

NEWS IN BRIEF

TOP COURT RELIEF FOR PSEPHOLOGIST WHO APOLOGISED FOR ERROR IN VOTER DATA**Diary Times Desk :**

The Supreme Court today paused FIRs filed against psephologist Sanjay Kumar amid the massive row over his apology for two posts that alleged significant voter additions and deletions in Maharashtra's voter lists. Mr. Kumar's counsel raised the issue before a bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice NV Anjaria. "This (is a) person with impeccable integrity. Thirty years of service to the nation and to the world. He's highly respected. It was a mistake. He apologised. He deleted and apologised publicly," the counsel said, after which the Chief Justice paused the proceedings. The psephologist, who is associated with Delhi-based research body.

NEW GST RATES LIKELY BY SEPTEMBER 22: SOURCES

Diary Times Desk : The Goods and Services Tax Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is expected to roll out the new GST tax slabs by September 22, government sources have told NDTV Profit. The implementation of the new GST rates is likely to coincide with the Navratri celebrations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on August 15 to bring "next-generation" GST reforms that will reduce the tax burden across the country. "The government will bring next-generation GST reforms, which will bring down the tax burden on the common man. It will be a Diwali gift for you," he said while addressing the nation on the 79th Independence Day. The GST Council, comprising finance ministers of all states and UTs besides the Centre, will meet on September 3-4 in Delhi to discuss the proposed simplified two-tier GST tax slab of 5% and 18% suggested by the Centre. The notifications will begin rolling out nearly five to seven days after the GST Council's decision, sources said. According to the reform proposed by the Centre to the Group of Ministers (GoM), GST should be a two-rate structure.

PM MODI**PM MODI LAUNCHES RS 5,400 CRORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN GUJARAT**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday dedicated and laid the foundation stone for a slew of development projects collectively valued at over Rs 5,400 crore in Gujarat. These projects span key sectors such as railways, roads, power, housing, and urban infrastructure.

A major highlight of the announcements is the dedication of railway projects worth more than Rs 1,400 crore. These include the doubling of the 65-km Mahesana-Palanpur rail line (Rs 530 crore), gauge conversion of the 37-km Kalol-Kadi-Katosan Road line, and the 40-km Bechrapi-Ranuj rail line (Rs 860 crore). Together, the projects are expected to improve passenger convenience and freight movement, reduce congestion, and strengthen economic linkages in north Gujarat.

In addition, PM Modi flagged off a passenger train between Katosan Road and Sabarmati, aimed at boosting access to religious destinations and local markets. He also launched a car-loaded freight service from Bechrapi, designed to enhance last-mile connectivity to industrial hubs and expand employment opportunities through stronger logistics networks.

Continuing his focus on infrastructure, the Prime Minister inaugurated the widening of the Viramgam-Khudad-Rampura road and laid the foundation for a series of transport projects. These include six-lane vehicle underpasses on the busy Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Palanpur road and a railway overbridge on the Ahmedabad-Viramgam road.

Officials said the new works will not only reduce traffic bottlenecks but also provide a significant boost to industrial growth and regional trade. In the energy sector, PM Modi unveiled power distribution projects worth over Rs 1,000 crore in Ahmedabad, Mehsana, and Gandhinagar, implemented under the Uttar Gujarat Viji Company Limited (UGVCL).

“PRESSURE MAY RISE, BUT WE WILL BEAR IT”: PM MODI AHEAD OF US TARIFF DEADLINE

Diary Times Desk : With the US tariff deadline on Indian imports two days away, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underlined that his government will not compromise on the interests of farmers and small-scale industries, cautioning that "pressure on us may increase, but we will bear it".

New Delhi and Washington ties are under strain amid trade deal stalemate. US President Donald Trump has doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duties, for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India, one of the world's largest crude oil importers, has until August 27 to find alternatives to replace around a third of its current oil supply from abroad. Buying Russian oil saved India billions of dollars on import costs, keeping domestic fuel prices relatively stable.

Switching suppliers will likely threaten price rises, but not doing so will hit India's exports. New Delhi has termed Washington's move "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". "Today in the world, everyone is busy doing politics based on economic interests. From this land of Ahmedabad, I will tell my small entrepreneurs, my small shopkeeper brothers and sisters, my farmer brothers and sisters, my animal husbandry brothers and sisters and I am saying this on the land of Gandhi. Be it the small entrepreneurs, farmers, or animal keepers of my country, for everyone, I promise you again and again, your interests are paramount for Modi," said PM Modi.

**TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER MAKES LANDMARK VISIT TO HYDERABAD'S OSMANIA UNIVERSITY**

Diary Times Desk : Telangana chief minister Revanth Reddy made a landmark visit to Osmania University today, becoming the first sitting Chief Minister to officially visit the campus for a major event in over two decades.

Revanth Reddy's visit holds both political and symbolic weight. Osmania University was a central hub for the Telangana statehood movement, and for years, it had a strained relationship with the previous BRS government.

By visiting Osmania University and addressing professors and students, Reddy is seen as acknowledging the university's crucial role in the state's history and signalling a new chapter of collaboration between the government and the varsity.

The visit happened amid tight security amid apprehensions that there could be protests but the chief minister declared that he would visit the university the next time sans any security. During his speech at the university, the Chief Minister emphasised the deep connection between the institution and the state, saying that "Osmania University is synonymous with Telangana" and a place that "teaches struggle along with education".

He also directly addressed the students, pledging to visit the university again in December, this time without police protection, to hold a public meeting at the Arts College and directly address their concerns.

ACCUSED PLANNED TO ATTACK DELHI CHIEF MINISTER WITH KNIFE, ALSO VISITED SUPREME COURT: SOURCES

Diary Times Desk : Rajesh Sakriya, arrested for attacking Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during a public hearing last week, had planned to attack her with a knife, sources told NDTV on Monday.

Sakriya, 41, a resident of Gujarat's Rajkot, told the police that he attacked Ms Gupta on August 20 after she allegedly ignored his appeals against removing stray dogs from Delhi.

He also visited the Supreme Court after it ordered to catch stray dogs in Delhi and neighbouring areas and shift them to shelters away from residential areas, sources said.

Sakriya, however, left for the Chief Minister's residence in Shalimar Bagh after seeing the tight security at the top court. He then planned to attack Ms Gupta with a knife and visited her Civil Lines office. He, however, threw the knife after seeing the security during the public hearing.

Sakriya then allegedly slapped Ms Gupta, pushed her and pulled her hair during the 'Jan Sunwai' meeting.

Ms Gupta had earlier said that stray dog attacks were troubling Delhi residents for quite some time now. "This problem has taken a formidable form and is now standing before Delhi, and providing a solution is very important. We will prepare a proper plan on this issue," she had said after the top court order. The Delhi Police on Sunday arrested another accused in connection with the attack on Rekha Gupta. Tahseen Syed, a friend of Rajesh Sakriya, was brought to Delhi from Rajkot on Friday night for further questioning. He was made to confront Sakriya to verify facts and taken into custody on Sunday.

SUPREME ORDER**“SHOW YOUR APOLOGY ON YOUR CHANNELS”: SUPREME COURT TO COMEDIANS**

Diary Times Desk : When you are commercialising speech, you cannot hurt the sentiments of a community, the Supreme Court said today, pulling up Samay Raina and several other comedians on jokes mocking persons with disabilities.

The bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joyymalya Bagchi was hearing a petition by Cure SMA Foundation of India, which supports patients and families affected by spinal muscular atrophy. The petition had flagged jokes mocking people with disabilities. The comedians who were called out included Samay Raina, Vipul Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakkar and Nishant Jagdish Tanwar.

The petition was clubbed with the cases linked to India's Got Latent controversy, in which YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia was charged.

