

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**RS 2 CRORE CASH, GOLD SEIZED FROM ASSAM TOP OFFICER. SHE JOINED IN 2019**

**Diary Times Desk :**

The police on Monday arrested an officer of the Assam Civil Service (ACS) for allegedly possessing wealth disproportionate to her income. A team of officials from the Chief Minister's Special Vigilance cell also raided the Guwahati residence of the officer, Nupur Bora, and seized Rs 92 lakh in cash and jewellery worth nearly Rs 1 crore. Rs 10 lakh cash was also recovered during a raid at her rented house in Barpeta.

Nupur Bora, a resident of Golaghat who joined the Assam Civil Service in 2019, was currently posted as a circle officer in Kamrup district's Goraimari. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said she was under surveillance for the last six months following complaints of alleged involvement in controversial land-related issues.

**NAVJOT SINGH'S SON RECEIVES A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY GIFT - FROM DEAD FATHER**

**Diary Times Desk :** It was Navnoor Singh's saddest birthday. He turned 22 today, a day after losing his father, Navjot Singh, in a tragic crash near the Delhi Cantonment metro station.

The accident left his mother, Sandeep Kaur, seriously injured and hospitalised, and the family devastated.

Navjot Singh's friends say he loved surprising people. The last of his surprises was for his son. The doorbell rang at 6 am today and Navnoor did receive a delivery.

He unpacked it to find an air fryer and a shirt his father had ordered for his birthday. In a cruel twist of fate, the gift came on a day Navnoor would cremate his father.

A broken Navnoor called up his father's friend Rishabh to share his final surprise. When Rishabh asked why Navjot chose an air fryer, Navnoor replied that he had recently developed a liking for cooking, and his father noticed it.

## US AND INDIA

## INDIA, US HOLD TRADE TALKS, BOTH SIDES DESCRIBE THEM AS "POSITIVE"



**Diary Times Desk :** Talks between the US and India on a bilateral trade agreement, the first since 50% tariffs were imposed by Donald Trump, have been described by both sides as "positive". "Assistant US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch had a positive meeting in Delhi with his counterpart Ministry of Commerce and Industry Special Secretary Rajesh Agrawal on September 16 to discuss next steps in bilateral trade negotiations," the US Embassy spokesperson said after the talks on Tuesday. A statement by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry soon after expressed a similar sentiment and said both countries have decided to ramp up efforts to arrive at a trade deal. "Acknowledging the enduring importance of bilateral trade between India and the US, the discussions were positive and forward-looking, covering various aspects of the trade deal. It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement," the ministry said. Mr Lynch and his team had reached India on Monday night for the talks, which were described by sources in the Indian government not as the sixth round of discussions between the countries on a trade deal, but a "precursor" to them.

## "DEVIL WILL BE IN DETAILS": ASADUDDIN OWAIISI ON SUPREME COURT'S WAQF ORDER

**Diary Times Desk :** Monday's Supreme Court order on the Waqf (Amendment) Act was not a good one for protecting Waqf properties despite certain clauses being stayed, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi has said.

In an exclusive interview on Thursday, Mr Owaisi also spoke about the possibility of an alliance with the opposition INDIA bloc for the upcoming Bihar elections and explained why he opposed the India-Pakistan clash during the Asia Cup on Sunday.

In its order, the Supreme Court said the collector cannot be the final arbiter of disputes related to Waqf property ownership, stayed the requirement that only a person practising Islam for five years can dedicate property as Waqf and capped the requirement of non-Muslims in state Waqf boards and the central council.

Asked about his reaction to the order, Mr Owaisi said, "The government is not at all interested in protecting the Waqf system. They have called it an idea that is alien to our country. And with the Supreme Court not staying the major amendments, I am of the opinion that this will lead to encroachers of Waqf property being rewarded."

On the requirement of practising Islam for five years, the AIMIM chief, who has been elected the MP from Hyderabad five consecutive times, emphasised that the Supreme Court has not given a complete stay and said the government should enact rules.

"The devil will be in the details. Is there such a rule for any person who embraces religions like Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, that some rules will be made before he can endow his own property to the religion he has embraced? That is not the case."



## TEJAS FIGHTER JET DELIVERIES STALLED DUE TO DELAY IN ENGINE SUPPLIES FROM US



**Diary Times Desk :** Inside the high-tech Tejas fighter jet assembly hangar of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), rows of India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) stand ready - airframes complete, avionics tested, and missiles primed. Yet, despite HAL's readiness, the jets remain grounded. The culprit? A delay in engine supplies from the United States. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, Dr DK Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director of HAL, offered a candid explanation. "What you see behind you is the third engine that has arrived just a couple of days ago from General Electric," he said, gesturing to the freshly delivered GE 404 engine. "We will be fitting it onto the aircraft, and we are ready to deliver. Today, I think all the aircraft are built. The shortfall is on the engine, as you know, and General Electric has told us that they will speed up the process". HAL has committed to delivering 12 Tejas jets to the Indian Air Force this fiscal year. But with engine shipments trickling in, the target may be revised. "At worst, I say that we will be able to deliver 10 based on the kind of engine supply that is there," Dr Sunil added. "We also had some issues with the software and missile firing, but that will be completed shortly this month". The Tejas program, a symbol of India's aerospace ambition, has faced turbulence. A recent crash during field exercises at Pokhran in Rajasthan raised concerns. Dr Sunil clarified, "It was a maintenance issue, not a design flaw. General Electric has given us special checks to be done because that is a difficult area to access."

## SC HEARS PLEAS SEEKING STAY ON ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS, GIVES STATES FOUR WEEKS TO RESPOND



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought replies from various States within four weeks after hearing a batch of applications seeking a stay of the laws enacted and enforced by these states dealing with religious conversions.

