

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**6 KILLED AFTER WIRE OF CARGO ROPEWAY SNAPS AT GUJARAT TEMPLE**

**Diary Times Desk :** Six people died after a wire of a goods ropeway snapped at Pavagadh hill temple in Gujarat on Saturday. Preliminary information suggests that the accident occurred due to the breaking of the rope.

Panchmahal Collector confirmed the death of six people, including two liftmen, two workers, and two others. According to the collector, the accident took place around 3:30 pm.

Local police and fire brigade teams rushed to the spot immediately after receiving information about the incident. The administration has launched an investigation into the accident. The Pavagadh temple is situated at a height of around 800 metres, with pilgrims either choosing to climb some 2,000 steps or use cable cars to reach the summit. However, the ropeway for use by the public was shut since morning due to inclement weather.

**GOLDEN 'KALASH' WORTH RS 1 CRORE STOLEN DURING JAIN EVENT AT RED FORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major security breach, two golden 'kalash' (urns) and other valuables worth about Rs 1.5 crore were stolen from a Jain religious event within the Red Fort premises in Delhi. The thief came disguised as a Jain priest and made away with the valuables, CCTV footage showed. The suspect has been identified, and he will be arrested soon, the police have assured.

The stolen items included a golden 'jhari' (urn) and a gold coconut weighing about 760 grams, besides a 115-gram gold 'jhari' of smaller size, studded with diamonds, emeralds, and rubies, the FIR said. The items are used in Jain rituals; thus considered sacred.

These were owned by businessman Sudhir Jain, who used to bring the valuables every day for rituals.

The theft occurred on Wednesday during the 'Daslakshan Mahaparv', a 10-day religious event being held at the 15 August Park within the Red Fort premises.

**UKRAINE CONFLICT**

**PM MODI-MACRON PHONE CALL OVER EFFORTS TO END UKRAINE CONFLICT**



**Diary Times Desk :** India and France share the same determination to achieve just and lasting peace in Ukraine, French President Emmanuel Macron said after a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Following the call, PM Modi reiterated New Delhi's consistent support for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict, even as the two leaders "positively" assessed initiatives to boost India-France ties.

The strategic partnership between New Delhi and Paris will continue to play a key role in fostering global peace and stability, he said.

Macron was among the European leaders who joined Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during his talks with US President Donald Trump at White House last month. Trump met Zelensky days after he held summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

In a social media post, the French president said he presented to PM Modi the "outcome of the work we carried out with President Zelensky and our partners of the Coalition of the Willing last Thursday in Paris". The "Coalition of the Willing", led by the UK and France, has been rallying support for Ukraine's security concerns.

"Had a very good conversation with President Macron. We reviewed and positively assessed the progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas," PM Modi said on X. "Exchanged views on international and regional issues, including efforts for bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine. The India-France Strategic Partnership will continue to play a key role in fostering global peace and stability," he said.

**"FULLY RECIPROCATE HIS SENTIMENTS": PM MODI ON TRUMP'S "WILL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS" REMARK**

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid the strained India-US ties over tariffs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday responded to US President Donald Trump's "always be friends" remark, saying he "fully reciprocates his sentiments". According to the PM, India and the US have a "very positive" global strategic partnership.

"Deeply appreciate and fully reciprocate President Trump's sentiments and positive assessment of our ties, India and the US have a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive and Global Strategic Partnership," PM Modi wrote on X. Trump, on Friday, called India-US ties a "very special relationship" and affirmed that he and PM Modi would "always be friends". However, he expressed displeasure over what PM Modi is "doing" at the moment - referring to India's Russian oil imports.

"I'll always be friends with PM Modi. He's a great Prime Minister. I'll always be friends, but I just don't like what he is doing at this particular moment. But India and the United States have a very special relationship. There is nothing to worry about. We just have moments on occasion," Trump said. The US President also said that trade talks with India are "going well". India and US ties had strained in recent weeks after the Trump administration imposed secondary tariffs on India for buying Russian oil. The US tariffs on Indian exports now stand above 50 per cent - the highest tariff Trump has imposed as per his fresh list, apart from Brazil.



**MEGHALAYA MURDER CASE**

**790-PAGE CHARGESHEET FILED IN MEGHALAYA HONEYMOON MURDER CASE, SONAM MAIN ACCUSED**



**Diary Times Desk :** A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Meghalaya Police has filed its chargesheet in the Raja Raghuvanshi murder case, and charged the victim's wife Sonam Raghuvanshi, her lover Raj Kushwaha and three others with murder.

In a statement, Meghalaya Police said a 790-page chargesheet was filed in the court of the Judicial Magistrate first class, Sohra Sub-Division, in connection with the murder of the Indore-based businessman that sent shockwaves across the country earlier this year.

All the five accused have been arrested and are currently in judicial custody. Besides Sonam and Raj, Akash Rajput, Anand Kurmi and Vishal Singh Chauhan have been charged for allegedly helping the woman murder her husband during their honeymoon on May 23.

All the accused have been charged under sections 103 (I) for murder, 238 (a) for disappearance of evidence of offence and 61 (2) for criminal conspiracy under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police Vivek Syiem said a supplementary chargesheet will be submitted against the three more co-accused after the additional forensic reports are out. He was referring to property dealer Silome James, Lokendra Tomar, the owner of the building where Sonam was hiding after committing the crime and the area's security guard Balbir Ahirbar. James, Tomar and Ahirbar, who were arrested on charges of destruction and concealment of evidence, are currently out on bail.

**RS 12,000 CRORE DRUG RACKET BUSTED IN TELANGANA, IT EXPERT AMONG 12 ARRESTED**



**Diary Times Desk :** A huge drug manufacturing syndicate operating in Telangana was busted by the Mira Road Police of Maharashtra's Thane district on Saturday, with the officials seizing MD (mephedrone) drugs worth Rs 12,000 crore.

According to officials, about 35,000 liters of chemicals used in making drugs were also found during raids at the factory in Telangana's Cheramallli area.

Investigation revealed that most of the drugs produced in the factory - which was running for several years - were supplied to Mumbai through local criminals and agents. The drugs were being manufactured secretly under the guise of a chemical factory.

It is estimated that hundreds of kilos of the mephedrone drug has been manufactured and supplied in the market, officials said. Based on a tip-off, the Mira-Bhayander, Vasai-Virar police and the crime branch jointly conducted raids at over 60 locations after keeping a watch for nearly a month, officials added. Police have arrested 12 people in the case, including a Bangladeshi woman who was caught with drugs worth Rs 24 lakh last month in Maharashtra's Mira Road. She was identified as Fatima Murad Sheikh alias Mollah (23). The main accused in the case is an IT expert who misused his knowledge.

**LUCKNOW AMITY STUDENT SLAPPED '50-60 TIMES' ON CAMPUS, VIDEO VIRAL**



**Diary Times Desk :** A second-year law student of Amity University in Lucknow was allegedly slapped "50-60 times" by his classmates inside a vehicle at the varsity's parking lot last month.

The incident, a video of which has gone viral, took place on August 26 when the victim, Shikhar Mukesh Kesarwani, arrived with a friend in her vehicle to attend classes.

The reason behind the assault could not be immediately ascertained. There was no immediate statement from Amity University at the time of filing this report.

Five students - Ayush Yadav, Jahnvi Mishra, Milay Banerjee, Vivek Singh and Aryanam Shukla - have been named in the First Information Report that was registered on the basis of a complaint by Shikhar's father Mukesh Kesarwani.

