

NEWS IN BRIEF

FARIDABAD MAN, WIFE, DAUGHTER, PET DOG KILLED IN AC BLAST. SON JUMPS FROM WINDOW**Diary Times Desk :**

Three members of a family and their pet dog were killed after the compressor of an air conditioner exploded in their building in Haryana's Faridabad on Monday. The victims were Sachin Kapoor, his wife Rinku Kapoor and their daughter Sujan Kapoor.

The blast took place around 1:30 am on the first floor of the four-storey building and sent plumes of thick smoke to the second floor, where the Kapoor family was sleeping. The house on the first floor was reportedly vacant at the time of the incident.

While Sachin and Rinku Kapoor and their daughter died of suffocation, their son sleeping in another room jumped out of the window to save himself. He is currently in a critical condition. "We then rushed to rescue other people in the building," the neighbour, Mayank, told reporters.

WHO WILL BE NEXT VICE PRESIDENT? HOW NUMBERS STACK UP AHEAD OF POLL**Diary Times Desk :**

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is expected to win Tuesday's vice presidential election, although the margin of victory may not be as big as the past few polls, sources told NDTV this morning.

Therefore, the NDA, sources said, is tracking every vote.

The Vice President is chosen by all Members of Parliament via secret ballot.

This means MPs can vote as they wish, though in practice, they do so largely on party lines.

However, cross-voting is common, with ex-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu supporting the BJP, on occasion, in the past. In 2022, for instance, Jagdeep Dhankhar scored the biggest win in three decades after heavy support from across the aisle. This included votes from the YSR Congress and then Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal.

PETER NAVARRO**"YOU HEAR ALL SIDES": MUSK AFTER X FACT-CHECKS TRUMP AIDE'S ANTI-INDIA POST**

Diary Times Desk : Hours after US President Donald Trump's aide, Peter Navarro, slammed Elon Musk for his social media platform X fact-checking his anti-India post, the billionaire responded by saying his community notes "corrects everyone without exception". Musk, however, did not directly respond to Navarro, nor did he name him in the post.

"On this platform, the people decide the narrative. You hear all sides of an argument. Community Notes corrects everyone, no exceptions. Notes, data, and code is public source. Grok provides further fact-checking," Musk wrote in a post on X.

Navarro, who has been making multiple attacks on India over its trade and foreign policies with Russia, yet again made an anti-India post, accusing New Delhi of "profiteering" from the Russian oil imports. This time, however, Navarro got fact-checked on X, with his claims being called "hypocritical."

"FACTS: India highest tariffs costs US jobs. India buys Russian oil purely to profit/Revenues feed Russia war machine. Ukrainians/Russians die. U.S. taxpayers shell out more. India can't handle truth/spins, the Trump aide wrote.

The X's fact-checking note corrected him, saying India's Russian oil purchases are for "energy security" and they "do not violate sanctions". "While India has some tariffs, the US has a trade surplus with it in services. The US also continues to import certain commodities from Russia, which is hypocritical," it said.

Another note added: "Navarro's claims are hypocritical. India's legal, sovereign purchases of Russian oil for energy security do not violate international law."

X also mentioned that while the US is pressuring India over its oil trade, they themselves are continuing to import billions in Russian goods, like uranium, and "exposing a clear double standard".

AADHAAR VALID AS 12TH DOCUMENT FOR SPECIAL REVISION OF VOTERS: SUPREME COURT

Diary Times Desk : The Election Commission must accept the Aadhaar as proof of identity, and include it on list of 11 other documents deemed 'valid' for re-verification of voters ahead of the Bihar Assembly election later this year, the Supreme Court said Monday in the 'special intensive revision' case.

In a verbal order issued in court this morning, a bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said Aadhaar cards should be accepted as the 12th document to establish identity of an individual for the purpose of inclusion in, or exclusion from, the electoral roll.

The court overruled a plea by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the Election Commission, that said 99.6 per cent of the 724 crore voters in the draft roll had already submitted documents, and seeking inclusion of Aadhaar now would not serve any purpose.

However, in a nod to the poll panel's earlier objection - that the Aadhaar could be forged and was, therefore, an unsuitable option to establish identity - the court said election officials could "verify the genuineness of the card" and that it could not be used to establish citizenship.

The order this morning echoes a July observation; the court said the risk of forgery - which the EC said led it to rule out two other ID cards too - could happen for any of the 11 it had allowed.

In connection with that observation, the court also sought the poll panel's explanation on notices that had been issued to poll officials for not accepting voters' Aadhaar cards.

The top court is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the Election Commission's 'special intensive revision', or SIR, of the voter list in Bihar months before the state election.

**WHY LALBAUGCHA RAJA IMMERSION WAS DELAYED BY 13 HOURS, TRADITIONS BROKEN**

Diary Times Desk : The immersion of Mumbai's iconic and oldest Lalbaugcha Raja Ganesh idol at Girgaon Chowpatty witnessed a delay of nearly 13 hours this year, owing to high tide and technical snags, breaking its usual traditions and leaving some devotees angry.

Traditionally, the 18-foot-tall idol's procession begins on Anant Chaturdashi - the final day of the Ganesh festival and idols' 'visarjans', but is immersed the next morning around 9 am. This time, too, the immersion was planned around the same time. However, organisers said there was a high tide in the morning, which made it impossible for them to conduct the immersion, and could only take place when the high tide eased - around 10:30 pm. This was also the 'sutak period' - a spiritually significant and inauspicious time during the lunar eclipse - which created discomfort among the devotees.

Another tradition that was broken this year was the high-technological platform used for the immersion of the Lalbaugcha Raja.

Every year, Lalbaugcha Raja was immersed from a floating platform made from the boats of the 'Koli' (fishermen) community. This platform witnessed some technical snags, causing a delay in the immersion, leaving the idol stranded at the Girgaon Chowpatty for a few hours.

This angered the fishermen community, with them saying that they were "sidelined".

5 DAYS AFTER BREACHING DANGER MARK, YAMUNA WATER LEVEL RECEDES

Diary Times Desk : The water level of the Yamuna at Delhi's Old Railway Bridge on Sunday fell to the danger mark of 205.33 metres, five days after it was breached, officials said.

The water level at 9 pm was recorded at 205.33 metres. After swelling to the season's highest at 207.48 metres on Thursday, the water level has been receding since. While the danger mark is 205.33 metres, evacuation of people starts at 206 metres.

The warning mark for the city is 204.50 metres. The river had breached the danger level on Tuesday, leading to closure of movement on the Old Railway Bridge. The current situation has led to displacement of nearly 10,000 people.

The Old Railway Bridge serves as a key observation point for tracking the river's flow and potential flood risks.

In the past few days, the Yamuna had inundated several areas along its banks. Tents have been set up on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, near Mori Gate and in Mayur Vihar areas to temporarily accommodate people evacuated from low-lying areas near the river.

Delhi battled one of its worst flood-like situations in 2023 when several areas were inundated, leading to the evacuation of more than 25,000 people.

The Yamuna reached an all-time high of 208.66 metres on July 13, 2023. The situation led to flooding in several parts of Delhi, including northeast, east and southeast districts and key spots like the Tibetan Market and Rajghat.

CONGRESS PARTY

TELECOM REGULATOR TRAI DENIES CONGRESS' CHARGE IT BLOCKED SMS OUTREACH

Diary Times Desk : The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has rejected claims from the Congress party that it blocked an SMS campaign linked to a documentary about electoral wrongdoing in the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections.

On Sunday, the Congress accused the telecom regulator of rejecting its request to send bulk SMS to its Maharashtra members. This message contained a link to a YouTube documentary titled 'How the MH 2024 election was stolen'. The party stated that TRAI dismissed the request, calling the message "protest content".

In a statement released today, the regulator clarified that it did not receive any application for approval of the SMS in question.

"TRAI does not approve individual SMS templates. The rejection, as shown in the circulating photograph, seems to have come from the service provider, STP, not TRAI," the authority explained.