Directing Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand and Karnataka to file their respective replies in the pleas within four weeks, a two-judge bench of the top court headed by the CJI B R Gavai and K Vinod Chandran listed the matter to be heard next in six weeks. Senior Advocate Chander Uday Singh, for Citizens for Justice and Peace, sought stay of the impugned legislations. He submitted that there was great urgency to hear the matter, as States are amending the laws to make these laws more stringent.

Clarifying that although these laws are called the "Freedom of Religion Act", these laws curtail the religious freedom of minorities and targeting interfaith marriages and religious practices, Singh argued.

"In 2024, the Uttar Pradesh law was amended to increase the punishment for unlawful religious conversion through marriage a minimum of twenty years, which can extend up to life imprisonment for the remainder of one's life," stated Singh. Seeking to stay the impugned legislations, Singh added that for anybody wishing to enter an interfaith marriage, bail would become impossible. "Several states are already enacted some are enacting, recently Rajasthan has also enacted a law," he contended.

## DEVASTATION ACROSS UTTARAKHAND

**AT LEAST 13 DEAD, 16 MISSING AS FLOODS, LANDSLIDES WREAK HAVOC IN DEHRADUN, NEIGHBOURING AREAS**



**Diary Times Desk :** The retreating monsoon has unleashed a fresh wave of devastation across Uttarakhand, particularly in the capital city of Dehradun, where a series of cloudbursts and relentless heavy rainfall have claimed at least 13 lives and left 16 people missing. The catastrophic downpour, which began Monday night, has caused widespread destruction, washing away roads, bridges, and homes, and turning rivers into raging torrents.

Officials fear the death toll could rise significantly, with preliminary estimates suggesting around 25 fatalities. "The administration has confirmed 13 deaths, while 16 individuals remain unaccounted for following the extreme rainfall," a district official stated.

The Sahasradhara and Maldevta regions bore the brunt of the disaster. Rivers like Rishpana and Bindal are flowing above danger levels, submerging several colonies and inundating houses with debris. Many shops and hotels have also been swept away by the raging waters.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama conducted ground inspections of the affected areas, such as Maldevta and Kesarwala. He directed officials to expedite relief and rescue operations, assuring the affected families of full government support.

## "INDIA SAID IT IS BILATERAL ISSUE": PAK MINISTER ON US ATTEMPT AT MEDIATION



**Diary Times Desk :** India has consistently refused third party mediation in its dealings with Pakistan, and the US has encountered another refusal as late as July, Pakistan foreign minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar has told news channel Al Jazeera.

Asked about the prospect of talks with India following Operation Sindoor and whether back-channel talks have started, Mr Dar recounted his conversations with US secretary of State Marco Rubio on the subject during Operation Sindoor in May and later, in July.

"When the ceasefire offer came to me through Secretary Rubio on May 11 at 8:17 am, I was told that 'Very soon, there will be dialogue between you and India at an independent place'," he said.

"When we met on 25 July, bilateral meeting (between) myself and Secretary Rubio in Washington, he said, 'India says it is bilateral'," the Pakistan minister added, indicating that US efforts at mediation had fallen through again.

Mr Dar's comments come amid repeated claims by US President Donald Trump that Washington had brokered peace between India and Pakistan in May, when India retaliated to the April 20 terror attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.



THOUSANDS OF TONNES OF APPLES ROTTING IN KASHMIR  
DUE TO ROAD CLOSURE

**Diary Times Desk :** Thousands of tons of apples are rotting in trucks stranded along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, with distressed farmers protesting the government's failure to restore the highway for the last 20 days. Visuals of truckloads of rotten apples being dumped near the highway are being widely shared on social media, indicating the extent of damage and losses faced by ordinary farmers in Kashmir due to the road closure. About 80 per cent of India's apple production comes from Kashmir, and a prolonged highway closure has badly affected the supply chain and livelihood of the farmers. Horticulture is the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy. For the whole year, apple farmers work very hard in orchards and invest in a good harvest. But this year has been quite challenging. In several areas, adverse weather had already impacted the crop, and now failure to transport produce to mandis has severely affected the common people. For the last two days, mandis in Kashmir have been closed, and apple growers are protesting as they see their harvest rotting on the roads. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has termed it a failure to restore the highway for 20 days.



WITH RUMBLINGS IN AIADMK,  
PALANISWAMI HEADS TO DELHI FOR  
TALKS WITH AMIT SHAH



**Diary Times Desk :** AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami flew to Delhi on Tuesday, with a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the cards. His visit comes amid rumblings in the party and calls from some leaders to readmit expelled members. Despite the churn, senior figures insist the AIADMK's rank and file remain firmly behind Palaniswami, whom they elected as general secretary.

HM AMIT SHAH SAYS, PROTECTING YOUNGER GENERATION  
FROM DRUGS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPED INDIA

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has emphasised that the time has come to scale up action and execution in the fight against drugs. He said the Modi government is taking ruthless action against both small drug dealers and big drug cartels. Inaugurating the 2nd National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Heads of States and Union Territories in New Delhi today, Mr Shah said, stringent measures are being implemented to target the entry, distribution, local sale, and masterminds of the drug trade in the country. He said that the battle is no longer just about catching small-scale drug peddlers but targeting three types of cartels: those operating at entry points, those distributing from entry points to states, and those selling narcotics in smaller areas within states. He urged every state to develop a high-level strategy targeting all three types of cartels, involving state and district police.