According to the victim's father, the incident has left his son - a student of BA LLB at the university in Malhaur - traumatised and he no longer attends college. Providing details of the assault, Mukesh said his son was on his way to college on August 26 when he was picked up by a friend, Soumya Singh Yadav, in her vehicle at Hanhemam Chauraha. As they reached the campus' parking lot, the accused student arrived at the spot and told Shikhar that they needed to talk to him about something. They entered Soumya's vehicle and for the next "45 minutes, threatened and verbally abused" the victim, he said.

**KERALA CONGRESS UNIT'S SOCIAL MEDIA CHIEF RESIGNS AMID 'BIDIS-BIHAR' POST ROW**



**Diary Times Desk :** The Congress' Kerala unit's social media head has resigned after a controversial post drew criticism from political leaders across states. VT Balram, a two-time legislator from Kerala's Thrithala constituency and until now the head of the the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) social media and digital cell, stepped down from his role, a day after the KPCC's official handle on X posted a message linking Bihar with bidis in the context of recently announced Goods and Services Tax (GST) changes.

The post, since deleted, had read: "Bidis and Bihar start from B. Cannot be considered a sin anymore." The statement, referencing the GST Council's decision to reduce tax on bidis from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, while increasing rates on cigarettes, was widely interpreted as derogatory towards Bihar and its people. Bihar is among the country's leading centres of bidi production, and the industry employs an estimated 70 lakh workers nationwide.

Within hours of the post appearing, criticism mounted from across the political spectrum.



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## PATNA MAN WHO SENT '400 KG RDX' THREAT TO MUMBAI POLICE ARRESTED IN NOIDA

**Diary Times Desk :** A 50-year-old man has been arrested in Noida for allegedly sending a message to the Mumbai Police, threatening dozens of blasts to "kill 1 crore people" in the financial capital where Ganesh festival celebrations are underway. One more person was also arrested for allegedly providing his SIM card to the accused to send the threat message to the Mumbai traffic police's WhatsApp helpline on Thursday. The message claimed 14 Pakistani terrorists had entered the city with 400 kilograms of RDX that was planted in 34 vehicles. The text sent the police into a huddle as the metropolitan force was making security arrangements for Anant Chaturdashi, which marks the end of the 10-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival with the immersion ritual, on Saturday. Sources said the alleged sender was identified as Ashwinikumar Sureshkumar Supra, a resident of Patna. He had switched off his mobile phone and was arrested from Noida Sector 79 based on local intelligence, surveillance and CCTV footage obtained from a grocery shop. He was subsequently handed over to the Mumbai Police. Ashwinikumar, the sources said, is an astrologer and a trader. He is in the process of separating from his wife. The other accused was arrested from Sorakha village. The arrest came after the Mumbai Police Joint Commissioner CP Rajiv Narayan Mishra, on the basis of information gathered during the course of interrogation, contacted Noida Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh for assistance in the case. Subsequently, a Special Weapons and Tactics team was formed to arrest the accused. The Mumbai Police earlier said the sender mentioned the name of an organisation called 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi' in the threat message.

## CANADA'S BIG ADMISSION OVER KHALISTANI TERROR GROUPS FUNDING

**Diary Times Desk :** A Canadian report has raised red flags over terror financing linked to Khalistani terrorists in the country. While it has been an open secret that Canada provides a safe haven to Khalistani terror groups like the Babbar Khalsa, International Sikh Youth Federation, and Sikhs for Justice, Ottawa has, for the first time, admitted that these groups have been operating from Canadian soil and receiving financial support. The admission is part of an assessment on money laundering and terrorist financing risks in Canada by its Finance department. The Khalistani groups "are suspected of raising funds in a number of countries, including Canada", it said. The report also pointed to financial links between Canada and other listed terror groups like Hamas and Hezbollah under the Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE) category.

## "WHY HAVE EMBLEM AT RELIGIOUS PLACE?" OMAR ABDULLAH ON HAZRATBAL VANDALISM

**Diary Times Desk :** The national emblem should not have been used at a religious place as it has hurt public sentiments, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said, a day after angry devotees defiled the emblem engraved on a plaque fixed outside the main prayer room of the Hazratbal shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dargah Hazratbal, the most revered shrine for Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, houses the relic of Prophet Mohammad. It hosted a gathering of devotees yesterday on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad, during which a crowd damaged the plaque while shouting slogans against the Waqf Board.

The incident triggered a political storm in the Union territory with the BJP demanding action against those who tried to "obliterate" the national emblem. But Mr Abdullah questioned the very need of having the national emblem there.

## HEALTH EMERGENCY IN ANDHRA VILLAGE AFTER 'MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS' KILLS 20

**Diary Times Desk :** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday declared a health emergency in a village in Guntur district and sent high-level medical teams to investigate after a 'mysterious illness' claimed the lives of at least 20 people in two months.

Health officials said a team led by Director of Medical Education Dr Raghunandan has visited the Turakapalem village to conduct a thorough investigation.

While the probe is on, officials suspect a bacterial infection known as Melioidosis. This suspicion is based on preliminary lab reports that have confirmed two cases of the infection in villagers

Melioidosis is a serious bacterial infection caused by Burkholderia pseudomallei, a bacterium commonly found in soil and stagnant water, especially during the monsoon seasons and during times of flooding. While it is treatable with a long course of antibiotics, timely diagnosis is crucial.



### YOUR HOROSCOPE

07-09-2025

<p><b>Aries</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Gemini</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Leo</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Libra</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Sagittarius</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Aquarius</b>        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.</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Cancer</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Virgo</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Scorpio</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Capricorn</b>        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.</p> <p><b>Pisces</b>        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.</p>
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## "INDIA CAN'T HANDLE TRUTH": TRUMP'S AIDE RENEWS ATTACKS OVER RUSSIAN OIL

**Diary Times Desk :** Peter Navarro, Senior Counsellor for Trade and Manufacturing for US President Donald Trump, has yet again accused India of profiteering from Russian oil in his latest slew of remarks, alongside alleging that India's tariffs cost "Americans' jobs". In a post on X on Friday, Navarro made the remarks in response to an article by the Washington Post, which described the conflicting efforts in Trump's administration over mending the relationship with India.

The news piece by The Washington Post claimed that the inflammatory language used by Washington towards New Delhi is deepening the crisis in the relationship.

Navarro, in recent times, has repeatedly taken jibes at India. From calling it a "laundromat for the Kremlin", to the castiest jibes such as "Brahmins are profiteering" from the conflict in Russia.

## PM MODI TO SKIP UN SESSION, S JAISHANKAR LIKELY TO REPRESENT INDIA

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly later this month, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued.

The 80th session of the UN General Assembly will open on September 9. The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US.

US President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House.

According to a revised provisional list of speakers for the high-level General Debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly released Friday, India will be represented by a 'minister'.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the session on September 27.

According to a previous provisional list of speakers issued in July, PM Modi was scheduled to address the General Debate on September 26.

The heads of government of Israel, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh are scheduled to address the UNGA General Debate on September 26.

PM Modi had travelled to the US in February this year for a bilateral meeting with Trump at the White House in Washington. Trump has imposed tariffs totalling 50 per cent on India, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

## 'THE WAR CONTINUED BEYOND MAY 10': ARMY CHIEF ON OPERATION SINDOOR

**Diary Times Desk :** Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Friday released a book on Operation Sindoor and underlined that it delves into the political clarity, interpretation of "full freedom" which was given to the armed forces, and the setting up of politico-military objectives for the decisive action.

