives. In one picture, a sea turtle appears to swim beside a couple on a motorbike; in another, a family of five pose in the hallway of their home, apparently standing beneath a diver floating in full scuba gear.

Appropriated from tourist snaps taken underwater in the Indian Ocean, the engulfing images allude to the scenario scientists believe could play out by the end of the century, if the climate crisis isn’t promptly addressed. With an average elevation of just one meter (3.3 feet) above sea level, the Maldives is the world’s lowest-lying country and therefore at substantial risk.

Some reports predict that by 2050, 80% of its land could become uninhabitable if sea levels continue to rise at their current rate. Delille and Piermartiri’s images illustrate this potential future. Shot in 2019, and previously titled “Diving Maldives,” the series became the starting point for “Atlas of the New World,” a photobook recently published by L’Artiere (the images are also currently exhibited at Cortona on the Move, a photography festival



Delille and Piermartiri, who spent a month or two in each place they covered, explained that while the photographs are obviously central to the project, the conversations they had with people on the ground

in Tuscany). The photographers travelled to six highly-climate vulnerable areas in an effort to make tangible the extreme environmental realities forecast for this century. Their technique married scientific data with onerous visuals, and they produced the images via an analog process involving a battery-operated projector connected to a flash.

“We found that to show the present was not enough,” Delille explained on a video call. “So we looked at how global warming will change the morphological shape of the landscape, directly at the end of the century, which better shows the gravity of the problem.”

Each of the book’s chapters — which additionally include California, Mont Blanc, Mozambique, China and Russia — employs the same tools to highlight a different version of a similar narrative, with striking results. In one image made in Paradise, California — a state where the average area burnt by wildfires is set to increase 77% by 2100 if planet-heating

pollution continues to rise — a man is pictured casually scanning the contents of his fridge as bright orange flames fill his kitchen. In the series looking at Mont Blanc, the highest peak in the Alps and the site of rapidly melting glaciers, flowery green meadows are superimposed onto snow.

Acquired from different image banks, the visuals in each photograph are of landscapes that already experience similar weathers to those forecast; for example, images of the Nevada desert are projected onto homes in California, while those in the Mozambique series come predominantly from the Namib desert in Namibia.

Throughout, the pictures are accompanied by comparative data — primarily pulled from the United Nations Environment Programme, or sourced from more localized databases such as those that predict wildfires in the US — illustrating the disparities between current statistics and those projected for 2100 (presented both in text and infographics).

Further underscoring the work is a collection of accompanying essays authored by various experts.

INFA

water menu

A BRITISH RESTAURANT IS LAUNCHING

The French are known for their love of fine wines. La Popote, a French-style restaurant in northern England, is no exception.



Lianne Kollirin

“But put a water menu in front of me and now you’ve opened up a whole new revenue stream. It’s appealing to restaurants and it’s appealing to more and more health-conscious people and really it’s all about the epicurean experience.”

The Michelin Guide-listed eatery in the county of Cheshire offers diners the choice of almost 140 varieties of wine. But now the business is taking a bold step to cater for discerning non-drinkers by offering an entire menu of bottled water.

Diners will have the choice of three different bottles of still water and four sparkling beginning Friday, as well as complimentary tap water.

La Popote is tapping into a global trend away from alcohol. For example, based on a Gallup poll last year, 58% of adult Americans drink alcohol, down from 67% in 2022. A growing number of Americans are giving up alcohol, whether permanently or temporarily, while many restaurants are offering a bigger range of mocktails, and sober bars and non-alcoholic bottle shops are becoming increasingly popular.

Chef Joseph Rawlins, who founded and runs La Popote with his French partner Gaëlle Radigon, said they had initially been approached about the idea by Doran Binder, who was

already supplying the restaurant with their ‘house’ water under his Crag Spring Water brand. A water sommelier, certified by the Fine Water Academy, Binder first suggested the idea of a water menu to the couple three years ago.

“I laughed it off,” Rawlins told CNN. “I initially thought it was a ridiculous idea.”