Appearing for the Foundation, Senior Advocate Aparajita Singh said "good sense has prevailed" and all comedians have apologised. The court pulled up Samay Raina on a counter affidavit filed with the apology and noted, "Respondent No 6 (Raina) tried to portray himself as very innocent and then apologised."

Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, said the Centre will take some time to lay down guidelines for comedians and influencers. "There cannot be a complete gag," he said. The bench said the guidelines must not be a reaction to one incident. "Future challenges have to be kept in mind. It has to be broad-based. We would like to have opinion of domain experts also," Justice Kant said.

ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S QUESTIONS TO AMIT SHAH ON 'SACK JAILED MINISTERS' LAW

Diary Times Desk : Hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah defended the proposed law to remove ministers accused of serious offences if they are jailed for more than a month, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal hit back, questioning if those who frame others in false cases and are acquitted later would also face the same action.

Taking a swipe at the BJP accepting rival parties' turncoats, many of them facing serious corruption charges, Mr Kejriwal said on X, "The person who accepts leaders accused of serious crimes, clears the cases against them and names them minister, Deputy Chief Minister or Chief Minister, should such a Prime Minister or minister resign?" "If someone is jailed in a false case and is later acquitted, how many years in jail should a minister face for levelling false allegations?" he asked. During an interview with news agency ANI, the Home Minister had asked if a Prime Minister, a Chief Minister, or a minister should be allowed to work if he is jailed in a serious case. Defending the Constitution Amendment Bill, which has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

INDIA WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHARE EXPERIENCES IN UPI, 'JAN DHAN', AADHAAR WITH FIJI: PREZ MURMU

Diary Times Desk : New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said that India would be happy to share its experiences in initiatives such as Unified Payments Interface systems, 'Jan Dhan', and Aadhaar with Fiji.

As part of our modern and multifaceted partnership, India is privileged to partner in the socio-economic development of Fiji with a particular focus on Fijian priorities such as health, capacity building and training, and climate resilience, she said.

Her assertion came during a meeting with Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka and his delegation, who had called on Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

The President said that capacity building has always been an important pillar of India-Fiji relations, including through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation training programmes for Fijian officials in Indian institutions.

She noted that digital technologies have brought about a revolution in financial inclusion in India, and that we would be happy to share with Fiji our experiences in initiatives such as UPI systems, 'Jan Dhan', and Aadhaar, a statement issued by the President's office said.

Murmu said that India remains committed to strengthening its relations and development partnership with the Pacific Island Countries , among which Fiji remains a special partner.

She said that a Memorandum of Understanding on establishing a super-speciality hospital in Fiji has been signed today, marking a milestone in our shared vision for enhanced healthcare cooperation.

INDIA HIRES 2ND LOBBYING FIRM IN US BEFORE TRUMP'S RUSSIAN OIL TARIFF KICKS IN

Diary Times Desk : Days before US President Donald Trump's punitive 50 per cent tariffs take effect on Indian exports, India's embassy in Washington has reportedly hired a second lobbying firm with close ties to the Trump administration. The embassy has hired former Senator David Vitter of Mercury Public Affairs to help with "federal government relations" among other services, Politico reported, citing documents filed with the Justice Department.

Neither the External Affairs Ministry nor Mercury has issued any official statement on the matter yet. But the August 18 filing shows that the embassy will be paying \$75,000 per month to Mercury Public Affairs LLC under a contract that runs from mid-August to mid-November. In total, India will pay \$225,000 to the firm.

That's a much smaller amount compared to the \$1.8 million New Delhi has already committed to pay former Trump adviser Jason Miller's SHW Partners LLC.

NIKKI'S INSTAGRAM REELS, BEAUTY PARLOUR PLAN & MERCEDES VIDEO: TOP UPDATES IN NOIDA DOWRY CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Greater Noida dowry murder case has recorded a slew of developments in the last 24 hours, including the injury of the victim's husband, Vipin Bhati, in an encounter while fleeing police custody, and the arrests of the remaining accused in the case.

Nikki, the woman who was allegedly set ablaze by her husband over dowry demand on August 21, died the same day while being transferred from Noida's Fortis Hospital to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital.

The victim's father demanded an encounter of the accused and urged Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to raze his residence. He said that his family gave everything that Vipin demanded during marriage, including a Scorpio, a Bullet bike, and gold, yet they killed her over a Rs 36 lakh dowry demand nine years after marriage. The duo had got married in 2016.

Kanchan said that the crime took place in front of her and Nikki's minor son, who also spoke about the horror on the camera.




JUSTICE VIPUL PANCHOLI TO BE CJI FOR 1.5 YEARS IF COLLEGIUM RECOMMENDATION CLEARED BY GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday recommended the elevation of Patna High Court Chief Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi to the Supreme Court.

If cleared by the Central government, Justice Pancholi will have a long tenure of nearly 8 years at the Supreme Court.

He will also become the Chief Justice of India (CJI) in October 2031, upon the retirement of Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a post which he will occupy for more than 1.5 years.

He will also be the third sitting Supreme Court judge whose parent High Court is the Gujarat High Court. Currently, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice NV Anjaria also hail from Gujarat, with the former also slated to serve as CJI from May 2028 to August 2030.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

26-08-2025

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.

ALL SCHOOLS IN JAMMU
DIVISION TO REMAIN
CLOSED TOMORROW DUE
TO BAD WEATHER
CONDITIONS

Diary Times Desk : All schools in the Jammu division will remain closed on August 26 due to bad weather conditions, an official order issued by the government stated.

The order for the closure will be effective on all government and private schools in the Jammu division. "In view of the inclement weather conditions, it is hereby ordered that all Government as well as private schools in the Jammu Division shall continue to remain closed till tomorrow, i.e., 26.08.2025," the order issued by the Directorate of School Education, Jammu, read.

Earlier, Defence Mnister Rajnath Singh on Sunday held a meeting with officials at Raj Bhavan in Jammu as he takes stock of the flood situation in parts of Jammu and Kashmir. J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union MoS Jitendra Singh were also present during the meeting. Singh also visited a government hospital in Jammu to meet those who sustained injuries in the Kishtwar cloudburst incident, and lauded the efforts of the doctors of the medical college for taking care of the injured with complete dedication.

OBTAIN ADDITIONAL UREA
ALLOCATIONS FROM
CENTRE TO ADDRESS
SHORTAGE: YSRCP

Diary Times Desk : Amaravati, The YSRCP on Monday urged the Andhra Pradesh government to immediately obtain additional urea allocations from the Centre to address a severe shortage reportedly affecting farmers.

YSRCP leader and former Andhra Pradesh State Agriculture Mission vice-chairman MVS Nagi Reddy highlighted that farmers are queuing at Primary Agriculture Credit Societies and Rythu Bharosa Kendras for urea.

"State Government urgently secure additional urea allocations from the Centre to resolve the severe shortage troubling farmers... farmers are queuing up at PACS and Rythu Bharosa Kendras , contrary to CM Chandrababu Naidu's claim that shortage reports are false," Reddy claimed in a press release.

He alleged that private dealers are exploiting farmers, forcing them to buy nano urea and pesticides to access regular urea, adding, "A single visit to PACS will expose the ground reality."

CONGRESS SUSPENDS RAHUL MAMKOOTTATHIL
FROM PRIMARY MEMBERSHIP



Diary Times Desk : The Congress party has suspended Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkoottathil, who is facing multiple allegations of sexual harassment and misconduct, from its primary membership. The call for his resignation as Palakkad legislator had gained momentum with several senior leaders of the party signalling that his continuance in the post would harm the Congress.

The party had earlier asked Rahul Mamkoottathil to step down from all Congress party positions, and he had resigned as the chief of the Kerala Youth Congress on August 21.

The party's decision to suspend Rahul came on Monday, August 25, a few days after multiple audio clips, purportedly of Rahul forcing a woman to have an abortion, surfaced in the media. Media reports said Rahul will continue in his MLA post. On August 24, Congress MLA Uma Thomas, other senior leaders, including Shani Mol Usman, K Muraleedharan and Shama Muhammed, took an open stand against Rahul. KC Venugopal, AICC General Secretary and Alappuzha MP, also dropped hints that Rahul will face action.