However, the Congress raised concerns about what it described as "coordinated suppression of information" by various government agencies, including the Home Ministry, Election Commission, and telecom regulators.

"How is there such perfect coordination between these bodies to block our outreach? Does one need more evidence of the MH election fraud than these actions to suppress and hide information?" Praveen Chakravarty, Congress spokesperson, said.

"RIGHT IDEA": UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY BACKS TRUMP'S RUSSIAN OIL TARIFF ON INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has backed US President Donald Trump's tariffs on trading partners who have trade ties with Russia, including India, calling the action a "right idea". Talking to American broadcaster ABC, Zelenskyy labelled Moscow's energy trade as Russian President Vladimir Putin's weapon against Ukraine, and said the exports need to be stopped.

"I think the idea to put tariffs on countries who continue to make deals with Russia is a right idea," Zelenskyy said when asked about a recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Putin in China.

Trump has doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India, however, has called the US action "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". New Delhi has also made consistent calls for an end to the conflict in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy also attacked Ukraine's European partners for continuing the energy trade with Moscow, and said, "We all understand that we need additional pressure on Putin. We need pressure from the United States."

J-K POLITICAL LEADERS DENOUNCE PSA AGAINST MLA DODA MEHRAJ MALIK

Diary Times Desk : Political leaders of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday denounced slapping of PSA on elected representative from Doda Mehraj Malik, and said such “draconian laws” are weaponised to silence political voices.

J&K Peoples’ Conference (JKPC) chairman, Sajad Gani Lone, who is also an MLA Handwara expressed strong condemnation over the move.

In a post on X, Lone said: “We strongly condemn the use of the PSA against @MehrajMalikAAP This is a soulless democracy”.

He added that, “The will of the people of J and K continues to be subservient. What is the fun of having elections if an elected representative cannot voice his sentiments. A very sad day for an already endangered democracy”.

In a similar way, Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Pulwama Waheed-ur-Rehman Para said such draconian laws are being used as a “weapon” to silent political voices and crush dissent.

He said such types of measures are no way to resolve difference in a democratic set up. Taking to micro-blogging site X (formerly Twitter), PDP leader said: “Strongly condemn the use of PSA against MLA Mehraj Malik. Such draconian laws are weaponised to silence political voices & crush dissent. Such authoritarian measures are no way to resolve differences in a democracy”.

HARYANA MAN SHOT DEAD IN US FOR OBJECTING TO MAN URINATING IN PUBLIC

Diary Times Desk : A man in Haryana was shot dead in the US for allegedly stopping a man from urinating on the road outside the store where he worked, his family told PTI. 26-year-old Kapil, a native of Jind district, was working as a security guard at a store in California. When he was objected to a man urinating outside the store, an argument followed. Moments later, the accused took out a gun and shot him dead, Suresh Kumar Gautam, the head of Barah Kalan village in Jind, told PTI.

Kapil had gone to the US around three years ago, allegedly through the “donkey route”, crossing the jungles of Panama and scaling the Mexico border wall, The Times of India reported. Though he was intially arrested, he was later released after legal proceedings and had been living in the US since then. His immigration had cost the family around Rs 45 lakh.

SUPREME COURT DIRECTS UPSC TO EXPEDITE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TN DGP APPOINTMENT



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to expeditiously send its recommendations for the appointment of the Director General of Police (DGP) of Tamil Nadu [Henri Tiphagne vs. The State of Tamil Nadu].

The Bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and Atul S Chandurkar directed the State to immediately proceed with the appointment of a regular DGP once the recommendations from the UPSC are received.

The Court was hearing a contempt petition filed by human rights lawyer Henri Tiphagne, alleging that Tamil Nadu had not complied with the Court’s directions on police reforms and continues to have only an acting DGP instead of a regular appointee.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the State, explained that the delay was caused by litigation initiated by one of the IPS officers. That officer had approached the Central Administrative Tribunal seeking inclusion of his name in the panel for consideration. After his plea was dismissed by the Tribunal and his review rejected on April 30, he approached the Supreme Court. His petition before the top court was dismissed on August 22 paving the way for the appointment process to resume.

Taking note of this background, the Court requested the UPSC to finalise its recommendations quickly and recorded that the State must act on them without delay.

SMOTRICH HEADS DELEGATION TO INDIA FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION DEALS



Diary Times Desk : Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich is leading an economic delegation to India to seal cooperation agreements that are expected to deepen economic relations and boost mutual investments between the two countries. Smotrich is joined by the ministry’s chief economist, Shmuel Abramzon, and other senior officials, including Accountant General Yali Rothenberg and Director-General Ilan Rom, as well as Israel Securities Authority Chairman Seffy Singer.



Aries

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

Gemini

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

Leo

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.

Libra

Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Sagittarius

Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

Aquarius

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.



Taurus

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

Cancer

Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.

Virgo

Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.

Scorpio

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

Capricorn

Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.

Pisces

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

MONSOON FURY: PUNJAB
CABINET ANNOUNCES RS
20,000 PER ACRE
COMPENSATION FOR
FARMERS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Cabinet decided on Monday to provide Rs 20,000 per acre in compensation to farmers whose fields have been submerged under flood waters and whose crops have been damaged.

The decision was announced by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on social media while he is still recuperating in the hospital. He fell ill last week, reportedly suffering from a bacterial infection, and was admitted to the hospital on September 5. Standing crops on 4.30 lakh acres of land in Punjab have been damaged in the floods that have ravaged the state for the past three weeks. While the Disaster Management Rules permit only Rs 6,800 per acre to be given as compensation for crop loss, different state governments, for over a decade, have been giving an additional compensation of Rs 8,200 per acre.

US MAN REACTS TO H-1B
VISA, SAYS "I WANT MY KIDS
TO GROW UP IN AMERICA,
NOT INDIA", SPARKS DEBATE

Diary Times Desk : A Dallas man has sparked a heated debate online on immigration over his recent social media post that he wants his children to grow up in America, not India. While sharing a video, the user named Daniel Keene wrote in the caption: "Typical view in my neighborhood outside Dallas. We have to cancel the H-1Bs. I want my kids to grow up in America. Not India." The video, which was captured from inside a car, shows people taking part in celebrations and playing drums on the streets. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US employers to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations. Many Indians apply for an H-1B visa to work on-site while working in multinational companies. The H-1B visa programme allows US employers to tap into the global talent pool and fill labour gaps. However, the program has also been the subject of controversy and debate, with some arguing that it benefits employers at the expense of U.S. workers. Some users praised the man's sentiment, citing the importance of patriotism and American values. One user commented, "That's the spirit! Raising kids who love America is key." Meanwhile, some users argued that cultural diversity is a strength of the US and children should be exposed to their parents' cultural heritage.

SC TO HEAR ALL CHALLENGES ON ONLINE
GAMING ACT AFTER CENTRE'S PLEA



Diary Times Desk : In a significant development on Monday, the Supreme Court ordered that all cases pending in various High Courts challenging the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 be transferred to the apex court for joint hearing. A bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Vishwanathan allowed the Centre's transfer petition, bringing together matters currently pending before the High Courts of Delhi, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh. The bench directed that records from all three High Courts be transferred digitally within one week. Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, argued that consolidation was necessary since similar petitions had already been considered by the same bench and "it would be much easier to conclude the matter" if they were heard together. Senior Advocate C. Aryama Sundaram also pressed for urgent transfer, stressing that digital consolidation of all proceedings would ensure efficiency.