HIMACHAL MONSOON FURY: 3 DEAD IN  
MANDI LANDSLIDE, VEHICLES BURIED IN  
SHIMLA



**Diary Times Desk :** Heavy overnight rain triggered floods and landslides in Himachal Pradesh, killing a family of three as debris from an adjoining cliff slid onto their house, causing it to collapse, in the Mandi district on Tuesday morning. Many vehicles, including buses, were swept away, and shops were damaged.

"EMBRACED TERRORISM TO PROTECT...":  
JAISH MEMBER SINKS PAK ON TERROR  
LINKS



**Diary Times Desk :** A religious event in Pakistan's Balakot tehsil last week - ostensibly focusing on the life and teachings of Prophet Mohammed - has been red-flagged for anti-India and pro-jihad sentiments and slogans. Intelligence sources told NDTV the event - the 38th annual 'Mission Mustafa' conference - began at 10 am and drew a crowd of thousands from the town of Gadi Habibullah, where it was being held, and nearby areas. Prominent Islamic scholars, representing diverse schools of thoughts, spoke on the day. By and large the focus was on 'Khatm-e-nubuwwat'.

CONCERN OVER SAFETY OF POOLS AFTER AMOEBIC  
INFECTION AT AKKULAM POOL



**Diary Times Desk :** The recent detection of amoebic meningoencephalitis in a teenager who had used the swimming pool at Akkulam Tourist Village has sparked anxiety among regular swimmers and parents in the capital. The rare but fatal brain infection has forced authorities to shut down the Akkulam pool. The deadly infection has claimed 17 lives in the last nine months in the state, with seven reported in September alone.

"My 14-year-old has been attending swimming sessions for the past three years, but we stopped soon after hearing about the Akkulam incident. We always believed ponds and open water bodies were unsafe, but learning that such an infection can come from a pool is frightening. I am really scared to send my son back. I feel chances are high to contract the disease as people spend longer hours in the pool. No water body is safe anymore," said Jisha S, a concerned parent.



RLYS TO ALLOCATE 1ST 15-MINUTE TIME SLOT FOR AADHAAR-AUTHENTICATED USER IDS



**Diary Times Desk :** The Ministry of Railways has announced an update to its online ticket booking system aimed at reducing fraudulent practices. From October 1, 2025, the first 15 minutes of general reserved ticket booking on the IRCTC website and app will be open only to Aadhaar-authenticated user IDs. In a circular to the Principal Chief Commercial Managers of all 17 railway zones and the Managing Director of CRIS in Delhi, the Ministry directed system modifications to implement the new rule. The Railways stated that this step is intended to ensure that the reservation system benefits genuine passengers and is not misused by touts who create fake user IDs. There will be no change in the timings for booking reserved tickets at computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters. The existing rule that prevents authorised ticketing agents from booking reserved tickets during the first 10 minutes of general reservation will also continue. A senior Railway official explained that reports had shown touts exploiting the online booking system using fake accounts.

MAHARASHTRA ADVOCATE GENERAL BIRENDRA SARAF RESIGNS



**Diary Times Desk :** Maharashtra Advocate General Dr. Birendra Saraf has submitted his resignation citing personal reasons and a wish to return to private practice. Appointed in August 2022, Dr. Saraf will demit office at the end of September after a little over three years in the role. According to sources, Dr. Saraf, in his resignation letter to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, informed that he would be stepping down with effect from September 30. He indicated that this date would give the State government adequate time to identify his successor and ensure a smooth transition.

ED SUMMONS EX-CRICKETERS ROBIN UTHAPPA AND YUVRAJ SINGH, ACTOR SONU SOOD IN BETTING APP CASE



**Diary Times Desk :** Widening its probe into an alleged illegal online betting linked money laundering case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned cricketers Robin Uthappa and Yuvraj Singh, and actor Sonu Sood for questioning, officials said Tuesday. Uthappa (39), Singh (43) and Sood (52) have been asked to depose beginning next week at the agency's headquarter investigation unit in Delhi and get their statements recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in a case linked to a platform named 1xBet, the officials said. While Uthappa has been asked to depose on September 22, Singh has been called on September 23 followed by Sood on September 24, they said. The federal probe agency has questioned former cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan apart from former TMC MP.

KUKI BODY DENIES CENTRE'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF FREE MOVEMENT IN MANIPUR



**Diary Times Desk :** The Kuki Zo Council (KZC) which recently met the Centre has denied allowing free movement on National Highway-2. The KZC's announcement has created confusion since the Centre had in a statement said the "KZC decided to open National Highway-2 for the free movement of commuters and essential goods." The KZC was part of a meeting with Home Ministry officials in Delhi just before the Centre announced the extension of the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement with two dozen insurgent groups.

INDIA'S EXPORTS GROW 9.34% IN AUGUST TO OVER \$69 BILLION, DRIVEN BY ELECTRONICS AND PHARMA

**Diary Times Desk :** India's total exports (Merchandise and Services) for August this year is estimated at over 69 billion US dollar, registering a positive growth of 9.34 percent as compared to the same month last year. The Commerce and Industry Ministry said that the major drivers of merchandise exports growth include Electronic goods, Engineering goods, Gems and jewellery, Petroleum products and Drugs and Pharmaceuticals. The Electronic Goods exports have increased by around 26 per cent from 2.32 billion US dollar in August 2024 to 2.93 billion US dollar in August this year. The Ministry said, India's cumulative exports during April to August this year is estimated at over 349 billion US dollars, registering a positive growth of 6.18 percent. The Ministry said, the total imports during the same period is estimated at over 390 billion US dollars, registering a growth of 2.49 percent.

