

NEWS IN BRIEF

**"HINDUPHOBIC":
HINDU GROUP
SLAMS US
OFFICIAL'S
'PROFITTEERING
BRAHMS' JIBE**
Diary Times Desk :

A Hindu advocacy group in the United States has demanded President Donald Trump fire his senior trade advisor, Peter Navarro, over his "Brahms profiteering at the expense of the Indian people" remark, which was made in the context of India buying discounted oil from Russia. HinduPACT's American Hindu Against Defamation branded the remarks "inappropriate" and "Hinduphobic". The White House official's language "constitutes not only a cultural violation but also a reckless provocation that endangers the dignity of over a billion Hindus", the group said. "It (Mr Navarro's remark) is not a 'critique'; it is a colonial-era trope recycled to depict India as unjust," AHAD declared. "This is not foreign policy. It's weaponised Hinduphobia," the group's Executive Chair, Ajay Shah, said.

**HINDU COLLEGE
RETAINS TOP SPOT
IN COLLEGE
CATEGORY; HANS
RAJ, KIRORI MAL
BREAK INTO TOP
5: NIRF 2025
RANKINGS**
Diary Times Desk :

The Ministry of Education (MoE) Thursday released the NIRF India Rankings 2025 for 17 categories, including colleges, with Hindu College maintaining its top position for the second consecutive year. Miranda House followed in second place, while Hans Raj College and Kirori Mal College made debut entries into the top five, signaling a reshaping of Delhi University's hierarchy.

In 2025, six of the top seven colleges are DU institutions — Hindu, Miranda, Hans Raj, Kirori Mal, St Stephen's, and Atma Ram Sanatan Dharm.

Meanwhile, Presidency College (Chennai), once third in 2022 and 2023, has fallen out of the top 10. Loyola College (Chennai), ranked as high as third in 2021, has also exited. Lady Shri Ram College for Women, second in 2021, slipped steadily before disappearing from the 2025 top 10 list. Regional players continue to fight for space, with St Xavier's (Kolkata).

**GST
RATIONALISATION**
**"BIGGEST REFORM OF INDEPENDENT INDIA":
PM MODI APPLAUDS GST RATIONALISATION**


Diary Times Desk : The rationalisation of Goods and Services Tax -- which is expected to put money in the pockets of the middle class by slashing tax on multiple items and scrapping it altogether for crucial items including bread and life saving drugs -- is the "biggest reform since Independence," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today. The two tax slabs which would be operational instead of the current four, will come into effect from September 22 -- the first day of Navratri.

"People will start benefiting from first day of Navratri. This time, Dhanteras will be more vibrant. This is the biggest reform of independent India," PM Modi said. During his address at the National Teachers Awards, PM Modi said he had promised "double dhamaka" of next-generation GST reforms before Diwali and Chhath from the ramparts of the Red Fort. "Without timely changes, we cannot give our country its rightful place in today's global context.

I had said from the Red Fort on 15 August this time that it is crucial to undertake next-generation reforms to make India self-reliant. I had also promised the countrymen that there would be a double blast of happiness before this Diwali and Chhath Puja," he said. He said the GST reforms incorporated "Panch Ratna" (five gems) - simpler tax system, better quality of life for citizens, boost for consumption and growth, encouraging investments and job creation through ease of doing business and strengthening cooperative federalism for developed India - to the country's economy. He also attacked the Opposition Congress, pointing out that when they were in power at the Centre, they taxed anything and everything -- daily essentials, food and medicine. The rationalization of GST, announced yesterday by the GST Council, has slashed taxes on multiple items -- including food, medicines, essential items, farm goods, green energy, small cars and bikes. Crucial items including life and medical insurance, life saving drugs and food items including dairy products and bread have been made tax free.

**PM MODI'S JOINT CALL WITH EU LEADERS, UKRAINE, TRUMP
TARIFFS DISCUSSED**

Diary Times Desk : India and European Union on Thursday pledged to seal their much-awaited free trade deal by December with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the 27-nation bloc's top leaders Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen pledging to promoting a rules-based global order, amid Washington's disruptive trade policies.

In a joint phone call with Costa and von der Leyen, Modi reiterated India's consistent support for peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and early restoration of peace and stability. The leaders underlined the role of the India-EU strategic partnership in jointly addressing global issues, fostering stability, and promoting a rules-based order for mutual prosperity, an Indian readout said.

The phone talks among the three leaders came as India looks to blunt the impact of the Trump administration's 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods. The three leaders also discussed holding the next India-EU summit in India at an early date of mutual convenience and PM Modi invited Costa and von der Leyen for the same. The Ukraine conflict also figured in the conversation with von der Leyen saying in a social media post that India has an important role to play in bringing Russia to end "its war of aggression and helping create a path towards peace". The European Commission president welcomed India's continued engagement with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "This war carries global security consequences and undermines economic stability. So it is a risk to the entire world."


**KUKIS OPEN KEY MANIPUR HIGHWAY,
ARMS-DOWN AGREEMENT WITH
INSURGENTS EXTENDED**


Diary Times Desk : A key organisation representing a section of the Kuki and Zomi tribes in Manipur has decided to open the state's lifeline, National Highway-02, for free movement of commuters and cargo two years after ethnic clashes broke out in the state bordering Myanmar.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in a statement today confirmed the assurance given by the Churachandpur-based Kuki Zo Council (KZC) of allowing free movement, ahead of a strong buzz that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Manipur soon.

The MHA also announced the renewal of the controversial Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with two umbrella organisations representing a mix of two dozen Kuki, Zomi and Hmar insurgent groups in Manipur, with the condition that the territorial integrity of Manipur will not be touched. The tripartite SoO agreement signed between the Kuki insurgent groups and the Centre and the state government agreed on the need for a negotiated solution to bring lasting peace and stability in Manipur. The SoO agreement was first formally signed in 2008. Every year, a joint monitoring group reviews the agreement and decides its future. Broadly, the SoO agreement says the insurgents are to stay at designated camps and their weapons kept in locked storage, to be monitored regularly.

**"ILLEGAL TREE FELLING IN HILLS": SUPREME
COURT NOTICE TO FLOOD-HIT STATES**


Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court has turned its focus to illegal tree-felling in the wake of landslides and floods across northern India. Pointing to the videos of timber floats in the floodwaters of Himachal Pradesh, the court has observed that there has been illegal felling of trees in the hills.

Several states are witnessing a dire flood situation across northern India, with Punjab facing its worst deluge in nearly four decades. Chief Justice of India BR Gavai has noted the situation as "unprecedented" while expressing concern over illegal tree-felling.

"We have seen unprecedented landslides and floods in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab. From the media reports it is noticed that in the flood a huge number of wood were flowing along. Prima facie, it appears that there has been illegal felling of trees going on up hills," said CJI Gavai.

The remark came during a hearing on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on environmental degradation in the hills. The bench of CJI Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran stressed it is a serious matter and sought a reply from the centre and the states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab, within two weeks. It has also asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to contact the concerned authorities and find out the reasons for such a huge number of logs floating around in the water. Mr Mehta said that he will contact the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and request him for detailed information.

GST RATIONALISATION
**"CONGRESS EVEN TAXED
CHILDREN'S TOFFEEES": PM
MODI ATTACKS OPPOSITION
ON GST**


Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking on the rationalization of Goods and Services Tax today, attacked the Opposition Congress, pointing out that they taxed anything and everything -- daily essentials, food and medicine. The rationalization has been criticised by the Congress, which called it eight years too late. It has also given questioned what brought on this sudden move, speculating about multiple issues including the coming assembly elections in Bihar and the 50 per cent tariff imposed by US President Donald Trump.

