

NEWS IN BRIEF

SOURAV GANGULY BEGINS NEW INNINGS, APPOINTED HEAD COACH OF THIS TEAM

Diary Times Desk : Former Indian cricket team skipper Sourav Ganguly was appointed head coach of Pretoria Capitals ahead of the new season of SA20 League. The franchise took to social media to confirm his appointment. "The Prince is all set to bring a royal flair to the Capitals camp! We are ecstatic to announce Sourav Ganguly as our new head coach," the team wrote on Instagram. This will be Ganguly's first stint as head coach of any professional cricket team. Ganguly, who was also the BCCI President, will succeed former England cricketer Jonathan Trott in the head coach role. Jonathan Trott, forever grateful for your leadership and unwavering dedication to the team.

"INDIA MUST TAKE IT SERIOUSLY": NIKKI HALEY'S WARNING ON RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump's Indian-American Republican colleague, Nikki Haley, on Sunday warned India over its Russian oil imports and asked to work on a solution with the White House "sooner the better". According to her, "decades of friendship" would provide a basis to "move past the turbulence" - referring to the ongoing tariff tensions. "India must take Trump's point over Russian oil seriously, and work with the White House to find a solution. The sooner the better. Decades of friendship and good will between the world's two largest democracies provide a solid basis to move past the current turbulence.

Navigating issues like trade disagreements and Russian oil imports demands hard dialogue," she wrote in a post on X. Haley asserted that the two countries must not lose sight of the "shared goals" - to face China. "But, we should not lose sight of what matters most: our shared goals. To face China, the United States must have a friend in India," she said. Earlier in a Newsweek op-ed, Haley - the former US Ambassador to the United Nations - cautioned.

KOLKATA LAW COLLEGE RAPE CASE



LAW COLLEGE RAPE FILMED THROUGH HOLE IN WALL FOR EXHAUST FAN: CHARGESHEET

Diary Times Desk : The main accused in the Kolkata law college rape case had made multiple videos of the victim and was blackmailing her with it, says the 650-page chargesheet filed in the case. The medical examination of the woman has confirmed rape and the DNA of the accused has matched the forensic samples, the police has found.

The first-year student was allegedly gang-raped on the South Calcutta Law College campus on June 25 by Manojit Mishra, the prime accused and an alumnus of the college and co-accused Zaib Ahmed and Pramit Mukherjee. The chargesheet is against four accused - the three main accused and security guard Pinaki Banerjee

A CCTV footage of the incident recovered, in which the accused are seen dragging and holding the victim hostage.

Many obscene videos of the victim were recovered from the mobile phones of the other accused. These videos were made by the accused from the hole of the exhaust fan installed in the wall, the chargesheet said.

The videos have the voices of the accused, and the voice samples have matched. The mobile location of the accused was found at the crime scene.

The chargesheet also said that the security guard had locked the guard room instead of informing the police or anyone nearby about the incident. He has also been named as an accused in the case.

Monojit Mishra had been arrested eight times before that incident. But his friends have bailed him out. The man, who was working as a temporary staffer in the college since 2024, was sacked. Ahmed and Mukherjee, the students of the institute, were expelled.

"WORK TOWARDS INCREASING DIGNITY, RESPECT OF SPEAKER'S POST": AMIT SHAH

Diary Times Desk : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday emphasised the importance of maintaining the dignity and respect of the Speaker's post, stressing that both the government and opposition must ensure proceedings are conducted strictly according to House rules. He warned that historically, assemblies that lost their dignity faced "dire consequences."

Union Minister Shah made these remarks while inaugurating the two-day All India Speakers' Conference at the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Mr Shah stated that the All India Speakers Conference provides an opportunity for leaders to work towards increasing the dignity and respect of the post of the Speaker.

"It is an opportunity for all of us to work towards increasing the dignity and respect of the post of the Speaker. We should strive to offer an unbiased platform to raise the issues of the people of our country. An unbiased argument must be done by the government and the opposition. We must ensure that the functioning of the House is carried out as per the rules of the respective House... In our 13000-year-long history, whenever the assemblies have lost their dignity, we have had to face dire consequences," the Union Minister said. Mr Shah commemorated the centenary of Vitthalbhai Patel's appointment as Speaker of the Central Assembly. Patel was appointed the President of the Central Legislative Assembly (Speaker) on August 24, 1925 and was the first Indian to hold the position of Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly.



PRIYANKA GANDHI TO JOIN RAHUL'S VOTER ADHIKAR YATRA IN SUPAUL ON AUGUST 26



Diary Times Desk : All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is set to join Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in the Voter Adhikar Yatra in Supaul on Tuesday.

Addressing a gathering in Araria on Sunday, Rahul Gandhi—who began the 13-day yatra in the poll-bound state on August 17 from Sasaram—alleged a deep-seated partnership between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), claiming that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral roll is an "institutionalised way" of stealing votes.

According to AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, Priyanka will be in Bihar on August 26 and 27, participating in events in Supaul and Sitamarhi. Her visit coincides with Hartalika Teej—a festival for married women in Bihar. Priyanka is poised to amplify the opposition's drive in Supaul—a seat once held by Ranjeet Ranjan, spouse of Purnea MP Rajesh Ranjan (Pappu Yadav)—on August 26, and plans to offer prayers at Sitamarhi's Janaki Temple the next day. Underscoring Priyanka's role in countering voter suppression and mobilizing women, a senior Congress leader said, "We're leaving no stone unturned to secure victory." "To save our vote, our Constitution, our democracy, Rahul Gandhi, former deputy chief minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav and other Mahagathabandhan leaders will embark on the Voter Adhikar Yatra across Bihar," Venugopal had said while announcing the Voter Adhikar Yatra.

HEAVY RAINS POUND J&K, KEY BRIDGE COLLAPSES IN KATHUA, LANDSLIDES BLOCK ROADS



Diary Times Desk : Heavy overnight rains battered several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, flooding low-lying areas, damaging property, and disrupting normal life in many districts. The downpour also caused damage to a vital bridge on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway in Kathua district, officials said.

A bridge near Logate Morh on the highway collapsed in the middle after the overflowing Sahar Khad stream swept through it. Due to the strong current, traffic on both bridges across the Sahar Khad on the national highway was stopped, officials said. Authorities diverted vehicles through an alternate route.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma said one of the bridges had suffered major damage while the second also showed signs of weakness. "The old bridge has developed significant damage. There was also some doubt about the condition of the new one, so as a precaution we immediately closed it. The highway authorities and their engineers are arriving to check it, and only after that will a decision be taken," he said. He added that revenue authorities were also inspecting reports of damage at Nagri bridge. "This is continuous rain. There is no need for foolishness or adventurism. Jumping onto a damaged structure is not bravery, and I would strongly urge people not to do that," he said.

Jammu, the winter capital, recorded 190.4 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours ending 8.30 am, making it the second-highest downpour for the month of August in the last 100 years. The highest remains 228.6 mm, recorded on August 5, 1926, while the previous second-highest was 189.6 mm on August 11, 2022.

DOWRY MURDER

DOWRY MURDER ACCUSED SHOT AT, HOURS AFTER WOMAN'S FATHER DEMANDED ENCOUNTER



Diary Times Desk : Vipin Bhati, the husband of 28-year-old Nikki Bhati, who died after she was assaulted and set on fire at her in-laws' home in Greater Noida, suffered a gunshot wound in his leg when he tried to escape police custody, police have said.

Vipin was arrested after his wife, Nikki, died during treatment at Delhi's Safdarjung hospital on Thursday. She was hospitalised with serious burn injuries that evening.

Her sister Kanchan, who is married to Vipin's brother Rohit, has alleged that Vipin and his mother Daya set Nikki on fire. Chilling visuals shared by Kanchan show the mother and son assaulting Nikki. Another clip shows a burning Nikki stumbling down a staircase.