INDORE TRAGEDY: DCP REMOVED, EIGHT COPS SUSPENDED AFTER SPEEDING TRUCK KILLS 3 AND INJURES 12

**Diary Times Desk :** Less than 24 hours after an uncontrollable speeding truck knocked down multiple vehicles, killing at least three men and injuring 12 others in a no-entry zone of Madhya Pradesh's commercial capital, Indore, heads have started to roll. A Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) was removed from his post, while eight police officers, including an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), were suspended with immediate effect. This action came as the state's Chief Minister, Dr. Mohan Yadav—who is also the in-charge minister of Indore district—responded after meeting.



"PRAY TO LORD VISHNU": TOP COURT REFUSES TO HEAR PLEA TO RESTORE BEHEADED KHAJURAHO IDOL



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court has refused to entertain a petition seeking restoration of a 7-foot beheaded idol of Lord Vishnu at the Javari temple -- part of the Khajuraho group of monuments in Madhya Pradesh. A Bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih said the matter was within the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and not the court. "Go and ask the deity itself to do something now. You say you are a staunch devotee of Lord Vishnu. So go and pray now. It's an archaeological site and ASI needs to give permission etc. Sorry," Chief Justice Gavai told the petitioner.



'THE BOMBING HAS BEEN INSANE':  
PALESTINIANS SCRAMBLE TO FLEE  
ISRAELI ASSAULT ON GAZA CITY

**Diary Times Desk :** Thousands of families are attempting to flee Gaza City as the Israeli military confirms it has begun ground operations that are part of its large-scale assault aimed at occupying the city.

Lina al-Maghrebi, 32, a mother of three from the city's Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood told the BBC she had resisted leaving her home – despite the danger – until she received a phone call from an Israeli officer ordering her to evacuate.

"I was forced to sell my jewellery to cover the cost of displacement and a tent," she said. "It took us 10 hours to reach Khan Younis, and we paid 3,500 shekels (£735) for the ride. The line of cars and trucks seemed endless."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a "powerful operation" had been launched in Gaza City, which he described as Hamas's last major stronghold.

The Israeli military has designated al-Rashid coastal road as the only permitted route for civilians to use to evacuate. Many have described severe congestion, endless queues of cars and trucks, and long delays, with families stranded on the roadside while airstrikes continue overhead.

The operation has drawn widespread international condemnation, including from the UN human rights chief and German foreign minister.

UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper called the offensive "utterly reckless and appalling", saying it would "only bring more bloodshed, kill more innocent civilians and endanger the remaining hostages".

But US Secretary of State Marco Rubio appeared to offer tacit support for Israel's operation during a joint press conference with Netanyahu on Monday, saying the US preferred a negotiated end to the war, but that "sometimes when you're dealing with a group of savages like Hamas, that's not possible".

Israel's ramped up offensive comes as a United Nations commission of inquiry released a report on Tuesday that says Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Israel categorically rejected the report.

Nivin Imad al-Din, 38, a mother of five, said she fled south after Israeli warplanes dropped evacuation leaflets in her neighbourhood, though her husband refused to leave their home.

MOST POWERFUL INDIAN IN TRUMP  
ADMIN FACES A RECKONING



**Diary Times Desk :** FBI Director Kash Patel, the son of Indian immigrants and a rare Indian-origin American to lead a major US law enforcement agency, now finds himself at the center of a political storm. Once celebrated as a rising MAGA star and trusted Trump loyalist, Patel is now under intense scrutiny from both Democrats and increasingly, his own allies.

This week, Patel will testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee in his first major oversight hearing since taking office. He faces tough questions about the FBI's handling of the Charlie Kirk investigation, allegations of political purges and growing concerns that the bureau has been weaponised under his leadership. What was once seen as a trailblazing appointment is now clouded by controversy and speculation that his job may be on the line.

NEPAL PROTESTS THREATENED ITS  
BUSIEST TRAVEL SEASON, BUT LUXURY  
HOTELS SAY BOOKINGS BACK ON  
TRACK



**Diary Times Desk :** Nepal was featured on The New York Times' list of "52 Places to Go in 2025," with special recognition for Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Ranked ninth on the list, Lumbini's inclusion highlights the country's cultural and spiritual significance.

DOCTORS CAN'T STOP  
GENOCIDE. WORLD  
LEADERS CAN



**Diary Times Desk :** More than one million people in Gaza are facing renewed terror after receiving an emergency order to evacuate Gaza City. This morning, with hundreds of thousands of civilians still trapped inside, the Israeli military began its ground invasion. For many, escape is impossible – the elderly, critically unwell, heavily pregnant or wounded. Those left behind have been handed a death sentence.

People who attempt to flee do so under intensifying bombardments. Those who survive the journey will reach overcrowded areas in central and southern Gaza where they will find neither safety nor the basics they need to exist. A population pushed to the brink by almost two years of extreme brutality faces catastrophe.

RUSSIA SHOWS OFF  
MILITARY MIGHT IN DRILLS,  
AND RAISES TENSIONS WITH  
NATO



**Diary Times Desk :** A swarm of Russian drones flies into Poland in what officials there regard as a deliberate provocation.

NATO responds by bolstering the alliance's air defenses on its eastern flank.

Moscow showcases its conventional and nuclear military might in long-planned exercises with Belarus, as it warns the West against sending foreign troops into Ukraine.

These events – all taking place in the month since the U.S.-Russia summit meeting in Alaska failed to bring peace to Ukraine – have only heightened tensions in eastern Europe. When Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, it came days after joint maneuvers with Belarus. The latest sweeping drills, dubbed "Zapad 2025" – or "West 2025" – have worried NATO members Poland, Latvia and Lithuania that border Belarus to the west.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte referenced Moscow's hypersonic missiles.