PM Modi's response today was sharp. "Before I came in 2014, whether it was kitchen utensils or agricultural things, or medicines, and even life insurance, the Congress government took different taxes on such various things," he said, enumerating the items of daily use that had steep tax.

"Toothpaste, soap, hair oil - 27% tax on them. 18 to 28 per cent tax on food plates, cup plates, spoons. Tooth powder -- 17% tax... The condition was that the Congress people used to take 21% tax on children's toffees," he said.

The humble cycle, required by crores in the country carried a 17 per cent tax. "Sewing machine -- for lakhs and lakhs of mothers and sisters, it is a means of self-respect and self-employment. 16 per cent tax was imposed on this," he said. The Congress, he added, had made building houses difficult, imposing a 29 per cent tax on cement and made it "very difficult for the middle class to travel", with 14 per cent tax on hotel rooms.

**INDIA'S INFANT MORTALITY
RATE HITS HISTORIC LOW
OF 25, DOWN 80% SINCE
1971**


Diary Times Desk : Infant mortality rate (IMR) in the country has touched a record low of 25, a sharp dip of 37.5 per cent from 40 in 2013, according to the Sample Registration System report for 2023 issued by the Registrar General of India.

IMR is a key public health indicator defined as the number of deaths of children per 1,000 live births under one year -- the lower the number the better the health accessibility.

According to the SRS 2023 report, which took into account the data for 2023, IMR has registered a dramatic 80 per cent decline from 129 in 1971. It shows that Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh reported the highest levels of IMR in the country at 37. The lowest was Manipur at 3.

Kerala was the only of the 21 large states which reported a single digit IMR of 5. It is second in the country after Manipur. The report shows a countryside decline of IMR from 44 to 28 in rural areas. In urban areas of the country the numbers dipped from 27 to 18. This marks decadal drops of about 36 per cent and 33 per cent respectively.

WHY GST RATIONALISED NOW: PM'S ECONOMIC ADVISER
EXPLAINS

Diary Times Desk : The task of winding up multiple myriad taxes that used to operate before 2014 and shifting to a cleaner, more efficient system was such that testing out the new system, categorizing the goods and putting them in an appropriate tax bracket and ironing out the niggles was not possible, Sanjeev Sanyal, member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council, indicated today. Asked the most-repeated question following the rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax -- why now, eight years after implementation -- Mr Sanyal said there was "no attempt at that time to try and go back to first principles and try and understand which tax should apply to which item". This, he said, was because there were literally lakhs of items. Had they tried to freshly categorise at the time, "in addition to having a completely new system, you would also have very different tax rates for different things". So it was decided that for the period of transition, one would take "the pre-existing pre-GST tax rates and slot.



"THOSE WHO WERE RULING HERE HAVE
DONE NOTHING": OMAR ABDULLAH ON
J&K FLOODS

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday hit out at those who were at the helm of affairs in Jammu and Kashmir after 2014 floods, saying they did nothing to ensure floods do not recur in the valley. Omar Abdullah said the past 11 years were "wasted" and asserted that the situation would have been different if the Jhelum river and its flood channel had been dredged. "We will have to ask questions about what was done after the 2014 floods in Kashmir. Those who were ruling here have done nothing that would have ensured floods do not recur," Abdullah told reporters after visiting the flood-hit Lasjan area of the city. River Jhelum spilled over its banks at Shalinal Budgam district in the early hours of Thursday, leading to flooding of several low-lying areas. Omar Abdullah said the past 11 years, after 2014, were "wasted".

NIRF RANKINGS 2025: HOW MANY COLLEGES EACH STATE HAS
IN TOP 100

Diary Times Desk : The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 has redrawn the academic map of India, highlighting the institutions that lead in teaching, research and overall excellence. From Indian Institutes of Technology dominating the top positions to state universities and private institutes steadily gaining ground, this year's list captures the diversity of Indian higher education. The big question for students and parents is simple: how many colleges from my state are included in the prestigious Top 100? Here is the complete state-wise breakdown of institutions that have secured a place in the NIRF 2025 rankings.

The Ministry of Education has announced the NIRF 2025 rankings, placing Tamil Nadu at the forefront with the highest number of colleges in the Top 100. Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have also secured strong representation, while states such as Assam, Odisha and Punjab continue to showcase their growing academic presence. Below is the detailed state-wise list of institutions included in the Top 100.

BHAKRA TO RELEASE MORE WATER INTO PUNJAB AS PONG
DAM HITS FULL CAPACITY



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court has turned its focus to illegal tree-felling in the wake of landslides and floods across northern India. Pointing to the videos of timber logs floating in the floodwaters of Himachal Pradesh, the court has observed that there has been illegal felling of trees in the hills. Several states are witnessing a dire flood situation across northern India, with Punjab facing its worst deluge in nearly four decades. Chief Justice of India BR Gavai has noted the situation as "unprecedented" while expressing concern over illegal tree-felling. "We have seen unprecedented landslides and floods in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab. From the media reports it is noticed that in the flood a huge number of wood were flowing along. Prima facie, it appears that there has been illegal felling of trees going on up hills," said CJI Gavai. The remark came during a hearing on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on environmental degradation in the hills. The bench of CJI Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran stressed it is a serious matter and sought a reply from the centre and the states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab, within two weeks.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

05-09-2025

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Pisces
Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.

INDIA, SINGAPORE PLEDGE
UNITED FIGHT AGAINST
TERROR, DEEPEN TIES ON
60TH ANNIVERSARY

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India and Singapore shared common concerns over terrorism, stressing that it was the duty of all humanitarian nations to fight the menace with unity.

Speaking at a joint presser with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Modi expressed gratitude towards him and his government, and said their condolences following the Pahalgam terror attack and their support in India's fight against terrorism reflected the depth of bilateral ties. Welcoming Wong on his first visit to India since taking office, Modi said the occasion carried special significance as the two nations mark 60 years of diplomatic relations this year.

"Last year, during my visit to Singapore, we elevated our ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. In the past year, our dialogue and cooperation have gained momentum and depth. Today, Singapore is our largest trading partner in Southeast Asia, with significant investments flowing into India," Modi said.

MONSOON MAYHEM:
KASHMIR CUT OFF FROM
REST OF INDIA, RISING
YAMUNA THREATENS DELHI

Diary Times Desk : Incessant and torrential rains battered the northern states on Thursday, with Himachal Pradesh reeling under the natural disaster ever since the onset of monsoon and Delhi getting impacted due to the rising water levels of the Yamuna river.

Educational institutions have been shut down, normal life has been adversely affected and business has come to a standstill due to the heavy rains and flood-like situation in states like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. Two houses collapsed following a landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Thursday, leaving one person dead and six more buried under the rubble, officials said. A team of NDRF rescued three people, including a woman, and recovered one body. Incessant rains in the past three-four days have triggered landslides at several places and three persons have been rescued, one body recovered while search is on for six.

CAN INDIA RETALIATE AGAINST TRUMP'S 50%
TARIFFS?

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's 50% tariffs on India came into effect on 27 August. So far, rather than retaliating, India has put forth a carefully orchestrated geopolitical response to signal its displeasure to the US.

There's been the much publicised attempt at a rapprochement with China, and striking images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi sharing a limousine ride with Russian President Vladimir Putin splashed across the media from the sidelines of a security forum meeting in Tianjin.

Domestically, Modi has announced some help for struggling exporters and there are tax cuts on the anvil to mitigate the impact on exports.