The book, titled 'Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan', has been written by former Army officer and author, Lt Gen KJS Dhillon (retd), and it was launched at the event held at the Manekshaw Centre here.

In his address at the event, Gen Dwivedi, without elaborating, also said, "You may be thinking that on May 10, the war finished; no, because it continued for a long time, because so many decisions were to be taken, and beyond that, of course, it will be difficult for me to share here." India launched Operation Sindoor early on May 7, under which the armed forces decimated multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, in retaliation for the deadly Pahalgam attack on April 22.



## 'DEEPLY APPRECIATE SENTIMENTS': PM'S 1ST REACTION TO TRUMP'S 'FRIENDS WITH MODI' REMARK

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his deep appreciation and full reciprocation of President Donald Trump's sentiments and his positive assessment of the India-US relationship.

PM Modi emphasised that India and the United States share a very positive and forward-looking Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, which continues to grow stronger across various dimensions, be it defense, trade, technology, or people-to-people ties.

The remarks come amid strained India-US ties over the tariff row. Trump, on Friday, called India-US ties a "very special relationship" and affirmed that he and PM Modi would "always be friends".

However, he expressed displeasure over what "he (PM Modi) is doing" in contemporary times.

## RAJASTHAN STUDENTS HIRE HELICOPTER TO REACH EXAM CENTRE IN UTTARAKHAND

**Diary Times Desk :** Four BEd students from Rajasthan hired a helicopter to reach their exam centre in Munsiyari here as landslides caused by heavy rain have left many roads blocked in Uttarakhand.

Residents of Rajasthan's Balotra town, these students of Uttarakhand Open University had to reach RS Tolia PG College in Munsiyari to take the exam.

One of the students, Omaram Jat, said, "When we reached Haldwani on August 31, we came to know that all roads leading to Munsiyari were closed due to landslides. We thought we would not be able to take our exam."

He said then they came to know about a company which provides helicopter service between Haldwani and Munsiyari. However, they found that the service was temporarily unavailable due to bad weather.

## PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS OUTLAST PROFESSIONAL APPLAUSE: SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SURYA KANT TO LAWYERS



**Diary Times Desk :** Justice Surya Kant of the Supreme Court recently said that true fulfilment in the legal profession cannot come from professional achievements alone but must be rooted in relationships, community and compassion.

He underlined that happiness at home shapes happiness outside and that personal relationships outlast professional applause.

Addressing graduates at the combined convocation ceremony of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU) in Visakhapatnam, Justice Kant emphasised that the practice of law.

## DELHI RIOTS CASE: SHARJEEL MOVES SUPREME COURT AGAINST HC ORDER DENYING HIM BAIL

**Diary Times Desk :** Four days after the Delhi High Court rejected the bail plea of former JNU students Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid and eight others in the larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 North-east Delhi riots, Imam on Saturday moved the Supreme Court against the denial of bail by the High Court.

Imam's petition challenging the Delhi High Court's September 2 order has yet to be listed for hearing before the top court.

Arrested on January 28, 2020, from Jehanabad in Bihar, Imam has been in jail for more than five-and-a-half years.

A Division Bench of Justice Navin Chawla and Justice Shalinder Kaur had rejected the bail pleas of Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa Ur Rehman, Athar Khan, Meeran Haider, Shadab Ahmed, Abdul Khalid Saifi and Gulfisha Fatima, saying they did not deserve parity with co-accused Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal who were granted bail in September 2020.



### US NAVY SEALS KILLED NORTH KOREAN CIVILIANS DURING BOTCHED MISSION: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** United States Navy SEALs shot and killed several North Korean civilians during a botched mission in 2019 to plant a listening device in the nuclear-armed country, reportedly approved by US President Donald Trump, a leading US news outlet reports.

The New York Times reported on Friday that the classified mission was carried out by the US Navy's SEAL Team 6 during high-stakes diplomatic negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang in early 2019.

The elite special forces unit – the same one that killed former al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 2011 – was tasked with covertly going ashore in North Korea and planting a listening device to spy on the country's leadership.

But working in the dead of night with blackout communications, a series of errors led to civilians – several North Koreans reportedly diving for shellfish – inadvertently coming across the US special forces as they splashed ashore.

The SEALs opened fire, killing all those on board a small fishing vessel, the Times report said, without specifying the number of casualties.

### "A MESSAGE OF VICTORY": TRUMP ON RENAMING PENTAGON TO DEPARTMENT OF WAR

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order renaming the Department of Defense as the "Department of War", reviving a title last used in the 1940s. The order, issued on September 5, allows the Pentagon to use the label as a "secondary title" until Congress approves the permanent change.

Linking Renaming To Afghanistan Withdrawal During the announcement, Trump turned again to one of his most frequent criticisms of the Joe Biden administration, the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in 2021. He called it the "most embarrassing day in the history of our country".

Referring to the deadly suicide bombing at Kabul's Abbey Gate, which killed more than 100 Afghan civilians and 13 US soldiers on August 26, 2021, Trump said, "I think it was the most embarrassing day in the history of our country, the way that happened, the way they went to the wrong airport. They should have gone to Bagram, the local little airport with no security, with tight quarters. You know what happened.

### DONALD TRUMP EXEMPTS GOLD, URANIUM, OTHER METALS FROM GLOBAL TARIFFS

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump moved Friday to exempt graphite, tungsten, uranium, gold bullion and other metals from his country-based tariffs, while subjecting silicone products to the levies. The changes are set to take effect on Monday under an executive order issued Friday.

Trump's directive could also speed implementation of bespoke trade deals between the US and other countries, making it easier for Washington to lift tariffs on aircraft parts, generic pharmaceuticals and certain products that can't be grown, mined or naturally produced domestically – such as specialty spices and coffee, as well as obscure metals.

The measure formalizes a plan to exempt gold bars from tariffs, after a US Customs and Border Protection ruling weeks ago stunned traders and caused confusion by indicating bullion would be subject to import taxes.

### ISRAEL FLATTENS GAZA CITY HIGH-RISE AS IT TELLS RESIDENTS TO FLEE

**Diary Times Desk :** An Israeli strike flattened a high-rise in Gaza City on Saturday, the second in as many days after the military warned people to flee south to a "humanitarian zone" ahead of a planned offensive to capture the area.

Israel has been warning for weeks of a new assault on the territory's largest urban centre, without issuing a timeline.

It has stepped up air strikes in the area and operations on the city's outskirts despite calls to abandon the plan, which has sparked widespread fears it could worsen already-dire humanitarian conditions.

On Saturday, the military announced it struck a Gaza City high-rise, saying "Hamas terrorists installed intelligence gathering equipment and positioned observation posts in the building in order to monitor" Israeli troops, adding it had taken "measures to mitigate harm to civilians".

### SEOUL HOLDS EMERGENCY MEETING AFTER CITIZENS DETAINED IN US HYUNDAI RAID

**Diary Times Desk :** South Korea's government has held an emergency meeting and vowed to swiftly respond to the arrests of hundreds of its citizens in a massive immigration raid at a Hyundai plant in the US.

Seoul has dispatched diplomats to the site in Georgia, while LG Energy Solution, which operates the plant with Hyundai, said it was suspending most business trips to the US.

US officials detained 475 people – mostly South Korean nationals – who they said were found to be illegally working at the battery facility, one of the largest foreign investment projects in the state.