TRUMP FILES \$15 BILLION DEFACTION LAWSUIT AGAINST THE NEW YORK  
TIMES

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump says he is filing an audacious lawsuit against The New York Times, alleging defamation and accusing the outlet of being a "virtual mouthpiece" for the Democratic Party.

The lawsuit demands \$15 billion in damages, which exceeds the entire market cap of The New York Times Company, and claims Trump is leading.



## CAN THE EU AND NATO IMPOSE TARIFFS ON INDIA AND CHINA, AS TRUMP WANTS?

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has called on NATO and EU member states to hit China and India with tariffs of up to 100 percent to force Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the war in Ukraine.

Trump, who previously pledged to end the conflict on "day one" of becoming president, made his demand during a meeting between United States and European Union officials last Tuesday. The move is seen as a way to try to expedite a peace deal between Moscow and Kyiv.

Trump's request to Brussels, first reported by the Financial Times newspaper, follows remarks from US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who said that Washington was preparing tighter economic restrictions on Russia but needed stronger European backing.

In a letter posted on his Truth Social account on September 13, Trump said he was "ready to do major sanctions on Russia" once NATO had "agreed ... to do the same thing". He also claimed that elevated tariffs on China would weaken Beijing's "control" over Russia.

Why is Trump making the request?

China and India buy Russia's oil, which is helping to keep the Russian economy afloat.

As the largest buyer of Russian energy, China imported 109 million tonnes of crude oil last year, representing roughly 20 percent of its total energy imports, according to Chinese customs data. India, by contrast, imported 88 million tonnes of Russian oil in 2024, or about 35 percent of its imports.



## ISRAEL FACES THE CONSEQUENCES OF STRIKING AMERICA'S FRIENDS



**Diary Times Desk :** On September 9, Israel struck a gated compound in Doha's Leqtaifiya district used by Hamas' political bureau. Even by Middle Eastern standards, this was an unprecedented move - an attack on a close US ally, which for years has had unofficial ties with Israel. Moreover, the attack came at a time when senior Hamas figures were weighing a US-backed ceasefire and hostage proposal.

The attack, which targeted Hamas leaders, killed six people, including a Qatari security officer. The others were a senior Hamas figure, Khalil al-Hayya, the director of his office and three bodyguards. According to Israeli media, the attack involved 15 fighter jets, which dropped 10 bombs, killing six people. However, it is now confirmed that Israel failed to fulfil its original intent of eliminating the Hamas leadership, which included, apart from al-Hayya, Khaled Mashaal and Zaher Jabarin.

## REPORT THOSE WHO CELEBRATE CHARLIE KIRK DEATH TO EMPLOYERS, VANCE SAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** People who celebrate the killing of conservative influencer Charlie Kirk should be held accountable, US Vice-President JD Vance has said.

"Call them out, and hell, call their employer," Vance said as he guest-hosted an episode of the Charlie Kirk Show. "We don't believe in political violence, but we do believe in civility."

Pilots, medical professionals, teachers and one Secret Service employee are among those who have been suspended or sacked for social media posts that were deemed inappropriate about Kirk's death.

Critics have argued the firings threaten free speech and employee protections, although US companies have wide latitude to terminate employees.

Vance's comments aired on Monday in an episode of the Charlie Kirk Show, a daily podcast that Kirk hosted before he was shot in the neck last Wednesday while hosting a debate at Utah Valley University.

He was joined by the White House deputy chief of staff, Stephen Miller, who vowed to dismantle the left-wing "terrorist networks" he said were responsible for the killing.

## RUBIO IN QATAR AFTER WARNING OF 'SHORT WINDOW' TO SECURE GAZA



**Diary Times Desk :** United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio has landed in Qatar, the only country he says can mediate an end to Israel's war on Gaza, shortly after warning that just a "short window" remains to secure a ceasefire.

Israel announced on Tuesday it has started the main part of a ground operation to seize Gaza City soon after Rubio left Tel Aviv.

## KIRK SHOOTING SUSPECT APPEARED TO CONFESS ON DISCORD

**Diary Times Desk :** The alleged killer of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk appeared to take responsibility for the shooting on the messaging platform Discord, a company spokesperson has confirmed.

According to the spokesperson, Tyler Robinson, 22, messaged friends in a chat on Discord hours before he was arrested last week in connection with Kirk's shooting at an event at Utah Valley University.

"It was me at UVU yesterday. im sorry for all of this," reads a message from an account that allegedly belongs to Robinson, according to the spokesperson and a law enforcement source. Robinson, who has not yet been formally charged, is due to appear in court on Tuesday.

## US DESTROYS ALLEGED VENEZUELAN DRUG BOAT, KILLING THREE



**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump says the US military has destroyed an alleged Venezuelan drug vessel travelling in international waters on the way to the US.

Trump said on Monday that three men were killed in the attack on "violent drug trafficking cartels". He provided no evidence that the boat was carrying drugs.

Shortly before, his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolás Maduro said Caracas would defend itself against US "aggression", calling America's top diplomat Marco Rubio the "lord of death and war".

Tensions between the two countries escalated after the US deployed warships to the southern Caribbean on what officials said were counter-narcotics operations, carrying out a strike which killed 11 people.

"This morning, on my orders, US military forces conducted a second kinetic strike against positively identified, extraordinarily violent drug trafficking cartels and narcoterrorists," Trump said on Truth Social.