But Delhi finds itself in an unenviable spot. The tariff impasse with its largest trading partner has continued far longer than anticipated, trade negotiations with Washington have come to a halt and the already damaged ties are fraying further with daily admonishments from US officials.



AVIATION ENGINEERS CALL INDEFINITE
STRIKE FROM SEPT 19 OVER PAY,
PROMOTIONS, 'CONTRACTUAL
EXPLOITATION'

Diary Times Desk : The All India Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Union (AIAMEU) has issued a strike notice effective September 19, accusing Air India Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) of eroding job security, suppressing promotions and altering official committee recommendations in a bid to sideline permanent employment. The notice, served to AIESL's Chief Executive Officer on Thursday, declares that engineers and technicians, who form the backbone of the country's largest aircraft maintenance and repair organisation, will go on an indefinite strike unless their demand for regularisation is addressed. The union has alleged that the company's reliance on fixed-term contracts has reached alarming levels, leaving critical safety-linked work in the hands of staff denied the pay, promotions and benefits of permanent workers.

CENTRE EXTENDS ECHS
FACILITY FOR CADETS
DISABLED DURING MILITARY
TRAINING, SC INFORMED

Diary Times Desk : The Centre has decided to extend medical facilities under the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) to cadets 'medically discharged' from the military due to disabilities suffered during training, the Supreme Court was informed on Thursday.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati told a Bench led by Justice BV Nagarathna that starting August 29 all such cadets have been included in the ECHS scheme for which even the one-time subscription fee of Rs 1,20,000 has been waived off for them.

The Bench – which also included Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra—directed the Centre to complete the registration preferably by September 15 and posted the matter for October 7.

"We appreciate the positive response from the respondents in so far as extending the medical facility for treatment in the form of ECHS scheme to the invalidated and out-boarded cadets. The details of the said scheme may be placed on record," it said.

PM MODI, EU LEADERS REAFFIRM
COMMITMENT FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF
FREE TRADE DEAL, DISCUSS UKRAINE
CONFLICT

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a joint telephone conversation with European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, with the three leaders reviewing the progress in bilateral relations and reiterating commitment to deepen cooperation across strategic sectors. The leaders welcomed advancements in trade, technology, investment, innovation, sustainability, defence, security, and supply chain resilience, while stressing the importance of an early conclusion of negotiations for the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the implementation of the IMEC corridor.

"As the world's largest democratic forces, India and the EU share a strong and close relationship built on trust, shared values, and a common vision for the future," the leaders said, underlining the role of the India-EU Strategic Partnership.

PLEA ALLEGES FORGERY OVER INCLUSION OF SONIA GANDHI'S
NAME IN ELECTORAL ROLL, SEEKS PROBE

Diary Times Desk : A plea on Tuesday sought action against Congress leader Sonia Gandhi alleging her name was included in the electoral rolls three years before she became an Indian citizen.

The application before additional chief judicial magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasia under Section 175 (4) (power of magistrate to order investigation) has sought directions to police for investigation into the allegation that Gandhi became an Indian citizen in 1983, but her name was in the 1980 electoral roll.

Senior advocate Pavan Narang appearing for the complainant, Vikas Tripathi, argued that according to some documents, it was clear that Sonia Gandhi took citizenship on April 30, 1983. He said her name was included in the electoral roll as a voter of the New Delhi constituency in 1980, which was deleted in 1982, and again re-entered in 1983 after she acquired Indian citizenship.



FOR FIRST TIME, CHINA DISPLAYS NUCLEAR TRIAD AT PARADE

Diary Times Desk : Displaying its expanding nuclear strength, China on Wednesday unveiled a new intercontinental ballistic missile, Dong Feng-61 (DF-61) and also for the first time showcased its "nuclear triad"—the ability to launch nukes from air, land and sea.

At a military parade in Beijing, China also publicly displayed for the first time its air-launched long-range missile JingLei-1 (JL-1), which signalled the completion of the triad. China had earlier unveiled land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) such as DF-41 as well as the submarine-launched Julang-3 (JL-3) missile. Together, these three components form the backbone of China's nuclear triad. "The weapons are China's strategic ace power to safeguard the country's sovereignty and dignity," the Chinese military said. India had announced its triad in November 2018 when the indigenous nuclear-armed submarine INS Arihant carried out its "deterrence patrol"—a Cold War-era term used to denote readiness to launch a nuke. The US, UK, France and Russia too have a triad.

WHAT IS TRUMP'S GOAL AS US BOMBS 'VENEZUELA DRUGS BOAT' AND DEPLOYS WARSHIPS?



Diary Times Desk : First, the US deployed multiple warships to the Caribbean. Then, Donald Trump announced a deadly strike on a boat he said was carrying drugs.

What Washington has planned next is not entirely clear, but some analysts tell the BBC that the risk of escalation in the region is growing by the day.

Since the US president's return to office in January, the Trump administration has steadily intensified its anti-drug-trafficking efforts in Latin America. As part of that, the US has seemingly centred on Venezuela - an effort that has led to the mobilisation of military forces from both countries in recent weeks.

OBAMA'S LINKEDIN SHOWS TRUMP'S PHOTO. HERE'S WHY

Diary Times Desk : Former US President Barack Obama's LinkedIn profile has taken an unusual twist. It now displays a photo of current US President Donald Trump. While it looked like the former president had been hacked or was being trolled by his successor, the explanation is simpler: LinkedIn pulls images from the White House page, which currently uses Trump's photo as its display image.

Obama's "Experience" section lists him as "President of the United States at the White House." Because the White House page is linked to that role, Trump's face automatically appears on Obama's profile.

A post highlighting the odd mismatch racked up 2.7 million views on X, sparking a wave of amusement.

"Greatest troll of all time," one user wrote. Another said, "This kind of pettiness is why Trump's

NEPAL MOVES TO BLOCK FACEBOOK, X, YOUTUBE AND OTHERS

Diary Times Desk : Nepal's government has said it will shut off access to major social media platforms, including Facebook and X, after they failed to comply with authorities' registration requirements.

The move, announced on Thursday, is part of what the government says is an effort to curb online hate, rumours and cybercrime.

Companies were given a deadline of Wednesday to register with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and provide a local contact, grievance handler and person responsible for self-regulation - or face shutdown.

"Unregistered social media platforms will be deactivated today onwards," ministry spokesman Gajendra Kumar Thakur told AFP.

Communications and IT Minister Prithvi Subba Gurung said, "We gave them enough time to register and repeatedly requested them to comply with our request, but they ignored [this], and we had to shut their operations in Nepal."

'MODI-PUTIN-XI PIC SHOULD SEND CHILL DOWN EVERY AMERICAN'S SPINE': US MEDIA

Diary Times Desk : A photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin has set the ball rolling for what the "new world order" - the one dominated and determined by Asia - may look like.

Captured smiling and exchanging pleasantries at the recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the leaders represented the countries at the receiving end of US President Donald Trump's steep tariffs.

The photographs have not gone unnoticed in the Western media, with US political commentator Van Jones saying it should "send a chill down the spine of every American."

"We're going to look back on today historically as a very big deal because that image of Xi Jinping with Putin, with Modi from India, with the leader of Iran, with the leader of North Korea, that should send a chill down the spine of every American," Mr Jones said on CNN.

He described the gathering as a sign of a "new world order", where the West finds itself increasingly boxed in by a multi-polar global landscape.

At the SCO summit, PM Modi was seen clasping Mr Putin's hand, bursting into laughter, while the Russian leader grinned. Mr Xi maintained a measured smile as the three leaders huddled briefly before lining up for a group photo in Tianjin.