CELEBRITIES, SIKH GROUPS,
VOLUNTEERS ROLL UP SLEEVES TO
REBUILD FLOOD-RAVAGED PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : Amidst floods ravaging their state, Punjabi celebrities, Sikh groups and youths have set an example by not only providing relief material but also serving flood victims on the ground instead of waiting for government support or relief packages. From global icon and Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh to fellow musicians Satinder Sartaj, Jasbir Jassi, Gippy Grewal, Karan Aujla and Ranjit Bawa – and actors Gurpreet Ghuggi, Nimrat Khaira, Sonam Bajwa, Ammy Virk, Randeep Hooda, Kapil Sharma and Sonu Sood – the list of those supporting and rescuing flood victims has grown longer by the day. Apart from the above, Bollywood actors Vicky Kaushal, Shah Rukh Khan, Sunil Shetty, Sunny Deol and Kareena Kapoor Khan, as well as cricketers Yuvraj Singh, Shubman Gill and Harbhajan Singh, also declared support for victims of the floods in Punjab, which have killed over 40 people and inundated at least four lakh acres of cropland.

INDIA, EU WORKING TO SEAL
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BY
DECEMBER: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Eyeing to conclude their ambitious free trade deal soon, India and European Union will hold two rounds of crucial negotiations in next one month to overcome differences in areas of rules of origin, market access and duties on wine and dairy products, authoritative sources said on Sunday. European Commission's agriculture commissioner Christophe Hansen and trade chief Maros Sefcovic are visiting India this week to hold talks with their Indian interlocutors as both sides look to seal the free trade agreement (FTA) by end of this year. The European Union is India's biggest trade partner with bilateral trade in goods recording USD 135 billion in the financial year 2023-24. Besides the trade deal, India and the EU are also in the process of firming up a series of transformative initiatives including a new politico-strategic vision and key foundational frameworks to expand defence ties -- moves that came against the backdrop of increasing geopolitical uncertainty.

PUNJAB FLOODS DEATH COUNT RISES TO
48; SCHOOLS, COLLEGES TO REOPEN FROM
TODAY

Diary Times Desk : With two more persons losing their lives, the death toll in Punjab due to devastating floods went up to 48 while crops on 1.76 lakh hectares have been damaged, said officials on Sunday. All schools, colleges, and universities in Punjab will reopen from September 8, Education Minister Harjot Bains said on Sunday, days after educational institutions across the state were closed due to the deluge – the worst in over three decades. If any school or college is affected by floods, the decision on its closure will be taken by the respective deputy commissioner, the minister said. Private schools can reopen from September 8, but in government schools, classes will resume from September 9. AAP leader Manish Sisodia said farmers will be allowed to extract sand that has been deposited in their fields following the worst floods that struck Punjab.

STATE OF THE WORLD TODAY IS A CAUSE FOR GENUINE CONCERN:
JAISHANKAR AT VIRTUAL BRICS SUMMIT

Diary Times Desk : The world is seeking a stable and predictable environment for trade and investment and economic practices should be fair, transparent and to everyone's benefit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday, amid increasing global concerns over Washington's tariff tussle.

In an address at a virtual BRICS summit, the external affairs minister said India strongly believes that the foundational principles such as open, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory approach of the international trading system must be protected. Jaishankar represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the summit that saw participation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and several other leaders of the grouping.

The summit was convened by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to discuss trade disruptions triggered by Washington's policies on trade and tariff. "The world as a collective is seeking a stable and predictable environment for trade and investment. At the same time, it is imperative that economic practices are fair, transparent and to everyone's benefit," Jaishankar said.

**FATAL STABBING OF UKRAINIAN
REFUGEE ON CHARLOTTE LIGHT RAIL
– STIRRING DEBATE ON CRIME IN
MAJOR US CITIES**

Diary Times Desk : Gruesome video shows a 23-year-old Ukrainian refugee getting stabbed to death on a Charlotte light rail train – a case that has turned into a flashpoint as the Trump administration vows to crack down on crime in large, predominantly Democratic cities.

The unprovoked attack happened shortly before 10 p.m. August 22, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department said. A caller said a woman was stabbed in the throat.

The victim, Iryna Zarutskya, fled Ukraine in 2022 with her mother, sister, and brother to escape the war with Russia – “and she quickly embraced her new life in the United States,” her obituary states. Zarutskya attended Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, worked at Zepeddie’s Pizzeria, was a talented artist and had dreams of becoming a veterinary assistant. Video of the attack shows Zarutskya entering a train car and taking a seat directly in front of the suspect, court documents state. “The train travels for approximately four and half minutes before the suspect pulls knife from his pocket, unfolds the knife, pauses, then stands up, and strikes at the victim three times,” a police detective wrote in an affidavit. “Blood visibly drips on the floor as the defendant walks away from the victim. The victim goes unresponsive shortly after the attack. The defendant is the assailant on the video. There appears to be no interaction between the victim and defendant,” the affidavit states.

**WHO URGES TALIBAN TO LIFT CURBS ON FEMALE AID STAFF AFTER DEADLY
QUAKE HAMPERS WOMEN’S CARE**

Diary Times Desk : The World Health Organization has asked Taliban authorities to lift restrictions on Afghan female aid workers, allowing them to travel without male guardians and help women struggling to access care after a powerful earthquake killed 2,200 people in eastern Afghanistan.

“A very big issue now is the increasing paucity of female staff in these places,” Dr Mukta Sharma, the deputy representative of WHO’s Afghanistan office, told Reuters. She estimated around 90% of medical staff in the area were male, and the remaining 10% were often midwives and nurses, rather than doctors, who could treat severe wounds. This was hampering care as women were uncomfortable or afraid to interact with male staff and travel alone to receive care. The September 1 magnitude 6 quake and its aftershocks injured more than 3,600 people and left thousands homeless in a country already dealing with severe aid cuts and a slew of humanitarian crises since the Taliban took over in 2021 as foreign forces left.

The Taliban says it respects women’s rights in line with its interpretation of Islamic law and have previously said they would ensure women could receive aid. Its administration in 2022 ordered Afghan female NGO staff to stop working outside the home. Humanitarian officials say there have been exemptions, particularly in the health and education sectors, but many said these were patchwork and not sufficient to allow a surge of female staff, particularly in an emergency situation that required travel.

**U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SAYS
HE’S READY TO IMPOSE SECOND PHASE
OF SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA**

Diary Times Desk : U.S. President Donald Trump said that he is prepared to impose a “second phase” of sanctions on Russia. Mr Trump told reporters outside the White House that he is ready when he was asked if additional measures were coming.

His remark followed comments by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who warned that Russia’s economy would collapse if the United States and European Union expand secondary sanctions on countries purchasing Moscow’s crude oil. Mr Trump’s statement came after Russia carried out its largest-ever air attack on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, destroying buildings housing key government offices.

**SIX KILLED BY PALESTINIAN GUNMEN AT
JERUSALEM BUS STOP**

Diary Times Desk : Six people have been killed and eight others wounded by Palestinian gunmen in one of the deadliest shooting attacks in Jerusalem in the past few years.

Israeli police said “two terrorists arrived in a vehicle” and opened fire towards a bus stop at Ramot Junction, on the city’s northern outskirts. An off-duty soldier and a civilian returned fire, “neutralising” the attackers, it added.

Israeli media identified the dead as five men, aged between 25 and 79, and a 60-year-old woman. Local hospitals said two of the wounded were in a serious condition.

There was no immediate claim from any armed groups, although Hamas praised the attack. During a visit to the scene, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters that Israel was in “an intense war against terrorism on several fronts”.

Israeli security forces had thwarted hundreds of attacks in the occupied West Bank this year, “but, unfortunately, not this morning”, he said.

**SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIALS
WILL TRAVEL TO US TO
SECURE RETURN OF
DETAINED WORKERS**

Diary Times Desk : South Korea’s foreign minister will travel to the United States on Monday to help secure the return of hundreds of Koreans who were detained in Georgia last week.

US officials detained 475 people – more than 300 of them South Korean nationals – who they said were illegally working at a car battery plant.

The facility is being built by two South Korean companies – Hyundai and LG – and is one of the largest foreign investment projects in the state.

Such raids have ramped up under President Donald Trump who has vowed to crack down hard on unauthorised immigration. But Friday’s raid could become a source of tension with a key ally, South Korea, which has also promised to invest in the US.