## IAEA CONFERENCE URGES PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION SCHEME

**Diary Times Desk :** The 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) opened in Vienna, focusing on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology and the urgent need to protect the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In a message delivered by Ghada Waly, director-general of the United Nations (UN) Office at Vienna, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the IAEA plays a vital role in ensuring nuclear science and technology are used solely for peaceful purposes. "Together, we can ensure that these tools advance development and safeguard humanity," the message said, urging continued efforts to eliminate the threat of nuclear proliferation.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi told the conference it is convening at a pivotal moment, citing terrorism, armed conflicts, and the erosion of nuclear norms amid widening global inequality. He said he had informed the UN Security Council that the global nuclear non-proliferation regime is under significant strain and requires protection, Xinhua news agency reported.



## JLR PRODUCTION HALT EXTENDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24 OVER CYBERSECURITY BREACH



**Diary Times Desk :** Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), a British luxury car manufacturer, announced on Tuesday that it has extended its production halt until September 24, following a cybersecurity incident that occurred earlier this month. The company mentioned that its global operations remain affected as the investigation into the breach continues.

In a statement, JLR notified its employees, suppliers, and partners about the decision to keep production suspended until Wednesday, September 24. "Today, we have informed our colleagues, suppliers, and partners that we have prolonged our current pause in production until Wednesday, September 24," stated the company.

JLR clarified that it is still performing an investigation into the cyberattack and is methodically planning different phases for a controlled resumption of its operations. "We deeply regret the ongoing disruption this incident is causing and will keep providing updates as the investigation unfolds," the company added.

This disruption occurs at a particularly challenging time for JLR, which has already been experiencing decreasing profits due to rising costs associated with U.S. tariffs. The cyberattack has further complicated the company's situation by pausing production as it seeks to fortify its business.

In 2023, Jaguar Land Rover signed a five-year agreement worth \$163.8 million with Tata Consultancy Services to offer cybersecurity and IT support, which forms part of JLR's strategy to boost digital transformation throughout its operations. Despite these initiatives, the current breach has resulted in a considerable setback. Industry analysts suggest that the extended suspension could adversely affect JLR's supply chain and sales goals, particularly in significant markets. For the moment, the company is concentrating on securely restoring its systems and ensuring that its operations return to normal as swiftly as possible.

## NEPAL, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA: IS SOUTH ASIA FERTILE FOR GEN Z REVOLUTIONS?



**Diary Times Desk :** The rattle of iron gates sounded like drumbeats as the crowd surged forward. A sea of bodies stormed through the barricades, which had stood as sentinels of power barely hours ago.

The hallways of the house of the country's leader echoed with the thunder of muddy footsteps. Some smashed windows and artefacts, others picked up luxury bedsheets or shoes.

The building and its plush interiors had been symbols of crushing authority, impenetrable and out of reach for the country's teeming millions.

## KYIV'S LONG-RANGE ARSENAL GROWS, BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RUSSIAN OIL?

**Diary Times Desk :** Ukrainian drones struck one of Russia's largest oil refineries on Sunday, igniting another oil price rally. The drones hit Russia's Kirishi refinery in northwestern Leningrad region, intensifying weeks of Ukrainian attacks on Russian energy infrastructure. Operated by Surgutneftegas, the giant refinery has a capacity to process 17.7 million metric tons of crude per year (355,000 barrels per day), making it one of Russia's three largest refineries by output. Previously, U.S. President Donald Trump said he was ready to impose fresh sanctions on Russia if Western nations stopped buying Russian oil. Brent crude for October delivery was trading up 0.4% to \$67.29 per barrel AT 12.30 pm ET on Monday, while the comparable contract for WTI crude gained 0.7% to trade at \$63.15 per barrel. "The attack suggests a growing willingness to disrupt international oil markets, which has the potential to add upside pressure on oil prices."

## TIGER LIGHTNING TO PACIFIC ANGEL: INSIDE AMERICA'S EXPANDING FOOTPRINT IN BANGLADESH AND WHAT IT SIGNALS FOR INDIA



**Diary Times Desk :** A C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft from the US Air Force landed at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong earlier this week. The arrival coincided with the launch of 'Operation Pacific Angel 25-3', a four-day joint exercise involving the US Air Force, the Bangladesh Air Force and the Sri Lankan Air Force.

This comes only months after the Tiger Lightning-2025 drills in Sylhet. The uptick in American military activity in Bangladesh is raising eyebrows in New Delhi. What is happening on the ground

The US Air Force C-130J is a tactical transport aircraft normally based at Yokota Station in Japan. In Chittagong, it has joined other aircraft, including two more C-130Js from the US Pacific Air Forces and an Mi-17 helicopter from the Bangladesh Air Force. At least 242 personnel are taking part, 150 from Bangladesh and 92 from the United States. The exercise is taking place at the Bangladesh Air Force Zahurul Haque base.

## SINGAPORE INKS CARBON CREDIT PACT WITH VIETNAM, ITS SECOND SOUTH-EAST ASIAN PARTNER

**Diary Times Desk :** Vietnam has become the second South-east Asian country to seal a carbon trading agreement with Singapore after Thailand, expanding the Republic's market for carbon credits generated in the region.

The bilateral agreement makes Vietnam the ninth country that the Singapore Government and carbon tax-liable companies here can buy eligible credits from, to offset a fraction of their planet-warming emissions.

The pact, dubbed an implementation agreement, was signed virtually on Sept 16 by Singapore's Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations Grace Fu and Vietnam's Acting Minister of Agriculture and Environment Tran Duc Thang.

The eight other countries that have such implementation agreements with Singapore are Bhutan, Chile, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Paraguay, Rwanda and Thailand.



## "WE MUST UNITE": ARAB, MUSLIM LEADERS URGE REVIEW OF ISRAEL TIES AFTER DOHA STRIKE



**Diary Times Desk :** Arab and Muslim leaders called for a review of ties with Israel after emergency talks in Doha on Monday following last week's deadly strike on Hamas members in the Qatari capital. The Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation joint session, which brought together nearly 60 countries, sought to take firm action after Israel's attack on Qatar-hosted Hamas officials.