The White House defended the operation, dismissing concerns that the raid could deter foreign investment.

"They were illegal aliens and ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] was just doing its job," President Donald Trump said following the raids on Friday.

Video released by ICE officials showed Asian workers shackled in front of a building, with some wearing yellow vests with names such as "Hyundai" and "LG CNS". "People on short-term or recreational visas are not authorized to work in the US," ICE said, adding that the raid was necessary to protect American jobs.

"This operation sends a clear message that those who exploit the system and undermine our workforce will be held accountable," Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent Steven Schrank said in a statement on Saturday.

### PAKISTAN: ONE DEAD, SEVERAL INJURED IN BOMB BLAST AT CRICKET GROUND IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA



**Diary Times Desk :** At least one person was killed in a bomb blast during a cricket match in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district on Saturday, as reported by Pakistan's Dawn.com publication, citing police officials.

Bajaur District Police Officer Waqas Rafique confirmed the incident in Khar tehsil's Kausar Cricket Ground, saying the blast was carried out using an improvised explosive device (IED). "It appears to be a targeted attack," he said to Dawn.com.

### TRUMP SAYS VENEZUELAN JETS WILL BE SHOT DOWN IF THEY ENDANGER US SHIPS



**Diary Times Desk :** Donald Trump has warned that, if Venezuelan jets fly over US naval ships and "put us in a dangerous position, they'll be shot down".

The president's warning comes after Venezuela flew military aircraft near a US vessel off South America for the second time in two days, US officials told the BBC's US partner CBS News.

The reports follow a US strike against what Trump officials said was a "drug-carrying vessel from Venezuela" operated by a gang, killing 11 people.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has said that the US allegations about his country are not true, and that differences between the nations do not justify a "military conflict".

"Venezuela has always been willing to talk, to engage in dialogue, but we demand respect," he added.

When asked by reporters in the Oval Office on Friday what would happen if Venezuelan jets flew over US vessels again, Trump said Venezuela would be in "trouble".

Trump told his general, standing beside him, that he could do anything he wanted if the situation escalated.

Since his return to office in January, Trump has steadily intensified his anti-drug-trafficking efforts in Latin America.



## XI JINPING ASKS THE WORLD TO CHOOSE 'WAR OR PEACE.' WHICH DIRECTION IS CHINA HEADED?

**Diary Times Desk :** The optics could not have been more stark as Chinese leader Xi Jinping arrived at a massive military parade in Beijing flanked by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un – with some two dozen other leaders including from Iran, Pakistan, Belarus and Myanmar trailing behind. Jumbotrons at Tiananmen Square beamed the image to the 50,000 people gathered under the beating Beijing sun to witness the spectacle, many waving small Chinese flags, while state media transmitted it to televisions across China and the world.

Many watching in capitals across the West, including Donald Trump, thought the messaging was clear: China is deliberately provoking the US and its partners.



## ISRAELI MILITARY CLAIMS IT CONTROLS 40% OF GAZA CITY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Israeli military on Thursday said it controls 40 percent of Gaza City, the largest urban centre in the Palestinian territory which it is preparing to conquer after nearly two years of devastating war.

Israel has intensified in recent days its bombardments of the area of Gaza City, in the territory's north, ahead of the planned offensive, despite mounting international pressure to halt the campaign.

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes on Thursday killed more than 30 people in the city, out of at least 64 Palestinians killed across the Gaza Strip.

As concern grows over the dire humanitarian conditions for Gaza's population of more than two million, one of the European Union's top officials called the war a "genocide" -- a term strongly rejected by Israel, but which several governments and numerous rights groups have adopted.

In a televised briefing, Israeli military spokesman Brigadier General Effie Defrin said that "we hold 40 percent of the territory of Gaza City", adding that the offensive "will continue to expand and intensify in the coming days".

## US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO BE RENAMED 'DEPARTMENT OF WAR': REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** United States President Donald Trump is due to rename the Department of Defense as the Department of War in a bid to rebrand the government agency with a more forceful image.

The name change is expected to be implemented in an executive order on Friday, according to The Associated Press news agency, quoting White House officials familiar with the rebranding effort.

The "Department of War" will become the secondary name for the Department of Defense until legislative action can make the name change permanent, according to an unreleased fact sheet.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth wrote "DEPARTMENT OF WAR" in a post on social media above a news story on the reported change. Hegseth made no other comment.

President Trump had said a name change would remind people of past US military victories in World War I and World War II, when the US was an emerging superpower.

"Everybody likes that we had an unbelievable history of victory when it was Department of War," he told reporters late last month.

"Then we changed it to Department of Defense," he said. "Defense is too defensive. And we want to be defensive, but we want to be offensive too, if we have to be," he said.

## ZELENSKYY REJECTS PUTIN INVITATION: 'HE CAN COME TO KYIV'

**Diary Times Desk :** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday declined Russian President Vladimir Putin's suggestion he come to Moscow to negotiate a diplomatic settlement, addressing the proposal for the first time in an interview with ABC News Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Martha Raddatz for "This Week."

"He can come to Kyiv," Zelenskyy said. "I can't go to Moscow when my country's under missiles, under attack, each day. I can't go to the capital of this terrorist."

Putin "understands this," he told Raddatz.

Zelenskyy and Raddatz toured and sat down at the site of an American-owned manufacturing plant in western Ukraine that was the recent target of a Russian missile attack.

Zelenskyy said repeatedly that Putin doesn't seek a meeting with him as he continues to prosecute the war in Ukraine.

The Russian president on Wednesday said "he has never been against meeting with Zelenskyy."

"If Zelenskyy is ready, then let him come to Moscow," Putin said. "This meeting will take place."



## BEYOND THE MODI-PUTIN-XI PHOTO-OPS, THE SCO'S STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS ENDURES



**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin while discussing Russia-India-China (RIC) ties said that Chinese President Xi Jinping had coined the animal metaphor "dragon and elephant" dance to describe the relations between China and India. He said that the media had added Russia's "bear".

Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum 2025, Putin joked about using a tiger instead for Russia's Far East. "Of course, 'bear' is a symbol of Russia, but we are here - the Far East, and the biggest tiger in the world is the local breed here", referring to the Amur tiger or Siberian tiger.

He mentioned the United States' symbol - a double-headed eagle and taking a jibe said that it looks to the West and the East but, "there is also south, you know".

## TRUMP WEIGHS STRIKES TARGETING CARTELS INSIDE VENEZUELA, PART OF WIDER PRESSURE CAMPAIGN ON MADURO, SOURCES SAY

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump is weighing a multitude of options for carrying out military strikes against drug cartels operating in Venezuela, including potentially hitting targets inside the country as part of a broader strategy aimed at weakening leader Nicolas Maduro, according to multiple sources briefed on the administration's plans. Tuesday's deadly strike on an alleged drug boat departing Venezuela was a direct reflection of those options, sources said, and marked a significant escalation in the Trump administration's campaign against drug cartels, many of which it's designated as terrorist groups. Multiple sources told CNN Tuesday's strike was just the beginning of a much larger effort to rid the region of narcotics trafficking and potentially dislodge Maduro from power. Asked by a reporter on Friday if he would like to see regime change in Venezuela, Trump said, "We're not talking about that."

"But we are talking about the fact that [Venezuela] had an election, which was a very strange election, to put it mildly," Trump said, referring to last year's presidential race in Venezuela marred by accusations of electoral fraud.

