

NEWS IN BRIEF

**CRICKET ECONOMY
STRUCK HARD BY
REAL MONEY
GAMING BAN**
Diary Times Desk :

The exit of Dream11 as the jersey sponsor of the Indian team is just a fragment in a large ecosystem dominated by the fantasy gaming industry. The BCCI, traditionally a glue to the corporates and advertisers, will likely bounce back soon enough - may even onboard a sponsor by next fortnight itself when the Asia Cup starts. But the ripple effect of the government's decision to ban real money gaming will be felt across the landscape, as these were its chief oxygen supplier. For the cricketers too. Gaming companies have been among the biggest spenders on advertising and endorsements, and cricketers will be among the most affected by the government's latest decision. Almost every Indian cricketer seen on television and holding an IPL.

**SUPREME COURT
OVERTURNS OWN
DEATH PENALTY
ORDER FOR RAPE-
MURDER CONVICT**
Diary Times Desk :

The Supreme Court has said that it can revisit its own verdict of a death sentence if it is convinced that the accused has been condemned to the death penalty without ensuring that the guidelines mandated by the top court were followed. The Supreme Court, in a recent verdict setting aside the death sentence of a man convicted of the rape and murder of a four-year-old girl, held that Article 32 of the Constitution empowers the top court in cases related to capital punishment to reopen the sentencing stage. In 2017, the top court passed an order upholding the death sentence of Vasanta Sampat Dupare, convicted of the rape and murder of a four-year-old girl. Now, the top court has directed a fresh hearing on his punishment. The court proceeded to place the matter before the Chief Justice of India to reassign the case for fresh sentencing, as the man is still convicted of the rape and murder of a minor. This judgment comes as a significant development, especially with regard to the options available for those awarded capital punishment by the Supreme Court itself.

**PM
MODI**
**CHINA'S XI TO WELCOME PM MODI, PUTIN
IN POWERFUL SHOW OF GLOBAL SOUTH
SOLIDARITY**


Diary Times Desk : Chinese President Xi Jinping will gather more than 20 world leaders at a regional security forum in China next week, in a powerful show of Global South solidarity in the age of Donald Trump, while also helping sanctions-hit Russia pull off another diplomatic coup.

Aside from Russian President Vladimir Putin, leaders from Central Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia have been invited to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, to be held in the northern port city of Tianjin from August 31 to September 1.

The summit will feature Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to China in more than seven years as the two neighbours work on further defusing tensions roiled by deadly border clashes in 2020.

PM Modi last shared the same stage with Xi and Putin at last year's BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, even as Western leaders turned their backs on the Russian leader amid the war in Ukraine. Russian embassy officials in New Delhi last week said Moscow hopes trilateral talks with China and India will take place soon.

"Xi will want to use the summit as an opportunity to showcase what a post-American-led international order begins to look like and that all White House efforts since January to counter China, Iran, Russia, and now India have not had the intended effect," said Eric Olander, editor-in-chief of The China-Globel South Project, a research agency. "Just look at how much BRICS has rattled (US President) Donald Trump, which is precisely what these groups are designed to do." This year's summit will be the largest since the SCO was founded in 2001, a Chinese foreign ministry official said last week, calling the bloc an "important force in building a new type of international relations".

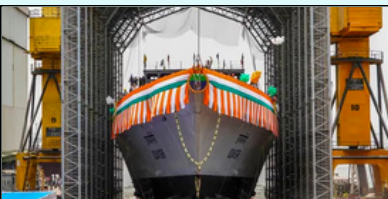
**AMIT SHAH TALKS ABOUT 50 YEARS OF BJP RULE BECAUSE
OF 'VOTE CHORI': RAHUL GANDHI**

Diary Times Desk : Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that the BJP's claim of staying in power for decades was linked to "vote chori", saying Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remark about the party ruling for 40-50 years had exposed the "truth".

"Amit Shah has said many times that the BJP government will last for 40-50 years. So, it got me thinking, how does he know that they will be in power for 40-50 years? This was a strange statement," Gandhi said addressing a gathering in Bihar's Madhubani as part of Voter Adhikar Yatra.

Amit Shah had made the claim in 2017 at a meeting with party workers in Madhya Pradesh, declaring, "We have not come to power for 5-10 years, but at least 50 years. We should move forward with a conviction that in 40-50 years we have to bring major changes in the country through the medium of power."

Rahul Gandhi made reference to the remark on Tuesday and went on to allege, "Today, the truth has come out before the country that they (BJP) do 'vote chori'. It started in Gujarat, then it came to the national level in 2014, and then to other states." Asserting that he only makes statements backed by evidence, the Congress leader added, "I don't lie, I only say things when I have facts before me."


**INS UDAYGIRI, INS HIMGIRI
COMMISSIONED IN VISAKHAPATNAM,
RAJNATH SINGH SAYS 'NO FUTURE
SHIP WILL BE BUILT ABROAD'**


Diary Times Desk : Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday commissioned two advanced stealth frigates - INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri - at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, describing it a major step towards India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

The two warships, part of the Indian Navy's state-of-the-art Project 17A, mark the first time that frontline surface combatants built at two different shipyards have been commissioned simultaneously.

INS Udaygiri has been built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in Mumbai, while INS Himgiri has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata.

Both vessels are follow-on ships of the Shivalik-class frigates, equipped with enhanced stealth features, upgraded weapon and sensor systems, and designed to undertake the full spectrum of maritime operations in blue-water conditions.

Rajnath Singh said the commissioning underscored the growing strategic role of India's eastern seaboard and reflected the Indian Navy's expanding capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region. "The Indian Navy not only guards our coastal areas, but also ensures peace and prosperity in the entire Indian Ocean region," he said.

**GANDHI FAMILY IS MY GOD: DK SHIVAKUMAR
'READY TO APOLOGISE' OVER RSS ANTHEM
ROW**


Diary Times Desk : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday reiterated his unwavering loyalty to the Gandhi family and the Congress as he sought to quell criticism over his recent recital of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) anthem.

Speaking to the media, Shivakumar clarified that if anyone had been hurt by his comments, he would apologise, but emphasised that his apology was not due to political pressure. Shivakumar said that he recited the RSS anthem during a discussion in the Assembly to take a swipe at Opposition leader R Ashoka, not to praise the organisation.

"Today I'm standing before you because a few days back, in reference to a discussion on the IPL match issue to pull the Opposition leader Ashoka, I just sang three sentences of their prayer. My intention was not to praise them," Shivakumar said. The Deputy Chief Minister said that he had completed a degree in political science at the age of 47 before becoming a MLA, and that he had extensively studied the history of the Congress, the Gandhi family, the RSS, the BJP, the Janata Dal (Secular), the communists, and other political parties. He argued that his words were being "misused" for political gain.

"I just commented and tried to pull them (Opposition). Some of my friends are taking a political leap out of it and trying to use it, misuse it, and create confusion among the public," he said. Shivakumar insisted his commitment to the Congress and the Gandhi family was unwavering. "The Gandhi family cannot be questioned by anyone. I am a born congressman. I will die as a congressman," he declared.

RUSSIA VISA

**RUSSIA VISA: 1 MILLION
INDIANS SET FOR NEW JOB
OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND UK,
US**


Diary Times Desk : Want to move beyond the UK, US and Canada, which have now become less welcoming for Indians? Russian companies are opening doors in sectors from construction to high-end machinery.

According to Vinay Kumar, India's ambassador to Russia, firms are increasingly recruiting Indians, especially in machinery and electronics. Speaking to the TASS news agency, he said the workload of consular services has risen as more Indians take up these opportunities.

"At a broader level, there is a manpower requirement in Russia, and India has skilled manpower. So at present, within the framework of Russian regulations, laws and quotas, the companies are hiring Indians," said Kumar.