WESTERN DISTURBANCE, CYCLONIC
CIRCULATION LEADING TO ACTIVE
MONSOON OVER NW INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Heavy rainfall was also recorded at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, East Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. According to IMD, the monsoon trough is running near its normal position. An upper air cyclonic circulation is lying over northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts at lower and middle tropospheric levels tilting southwards with height.

An upper air cyclonic circulation is lying over south Haryana and adjoining northeast Rajasthan at lower and middle tropospheric levels and tilting southwards with height. A trough is running from the upper air cyclonic circulation over south Haryana and adjoining northeast Rajasthan to the cyclonic circulation over northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts at lower tropospheric levels. A western disturbance is also impacting the Western Himalayas.

UNFORTUNATE, PREJUDICIAL MISINTERPRETATION: RETIRED
JUDGES SLAM AMIT SHAH'S REMARKS ON OPPOSITION V-P PICK

Diary Times Desk : A group of 18 retired judges, including several former Supreme Court justices, slammed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent remarks against opposition vice-presidential candidate and ex-SC judge B. Sudershan Reddy, calling them "unfortunate" and a "prejudicial misinterpretation" of a Supreme Court judgment.

Shah had alleged that Reddy "supported Naxalism" through the 2011 Salwa Judum judgment, claiming Left Wing Extremism would have ended by 2020 had the court not ruled against the vigilante movement.

Speaking in Kerala, Shah accused Reddy of being inspired by an ideology that hindered anti-Naxal efforts.

In a joint statement, the retired judges said the Salwa Judum verdict did not support Naxalism in any form and condemned Shah's remarks as a distortion of judicial reasoning.

"Misrepresenting a Supreme Court ruling by a senior political leader can have a chilling effect on judicial independence," the statement read.

DELHI HIGH COURT QUASHES
CIC DIRECTIVE TO ALLOW
DISCLOSURE OF SMRITI
IRANI'S CBSE EXAM RECORDS

Diary Times Desk : The Delhi High Court on Monday set aside a 2017 order passed by the Central Information Commission (CIC) directing the Central Board of School Education (CBSE) to provide an RTI applicant with details about former Union Minister Smriti Irani's class X and XII board exam results [CBSE v. Mohd Naushadudin and connected matters].

Justice Sachin Datta held that there is no implicit public interest involved to divulge such information under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act).

The Court, therefore, allowed CBSE's appeal against the CIC's 2017 directive in the matter.

"There is no implicit public interest in respect of the information sought vide RTI Application ... the concerned educational qualifications are not in the nature of any statutory requirement for holding any public office or discharging official responsibilities," it said.

TOP COURT RELIEF FOR PSEPHOLOGIST
WHO APOLOGISED FOR ERROR IN VOTER
DATA

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court today paused FIRs filed against psephologist Sanjay Kumar amid the massive row over his apology for two posts that alleged significant voter additions and deletions in Maharashtra's voter lists.

Mr Kumar's counsel raised the issue before a bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice NV Anjaria. "This (is a) person with impeccable integrity. Thirty years of service to the nation and to the world. He's highly respected. It was a mistake. He apologised. He deleted and apologised publicly," the counsel said, after which the Chief Justice paused the proceedings.

The psephologist, who is associated with Delhi-based research body Centre of Studies for Developing Societies, had claimed that the number of voters in the Nashik West and Hingna Assembly segments rose by 47 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively, between the Lok Sabha election last and the Maharashtra polls earlier this year.

TRUMP SLAMS SOUTH KOREA HOURS BEFORE SUMMIT WITH NEW PRESIDENT LEE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump criticized South Korea just hours before a summit on Monday with its new President, Lee Jae Myung, as conflict over defense spending and trade tests the two countries' decades-old alliance.

The leaders were gearing up for their first summit when Trump said on social media, without providing evidence, that there "Seems like a Purge or Revolution" in South Korea and that "We can't have that and do business there."

The remarks cast a dark mood over what, for Lee, are high-stakes talks. He took office in June following a snap election called after his conservative predecessor, Yoon Suk Yeol, was removed for his December attempt to impose martial law.

South Korea's economy relies heavily on the U.S., with Washington underwriting its security with troops and nuclear deterrence. Lee wants to chart a balanced path of cooperation with the U.S., while avoiding antagonizing South Korea's top trade partner, China.

TRUMP THREATENS TO DEPLOY TROOPS TO BALTIMORE TO 'CLEAN UP' CRIME

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has threatened to deploy troops to Baltimore, escalating a clash with Maryland Governor Wes Moore after the Democrat invited him to join a "safety walk" in the city.

"If Wes Moore needs help, like Gavin Newsom did in LA., I will send in the 'troops,' which is being done in nearby DC, and quickly clean up the Crime," Trump wrote on social media.

The comments mark the latest flashpoint in the president's efforts to deploy National Guard troops to Democratic-led cities as part of what he calls a crackdown on crime.

The use of military personnel for domestic law enforcement has drawn fierce backlash from Democrats. One governor described it as an "abuse of power".

Trump has already deployed around 2,000 troops to Washington DC, a Democratic stronghold.

On Sunday, the Guard started to carry weapons in Washington, the military said. Previously, their weapons were available if needed but kept in the armoury.

OIL PRICES RISE AFTER UKRAINE ATTACKS HIT RUSSIAN ENERGY SITES

Diary Times Desk : Oil prices edged higher on Monday after Ukraine stepped up attacks on Russia, fanning concerns Russian oil supply could be disrupted, while expectations of a cut in U.S. interest rates buoyed the outlook for global growth and fuel demand. Brent crude futures rose 6 cents, or 0.09%, to \$67.79 at 0050 GMT, and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 9 cents, or 0.14%, to \$63.75.

Ukraine launched a drone attack on Russia on Sunday, which forced a sharp fall in the capacity of a reactor at one of Russia's biggest nuclear power plants and sparked a huge blaze at the Ust-Luga fuel export terminal, Russian officials said.

In addition, a fire at Russia's Novoshakhtinsk refinery, caused by a Ukrainian drone attack, was burning for the fourth day on Sunday, the acting governor of the region said.

The refinery sells fuel mainly for export and has an annual capacity of 5 million metric tons of oil, or around 100,000 barrels per day.

FLORIDA CRASH: PUNJAB TRUCKER DENIED BAIL, KIN, DIASPORA PRESS FOR FAIR TRIAL

Diary Times Desk : An Indian-origin truck driver, Harjinder Singh, accused of causing a fatal crash that killed three people in Florida, has been denied bond by a US court. The incident has sparked concern across the Punjabi diaspora and calls for intervention from the Indian government.

Singh, 28, was arrested after he allegedly made an illegal U-turn in his truck-trailer on August 12 in Fort Pierce, Florida, causing a minivan to crash into the trailer, killing all three occupants. Singh and a passenger in his truck were unhurt.

During a court appearance on Saturday, St Lucie County judge Lauren Sweet ruled that Singh is an "unauthorised alien" and poses a flight risk. The judge denied bond, citing probable cause for six charges, including three counts of vehicular homicide, all classified as forcible felonies under Florida law.

"There are no conditions of release that will ensure your appearance at trial. Therefore, sir, I'm setting your bond on each charge at no bond," judge Sweet said.

Singh, who crossed into the US illegally in 2018, reportedly obtained a commercial driver's licence in California. He was arrested in Stockton, California, after allegedly fleeing the crash scene and was extradited back to Florida.

"I'LL BE HOME SOON": UKRAINIAN JOURNALIST TO MOTHER AFTER RELEASE FROM RUSSIAN CAPTIVITY

Diary Times Desk : A Ukrainian journalist, held in a Russian prison for more than three years, was freed on Sunday. The release came as part of the latest prisoner exchange between Moscow and Kyiv.