South Korea expressed “concern and regret” over the operation and urged the US government to respect the rights of its citizens.

The government has been working all weekend to secure the workers’ release. Last night it reached a deal with the US to bring them home on a chartered flight. But the exact details of how and when the workers will be returned still need to be finalised.

The raid took place just two weeks after Seoul agreed to invest billions of dollars in the US to help it produce the likes of car batteries.

**US TIGHTENS VISA RULES: NO
MORE QUICK
APPOINTMENTS ABROAD
FOR INDIANS**

Diary Times Desk : The US Department of State has issued a directive – effective immediately – requiring non-immigrant visa (NIV) applicants, including Indians, to set up their interview appointments exclusively in their country of citizenship or legal residence.

The step aims to eliminate the previously employed workaround of applying from nearby countries with shorter wait times. The new visa rules will be implemented globally, according to a statement released by the US State Department on Saturday.

“Effective immediately, the Department of State has updated instructions for non-immigrant visa applicants... (they) should schedule visa interview appointments at the US embassy or consulate in their country of nationality or residence,” the statement said.

That option is no longer available under the new policy, except for a few exceptional circumstances in which the United States does not regularly conduct NIV operations.

"US WILL REFUND ABOUT HALF THE TARIFFS IF...": WHAT TEAM TRUMP SAID

Diary Times Desk : US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said that the United States will issue "rebates" if the country's Supreme Court decides to strike down "reciprocal tariffs" imposed by President Donald Trump on almost all of Washington's trading partners. The remarks came after a federal appeals court last month ruled Trump overstepped presidential powers by imposing hefty duties.

Speaking during an appearance on NBC News' "Meet the Press", Bessent said, "We would have to give a refund on about half the tariffs, which would be terrible for the Treasury...If the court says it, we'd have to do it."

Without citing details, the Treasury Secretary, however, said that there are "numerous other avenues" that can be taken on tariffs, though they would "diminish President Trump's negotiating position".



NEW ZEALAND DAD SHOT DEAD BY POLICE AFTER YEARS ON THE RUN WITH CHILDREN

Diary Times Desk : A father who had been on the run with his three children in New Zealand's wilderness for nearly four years has been shot dead by police.

Tom Phillips, who disappeared with his children in late 2021, had evaded capture despite a nationwide search and multiple sightings over the years.

The case had gripped the country and remains one of New Zealand's most enduring mysteries.

Phillips was killed in a shoot-out around 02:30 (14:30 GMT Sunday) on Monday, in which a police officer was seriously injured, authorities said.

Officers were responding to a reported robbery at a commercial property in Piopio, a small town in northern New Zealand, when Phillips and one of his children were spotted riding a quad bike.

Police officers then gave chase before laying road spikes to stop them. The bike hit the spikes and went off road.

When police reached the vehicle they were met with gunfire, Deputy Police Commissioner Jill Rogers told reporters.

The first attending officer at the scene was shot in the head, and remains in a serious condition, police said.

UK COULD SUSPEND VISAS FOR COUNTRIES WITH NO MIGRANT RETURN DEALS

Diary Times Desk : The UK could suspend visas from countries that do not "play ball" and agree to returns deals for migrants, the new home secretary has said. Shabana Mahmood made the comments as she hosted Donald Trump's head of homeland security and ministers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada at a meeting of the intelligence-sharing Five Eyes group in London on Monday.

The talks came as the government continued to face pressure to reduce the number of people crossing the Channel in small boats.

Saturday, which was Mahmood's first full day in the job, saw 1,097 people arriving, one of the highest number of people on record.

Speaking for the first time since being appointed on Friday, Mahmood said her "top priority" is "securing" the UK's borders.

On visas, she said: "We think there is interesting space for collaborating, particularly on how we deal with countries who do not take their citizens back – so making sure we are able to return out of our countries people who have no right to be in our countries and send them back to their home countries."

"For countries that do not play ball, we have been talking about taking much more coordinated action between the Five Eyes countries."

AFGHAN EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS REFUSE TO RETURN TO VILLAGES FEARING LANDSLIDES

Diary Times Desk : Haunted by the fear that aftershocks could bring rocks crashing down from the mountains, the survivors of Afghan earthquakes vowed not to return to destroyed villages but camp in fields and on riverbanks instead, even without tents to keep off the rain.

"We have no shelter, not even a tent," said 67-year-old farmer Adam Khan, leaning on a stick outside his ruined home in the village of Masud in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar, devastated last week by earthquakes and subsequent aftershocks.

"It rained last night, we had no place to take cover," he added. "Our biggest fear is the big rocks that could come down at any moment."

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS E JEAN CARROLL'S \$83.3 MILLION DEFAMATION JUDGMENT AGAINST TRUMP



Diary Times Desk : A federal appeals court has upheld a civil jury's finding that President Donald Trump must pay \$83.3 million to E Jean Carroll for his repeated social media attacks against the long-time advice columnist after she accused him of sexual assault.

In a ruling issued Monday, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Trump's appeal of the defamation award, finding that the "jury's damages awards are fair and reasonable."

Trump had argued that he should not have to pay the sum as a result of a Supreme Court decision expanding presidential immunity. His lawyers had asked for a new trial.

A civil jury in Manhattan issued the \$88.3 million award last year following a trial that centred on Trump's repeated social media attacks against Carroll over her claims that he sexually assaulted her in a Manhattan department store in 1996. That award followed a separate trial, in which Trump was found liable for sexually abusing Carroll and ordered to pay \$5 million. That award was upheld by an appeals court last December.

19 KILLED IN NEPAL IN PROTESTS OVER SOCIAL MEDIA BAN, ARMY DEPLOYED

Diary Times Desk : At least 19 people were killed and more than 300 others injured on Monday after police used force during protests by youths that rocked the Nepalese capital and other parts of the country over the government's ban on social media sites, officials said.

Thousands of youths, including school students, under the banner of Gen Z, converged in front of Parliament in the heart of Kathmandu and shouted anti-government slogans demanding immediate revocation of the ban. The protests spread to Pokhara, Butwal, Bhairahawa, Bharatpur, Itahari and Damak.

Nepal Police spokesperson Binod Ghimire said 17 people were killed in clashes in various parts of Kathmandu during the rally, and two protesters died in Sunsari district of eastern Nepal in police firing.

Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak, who represents the Nepali Congress party in the coalition government led by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, has resigned on moral grounds, the Nepali Congress sources said.



AUSTRALIAN JUDGE SENTENCES WOMAN TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR POISONING IN-LAWS WITH MUSHROOMS

Diary Times Desk : An Australian judge on Monday sentenced triple-murderer Erin Patterson to life in prison with a non-parole period of 33 years for poisoning four of her estranged husband's relatives with death cap mushrooms.

Justice Christopher Beale told the Victoria state Supreme Court Patterson's crimes involved an enormous betrayal of trust. Patterson was convicted in July of murdering Don and Gail Patterson and Gail's sister, Heather Wilkinson, with a lunch of beef Wellington pastries laced with foraged death cap mushrooms. Patterson was also convicted of attempting to murder Heather's husband Ian Wilkinson, who spent weeks in a hospital. Patterson's estranged husband, Simon Patterson, was invited but did not attend the July 2023 lunch served to her parents-in-law and her estranged husband's aunt and uncle at her home.

"Your victims were all your relatives by marriage. More than that, they had all been good to you and your children over many years, as you acknowledged in your testimony," Beale said. "Not only did you cut short three lives and cause lasting damage to Ian Wilkinson's health, thereby devastating extended Patterson and Wilkinson families, you inflicted untold suffering on your own children, whom you robbed of their beloved grandparents," he added.