"Most of the people who have come are in the construction and textile sectors," he added, but noted that demand in machinery and electronics is now increasing.

The envoy also underlined how consular work is expanding. "When people come and leave, they need consular services to extend passports, childbirth, say for example, and loss of passport and those kinds, basically consular services," he said. Andrey Besedin, head of the Ural Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told PTI, "As far as I know, by the end of the year, 1 million specialists from India will come to Russia, including the Sverdlovsk region. A new Consulate General is opening in Yekaterinburg, which will deal with these issues."

**JUDGE VS JUDGE OVER
AMIT SHAH'S 'SALWA
JUDUM' BARB AT
OPPOSITION VEEP PICK**


Diary Times Desk : Fifty retired judges have expressed "strong disagreement" with 18 colleagues' gently calling out Amit Shah for making 'supporting Naxalism' allegations at retired Supreme Court judge Justice B Sudershan Reddy, the opposition nominee for next month's vice presidential election.

In a letter released Tuesday afternoon the 50 judges - whose ranks include two ex-Chief Justices of India, P Sathasivam and Ranjan Gogoi, and former Chief Justices of the Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Bombay, and Kerala High Courts - said the remarks from the 18 were part of a "predictable pattern... to cloak political partisanship under language of judicial independence".

The 50 argued against the notion that judgements rendered by Justice Reddy should be shielded from criticism during his campaign to replace Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice President of India. "A fellow retired judge has chosen, of his own volition, to contest the election for the office of the Vice President. By doing so, he has stepped into the political arena as a candidate supported by the opposition.

BJP HATCHING CONSPIRACY TO STEAL VOTES AS IT LOST PEOPLE'S TRUST, ALLEGES PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

Diary Times Desk : Launching a scathing attack on the NDA government at the Centre over the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday alleged that the BJP was hatching a conspiracy to steal votes across the country as it has lost the trust of the people.

Vadra joined her brother and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in the ongoing 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar's Supaul and Madhubani districts on Tuesday.

Addressing a public rally in Madhubani, she said, "People must protect their right to vote. You people must remain alert and should not allow the BJP and its allies to steal your votes. BJP leaders are stealing votes, employment of youths and people's citizenship."

During Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that Congress leaders would steal people's cattle, but the BJP is indulging in 'vote chori', she said.

In a post on X on Tuesday, she wrote, "In Bihar, the BJP-JD(U) government, which has failed on every front, including inflation, unemployment, migration, and economic crisis, wants to remain in power by stealing the votes of the people. The BJP has lost the trust of the people, and that is the reason it's 'hatching' conspiracies to steal votes across the country."

The voting rights of millions of poor and deprived citizens are being snatched away," Vadra claimed, adding: "The Constitution has given every Indian the right to vote. No power can snatch this right. We will not allow even a single vote of the poor people to be stolen."

Earlier in the day, Vadra and Gandhi, along with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and other representatives of the INDIA bloc, participated in the yatra, waving at an enthusiastic crowd from an open-roof SUV.

BIKE FALLS, CAR DANGLES AS PART OF BRIDGE GETS WASHED AWAY IN JAMMU

Diary Times Desk : A portion of a bridge caved in Jammu, leaving several vehicles stranded. Visuals showed one car dangling, and a motorcycle falling as the road beneath it got washed away.

Several vehicles were seen on the Fourth Bridge over a swollen Tawi river in Bhagwati Nagar when it collapsed.

"Come out of the vehicle, come out of the vehicle. Leave the car behind," a man was heard in the video, asking the people in the car, which was tilting precariously on the edge of the damaged bridge. Two men were then seen coming out of the vehicle.

Later, a man was heard saying that there are no people on any of the vehicles on the damaged portion of the bridge.

Several inter-district roads in the Jammu region remained blocked following heavy rains, landslides, and flooding.

The incessant rains led to a surge in several rivers, including Tawi. Jammu city recorded more than 250 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours.

JOBS, EXPORTS, GROWTH AT RISK: HOW US TARIFFS MAY IMPACT INDIA



Diary Times Desk : Starting August 27, Indian exporters will face one of the harshest trade actions in recent memory – the United States will double down on duties, slapping a 50 per cent tariff on a wide range of goods from India.

25 per cent tariff on India is already in place, imposed by the Trump administration and another 25 per cent as retaliation for India's continued purchases of Russian crude oil and military equipment, will come into effect on Wednesday.

According to the economic think tank GTRI, the impact will be sweeping. Nearly two-thirds of India's exports to the US, worth close to \$60 billion, will be caught in the new tariff net, making them far costlier in American markets and eroding their competitiveness against rivals.

Former ICAI President Ved Jain explained the difficult situation India finds itself in, "The Russian oil import India is making is because it is economically viable. Now, in case we do not buy Russian oil, we will be economically inefficient, so that's not possible because the economy will suffer. So, we have to make a choice between the two evils – that we stop Russian oil, then we become economically inefficient and continue with export. On the other hand, we say, no, we will continue to be economically efficient by buying Russian oil, but we will face the music which comes to us in the shape of exports and some challenges which are there on that part."

'YOU HAVE BUILT A FLOATING F-35': RAJNATH SINGH LAUDS NAVY STEALTH FRIGATES AT LAUNCH

Diary Times Desk : Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday lauded the Indian Navy at the commissioning of the two advanced stealth frigates – INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri – at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.

Indirectly referring to the US, he said there's a country that has F-35 (fifth-generation fighter jet) flying in the air, while the Indian Navy has made a "floating F-35 warship". "Today, you have launched the indigenous F-35 warship. One nation has a flying F-35 and you have built a floating F-35, that too Made in India," Rajnath Singh said at the event, according to ANI.

The two warships, part of the Indian Navy's state-of-the-art Project 17A, mark the first time that frontline surface combatants built at two different shipyards have been commissioned simultaneously. While Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai built INS Udaygiri, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers in Kolkata built the INS Himgiri.

YOUR HOROSCOPE 27-08-2025

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.

AFTER ROW OVER BANGLADESHI REMARKS, EX-PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER'S U-TURN

Diary Times Desk : Days after she sparked a massive controversy by speaking in favour of Bangladeshis – which Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said was proof of her supporting illegal infiltrators – activist and former Planning Commission member Syeda Saiyidain Hameed has made a U-turn and said people from the country who have entered illegally should be escorted back.

Speaking after an event in Guwahati on Sunday, Ms Hameed said Muslims in Assam are often branded 'Bangladeshis'.

"And what is the crime in being a Bangladeshi? Bangladeshis are also humans. The world is so big, Bangladeshis can also live here. They are not depriving anyone of their rights. Saying that they are doing so is troublesome, mischievous and detrimental to humanity... The world was created by Allah for humans and not for monsters, if a person is standing on this land, why uproot him this way?" she said in an apparent reference to the anti-encroachment drive by the state government against illegal infiltrators.

PUNJAB'S FLOOD CRISIS DEEPENS , EVACUATIONS ON, SCHOOLS SHUT

Diary Times Desk : Heavy rainfall in their catchment areas continues to swell the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers, pushing them to dangerous levels and plunging Punjab deeper into the prevailing flood crisis.

The release of surplus water from the Pong, Bhakra and Ranjit Sagar dams has compounded matters, inundating large swathes of farmland and villages in districts located along the three rivers.

District administrations in Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Fazilka and Ferozepur have ordered schools shut for one to three days, and issued evacuation advisories to flood-hit villages as waters continue to rise.

Sensing the scale of the disaster, the state government has set up a central flood control centre in Jalandhar to monitor and coordinate relief, while also roping in the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to aid the district administrations and police in rescue operations.