Dmytro Khilyuk, in a video statement, is heard telling his parents, "I knew you cared about me and worried about me. Mum, don't cry. I'll be home soon," reported CNN. The 50-year-old remained incommunicado after being locked up and not allowed to contact anyone.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed Khilyuk's release. "We are bringing home journalist Dmytro Khyliuk, who was abducted in the Kyiv region in March 2022. At last, he is home, in Ukraine," he said.

Khilyuk and his father, Vasyl, were detained when they went to get basic supplies in their village during the early weeks of the Russian invasion. While Vasyl was released a few days later, Khilyuk remained in their secret custody.

BANGLADESHI LEADER DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR ROHINGYA, 'SAFE RETURN' TO MYANMAR

Diary Times Desk : Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus has warned that his country can no longer provide additional support for the 1.5 million Rohingya refugees it shelters, calling on the international community to work on a roadmap for the voluntary return of the persecuted minority back to their homeland in Myanmar.

Speaking in Cox's Bazar on Monday at a two-day conference marking eight years since the mass expulsion of the mostly Muslim minority from Myanmar's Rakhine state, the Nobel peace laureate unveiled a seven-point plan aimed at securing the refugees' safe and voluntary return.

"Their right to return to their own home and homeland has to be secured," he said, urging all parties to develop "a practical roadmap for their safe and dignified, voluntary and sustainable return... The time is for action right now." Yunus also appealed to donors to reverse declining funding, stressing that increased support was essential to sustain life-saving aid programmes.

CHINESE DELIVERY PERSON SAVES TRAPPED WOMAN AFTER FINDING EMERGENCY NUMBER WRITTEN IN BLOOD

Diary Times Desk : A 19-year-old university student, Zhang Kun, working as a delivery person in China, helped a woman who was trapped in her bedroom for 30 hours, the South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported.

As per the report, the incident happened on August 12, in Leshan, Sichuan province, when Zhang, a university student working a summer job, spotted a white pillow with the emergency numbers "110" and "625" written in blood on the sidewalk.

Zhang immediately called the police after seeing the pillow, and they quickly decoded the message, tracing it to a homestay on the 25th floor of a building.

Police initially thought that the woman, identified by her surname Zhou, was in danger. But later found out that a gust of wind slammed the door shut. The malfunctioning lock left her without access to her phone or any food and water.

She used her own blood to scrawl the emergency numbers on the pillow and threw it out of the window.

As quoted in the report, Zhou said that she was trapped inside her bedroom due to a broken latch when she was cleaning her homestay. She was completely isolated as her mobile phone was also left in the living room.



HEZBOLLAH CHIEF REJECTS DISARMAMENT, DEMANDS ISRAEL COMPLY WITH CEASEFIRE

Diary Times Desk : Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem has rejected growing pressure to disarm the group, warning that Lebanon's sovereignty could only be achieved by ending Israeli "aggression".

Speaking on Monday from Beirut, Qassem said the Lebanese government must first ensure Israel complies with a November 2024 ceasefire agreement before talks on a national defence strategy can take place.

"The resistance will remain as a strong barrier preventing Israel from achieving its goals, and Israel will not be able to remain in Lebanon or achieve its expansionist project through Lebanon," the Hezbollah chief said.

He dismissed Lebanese government and foreign proposals to integrate Hezbollah's arsenal into a national defence strategy, insisting that Israel must first withdraw from Lebanese territory, release prisoners, and halt attacks.

"If you truly want sovereignty, then stop the aggression. We will not abandon the weapons that honour us, nor the weapons that protect us from our enemy," Qassem said.



'SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS': WHAT US VP JD VANCE SAID ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE PEACE TALKS

Diary Times Desk : US Vice President JD Vance has said Russia has made "significant concessions" toward a negotiated settlement in its war with Ukraine, voicing confidence that progress is being made even though the conflict shows no signs of ending soon.

In an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press with Kristen Welker", US Vice President JD Vance said Russian President Vladimir Putin had put forward several concessions, including an agreement that Ukraine would receive security guarantees against future Russian aggression.

"I think the Russians have made significant concessions to President Trump for the first time in three and a half years of this conflict," Vance said in remarks aired on Sunday.

"They've recognised that they're not going to be able to install a puppet regime in Kyiv. That was, of course, a major demand at the beginning. And importantly, they've acknowledged that there is going to be some security guarantee to the territorial integrity of Ukraine," he added.

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that a group of countries, including United Nations Security Council members, should act as guarantors of Ukraine's security.

1971 ISSUES RESOLVED TWICE, CLAIMS PAK FM IN DHAKA. HIS BANGLADESH COUNTERPART DISAGREES

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan foreign minister Ishaq Dar and Bangladesh foreign advisor M Touhid Hossain seem to disagree on whether the issues after the 1971 war were settled or not.

Dar, who is visiting Dhaka, claimed that the issues were resolved twice, first in 1974 in tri-partite talks involving New Delhi in India, adding, "Later, the then president Pervez Musharraf settled the issues of genocide again during his Dhaka visit when he talked in public with an open mind."

Hossain, however, disagreed with this assertion, saying it is wrong to expect problems of 54 years to be solved in one day. "Definitely I don't agree (with Dar). Had it been so, the problems would have been solved. We explained our position and they (Pakistani side) did theirs," he was reportedly quoted as saying by Prothom Alo.

Ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh have historically been turbulent, and was its lowest when Sheikh Hasina was Prime Minister. However, she was ousted after a violent student-led uproar in August last year, making way for the Mohammad Yunus-led government. With Ishaq Dar in Dhaka, both countries aimed to ease tensions to move their bilateral relationship ahead, for which they agreed that resolving historical issues was important.

WHITE HOUSE EYES BUDAPEST FOR PEACE TALKS WITH ZELENSKYY AND PUTIN

Diary Times Desk : The White House is planning for a possible trilateral meeting between the U.S., Russian and Ukrainian presidents in the Hungarian capital of Budapest as the next steps in negotiating an end to the years-long war, according to a Trump administration official and a person close to the administration.

The U.S. Secret Service is preparing for the summit in the Central European nation led by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has been close with President Donald Trump since the American president's first term in office.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said "I'm not going to confirm or deny locations" when asked about Budapest during Tuesday's White House media briefing.

While the Secret Service often scouts multiple locations and the ultimate venue could change, Budapest is emerging as a first choice for the White House, said the two people, both granted anonymity to discuss private conversations. Russian President Vladimir Putin told Trump he preferred Moscow and French President Emmanuel Macron pushed for Geneva as ideal meeting spots. Not to be left out, the Swiss foreign minister promised "immunity" to Putin for an outstanding war crimes warrant if the nation known for neutrality was chosen for peace talks.



NEW USCIS RULE THREATENS EDUCATION OF H-1B VISA HOLDERS DEPENDENT CHILDREN: A QUICK LOOK AT REPERCUSSION AND SUGGESTION

Diary Times Desk : As of 2025, the US remains a top choice for foreign students looking for top-notch postsecondary education and employment prospects. A sizable percentage of these students are from families with H-1B visas, which are intended for highly qualified individuals in specialized fields.

Under the H-1B visa, US firms can hire foreign workers for a set amount of time—usually up to six years—in disciplines like science, engineering, and technology. Spouses and children are permitted to remain and study in the United States for the duration of their dependent visas, which many H-1B visa holders bring with them.

Many kids of H-1B visa holders, however, are concerned about the security of their legal status due to recent policy changes by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which could interfere with their educational paths.

The Biden administration amended the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) policy in February 2023 to provide benefits to specific dependent children of H-1B visa holders.

This move allowed a child's "CSPA age," which is the age used to determine eligibility for a green card, to be locked in earlier when USCIS started receiving adjustment of status petitions under the State Department's Dates for Filing chart.