MAURITIUS PRIME MINISTER NAVINCHANDRA RAMGOOLAM AND SPOUSE TO VISIT INDIA FROM SEPTEMBER 9-16

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, and his spouse Veena Ramgoolam will undertake a state visit to India from September 9 to 16, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. The visit will begin with their arrival in Mumbai on September 9, followed by engagements in the city. On September 10, the delegation will travel to Varanasi to continue the programme. On September 11, the Prime Minister will hold a call with the Indian Foreign Secretary and meet the Prime Minister of India. Programmes are scheduled in Varanasi and Ayodhya on September 12, followed by engagements in Dehradun on September 13 and 14, and a visit to Tirupati on September 15. Later that day, the delegation will arrive in Delhi to continue the official programme.

ISRAEL, INDIA SIGN BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENT TO BOOST ECONOMIC TIES

Diary Times Desk : India and Israel have signed a new Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) aimed at strengthening reciprocal investments and expanding economic cooperation between the two nations, according to an official statement by Israel's Ministry of Finance. At the center of the visit, Israel's Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich and India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman signed the agreement in New Delhi on Monday. The statement noted that Israel has become the first OECD member state with which India has signed such a strategic agreement, in line with India's new model for investment treaties. The agreement will promote reciprocal investments between investors from both countries, ensuring certainty and protection while contributing to enhanced trade and investment flows. It replaces the previous agreement.

DESPITE MODI-XI BONHOMIE, NO CHANGE IN MILITARY POSTURE IN EASTERN LADAKH

Diary Times Desk : Despite the recent thaw in relations with China, the Indian Army's military posture in eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is not expected to change for now.

Sources said the Army's 'winter deployment' — which is just beginning — will remain in 'equilibrium' with the strength on the Chinese side. The number of troops and the level of readiness is expected to be the same as last winter, largely because the ground situation along the boundary has remained unchanged since October 21 last year, when the two sides announced a 'patrolling arrangement'. That arrangement led to disengagement of troops from two friction points at Depsang and Demchok.

The Army's winter deployment of personnel, equipment and weapons along the LAC differs from that in the summer. In winter, snow covers the mountain passes and blocks natural routes, leading to curbed patrolling. The LAC, which serves as the de facto boundary, had witnessed a massive Chinese build-up in April 2020. India mirrored the stance, deploying additional troops, artillery guns, tanks, rocket launchers, helicopters and UAVs. Though the situation has since eased, it has not reverted to normal or the pre-April 2020 status quo.



COLDPLAY KISS-CAM SCANDAL: KRISTIN CABOT FILES FOR DIVORCE AFTER VIRAL CLIP WITH CEO

Diary Times Desk : Kristin Cabot, the woman at the center of the now-infamous Coldplay kiss-cam moment, has filed for divorce from her husband Andrew Cabot, just weeks after the viral incident sparked widespread media attention.

According to court documents, Kristin, 52, officially filed for divorce in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on August 13 — less than a month after she was caught on camera affectionately kissing her boss, Astronomer CEO Andy Byron, during a Coldplay concert, reports nypost.com.

The clip ignited a social media firestorm, especially after it emerged that she was still legally married at the time.

While the public assumed the kiss was a scandalous betrayal, insiders close to the Cabots claim the couple's relationship was already strained.

Andrew Cabot, a third-generation Boston Brahmin and CEO of Privateer Rum, was reportedly on a business trip in Japan when the video surfaced.

NEPAL HOME MINISTER RAMESH LEKHAK RESIGNS FROM POST AFTER WORST VIOLENCE IN TWO DECADES WHICH CLAIMED 19 LIVES

Diary Times Desk : Nepal Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak on Monday evening stepped down from the post following deadly violence in two decades, which has so far claimed 19 lives.

As per sources, Lekhak submitted his resignation to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli during the emergency cabinet meeting held at the official residence this evening.

"The Home Minister had made it clear in the Nepali Congress meeting that he will be stepping down from the post on moral grounds. He tendered his resignation to the Prime Minister during the cabinet meeting this evening," a source confirmed ANI.

The resignation of the Home Minister comes after the bloodiest day in two decades, which claimed the lives of at least 19 people across Nepal in protests against corruption and the social media ban.

WHY RISING BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT IS A WARNING SIGN FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMY

Diary Times Desk :

August, which is heralded as Black Business Month, should have been a time to celebrate the Black labor force. But last month's jobs report showed unemployment rates increased for Black workers — and it could point to an economic slump.

The unemployment rate for Black workers reached 7.5% in August — its highest level since October 2021 (7.6%) — and followed consecutive increases in June (6.8%) and July (7.2%). A rise in Black unemployment is often considered the “canary in the coal mine,” foretelling a slowdown for the broader job market.

“The most vulnerable people tend to get laid off first, and unfortunately, that tends to be Black Americans, and that’s something that is very disturbing in and of itself,” said Diane Swonk, chief economist at accounting firm KPMG US.

Black Americans make up about 13% of the US workforce. A drop in Black Americans in the workforce can have a crippling effect on Black communities and on the US economy, which some economists say is already in a slowdown.

AN 'IPHONE AIR,' PRICE HIKES AND AI: WHAT TO WATCH AT APPLE'S BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

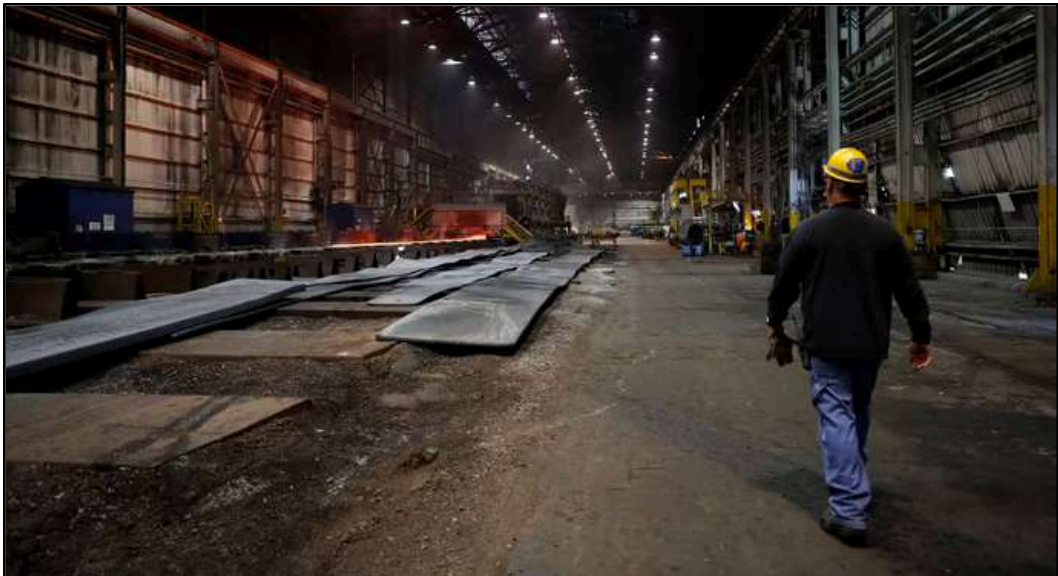
Diary Times Desk :

The iPhone needs a shakeup. It could get one as soon as September 9, when Apple is expected to announce an all-new slimmer model of the iPhone, potentially called the “iPhone Air,” alongside the iPhone 17 and new Apple Watch models at its marquee annual event.

That kind of overhaul would be the first dramatic redesign of Apple's signature product since 2017, when Apple released the iPhone X, the first model without the familiar home button and with Apple's now-ubiquitous Face ID technology. That shift set the stage for iPhone generations to come.

But the iPhone Air, which Bloomberg reports will be announced at this year's event.

US STEEL IS SHUTTING DOWN A MILL IN ILLINOIS



Diary Times Desk :

US Steel is shuttering production at a mill in November, but its hundreds of workers will keep their jobs – for now – thanks to an agreement the company reached with the Trump administration.