While Vipin and his mother Daya have been arrested, father Satyavir, and brother Rohit are on the run.

This morning, in an interview with NDTV, Nikki's father, Bhikari Singh Payla, said he wanted the accused to be shot.

"They are killers, they should be shot, their home razed. My daughter was bringing up her son by running a parlour.

They tortured her. The whole family was involved in the conspiracy, and they killed my daughter," he said, hours before Vipin attempted escape and cops opened fire.

Senior police officer Sudhir Kumar told the media that they took Vipin to his home today to recover the bottle containing the flammable liquid used to burn Nikki.

EX-JHARKHAND CHIEF MINISTER CHAMPAI SOREN UNDER HOUSE ARREST AS TRIBALS' PROTEST AGAINST LAND ACQUISITION



Diary Times Desk : Former Jharkhand chief minister and BJP leader Champai Soren was placed under house arrest on Sunday to prevent law and order issues in view of a protest by tribal outfits against land acquisition for a multi-crore state-run health institute, police said.

The protesters alleged that police lathi-charged and fired tear gas shells to disperse them from the site of the proposed project in the Nagri area of Ranchi. However, police could not be reached for a comment to verify the claim.

Champai Soren's son Babulal, along with supporters who were on their way to Ranchi, have also been detained at a police station, police said.

"Champai Soren is under house arrest as a preventive measure to maintain law and order in view of the tribal outfits' protests," Ranchi City Deputy Superintendent of Police K V Raman told PTI. A large number of police personnel have also been deployed and barricades put up at strategic points in the wake of the protest, he said.

ISRO TESTS THREADS THAT WOULD HELP BRING ASTRONAUTS HOME FROM SPACE

Diary Times Desk : The lives of Indian astronauts will literally hang by thread when they return to Earth -indigenously made parachutes will help slow down the craft before its splashdown in the sea. A Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force was used recently to test the reliability of these nylon strings -- the massive parachutes creating a celestial rangoli in the sky over the Bay of Bengal.

In a statement, ISRO said today that it has "successfully accomplished the first Integrated Air Drop Test for end-to-end demonstration of parachute-based deceleration system for Gaganyaan missions".

This test is a joint effort of ISRO, Indian Air Force, Defence Research & Development Organisation or DRDO, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.

In the test, an IAF Chinook helicopter hoisted a simulated crew module to altitude of about 3 km above the Bay of Bengal. It then dropped the nearly 4.5 ton module in a free fall over the sea.

ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan asserted that the first un-crewed mission of the Gaganyaan will happen in 2025 and this parachute test was a critical step towards it.

In the integrated air drop test, one after another, ten different parachutes of various diameters opened sequentially to gently bring the crew module safely into the landing zone, said an officer from Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra -- India's foremost parachute expertise laboratory.

The test gives a better understanding of how the parachutes would behave in off-nominal low-altitude conditions - say if the mission abort takes place at lift-off itself.

DRDO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS MAIDEN FLIGHT-TESTS OF INTEGRATED AIR DEFENCE WEAPON SYSTEM

Diary Times Desk : Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight-tests of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha at around 1230 hrs on August 23, 2025. IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system comprising all indigenous Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missiles (QRSAM), Advanced Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles and a high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW). Integrated operation of all the weapon system components is controlled by a Centralised Command and Control Centre developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory being nodal laboratory of the programme. VSHORADS and DEW are developed by Research Centre Imarat & Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences respectively.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh complimented DRDO, Armed forces and the Industry for successful development of IADWS. He stated that this unique flight-tests has established the multi-layered air-defence capability of the country and is going to strengthen area defence for important facilities against enemy aerial threats.

"ARROGANCE": BJP AS RAHUL GANDHI DODGES QUERY ON OPPOSITION'S BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER FACE QUERY

Diary Times Desk : The BJP on Sunday accused Rahul Gandhi of "arrogance" after he parried a media query on why the Congress has not yet made it clear that RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav would be the opposition grand alliance's chief minister face in the upcoming Bihar assembly polls.

"All INDIA bloc partners are working together in a spirit of mutual respect, without any tension. We will contest the polls together and the results will be good," Mr Gandhi said, deftly side-stepping the question at a press conference in Araria, Bihar.

Mr Yadav was seated by Mr Gandhi's side when he was asked about the Congress's reluctance to declare the RJD leader as the Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial candidate.

Mr Yadav had recently made an open pitch for making Mr Gandhi the Prime Minister after the next Lok Sabha polls. Reacting sharply, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said in a post on X, "The existence of Congress in Bihar is dependent on RJD. If RJD breaks the alliance, Congress probably won't even be able to field candidates in all seats.



"On the other hand, Tejashwi is following Rahul Gandhi around like a lackey, repeatedly claiming that if the INDI Alliance wins, which has zero chance, he will become the Prime Minister," the BJP leader charged."The people of Bihar understand everything. Congress and RJD are both clinging to each other only for the sake of power. The glue of corruption is what binds them together," he added.

SECOND ARREST IN NOIDA DOWRY MURDER CASE, NIKKI BHATI'S MOTHER-IN-LAW CAUGHT

Diary Times Desk : A second arrest was made in the dowry death case in Greater Noida on Sunday, with the victim's mother-in-law taken under police custody.This comes a day after Nikki Bhati's husband, Vipin Bhati was arrested for her murder over dowry demands, following their marriage in 2016.

The victim was assaulted by her in-laws and set ablaze, following which she succumbed to her injuries at a hospital in Delhi. Two videos of the incident, one of them purportedly recorded by Nikki's sister Kanchan, who was also married in the same family, emerged after the incident came to light.

In one video, Nikki's husband and mother-in-law are seen assaulting her, with her husband dragging her out of the house by her hair. The second video showed Nikki walking down the stairs while on fire. Kanchan managed to partially record a video of the assault before passing out.

Aries
Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.

Taurus
Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.

Gemini
Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.

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.

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.

'INDIA TO EXPORT EVS TO 100 COUNTRIES': PM MODI



Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Saturday that India is going to export electric vehicles to 100 countries across the world. He made the announcement while speaking at The Economic Times World Leaders Forum. PM Modi added that a “very big program” related to this will be conducted on Tuesday, August 26. However, he did not give much detail about the program.

“I want to tell you about another achievement of India. India is now going to export electric vehicles to 100 countries of the world. A very big program related to this is also being held after two days on 26th August,” he said.

PM Modi made several announcements during the summit, one of the biggest ones of which was that by the end of the year, India’s first domestically manufactured semiconductor chip will be available in the market.

He said that semiconductor-related factories have started coming up in India and that decades ago, the country had missed the chance to enter semiconductor manufacturing, however, the situation has now changed.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR ON ORANGE ALERT AS HEAVY RAINS TRIGGER FLOOD-LIKE SITUATION

Diary Times Desk : The India Meteorological Department on Sunday issued an orange alert for all districts of Jammu and Kashmir as heavy rainfall continues to lash the union territory. The weather department has also forecast overcast skies, light rain, and thunderstorms. Following the rain alerts for J&K, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directed all concerned departments to remain on high alert as torrential rains lashed wide parts of the UT.

In a post on X, the CM’s office said waterlogging had been reported in several residential areas, while rivers and nallahs were flowing above the danger mark. “Control rooms are active and the CM Office is in touch with departments. Priority is being given to drainage in affected areas and restoration of essential services like water supply and power. People are advised to remain cautious,” Abdullah said.

HYDERABAD HORROR: TAXI DRIVER KILLS PREGNANT WIFE, CHOPS BODY INTO PARTS, THROWS IN RIVER



Diary Times Desk : In another chilling murder by a spouse, a 27-year-old man allegedly killed his pregnant wife, 21, and cut her body into pieces at their home in Telangana’s Medipally, part of the Hyderabad metropolitan region.