ZELENSKY VOWS TO CONTINUE FIGHTING AS UKRAINE MARKS INDEPENDENCE DAY

Diary Times Desk : President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine would continue to fight for its freedom "while its calls for peace are not heard," in a defiant address to the nation on its independence day.

"We need a just peace, a peace where our future will be decided only by us," he said, adding that Ukraine was "not a victim, it is a fighter".

He continued: "Ukraine has not yet won, but it has certainly not lost."

Zelensky's remarks came after Moscow said Ukraine had attacked Russian power and energy facilities overnight, blaming drone attacks for a fire at a nuclear power plant in its western Kursk region.

The Ukraine government's Centre for Countering Disinformation said it had been reported that the shooting down.

NETANYAHU SAYS ISRAEL "REGRETS TRAGIC MISHAP" AFTER REPORTERS KILLED IN GAZA

Diary Times Desk : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his regret Monday for a strike that killed 20 people, including five journalists, at a hospital in the Gaza Strip.

"Israel deeply regrets the tragic mishap that occurred today at the Nasser Hospital in Gaza," the premier said in a statement released by his office, adding: "Israel values the work of journalists, medical staff, and all civilians."

Contributors for Reuters, the Associated Press and Al Jazeera were killed in the strike, the three news agencies have said.



NEW ZEALAND SUSPENDS POSTAL SERVICES TO US AS 15% TARIFF TAKES EFFECT; JOINS LIKES OF INDIA, ITALY AND MORE

Diary Times Desk : New Zealand's postal service announced temporary suspension of services to the United States as of August 21 over the US 15 per cent tariff hikes that would be operational on August 29 (US Eastern Standard Time). "NZ Post wishes to reassure customers that we are responding with agility to what is a very complex situation. Many other postal operators around the globe have also had to temporarily suspend sending into the US," stated NZ Post's official media release.

It further confirmed that the suspension of parcel services into the US and US territories will be temporary and that it is working on getting solutions in place as fast as they can. "We appreciate that Kiwis want clarity, and we will continue to provide updates on the evolving situation. The best place to get the latest information is on our website at international delivery updates," the release added.

TRUMP EYES FUTURE KIM MEETING AS HE HOSTS S. KOREA'S NEW PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump said Monday he expects to meet again with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "at some point," reviving talk of diplomacy with Pyongyang as he prepared to host South Korea's new president at the White House.

"I have very good relationships with Kim Jong Un, North Korea," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "In fact, someday I'll see him. I look forward to seeing him. He was very good with me. We had two meetings, we had two summits. We got along great. I know him better than you do. I know him better than anybody, almost other than his sister."

Trump and Kim met twice during his first term, including a 2019 sit-down in the heavily militarized Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ, that briefly saw Trump cross into North Korea — the first time a U.S. president stepped onto its soil.

KILMAR ABREGO GARCIA SUES TO FIGHT DEPORTATION TO UGANDA AFTER BEING DETAINED BY ICE

Diary Times Desk : Minutes after Kilmar Abrego Garcia was taken into custody by immigration officials in Baltimore on Monday, his attorneys filed a new lawsuit urging a federal judge to order his release and slow down his removal process so he can have a chance to challenge his potential deportation to Uganda.

Abrego Garcia, the Maryland man who was unlawfully deported to El Salvador earlier this year, was taken into custody by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement after turning himself in to a facility in Baltimore.

"Regardless of what happens today in my ICE check-in, promise me this," Abrego Garcia said at a rally with members of his family, immigration activists and community leaders before reporting to the ICE facility on Monday. "Promise me that you will continue to pray, continue to fight, resist and love, not just for me, but for everybody."

'PAYING A VERY HEAVY PRICE': BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S WARNING TO HOUTHIS AS ISRAEL HITS YEMEN

Diary Times Desk : The Israeli Air Force targeted a military compound in Sanaa where Yemen's presidential palace is located, a fuel depot, and two power stations.

Defence Minister Israel Katz claimed Israel "destroyed the Houthi presidential palace in Yemen," though there have been no such reports out of Yemen. Benjamin Netanyahu only indicated that the IAF struck the palace.

"The IDF has now destroyed the Houthi presidential palace in Yemen and attacked fuel depots and power and electricity stations. We continue to impose an air and naval blockade and are hitting infrastructure targets that are used to promote Houthi terrorism," Katz said.

He further said that for every missile that the Houthis launch at Israel, they will "pay many times over."

His comments came as the Trump administration warned it could send Abrego Garcia to Uganda as soon as this week. Abrego Garcia returned home at the end of last week from Tennessee, where he was being held pending trial in a federal human smuggling case.

VIETNAM BEGINS EVACUATIONS AS TYPHOON KAJIKI NEARS LANDFALL

Diary Times Desk : Vietnam has evacuated hundreds of thousands of people and closed schools and airports as it braces for Typhoon Kajiki, its strongest storm of the year so far.

Forecasters said the typhoon had winds of up to 166 kilometres (103 miles) per hour at 10 am Monday, but is expected to weaken slightly before making landfall between central Vietnam's Thanh Hoa and Ha Tinh provinces later in the afternoon.

The typhoon started as a weak tropical depression on August 22 but grew into a powerful storm in less than two days, matching last year's Typhoon Yagi as one of the region's fastest-growing, according to state media. Its rapid strengthening forced Vietnamese authorities to rush emergency measures as strong winds and heavy rain hit the region.

Last year, Typhoon Yagi killed about 300 people and caused \$3.3 billion in damage. Kajiki has already caused devastation in China, with strong winds and heavy rain whipping Hainan Island and nearby parts of Guangdong province on Sunday. About 20,000 people were evacuated from high-risk areas, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.



JALANDHAR AMMONIA LEAK: NO CASUALTIES, 35 WORKERS SAFELY EVACUATED

Diary Times Desk : The ammonia gas leak at the Sports and Surgical Complex in Jalandhar resulted in no casualties, with all 35 workers safely evacuated. Deputy Commissioner Dr Himanshu Aggarwal confirmed the successful rescue operation following the leak from a safety release valve at M/s Metro Milk Products on Monday evening.

Emergency services responded promptly, with a fire brigade team arriving at the scene within five minutes. They initiated the evacuation through an emergency exit, ensuring the safety of all workers involved. Dr Aggarwal stated that the situation was brought under control within an hour of the incident. To prevent any further leakage, a special team from Verka Milk Plant was called in to shut down the pressure lines of the air compressor, stabilising the situation completely.



BATALA POLICE SEIZE 2 KG RDX-BASED IED IN LINKED TO UK-BASED BKI OPERATIVE



Diary Times Desk : The Batala police have recovered an RDX-based IED weighing nearly 2 kg from Balpuriya village located on the Batala-Amritsar road. The IED was found in the same location from where the police had seized four hand grenades last week.

Batala SSP Suhail Qasim Mir said the RDX had been concealed in a black metal box placed in bushes on the outskirts of the village. The police have also seized a dual-band FM transceiver set and headsets, which are normally used with walkie-talkies. Police officers say the seizures “hold immense value”. The SSP, who held a press conference today, said the consignment was placed on the directions of Nishan Singh Jodia, a UK-based Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) operative. He was acting under the instructions of Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda. The consignment was handled by BKI’s local operatives, including Ravinder Pal Singh alias Ravi of Puriya Kala village.

“We have arrested Ravi, and we have identified another accused. We have formed teams to nab him. This is clearly a cross-border conspiracy,” said Qasim Mir. The SSP added that the accused had collected the consignment in a “dead-letterbox” manner. In police parlance, a dead letterbox is also known as a “dead drop”. It is a secret location used to pass arms and ammunition or other material like messages and money without individuals having to meet each other physically.

