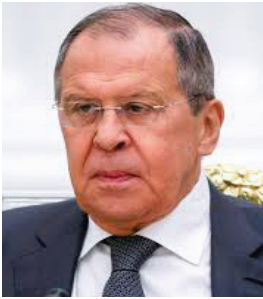




LS to translate proceedings in all 22 scheduled languages: Birla



Lavrov says Alaska talks reflect US sincere desire to end war

US sets up Trump-Zelensky meeting for future trilateral talks with Russia

Washington (UNI) US President Donald Trump has intensified his efforts to broker a peace between Russia and Ukraine to end their now three-year long war, hosting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and several key European leaders at the White House, before holding a lengthy phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The leaders from Europe included British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Finnish President Alexander Stubb, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, as well as European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

Following the meeting, Trump held a 40-minute phone call with Putin to brief him on the discussions. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said both sides agreed to set up a direct dialogue between Moscow and Kyiv and discussed raising it to a

Zelensky confirmed readiness for direct talks with Putin



higher level.

Trump later announced that arrangements had begun for a meeting between Putin and Zelensky "at a location to be determined," to be followed by trilateral talks involving the US.

"During the meeting we discussed security guarantees for Ukraine, which guarantees would be provided by the various European countries, in coordination with the United States," Trump wrote on Truth Social, adding that Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State

Marco Rubio and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff were leading coordination efforts with Moscow and Kyiv, reports TASS.

Zelensky confirmed his readiness for direct talks with Putin and said all leaders present backed the initiative. He indicated that "sensitive issues, those related to territories and other things," would be raised at a trilateral session, though he did not insist on a ceasefire as a precondition.

On the issue of security guarantees, Zelensky said a framework was expected within 7-10 days, covering arms supplies, allied commitments and defence industry support.

Kyiv also proposed a \$90 billion US weapons package, including aircraft and air defence systems, to form part of the guarantees. Trump confirmed that "seven great leaders" were working on plans with US coordination.

B Sudershan Reddy to be VP candidate of INDIA Bloc



New Delhi (UNI) In a show of unity, leaders of the INDIA bloc today unanimously agreed to field former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy as a consensus candidate for the upcoming Vice Presidential election.

Addressing a press conference at his official residence here, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge announced the nomination of Justice B Sudershan Reddy, as the joint Opposition candidate.

Describing the Vice Presidential

contest as an "ideological battle" Kharge emphasised the importance of standing together to defend the values enshrined in India's Constitution.

"This Vice Presidential contest is an ideological battle and all the Opposition parties agreed on this and that's why we are contesting unitedly. The Opposition parties have nominated B Sudershan Reddy as their joint candidate since he reflects fully and values that saved our country's freedom movement," Kharge said.

The Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition said, "B Sudershan Reddy is one of India's most distinguished and progressive jurists. He has had a long and eminent legal career including as judge of the Andhra Pradesh High court, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, and judge of the Supreme Court. He has been a consistent and courageous champion of social, economic and political justice".

Kharge said that throughout his career, Reddy has been a steadfast advocate for social, economic, and political justice.

MUSTREAD

2 Babbar Khalsa terror operatives arrested

Jalandhar: Counter Intelligence (CI), Jalandhar, arrested two individuals linked to the banned terror group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and recovered a Chinese Type 86P hand grenade, Punjab police said on Tuesday. The arrested individuals were identified as Ritik Naroliya and a juvenile from Rajasthan. Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, in an X post, said, "Acting swiftly on forward and backwards linkages, Counter Intelligence #Jalandhar, recovers one 86P Hand Grenade following the arrest of two #BKI operatives Ritik Naroliya and a juvenile from #Rajasthan, a few days back."

3.9 richter tremor hits Kangra valley

Kangra: Kangra valley was rocked late last evening by an earthquake measuring 3.9 on the Richter with its epicenter at Kangra. No loss of life and property was reported from any part of the valley. The people in panic rushed out of their houses when the quake struck at 21:28 hrs. The entire valley experienced the tremor. The earthquake was recorded at a latitude 32.23 North and longitude 76.38 East with depth of 10 kms in Kangra region. Reports of the earthquake was received from Palampur, Dharamshala, Shahapur and other parts of district.