TRUMP LINKS INDIA TARIFFS TO ENDING UKRAINE WAR IN SUPREME COURT PLEA

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's administration has moved the Supreme Court to challenge a federal appeals court ruling that decreed most of his sweeping tariffs illegal. In the court papers, the Trump administration has argued that the tariffs are "a crucial aspect of our push for peace" in Ukraine.

"The President recently authorised IEEPA tariffs against India for purchasing Russian energy products, to deal with a preexisting national emergency regarding Russia's war in Ukraine, as a crucial aspect of his push for peace in that war-torn country," the administration wrote.

This comes against the backdrop of intensifying trade and geopolitical tensions. On August 27, US President Donald Trump's administration doubled tariffs on India to 50 percent - half aimed at penalising New Delhi for ramping up Russian oil imports after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and the other half under Trump's signature "America First" push to cut trade deficits.

COULD IMMORTALITY BE REAL, AS PUTIN WAS HEARD TELLING XI?



Diary Times Desk : Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping have been recorded on a hot mic discussing how organ transplants and other medical advances could let humans live past 150 years -- or even become immortal.

But are these comments by the Russian and Chinese leaders, which were picked up during a Beijing summit on Wednesday, backed by scientific evidence?

Experts in human ageing told AFP that some of these ideas remain far-fetched, but serious research is also increasingly revealing more about why we age -- and how we could try to stop it.

Is there a human lifespan limit?

The conversation suggested that fending off the ravages of age was on the minds of Putin and Xi, who are both 72 and have not expressed any desire to step down.



favorability drops by the day." A third joked, "Whoever made the decision needs an immediate raise!" while one more added, "The dudes on Trump's social media team are hilarious." Obama, the 44th US president and a Democrat, has long been at odds with his Republican successor. Still, the pair were recently seen chatting at President Jimmy Carter's funeral in January.

WHY THE GLASS BROUGHT BACK FROM TIANJIN IS HALF-FULL

Diary Times Desk : Surveying Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s two-day visit to Tianjin, most China experts and ex-bureaucrats are sceptical whether an India-China rapprochement is possible. India’s ‘permanent establishment’, with its tunnel vision, is wary of China’s intentions. Like in Bertolt Brecht’s existential play *Waiting for Godot*, they would rather await Donald Trump’s arrival. Thus, it is largely left to the global audience to take note of the geopolitics of Modi’s visit.

If Modi travelled to China with hopes of rebuilding the India-China relations from ground zero, he returned home with a glass half-full. That is not because the visit and the meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping weren’t meticulously planned. On the contrary, highlevel discussions in New Delhi between top officials of the two countries had preceded the visit up to the eleventh hour.

First, the impact of the visit on bilateral cooperation. Xi told Modi that achieving a ‘dragon-elephant dance’ is the right choice for the two neighbouring countries. Modi argued that peace and tranquillity at the border are prerequisites for bilateral ties. While Xi flagged that the bilateral ties cannot be defined merely by the boundary issue, Modi added, and Xi agreed.



TRUMP SAYS HE HAS PRESSURED PUTIN FOR UKRAINE TRUCE: SO WHAT HAS HE DONE?

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump bristled on Wednesday when a Polish reporter suggested that he hadn’t done enough to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin into ending Russia’s war on Ukraine, at a time when Europe and Ukraine are trying to convince Trump to impose sanctions or other punitive measures against Russia, as Moscow continues its assault on Ukraine.

He then pushed back at the reporter, listing measures he’d taken against Russian and threatening consequences if Moscow did not agree to peace.

The interaction came just a day before Trump spoke with Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after he met with European leaders on Thursday in a separate European summit in Paris to discuss security reassurances for Ukraine in the event of a peace deal. The details of Trump and Zelenskyy’s meeting have not been made public yet.

Trump is also understood to have pressured European leaders to stop buying Russian oil during a virtual meeting after the summit.

Here is what we know about the action Trump has taken so far during his second US presidency to end this war.

FROM SUITS TO SUITES, INSIDE GIORGIO ARMANI’S BILLION-DOLLAR HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

Diary Times Desk : Giorgio Armani passed away on September 4, 2025 at the age of 91, closing a chapter in fashion history but leaving behind an empire that went far beyond the runway.

Best known for his sharp tailoring and understated glamour, Armani also built a global hospitality business, spanning hotels, cafes, restaurants and bars, that carried the same elegance as his fashion line.

Armani Hospitality

At the time of his death, Armani’s privately held group was valued at more than 10 billion dollars.

The most visible symbol of Armani’s move into hospitality came through the Armani Hotels, developed in partnership with Dubai’s Emaar Properties.

The Armani Hotel in Dubai, housed within the Burj Khalifa, was built at an estimated USD 100 million and is now valued at between USD 150 – 200 million. It operates with an average occupancy of 75-80 per cent, generating around USD 150 million in annual revenue and employing over 800 staff.

Yes. Indeed, the president has been keen to resolve several global conflicts, and has insisted that he is deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

AS ISRAEL, HAMAS DIG IN ON DEMANDS, PALESTINIAN DEATHS CROSS 64,000

Diary Times Desk : More than 64,000 Palestinians have been killed in the nearly two-year war in the Gaza Strip, local health officials said Thursday, as Hamas and Israel reiterated their incompatible demands for ending the fighting sparked by the militant group’s 2023 attack.

Local hospitals said that Israeli strikes killed 28 people, mostly women and children, overnight and into Thursday, as Israel pressed ahead with the initial stages of its offensive in famine-stricken Gaza City. In the occupied West Bank, Israelis established a new settlement in a Palestinian city, according to an anti-settlement monitoring group.

Hamas released a statement late Wednesday saying that it was open to returning all 48 hostages it still holds – around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive – in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all of Gaza, the opening of border crossings and a start to the daunting challenge of rebuilding Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office dismissed the offer as “spin” and said that the war would continue until all the hostages are returned, Hamas is disarmed and Israel has full security control of the territory, with civilian administration delegated to others.

‘OUT OF CONTROL’: WITNESSES DESCRIBE FATAL LISBON FUNICULAR CRASH

Diary Times Desk : It was just after 18:00 on Wednesday when a carriage on Lisbon’s famous Gloria funicular careened around the bend of a steep cobblestoned street, crashed into a building, and crumpled, eyewitnesses said.

The carriage “lost control”, descending at full speed and crashing on its side, Helen Chow, who was at the base of the hill, told the BBC.

It sounded like a bomb, she said, followed by “complete scary silence... There was pitch black smoke. Once it dissipated, you saw exactly what happened.”

People were frantic and crying, with others running to help, she described. “It was awful,” she said. “I am shaken.”

Police are still investigating the cause of the crash, which killed at least 16 people and injured about 20 more, some critically, near Lisbon’s Avenida da Liberdade in the Portuguese capital.

HOW FALSE RUMOURS OF TRUMP’S UNTIMELY ‘DEATH’ SPREAD ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Diary Times Desk : Some people spent Labor Day weekend in the United States soaking up the last of the summer’s rays. Others took to social media to speculate that President Donald Trump was at death’s door, or worse.

On X, the hashtags #trumpisdead and #whereistrump trended. Millions of people made or watched videos on TikTok speculating that Trump had died or suffered a stroke or another serious medical emergency.

The president is not dead. Trump spoke live at the White House on Tuesday. Even as rumours of his death went viral, he had been photographed by news outlets, and his Truth Social posts racked up thousands of interactions.