4 FROM PUNJAB KILLED IN HEAD-ON COLLISION BETWEEN PICKUP AND HARYANA ROADWAYS BUS NEAR PEHOWA

Diary Times Desk : Four people were killed as a Haryana Roadways bus from the Hisar depot collided head-on with a Punjab-registered pickup vehicle near the Reliance petrol pump on the Pehowa road here on Monday.

The mishap occurred near the Kyoudek village around 8 am. The collision was so severe that four of the seven occupants of the pickup died on the spot. The remaining three sustained serious injuries and were rushed to a nearby hospital.

All victims were reportedly travelling from Punjab to visit the Pehowa gurdwara to attend a religious congregation (satsang). Police cleared the damaged vehicles from the road and restored traffic.

MARKETS SHUT, LIFE DISRUPTED IN GIDDERBAHA TOWN AMID HEAVY RAINS

Diary Times Desk : Normal life in Gidderbaha town of Muktsar district was badly affected on Monday as several markets remained shut throughout the day due to waterlogging caused by recent rain. Rainwater inundated most areas, leaving residents and shopkeepers struggling. Meanwhile, there was a forecast of more rain in the coming days.

Some traders said they were forced to keep their shops closed since customers could not wade through knee-deep water. “We have been suffering losses. The authorities have failed to drain out the water despite repeated complaints,” said Harwinder Singh, a shopkeeper near the clock tower.

Residents alleged that poor maintenance of the sewerage system had worsened the situation. “Every rainy season, we face the same problem, but no long-term solution has been implemented. Even temporary pumping arrangements are slow,” said Ritu Kumari, a boutique owner.

SIT QUESTIONS BIKRAM SINGH MAJITHIA IN MISSING LAND RECORD CASE

Diary Times Desk : In a significant development in the ongoing investigation against former cabinet minister Bikram Singh Majithia, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) visited Nabha jail today to question him regarding missing land records. Majithia, who is already incarcerated due to a corruption case linked to the AAP government, was interrogated for approximately two and a half hours by the SIT, led by Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police Varun Sharma.

The questioning was conducted following court orders, with the SIT focusing on FIR number 2 lodged in 2022 at the Majithia police station. A senior official confirmed that the SIT had sought judicial permission before proceeding with the interrogation. On the court orders, SIT members, SSP Patiala Varun Sharma and SP (investigation) Gurbans Singh started investigation in the missing revenue records.

Majithia, a prominent figure in the Shiromani Akali Dal, was initially booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in December 2021, during the Charanjit Singh Channi-led Congress government. He spent more than five months in Patiala jail before walking out in August 2022 after the Punjab and Haryana High Court granted him bail. He was arrested on June 25 at his residence in Amritsar under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Recently, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau submitted a comprehensive 40,000-page chargesheet against him in a Mohali court concerning disproportionate assets.

OVER 2.6 MILLION SIGN PETITION FOR TRUCKER HARJINDER SINGH FACING TRIAL IN FLORIDA

Diary Times Desk : A petition demanding fair sentencing for Harjinder Singh, an Indian-origin truck driver charged in a fatal crash in Florida, has gained massive response, with more than 2.6 million verified signatures in just a few days.

Harjinder Singh, 28, originally from Rataul village in Tarn Taran district, was arrested after a tragic accident on August 12 in Florida. He allegedly made an illegal U-turn that caused blocking the road. A car collided with the trailer, killing three persons on the spot.

HIMACHAL CALLING:
DAMAGED HIGHWAY
STRANGLES TOURISM,
AGRICULTURE SECTORS
ALIKE

Diary Times Desk : Once hailed as a game-changer for Himachal Pradesh’s tourism and agriculture sectors, the Kiratpur-Manali National Highway has now become a major point of distress for stakeholders across the region. The stretch between Mandi and Kullu, a critical segment of the highway, lies battered and unstable, crippled by recurrent landslides and flooding, particularly during the monsoon season, bringing travel and transport to a near standstill.

The four-lane highway, which was constructed with the vision of providing smooth vehicular movement from Chandigarh to Manali, was expected to be a lifeline for the tourism industry of Kullu-Manali and Lahaul-Spiti, and a vital route for farmers to transport their perishable horticultural and agricultural produce to distant markets. Initially, the project delivered on its promise. Tourists flocked in larger numbers and farmers reported improved access to markets, higher prices and reduced spoilage.

However, the picture changed dramatically in 2023 when devastating monsoon rains triggered a flood in the Beas river, inflicting massive damage on the highway between Mandi and Kullu. Large portions of the road were either washed away or severely damaged due to landslides, which were further exacerbated by deep hillside cutting and unstable strata created during construction.

KULLU TOURISM
TURBULENCE ALLIANCE
AIR CUTS FLIGHTS,
VALLEY ECONOMY AT
RISK

Diary Times Desk : The tourism industry in Kullu is reeling from major disruption after Alliance Air announced sweeping cuts to its flight operations, triggering widespread anger among local stakeholders. Hoteliers, travel agents, taxi operators and others dependent on tourism warn that the decision will inflict heavy financial losses and deter visitors at a crucial time.

HEAVY RAINFALL TRIGGERS LANDSLIDES, DAMAGES HOUSES IN
KANGRA DISTRICT

Diary Times Desk : Incessant heavy rain in Kangra district, particularly in an around Dharamsala city, triggered landslides and structural damage, including the collapse of a multi-storey building near the HRTC workshop on Chadi road on the outskirts of Dharamsala city.

The building, which had earlier been declared unsafe, gave way following continuous rainfall and a landslide in the area. Debris from the collapse blocked the Dharamsala-Chadi road, causing traffic disruption. Meanwhile, in Shahpur Assembly constituency, a four-room slate-roof house belonging to Arjun Kumar, son of Ratna Chand, was severely damaged at Dhar Chachot village under Sudhed gram panchayat area.

The landslide also damaged a cowshed, leading to the death of 15 sheep and goats. Another house, owned by Tilak Raj, son of Om Prakash, was partially damaged in the rains. Shahpur MLA and Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania, accompanied by SDM Dharamsala Mohit Rattan and other administrative officers, reached the spot to review the damage and console the victims.

HIMACHAL'S SUKHU-LED GOVT HAS
CHEATED UNEMPLOYED YOUTH,
SAYS RAJEEV BINDAL

Diary Times Desk : State BJP president Rajiv Bindal today lashed out at the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government in the state, calling it the most inefficient government ever in the history of Himachal Pradesh.

Addressing media persons at the BJP office, Bindal said the progress of all government schemes have been derailed. He said the Congress government came to power with one of the main guarantees of providing one lakh jobs to youth. The Congress had promised that the decision would be taken at its first Cabinet meeting along with creation of an additional 33,000 jobs. However, after much ado, the government has advertised ‘Pashu Mitra’ posts for which the honorarium would be Rs 5,000 per month and there is no mention of the duration of employment nor any recruitment or promotion rules have been framed. Biindal charged that the only few jobs that are being offered are the likes of Van Mitras, Krishi Mitras, Rogi Mitras at a monthly honorarium ranging from Rs 4000 to Rs 8000, which is a cruel joke with the unemployed youth.

CHAMBA: CHOWARI POLICE
CRACKS ELDERLY WOMAN'S
MURDER, RAPE MYSTERY

Diary Times Desk : The brutal murder and alleged rape mystery of an elderly woman (63) was solved by the neighbouring Chowari police in Chamba district, with the arrest of one of the two accused involved in the crime yesterday. The deceased was a retired employee of the Jal Shakti Department and her naked body was recovered from the premises of Government Primary School at Kuthar on August 19. It was suspected that the victim had been raped by the accused before strangulating her. Following a thorough investigation, led by Chowari DSP Yog Raj Chandel, after the post-mortem examination of the victim, the Chowari police had detained four individuals three days ago, who were reportedly involved in an earlier assault on the victim's son on August 9. Following the investigation, the police identified two main accused, Rakesh Kumar (38) and Navneet (18) both local residents. Rakesh was arrested after he allegedly confessed to the crime during a conversation with an elected representative of the Kuthar Gram Panchayat.