But when Binder invited the couple to a tasting at the “water bar” he owns in the Peak District, a national park in north-central England, they were sold.

“It was mind-blowing,” Rawlins said of the experience, adding that he now believes that “water isn’t just water.”

At that first tasting, they tried five or six different varieties. “Then we did a second tasting with exactly the same waters but we paired them with certain foods — like Manchego cheese, Comté cheese, chocolate, Parma ham, olives. Like with a wine, the taste just changed.”

The restaurant is the first in Britain to offer a water menu, according to Binder, and one of only a handful in the world.

Binder curated La Popote’s water menu, which features a selection from across Europe, including Britain, France, Spain and Portugal. Prices range from £5 (\$6.80) for a large bottle of his Crag brand to £19 (\$26) for The

Palace of Vidago, a Portuguese sparkling water.

“The measurement of minerals in water is what drives taste and flavor,” Binder told CNN. That measurement is called Total Dissolved Solids, or TDS, he said.

“Distilled water is zero TDS. It’s brilliant for cleaning windows, brilliant for electrical appliances, brilliant for your car battery — rubbish for the human being,” he said, noting that sea water is at the other end of the spectrum with 30,000-40,000 TDS.

The restaurant’s range goes from 14 TDS in the Lauretana sparkling mineral water from Italy to 3,300 for the Vichy Celastins from France.

The French water initially tastes rather salty, Rawlins said. “Then you put it with something that’s quite salty like a Parma ham and they both naturally balance each other out, so the water is not salty anymore and it’s a longer-lasting flavor of the ham in your mouth.”

How the water is served is also important, Rawlins said. “We recommend it at room temperature with ice and a slice of lemon. Water is like wine — if it’s too cold, it kills all the flavor.” The water menu is giving diners “another dimension,” he added, noting that “a lot of people are drinking less now.”

Binder, who has never drunk alcohol, agrees. “There are more and more people who don’t drink alcohol, like me. I’m a massive foodie and when I go to a restaurant they can’t wait to throw a wine menu in front of my nose, which will never be of interest to me.

“But put a water menu in front of me and now you’ve opened up a whole new revenue stream. It’s appealing to restaurants and it’s appealing to more and more health-conscious people and really it’s all about the epicurean experience.”



ASIA CUP 2025: GILL IS SURYAKUMAR’S DEPUTY; BUMRAH RETURNS AS SHREYAS AND JAISWAL MISS THE CUT

Diary Times Desk : Shubman Gill and Jitesh Sharma were recalled to India’s men’s T20I set-up for the Asia Cup, while Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shreyas Iyer missed out. The 15-member squad was selected by the men’s selection panel chaired by Ajit Agarkar at the Board of Control for Cricket in India headquarters in Mumbai on Tuesday (August 19, 2025). Gill – on the back of a sensational outing as a batter in his debut Test captaincy assignment in England – replaced Axar Patel as the new India T20I vice-captain. With Abhishek Sharma having performed exceedingly well, The Hindu understands that Gill was included following a request by the team management minutes before the selection meeting began. Gill’s return to vice-captaincy is also an indication of his possible elevation as India’s all-format captain. “We obviously see some leadership qualities in him, and his form in England was what we were hoping for. He exceeded all our expectations, which is a great sign when there’s so much pressure as captain,” Agarkar said while addressing the media after the selection meeting.



HOSTS INDIA REVEAL SQUAD FOR WOMEN’S WORLD CUP 2025



Diary Times Desk : Harmanpreet Kaur is set to lead India for the first time in the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup with Smriti Mandhana as her deputy, as the hosts finalised a solid 15-member squad for the 2025 edition commencing on September 30.

India squad for World Cup: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Yastika Bhatia, Renuka Singh Thakur, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud.

Reserves: Tejal Hasabnis, Prema Rawat, Priya Mishra, Uma Chetry, Minnu Mani, Sayali Satghare

SINNER WITHDRAWS FROM NEW US OPEN MIXED DOUBLES, TEAM TO BE REPLACED



Diary Times Desk : Jannik Sinner pulled out of the U.S. Open mixed doubles tournament shortly before it began on Tuesday, a day after he quit in the first set of the Cincinnati Open final because he was feeling ill.