Chhattisgarh cabinet expansion: Three new ministers likely to take oath today

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai is poised to expand his cabinet, with three new ministers likely to take the oath at Raj Bhavan tomorrow, raising the council's strength to 14. Party insiders confirmed that the induction will ensure representation of the Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, and the general category, aligning social and regional considerations.

Death toll in Himachal Pradesh rises to 276

Shimla: The monsoon has wreaked large-scale havoc across Himachal Pradesh with the cumulative death toll rising to 276 since June 20, according to the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) released on Tuesday evening. Of these, 143 people lost their lives in rain-related disasters such as landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts and drowning, while 133 died in road accidents triggered by incessant rains and unsafe conditions.

Sensex
BSE..... 81,644.39 (+370.64)
NSE..... 24,980.65 (+103.70)

Bullion
Gold..... 1,00,750 (24 carat 10gm)
Silver..... 1,16,000 (1kg)
USD(\$)/INR(Rs)..... 87.09

| Weather | | | |
|---------|--------|------|-------|
| Sunrise | Sunset | Day | Night |
| 5:58 | 6:50 | 32.2 | 25.0 |

Mumbai at standstill following 200 mm rain in just six hours

Mumbai (UNI) Normal life was disrupted in Mumbai and adjoining areas today due to a cloudburst-like heavy downpour that has been lashing many places in Maharashtra for the past two days.

While some villages in Vidarbha have been cut off due to flooding in rivers and drains, the Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rains in Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, and Raigad districts.

The continuous overnight rain has disrupted the suburban local train service, the city's lifeline, leaving many people stranded.

After reviewing the situation, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "Mumbai and its suburbs are flooded. Many low-lying areas are inundated. 200 mm of rain



fell in six hours and 300 mm in 24 hours. Due to this, the Mithi River has also flooded. Municipal corporation employees and officials are

working. 525 pumps have been started, and there are 10 mini pumping stations. Holding ponds have also overflowed."

CR suspends all trains from Thane to Mumbai CSMT amid heavy rain

The Central Railway (CR) today suspended all local trains from Thane station to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) due to heavy rainfall and waterlogging on the tracks.

The disruption, which began during the day, follows continuous heavy rains that have been lashing the city since August 18.

Several trains on both the Harbour and Central Lines have been affected, leading to cancellations and suspension of services to ensure passenger safety.

Nehru signed the Indus Water Treaty at the cost of national interest: Modi

New Delhi: In a sharp critique aimed at India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged that the Indus Waters Treaty was signed at the cost of national interest.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parliamentary party on Tuesday in New Delhi, Modi claimed that Nehru, without consulting his cabinet, signed an agreement with Pakistan that gave away the water of the Indus river.

According to Modi, "This treaty was made at the expense of national interest, and the water of the Indus was given to Pakistan. Nehru bur-



nished his image and allowed Pakistan to use more than 80% of the water." He added that his government is working to "cleanse the sins" of previous administrations.

The Prime Minister also used the occasion to appeal to all members of parliament, including those from opposition parties, to support NDA's Vice-Presidential candidate, C.P. Radhakrishnan, and ensure his victory.

Modi's comments follow a similar series of posts by BJP President and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, who had also accused Nehru of neglecting national interests while finalizing the Indus Waters Treaty.

Jaiswal, Iyer snubbed as Agarkar unveils Asia Cup squad

Mumbai (UNI) As the Asia Cup approaches, India's cricket selectors have unveiled a 15-member squad that promises a blend of aggression, strategy, and youth, offering fans a glimpse of a team both ready for the present and invested in the future.

At the helm is Surya Kumar Yadav, appointed captain, whose calm yet dynamic approach in the middle order is expected to guide India through high-pressure encounters. Shubman Gill, vice-captain and a figure of composure at the top, complements Surya's aggression with stability and tactical clarity.

The batting lineup reads like a



well-balanced puzzle. Gill and Tilak Varma are likely to provide solidity at the top, anchoring the innings while the middle order - Surya Kumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, and Shivam Dube - brings a mix of experience, finishing prowess, and explosive hit-

ting.