Relief camps for evacuees have been established in several districts, with teams from health, animal husbandry, water supply and sanitation, and revenue departments actively working in impacted villages.

IMD ISSUES RED ALERT FOR PARTS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, HIMACHAL, PUNJAB AND RAJASTHAN AS MONSOON CONTINUES

Diary Times Desk : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday issued red alerts for various districts in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, predicting heavy rainfall in the area.

Several roads, train services and flights have been affected in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh due to intense rain. The Jammu-Srinagar national highway is blocked due to multiple landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at Marog, Digdol, Battery Chashma, and Kela Morh in Ramban district.

The officials said a portion of the Padder road near Traith Nallah was washed away in Kishtwar district, while Ramnagar-Udhampur road in Udhampur and Jangalwar-Thathri road in Doda were closed following landslides at Konga and Thathri, respectively.

The down line over Br-232 between PTKC-KNDI (Pathankot Cantt –Kandrori) has been suspended temporarily. The up line is working as of now. Trains are being moved either on a single line or diverted via the PTK-ASR (Pathankot-Amritsar) route as of now.

Himachal Pradesh is under a red alert for very heavy rainfall, lightning, and thunderstorms in Chamba, Mandi, and Kangra districts on August 26. The severe weather poses risks of flash floods and landslides, prompting authorities to urge residents to stay vigilant.

MASKED MAN, A SKULL, MASS GRAVE CLAIM: DECODING THE DHARMASTHALA CONSPIRACY

Diary Times Desk : A masked man, skull in hand, walked into a police station in Karnataka's temple town, Dharmasthala, on July 3 and made chilling allegations about a mass grave where hundreds of women, many of them victims of sexual assault, were buried.

The man, later identified as CN Chinnayya, said he was forced to bury these bodies between the 1990s and 2000s, and had approached the police because he was overwhelmed by guilt. The wild allegations played into rumblings in the town over the disappearance of young girls over decades and catapulted Dharmasthala to national limelight.

The weeks that followed the shocking revelations were full of twists and turns. Human remains were found in only two of the 13 spots CN Chinnayya identified as graves. As Chinnayya's allegations came under the lens.

SHOCKING VISUALS FROM MANALI SHOW BEAS RIVER IN FULL FURY AFTER TORRENTIAL RAIN

Diary Times Desk : Shocking visuals from Manali captured the Beas River raging violently in the early hours of Tuesday. The dramatic video shows the river swollen and unstoppable, leaving behind destruction and chaos.

The video was shared by Go Himanchal on X (formerly Twitter), with the caption, "Visuals of Beas River today in Manali."

Himachal Pradesh remains on high alert as heavy rains continue to lash the state. Authorities warn of floods, landslides, and disrupted roads, urging residents to stay safe and avoid unnecessary travel.

Several areas faced intense rainfall, while moderate showers were reported in surrounding parts, officials said. The relentless downpour triggered floods, landslides, and widespread disruption across Himachal Pradesh.

21 TEACHERS NAMED FOR NATIONAL TEACHER AWARDS 2025

Diary Times Desk : A total of 21 teachers from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and polytechnics have been selected for the National Teacher Awards 2025, the Ministry of Education announced on Tuesday, reports PTI. The awards recognise outstanding contributions to teaching and academic development.

The ministry noted that in 2023, a decision was taken to create two distinct categories for the honours: one dedicated to HEIs and another for polytechnics.

The 21 selected teachers come from various institutions, including polytechnics, state universities, and central higher education institutions.

"The selection is based on the performance of the teacher as adjudged against the parameters such as teaching, learning effectiveness, outreach activities, research and innovation, sponsored research, faculty development programs, and consultancy teaching.

IN NIKKI BHATI DOWRY MURDER CASE, FUNERAL VIDEO CONTRADICTS SISTER'S CLAIM

Diary Times Desk : In a development that casts a shadow over the version given by the family of Nikki Bhati, who was allegedly set ablaze for dowry in Greater Noida last week, some of her in-laws were present for her funeral and her father-in-law also played a key role in her last rites.

Nikki was allegedly killed on the night of Thursday, August 21, and her sister Kanchan – who is also married into the same family living in Greater Noida's Sirsa village – had said she was set ablaze by her husband Vipin and other in-laws. Kanchan had also said that she had fallen unconscious on seeing her 28-year-old sister ablaze and the family members had fled after the crime.

Nikki's father, Bhikari Singh Palya, had also alleged all the in-laws, except Nikki's father-in-law, went on the run after setting her ablaze.

A video of Nikki's funeral the following morning, which has now emerged, however, shows that her father-in-law and some other people from her husband's family were present there. Nikki's father-in-law, in fact, also lit the funeral pyre.

Hours after the funeral, at 12.40 pm, a case was registered by Nikki's family accusing her husband Vipin, Kanchan's husband Rohit, her father-in-law and mother-in-law of killing her by setting her ablaze.

Vipin, Rohit and their parents have all been arrested and Vipin was shot in the leg after he tried to snatch a policeman's pistol.

Late last week, a video had emerged showing Vipin and another woman pulling her by the hair.

7 JETS SHOT DOWN: TRUMP
CHANGES CLAIM ON PLANES
DOWNED DURING INDIA-PAK
CONFLICT

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Monday again repeated his claim of brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan back in May, adding that seven jets were shot down during the military conflict.

However, this is not the number of jets he said were shot down earlier. Last month, the Republican said five planes were downed during the conflict as "two serious nuclear countries" hit each other.

Like last time, this time too, Trump did not specify which country shot down how many jets. His fresh remarks on the subject come weeks after Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh confirmed that India shot down five Pakistani fighter jets during Operation Sindoor, the military action targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

FRANCE HEADS FOR POLITICAL
CRISIS AS PM BAYROU RISKS ALL ON
CONFIDENCE VOTE

Diary Times Desk : France is on the brink of another political crisis, after Prime Minister François Bayrou's shock decision to submit his government to a vote of confidence in parliament. The chances of his winning the vote in a special session of the National Assembly on September 8 being extremely slim, the prime minister's days in office look numbered. If the vote is lost, Bayrou will be expected to resign, leaving France once again rudderless at a time of immense economic, social and geopolitical uncertainty. For the second time inside a year, the disastrous effects of President Emmanuel Macron's hasty parliamentary dissolution of July 2024 threaten institutional chaos and even civil unrest. Far from offering the "clarity" that Macron wanted after his defeat in European polls in June 2024, the newly elected National Assembly was split three ways between centrists, the populist right, and the left – meaning that no government of any stripe could hope for a majority. Macron himself was cut out of domestic politics and forced to focus on international affairs.

FRENCH HELICOPTER CREW SURVIVE CRASH INTO LAKE

Diary Times Desk : A French helicopter crew have survived after the aircraft they were travelling in crashed into lake while trying to collect water to fight wildfires. An eyewitness filmed the helicopter descending on the body of water carrying a vessel for collecting water, before appearing to lose control and ending up in the lake in Rosporden, north-western France. According to a statement from the local municipality, the pilot, the officer aboard the helicopter, and a witness were taken to a local hospital, with no fatalities reported. In a statement on social media, Mayor of Rosporden Michel Loussouarn said authorities had taken measures to contain the risk of pollution in the lake.



IRAN FACES REIMPOSITION OF
SANCTIONS UNLESS IT NEGOTIATES ON
NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Diary Times Desk : Iran faces a renewal of UN-mandated sanctions within weeks unless it returns to negotiations on the future of its nuclear program and allows international inspections of its facilities.

The process for restoring sanctions that were lifted a decade ago under a landmark nuclear deal could begin at the end of the month if a meeting on Tuesday between Iran and three European nations fails to make progress.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom have told the United Nations they will move to reimpose sanctions through what's known as the 'snapback' mechanism if Iran continues to violate its obligations under the deal.