**'NOBODY HAS DONE WHAT WE DID': TRUMP REITERATES CLAIM US ENDED SEVEN WARS, INCLUDING RUSSIA-UKRAINE**

**Diary Times Desk :** United States President Donald Trump reiterated his claim that America had halted seven wars in the past seven months, after previously stating he had resolved "three wars," including the long-running conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

"Nobody has done what we did in 7 months. We stopped 7 wars. Russia-Ukraine, which I thought would probably be the easiest, was the most difficult... One of the wars was going on for 31 years—that was said to be unstoppable, and I got it done in about 2 hours; another one was on for 35 years, and another one for 37 years," Trump said on Friday.

This is not the first time Trump has asserted he stopped a war. He has previously taken credit for brokering a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor through trade pressure. India has consistently dismissed this, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi telling Parliament that "no world leader asked India to stop Operation Sindoor."

**HAMAS RELEASES VIDEO OF TWO ISRAELI HOSTAGES HELD IN GAZA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Hamas has released a video showing two Israeli hostages seized from a music festival during its cross-border attack in October 2023.

The video claims to show Guy Gilboa-Dalal in Gaza City in late August, where he says he and eight others are being held and will remain despite Israel's planned ground offensive. It also shows captive Alon Ohel.

Earlier videos of hostages released by their captors in Gaza have been condemned by world leaders and families as propaganda.

Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir called for the full occupation of Gaza in response, claiming this was the only way to "bring back the hostages in security".

The video shows Mr Gilboa-Dalal, who was seized from the Nova festival in southern Israel, pleading for his release. In footage dated 28 August, he is filmed in a car in what he says is Gaza City.

The footage also shows Mr Ohel for the first time since he was abducted in the attack 700 days ago. Mr Gilboa-Dalal was previously seen in a Hamas video in February.

They are two of the 48 hostages still being held by Hamas, 20 of whom are thought to be alive.

**WHAT'S BEHIND PUTIN'S UNCOMPROMISING STANCE ON UKRAINE?**

**Diary Times Desk :** Sometimes it's not what's said that makes the biggest impression.

It's the reaction.

In the Russian Far East, Vladimir Putin delivered a warning to the West: don't even think about sending soldiers - and that includes peacekeepers - to Ukraine.

"If some troops appear there," the Russian president said, "especially now while the fighting's going on, we proceed from the premise that these will be legitimate targets for destruction."

Then the reaction.

The audience at the economic forum in Vladivostok burst into applause, with Russian officials and business leaders apparently welcoming the threat to "destroy" Western troops.

Observing the scene in the hall, I found the applause quite chilling.

And this came just a day after Kyiv's allies, the so-called Coalition of the Willing, had pledged a post-war "reassurance force" for Ukraine. The audience applauded again when the Kremlin leader suggested that he would be prepared to meet Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky - but only on home soil.

**"INDIA CAN TALK TO BOTH RUSSIA AND UKRAINE, WASHINGTON CANNOT": TERRIL JONES**

**Diary Times Desk :** Terril Jones, a leading American professor and a journalist close to 40 years, highlighted how India is in a unique position to bring to an end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, despite the United States' repeated attempts at getting the two parties to terms. In a conversation with ANI, Terril Jones said that while the United States has been able to maintain communication with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the dialogue has not been ideal. He also noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin "can be very stubborn," and highlighted the potential role India could play in helping to secure a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

"The United States can talk to Zelenskyy, although obviously it has sometimes been acrimonious, and they can talk to Putin, but Putin can be very stubborn and maybe nothing will come out of these things. And so, you know, India is in a position where it can speak to both and get the ear of both leaders."

**US TIGHTENS RULES FOR GREEN CARDS AND H-1B VISAS**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Trump administration has already made significant changes to immigration laws and is now actively taking steps to curb legal immigration into the country.

From international students to foreign workers seeking legal work permits, such as H-1B visas, all are facing stricter controls from US authorities.

The United States has also increased the cost of US visas to limit inflows into the nation and reduce trip overstays.

Here are some measures the Trump administration has taken or is considering implementing to make legal immigration more challenging for foreigners.

H-1B Visa

Trump administration wants more jobs for American workers and restricts U.S. firms from hiring foreign workers. A new wage-based selection process for H-1B visas has been proposed and is likely to be implemented soon.

**DEFYING PAST CRITICISM, TRUMP PLANS G-20 SUMMIT AT HIS DORAL RESORT**

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump plans to host next year's Group of 20 summit at his Doral golf resort in Florida, fulfilling his wish to host a major gathering of world leaders at one of his properties after bowing to criticism of self-dealing over a similar proposal during his first term.

"I think that everybody wants it there because it's right next to the airport. It's the best location. It's beautiful," Trump said Friday, of the decision to host the summit at the resort just west of Miami.

Trump's decision reflects the unconstrained approach he has taken during his second term - rejecting the guardrails that once constrained him when it came to mixing personal business with his public office.

He backed down in 2019 when Democrats, Republicans and foreign leaders alike criticized his plan to host the 2020 summit of the Group of Seven major economies at the Doral resort. There was fury over the possibility that he could violate the emoluments prohibition of the Constitution by soliciting business from foreign governments, which may have to pay Trump to use space at his resort there.

## ANTHROPIC TELLS US JUDGE IT WILL PAY \$1.5 BILLION TO SETTLE

### AUTHOR CLASS ACTION

#### Diary Times Desk :

Anthropic told a San Francisco federal judge on Friday that it has agreed to pay \$1.5 billion to settle a class-action lawsuit from a group of authors who accused the artificial intelligence company of using their books to train its AI chatbot Claude without permission.

Anthropic and the plaintiffs in a court filing asked U.S. District Judge William Alsup to approve the settlement, after announcing the agreement in August without disclosing the terms or amount.

"If approved, this landmark settlement will be the largest publicly reported copyright recovery in history, larger than any other copyright class action settlement or any individual copyright case litigated to final judgment," the plaintiffs said in the filing.

The proposed deal marks the first settlement in a string of lawsuits against tech companies including OpenAI, Microsoft and Meta Platforms over their use of copyrighted material to train generative AI systems.

## BESSENT CALLS TO TAKE POWER AWAY FROM THE FED

#### Diary Times Desk :

The Federal Reserve must be relieved of its duties regulating the nation's banks, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wrote in an essay published Friday.

Bessent wrote in the Wall Street Journal that the central bank has veered away from what he described as its core mission of promoting full employment, stable prices and moderate long-term interest rates.

President Donald Trump's top economic official is doubling down on an idea he has trumpeted for months: The Fed has overstepped its bounds by taking on banking regulation, and that must stop.

"The Fed now regulates, lends to and sets the profitability calculus for the banks it oversees, an unavoidable conflict that blurs accountability and jeopardizes independence," Bessent wrote.

## HOW PEOPLE ARE EARNING EXTRA CASH FROM LAVISH CEREMONIES



#### Diary Times Desk :

During the week, Shar Aguilar works in tech marketing. Her weekend gig is often much louder and a lot wilder. But for now, it sits and waits for her in the garage.

From nine-to-five on the weekdays, Aguilar joins many in Southern California at an office job, which she recently began working in again after getting laid off last year. But once she's logged off, her to-do list doesn't end.

She's sending quotes to clients, designing photo templates, closing bookings and coordinating with wedding planners. That's because she's also running a wedding photo booth company with her husband.

Aguilar spends most of her weekends manning her wooden, minimalist photo booths – a rustic aesthetic the blends in with Southern California's hilly vistas – for brides, grooms and all their guests.