“How did you find out over the weekend that you were dead?” Fox News reporter Peter Doocy asked Trump, who stood before reporters in the Oval Office. “Did you see that?”

Trump said he had not seen claims alleging his death.

5 INDIAN-ORIGIN CEOS TO ATTEND TRUMP'S WHITE HOUSE DINNER

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump will host a high-powered list of tech CEOs for a dinner at the White House on Thursday night.

The guest list is set to include Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates, Apple CEO Tim Cook, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and a dozen other executives from the biggest artificial intelligence and tech firms, according to the White House.

One notable absence from the guest list is Elon Musk, once a close ally of Trump, whom the president tasked with running the government-slashing Department of Government Efficiency. Musk had a public break with Trump earlier this year.

The dinner will be held in the Rose Garden, where Trump recently paved over the grassy lawn and set up tables, chairs and umbrellas that look strikingly similar to the outdoor setup at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida.

"The Rose Garden Club at the White House is the hottest place to be in Washington, or perhaps the world. The president looks forward to welcoming top business, political, and tech leaders for this dinner and the many dinners to come on the new, beautiful Rose Garden patio," White House spokesman Davis Ingles said in a statement.



WHY ARE INDONESIANS RIOTING AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT?

Diary Times Desk : For many Indonesians, the violent riots currently wracking Jakarta and other cities across the archipelago are eerily reminiscent of the riots of 1998 that accompanied the fall of former dictator Soeharto and his New Order regime after three decades in power.

As in 1998, demonstrators have targeted the legislative complex and "fat cat" politicians they see as neglecting and even impoverishing them. Rioters are also vandalising the homes of politicians and stripping them of luxury goods.

Also striking is the behaviour of the security forces. While there are widespread reports of violence by police, some members of the military are said to have been standing by and not stopping the looting. In one case, they even handed out drinks and cash to rioters.

RFK JR. GRILLED ON HEALTH CARE POLICIES IN CONTENTIOUS SENATE HEARING

Diary Times Desk : RFK Jr. hearing: Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. testified in a heated hearing before a Senate committee today. Kennedy sparred with senators — and faced pointed questioning from some Republicans who confirmed him — on vaccine policy, recent CDC shake-ups and public health.

Ukraine call: US President Donald Trump spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders today as momentum to end Russia's war in Ukraine stalls. Trump argued that Europe must stop purchasing Russian oil and put economic pressure on China.

Epstein controversy: House Speaker Mike Johnson defended Trump's comments calling efforts to release the Jeffrey Epstein files a "hoax," arguing that the president is being "misrepresented."

HOSTILITY, FEAR GRIPS INDIANS DOWN UNDER

Diary Times Desk : In recent months, Australia has witnessed a surge of anti-immigration rallies, many of which were virulently directed at the Indian community. In Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, demonstrators have brandished placards and shouted incendiary slogans, portraying Indian students and workers as the culprits behind rising job insecurity, housing shortages, and pressure on civic services.

Data presented in the Indian Parliament earlier this year discloses that at least 91 attacks on Indian students abroad were officially recorded, culminating in 30 deaths.

For Australia, these episodes strike a painful chord of memory. In 2009 and 2010, a spate of racially motivated assaults on Indian students in Melbourne soured bilateral relations. The attacks eventually ebbed, but the scars never truly healed.

WHY NO ACTION AGAINST RUSSIA? TRUMP SNAPS AT REPORTER WITH "INDIA" REPLY

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he put secondary sanctions on India for buying Russian oil and indicated that he hasn't done "phase two yet or phase three."

Trump, while participating in a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office with Poland's President Karol Nawrocki, appeared irritated when he was asked by a Polish reporter that he had expressed frustration and disappointment with Russian President Vladimir Putin but has not taken any action over it.

"How do you know there's no action? Would you say that putting secondary sanctions on India, the largest purchaser outside of China, they're almost equal, would you say there was no action? That cost hundreds of billions of dollars to Russia. You call that no action? And I haven't done phase two yet or phase three. But when you say there's no action, I think you ought to get yourself a new job," Trump shot back at the Polish reporter.

Trump said that two weeks ago, he said, "If India buys, India's got big problems, and that's what happens. So, don't tell me about that." When asked about Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with Chinese President Xi Jinping at China's military parade and whether he is considering slapping secondary sanctions on Moscow, Trump said, "Well, I've already done that with regard to India, and we're doing it with regard to other things."

Trump has imposed 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India and an additional 25 per cent levies.

GERMANY: 15 CHILDREN AMONG SEVERAL INJURED AFTER BMW DRIVES INTO PEDESTRIANS IN BERLIN



Diary Times Desk : A man driving a BMW crashed into a crowd in Berlin's Wedding district, leaving several people, including children, injured. The incident took place around 1:30 pm (local time) at the corner of Seestrasse and Dohnagestell, a busy road northwest of the city centre.

The driver, who was uninjured, was seen leaning against his car while being questioned by police. Photos from the scene show the vehicle with a damaged front left headlight.

According to the German newspaper Bild, many of the injured were schoolchildren. Three of the 15 children hurt in the crash were taken to Virchow Hospital, while an accompanying adult suffered serious injuries. Others had minor injuries.

Emergency services later confirmed that the crash was an accident.

AMERICA JUST GOT
ANOTHER SLATE OF
LOUSY JOB MARKET
NEWS

Diary Times Desk :

Warning signs have been flashing for months that the US job market has been losing steam. That became starkly clearer in July, and the initial data for August isn't looking much better.

New metrics released Thursday showed that first-time claims for unemployment benefits rose to an 11-week high; that private-sector businesses sharply reined in their hiring last month; and that last month was the worst August for layoff announcements since the pandemic and, before that, the Great Recession.

"The labor market is showing signs of cracking," Heather Long, Navy Federal Credit Union senior economist, wrote Thursday. "It's not a red siren alarm yet, but the signs keep growing that businesses are starting to cut workers."

The month's 73,000 estimated jobs added were well below the 115,000 net gain expected and half the size of June's preliminary tally. As for May and June's gains, those were drastically slashed by a combined quarter of a million jobs.

CEO OF JAPANESE
DRINKS GIANT
SUNTORY RESIGNS
FOLLOWING DRUG
PROBE

Diary Times Desk :

Suntory Holdings chairman and CEO Takeshi Niinami has resigned following allegations he purchased supplements containing illegal substances, the company confirmed Tuesday.

Niinami, 66, one of Japan's most prominent and outspoken business leaders, said he believed the supplements he bought were legal. He has often served as the face of corporate Japan and frequently appeared on CNN.

Investigators had previously searched Niinami's Tokyo home on suspicion he had received products containing cannabis-derived substances from an acquaintance overseas, according to public broadcaster NHK, citing investigative officials.

AMERICAN EAGLE STOCK SURGES 25% AFTER SYDNEY SWEENEY'S
'GOOD JEANS' AD CAMPAIGN BOOSTS BRAND

Diary Times Desk :

American Eagle stock surged 25% after its earnings report Wednesday, with its CEO thanking the controversial Sydney Sweeney "Good Jeans" ad campaign for boosting brand awareness and profit.

"The fall season is off to a positive start. Fueled by stronger product offerings and the success of recent marketing campaigns with Sydney Sweeney and Travis Kelce, we have seen an uptick in customer awareness, engagement and comparable sales," American Eagle Outfitters CEO Jay Schottenstein said on Wednesday in an earnings release statement.

Sweeney's ad campaign with American Eagle certainly did bring awareness to the brand last month. In the video, the blonde-haired, blue-eyed actress is posing in American Eagle jeans, saying: "Genes are passed down from parents to offspring... My body's composition is determined by my genes."