The victim, Swathi alias Jyothi, lived with husband Mahender Reddy in Boduppall, Medipally. The murder took place around 4.30 pm on Saturday, PTI reported. The accused, who works as a driver with a ride-hailing company, is alleged to have strangled her after frequent quarrels over family disputes. He tried to then conceal the evidence by chopped the body into pieces using a hexa blade. He disposed of the head, hands, and legs by throwing them into the Musi river at Prathapsingaram, and retained the body’s trunk in his room, police told reporters.

CANINE CONCERNS MUST BALANCE HUMAN SAFETY

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court tweaked its August 11 order of relocation of stray dogs, saying the canines will be released after sterilisation and won’t be kept in shelters, given they are not rabid or “aggressive”. Author Twinkle Khanna has now shared her take on the news as well as the protests that took place in light of the August 11 order against the removal of stray dogs. In her latest The Times of India column, Twinkle began by mentioning how the SC order was ‘personal’ to her. She wrote, “For over a fortnight, my feed has been buzzing about the Supreme Court’s order to remove thousands of stray dogs from Delhi streets, citing a rise in rabies cases. Our building, too, has a few strays that have been unofficially adopted. It started with a little tawny pup that we named Coco and then encompassed all her children over the years. The dogs are vaccinated, but we haven’t sterilised them. The threat of them being taken away and locked up made it more personal than something seen through a phone screen.”

YOUTUBER SWEEPED AWAY WHILE SHOOTING AT WATERFALL IN ODISHA, TRAGEDY CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Diary Times Desk : A 22-year-old man who made videos on YouTube is missing after he was swept away while filming at the Duduma waterfall in Koraput district of Odisha on Saturday.

A resident of Berhampur, the YouTuber was identified as Sagar Tudu by some reports. His YT channel cover image used the name Sagar Kundu.

Sagar was reportedly attempting to record shots using a drone camera near the waterfall when the water level rose and he was stranded on rocks overrun by water.

Viral videos showed attempts were made by some people present there to rescue him using ropes, but the current was too strong and he lost his footing. Videos showed Sagar was standing on a rock some feet away from safer shores when water was released from the Machakunda dam. The authorities had alerted people downstream of the dam after heavy rainfall in Lamtaput area of Koraput, a report said.

That’s when Sagar got stranded. He could not manage to balance himself for long and was swept away.

AMIT SHAH TO INAUGURATE DELHI ASSEMBLY’S ALL INDIA SPEAKERS’ CONFERENCE

Diary Times Desk : Union home minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the Delhi Assembly’s first ever All India Speakers’ Conference on Sunday. The two-day event will bring together speakers from state assemblies all across the country, along with chairmen and deputy chairmen of legislative councils from six states.

As part of the programme, Shah will also release a commemorative stamp honouring Vitthalbhai Patel — the first elected speaker — and will also inaugurate an exhibition showcasing the over 100-year-long history of the Delhi Assembly which served as the seat of Imperial Legislative Council that later became the Central Legislative Assembly, the first Parliament of India. The conference will conclude with a valedictory address by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The event will also see the participation of the Rajya Sabha Chairman and several Union Cabinet Ministers. “All necessary preparations are on track for the successful conduct of the All India Speakers’ Conference.

**FRUSTRATED, TRUMP SIGNALS
PAUSE IN HIS UKRAINE PEACE
EFFORT**

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump is signaling that he would step back for now from efforts to reach a Ukraine peace deal, expressing frustration over rising casualties and the failure of the two sides to come closer to a peace agreement.

"I'm not happy about anything about that war. Nothing. Not happy at all," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Friday.

He added that he would make an important decision about the future of the conflict in "two weeks," a phrase that he often uses not to specify a precise time frame, but to indicate that he wants to put off a decision for a while. After that time, he said, "We'll know which way I'm going, because I'm going to go one way or the other."

The comments amounted to a significant shift from a president who had projected great confidence over the past several weeks in his ability to obtain security guarantees for Ukraine and a swift meeting between the warring leaders, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

**F-22 PILOT EJECTED AT SUPERSONIC
SPEED: THE INCIDENT THAT
SHOCKED US AIR FORCE**

Diary Times Desk : On March 25, 2009, Lockheed Martin test pilot David Cooley was conducting a test flight of the F-22 Raptor near Edwards Air Force Base in California. During a high-G manoeuvre, Cooley lost consciousness due to g-induced loss of consciousness (g-LOC). Realising he was too low to recover, he ejected at an estimated speed of 770 knots (approximately 885 mph). The ejection was outside the aircraft's safe parameters, subjecting him to severe windblast forces. Tragically, Cooley sustained fatal blunt-force trauma injuries upon ejection and did not survive. The accident remains the deadliest in the F-22's history. The F-22's ejection seat, the ACES II, is designed for optimal performance within certain speed and altitude ranges.

**INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN JAILED IN FALSE US KIDNAPPING CASE SHARES
'HARROWING' DETAILS; DEMANDS APOLOGY**

Diary Times Desk : Indian-origin man languished in a US jail for 47 days after being accused of fake kidnapping. He now demands a public apology from law enforcement in Georgia and shared "harrowing" details from his time in prison. 62-year-old Mahendra Patel faced attempted kidnapping and other charges after a mother accused him of trying to grab her 2-year-old son from her at a Georgia Walmart. He was indicted on April 3 by a grand jury on charges of criminal attempt to commit kidnapping, simple assault and simple battery. Patel was held in a Cobb County jail for 47 days. Speaking to NDTV, Patel recalled his time in prison and shared his ordeal. He said that he would survive on bread, peanut butter, and milk as he is a vegetarian. Inmates used to threaten him and he used to live in fear. "I lost 17 pounds in jail. I didn't get my medicines for days. I'm vegetarian, so I lived on bread, peanut butter, and milk. Other inmates threatened me. One said, 'If I take you in the shower and beat you, what would you do?'"

**AT HISTORIC SUMMIT BETWEEN JAPAN
AND SOUTH KOREA, TRUMP'S PRESENCE
LOOMS LARGE**

Diary Times Desk : South Korean President Lee Jae-myung made his first overseas trip for bilateral diplomacy, with stops in both Washington DC and Tokyo. But unlike his predecessors, Lee didn't visit the United States first. Instead, his first stop was Japan — South Korea's former colonizer.

Following a bilateral summit between Lee and Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, Tokyo and Seoul issued their first joint statement in 17 years; pledging deeper cooperation on AI, trade, and denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. They also announced plans to launch a joint task force to tackle shared challenges, including aging populations and declining birth rates.

But what stood out most from this summit wasn't what was signed. It was the shared smiles and warm words between the two leaders.

"This is our second meeting, and I feel as if we are close friends," South Korea's Lee said about his Japanese counterpart.

**INDIAN MAN JAILED IN SINGAPORE FOR
SECRET SECOND MARRIAGE**

Diary Times Desk : An Indian man has been sentenced to three months and three weeks in Singapore after he secretly married a colleague, despite being married to his first wife for 15 years. The accused, identified as 49-year-old Vaithialingam Muthukumar has been convicted of bigamy, which is a criminal offence in the Southeast Asian nation.

Muthukumar pleaded guilty to one charge of conspiring to commit bigamy with his second wife and falsely declaring in an application for permanent residence that he did not have any other marriages, according to a report in South China Morning Post.

Muthukumar got married to his first wife, a Singaporean woman, 55, in India in 2007. He started an affair with his second wife after coming to Singapore to join his first wife in 2011. 43-year-old Singaporean Salmah Bee Abdul Razak knew Muthukumar was already married, but went ahead with the romantic relationship.

Vaithialingam and Salmah conspired to get married after the former pushed for it, stating he wanted a child. He also promised Salmah that he would divorce.