The snapback was built into the 2015 nuclear pact reached by Iran, the US and the Europeans. Under the deal, Iran was granted sanctions relief in return for strict and verifiable limits on its nuclear program.

FIRST HUMAN CASE OF FLESH-EATING
SCREWWORM PARASITE CONFIRMED IN
US

Diary Times Desk : The first human case of a flesh-eating parasite infestation has been confirmed in the US, authorities say. New World screwworm (NWS) myiasis was found in a patient who returned to the US from El Salvador, the Department of Health and Human Services said on Monday. The case was confirmed on 4 August. NWS myiasis is a parasitic infestation of fly larvae, or maggots, caused by parasitic flies. The pest primarily affects livestock, and authorities have said the risk to US public health was currently "very low". The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) worked with Maryland's health department to investigate the case. HHS spokesperson Andrew Nixon said it is the first human case of travel-associated NWS myiasis from an outbreak-affected country identified in the US. The devastating pest, which feeds on live tissue, is usually found in South America and the Caribbean. Despite efforts to halt its spread north, cases have now been confirmed in every Central American country – in addition to the US and Mexico. Humans, particularly those with an open wound, are susceptible to infestation and are at higher risk if they travel to those regions or if they are around livestock in rural areas where the flies are, the CDC says.

US GREEN CARD AND H-1B
VISA PROGRAM TO
WITNESS MAJOR CHANGES
SOON

Diary Times Desk : Big changes in the H-1B visa program and the issuance of green cards can be expected soon. U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, in an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham, said "I'm involved in changing the H-1B program. We're going to change that program... We're going to change the green card."

On his X handle, Lutnick wrote – The current H1B visa system is a scam that lets foreign workers fill American job opportunities. Hiring American workers should be the priority of all great American businesses. Now is the time to hire Americans. Earlier this month, Bloomberg Law reported that in its most recent regulatory agenda, the Department of Homeland Security stated that it intends to present a proposal in August to fix the allotment of H-1B specialized occupation visas on wage-based levels for available positions.

PSYCHOLOGISTS RAISE
ALARM OVER DONALD
TRUMP'S 'WORSENING'
HEALTH, CITE SIGNS OF
SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDER

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump has been displaying a "dead ringer telltale sign" of an unusual brain disorder, claimed two psychologists, who warned that the symptom is getting "worse and worse."

Clinical psychologists Dr. Harry Segal and Dr. John Gartner have expressed worries regarding Trump's psychomotor functioning, arguing that the 79-year-old is exhibiting clear signs of dementia.

Speaking during the new episode of their Shrinking Trump program, Dr Gartner said, "Some of the more evidence that we've been talking about recently has been his psychomotor performance, that we're seeing a deterioration in his motor performance, which also goes with dementia because with dementia there's a deterioration of all faculties, all functions."

This comes as Trump "frantically" tries to hide the back of his hand amid worries about his health.

His public demeanor and language and verbal dysfunction are the first things we see, the expert continued, adding that Trump's motor ability is now beginning to deteriorate, reported the Mirror.

25 COUNTRIES SUSPEND POSTAL SERVICES TO US OVER TRUMP TARIFFS: UN AGENCY

Diary Times Desk : UN agency responsible for the postal sector said on Tuesday that 25 of its member states have suspended goods consignments to the United States amid uncertainty after President Donald Trump's administration scrapped a customs tax rule that exempted small packages from duty. The Universal Postal Union, a Switzerland-based agency promoting cooperation between postal services of its 192 member countries, said it conveyed its concerns about disruption in a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio on 25 August, 2025. It did not name the countries, although Australia, Norway and Switzerland and others have already announced suspensions publicly. The news comes after Trump's administration said last month it would suspend the global "de minimis" exemption, which also allows minimal paperwork, for international shipments under \$800, effective August 29.



TRUMP REPEATEDLY PRAISES KIM JONG UN DURING MEET WITH SOUTH KOREA PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk : In his first meeting with new South Korean President Lee Jae Myung at the Oval Office, Donald Trump brought up someone he claimed he knew "better than anybody," before adding "almost, other than his sister." The US President was talking about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the man Trump met three times during his first term in the White House, The Guardian reported.

Myung first looked on, smiled and then continued to patiently listen to Trump, who said: "I'd like to have a meeting. I look forward to meeting with Kim Jong-un in the appropriate future."

The 79-year-old added that someday he'd see him, adding, "He was very good with me." Trump told reporters, saying he hoped the talks would take place this year. He said he had a "very good" relationship with the North Korean leader and hoped it "stays that way". Asked if he would go back to the DMZ - demilitarised zone between North and South Korea - Trump once again broke into a soliloquy: "I'd love to ... I spent a lot of time with him, talking about things that we aren't probably supposed to talk about."

MODI REJECTS TRUMP CALLS, REPORT SAYS US PRESIDENT DIALED AT LEAST FOUR TIMES

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rejected multiple calls from US President Donald Trump amid an escalating rift between the two countries. The revelation came even as Washington doubled down on plans to impose harsh secondary tariffs against imports from India - pushing the overall levy to a whopping 50%. New Delhi has pushed back vehemently against the "unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable" decision and repeatedly indicated plans to maintain its ties with Moscow. New Delhi had turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The US has blamed repeatedly claimed in recent days that this was funding Moscow's war in Ukraine - a charge strongly rejected by India. Multiple people including Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and former US envoy Eric Garcetti have also noted that India had been encouraged by the US to "stabilise the world energy market" by buying Russian oil until recently.

'Trump calls but Modi doesn't answer him'
According to German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine the Indian leader had rebuffed the advances of his American counterpart at least four times over the past few weeks.



HABOOB SLAMS PHOENIX WITH A TOWERING WALL OF DUST, CAUSING DAMAGE, AIRPORT DELAYS AND POWER OUTAGES

Diary Times Desk : A towering wall of dust, known meteorologically as a haboob, swallowed parts of metro Phoenix Monday evening, plunging the city into near-zero visibility.

The dust storm was quickly followed by severe thunderstorms that tore through the city, leaving behind downed trees, wind damage and widespread power outages. At Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, a connector bridge was shredded by 70 mph wind gusts.

The National Weather Service in Phoenix issued both dust storm and severe thunderstorm warnings as the system pushed into Maricopa County Monday evening. The weather service warned drivers of dangerously low visibility and urged people to "pull aside stay alive."

The Arizona Department of Transportation echoed that warning, saying there was significantly reduced visibility on I-10 and I-17 due to the dust storm and flooding on roadways, urging drivers to proceed with caution.

TRUMP SAYS HE "WILL STEP IN VERY STRONGLY" IF RUSSIA, UKRAINE SKIP TALKS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Monday warned of "great consequences" if Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fail to hold talks, while asserting that the ongoing war would not have occurred under his leadership. On being asked if there will be consequences if the two leaders do not meet, Trump said, "... There will be great consequences... This war would have never taken place if I were President... We will see what happens over the next week or two, and at that point I will step in very strongly..." His latest warning follows remarks made last week when Trump said that he would be taking a "very important decision" in the next two weeks on the Russia-Ukraine war, hinting at the possibility of imposing "massive sanctions or tariffs" on Moscow or telling Kyiv that "it's not Washington's war." Trump said that his decision is dependent on what happens in the next two weeks and pushed for a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

DONALD TRUMP THREATENS CHINA WITH 200% TARIFFS: 'THEY HAVE TO GIVE US MAGNETS OR..'