HARRODS TO REMOVE STATUES OF
DISGRACED FORMER OWNER
MOHAMED AL FAYED AS EGYPTIAN
PHARAOH

Diary Times Desk :

Harrods, the high-end London department store, has applied to local authorities for permission to remove sculptures of disgraced former owner Mohamed Al Fayed from its interior.

The renowned business, which started life as a grocery store in 1849, has submitted detailed plans to overhaul its Egyptian-themed hall and a five-floor escalator, which currently features busts of Al Fayed depicted as a pharaoh.

In a BBC documentary last year, more than 20 female former Harrods employees accused the Egyptian billionaire, who died in 2023 aged 94, of sexually assaulting them.

A police investigation into Al Fayed, opened in the wake of the documentary, is still ongoing. London's Metropolitan Police told CNN Thursday that the force is currently investigating the claims of more than 140 alleged victims.

WHY YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE
COPAYS, DEDUCTIBLES AND
PREMIUMS WILL PROBABLY SURGE
NEXT YEAR

Diary Times Desk :

Brace yourselves, workers. Your health insurance at the job could cost you a lot more in 2026.

Although overall inflation is more muted than a few years ago, employers are preparing for the steepest increase in health benefit costs in 15 years, according to Mercer's National Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Plans, released Thursday.

That means many employees will have to shell out more for health care from their paychecks and when they go to the doctor – adding to the financial squeeze many consumers are already feeling from stubbornly high consumer prices that could soon jump even more as President Donald Trump's tariffs kick in.

Workers can expect to shell out an additional 6% to 7% in premiums, on average, according to Mercer. Some companies will try to limit the increase, but they typically do that by hiking deductibles and copays.

WINNING NUMBERS DRAWN FOR NEAR-RECORD \$1.4 BILLION POWERBALL
JACKPOT

Diary Times Desk :

Feeling lucky? The winning numbers have been drawn for the massive \$1.4 billion Powerball jackpot.

Wednesday night's winning numbers were 3, 16, 29, 61, 69, and red powerball 22, with a Power Play multiplier of 2.

It's not yet clear if there is a big winner.

The Powerball jackpot soared to an estimated \$1.4 billion, the fourth-biggest in the lottery's history, after no one claimed the top prize earlier this week.

The jackpot is also the sixth-largest among all US lottery jackpots. The \$1.4 billion figure represents the winnings of those who choose to receive the annuitized payment in 30 annual installments, distributed over 29 years, that grow in size over time. Any winner can instead choose a lump-sum cash payment, estimated at \$634 million. The estimates were increased Wednesday morning after Powerball reviewed its ticket sales.

There have been 40 drawings since the jackpot was last won in May and Wednesday will mark the 41st. That's almost the longest run in Powerball's three-decade history: The record is 42 consecutive drawings without a winner, set last year.

As the jackpot climbs in size, so have sales. Powerball's ticket sales saw a 175.4% increase for Monday's \$1.1 billion jackpot compared to the previous Monday drawing August 25, which advertised a \$750 million jackpot.



SOLAN REPORTS RS 46CR RAIN LOSS IN 24 HOURS

Diary Times Desk : Vehicular traffic on the Dharampur-Parwanoo stretch of NH-5 was disrupted this afternoon after mounds of boulders and muck rolled down from an excavated slope near Sanwara, blocking the road.

The 60-metre vulnerable stretch has been eroding for the past three days due to relentless rain, which caused heavy seepage in the hillside. Traffic came to a halt for nearly half an hour before the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) pressed machines and labour into service, clearing debris to open two of the four lanes. Both uphill and downhill vehicles were diverted through these two lanes, leading to long queues on either side.

Officials admitted that no slope protection work has been undertaken at this site, where erosion has become routine during rains. Two days ago, a labourer narrowly escaped being crushed when a boulder rolled down during clearance work. NHA officials said private land ownership had delayed slope protection works here, despite similar efforts underway at 26 other sites. Trouble, they added, worsened after vertical cutting of 30-40 feet was carried out along the slope.

CHAMBA ADMN STEPS UP EFFORTS TO EVACUATE

MANIMAHESH PILGRIMS
Diary Times Desk : With skies clearing in Chamba on Wednesday, the district administration intensified efforts to evacuate stranded Manimahesh pilgrims in Bharmour and to airlift the bodies of those who died during the pilgrimage. Four bodies were flown out in an Army MI-17 helicopter and brought to Pathankot where they were handed over to their families. Among the deceased were two devotees from Pathankot, one from Gurdaspur and another from Hoshiarpur. Their bodies had remained stranded in Bharmour due to blocked routes caused by heavy rain and landslides during the yatra. Officials confirmed that four more bodies are still lying in Kugti where a 30-member rescue team has already reached.

PUNJAB FLOODS: WITH BAGS, FOOD AND BARE HANDS, FOR VOLUNTEERS IT'S A RACE AGAINST RISING WATERS

Diary Times Desk : Severe flooding in Punjab's border districts has left over 100 villages submerged, with thousands displaced and massive damage to homes and crops.

The worst-hit areas include Ferozepur and Fazilka, where the overflowing Sutlej river continues to pose a grave threat.

In Ferozepur's Habib Ke village, over 2,000 volunteers — joined by army engineers and drainage officials—have been working round the clock for four days, using sandbags, ropes, and bare hands to prevent a critical embankment from collapsing.

"The real heroes are the people who come with bags, food and bare hands. Their spirit is keeping the bandh alive," said contractor Ratan Singh Saini tells PTL.



LANDSLIDE DESTROYS 10 HOUSES IN MANDI VILLAGE

Diary Times Desk : A massive landslide at Kundooni village under the Jogindernagar subdivision of Mandi district has hit 22 families with 10 houses completely destroyed. No loss of human life has been reported but a cow was buried under the debris.

Jogindernagar SDM Manish Chaudhary informed that the administration acted swiftly, reaching the site early in the morning and evacuating the residents of the affected houses.

As the threat of further landslides continues, all affected families have been relocated to safer locations as a precautionary measure.

The Jogindernagar administration has established a temporary relief camp at Soni Enclave Hotel in Bassi to accommodate the displaced families. The camp is equipped with food and all necessary facilities. Additionally, special arrangements have been made for the shelter and care of the families' livestock. The administration has extended immediate financial assistance to the affected families. A total of Rs 93,000 has been provided as emergency relief to the families whose houses were completely destroyed in the landslide.

KEJRIWAL PLEDGES MAXIMUM RELIEF TO PUNJAB FLOOD VICTIMS

Diary Times Desk : AAP national convenor and former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said maximum relief will be provided to flood victims in the state, and no one will be left without aid. Terming the 2025 Punjab floods the state's biggest in the past 37 years, Kejriwal emphasised the need for the Centre's aid to provide relief to the flood-affected areas.

Arriving at the Baupur bundh in Sultanpur Lodhi to review the status of flood-hit areas, Kejriwal said the resilient spirit of Punjab had risen to the occasion, and overwhelming help was being extended by the community. He also made a boat trip to flood-affected villages, accompanied by MP Seechewal and Cabinet ministers.

Kejriwal said as many as 1,400 villages and 3 lakh people had been affected by floods in the state, and crops on 4.5 lakh hectares had been damaged. He also announced that gazetted officers would be appointed for each village in the state to ensure people receive immediate help.

Speaking to the press, Kejriwal said, "We just saw the Centre extend help to the victims of earthquakes in Afghanistan, which is a very good thing."