US Steel will stop producing steel at its Granite City, Illinois, mill at the end of October, but the 800 workers at the plant will stay on the job, maintaining equipment, until at least 2027. That's due to the structure of the deal the company reached with President Donald Trump to allow its purchase by Japanese steelmaker Nippon Steel. The agreement included various job protections and production guarantees.

“US Steel will optimize its footprint by focusing on producing and processing steel slabs at the Mon Valley (Pennsylvania) Works and Gary (Indiana) Works, and reducing slab consumption at Granite City Works,” the company said in a statement to CNN Monday. “As a result of this decision, US Steel will not lay off any Granite City Works employees nor adjust their pay rate.”

'THE CONJURING: LAST RITES' JOLTS BOX OFFICE WITH THIRD-HIGHEST OPENING FOR A HORROR MOVIE

Diary Times Desk :

Getting an early jump on the upcoming horror film slate, “The Conjuring: Last Rites” topped the weekend domestic box office while shattering analysts' expectations with an \$83 million haul.

Industry analysts expected the ninth release of “The Conjuring” universe to earn around \$50 million. Its bigger-than-expected opening made “Last Rites” the best opening for the franchise, surpassing 2018's “The Nun” (\$53.8 million), and also made it the third-highest opening for a horror movie, behind 2017's “It” (\$123.4 million) and 2019's “It: Chapter Two” (\$91 million).

Both “It” movies and “The Conjuring: Last Rites” were released by Warner Bros. Pictures. Warner Bros. Discovery is the parent company of CNN.

“‘The Conjuring’ represents true, pure horror. The true horror movie experience in a movie theater, and that’s why you’re seeing this \$83 million debut,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at Comscore.

Horror movies have scored big for Hollywood this year. “The Conjuring: Last Rite” helped lift the horror genre to more than \$1 billion at the 2025 domestic box office, according to Comscore data.

Among this year's high grossers are Warner Bros.' “Sinners,” which opened in April and has grossed \$278.6 million domestically, as well as “Final Destination: Bloodlines,” which grossed \$138.1 million. “Weapons,” another Warner Bros. movie, is in theaters for its fifth week and has grossed \$143 million.

Horror sequels will remain prominent at theaters this fall. On October 17, Universal Pictures will release “Black Phone 2,” followed by “Five Nights at Freddy's 2” on December 5.

BILLIONAIRE CEO WHO VOTED FOR TRUMP SOUNDS THE ALARM ON FED ATTACKS

Diary Times Desk :

While many CEOs have stayed silent during President Donald Trump's attacks on the Federal Reserve, hedge fund billionaire Ken Griffin is speaking out about the dangers.

Trump risks “stoking both higher inflation and higher long-term rates” by undermining the independence of the Fed, Griffin co-wrote in an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal on Sunday titled “Trump's risky game with the Fed.”

“The president's strategy of publicly criticizing the Fed, suggesting the dismissal of governors and pressuring the central bank to adopt a more permissive stance towards inflation carries steep costs,” wrote Griffin, CEO of Citadel; and Anil Kashyap, a professor at the Chicago Booth Business School and a consultant to the Chicago Fed's research department.

The duo warns that history shows how this strategy can backfire, including the Nixon-era pressure on the Fed in the 1970s that set the stage for the Great Stagflation crisis.

“In a worst-case scenario, if the Fed visibly bows to political pressure and permits inflation to rise unchecked, tens of millions of retired Americans will see their savings diminished,” Griffin and Kashyap wrote. “Senior voters — tired of bearing the brunt of inflation — could cost the administration dearly in the midterms.”

Griffin, who has said he voted for Trump in last November's election, has repeatedly slammed the administration's trade war.

MANN’S CONDITION
CONTINUES TO
IMPROVE: HOSPITAL



Diary Times Desk : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann’s condition continues to show significant improvement, the Fortis Hospital, Mohali, said in a statement.

“His vital parameters remain stable. He has been active and engaged in multiple meetings through the day.”

HC CLARIFIES SCOPE OF
NOISE POLLUTION
DIRECTIONS, RULES
ONLINE CONTENT
BEYOND CONTEMPT
JURISDICTION

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that the scope of its earlier directions on curbing noise pollution could not be stretched to regulate online content, while dismissing a contempt petition seeking action against alleged failure to prevent playing of songs glorifying liquor, drugs and violence.

747 ROADS, INCLUDING
THREE NATIONAL
HIGHWAYS, REMAIN
CLOSED ACROSS
HIMACHAL

Diary Times Desk : At least 747 roads, including three national highways (NHs), remain closed to vehicular movement across Himachal Pradesh due to continuous heavy downpour that has wreaked havoc in the state. According to State Emergency Operation Centre, out of the total 747 roads, 227 roads, including NH-3 and NH-305 in Kullu, are blocked for traffic, which is the highest in the state. Additionally, 183 roads are blocked in Mandi, 137 in Shimla, 44 in Kangra, 42 in Chamba, 39 in Sirmaur, 25 (including NH-70) in Una, 18 each in Bilaspur and Solan, 9 in Lahaul and Spiti, 4 in Kinnaur, and 3 in Hamirpur district. Furthermore, out of the total 959 distribution transformers, 722 are disrupted in Kullu.

BEYOND THE COURTROOM: PUNJAB AND HARYANA HC LAUNCHES
FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE

Diary Times Desk : Moving beyond its traditional role of adjudicating disputes and issuing directions, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has stepped directly into the relief effort for flood victims across Punjab. In a significant humanitarian initiative, Punjab State Legal Services Authority, headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu as Patron-in-Chief, has opened a dedicated disaster relief fund. The call is for voluntary contributions from judges, advocates, judicial officers and employees, marking a resolve to extend justice through compassion in action.

The effort is a part of a larger framework. It draws its strength from the Legal Services Authorities Act, under which legal services institutions are mandated to safeguard the rights of the vulnerable. Justice Surya Kant as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has all along been laying the foundation for such outreach, repeatedly emphasising that legal aid authorities must not only be custodians of rights in courts but also instruments of relief in the field. The competent authorities under his vision have been tasked with carrying forward relief initiatives, reaching out to the needy and identifying families most in distress.

The appeal, issued under the guidance of State Legal Services Authority Executive-Chairman Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and routed through Member-Secretary Navjot Kaur, conveys Chief Justice Sheel Nagu’s call to all high court judges, advocates, court staff, and judicial officers in Punjab and UT Chandigarh to contribute generously – “financially or in material terms”– towards relief efforts amid the severe statewide floods.

HIMACHAL GOVERNMENT
NOTIFICATION ON WITHDRAWING
HIGHER PAY GRADE HELD IN
ABEYANCE: CM SUKHU

Diary Times Desk : Facing flak from employee unions and the opposition BJP, the Himachal Pradesh government on Monday “held in abeyance” the September 6 notification withdrawing higher pay grade to its employees.

The notification affected about 14,000 employees of 89 categories who feared that they would suffer a loss of Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per month.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu on Monday said that the notification to remove Rule 7A from the Himachal Pradesh Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2022, issued on September 6, shall be held in abeyance as the government was committed to safeguarding the interests of the employees and issuing such a notification was not justified.

While making amendments in rules and regulations, humanitarian concerns must always be kept in mind, he stressed in a statement issued here.

HIGH HOPES OF FLOOD RELIEF
PACKAGE ON PM MODI’S PUNJAB
VISIT

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s much-awaited visit to the flood-affected areas of Punjab on Tuesday – with hopes of an announcement of a relief package – is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the state’s relationship with the Centre. It will also influence the dynamics between farmers and the Central Government, and outline the BJP’s roadmap to gain political ground in Punjab.

The Centre has already faced criticism for its delayed response to the flood-situation. Additionally, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, during his two-day visit to Punjab, attributed the disaster to illegal mining on riverbeds – further fuelling controversy. Punjab Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) president Aman Arora set the tone for the state government today by urging PM Modi to announce a Rs 20,000-crore relief package for the flood-hit state during his visit.