## S-400 VS F-35 "STANDOFF" IN TURKEY: WILL ANKARA SELL BACK RUSSIAN AD SYSTEM TO UNLOCK F-35 DREAM?

**Diary Times Desk :** Turkish media outlet Nefes claimed that Russia has allegedly approached Turkey with a proposition to repurchase the S-400 air defense systems it delivered to Ankara in 2019 due to inventory constraints and rising demand from partners. Russia wants to re-purchase the system and sell it to another country, the report added. However, the Russian-language media outlet RIA Novosti reported that no such offer was made by Moscow. Additionally, it highlighted that Dmitry Shugayev, Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FS) of Russia, had earlier stated that Moscow offered Ankara a comprehensive service of S-400 and was ready to discuss other issues of military-technical cooperation. While neither of these reports could be independently verified, the prospect of an S-400 buyback by Russia has started a discourse.

## DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S BODY FOUND HANGING IN TREE, NO FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED

**Diary Times Desk :** Delta State University staff found the body of Demartravion "Trey" Reed, a 21-year-old student, hanging from a tree in the middle of campus on Monday morning. His death set off a wave of mourning across the university and prompted the cancellation of centennial events for the 100-year-old institution. Delta State University Police held a press event Monday afternoon, announcing that no foul play is currently suspected in Reed's death and no threat to campus exists. "At approximately 7:05 am, University Police was notified of what appeared to be the body of a Black male hanging from a tree (at) central campus near the DSU pickleball course," said Delta State University Chief of Police Michael Peeler. "We later identified the male subject to be Demartravion Reed of Grenada, Mississippi." Bolivar County Deputy Coroner Murray Roark told the Mississippi Free Press in a Sep. 15 interview that he assisted his colleague, Deputy Coroner Dwayne Proctor, in examining Reed's body. Contrary to rumors on social media, Roark said he saw no evidence of broken arms or legs. "I saw no broken limbs," he said. Roark declined to elaborate further, stating that the case was still under investigation. "I don't think I should probably discuss this any further than that, my opinion is that it was self-done, and I have reasons for that." Peeler said an investigation into Reed's death is ongoing and had no further comment on the details of Reed's passing pending the release of a full autopsy.



## WHO IS TYLER ROBINSON, THE SUSPECT IN CUSTODY FOR SHOOTING CHARLIE KIRK?

**Diary Times Desk :** The man suspected of fatally shooting right-wing activist Charlie Kirk is set to appear in court on Tuesday to face formal charges over the killing. Tyler Robinson, 22, was taken into custody on 12 September in his native Utah following a 33-hour manhunt involving local law enforcement and the FBI. Robinson is being held without bail in a special housing unit at the Utah County Jail on suspicion of aggravated murder, obstruction of justice and discharge of a weapon causing serious bodily harm. He could face the death penalty or life in prison if convicted. Kirk, 31, died of a single gunshot wound while speaking at Utah Valley University in Orem on 10 September. CCTV video showed the suspect fleeing from a rooftop after the shot was fired before escaping into a nearby wooded area. In the hours that followed, police released several images of the suspect and offered a \$100,000 reward for information leading to their arrest. Robinson's father later recognised him from the images, investigators said, and eventually persuaded him to surrender. A motive for the killing is yet to be revealed by officials. At a press briefing on Friday, the FBI refused to discuss Robinson's background, political leanings or a possible motive, saying the investigation was ongoing. "We are confident we have the right individual in custody," an FBI spokesperson said, "but we are still working to establish the full picture of who he is and why he acted".

## MINISTER FOR DEFENCE VISITS PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY SOUTHERN THEATRE COMMAND

**Diary Times Desk :** As part of his introductory visit to China, Minister for Defence Mr Chan Chun Sing was hosted to a visit to the headquarters of the People's Liberation Army Southern Theatre Command (PLA STC) in Guangzhou yesterday. During PLA STC Commander General Wu Yanan's call on Mr Chan, both sides reaffirmed the close people-to-people ties between the PLA STC and the Singapore Armed Forces, who interact frequently through Exercise Cooperation and Exercise Maritime Cooperation between the armies and navies respectively. Mr Chan also visited the headquarters of the PLA STC Navy in Zhanjiang today, where PLA STC Navy Political Commissar Vice Admiral Yang Zhiliang called on Mr Chan.



THE MOST  
EXTRAORDINARY FED  
MEETING YET HAS JUST  
KICKED OFF

Diary Times Desk :

Federal Reserve officials are convening Tuesday and Wednesday for a pivotal meeting under unprecedented circumstances.

On Wednesday at the conclusion of their two-day policy meeting, central bankers are expected to announce their first interest rate cut since December to support America's slowing labor market, with the hopes that President Donald Trump's expansive tariffs might have only a limited impact on inflation.

But there's an elephant in the room as officials debate about the US economy: Trump's aggressive effort to reshape the Fed's top ranks.

On Monday, the Senate confirmed Stephen Miran, Trump's top economic adviser, to serve on the Fed's Board of Governors to complete a vacated term that expires at the end of January, but could be extended. Miran has said he won't commit to resigning when his term ends if a permanent successor hasn't been named.