The No. 1-ranked Sinner, the defending champion in singles at Flushing Meadows, was supposed to compete in mixed doubles with Katerina Siniakova. Sinner and Siniakova will be replaced by Americans Danielle Collins and Christian Harrison. Collins and Harrison received entry because they had the highest singles and doubles rankings combined among the teams on the alternate list. Collins is ranked 59th in singles, and Harrison is ranked 17th in doubles. They were set to play Belinda Bencic and Alexander Zverev in a first-round match later Tuesday. The U.S. Tennis Association announced the withdrawal and replacement less than an hour before the first contests were scheduled to be played in the new mixed doubles event.

NO PAKISTAN PLAYER GETS CATEGORY A CONTRACT DUE TO POOR PERFORMANCES

Diary Times Desk : The PCB has not awarded its most prestigious category A contracts to any Pakistan player for the 2025-26 season. Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan – the only two players in category A last season – have been demoted to B.

Pakistan’s Test captain Shan Masood, who was in the B category last year, is now in D, with ten players in each tier; this means the total number of centrally contracted players has increased from 27 to 30. Fakhar Zaman, who missed out on a central contract for the first time in eight years in 2024 amid disciplinary hearings, is back in category B.

The decision to place no player in the highest category has been attributed to performance. ESPNcricinfo was told the team’s performance “did not lend favour to any player deserving a category A contract”. It has been internally communicated that players can be promoted to category A only if their performances justify it. Both Babar and Rizwan had relatively unremarkable seasons over the past 12 months, as did the Pakistan side across formats.

MAHARAJ’S MASTERFUL MAIDEN ODI FIVE-FOR HANDS SOUTH AFRICA 1-0 SERIES LEAD

Diary Times Desk : Keshav Maharaj claimed his first ODI career five-for as South Africa registered an emphatic, series-opening win over Australia in Cairns.

Defending the highest total at the venue, 296, South Africa grabbed the match by the horns when they took 6 for 29 between the eight and 17th overs, as Maharaj delivered a sterling spell in which he found appreciable turn and maintained a consistent line to pick up 5 for 33. The margin finished as Australia heaviest runs defeat at home since 1991.

Maharaj was omitted from the T20Is, as all-format coach Shukri Conrad preferred spin-bowling allrounders in the squad, but served up a reminder of his efficacy in shorter formats with his performance in Cairns. Conditions suited him, as they did the other spinners involved. Offspinner Prenelan Subrayen was the other early wicket-taker and finished with 1 for 46 from his 10 overs on ODI debut, while in the first innings Australia relied on part-time offspinner Travis Head, who bowled nine overs with a return of 4 for 57. Australia’s only real batting resistance came in the form of their captain Mitchell Marsh, who fell 12 short of a fourth ODI century.

AIFF MOVES TO SUPREME COURT OVER URGENT NEED FOR CLARITY ON ISL’S FUTURE STRUCTURE

Diary Times Desk : The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has approached the Supreme Court, highlighting the urgent need to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the future structure of Indian football’s top-tier league, the Indian Super League (ISL). According to the federation, the matter came up for hearing on Monday morning after the Amicus Curiae informed the Court about the issue. The AIFF’s senior counsel had also raised the development that the National Sports Governance Bill 2025 had been passed by both Houses of Parliament, terming it a critical point to be brought before the Supreme Court. The Court, while hearing verbal submissions, directed all parties to file written submissions before the next hearing scheduled for August 22. The AIFF, in its statement, said it will use this opportunity to present the “urgent need for commercial continuity and to determine the future structure of its top-tier league, keeping in mind the interests of its players, clubs, and other stakeholders whose livelihoods are at stake due to the current impasse.” Earlier, the All India Football Federation and legal representatives of Indian Super League clubs held discussions on Thursday to address the uncertainty over the start of the 2025-26 ISL season.