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump threatened China on Tuesday, saying Beijing has to give Washington magnets or "we have to charge them 200% tariff or something" amid a trade dispute between the two nations. China is increasingly sensitive about rare earths and its control over supply, adding several rare earth items and magnets to its export restriction list in April in retaliation to tariff hikes by the United States. "China has to give us magnets. If they don't, we charge a 200% tariff or something. Nobody needed magnets until they convinced everybody 20 years ago let's all do magnets," he told reporters at the White House. Trump also hinted at having better leverage than China. "We are going to have a great relationship with China... They have some cards. We have incredible cards, but I don't want to play those cards. If I play those cards, that would destroy China. I am not going to play those cards," he said. The remarks came as both countries agreed on August 12 to prolong their trade truce for another 90 days to give negotiators more time to find common ground. Tariff battles between the US and China had escalated earlier this year, with Trump imposing 145% tariffs.

AS TRUMP RAMPS UP PRESSURE ON DIGITAL RULES, CAN EUROPE RESIST?

Diary Times Desk : President Trump and the European Union might have struck a trade deal, but tensions between them over technology regulation persist. Mr. Trump offered European leaders a painful reminder of that early on Tuesday morning.

As Europe slept, the American president threatened tariffs and restrictions on countries seen as unfairly regulating U.S. tech firms.

“Digital Taxes, Digital Services Legislation, and Digital Markets Regulations are all designed to harm, or discriminate against, American Technology,” he posted on Truth Social, opening a new and potentially contentious chapter in the world’s continuing trade fight.

The post does not call out the European Union specifically, but Mr. Trump and other key administration officials have made it clear for months that they are unhappy with how the 27-nation bloc treats big American technology companies including X and Meta.

Republicans including Vice President JD Vance have criticized an E.U. law, called the Digital Services Act, that requires social media companies to more aggressively police their platforms for illegal content and disinformation. Mr. Vance and other officials argue the law places an unfair burden on American platforms and undercuts free speech.

AUSTRALIA ACCUSES IRAN OF
ANTISEMITIC ATTACKS IN COUNTRY,
EXPELS AMBASSADOR

Diary Times Desk : Australia on Tuesday expelled Iran’s ambassador, accusing the country of being behind antisemitic attacks in Melbourne and Sydney. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had earlier announced that the country would be taking the step.

The Iranian ambassador and three other officials have been given seven days to leave Australia, reported news agency AFP.

Australia reportedly witnessed a spate of antisemitic attacks in the recent past, ever since the beginning of the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2023. Police reportedly arrested 40 people over antisemitic offences and eight in relation to arson, a Reuters report from January this year said.

“These were extraordinary and dangerous acts of aggression orchestrated by a foreign nation on Australian soil,” Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told a press briefing on Tuesday.

‘MOST STABLE TIES’: XI JINPING’S BIG
STATEMENT AS CHINA SET TO HOST
PUTIN, PM MODI IN GRAND SHOW OF
SOLIDARITY

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to travel to China next week to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, his first visit to the country in more than seven years. The meeting, hosted by President Xi Jinping, is expected to project Global South solidarity, give sanctions-hit Russia another diplomatic platform, and underline Beijing’s growing clout.

Secretary (West) in the ministry of external affairs Tanmay Lal confirmed that on Tuesday that Modi will visit Tianjin, China, to participate in the SCO Summit at Xi Jinping’s invitation.

The Prime Minister is expected to hold some bilateral meetings during the Summit’s sidelines, the official said.

SRI LANKA EX-PRESIDENT
GETS BAIL 4 DAYS AFTER
ARREST IN STATE FUNDS’
MISUSE CASE

Diary Times Desk : Sri Lanka’s former president Ranil Wickremesinghe was granted bail on Tuesday, four days after his arrest on the charge of misusing state funds for an overseas visit.

The ex-leader, 76, was arrested on Friday, accused of spending \$55,000 in government funds on a 2023 stopover in Britain while returning from attending the G77 summit in Havana and the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Colombo Fort Magistrate Nilupuli Lankapura ordered Wickremesinghe’s release on a five-million-rupee (\$16,600) bond after a lengthy hearing held under tight security, including elite troops.

A few hundred protesters had gathered outside the court earlier in the day in support of Wickremesinghe, and were met by riot police who held back the crowd.

US AND RUSSIA DISCUSS
ENERGY DEALS IN THE
SIDELINES OF PEACE DEAL
WITH UKRAINE



Diary Times Desk : U.S. and Russian government officials discussed several energy deals on the sidelines of negotiations this month that sought to achieve peace in Ukraine, according to five sources familiar with the talks.

These deals were put forward as incentives to encourage the Kremlin to agree to peace in Ukraine and for Washington to ease sanctions on Russia, they said.

Russia has been cut off from most international investment in its energy sector and from striking major deals due to sanctions following the Ukraine invasion that began in February 2022.

The officials discussed the possibility of Exxon Mobil re-entering Russia’s Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project, three of the sources said.

They also raised the prospect of Russia purchasing U.S. equipment for its LNG projects, such as Arctic LNG 2, which is under western sanctions, four sources said.

None of the sources could be named because they were not authorised to speak publicly on the negotiations.

Another idea was for the U.S. to purchase nuclear-powered icebreaker vessels from Russia, Reuters reported on August 15.

WHAT ARE DOUBLE-TAP STRIKES THAT ISRAEL USED TO HIT A
HOSPITAL?

Diary Times Desk : Israel has killed 20 people, including journalists and health workers, in a strike on Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza Strip.

In fact, it was two strikes that hit the hospital in Khan Younis on Monday 10 minutes apart about 10am (07:00 GMT).

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement released in English only that Israel deeply regretted what he characterised as a “tragic mishap” without explaining how Israel had hit the same hospital not once but twice in apparent error.

So what is a double-tap strike? Is it legal? Here’s what we know:

What happened at Nasser Hospital?

The first strike hit the top storey of the hospital where Reuters cameraman Hussam al-Masri was operating the news agency’s live feed.

The second strike was filmed live as it killed rescue workers and journalists who had run to the scene to help after the initial strike.

Israel told foreign doctors volunteering at Nasser Hospital to leave the facility before the attack for “some arbitrary reason” and instructed them not to return until the next day, Dr Mimi Syed, who has done two volunteer missions to Gaza, told CNN, calling Netanyahu’s statement of a “tragic mishap” “absolutely untrue”.



AMID HEAVY RAIN, ALL SCHOOLS SHUT IN PUNJAB FROM
AUGUST 27-30

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab government has decided to shut down schools for four days, beginning Wednesday, due to heavy rains and flood threat.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann took to X to announce the closure. He said that due to continuous heavy rainfall over the last few days and the Meteorological Department's forecast of more heavy rain in the coming days, all government and private primary, secondary and senior secondary schools in the state will remain closed from August 27 to August 30.



PUNJABI SINGER MANKIRAT
AULAKH TARGETED IN
EXTORTION BID, ACCUSED
ARRESTED AT DELHI AIRPORT



Diary Times Desk : Police arrested Khudda Jassu resident Harjinder Singh, alias Ravinder Singh, for an extortion bid and for threatening Punjabi singer Mankirat Singh Aulakh. Cops said Harjinder was arrested from Delhi International Airport as he was trying to fly abroad.

"The suspect has lived in Italy for some time and was again looking to flee abroad. He has been taken into custody and more revelations are likely to occur," police officials said.

A case under Sections 318(5) and 351(2) of the BNS has been registered at the Mataur police station on August 21. Aulakh received threat calls from unknown numbers on his management's phone number for the past few days. Police officials said they were verifying the phone number.

Sources said the threats came in the form of voice calls and WhatsApp messages on his management team's phone number. The caller was speaking in Punjabi and even threatened his family members by sending pictures of Aulakh's home and vehicles. The controversial singer has gotten threat calls from gangsters in the past also.