The economy isn't doing too hot, but wedding bells are still ringing. That means Americans are still side-hustling.

Extravagant weddings reached their peak in the years following the Covid-19 pandemic: Couples who waited out the lockdowns were willing to splurge on lavish dessert tables, photo booths, live wedding painters and more. While the average cost of a ceremony and reception dipped in 2024, it's still well above what couples were spending in 2019.

## HOW THE US EXERTS CONTROLS OVER FOREIGN CHIPMAKERS IN CHINA

#### Diary Times Desk :

Despite years of engagement in a global chip war, China remains a vital operation base for several Asian-grown champions. But even from afar, Washington still holds key levers of power.

The latest example: The US government's revoking of authorization for Taiwanese and South Korean chip titans to freely send vital American technology-powered equipment to plants in China.

The change, which will go into effect next year, could hobble production, ultimately even threatening the plants' survival.

The Biden-era exemption let chipmakers TSMC, SK Hynix and Samsung export critical production equipment to China. Cutting that exemption underscores how important the US is to the global chip supply chain – and to all the products those chips help power, from cars to phones to weapon systems.

That's because, even though TSMC and Samsung are major chip manufacturing leaders, the US still holds commanding positions in chip design and related software, exemplified by Nvidia's dominance in AI chips. The Taiwanese and South Korean companies also rely heavily on crucial chipmaking equipment from American companies like Applied Materials, Lam Research and KLA.

Washington's move also highlights the tough balancing act these companies face as tensions between the world's two largest economies intensify.

## TRUMP THREATENS EU WITH TARIFF INVESTIGATION AFTER GOOGLE HIT WITH \$3.45 BILLION ANTITRUST FINE

#### Diary Times Desk :

President Donald Trump on Friday threatened the European Union with an investigation that could lead to higher tariffs, after the EU fined Google billions of dollars for violating its antitrust laws.

The EU announced earlier Friday that Google must pay a €2.95 billion (\$3.45 billion) antitrust fine for anti-competitive practices in its lucrative ad tech business, marking its fourth penalty in its decade long fight with EU competition regulators.

Trump on Friday criticized the EU's fine, saying in a Truth Social post that the money Google will be forced to pay "would otherwise go to American Investments and Jobs."

"This is on top of the many other Fines and Taxes that have been issued against Google and other American Tech Companies, in particular," Trump added. "Very unfair, and the American Taxpayer will not stand for it!"

## COACHING CENTRE BOOKED FOR FLOUTING GOVT'S ORDERS TO KEEP EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CLOSED

**Diary Times Desk :** A private coaching centre in Shimla has been booked for violating the orders issued under the Disaster Management Act 2005 by conducting classes, despite the state government's order to keep all the educational institutions as well as coaching centres across the state closed till September 7 owing to continuous heavy rainfall and adverse weather.

According to reports, Aakash Institute, a private coaching centre in Sanjauli locality in Shimla was found to be flouting the orders and conducted offline classes despite the orders to keep the educational institutions and coaching centres closed.

Acting on reports received through social media, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anupam Kashyap deputed ADM (Law & Order) Pankaj Sharma and tehsildar Apoorv Sharma to inspect the premises. The team reached the institute at around 10 am on Saturday and found classes were being conducted.

## FARMERS BLOCK ROPAR-CHANDIGARH HIGHWAY OVER SUTLEJ RIVER COURSE CHANGE

**Diary Times Desk :** Farmers in the Daudpur area of Chamkaur Sahib sub-division in Ropar district resorted to a traffic blockade on the Ropar-Chandigarh highway on Friday afternoon. The blockade continued until the filing of this report. The district administration of Ropar had to divert traffic on the Ropar-Chandigarh road through Morinda to avoid congestion. Despite this, thousands of commuters on the national highway faced problems due to the blockade.

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, who was travelling on the road, got stuck in the traffic jam, but police officials helped his cavalcade pass through. The farmers blocked the traffic, alleging that the Sutlej river had changed course in their area and was threatening their fields and habitations. They claimed that encroachment by certain people on the Nawashahar side had narrowed the riverbed.

## PM MODI LIKELY TO VISIT FLOOD-RAVAGED PUNJAB ON SEPTEMBER 9

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit flood-ravaged Punjab on September 9 and conduct an aerial survey of the affected areas.

Sources told that Modi will proceed for his tour of flood-hit regions of northern India on Tuesday after casting his vote in the Vice-Presidential election.

Modi will aerially take stock of areas around Amritsar and Ferozepur and assess the damages along the border belt where fences and border posts have also been damaged apart from vast tracts of farmlands and standing crops, including paddy and sugarcane. Central teams are already in Punjab to make assessment of damages.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also visited Punjab this week and toured the flood-affected areas.



## PUNJAB FLOODS: AAP SLAMS UNION MINISTER SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN OVER ILLEGAL MINING CLAIMS, DEMANDS RELIEF PACKAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Cabinet Minister Aman Arora on Saturday slammed Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for blaming illegal mining in rivers for flooding, saying the BJP leaders visit flood-hit areas for "photo-ops" instead of announcing financial aid for the state.

Accusing the BJP of discriminating against Punjab, the ruling AAP said the Union Minister did not announce "even a penny" in flood assistance despite the state government seeking payment of its "pending" Rs 60,000 crore with the Central Government.

Chouhan had visited flood-ravaged areas in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Kapurthala on Thursday.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said he would submit a detailed report on the Punjab flood situation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He attributed the flooding partly to weakened embankments along the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi and Ghaggar rivers, compromised by illegal mining activities.

## KANGRA AIRPORT EXTENDS OPERATIONS TO SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS IN REMOTE RAIN-HIT AREAS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Kangra airport has extended its air traffic control (ATC) services and airport operations beyond routine duty hours to facilitate the movement of military helicopters engaged in relief operations to rain-hit remote areas of Kangra and Chamba districts. The helicopters, operating in coordination with the district administration, have been transporting rations, medicines, and other essential supplies to tribal settlements that remain cut off during the monsoon season due to difficult terrain and poor or damaged road connectivity.

Airport director Dharendra Singh stated that extending watch hours was necessary to ensure uninterrupted operations of the defence helicopters, which depend on clearances from the civil ATC for safe landing and take-off. "The helicopters are making multiple sorties daily, and the airport has been providing support even beyond normal hours so that operations are not hampered," he said.

The remote tribal area of Bada Banghal, located deep in the Dhauladhar ranges, remained isolated for the past couple of months due to heavy monsoon rains.



A senior official of the district administration said timely support from the Kangra airport has helped ensure that essential items reach residents without delay. "The cooperation between civil aviation authorities and the defence establishment has been critical in maintaining lifelines for people in this difficult terrain," the official added.

With the monsoon continuing to disrupt road connectivity across the hill state, the official said helicopter sorties will remain crucial for sustaining the population of Bada Banghal and other remote areas until conditions improve.

## NO RESPITE: RAINFALL LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH TILL SEPTEMBER 12

**Diary Times Desk :** As many as 900 roads, including three National Highways (NH), remain blocked for vehicular traffic as a result of heavy downpour that continues to wreak havoc across the state.

As per the State Emergency Operation Centre, as many as 225 roads, including NH 03 and 305 are blocked in Kullu district alone — highest in the state. As many as 198 roads in Mandi, 167 roads in Shimla, 116 in Chamba, 48 in Sirmaur, 42 in Kangra, 31 in Una, 27 in Solan, 22 in Bilaspur, 15 including NH 505 in Lahaul and Spiti, four in Kinnaur and three in Hamirpur district are also blocked for traffic, affecting the connectivity in many parts of the state.