**RUSSIA'S LAVROV SAYS
WEST TRYING TO 'BLOCK'
UKRAINE PEACE TALKS**

Diary Times Desk : Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused Western countries on Sunday of trying to "block" peace negotiations to end the Ukraine conflict, after a flurry of diplomatic activity appeared to stall.

U.S. President Donald Trump has been championing a bilateral meeting between the Ukrainian and Russian presidents — but both sides have blamed each other for not wanting the talks to come through.

"They're just looking for a pretext to block negotiations," Lavrov said in an interview with state TV station Rossiya aired Sunday on Telegram.

He slammed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for "obstinately insisting, setting conditions, demanding an immediate meeting at all costs" with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

Lavrov also accused Ukrainian authorities of "attempts to disrupt the process that was laid down by Presidents Putin and Trump, which has yielded very good results."

**NOT JUST TURKEY, INDIAN
TOURISTS SHUN AZERBAIJAN
TOO, NUMBERS DROP 66%**

Diary Times Desk : Not just Turkey, Indian tourists have also shunned Azerbaijan after Operation Sindoor. Indian tourists going to Azerbaijan in June this year fell by two-thirds compared to the same month last year, official tourism figures show.

The Azerbaijan tourism website even depicts a truncated map of Jammu and Kashmir, showing PoK and Aksai Chin as not part of India, News18 found.

Big dip in numbers

The tourism figures for the month of June show that only 9,934 Indian tourists visited Azerbaijan in June, compared to 28,315 Indian tourists going to Baku in the same month last year. That is an almost 66% drop in tourism numbers in June after Operation Sindoor and Azerbaijan's open support for Pakistan during it.

May and June are the top tourism months for Indians to go to Azerbaijan, and as many as 23,326 Indian tourists had gone to the country this May, before the sharp drop in June. Apart from Turkey, Azerbaijan is the other country which openly supported Pakistan at global forums, and Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir paid a visit to Azerbaijan in May to thank the country for its support. A trilateral meeting with Turkey and Azerbaijan happened.

GHISLAINE MAXWELL DENIES SEEING 'INAPPROPRIATE' CONDUCT BY TRUMP

Diary Times Desk : Ghislaine Maxwell, the jailed associate of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, has told US officials she did not witness any inappropriate conduct by Donald Trump or former President Bill Clinton.

The Trump administration has faced pressure to disclose information about Epstein, who the US president had been friendly with.

Maxwell was interviewed from prison in July and, according to the newly released transcript, told Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche that a much-discussed "client list" does not exist.

The interview outraged the family of Virginia Giuffre - a prominent Epstein accuser who died by suicide earlier this year - who say the government has given Maxwell "a platform to rewrite history".

Maxwell is seeking a pardon from Trump and has been accused of lying to federal officials.

Shortly after the interview with Blanche - who previously worked as Trump's personal attorney - she was moved from a Florida prison to a new minimum-security facility in Texas. It is unclear why the move was made.

She is currently serving a 20-year sentence in a sex-trafficking scheme, and has petitioned the US Supreme Court to overturn her conviction. Her lawyer has said they would "welcome" a pardon from the president.

'DON'T PUNISH COMMUNITY':
PUNJAB LEADERS ON US VISA PAUSE
AFTER DRIVER'S U-TURN KILLS 3 IN
FLORIDA

Diary Times Desk : Calls for leniency have poured in from several quarters in Punjab for 28-year-old Harjinder Singh, the Indian-origin truck driver facing a potential 45-year jail sentence in the US after his illegal u-turn on a highway in Florida resulted in three deaths.

Plus, there is a wider worry dogging Punjabis after the incident; that Harjinder's wrong turn now essentially means no more US work visas for truckers.

Leaders from the state's ruling and opposition parties have taken it up immediately, given the sheer scale of Punjabi drivers' participation in the trucking sector at home and abroad.

Cabinet minister Sanjeev Arora of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) wrote to the union government that the US government's decision to suspend visa issuance has put the livelihood of 1.5 lakh Punjabi drivers at risk in the US.

It was on August 22, ten days after the accident caused by Harjinder Singh, that the US government reacted angrily.

SRI LANKA'S EX-PRESIDENT RANIL WICKREMESINGHE HOSPITALISED A DAY
AFTER ARREST

Diary Times Desk : Sri Lanka's jailed former president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, was hospitalised on Saturday, local media reported, a day after his arrest on allegations that he misused public funds while in office.

Wickremesinghe, 76, who led the South Asian island nation during a devastating economic crisis, was arrested and taken into custody on Friday, police said.

The next day he was taken to the emergency care unit at Colombo National Hospital with complications from dehydration, diabetes and high blood pressure, the hospital director, Dr. Rukshan Bellana, told reporters. Wickremesinghe was later transferred to the intensive care unit where his condition was stable, Bellana was quoted as saying.

Wickremesinghe's office and the hospital did not immediately respond on Sunday to emailed requests from Reuters for comment on his hospitalisation.

Wickremesinghe, a six-time prime minister who lost the presidency last year, had been investigated over a visit he made to Britain to attend a special graduation lunch to celebrate his wife's honorary professorship at a university there, local media reported.

NORTH KOREAN LEADER OVERSEES
NEW MISSILE TEST, STATE MEDIA
SAYS

Diary Times Desk : North Korean state media has said two new air defence missiles have been fired in a test overseen by the country's leader Kim Jong Un.

The weapons had "superior combat capability" and used a "unique technology", the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said, without adding details.

The launches, carried out on Saturday, "proved that the technological features of two types of projectiles are very suitable for destroying various aerial targets" including drones and cruise missiles, KCNA said.

The test comes hours after South Korea confirmed it fired warning shots on Tuesday at North Korean soldiers who briefly crossed the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) separating the countries.

United Nations Command said about 30 North Korean troops crossed the heavily-fortified border between the north and south, Yonhap News Agency said.

Pyeongyang responded by accusing Seoul of a "deliberate provocation".

TRUMP'S PLAN TO SEND
TROOPS TO CHICAGO IS
ABUSE OF POWER, ILLINOIS
GOVERNOR SAYS

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump's plan to deploy troops to Chicago is an abuse of power, the Democratic governor of the US state of Illinois has said.

There is no emergency that justifies the National Guard being sent to Illinois and the US president is "attempting to manufacture a crisis", JB Pritzker said in a statement.

Trump has already deployed about 2,000 troops to Washington DC, where the local government is also run by opposition Democrats, as part of what he is portraying as a crackdown on crime in US cities.

On Friday, Trump said he would implement the policy in Chicago and New York - two other major Democrat-controlled cities.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson responded to Trump's comments, saying in a statement that he had not received any information about the deployment of the National Guard in Chicago.

He said the city government has "grave concerns" about any deployment of troops, labelling the president's approach "uncoordinated, uncalled for, and unsound".

Johnson added that the "unlawful deployment" could "inflame tensions between residents and law enforcement", and threaten the progress the city has made in reducing crime.

Meanwhile, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the National Guard personnel patrolling the streets of Washington DC to be armed, as part of the Trump administration's efforts against what they have described as "out of control" crime in the city.

INDIAN KILLED IN NEW
YORK TOURIST BUS CRASH.
WAS RETURNING FROM
NIAGARA FALLS

Diary Times Desk : At least five people, including an Indian national, have been killed when a tour bus returning to New York City from Niagara Falls with 54 passengers crashed on a highway outside Buffalo, according to media reports.

The dead were identified as Shankar Kumar Jha, 65, from Bihar; Pinki Changrani, 60, of East Brunswick, New Jersey; Xie Hongzhua, 22, of Beijing, China; Zhang Xiaolan, 55, of Jersey City, New Jersey; and Jian Mingli, 56, of Jersey City, New Jersey, ABC News reported.