HEALTH MINISTER BALBIR SINGH
ORDERS PROBE AFTER INFANT'S HEAD
FOUND AT PATIALA HOSPITAL

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh has ordered a thorough inquiry into an incident wherein a dog was reportedly seen carrying an infant's head near ward number 4 at Rajindra Hospital, Patiala, around 5.30 pm on Tuesday.

Upon being informed, Dr Balbir Singh directed the hospital authorities and local police to investigate the matter. He informed that the recovered head has been handed over to the forensic team for examination.

Medical Superintendent of Rajindra Hospital, Dr Vishal Chopra, provided a preliminary report, stating that all babies delivered recently are present in the wards and no newborn is missing from the hospital.

He further informed that there were three child deaths reported in the hospital recently, and all bodies were handed over to their respective family members after completing all necessary document formalities, including proper signatures.

FLOOD ALERT: RAVI AND BEAS REACH
DANGEROUS LEVELS IN PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : In a concerning development, the water levels in the Ravi and Beas rivers have surged to dangerous heights, impacting agricultural lands and border villages in Punjab. Following the release of 90,000 cusecs of water from the Ranjit Sagar Dam, the Ravi river reached a level of three lakh cusecs.

MLA Dalbir Singh Tong, who recently visited areas along the Beas river in his Baba Bakala constituency, reported that approximately 5,000 acres of agricultural land have been inundated. He emphasized the urgency of the situation as local farmers face significant threats to their livelihoods.

Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, MLA from Ajnala, accused Pakistan of constructing high studs along the Ravi, allegedly diverting water flow into India with the intent to cause flooding. He urged dairy farmers to relocate their cattle to safer areas and assured them of government compensation.

Dhaliwal's visit to border villages such as Ghonewala, Daria Musa and Kot Razada revealed that the rising water poses a risk not only to agriculture, but also to BSF outposts situated beyond the border fence. He expressed concern that Pakistan's actions are part of a broader strategy to economically destabilise border villagers, who rely on agriculture for their income.

PUNJAB ON HIGH ALERT;
SWOLLEN BEAS FLOODS 35
VILLAGES IN HOSHIARPUR
AFTER MONSOON
MAYHEM IN HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : Continuous rainfall for the third day in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, along with the release of surplus water from the Pong and Bhakra dams, has caused the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers and seasonal rivulets to swell, prompting the Punjab government to issue a high alert.

Deputy Commissioners of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Pathankot, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Fazilka have been asked to stay prepared for any emergency.

The directive came during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary KAP Sinha on Tuesday morning.

This has led to flooding in several low-lying areas of Punjab, particularly affecting districts like Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, and Fazilka.

In response, local administrations have ordered the closure of schools and colleges till August 28 as a precautionary measure. Several villages, especially in the Tanda region, remain inundated.

FARIDKOT'S SIFT KAUR
SAMRA WINS GOLD AT ASIAN
SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Diary Times Desk : Indian Olympian Sift Kaur Samra once again brought glory to the nation by clinching the individual gold medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the 16th Asian Shooting Championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, today.

The 23-year-old shooter topped the eight-shooter final with a score of 459.2, narrowly edging out China's Yujie Yang (458.8) and Japan's Misaki Nobata (448.2). Fellow Indian Ashi Chouksey finished seventh with 402.8. Earlier, both Samra and Ashi had impressed in the qualification round, finishing second and fifth respectively, before Samra stormed into the final as the top contender.

This latest victory adds to Sift's growing legacy. At the Paris 2024 Olympics, she scripted history by winning India's first-ever medal in women's 50m rifle 3 positions, securing a bronze with a brilliant performance under pressure. Her Olympic medal established her as one of India's most consistent and dependable rifle shooters on the global stage. What makes Sift's journey even more inspiring is her sacrifice of medical education to pursue shooting.

KANGRA DIST ADMN
SOUNDS ALERT; NDRF,
SDRF TEAMS DEPLOYED

Diary Times Desk : The Kangra district administration has sounded an alert following a red warning for heavy rainfall on Tuesday and directed all field officers to remain on duty to ensure effective disaster management.

Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa said all Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars have been asked to stay in the field for prompt relief and rehabilitation measures. “No laxity will be tolerated in disaster management work,” he said after reviewing the situation on Monday evening. The water level of the Beas river is being monitored regularly in coordination with Pong Dam authorities, he said, adding that the NDRF and the SDRF teams have been deployed in Indora subdivision to handle any emergency. The administration has urged people to stay away from rivers and streams, avoid unnecessary travel and remain in safe places.

All educational institutions, including government and private schools, colleges, universities, technical institutes and Anganwadi centres, will remain closed on August 26 due to the red alert. The revenue officers have been directed to provide immediate relief to the affected families, he said.

DALAI LAMA’S HAVEN
BATTLES ISOLATION AS
ROUTES COLLAPSE

Diary Times Desk : McLeodganj, the serene Himalayan town that draws seekers from around the world as the home of the Dalai Lama, is today grappling with an unprecedented crisis. The very roads that carry pilgrims, tourists and locals to this spiritual hub have given way to the fury of prolonged monsoon rains, exposing years of neglect, poor planning and fragile geography. The town’s main artery, National Highway 503, has been battered beyond recognition. Stretching from the War Memorial to McLeodganj, large portions have caved in, while protective retaining walls have collapsed. Last week, matters turned critical when an entire section near the bus stand simply sank.

BJP HOLDS TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICE-BEARERS

Diary Times Desk : A one-day workshop of the BJP state organisation concluded at the party office in Una city today. The meeting was organised to groom the newly elected office-bearers at the mandal, district and state levels.

State BJP in-charge Srikant Sharma, co-incharge Sanjay Tandon, state party president Rajeev Bindal, Rajya Sabha MP and state general secretary Sikandar Kumar, former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur were the keynote speakers at the training workshop. Naina Devi MLA and state spokesperson Randhir Sharma, while addressing mediapersons, said that the BJP organisational elections for the booth, mandal, district and state bodies had been completed and the workshop was organised to educate and inform the new office-bearers about their assignments and the upcoming programmes of the party in the state and at the national level.

Randhir Sharma said that Anurag welcomed the newly elected office-bearers and wished them success in their assignments. He added that workers were the backbone of the BJP and exhorted them to work diligently for the party.

ECO-TOURISM INITIATIVE AT
BHURESHWAR MAHADEV TEMPLE TO
OPEN ON SEPT 15

Diary Times Desk : A new eco-tourism initiative is set to welcome pilgrims and tourists in Pachhad subdivision of Sirmaur district, where the Forest Department has developed a green park at the historic Bhureshwar Mahadev Temple in Kathar Panchayat. The park, spread over five bighas, will be formally opened to visitors on September 15.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Rajgarh, Sameer Raj, said the Bhureshwar Mahadev Temple remains crowded with devotees and tourists throughout the year and the project has been undertaken to provide them with better facilities. Under the eco-tourism scheme, the Forest Department has created a landscaped park featuring a variety of flowers, medicinal herbs and ornamental plants. The initiative aims to offer visitors a place to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings after offering prayers at the temple. For added convenience, a canteen has also been constructed within the premises.

HPU SIGNS PACT WITH TAIWAN
VARSIITY

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yuan Ze University, Taiwan, for educational cooperation. The MOU was signed by HPU VC Prof Mahavir Singh and Prof Ching-Jong Liao, president of Yuan Ze University.