CAR, BUS HIT BY SHOOTING STONES ON BHUNTAR-MANIKARAN ROAD,
ONE INJURED

Diary Times Desk : A person sustained serious head injuries after a private car and a bus were struck by shooting stones near Sarsadi village on the Bhuntar-Manikaran road today. According to eyewitnesses, large boulders unexpectedly tumbled down the hillside, hitting both vehicles. The injured individual, who was driving the car, was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment in the same vehicle, which was en route to Manikaran.

Heavy rocks rolled down the slope, one of which smashed through the vehicle, injuring the driver. A bus traveling alongside was also hit, causing damage and panic among passengers. Fortunately, no other injuries were reported. Local authorities confirmed that the accident underscores the growing risks associated with travel in hilly regions during the monsoon season. Frequent landslides and falling debris continue to disrupt traffic and pose serious threats to safety across the district.

Meanwhile, relentless rainfall has triggered flooding in rivers and rivulets in various parts of Kullu. The situation has worsened due to the release of water from dams linked to ongoing hydroelectric projects. Officials have issued advisories urging residents and tourists to exercise caution and avoid venturing near swollen rivers and streams.



Gaza's biggest city chaos

Two years ago, Gaza's largest city was sprawling with life. Classrooms brimmed with schoolchildren, markets were full of shoppers and beachside cafes offered respite for those escaping the stresses of a besieged enclave.

Gaza City boasts a rich history, inhabited for thousands of years and shaped by successive takeovers from ancient civilizations. It served as a key landing point for Palestinians displaced during Israel's founding in 1948 and has hundreds of millennia-old sites documenting its past.

It was therefore no surprise that Islamist militant group Hamas chose Gaza City as its de facto capital when it seized control of the strip in 2007.

Years of conflict, a crippling blockade and Hamas' autocratic rule made life for Palestinians hard. But the institutions set up by the militants, with help from regional governments like Qatar and a robust United Nations aid system, gave some structure to the strip's exhausted population.

An established underground smuggling system gave Gaza City a taste of the outside world amid the land, air and sea siege imposed by neighbors Israel and Egypt – who both designate Hamas a terror organization. While life was far from easy in Gaza City, with half the population unemployed and Hamas' police strictly patrolling the streets, you could still get a matcha latte on the way to a yoga studio, or relax in a park.

Hundreds of thousands sheltering in shattered buildings of the city have been left to fend for themselves after the fall of Hamas' policing apparatus. Unclear about their future, residents of Gaza City listen for news of the next food shipment, or the sudden sound of a trickle of salty water from bathroom pipes – which would give them a rare chance for a shower.

Israel does not allow journalists into Gaza. CNN spoke to several of Gaza City's residents to paint a picture of how the city looks amidst the war. Tens of thousands of Israeli strikes have left the city's many towers lying in rubble as garbage and sewage water flood the streets. Black smoke from burning plastic and wood, used by residents for fuel, fill the skies and the sounds of overhead Israeli drones buzz non-stop amid sporadic blasts from airstrikes nearby.

A chaotic web of wires from street generators supply power to those who can afford to pay. Markets display a random assortment of exorbitantly priced food items, possibly looted by criminal gangs from the few aid trucks Israel allows into the strip.

Hospitals and pharmacies no longer function, and hygiene products remain a scarcity for Palestinians, who say infestations of lice, a lack of vitamins, with no food have left them ill and weak. Majdi Abu Hamdi, 40, a father of four, said dust from the explosions chokes the streets and seeps into the homes that are still standing, where blown-out windows make it hard to breathe.

Even stray dogs have changed their behaviour, he told CNN. "At night, we hear dogs howling. They have turned wild from eating so many bodies. Their barking has changed, becoming fierce."

"They are even dangerous to people, attacking residents savagely. Two days ago, by mistake, a cat walked near them. More than twenty dogs attacked and tore it apart," he said. He continued, "People may be thirty years old, but the exhaustion of war makes them look seventy. Hunger and poor food wear them down. We only use the bathroom every three days because of lack of food and high prices."

Hamas, once so visible on the streets of Gaza City, is now absent. Its political offices, organizational municipalities and police stations are destroyed, and its militants stay hidden.



Mostafa Salem
"The sons of bitches have no control, it's not like old times... but sometimes you find them appearing suddenly, you don't know where from," said Abu Mohamed, a resident of Gaza City who opposes Hamas.

Hamas Accepts

Netanyahu Shifts Strategy On Ceasefire



Tal Shalev

"It was too bad. Hamas didn't really want to make a deal. I think they want to die," Trump told reporters outside the White House at the time. Shortly after the comments, Netanyahu's office shifted to an "all or nothing" approach, demanding a comprehensive deal.



According to one senior Israeli source, after Hamas raised obstacles during the last round of negotiations in Qatar in July, Trump "lost patience and trust with the partial process and doesn't believe Hamas actually wants a deal."

Nearly a week after Hamas accepted the latest Gaza ceasefire proposal from Qatari and Egyptian mediators, Israel has yet to respond - even as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims he is "immediately" starting negotiations to release all the hostages and end the war.

The silence reflects a fundamental shift in Israel's approach that has befuddled mediators and families of the remaining hostages, who have accused Netanyahu of abandoning and sacrificing their loved ones.

After 18 months of agreeing only to partial, phased ceasefire deals, Netanyahu is now demanding a comprehensive agreement that would secure the release of all hostages and end the war entirely – on Israel's terms. The policy reversal comes as the prime minister simultaneously accelerates plans for a massive military assault on Gaza City, pursuing a dual strategy of negotiating while waging war to "defeat Hamas."

On Thursday, Netanyahu declared that he had instructed his team to immediately start

despite nearly two years of fighting. Netanyahu has not explained what caused this dramatic shift from a partial to a comprehensive negotiation framework, and his mixed messaging has left many in Israel and abroad confused: for a year and a half the government refused to discuss ending the war and only agreed to negotiate phased and partial ceasefire agreements. Now he's opting only for a comprehensive deal and has been reluctant to respond to the mediators' latest proposal that was accepted by Hamas,

Basem Naim, a senior member of Hamas' political bureau, said in a statement, "The movement has presented everything necessary to reach a ceasefire agreement and is still ready to do so with all national responsibility and an open mind." Naim said that Netanyahu has a "green light" from the Trump administration to continue what he called a "dirty game."

Trump's belief that Hamas 'want to die' According to senior Israeli sources, the answer in Netanyahu's new negotiations strategy lies not in Jerusalem but in Washington.

INFA

Game Plan

AFRICA, RUSSIA IS SWAPPING



Nimi Princewill
The communications minister, Maxime Balalou, told in January that a bilateral defense agreement "allowed Russia to provide us with weapons," as well as "handling and training for our defense and security forces, (and) assisting our armed forces on the ground."

Wagner, a feared Russian mercenary group that is notorious for staging a failed mutiny against Moscow and accused of committing serious abuses against civilians in Africa, is being replaced on the continent by another Russian paramilitary.

Its successor, experts say, is the Kremlin-controlled Africa Corps.

For years, Wagner, which was funded by the Russian government and praised for its "courage and heroism" by Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2023, has embodied Moscow's military offerings in the Sahel, a semiarid region of western and north-central Africa that extends from Senegal to Sudan.

With Wagner's exit from swathes of the region, which is beset by recurring coups, armed rebellion and extremist insurgency, however, it seems the Kremlin wants a controlled, but unofficial, army to replace it. Putin revealed at a Russia-Africa Summit in 2023 that the Kremlin had "concluded military-technical cooperation agreements with more than 40 African countries, to which we supply a wide range of weapons and equipment."

The Kremlin is to some extent filling a vacuum left by Western troops.