The deadly crash occurred on Interstate 90 in Pembroke, near Buffalo, at 12.22 pm (local time) on Friday according to New York State Police.

The bus was travelling back to New York City after visiting Niagara Falls.



ISRAELI MILITARY TARGETS YEMEN'S SANAA AFTER HOUTHIS ATTACKS

Diary Times Desk : The Israeli military has bombed the Yemeni capital Sanaa, Israeli and Yemeni officials say, as tensions in the region continue to escalate amid Israel's war on Gaza.

The Houthis-affiliated Al Masirah TV said the attack on Sunday targeted an oil facility and a power plant in Sanaa. Israel said it also targeted a presidential palace in the Yemeni capital, which it claimed is located on a "military complex".

At least two people were killed and 35 others were injured in the attacks, according to Al Masirah.

The Israeli strikes came two days after the Houthis claimed a missile launch against Israel – part of a campaign that the Yemeni group says aims to pressure Israel to end its atrocities and siege in Gaza.



PENTAGON BLOCKS UKRAINE FROM USING US LONG-RANGE MISSILES TO STRIKE RUSSIA

Diary Times Desk : The Pentagon has for months been blocking Ukraine from using U.S.-made long-range missiles to strike inside Russia, limiting Kyiv's ability to hit targets deep behind enemy lines, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing U.S. officials. A high-level approval process, kept under wraps until now, has prevented Ukraine from firing Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) against Russian territory since late spring. On at least one occasion, Ukraine sought clearance to use ATACMS but was denied, two officials told the paper. The restriction has narrowed Ukraine's military options just as the White House attempts to coax Moscow into peace talks.

The secret 'review mechanism' According to the report, the approval system was crafted by Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby, giving Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth final authority on whether Kyiv can employ ATACMS.

MORE THAN 500,000 ORDERED TO EVACUATE AS TYPHOON HEADS FOR VIETNAM

Diary Times Desk : Vietnam has ordered more than 586,000 people to be evacuated ahead of the arrival of Typhoon Kajiki. The storm is already packing winds of 166km/h (103mph) and is expected to strengthen further before making landfall early on Monday, weather forecasters said. People from the central provinces of Thanh Hoa, Quang Tri, Hue and Da Nang have been ordered to leave their homes. Flights have been cancelled and boats told to stay ashore. The storm is skirting past Hainan in China, where the country's weather agency said up to 320mm (12.6in) of rain was forecast.

Authorities have told people in the projected path not go outdoors after 14:00 GMT on Sunday. Soldiers have been deployed to help, they said.

PAK CLAIMS PENDING BILATERAL ISSUES SETTLED, BANGLADESH DISAGREES

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan and Bangladesh have signed a visa exemption agreement for holders of official and diplomatic passports – a first since East Pakistan was liberated and Bangladesh was formed in 1971. This means Bangladeshis and Pakistanis with diplomatic and official passports will be able to travel without visas. The agreement was reached during the ongoing visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. Bangladesh and Pakistan have been inching closer as India-Bangladesh ties have deteriorated since August last year. India is closely watching the developments as Pakistan has always harboured intentions of carrying out anti-India activities from Bangladesh. Bangladesh and Pakistan have also signed four MoUs during the visit, which include the formation of a Joint Working Group on trade issues, cooperation between the foreign service academies of both countries, cooperation between the state news agencies of Bangladesh (BSS) and Pakistan (APP) and cooperation between the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

THERE IS SOMETHING WORSE THAN STARVATION IN GAZA

Diary Times Desk : I woke up one morning in July to a flurry of messages lighting up my phone. Every news channel, every social media post, every conversation buzzed with cautious optimism. "Negotiations progressing well", the headlines declared. "Truce imminent", "Massive aid convoy preparing to enter". At that moment, we were deep in the throes of famine; some days, we ate nothing at all. You can imagine the cautious joy that flickered in our hearts, the way hope travelled through our messages. Friends wrote to me, their words trembling with tentative relief. "Could this really be the end?" one asked. "Will we remember what safety feels like? Will there finally be bread?" We dared to dream. We imagined the silence of ceasefire, the taste of warm bread, the comfort of a full meal. Some shops tentatively reopened. Prices dipped slightly. For the first time in months, bread seemed almost within reach. For a fleeting moment, life seemed to return to the streets. In Gaza, even the most battered communities breathe differently when hope appears – even if it is for a few hours.

ON UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY, ITS DRONES HIT RUSSIAN NUCLEAR PLANT

Diary Times Desk : Russia accused Ukraine Sunday of launching drone attacks that sparked a fire at a nuclear power plant in its western Kursk region overnight, as Ukraine celebrated 34 years since its independence. Russian officials said several power and energy facilities were targeted in the overnight strikes. The fire at the nuclear facility was quickly extinguished with no injuries reported, according to the plant's press service on Telegram. While the attack damaged a transformer, radiation levels remained within normal ranges. The United Nations' nuclear watchdog said it was aware of media reports that a transformer at the plants had caught fire "due to military activity," but hadn't received independent confirmation. It said its director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, said that "every nuclear facility must be protected at all times." Ukraine did not immediately comment on the alleged attack. Firefighters also responded to a blaze at the port of Ust-Luga in Russia's Leningrad region, home to a major fuel export terminal. The regional governor said approximately 10 Ukrainian drones were shot down, with debris igniting the fire.



TOLL IN HOSHIARPUR LPG TANKER FIRE REACHES 7 AS 4 MORE SUCCUMB TO BURNS

Diary Times Desk : Four more people succumbed to burns, with the death toll in the LPG tanker fire incident rising to seven, an official said on Sunday.

Hoshiarpur Deputy Commissioner Aashika Jain said Manjit Singh, 60, Vijay, 17, Jaswinder Kaur, 65, and Aradhna Verma, 30, all residents of Mandiala, died at a private hospital overnight. Civil Surgeon Dr Pawan Kumar said the four, who had sustained more than 90 per cent burns, were on ventilator support.

On Friday, around 10 pm, an LPG tanker caught fire after colliding with a pickup vehicle near Mandiala Adda on the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road. The blaze spread rapidly, engulfing nearly 15 shops and at least four houses in the vicinity, police said.



BJP LEADERS DETAINED IN ROPAR'S NURPUR BEDI WHILE TRYING TO ORGANISE PARTY CAMP



Diary Times Desk : BJP leaders, including Punjab Vice President Fatehjung Singh Bajwa and District President of party from Ropar, Ajayvir Singh Lalpura were detained by Ropar police for about 4 hours when they tried to organise 'Vishesh Sewa camp' in Lalpura village in the district's Nurpur Bedi area.

The BJP workers held a camp in Lalpura village today morning, but faced strong resistance as a heavy police force was deployed to stop the event. The camp was inaugurated by Bajwa. However, as soon as the programme began, police stepped in and stopped it. Speaking to the media, Bajwa strongly condemned the police action and said that the Bhagwant Mann-led government has completely failed to deliver basic services to the people of Punjab. They have been unable to implement Central Government welfare schemes effectively. That is why BJP started these special service camps to educate people and help them avail benefits of schemes like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana, e-Shram Card and Vishwakarma Yojana, he said.

"If the Punjab government had fulfilled its duties properly, there would have been no need for BJP to organise such camps. Bhagwant Mann is busy making announcements, while on the ground, people are suffering," he said.

FLOOD SITUATION TURNS GRIM IN SULTANPUR LODHI'S MAND REGION

Diary Times Desk : The flood situation in Punjab has escalated, with the Beas river's water level reaching 1.37 lakh cusecs. Erosion has begun at six locations along the river, posing significant challenges to embankment stabilisation.

Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, alongside volunteers and residents from 35 villages in Sultanpur Lodhi's Mand area, has been tirelessly working in the rain to reinforce the embankments. He urged locals to assist at the advance embankment in Ahli Kalan. Heavy rainfall in Kapurthala district and surrounding areas has further exacerbated concerns for flood-affected farmers. Seechewal reported that sandbags are being deployed at erosion points beneath the advance embankment. The hardest-hit villages include Ahli Kalan, Karmuwala Pattan and Ahli Khurd, where strengthening efforts are ongoing.

Farmer Balwinder Singh highlighted the urgent need for machinery, such as JCB machines and tractor-trolleys, to combat erosion. He warned that a breach in the embankment could devastate crops across 35,000 to 40,000 acres belonging to around 35 villages.

NAWANSHAHR MURDER: TWO SHOOTERS OF LUCKY PATIAL-DAVINDER BAMBIHA GANG APPREHENDED IN MUMBAI

Diary Times Desk : In a significant breakthrough, Counter Intelligence (CI) Jalandhar, in a joint operation with Nawanshahr police, has apprehended two shooters linked to the Lucky Patial-Davinder Bambiha gang from Mumbai. The arrests are in connection with a murder that occurred last month in Pojewal, Nawanshahr.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Karan Ganger (25) from Hoshiarpur and Jaskarandeep Singh alias Kallu (23) from Garhshankar. They are alleged to have shot dead Hardeep Singh alias Deepa Kulpuria in his village Kulpur on July 2. According to Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav, the accused, in league with US-based Jaskaran Singh alias Kannu, committed the murder due to personal enmity. Both apprehended individuals and Kannu are reportedly associates of Lucky Patial of the Davinder Bambiha gang.

PANDEMONIUM AT PARANTHA MARKET: VENDORS CLASH WITH LUDHIANA MC STAFF OVER SUDDEN CLEARANCE OF STALLS

Diary Times Desk : A scuffle broke out late Saturday night near Bharat Nagar Chowk in Ludhiana after a Municipal Corporation team attempted to clear street food stalls from the popular 'Parantha Market'. The incident occurred around 11 pm, leading to heated exchanges and physical altercations between vendors and civic staff.

Eyewitnesses alleged that during the removal drive, some municipal employees misbehaved with women present at the site, resulting in further outrage. The situation escalated quickly, prompting police from Division No. 5 to intervene and restore order. The civic action was reportedly triggered by a complaint following a clash between two groups at the market on Friday night. Acting on the complaint, the MC team arrived on Saturday and began removing carts and stalls without prior notice, according to vendors.

Members of the market accused the civic staff of high-handedness and lack of transparency. They claimed they had verbal permission from the SHO of Division No. 5 to operate until midnight, and the market had been functioning under the bridge accordingly.

PUNJAB MINISTER SANJEEV ARORA URGES CENTRE TO INTERVENE AS US FREEZES TRUCKER VISAS

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Industries and Power Minister Sanjeev Arora has expressed deep concern over the US government's decision to freeze the issuance of work visas for commercial drivers, following a recent accident in Florida involving a Punjabi driver.

In a letter addressed to the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Arora urged the Centre to take up the matter with the US government through the Indian Embassy in Washington, stating that the decision could impact around 1.5 lakh Punjabi drivers who travel there on work visas. Arora stated that it was unjust to penalise the entire Punjabi community over a single incident.

The issue stems from the arrest of Harjinder Singh in Florida.

INDIA, CHINA AGREE TO
RESUME BORDER TRADE
VIA SHIPKI-LA, NATHU-
LA

Diary Times Desk : India and China have agreed to the re-opening of border trade through the three designated trading points, namely Lipulekh Pass, Shipki-La and Nathu-La. Both sides have also agreed to continue and further expand the scale of the Indian pilgrimage to Mount Kailash, Gang Renpoche and Lake Manasarovar from 2026.

According to a spokesperson, the state government had been making efforts to resume trade with China through Shipki-La (Kinnaur). The Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, who recently was on visit to India held meeting with Union External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar to discuss various bilateral issues, and both the ministers agreed in principle during this meeting to the proposal of resuming trade between the two nations.

The spokesperson said that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had written to the Union government urging revival of the historic Indo-Tibetan trade route.

LANDSLIDES NEAR
MANDI BLOCK
KIRATPUR-MANALI
HIGHWAY

Diary Times Desk : Traffic between Mandi and Kullu came to a halt on Sunday after heavy rain triggered landslides on the Kiratpur-Manali national highway, blocking the road near the ropeway and Jognimata temple in Mandi district.

It has left hundreds of vehicles stranded on both sides of the highway.

The landslides occurred following incessant rain in the region since early morning, weakening the hill slopes and causing large amounts of debris to tumble onto the road. Authorities said the landslides had blocked the highway at multiple points. The alternative route via Kataula has also been blocked at Kanauj, cutting off all vehicular movement between Mandi and Kullu. The double disruption has led to heavy traffic congestion with vehicles lined up on both ends—those trying to travel to Kullu from Mandi and vice-versa.

RAIN FURY: ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN KANGRA DISTRICT
TO REMAIN CLOSED ON MONDAY

Diary Times Desk : In view of the ongoing heavy rain and the Orange Alert issued by the India Meteorological Department for August 25, the District Disaster Management Authority has ordered the closure of all government and private educational institutions, including technical institutes, colleges, universities, and Anganwadis in Kangra district on Monday.

However, residential institutions are exempted from this order.

The order was issued by Hemraj Bairwa, District Magistrate-cum-Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, as a precautionary measure to safeguard lives amidst risk of landslides, flash floods, uprooting of trees and road blockages. Several roads in rural areas have already been disrupted due to continuous rain.



484 ROADS SHUT, POWER AND
WATER DISRUPTED ACROSS
HIMACHAL DUE TO HEAVY RAIN

Diary Times Desk : As many as 484 roads, including two national highways (NH), remain closed for vehicular movement across the state as a result of torrential rains. As per the State Emergency Operation Centre, as many as 245 roads, including NH-03, are closed in Mandi; 102 roads, including NH-305 in Kullu; 83, including NH154A, in Chamba; 21 in Kangra, 13 in Una, nine in Sirmaur, six in Shimla, two each in Bilaspur and Kinnaur; and one in Lahaul and Spiti remain closed.

Additionally, as many as 941 distribution transformers, including 477 in Mandi, 409 in Chamba, 25 in Kullu, 23 in Kinnaur, six in Kangra and one in Lahaul and Spiti, along with 95 water supply schemes, including 36 each in Mandi and Chamba, 13 in Hamirpur, eight in Kangra and two in Lahaul and Spiti, remain disrupted, causing inconveniences to the people.

Meanwhile, the State Meteorological Department has issued yellow weather warnings for many parts of the state till August 30. For August 25, yellow warning has been issued for Shimla, Mandi, Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Sirmaur districts, predicting heavy rainfall in isolated areas of these districts.

COMPLETE WETLANDS'
BOUNDARY DEMARCATION IN 2
MONTHS, SUPREME COURT TELLS
STATES

Diary Times Desk : Unhappy over the delay in the “ground truthing and boundary demarcation” of wetlands, the Supreme Court has ordered states to complete the exercise in two months and warned that it would be compelled to pass coercive orders against non-compliant states.

“We direct these States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation expeditiously and at any rate within an outer limit of two months from today, failing which, the secretaries of the concerned States of the Department of Environment and Ecology will have to personally remain present before this court on next date of hearing,” a Bench of Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice NV Anjaria said in its August 19 order.

The top court has been hearing a PIL by bird enthusiast Anand Arya, advocate MK Balakrishnan and NGO Vanashakti filed in 2018 on wetland conservation.