The universities will collaborate to pursue faculty and staff for research, lectures, discussion and other academic pursuits. Reciprocal exchange of undergraduate or graduate students for study and research, exchange of published information, collaboration in training programmes, internships or co-teaching. Prof Singh said, “With the MoU, the universities aim to promote international educational cooperation and education exchanges. Both universities will endeavour to cooperate in joint educational programmes and research projects. To the extent feasible, both universities will encourage direct contact and cooperation between their faculty members, departments and research institutes under provision of this agreement.”

INCESSANT RAINS IN SOLAN LEAD TO CLOSURE OF 23 LINK ROADS

Diary Times Desk : Incessant rains in Solan have led to the closure of 23 link roads. The Parwanoo-Dharampur section of National Highway-5 faced minor traffic disruptions with two lanes closed following landslides.

At Gujjarhatti village in Nalagarh sub-division a primary school was got vacated by the administration after landslide occurred in its rear portion as well as along a side. The staff and students were shifted to a panchayat bhawan along with the entire paraphernalia as a precaution to avert any untoward incident. The local administration also got vacated the house and two shops and directed those residing in its vicinity to remain alert. Naib tehsildar Krishan Chauhan took stock of the situation along with the panchayat pradhan. They directed the villagers to inform them in case of any eventuality.

All private and government educational institutions in the district were closed today following an orange alert issued by the weather department. With prediction for heavy rain, landslides and cloudburst, all aanganwadis and vocational institutes were brought under the ambit of this order. In view of the imminent waterlogging and closure of link roads, the Deputy Commissioner, Solan, has directed the students to observe a holiday while asking teachers and the administrative staff to report for duty.



Thousands Of Jobs At Risk

Thousands of jobs are in jeopardy after the White House halted construction on a nearly complete wind farm in Rhode Island, the latest volley by the Trump administration against wind power.

Danish clean energy company Orsted, one of the project's developers, received an order late Friday from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to immediately halt work on a wind project off the coast of Rhode Island that was 80% complete. Acting BOEM Director Matthew Giacona cited "concerns related to the protection of national security interests of the United States," but did not mention specifics.

Those involved in the project say pulling the plug threatens not only higher energy costs for residents, but thousands of jobs.

The wind project supports "more than 2,500 US jobs across construction, operations, shipbuilding, and manufacturing," Tory Mazzola, head of communications and public affairs for Orsted Americas,

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When asked about job loss, BOEM said it had no additional comment. The White House referred CNN back to the Interior Department, which oversees BOEM.

President Donald Trump, who has raged against wind turbines for many years, has released a series of executive orders and statements during his second term undermining wind power.

"We started to use wind," Trump said Monday when discussing US energy. "Wind doesn't work." Called Revolution Wind, the stalled project is located in federal waters 15 miles south of Rhode Island and began construction under the Biden administration in 2023. Orsted estimates a completed project would provide enough energy to power upwards of 350,000 homes across Rhode Island and Connecticut. It was scheduled to be finished next year.

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, a Democrat, blasted the decision in a Monday press conference, claiming halting the project would hurt the state's economy and hamper regional grid reliability.

Connecticut and Rhode Island residents rank third and fifth, respectively, in prices paid for residential electricity, according to latest data from the US Energy Information Administration.

Local labor leaders say the Trump administration is also cutting off high-paying union jobs.

Patrick Crowley, president of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, called the order "a betrayal of Rhode Island's working-class."

"A lot of our members... voted for this administration, and this isn't what they voted for," said Michael Sabitoni, president of the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents many of the unions working on Revolution Wind. "They didn't vote for them to put them on the unemployment line."

Sabitoni said Friday's order didn't come as a surprise. The unions have been concerned about the "signals" the administration has been sending, but he called cancelling a nearly-completed project an act of "recklessness."

"To stop a project that's 80% complete, lay off hundreds and hundreds of tradesmen and women and other people that are supplying that industry for no apparent reason... makes no sense," he said. "It's one of the most asinine moves I've ever seen in my career. And I've been doing this for 38 years."

In April, a similar stop-work order was issued for another offshore wind project in waters surrounding New York. That order was eventually lifted in May, allowing the construction to continue, but at a cost of \$955 million to the company behind the project.



Gordon Ebanks
Lamont suggested Connecticut leaders could make a deal with the Trump administration to get the project back up and running, since it's so close to being finished.

Trump vs. Pritzker

A political feud that could trigger

President Donald Trump and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker are each the type of foe the other loves to hate.

On one level, their escalating showdown over the president's threat to send the National Guard onto the streets of Chicago is a convenient political feud.

Trump thrives when he has an enemy to target. His political appeal is based on the premise that he is stronger than anyone who tries to challenge or restrain him.

Pritzker is a potential Democratic presidential hopeful. His party is pinning for someone to show defiance to Trump. And since one of his possible rivals for the 2028 Democratic nomination, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, is leading the fight back, it's good politics to show he's just as tough.

But this clash runs deeper than a short-term political spat. It might develop into a full-blown crisis between a Republican White House and a major Democratic-run city and state. Likely legal challenges could turn on core values of republicanism in a dispute between a president with

The president's determination to deploy the National Guard in the Windy City feels like a calibrated escalation in his testing of the limits of executive power and a way of normalizing the idea of khaki-clad soldiers conducting domestic law enforcement.

a monarchical sense of power and a state that rejects federal duress.

When Pritzker on Monday told Trump, "Do not come to Chicago. You are neither wanted here nor needed here," he was echoing tensions fundamental to the American system of governance that were stirred at notable moments of US history — for instance, in the run-up to the Civil War and around federal enforcement of civil rights laws.

Trump has made no secret that he's eyeing Chicago as his next test case for a law-and-order crackdown in which he dispatched troops onto the streets of Los Angeles and Washington, DC, with the performative zeal of a demagogue.

"They say ... 'He's a dictator. He's a dictator,'" Trump said Monday. "A lot of people are saying, 'Maybe we'd like a dictator.' I don't like a dictator. I'm not a dictator," Trump added in remarks unlikely to ease concern over what he plans next.



When he sent the Guard into Los Angeles in June, Trump at least had the patina of an excuse that he was protecting federal buildings following demonstrations that erupted in June against his deportation sweeps. Washington, DC, is a federal district, and affords Trump significant leeway — within limits he may soon test — to wield power.

But a decision to defy Pritzker, who commands the Illinois National Guard, and to federalize reservists in the absence of an unusual emergency would represent another step toward strongman rule. It would draw vigorous legal challenges from state and city authorities.

"What the president is proposing is military occupation of the city of Chicago and cities across America," Brandon Johnson, the city's mayor, told CNN's Anderson Cooper on Monday.

Generally, the president has the authority to deploy the National Guard over the objections of a state governor only in the rarest of situations. Title 10 of the US Code allows the president to deploy the reservists in the case of invasion, to suppress rebellion or to execute the laws of the United States.

INFA

Apple's Big

IPHONE LAUNCH IS COMING ON SEPTEMBER 9

Apple is holding an event on September 9, the company said in an invitation to the press Tuesday, where it will likely announce the iPhone 17 and new Apple Watches, among other potential new devices.

Apple rarely shares details about future products before announcing them, but the company has been introducing new iPhones in September since 2012. The invitation includes the tagline "Awe dropping."

Apple's September event, which will take place at the company's Apple Park campus in Cupertino, California, is largely considered the tech giant's most important moment of the year. There is anticipation for a new iPhone, Apple's biggest revenue driver, but only time will tell if consumers decide it's worth shelling out for the latest model at a time when purse strings are tight.

Meanwhile, Wall Street will look to the announcements as a barometer for whether Apple is still an innovator, especially in the age of AI.

The stakes are especially high this year after Apple delayed a major upgrade to its Siri digital helper, one that would have helped bring it up to speed with OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. Investors cheered Apple's July earnings results on strong iPhone sales despite its AI setbacks.