At a time when the West has largely turned its attention elsewhere, from wars in the Middle East and Ukraine to tensions with China, Russia has become a sought-after security partner both within and outside the Sahel.

In parts of the region, such as Mali, where Wagner sustained some of its worst known losses, with dozens reported killed in a rebel ambush a year ago, its forces have joined local militaries in combat against insurgents.

What we know about the Africa Corps Wagner's successor is not self-run. Unlike the mercenary group, the paramilitary Africa Corps is placed under the umbrella of the Russian defense ministry, according to the group's official Telegram channel.

The corps consists of elite combat commanders from Russia's army. "Priority" recruitment was also given to current and former Wagner fighters, a post on the Africa Corps' Telegram channel revealed in January 2024.

Operatives of the Africa Corps have since joined the battlefield, conducting joint operations with Mali's military against militia groups.

Wagner announced in June that it was leaving Mali, one of the troubled nations in the Sahel, saying it had completed a three-and-a-half-year mission fighting insurgents in the junta-led West African country.

A similar exit by Wagner has been mooted in the Central African Republic (CAR), the nerve center of the group in Africa.

Wagner has operated in CAR since 2018 and has become the dominant force in the Central African nation following the final exit of French troops in 2022. It is widely credited in CAR with helping the nation stave off collapse.

Earlier this month, however, military officials in CAR told The Associated Press that Russia's defense ministry had asked authorities in the nation to substitute in the Africa Corps for Wagner and to pay for its services in cash.

Remuneration of Wagner for providing military services to CAR, which include protecting its president, reclaiming territory seized by rebels and keeping armed groups at bay, "is done in an extremely hidden and discreet manner" by CAR's government, Martin Ziguélé, an opposition lawmaker who served as prime minister from 2001 to 2003, told CNN in January.

As a result, it is not clear how Wagner's services are paid for. Still, previous CNN investigations found that companies linked to ex-Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin had won concessions to mine gold and diamonds in CAR, where nearly 70% of the population lives in extreme poverty.

LAKSHYA SEN'S CAMPAIGN ENDS IN BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Diary Times Desk : Top Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen's campaign at the BWF World Championships ended in disappointment as he went down fighting in straight games to world No. 1 and top seed Shi Yu Qi of China in the men's singles opening round on Monday. The 24-year-old Sen, a bronze medallist at the 2021 edition, went down 17-21 19-21 in 54 minutes. Despite pushing the Chinese to long rallies and producing bursts of his attacking brilliance, the Indian faltered in key moments, unable to breach Shi's rock-solid defence and explosive finishing. Sen had come to Paris hoping to erase the memory of his heartbreaking fourth-place finish at the Olympics last August. Instead, he ran into the in-form Shi, who has won all nine finals that he contested since January 2024, and looked in complete command of his game.



MIRABAI CHANU TAKES GOLD AT COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP ONE YEAR AFTER PARIS OLYMPICS HEARTBREAK



Diary Times Desk : For Mirabai Chanu, winning a medal at the Commonwealth Championship must have felt like getting a primary school certificate after completing a doctorate.

The gold medal she won on Monday — in a lightweight field of the lightest weight category, 48kg — may not rank high in her long list of achievements. Even Mirabai, with the medal hanging around her neck, acknowledged that the Commonwealth Championship wasn't about the result. As she pressed reset after a punishing Paris Olympics cycle, the weightlifter was focussed on the bigger picture.

ARSENAL STAR SENT WARNING AFTER EBERECHI EZE TRANSFER – 'HE MIGHT BE A PROBLEM'

Diary Times Desk : Jamie Redknapp believes that Martin Odegaard could soon be sweating over his place in the Arsenal team following the club's decision to pull the trigger on a £67.5million swoop for Eberechi Eze.

Eze, 27, finalised his move from Crystal Palace over the weekend and offers the Gunners further versatility alongside two other summer recruits in Noni Madueke and Viktor Gyokeres. Adept at playing as an attacking midfielder or as a left attacker, Eze enjoyed a stellar 2024-25 campaign for Crystal Palace and was also courted by Tottenham in the weeks prior to his switch to the red half of north London.

The England star was unveiled on Saturday evening prior to Arsenal's impressive 5-0 win over Leeds and is expected to play a significant role moving forward under Mikel Arteta. And Redknapp reckons that Eze's arrival could become a 'problem' of sorts for Odegaard.

Speaking on Sky Sports, the former Liverpool midfielder said of Eze: "He's a fantastic player, he's played for his country.

DANIIL MEDVEDEV EXITS US OPEN AFTER PHOTOGRAPHER INCIDENT ON MATCH POINT

Diary Times Desk : France's Benjamin Bonzi sent 13th seed Daniil Medvedev crashing out of the US Open in a stormy late-night thriller that boiled over into chaos following an extraordinary third-set meltdown by the Russian.

Bonzi advanced to the second round after holding his nerve to win 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 0-6, 6-4 in three hours and 45 minutes on Sunday night at Flushing Meadows in New York. The match exploded into drama in the third set as Bonzi served at advantage on match point, leading 5-4 after winning the opening two sets.

After faulting on his first serve, Bonzi prepared to serve again when chair umpire Greg Allensworth suddenly halted play after a photographer mistakenly walked onto the court. Allensworth called for time after shouting, "Not now, get off the court, please", before awarding a new first serve to Bonzi on the grounds of a "delay caused by outside interference".

KOBBIE MAINOO LEAVING MANCHESTER UNITED? RUBEN AMORIM MAKES BRUNO FERNANDES ADMISSION

Diary Times Desk : Kobbie Mainoo's future at Manchester United is uncertain, as manager Ruben Amorim has revealed the midfielder is competing with captain Bruno Fernandes for a spot in the team. Mainoo, an England international, has not featured for United this season, missing both the opening-day defeat by Arsenal and Sunday's 1-1 draw against Fulham.

Is Kobbie Mainoo Leaving Manchester United?

The 20-year-old was overlooked by Amorim at Craven Cottage as United sought a victory after Fulham's Emile Smith Rowe equalised following Rodrigo Muniz's own goal, which had given the visitors the lead.

When Amorim substituted Casemiro for new striker Benjamin Sesko, he moved Mason Mount, who had started up front, back into midfield.

The Portuguese manager then replaced Mount with Manuel Ugarte before bringing on defenders Harry Maguire and Ayden Heaven in search of a winner.

Fernandes missed a first-half penalty, sending it over the crossbar, but his position as a first-team regular remains secure. A League Cup appearance against Grimsby on Wednesday appears to be the best Mainoo can hope for in the short term.

"He is fighting for the position now with Bruno," said Amorim. "I changed two midfielders. I like Mason Mount there because we want to score a goal.

TEETHING PROBLEMS FOR MAN UTD'S £200M FRONTLINE

Diary Times Desk : Hojlund did not know it at the time, but that game in Chicago could well end up being the final one he starts for United.

With a £74m move from RB Leipzig frontman Benjamin Sesko pending - and finally completed on 9 August - Hojlund featured for 18 minutes in the final tour game against Everton.

After that, he was an unused substitute against Fiorentina at Old Trafford and has not been involved in either of United's two Premier League games so far.

It is anticipated Serie A champions Napoli will renew their push for the Denmark forward this week as a replacement for the injured Romelu Lukaku, who is set to miss four months with a thigh issue.

What United boss Ruben Amorim did not know as he spoke after the Bournemouth match was the problems his side would have scoring goals in open play.

Sunday's 1-1 draw at Fulham, after an opening 1-0 defeat by Arsenal, means United's only strike so far this season is an own goal by Rodrigo Muniz.

They have played four games since that night in Chicago and scored four times - a penalty, two own goals and a single effort from open play, in Mason Mount's well-worked effort against Everton. United might lament their inability to leave Craven Cottage with three points but that is chiefly centred around another penalty, which Bruno Fernandes sent high over the bar.