GOVERNMENT TO RAISE RS 1,500-CRORE LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT

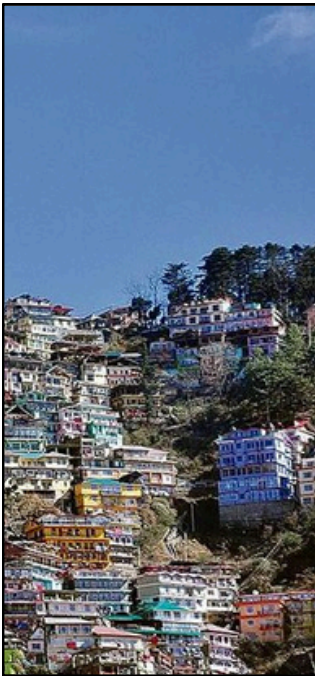
Diary Times Desk : The state government is all set to take a loan of Rs 1,500 crore to meet its development needs and as a result, mere Rs 300 crore of the total loan limit will be available for the next four months this year.

The Finance Department has issued two notifications for raising loans of Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 500 crore. The Rs 10,000 crore loan will be for a 15-year term, returnable by August 28, 2040, while Rs 500 crore loan will have to be repaid in 10 years.

The consent of the Central Government has been obtained for the floatation of this loan as required under Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India.

By raising Rs 1,500 crore loan, the state government will be left with only Rs 300 crore of the total loan limit till December. The government is yet to give 3 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) to its employees.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has indicated that the next few months for Himachal will be financially very difficult in view of the Central Government capping the loan raising limit of the state government at Rs 6,200 crore annually. He, however, has assured people that the state government will manage its committed liabilities of salaries and pension and pay these on time. The situation will ease when the state gets grants as per the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission for 2026-31 from next year.



2,000 Nuclear Weapons

Growing up in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the 1950s and 60s, Mary Dickson was among the millions of American schoolchildren taught to "duck and cover" in the event of a nuclear war.

"I just remember thinking, 'That's not going to save us from a bomb,'" she told CNN. At that time, Dickson didn't know that nuclear weapons were being detonated in the neighboring state of Nevada as the US tested its new stockpile. She lived downwind, in the direction much of the radioactive fallout from atmospheric tests traveled. She says she has suffered from thyroid cancer; her older sister passed away from lupus in her 40s; her younger sister was recently told that her cancer has spread to other parts of her body; and her nieces have health issues too.



Issy Ronald
Eighty years on from the devastating use of nuclear weapons in Japan, and decades on from the most intensive period of above-ground testing, the world's nuclear reckoning is far from over.

Dickson says she once counted 54 people from her five-block childhood neighborhood who had suffered from cancer, autoimmune diseases, birth defects or miscarriages. It's unclear what caused their cancer, since it is difficult to ascribe direct responsibility, but it is

generally accepted in the medical community that radiation exposure increases heightens the risk of cancer, depending on the level of exposure.

"Radiation exposure increases the chance of getting cancer, and the risk increases as the dose increases: the higher the dose, the greater the risk," says the US Environmental Protection Agency, citing studies that follow groups of people exposed to radiation.

"It's devastating," said Dickson, a playwright and advocate for survivors of nuclear weapons testing in the US. "I can't tell you how many friends I've had, and their cancers have come back... The psychological damage does not go away. You spend the rest of your life worrying that each lump, each pain (means) it's back."

"The Cold War for us never ended," she added. "We're still living with its effects."

The nuclear age began 80 years ago when the US dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki near the end of World War II. The bombs killed about 110,000 people instantly and helped set in motion the Cold War-era arms race in which the US and the Soviet Union, as well as Britain, France and China, all scrambled to develop ever more powerful nuclear weapons.

They conducted more than 2,000 tests between 1945 and 1996, each establishing their own nuclear deterrent which, depending on your point of view, either underpins or undermines the world's security to this day. Later, India, Pakistan and North Korea carried out their own tests, too, before a series of international treaties almost completely curbed the practice. Only North Korea has tested nuclear weapons in the 21st century – most recently in 2017 – and no atmospheric tests have taken place since 1980.

Still, "it's not a problem of the past," said Togzhan Kassenova, a non-resident fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who studies nuclear policy.

Although these nuclear weapons were detonated decades ago now, "many people are still paying the price," she told CNN.

The earlier nuclear powers tested their bombs in places they deemed remote and sparsely populated, often in territory they had colonized, far away from their own major population hubs.

"Their priorities (were) such that they believed testing was absolutely necessary for national security reasons and if you take that as an absolute truth and everything else is a sort of 'who knows, we don't know, it'll probably be fine,' it's very easy to get into a situation where your default response.

Palestinian Flag
British Music Festival Apologizes



Sophie Tanno

The band's statement continued, "We've been doing this for six years now and this has never happened before."

Organizers of a music festival in Portsmouth, England have apologized to Irish folk band The Mary Wallopers who claim they were muted during their set for displaying a Palestinian flag.

A string of other performers pulled out of the Victorious music festival over the spat, accusing organizers of stifling free speech. After initially claiming that the band's performance was stopped over a "discriminatory" chant, the Victorious music festival issued a statement on Instagram saying sorry and pledging to donate to humanitarian efforts for Palestinians.

"We didn't handle the explanation of our policies sensitively or far enough in advance to allow a sensible conclusion to be reached," the statement seen by British news agency PA Media said.

"This put the band and our own team in a difficult situation which never should have arisen. We would like to sincerely apologise to all concerned."

The statement continued, "We accept that, although mics remained live for longer, sound for The Mary Wallopers' audience was cut as described in the band's video and that comments after that were not audible to the public."



In a post on Instagram, the band claimed that they were "cut off" at the festival, "for having a Palestinian flag on the stage," and called Victorious' initial explanation misleading.

Their playing continues for about a minute further, according to the video, when a stagehand appears to come on stage and remove a Palestinian flag that the band had affixed to one of its speakers.

Andrew Hendy tells the crowd that the band were instructed not to fly a Palestinian flag or they would be cut off, encouraging audience members to leave the festive grounds. The banjo player began chanting "Free Palestine" before his mic was cut.

Later, video from another angle shows the band's guitarist Charles Hendy asking a person offscreen whether the band will be allowed to continue playing. The response is muffled, but the person appears to reply that the Palestinian flag needs to be removed.

"People were upset and angry," said Emma Gaynor, an audience member who attended the concert with her partner. "I didn't hear anything discriminatory, it all happened very quickly."

Jess Huxham, another attendee, said that other bands who played the festival that day had also said "Free Palestine" during their sets.

"From all I heard," Huxham said in an email. "[The Mary Wallopers] did say 'Free Palestine,' which other bands on the main stage had said before their set."

The incident comes amid fierce controversy around pro-Palestinian activism and free speech in the UK, with musicians often at the forefront.

After rap duo Bob Vylan chanted "Death to the IDF" at their Glastonbury Festival set in June, police in the UK launched a criminal investigation. Even the United States government weighed in, revoking the band members' visas ahead of their US tour. "We are in the business of putting on great shows, not cutting them off, and this is the last thing we wanted – for the band, their fans and ourselves."

Organisers also said they would make a "substantial donation to humanitarian relief efforts for the Palestinian people".

Bands including The Last Dinner Party, who said they were "outraged" by Friday's events, and The Academic said they would not be playing the festival. INFA

Trump Administration

KILMAR ABREGO GARCIA TO UGANDA



Devan Cole

"It is difficult to imagine a path the government could have taken that would have better emphasized its vindictiveness," they continued. "This case should be dismissed."

The Trump administration might try to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Uganda in the coming days, according to a notice sent by a Department of Homeland Security official to his lawyers on Friday.

The notice, made public in a court filing in Abrego Garcia's human smuggling criminal case in Tennessee, came minutes after he was released from criminal custody pending his trial on the federal charges, and Abrego Garcia's lawyers accused the government of using the notice to try to "coerce" Abrego Garcia to accept a plea deal in his case.

"Let this email serve as notice that DHS may remove your client, Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, to Uganda no earlier than 72 hours from now (absent weekends)," the notice read in part.