This year, Apple is betting that it can woo consumers with a super slim iPhone, according to Bloomberg. The company is expected to release a new model that's essentially the MacBook Air of iPhone: much sleeker, but potentially at the expense of battery life and the camera, the report says.

Giving the iPhone a new look could potentially reinvigorate interest in smartphones at a time when most people only upgrade out of necessity, as data from market research firm Consumer Intelligence Research Partners shows. While virtually every other smartphone maker has released foldable phones that bend in half, the iPhone's look hasn't changed much in years.

Apple's attempts to entice shoppers with iPhones in different sizes have largely fallen flat. Apple scrapped the iPhone Mini from its lineup after just two generations. And the larger iPhone 16 Plus only accounted for 5-10% of Apple's shipments as of July 2024, according to TF International Securities' Ming-Chi Kuo, an analyst known for his Apple product forecasts. He also predicts Apple will retire the Plus model from its iPhone lineup in 2025.



Besides a new, sleeker variant, Apple is expected to announce a standard version of the iPhone 17 alongside new Pro models. Apple typically upgrades its standard models with new processors and incremental improvements to the camera and battery life. Compared to the standard, the Pro models offer more advanced cameras, bigger screens, slightly more powerful processors and a titanium-built design.

The splashy event comes as Apple continues to navigate the impact of President Donald Trump's tariffs. CEO Tim Cook told analysts in July that he expects Apple to incur \$1.1 billion in tariff-related costs during the September quarter.

Apple shifted production of most of its US-bound iPhones to India to reduce reliance on China, the beating heart of its smartphone production operations. And although India has been hit with 50% tariffs, smartphones are currently exempt.

Trump has also hinted that Apple wouldn't be subject to the upcoming 100% tariffs on semiconductors. The president has said companies that have committed to building in the US would not face a charge. Apple said earlier this month it would invest \$600 billion in expanding its US operations, which includes creating a domestic supply chain for its chips.

REPORT: BAYERN MUNICH MONITORING ANTONY’S SITUATION

Diary Times Desk : Just a few years ago, a highly coveted Brazilian came out of Ajax. Antony quickly became one of the highest rated young wingers, with his dazzling display of dribbling and ability to score. However high he was regarded, it was a highly criticized transfer to Manchester United that was believed to be a large overpay at 95 million euros.

Valued at just 35 million euros at the time of his transfer to the Red Devils, Antony was always doomed to live up to his price tag. Antony quickly became one of the most mocked players on the planet. However, the Brazilian was given another lease to life in a loan to Real Betis last season. Antony quickly impressed and is now looking to rejuvenate his career after flashes of greatness with the Spanish side.



I'M NOT SURE I SAW A FOOTBALL MATCH – SLOT

Diary Times Desk : The Reds' 16-year-old forward Rio Ngunmoha scored a 100th-minute winner in a breathless match during which Newcastle fought back from 2-0 down with 10 men.

Opta's statistics indicate the ball was in play for 40.8% of the match – the lowest percentage in a Premier League match since February 2010.

"I'm not too sure if I saw a football match," Slot told Sky Sports after the game.

"It was set-piece after set-piece, long throws. It didn't have a lot to do with tactics. But I liked a lot how we stood strong."

The match was played out against the backdrop of Alexander Isak's desire to leave Newcastle for Liverpool, which contributed to a feisty atmosphere inside the stadium.

That translated onto the pitch, with Newcastle's Anthony Gordon shown a red card for a rash challenge on Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk shortly before half-time.

There were 32 fouls in total – the most in a Premier League game so far this season.

WHY CADILLAC CHOSE VALTTERI BOTTAS AND SERGIO PEREZ OVER AMERICAN DRIVERS FOR F1 2026

Diary Times Desk : "Mick Schumacher snubbed" is one of the more outrageous – if suitably attention-grabbing – headline takes on the news that Valtteri Bottas and Sergio Perez will drive for Cadillac when the General Motors brand appears on the F1 grid next season.

True, Schumacher Jr is understood to have been one of the names potentially up for consideration, along with Franco Colapinto, Zhou Guanyu, Felipe Drugovich, Jack Doohan, Frederik Vesti and Jak Crawford. But that is beginning to sound dangerously like a list, and team principal Graeme Lowdown has repeatedly said there was never a list.

Perhaps, then, we can characterise the process as window-shopping. American humourist PJ O'Rourke once published a collection of works entitled Age and Guile Beat Youth, Innocence and A Bad Haircut, but in Bottas Cadillac has brought in a combination of these theoretically juxtaposed elements. Perez too offers a wealth of experience, along with a more restrained barnet (for now). They are knowns, as opposed to the Rumsfeldian tangle of known unknowns represented in the list which isn't a list. Or, in the case of Mick, a known propensity for bringing on large repair bills.

EMOTIONAL WILLIAMS IMPRESSES IN DEFEAT ON US OPEN RETURN

Diary Times Desk : The American icon's performance in a gallant first-round defeat by Czech 11th seed Karolina Muchova suggested there is more mileage left in the tank. But, at the end of a moving night, the seven-time Grand Slam champion did not want to look too far ahead. Instead she reflected on how she has battled back from serious health issues to push the world's best players to their limit – against the odds. "Getting back on the court was about giving myself a chance to play more healthy," Williams said in an emotional post-match news conference.

"When you play unhealthy, it's in your mind. It's not just how you feel. You get stuck in your mind too. So it was nice to be freer." Williams tailed off in what proved to be her final answer, becoming visibly upset before the interview was cut short following a long silence.

US OPEN: BUZZCUT AND QUICK WIN, ALCARAZ KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN

Diary Times Desk : Carlos Alcaraz, who often poses questions for which his opponents have no answer to, had a query for the crowd at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York on Monday night. "I gotta ask the people if they like the new haircut or not," Alcaraz said during the post-match interview. "I think they like it." The roar provided the answer. The Spaniard walked onto court for his first round US Open match sporting an all-purple kit. And a buzzcut that has created quite a stir at the Billie Jean King Tennis Centre. The tournament's official X handle called it "2000 David Beckham". Frances Tiafoe said it was "definitely terrible," although a laughing Alcaraz claimed the US player had told him it looked good. But it did little to distract him as he put on a clinical display to beat Reilly Opelka 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 in just over two hours in the first round. For a player who wears a wristband as the only piece of accessory, the new haircut was quite a shock to most. Even the English part of the Spaniard's post-match press conference, which an official dubbed "the beauty portion of the press conference," was filled more with questions about the new look than the match. "I felt like my hair was really long already," Alcaraz said, trying to explain it away as a haircut gone wrong. "Before the tournament, I really wanted to get a haircut. My brother misunderstood the machine. He cut it and the only way to fix it was to shave it."

BTS' V SMOKED HIS CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH AT DODGERS GAME

Diary Times Desk : ARMY will have to wait until next year to hear new music from BTS. But in the meantime, the K-pop superstar boy band's diehards can slake their thirst by watching member V smoke the ceremonial first pitch at a Los Angeles Dodgers game on Monday (Aug. 25).

Taking the field to screams from the Dodger faithful, V, wearing baggy, acid-washed jeans, a No. 7 Blake Snell jersey (with a custom "V" on the back) tucked into his pants and a blue Dodgers cap, leftie Taehyung took a small bow after his introduction and hurled a solid pitch down the middle to catcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto; watch a video of the pitch here.

The Dodgers posted a photo album of the special moment – calling the singer their "mVp" – featuring action shots, a snap with Yamamoto, as well as photos with No. 25 Tommy Edman, who plays on the South Korean national team in international games, and pics with pitchers Clayton Kershaw and Tyler Glasnow, outfielder Kike Hernandez and a snap with the team's 2024 championship trophy.