50-YEAR RECORD OF PONG DAM MIRRORS UNCERTAINTY IN WATER
MANAGEMENT

Diary Times Desk : For almost five decades, the Pong Dam on the Beas river has reflected the volatile nature of the monsoons.

In some years, the reservoir swelled dangerously close to its capacity, triggering floods in the downstream plains. In other years, it struggled to fill, exposing the uncertainty of water security in the region.

The fluctuating levels of the dam not only capture the changing moods of the Beas river but also underline the growing challenges of managing floods, droughts and livelihoods in the river basin.

Since its commissioning in 1974, Pong was expected to be a steady lifeline—irrigating the fields of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, and generating electricity for the national grid. In its early decades, it lived up to that promise. On March 23, 1975, the dam hit its lowest level of 1,163.8 ft, but by September, it had surged to 1,376.3 ft, showing how dramatically a rain-fed system could swing.



Scientists Are Electrifying Lakes

Well before the sun rises in Orlando, joggers making their laps around Lake Underhill Park are joined by fishermen outfitting their kayaks on the edge of the boat ramp. Rods and lures safely stowed, the paddling anglers head past the swampy banks and cast their lines through the reeds and lily pads.

It's a regular steamy summer morning for the locals, but on this day, there will also be strangers above and below the waters of the lake.

SUVs with government tags pull up, hauling a boat emblazoned with US Department of Interior branding. Out of them come scientists, also here to fish, but not for the bream and sunfish that are being caught and released for sport.

The first swamp eel found in this part of Florida was in 2023, and they've also been discovered as far north as New Jersey.



Wesley Bruer

The scientists from the US Geological Survey and other agencies are here with their own nets to see what the situation is like now, to try to pinpoint new populations and figure out how they got there.

Small panfish and bream float stunned and motionless in the five feet or so of zapped lake around the boat, but the target eels do not seem as susceptible in the marshy edges that are lined with brush.

Their target is an invasive creature now known to lurk beneath the surface, carrying parasites, damaging waterways and threatening native species: the Asian swamp eel.

The eel, along with other invasive species, are gaining more of a foothold in the southeastern United States, causing concern among resource and wildlife managers, along with state and local agencies tasked with minimizing adverse effects of nonnative plants and animals. And increasing floods linked to climate change are thought to be washing the creatures further and further afield.

They're planning an eel version of a "fish slam," when they catch as many of a single species in a day as possible to survey population growth and geographical spread.

The Asian swamp eel isn't a "true" eel, according to Dr. Daniel Slone, a USGS research ecologist who has a PhD in entomology. "Unlike our native species that may look similar, the Asian swamp eel does not have any dorsal fin and also does not have any reduced legs," he said.

But more problematic to the scientists today is that the eels are nocturnal, good at hiding and very, very slippery.

The crew and researchers board what at first seems to be a typical johnboat, but once on the water it's transformed to an "electroshock boat." After unthreading some lug nuts from attachments secured to the port and starboard sides of the vessel, the crew deploys two metal arms that jut out a half dozen feet from the aft. Hanging from these are chandelier-like devices adorned with five or six electrodes dangling into the water, all powered by a booming gas generator on the boat. Howard Jelks, a retired USGS fish biologist now captaining the boat, explains the plan.

"We're applying electricity to the water to stun the fishes so we can collect them," he said. "As long as you're in the grounded boat, you're safe, do not put anything in the water, no body parts, no metallic objects, anything like that when the generator is running. And we consider it 'hot' the whole time."

When the boat goes "hot" and sends electricity into the lake, an ear-splitting trill blasts across the water. With the vessel launched, the crew does a test run to make sure everything is working and to their surprise, get a catch right away.

Biologists Mary Brown and Wesley Daniel spot an eel near the surface and scoop it up in a net. Brown holds it up for the fishermen on the banks to see.

"Wow," one man's voice booms across the lake. "Looks like a snake!"

With all systems checked, Brown and Daniel put their ear defenders back on as the boat heads further out. Armed with what look like long and strong pool skimmers, they lean over the bow, staring intensely at the water.

'It's All Connected'

The Barbers Behind Your Favorite Athletes'

"If you look good, you feel good. If you feel good, you play good."

This was a phrase coined and made famous by iconic Pro Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders during his time in the NFL throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.



Thomas Schlachter

"I think from outsiders looking in, it may seem like that, but when it comes down to it, it's like they're in my zone now, they're in my world. So, if anything, they're probably more nervous if it's their first time," Garcia tells CNN Sports from his home studio, surrounded by signed jerseys from some of his biggest clients.

Two decades later and those words still ring true for professional athletes around the world, on and off the field.

But while many athletes are restricted by having to wear their uniforms during games, one source of individual style when in action comes in the form of a haircut.

If Coach Prime's saying holds up, barbers are now an essential part of keeping sporting stars at the top of their game.

'You gotta have dope barbers' The life of an athlete can be chaotic. With regular time spent away from home, trips overseas and the risk of being traded anywhere, there aren't many constants.

A haircut, however, is one thing that athletes can control, an expression of their identity wherever and whenever they play.



Putting together a clientele of this caliber, however, is built upon years of earning a reputation in sporting circles. While Garcia only fixed up Bosh's goatee and lined his hair up on this occasion, the two-time NBA champion "loved it."

When former NBA player Jalen Rose was starring in one of college basketball's most iconic teams, his haircut was representative of what he wanted to deliver on the court.

"The bald head was symbolic about mean-mugging, being rough and tough – that was the style then. I don't even care about getting a fresh cut because I'm on my grizzly right now," Rose tells CNN Sports.

The Michigan Wolverines team Rose played with – known as the Fab Five – all sported similar hairstyles during their time in college to represent that attitude on the court.

Rose was drafted to the NBA in 1994 and said he didn't care about having a fresh trim during these early years – he was too busy trying to forge a name for himself in the league.

But as his career continued, the 13-year NBA veteran bought into the look good, feel good, play good mantra. Searching for barbers across America became more important.

"I guess the magic of the fresh cut is, just like any great team, you gotta have dope barbers," Rose says. "So it's no different than identifying talent in whatever field that you are working in or service industry ... you can identify people that do really good at their job."

Finding what Rose refers to as a "game-changing barber" has become an imperative for some modern athletes. Like the former NBA vet, many of today's sports stars have a reliable network of people to cut their hair.

Barbers to the stars One such barbers in today's scene is Los Angeles-based Vince Garcia, who is responsible for the hairstyles of some of the biggest athletes in the world.

Garcia now boasts a client list that features the likes of seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton, three-time Super Bowl champion Travis Kelce and two-time NBA champion Kevin Durant to name a few.

It would almost be impossible for Garcia to count the total number of rings and championships that his clients have earned. But does this add pressure to his job?

INFA

Modern Elegance

ITALY SAYS GOODBYE TO LEGENDARY DESIGNER GIORGIO ARMANI



Leah Dolan

A friend of Hollywood, he understood the power of publicity and dressed some of its biggest stars for the red carpet including Zendaya, Cate Blanchett and Julia Roberts.

Giorgio Armani, the visionary Italian designer who redefined modern elegance and tailoring on the world's stage, became a mainstay at red carpets and award shows after launching his eponymous brand in 1975. But despite his global dominance, Armani — who died at age 91 on September 4 — will be honored for the last time in a private funeral ceremony away from the spotlight and near his birthplace.

Armani was born in 1934, in the town of Piacenza, northern Italy. His intimate funeral will take place in Rivalta, a small village nearby. Business owners in the area remembered the designer's patronage fondly. "Our tortelli reminded him so much of the ones his mother always made," one restaurateur told the Italian news site IIPiacenza.

In preparation for the event, Rivalta will be closed off to tourists and visitors. Armani stores will also be closed in the afternoon as a mark of respect. With around 20 guests expected to attend, the event stands in stark contrast to the weekend's proceedings. Across Saturday and Sunday, approximately 16,000 people lined up in Milan to visit the designer's funeral chamber at his headquarters, Armani Teatro, and pay their respects. There, his body lay in state surrounded by 300 lanterns.