Additionally, about 1,497 distribution transformers including 867 in Kullu, 218 in Mandi, 200 in Shimla, 142 in Chamba, 37 in Solan, 31 in Sirmaur, and one each in Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti are also disrupted, leaving many areas without electricity. Apart from this, 388 drinking water supply schemes including 187 in Shimla, 79 in Mandi, 63 in Kullu, 30 in Chamba.

## New Ebola Outbreak In DR Congo

A new Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is suspected of causing 15 deaths among 28 people with symptoms, the health ministry in the central African country said Thursday.

It's the 16th outbreak of Ebola in Congo, and Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba said the fatality rate, estimated at 53.6%, showed the gravity of the situation.

The confirmed case was of a 34-year-old pregnant woman in the locality of Boulapé, in southern Kasai province. Research on the suspected cases was ongoing.

The World Health Organization said it dispatched its experts alongside Congo's Rapid Response Team to Kasai province to strengthen disease surveillance, treatment and infection prevention and control in health facilities. It is also delivering supplies including personal protective equipment, mobile laboratory equipment and medical supplies.



Anabella Gonzalez

"Case numbers are likely to increase as the transmission is ongoing. Response teams and local teams will work to find the people who may be infected and need to receive care."

Congo has a stockpile of treatments and of the Ervebo Ebola vaccine, WHO said.

"We're acting with determination to rapidly halt the spread of the virus and protect communities," said Dr. Mohamed Janabi, WHO regional director for Africa.

The Ebola virus is highly contagious and can be contracted through bodily fluids such as vomit, blood, or semen. The disease it causes is a rare but severe — and often fatal — illness in people.



On 1 September 2025, WHO received an alert from the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) regarding suspected cases of EVD in the Bulape Health Zone, Kasai Province, DRC. The first known suspected index case was admitted to the Bulape General Reference Hospital on 20 August 2025. The patient was a pregnant woman at 34-weeks of gestation who presented with symptoms of fever, bloody diarrhoea, haemorrhage, vomiting, asthenia, followed by multiple organ failure. She died on 25 August 2025. Two of the health-care workers that had initially been in contact with this first case also developed similar symptoms and died.

As of 4 September 2025, a total of 28 suspected cases, including 15 deaths, of which four are health-care workers (case fatality ratio (CFR): 54%) have been reported from three areas of the Bulape health zone (Bulape, Bulape Com and Dikolo) and Mweka health zone. About 80% of the suspected cases are aged 15 years and older. Five blood samples from five suspected cases and a naso-pharyngeal swab from a probable death were collected from the three health areas and shipped to the National Public Health Laboratory (INRB) in Kinshasa for testing. The average case fatality ratio is 50%; case fatality ratios ranging from 25% to 90% have been reported in previous outbreaks. The disease is characterised by an acute onset of fever with non-specific symptoms/signs (e.g., abdominal pain, anorexia, fatigue, malaise, myalgia, sore throat) usually followed several days later by nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and occasionally a variable rash. Severe illness may include haemorrhagic manifestations (e.g., bleeding), encephalopathy, shock/hypotension, multi-organ failure, and spontaneous abortion in infected.

## South American Oil, Threat Of War, And China

Guyana is one of the smallest countries in South America, but its elections on Monday might have outsized implications for oil markets and the United States. Here is what you should know.



As a former British colony, from which it became independent in 1986, Guyana inherited the territorial dispute after the 1899 Paris Arbitral Award granted the area's sovereignty to the United Kingdom.

Guyana is a country with high poverty rates. But since 2019, when oil production began, it has posted a rising GDP, with growth of 63.3% in 2022 and 33.8% in 2023, according to World Bank data. In 2024, Guyana's economy marked its fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth, expanding by 43.6%. This was due to oil production and exports, according to the country's Finance Minister Ashni Singh last January.

The country produces about 650,000 barrels of oil daily. That has made Guyana's energy sector a central pillar of its own economy, with the IMF highlighting it as having the world's highest GDP growth rate between 2022 and 2024.



Hilary Whiteman

Surrounded by mineral resources, Guyana's oil production is growing and could surpass Iran's by 2027. But the threat of a military clash is looming over Guyana, because Venezuela claims one of the country's oil-rich territories.

Nevertheless, Venezuela clarified that it does not recognize the jurisdiction of the UN's highest court, and that it will not abide by "any ruling issued in this matter" to resolve the territorial conflict. The case remains pending.

Meanwhile, Guyana's extraction of strategic resources has drawn the attention of the United States and China.

Although it's the third smallest country in South America, Guyana has the highest expected growth in oil production in the world through 2035, according to a report by Global Energy Monitor. By then, the country will already be producing about 2 million barrels daily — the same amount that Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela produced combined in 2022.

In the future, the ability to produce oil sustainably will continue to position Guyana at the center of the competition between the United States and China, analysts told CNN.

On Monday, Guyana is electing its next president, as well as members of its parliament and regional councils. The current president, Irfaan Ali, leader of the People's Progressive Party/Civic, is seeking reelection.

The other main contenders are Aubrey Norton, a longtime parliamentarian who is the leader of the opposition, the People's National Congress Reform party, and the son of a businessman Azurddin Mohamed, representing a new party called We Invest in the Nation (WIN). Mohamed was sanctioned in 2024 by the US, according to a US Treasury Department statement that claimed he sought to "exploit Guyana's underdeveloped gold sector for personal gain."

The country's economic transformation began in 2015, when US oil company ExxonMobil discovered nearly 11 billion barrels in deep waters. Since then, the country has clung to oil as a magic bullet for prosperity — a policy pursued by former president David Granger, who governed until 2020.

"Guyana's current growth rate is truly impressive," Ryan Berg, director of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), told CNN. He said the country will need to "manage its new wealth" in a way that achieves growth "in an inclusive and stable way."

Imdat Oner, a political analyst at Florida International University who was a former Turkish diplomat in Venezuela, told CNN that elections without major conflicts "would demonstrate that sudden oil wealth doesn't have to erode democracy, as happened in Venezuela."

## Thaksin Shinawatra

### THAILAND IN PRIVATE JET DAYS BEFORE COURT RULING

Thailand's influential former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra suddenly left the country on his private jet Thursday days before a court ruling that could see him imprisoned, raising speculation that he might not return to face the verdict.



Kocha Olan

But that changed on Friday, when Anutin Charnvirakul, a veteran of Thai politics, won the vote in parliament. He and his government are expected to take office in a few days after obtaining a formal appointment from King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

His departure came a day before Thailand's parliament picked veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul to become the country's next prime minister Friday — ousting the ruling Pheu Thai party, which Thaksin founded.

Thaksin, 76, spent 15 years in self-imposed exile after being forced from office in a 2006 military coup. His daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who became Thailand's youngest prime minister last year, was removed from office a week ago following an ethics probe.

Over the past 25 years, Thaksin has built one of the country's most famous and successful political dynasties, with allied candidates winning almost every election since 2001. But that dynasty has long been loathed by Thailand's powerful conservative and royalist establishment which, with the help of both the military and courts, has frequently toppled or tied up Shinawatra-run governments.

Private jet heads to Dubai... via Singapore  
Thaksin said in a social media post early Friday that he intended to travel to Singapore for "a health check-up" but was held up at Thai immigration for several hours.