BHAGWANT MANN FALLS ILL; CANCELS VISIT WITH KEJRIWAL TO FLOOD-AFFECTED PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has reportedly fallen ill, according to a senior official from the Chief Minister's Office.

Mann is reportedly suffering from high fever, caused by a viral infection. Doctors are attending to him at his residence. An official said that he should be fine by the evening and would be chairing the meeting of Punjab cabinet on Friday. Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, who arrived in Punjab on Wednesday evening to assess the flood-hit areas, visited Mann's official residence on Thursday to enquire about his health.

Mann was scheduled to tour the flood-affected Sultanpur Lodhi with Kejriwal on Thursday. Many villages in the area are affected by floods. The CM has now cancelled his visit. Sources said while Mann would be unable to tour, senior party leaders, including party president Aman Arora, would now accompany Kejriwal.



Kennedy Said There Will Be Autism Answers

US Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pledged in April that there would be answers on the causes of autism this month. Since then, he has ousted public health officials, publicly rebuked studies showing no link between vaccines and autism, and said "interventions" are "almost certainly" responsible for causing rising autism rates.

And the proposed autism studies have not started.

Thousands of researchers hailing from the top universities and institutions in the country have applied for the federal funding that Kennedy announced in April. The US National Institutes of Health is expected this month to announce up to 25 awardees for the \$50 million "massive research and testing effort."

Among the applicants are longtime veterans of the field from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the Mayo Clinic, according to document provided to CNN. They also include biotechnology, digital health and gene therapy companies, counseling groups and hospital networks.

Each of the grants is slated for two to three years of studies. Some of the researchers say they can provide analysis a bit faster; none who spoke to CNN says that they can provide firm answers this month. That leaves autism experts confused, and alarmed, about what Kennedy says he already knows about autism — and where that leaves research that has not begun.

"There's just this inherent contradiction that they are planning to spend \$50 million over the next two to three years on the [Autism Data Science] Initiative, when Kennedy has announced he's already got the answers," said Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg, director of Boston University's Center for Autism Research Excellence. At least 28 researchers affiliated with Boston University or its medical center have applied for these grants, according to the list provided to CNN.

Kennedy's confidence about previewing autism conclusions this month comes amid broad upheaval for federal health agencies, including the ouster of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Susan Monarez, the resignation of many of her top deputies and calls from more than 1,000 current and former HHS employees for Kennedy to resign. Senators say they will question the secretary on the CDC actions on Thursday during a hearing on the president's health agenda.

The turmoil has autism researchers and advocates increasingly concerned about the future of the nascent Autism Data Science Initiative, particularly among reports that David Geier, a longtime vaccine critic who's now an HHS contractor, is preparing his own analysis using federal data.

"It's highly unusual to announce you have the results of a study before the study even begins," said Alison Singer, founder of the nonprofit Autism Science Foundation. At least four foundation-supported researchers have applied for the Autism Data Science Initiative grants.

Kennedy: 'Interventions' causing autism

Kennedy told President Donald Trump in a Cabinet meeting in August that the unprecedented federal effort to find the root causes of autism was on track for announcement this month.

The initial announcement **caused furor** among autism advocates who questioned how conclusions could be drawn so quickly and whether this would be the vehicle to renew debunked claims that vaccines cause autism.

"We will have announcements as promised in September, finding interventions, certain interventions, now that are clearly, almost certainly, causing autism," Kennedy said. Trump responded: "There has to be something artificially causing this, meaning, a drug or something."



Sarah Overmohle

But analysis of existing HHS records on vaccine safety was already underway, according to multiple people familiar with internal conversations and the turmoil that saw several CDC officials depart last week.

Tariffs Boost The Fed Can't Decide

The Federal Reserve, tasked with making sense of the US economy to set interest rates, has its work cut out for it.

In two weeks' time, the Fed is widely expected to lower borrowing costs for the first time since December. But what the central bank does after that is much less clear.

Fed policymakers still don't know the full extent to which President Donald Trump's widespread tariffs could impact inflation — nor whether the US labor market is about to fall off a cliff, especially as signs of weakness are mounting.

The Fed is dealing with one of its most complicated economic puzzles in decades. Both sides of its dual mandate of stable prices and maximum employment are under stress, the likes of which has not been seen since the stagflation crisis of the 1970s and early 1980s.

That's muddling the outlook for rate cuts. In an interview with CNBC on Wednesday, Fed Governor Christopher Waller called for multiple rate cuts in the coming months. But in an essay that published less than two hours later, his colleague Atlanta

According to Labor Department data, job growth has been anemic in recent months, there are now fewer job openings than unemployed people seeking work, and the unemployment rates.

Fed President Raphael Bostic, signaled only one "will be appropriate over the remainder of this year." Bostic doesn't vote on policy moves this year.

"We're in uncharted territory, and that's reflected in the Fed's thought process," Brent Schutte, chief investment officer at Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company, told CNN. "We're still in the fog of tariffs, plus everything else that is happening right now, but the Fed sees a weakening labor market as a near-term risk."

The lingering question of tariff effects

Several Fed officials have become more comfortable with the possibility that tariff inflation might be only temporary, but not all of them are sold on that idea.

Waller, appointed by Trump in 2020 and now considered a possible pick for Fed Chair after current Chair Jerome Powell's term concludes in May, has been banging that drum for

months. He raised the point in a statement in July after dissenting on the Fed's decision to hold borrowing costs steady that month for the fifth time in a row.

Price increases for some goods — mainly those more exposed to tariffs, such as furniture and appliances — have picked up in recent months, according to the Personal Consumption Expenditures price index, which is the Fed's preferred inflation gauge.

But while there's a good chance that inflation may continue to rise, more central bankers are now echoing Waller's view that tariff inflation probably won't be long lasting.

"As a baseline, I expect the effects of tariffs will work through the economy over the next two to three quarters and the impact on inflation will fade after that," St. Louis Fed President Alberto Musalem said Wednesday at an event hosted by the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Last week, San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly wrote in a social media post that "tariff-related price increases will be a one-off."

Distance Himself TRUMP'S FED PICK GRILLED OVER HIS ABILITY

Stephen Miran, the White House economist President Donald Trump nominated to the Federal Reserve's top ranks, just got an earful about the importance of the central bank's independence — just as the Trump administration actively defends removing Fed Governor Lisa Cook from her post.

The Senate Banking Committee held a hearing Thursday to consider Miran's nomination to fill a vacant seat on the Fed's Board of Governors. It was a crucial step in Trump's efforts to reshape the Fed, potentially eroding its long-accepted independence from politics, which in part has helped the US economy grow to and remain the world's largest over the past century.

Republican and Democratic senators were unequivocal that the Fed's decisions on interest rates should remain free of political considerations. Miran agreed at various points throughout the hearing, stating that Fed independence "is critical to the well functioning of the economy and financial markets."

But Democrats questioned Miran's ability to distance himself from Trump, should he be confirmed to become a Fed governor. After all, Miran plans to technically remain an employee of the White House if he becomes Fed governor on a temporary basis.

His unconventional perspective will likely come into full view during his hearing. Democrats — and some Republicans — are expected to press Miran particularly on his view about the Fed's independence.

Miran said he would take a leave of absence from his current role as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers if his Fed term only lasts through January, but said he would resign if he remains for longer. He said he was advised to take that approach by legal counsel.

"You are going to be technically an employee of the President of United States, but an independent member of the board of the Federal Reserve, that's ridiculous," Democratic Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island said.