In June 2025, Armani was absent from his runway show at Milan's Men's Fashion Week — the first time in his career. The company released a statement at the time that he was "currently recovering at home" without specifying his health condition. Up until his passing, Armani was working on a retrospective exhibition and a runway show to celebrate 50 years of being in business. Both events are still expected to go ahead.

The ceremony today will be held at the San Martino church. Officials have declared a day of mourning in both Piacenza and Milan.

"We are grateful for having chosen this place; we feel loved and esteemed," Giuseppe Busani, a parish priest of Rivalta, who is officiating Armani's private funeral, told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera. "Many Armani family events have been celebrated here." While the Armani Group has kept details of the funeral under wraps, local papers report the designer will be laid to rest in the family chapel next to his parents and older brother Sergio, who died in 1985.



Russell Crowe described Armani as a man who "made a mark acknowledged around the globe". The actor said he "adored" Armani and was meant to be seeing him this month, adding that the designer was there for "so many significant moments in my life".

Julia Roberts shared a picture of herself in an Armani dress alongside the designer on Instagram with the words "A true friend. A legend" and a heartbreak emoji.

British designer Paul Smith also spoke about his "dear friend and fellow designer".

"His continuity, his down-to-earth nature and his staying power in remaining as an unlisted, independent company have always been a huge inspiration for me personally," Smith wrote on social media.

"He has been an enormous source of strength and creativity for many years." Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni also paid tribute, saying: "With his elegance, sobriety, and creativity, he was able to bring lustre to Italian fashion and inspire the entire world."

ALCARAZ EXTENDS BIG TITLES LEAD OVER SINNER WITH SIXTH SLAM TITLE

Diary Times Desk : Carlos Alcaraz extended his Big Titles lead over rival Jannik Sinner by defeating the Italian in the US Open final on Sunday.

Alcaraz now owns 14 Big Titles — a combination of Grand Slam championships, trophies at the Nitto ATP Finals and ATP Masters 1000 tournaments, and Olympic singles gold medals — and has earned six majors, the second-most Slam trophies of any active player behind only Novak Djokovic (24). Sinner owns nine Big Titles. Before the 2025 season, Alcaraz had never claimed more than three Big Titles in a season. The 22-year-old has now won five of them this year, including two of the four majors: Roland Garros and the US Open. He will also have opportunities to add Big Titles in Shanghai, Paris and the Nitto ATP Finals. Alcaraz has earned multiple trophies at three of the four Grand Slam tournaments: Roland Garros, Wimbledon and the US Open. The new No. 1 player in the PIF ATP Rankings will try to complete his career Grand Slam at the Australian Open, where he has never advanced past the quarter-finals.



CARLOS ALCARAZ SURPASSES 50 MILLION DOLLARS IN CAREER PRIZE MONEY AFTER WINNING THE US OPEN



Diary Times Desk : Carlos Alcaraz didn't just lift a big, beautiful trophy for winning the US Open, he also picked up a big, beautiful paycheck—and that paycheck took him to yet another career milestone. Having arrived in Flushing Meadows with \$48,486,628 in career prize money, the 22-year-old Spaniard's \$5,000,000 paycheck for winning the tournament bumped his haul up to \$53,486,628.

With that, he becomes just the seventh tennis player in either ATP or WTA history to surpass \$50 million in career prize money. Two other players hit prize money milestones this week: Novak Djokovic surpasses \$190 million for the first time after reaching his fourth straight Grand Slam semifinal, rising from \$188,934,053 to \$190,194,053; and Andrey Rublev cracks \$30 million after a fourth-round showing, rising from \$29,935,883 to \$30,335,883.

'TITLE FIGHT REFUSES TO GET NASTY, EVEN WHEN MCLAREN CREATE OWN CONTROVERSY'

Diary Times Desk : The Italian Grand Prix threw up the sort of situation that in many – if not most – cases in F1 would be expected to generate acrimony. For most of the race, Norris and Piastri ran second and third behind Red Bull's Max Verstappen, the Dutchman too fast for Norris, and Norris too fast for Piastri. But in throwing the strategy dice by running their cars as long as possible before a pit stop, and then deciding to stop them in the 'wrong' order, McLaren generated a problem for themselves. Piastri was stopped first, when normally in that situation it would be Norris. The Briton said it was fine as long as it did not lead to Piastri ending up ahead of him. The team reassured him it would not. But it did. In theory, Norris had a gap more than big enough to stop and re-emerge in front. But he had a problem at his pit stop, and came out behind his team-mate. The team asked Piastri to let him back past. The Australian said he didn't understand but agreed anyway, and they finished Norris-Piastri, the latter's championship lead down by three points to 31.

'REAL SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT' – O'NEILL ON GERMANY LOSS

Diary Times Desk : Serge Gnabry scored an early goal in Cologne to put Germany ahead, but O'Neill's side fought back admirably to level through Isaac Price's volley from a corner.

Ni looked to be on course to frustrate the hosts, but two goals in the space of three minutes from Nadiem Amiri and Liverpool's Florian Wirtz helped Germany pick up a much-needed first win in Group A. "We are very proud of the display, but there is a real sense of disappointment in the dressing room, which is understandable," O'Neill told BBC Sport NI's Gavin Andrews. "This is a really tough game, second game in a short period of time. It showed we weren't able to make changes. We just don't have the depth to cope in this situation." O'Neill was left to lament some soft defending as a defensive mix-up allowed Amiri to pounce for Germany's second, whilst he also questioned the awarding of the free-kick which Wirtz superbly dispatched. "For 60 or 65 minutes we were well in the game. The second goal is a bit of a freak goal, we could have defended it better. The third goal isn't a free-kick. It's a fantastic finish but it's a soft free-kick," he explained.

'A HEAVY SHIRT TO WEAR' – BEING MAN UTD NUMBER ONE

Diary Times Desk : One of Ruben Amorim's final public statements before the international break summed up an issue that will come into sharp focus at United's Carrington training ground this week in the build-up to the Manchester derby at Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

Since Amorim spoke after the 3-2 win against Burnley, United have paid £18m to sign 23-year-old highly rated but inexperienced Senne Lammens from Royal Antwerp in preference to Aston Villa's World Cup winner Emiliano Martinez.

They have also been working towards an agreement with Turkish Super Lig outfit Trabzonspor that will allow Andre Onana, who cost United £47m when they signed him from Inter Milan two years ago, to leave on loan.

It means Amorim must stick with Turkey's number two goalkeeper Altay Bayindir, who has started all three Premier League games this season but made a major error against Burnley and another on the opening weekend that cost a goal against Arsenal, and looked shaky at Fulham, against City or hand Lammens his debut in a pretty unforgiving environment.

IS CHERYL RICHARDSON-WAGNER THE 'PHILLIES KAREN' FROM VIRAL CLIP? FACT CHECK

Diary Times Desk : South Florida leapt into the AP Top 25 for the first time in seven years, coming in at No. 18 Sunday after upsetting Florida. The Bulls knocked the Gators from the rankings, but Missouri and Auburn entered the poll to give the SEC a record 11 ranked teams.

Ohio State remained No. 1 after a week where most of the top-10 teams cruised against overmatched foes. The Buckeyes received 57 first-place votes. Penn State was No. 2 again, followed by LSU and Oregon, which moved up two spots to No. 4. The Nittany Lions received five first-place votes, LSU got two and Oregon had one.

Miami was No. 5 and Georgia slipped two spots to No. 6, Texas held at No. 7, followed by No. 8 Notre Dame and No. 9 Illinois. The Illini are in the top 10 for the first time since 2001 after winning 45-19 at Duke. Florida State moved up four spots to No. 10.

Oklahoma jumped five spots after beating Michigan 24-13 at home Saturday night in Week 2's only game between ranked teams. The Wolverines dropped eight spots to No. 23.