Administration officials have hinted in the past at the possibility that Abrego Garcia, who was unlawfully deported to El Salvador earlier this year before being returned to the US in June to face the charges, may be deported to a third country. But until Friday, it wasn't clear whether they would let his trial conclude before they initiated any removal proceedings.

Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, an attorney for Abrego Garcia, told CNN in a statement the move to send the Salvadoran national to Uganda was "retaliation" by the government.

"The government's decision to send Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Uganda makes it painfully clear that they are using the immigration system to punish him for exercising his constitutional rights," Sandoval-Moshenberg said. "There is a perfectly reasonable option available, Costa Rica, where he his family can visit him easily, but instead they are attempting to send him halfway across the world, to a country with documented human rights abuses and where he does not even speak the language. This is not justice; it is retaliation." Under a ruling issued last month by US District Judge Paula Xinis, who had ordered the administration to "facilitate" Abrego Garcia's return from a mega-prison in El Salvador, officials are required to give him and his lawyers a heads up of removal plans at least 72 business hours before they intend to carry out the deportation to a third country. That requirement is meant to give him time to raise a claim that he may face torture or persecution in the third country identified by the government.

The filing submitted by Abrego Garcia's lawyers Saturday morning to the federal judge overseeing his criminal case also said that earlier this week, the government tried to cut a deal with him in which he would plead guilty to the two federal charges and, after serving any court-imposed sentence, be deported to Costa Rica.

The Central American country would accept him as a refugee or give him some form of legal status, according to a letter sent from its government to a State Department official at the US embassy in Costa Rica. That offer was renewed Friday evening, Abrego Garcia's attorneys said in court papers. They told the judge that their client now has until Monday morning "to accept a plea in exchange for deportation to Costa Rica, or else that offer will be off the table forever."

The offers, Abrego Garcia's lawyers argued, are evidence of what they described as the government's effort to punish Abrego Garcia for challenging his wrongful deportation earlier this year. They told the judge, Waverly Crenshaw, that the developments buttress their request for him to throw the case out on the grounds that Abrego Garcia is the subject of "vindictive and selective prosecution."

"There can be only one interpretation of these events: the DOJ, DHS, and ICE are using their collective powers to force Mr. Abrego to choose between a guilty plea followed by relative safety, or rendition to Uganda, where his safety and liberty would be under threat," the attorneys wrote.

TRIBUTES POUR IN FOR PUJARA AFTER RETIREMENT

Diary Times Desk : Cheteshwar Pujara called time on his international career via a post on social media. The 37-year-old ended as India's eighth-highest run-getter in the Test format, with 7,195 runs at an average of 43.60 with 19 centuries to his name.

The batter who was crucial during India's prolific Test run during the late 2010s, was known for his fighting knocks in adverse conditions and his ability to soak in the pressure through classic Test match batting. He featured in the World Test Championship Finals of 2021 and 2023.

The former India international received several plaudits on his international career.



PREMIER LEAGUE RECAP: SPURS UPEND MAN CITY, ARSENAL BLOW OUT LEEDS

Diary Times Desk : Saturday's action in the Premier League and across Europe was packed with highlights and big moments. The day kicked off with Manchester City losing 2-0 to Tottenham Hotspur at the Etihad Stadium on the back of goals by Brennan Johnson and João Palhinha. Thomas Frank's squad stymied Erling Haaland and the rest of a potent City attack that scored four goals in the opening weekend. The result made it two straight clean sheets to start the year for Spurs; could this be a season to remember for the reigning UEFA Europa League champions?

Later, Arsenal announced their signing of midfielder Eberechi Eze before demolishing Leeds United 5-0 at the Emirates Stadium. Viktor Gyökeres notched his first two goals as a Gunner, while Jurriën Timber scored a brace for the first multigoal game of his career and 15-year-old Max Dowman made his highly anticipated Premier League debut. Bukayo Saka also tallied with a sublime strike before being substituted off due to injury in the 53rd minute. With a trip to Anfield for a heavyweight clash against Liverpool up next, manager Mikel Arteta will be crossing his fingers that Saka and Martin Odegaard, who also suffered an injury, can be passed fit.

HANSI FLICK SENDS CLEAR MESSAGE TO BARCELONA PLAYERS WITH LEVANTE SELECTION

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona manager Hansi Flick proved once again that his treble-winning side will not rest on old reputations.

Against Levante, Flick made bold choices in his starting XI, sending a strong message that every role in the team is up for grabs.

Two decisions stood out the most. Marcus Rashford was given a starting spot on the left wing, forcing Raphinha into a central playmaking role.

Meanwhile, Eric Garcia was preferred at right-back, leaving Jules Kounde on the bench despite his contract renewal being one of the week's main headlines.

It was not the first time Flick left the Frenchman out, as he had already been replaced in Mallorca, and the German coach felt no reason to change what worked.

Then there is Olmo
Another surprising call involved Dani Olmo, who has been a substitute in both of Barcelona's opening La Liga matches.

EZE'S EMOTIONS ON A FAMILY PRAYER BEING ANSWERED

Diary Times Desk : A boyhood Gooner, the England winger spent five years in our academy before being released aged 13, but ever since those teenage years he admits he never gave up hope that he would one day pull on our famous red and white shirt again.

That was a hope also held by his mother, and Ebere feels their faith, belief and hard work have paid off with his destiny finally being realised now he has completed his move from Crystal Palace.

Reflecting on his path back to us, Ebere said: "I remember the day I got released, my mum said a prayer that this reverse would happen. For me, this is a realisation of a prayer that we prayed for. This is deeper than anyone can understand. I can see God's hand in it, so I know it's meant to be.

"I still haven't fully processed everything, I'm just floating right now. I'll go home, go over everything, speak with people and then I'll start to settle in. But, I know what this thing is, I know what it means, and I know where we've come from as a family.

KERALA'S 'ONAM GIFT': LIONEL MESSI & ARGENTINA SET FOR GREENFIELD STADIUM MATCH

Diary Times Desk : Kerala's football fans are in for a treat as Lionel Messi's Argentina will play a Fifa international friendly in Thiruvananthapuram in November.

The match is likely to be held between November 10 and 18 as per the Argentina Football Association (AFA)'s Facebook page. V. Abdurahiman, the Kerala sports minister, told The Telegraph that the friendly will be played at Greenfield Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.

Football fans across India woke up to rejoice AFA's post on social media platforms — X and Facebook — on Saturday. The post said: "The Argentine national team, led by Lionel Scaloni, will have two FIFA friendlies in the remainder of 2025. FIFA dates for the month of October, between the 6th and 14th, will be played in the United States (rivals and cities to be determined). FIFA dates for the month of November, between 10 and 18th, Luanda - Angola and Kerala - India (rivals to be determined)".

Abdurahiman had earlier been trolled for the uncertainty after it emerged last November that Argentina would play in Kerala. There was confusion after the organisers, Reporter Broadcasting Company Pvt Ltd (RBCPL), did not pay the money on time.

LAMMENS LEFT OUT OF ROYAL ANTWERP SQUAD

Diary Times Desk : United ramped up their interest in the goalkeeper this week.

No deal has been agreed yet and there is interest elsewhere, including from Inter Milan, but it is looking increasingly likely Lammens will end up at United.

What is not so clear is what that means for United pair Andre Onana and Altay Bayindir.

United sources have previously indicated Onana will remain at the club this season despite some inconsistent form.

However, Bayindir started last weekend's Premier League opener against Arsenal and was at fault for the Gunners' winner.

It is possible Inter may try to sign Bayindir if Lammens joins United.

Inter veteran Yann Sommer is on Galatasaray's list of alternatives if they fail to secure the capture of Manchester City's Ederson - which would leave a space for a new number one at Inter, where Onana excelled.