Meanwhile, less than a mile away from Capitol Hill, a federal judge is set to review new court filings from the Trump administration and perhaps rule as early as Thursday whether Cook, whom the president fired last week over allegations of mortgage fraud, can remain as a Fed governor while her lawsuit challenging Trump's removal order moves forward in litigation.

Since the beginning of the year, the Fed has been subject to unprecedented attacks by the Trump administration because central bankers haven't heeded the president's demands to lower interest rates. Fed officials have stood pat since December because they've wanted to see how the US economy responds

to Trump's sweeping policies first, though they're gearing up for a rate cut in two weeks. Miran's views challenged by Democrats

Miran, a Harvard-trained PhD economist, has challenged the Fed's independence in the recent past.

Last year, Miran co-authored a Manhattan Institute report last year, that called the Fed's independence an outdated "shibboleth," and he called for shorter terms for Fed governors to give the president more power to hold sway over the agency.

"Central bank independence has long been considered an essential element for successful monetary policy. But central banks are creations of political exigency, and pure independence exists only in textbooks," the report said. "It can also bestow power without accountability."

Miran is also one of the main architects of Trump's aggressive trade policy. In a November 2024 paper.

LIONEL SCALONI TELLS FANS TO ENJOY LIONEL MESSI'S LAST HOME QUALIFIER

Diary Times Desk : Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni has urged fans to savour what is likely to be Lionel Messi's last home World Cup qualifier against Venezuela on Thursday. Messi has not formally announced his retirement plans but confirmed last week that the clash at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires would be a "very special match", reports Xinhua. "Yes, this is a match which Leo has said will be emotional because it's true that it's our last (home) qualifying match," Scaloni told a news conference on Wednesday. "We have to enjoy it as we've always been saying. More than anyone I will enjoy it. Having been able to coach him has honestly been a pleasure and let's hope that fans who go to the stadium will also enjoy it because he truly deserves it." "Tomorrow will be exciting for everyone. I'm sure that it won't be his last game in Argentina, and we'll make sure that if he decides it's the last game, we play another because it's obvious to do that in the right moment and because he deserves it." Argentina leads the South American qualifying group with 35 points from 16 games, and is already guaranteed a place at next year's World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.



ALCARAZ ON DJOKOVIC US OPEN SF: 'I WANT REVENGE'

Diary Times Desk : Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz are set to renew their thrilling Lexus ATP Head2Head rivalry in a blockbuster semi-final at the US Open on Friday, with both men chasing milestones that could reshape the season. For the four-time champion Djokovic, the mission is clear: halt a run of three consecutive semi-final defeats at the majors in 2025 and strengthen his push for a record-extending 25th major title. Across the net, Alcaraz stands determined and unbeaten in sets in New York, hungry not only to reach his first hard-court major final since 2023, but also to reclaim the No. 1 spot in the PIF ATP Rankings for the first time in two years. Revenge also fuels the 22-year-old Spaniard, who has been outplayed by Djokovic in their last two marquee encounters – a four-set quarter-final at the Australian Open in January and a heart-wrenching defeat in the gold-medal match at the Paris Olympics last year. "Novak, we all know Novak's game... It doesn't matter that he has been out of the Tour since Wimbledon. [He's] playing great matches here. I know he's hungry. I know his ambition for more, so let's see," said Alcaraz. "I know I played a lot of times against him. I really want revenge. That's obvious."

US OPEN WOMEN'S SEMIFINAL PREDICTIONS: AMANDA ANISIMOVA VS NAOMI OSAKA

Diary Times Desk : We have an incredible, if unexpected, women's semifinal in store for us at the US Open on Thursday. Amanda Anisimova reached this stage by avenging her 6-0 6-0 loss in the Wimbledon final, while Osaka has looked back to her elite self this summer. Which of these women do you think will reach the final? Our writers share their thoughts. Predicting this match are Jordan Reynolds, Zain Mustafa, Yesh Ginsburg, Ateet Shrivastava, and Andreas Pelekis. We also have predictions for the other semifinal, between Aryna Sabalenka and Jessica Pegula. It will be fascinating to observe how Osaka approaches this match against one of the few players who hits harder than her from the baseline, especially on the backhand side. The two-time US Open champion has been willing to dig in and be consistent in the rallies, showing that against Coco Gauff. But I think Anisimova will hand Osaka her first Grand Slam semifinal loss. Although the Japanese star's level in New York has been excellent, I think she will get overwhelmed if Anisimova plays near the level she found against Iga Swiatek. The home favorite was in inspired form. Prediction: Anisimova in 2

'SEEING RED', DE MINAUR FUMES AT 'WASTED OPPORTUNITY' IN US OPEN DEFEAT

Diary Times Desk : Alex de Minaur played in his sixth major quarter-final on Wednesday at the US Open against Felix Auger-Aliassime and for the sixth time, he fell short. The hard-working Aussie's disappointment was clear.

"Right now I'm looking at this like a wasted opportunity. It's tough," De Minaur said. "There's no other way I'm probably going to deal with this, but just seeing it straight, and that's what today was. Today was an opportunity to break new ground.

"I was nowhere near the level I needed to be at. That's frustrating, because you don't get these chances often." De Minaur had plenty of chances to extend the match to a fifth set against the Canadian. He entered the match as the No. 8 player in the PIF ATP Rankings compared to No. 27 for Auger-Aliassime.

The 26-year-old struggled with his serve, making just 42 per cent of his first serves. Because of that, De Minaur was fighting an uphill battle from early on.

"I think the biggest thing for me is just my serve. My serve's been letting me down in big matches," said De Minaur, who double-faulted twice in the fourth-set tie-break.



US OPEN: INDIA'S YUKI BHAMBRI MAKES MAIDEN GRAND SLAM SEMIFINAL

Diary Times Desk : India's Yuki Bhambri and his partner Michael Venus of New Zealand progressed to the men's doubles semifinals at the US Open 2025 on Thursday (IST). The Indo-Kiwi pair stunned the 11th seeds Nikola Mektic and Rajeew Ram 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 in a thrilling quarterfinal clash on Court 17 at the Big Apple. Bhambri and Venus will now take on Brits Neal Skupsky and Joe Salisbury in the semi-finals on Friday. Bhambri, India's top-ranked men's doubles tennis player at world No. 32, will be playing in a Grand Slam semi-final for the first time in his career.

Last year, Bhambri partnered with French tennis player Albano Olivetti for the US Open and made the pre-quarterfinals. The duo lost to Spain's Marcel Granollers and Argentina's Horacio Zeballos in straight sets. Earlier, Bhambri and Venus defeated the unseeded pair of Colombia's Gonzalo Escobar and Mexico's Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela 6-1, 7-5 in an hour and 25 minutes at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre to progress to the pre-quarterfinals.

'VERY SOLID' SINNER SWEEPS ASIDE MUSETTI TO REACH SEMIS



Diary Times Desk : Jannik Sinner continued his US Open title defence in dominant fashion as he swept past fellow Italian Lorenzo Musetti to reach the semi-finals in New York.

Labelled an "artificial intelligence" player by Alexander Bublik in the last round, Sinner's scintillating form carried on as he won 6-1 6-4 6-2.

Musetti, ranked 10th, was unable to convert any of his seven break points, while he hit just 12 winners to his compatriot's 28 on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"We know each other very well. We're from the same country, there's so many Italian players in the draw, so it's nice to play here," Sinner said.

"Obviously playing Davis Cup together and stuff like this you have to take the friendship away, but when you shake hands everything is fine." In a ruthless first set, Sinner rattled through the first five games and conceded just five points before Musetti eventually held serve to get himself on the board for 5-1.