The presence of Rinku Singh and Harshit Rana ensures that India will not run out of options even in crunch situations, giving the team depth and flexibility rarely seen in such tournaments.

Rahul Gandhi accuses BJP & EC of colluding to "Steal Votes" in Bihar

Nawada (UNI) Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, launched a blistering attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Election Commission (EC) and accused them of colluding to "Steal Votes" in Bihar.

Leading the "Voter Adhikar Yatra" Gandhi reached Nawada on the third day of his yatra where he addressed a public meeting at Bhagat Singh Chowk.

Addressing a large crowd, Gandhi alleged a "partnership" between the BJP and the Election Commission, claiming that they were working together to deny millions of citizens their voting rights.

"In Bihar, lakhs of people who had their names on the voter list earlier now find themselves deleted."

He charged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Election Commissioner were conspiring to snatch away the right to vote.

Gandhi said the opposition, in-



cluding RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav and leaders of other allies would ensure that "not a single vote of Bihar is stolen." He accused the BJP of previously "stealing elections" in Maharashtra, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh and alleged that a similar attempt was underway in Bihar through manipulations in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Varanasi court to hear Rahul Gandhi's case on Aug 25

Varanasi: Special MP/MLA court in Varanasi today heard the case related to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's comments about the Sikh community during his US visit last year. The court has fixed August 25 as the next date of hearing. Advocate Vivek Shankar Tiwari said advocate Anuj Yadav submitted an adjournment application on behalf of Rahul Gandhi. Opposing this, the plaintiff argued that there is no justification to hear the opponent under section 173 (4). On this, the court said that the issue will be debated again on the next date, August 25. It is worth noting that during his US visit in September last year, Rahul Gandhi had made a statement regarding the Sikh community in India. Nageshwar Mishra, a resident of Tilmapur, Varanasi, had filed a petition against this statement.

CCTV cameras made compulsory in all pharmacies and medical shops across Delhi

New Delhi: The District Magistrate (South Delhi) on Tuesday issued an order mandating the installation of CCTV cameras in all pharmacies and medical shops in the national capital.

The move aims to prevent the illegal sale of dual-use medicines without valid prescriptions. The order applies particularly to shops selling Schedule H, H1, and X drugs, which are often subject to misuse if sold without medical supervision.

According to the order, the CCTV footage from these establishments can be randomly inspected by officials from the District Drug Control Authority, Sub-Divisional Magistrates or Police Officers at any given time.

INDIA alliance puts up a fight, nominates S. Reddy for VP

By Pravesh Kumar Mishra
New Delhi: In a move that signals a departure from the traditional approach of conceding the field to the ruling coalition, the INDIA bloc has nominated former Supreme Court Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy as its candidate for the Vice-Presidential election.

The decision effectively scuttles the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) hope for a unanimous and uncontested victory for its candidate, C.P. Radhakrishnan.

Sources indicate that the INDIA alliance's strategy is to present a strong challenge, emphasizing a "South vs. South" narrative. Justice Reddy, who hails from Telangana,

Challenging NDA's bid for unanimity

has been pitted against Radhakrishnan from Tamil Nadu, forcing a political showdown in the southern states.

The nomination of Reddy comes after an initial consideration of DMK leader Tiruchi Siva, a Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu. However, after feedback from several alliance partners, the coalition opted for Reddy to broaden its appeal and avoid a perceived over-emphasis on Tamil Nadu.

Political analysts suggest that the INDIA bloc is attempting to counter the NDA's strategy of cornering the

main opposition in Telangana, which has 3 members in the Rajya Sabha.

While the NDA holds a clear numerical advantage, both alliances are now focused on securing the support of southern lawmakers.

The NDA's candidate, C.P. Radhakrishnan, is a veteran political figure from Tamil Nadu, and his nomination is expected to create a potential rift within the DMK, which has a combined 32 votes in both houses of Parliament.

The upcoming election, while likely to favor the NDA due to its numbers, has become a high-stakes battle for political influence in India's southern states.