His private jet flew out of Bangkok's Don Mueang airport just after 7 p.m. local time after immigration authorities confirmed there was no court order prohibiting him from leaving the country, police said in a statement.

Thousands of Thais on Thursday watched as flight tracking data showed Thaksin's plane, a Bombardier Global 7500 numbered T7GTS, flying toward Singapore before turning west and circling several times. The plane then heads toward India.

Thaksin said the pilot changed course for Dubai after being informed it was too late to land at Singapore's Seletar Airport, which closes at 10 p.m. local time.

"Since landing in Singapore was no longer possible, I decided to have the pilot change course to Dubai instead, because in Dubai I have my regular orthopedic doctor and pulmonologist," Thaksin wrote on X.



Following his ouster in 2006, Thaksin spent 15 years in self-imposed exile living in Dubai and elsewhere to avoid prison for abuse of power and corruption during his time in power, charges he claimed were politically motivated.

The former owner of Manchester City Football Club continued to play an outsized role in politics behind the scenes despite his absence, with many believing he took on the role of puppet master. His sister Yingluck ran a government until a court ruling ended her tenure followed by a 2014 military coup, while Thaksin's brother-in-law was also in charge of Thailand briefly during his absence.

In 2023, Thaksin made a dramatic return to Thailand and was taken into custody upon his arrival to serve an 8-year sentence related to convictions imposed in his absence.

The nature of his detention raised questions that he received special treatment and the Supreme Court verdict on Tuesday will decide whether Thaksin's time in hospital counted as time served. If the court rules against him, Thaksin could be sent to prison.

## JANNIK SINNER BEATS FELIX AUGER ALIASSIME, TO FACE CARLOS ALCARAZ IN US OPEN FINAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Jannik Sinner took a medical timeout – exactly why wasn't immediately clear – during a mid-match lull before retaking control for a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime in the U.S. Open semifinals Friday night, moving closer to a second consecutive title at Flushing Meadows. No one has repeated as the men's champion in New York since Roger Federer took five trophies in a row from 2004-08. The No. 1-seeded Sinner, a 24-year-old from Italy, will face No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz, a 22-year-old from Spain, on Sunday, making them the first men in tennis history to meet in three straight Grand Slam finals within a single season, according to the ATP.

The top spot in the rankings will be on the line, too, in front of an Arthur Ashe Stadium audience that is expected to include President Donald Trump. "It's a very special day," Sinner said about Sunday's matchup. "It's a very amazing final again."



## CHANGE OF PLANS AS BARCELONA CONSIDER IN-HOUSE SOLUTION TO REPLACE LEWANDOWSKI IN 2026

**Diary Times Desk :** FC Barcelona are beginning to plan for life after Robert Lewandowski, currently the team's first-choice striker.

The Pole is in his fourth season at the club and his contract stands to expire on June 30, 2026. Although a short-term extension is not ruled out, the general feeling is that this could be the centre-forward's final year in Catalonia.

As such, Barça's sporting department, led by Deco, is preparing for the transition. It was previously reported that the La Liga champions intend to go big on a successor for Lewandowski next summer, with names like Julian Alvarez and Erling Haaland being floated.

But, it appears that there is now a change of strategy as far as Barcelona's idea to replace Lewandowski in 2026.

Ferran Torres the leading candidate indeed, according to SPORT, given the club's economic restrictions, Deco is not banking on blockbuster signings.

## LIVERPOOL SENT ALEXANDER ISAK REALITY CHECK AS SWEDEN BOSS SAYS 'IT'S A RISK TO PLAY HIM'

**Diary Times Desk :** Liverpool fans will have to wait to see the best of Alexander Isak, with Sweden manager Jon Dahl Tomasson laying bare the reality of his current fitness level.

The Reds ended a bitter summer transfer window saga when they completed the £125million signing of Isak on deadline day. He was the headline addition of an extremely busy summer for Liverpool, who splashed £450m on new players.

Isak scored 27 times in all competitions for Newcastle last season and finished second behind Mohamed Salah in the race for the Premier League Golden Boot. And while he ultimately got his dream transfer to Liverpool, his methods have come at a cost.



## REVENGE & REDEMPTION – SABALENKA V ANISIMOVA IN FINAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Both have faced adversity this year. Both have come within touching distance of glory, only to fall agonisingly short.

Sabalenka, the world number one and defending champion in New York, has suffered defeat in the Australian and French Open finals this year.

Anisimova, meanwhile, froze in her first major final, suffering a brutal 6-0 6-0 loss to Iga Swiatek at Wimbledon just 56 days ago.

Sabalenka's ability to overcome the ghosts of this year's Grand Slams will be crucial to her bid for a fourth major singles title – and the same can be said for Anisimova.

On court, both Sabalenka and Anisimova are big hitters with fearsome ball-striking abilities. But the pair are also prone to showing their emotions and, in some cases, allowing them to take over.

The pair have faced each other twice this year already. Belarusian Sabalenka came out on top in the last-16 at Roland Garros before American Anisimova produced a stunning upset in the Wimbledon semi-finals.

The pair are undoubtedly similar. But on Saturday, there will be one key difference – only one will end the night as the US Open champion. All three Grand Slams this year have ended in devastating defeats to American opponents. Madison Keys out-hit Sabalenka in Australia.

## 'IT'S CRAZY' – MBAPPE EQUALS HENRY'S FRANCE TALLY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Real Madrid forward moved level with the Arsenal legend on 51 goals for his country as he scored a brilliant solo effort in the 82nd minute to double France's lead in Friday's 2-0 World Cup qualifying win over Ukraine.

It leaves the 26-year-old six goals behind former Arsenal and Chelsea striker Olivier Giroud's all-time France record of 57 goals.

"Big up to Titi [Henry], but now I want to surpass him," said Mbappe.

"It's an honour to equal a player like Henry, everyone knows what he means to us French people, even more so to strikers. He's someone who paved the way, and I have a lot of respect and admiration for him."

Henry was part of the France squad that won the 1998 World Cup on home soil at the age of 20, while Mbappe was only 19 when he helped Les Bleus win the tournament in Russia in 2018.

Both are behind Giroud's 137 appearances in France's list of most capped players, with Henry ending his international career with 123 caps and Mbappe currently on 90.

## BASTIAN SCHWEINSTEIGER IRATE AFTER GERMANY'S 2-0 DEBACLE VS. SLOVAKIA

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Bayern Munich star Bastian Schweinsteiger pulled no punches in assessing Germany's poor effort in a 2-0 loss to Slovakia.

"I played 121 games for Germany and there was never an attitude problem. When you hear the anthem and put on the national team shirt, you have to give everything on the pitch – regardless of whether it's a friendly or a World Cup final," Schweinsteiger said (as captured by @iMiaSanMia). "I'm sorry. But not for a single minute of the game did I believe we would win. This is a tough setback. We were really bad. We didn't play good passes, we didn't pose any threat. Our body language after going 0-1 behind was gone immediately.

"If you want to win anything, you have to show resilience. The players have to realize that wasn't good. I didn't sense any danger today. The coach can talk all night long, but the players have to understand it for themselves. We'd be lucky to qualify for the World Cup if we play like we did today."

Schweinsteiger is correct – Germany lacked energy and fight...and it was bad.

Very bad.

There is not much time to regroup and a lot needs to be changed. Time is ticking...

The German national team hit the road to face Slovakia, looking to get off on the right foot for this round of World Cup qualifier action.

That did not happen.