APPEALS COURT  
REJECTS TRUMP'S BID  
TO FIRE FED GOVERNOR  
LISA COOK

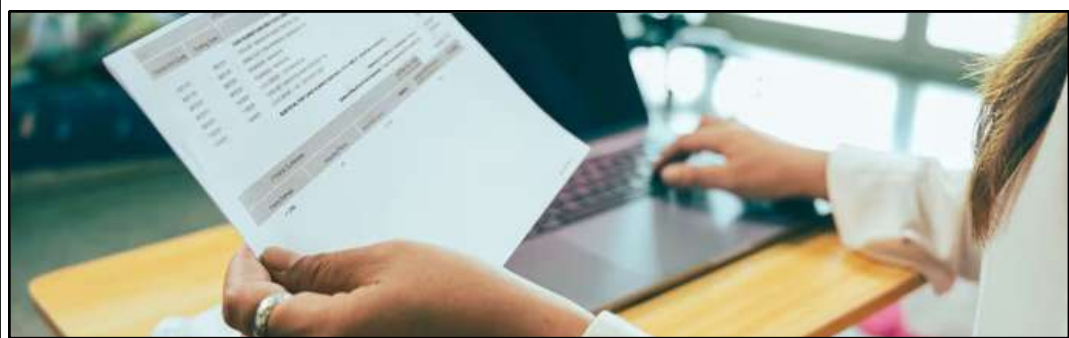
Diary Times Desk :

President Donald Trump cannot remove Lisa Cook from the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors for now, a federal appeals court said in an emergency ruling Monday, just hours before the central bank's two-day monetary policy meeting was set to kick off.

The decision from the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, split 2-1 along party lines, marks another defeat for the White House's efforts to control the Fed and economic policy. Trump has sought to oust Cook over allegations of mortgage fraud, though Cook has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

The Federal Reserve Act specifies that presidents can only fire Fed governors "for cause," and Trump has sought to leverage allegations of mortgage fraud as a sufficient cause for firing.

WHEN TOO MUCH FEELS OUT OF CONTROL, MAKE A JUST-IN-CASE  
FINANCIAL PLAN



**Diary Times Desk :** With so many unsettling things happening beyond your — or any individual's — control, it sometimes can help to proactively do something concrete that would be helpful to you and your family.

Take, as just one example, the state of the US economy. There is no shortage of confusing signals and analysis. Is it in a recession, edging towards one, or on the verge of recovering from one? Or — extra fun — are we in for a protracted period of stagflation?

Whatever the answers (which may only be confirmed — annoyingly — in hindsight), you can take steps now to shore up your own personal safety net to protect yourself and your family against potential headwinds and unwelcome events.

DAVE & BUSTER'S CEO SPELLS OUT EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG  
WITH HIS COMPANY (AND HOW HE'LL FIX IT)



**Diary Times Desk :** Tarun Lal, who took the reins in July, said on his first earnings call with Wall Street analysts Monday night that his company is in more trouble than previously believed. Profit growth continued to shrink, sales have flatlined, and the stock is sinking sharply: down 17% Tuesday.

With just a couple months under his belt, Lal has the advantage of using a tried and true new-CEO strategy: blame the last guy. In a presentation to analysts, Lal detailed a laundry list of prior Dave & Buster's (PLAY) strategies that were broken.

CHINA BUMPS GERMANY OFF THE TOP 10 LIST OF MOST INNOVATIVE NATIONS



**Diary Times Desk :** China moved into the top 10 of the United Nations' annual ranking of most innovative countries for the first time Tuesday, replacing Europe's largest economy, Germany, as firms in Beijing invest heavily in research and development.

Switzerland remained in first place, a position it has held since 2011, followed by Sweden and the United States, while China was in 10th place in the Global Innovation Index (GII) survey of 139 economies that ranks them based on 78 indicators.

China is on track to become the biggest R&D spender as it rapidly closes the gap in private sector financing, the GI showed.



TRUMP HAS A NEW PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE PUBLIC’S ACCESS TO ECONOMIC DATA

**Diary Times Desk :**  
On an already head-spinning day of news for businesses and investors, the president lobbed a social media post into the mix that casually suggested regulators upend a fixture of Corporate American life for the past half-century.

ICYMI: Monday morning, President Donald Trump reignited one of his first-term pet projects, saying that public companies shouldn’t be required to report earnings once every three months, but rather every six months. “This will save money, and allow managers to focus on properly running their companies,” he wrote.

It’s not a particularly radical or new idea — most public European and UK companies are only required to report every six months. But the proposal comes as Trump has also sought to remake the American economy in his image and cast doubt on any data or institution that would in any way taint his legacy.

MUSK’S STARLINK OUTAGE AFFECTS TENS OF THOUSANDS, INCLUDING UKRAINIAN MILITARY

**Diary Times Desk :**  
A brief global outage of Elon Musk’s satellite internet service Starlink on Monday affected tens of thousands of people, including Ukrainian military forces across the entire frontline.  
More than 37,000 US users were reporting issues with the internet service Monday at 12:30 a.m. ET, according to the website Dwnndetector.com. By 1:30 a.m., that number had fallen into the hundreds.  
The internet service owned by Musk’s SpaceX stopped working on “the entire frontline in Ukraine” around 7:30 a.m. Kyiv time (12.30 a.m. ET), said Maj. Robert “Magyar” Brovdi, the commander of Ukraine’s unmanned systems force, on Telegram. As of 8:00 a.m., service was gradually being restored, he said.  
Starlink has more than 6 million global users, according to its website. It provides high-speed internet service using a network of thousands of satellites.

CREDIT SCORES DROP AT FASTEST PACE SINCE THE GREAT RECESSION



**Diary Times Desk :**  
Credit scores are falling at the fastest pace since the Great Recession as Americans struggle to keep up with the high cost of living and the return of student debt payments.  
  
The national average FICO score dropped by two points this year, the most since 2009, according to data released Tuesday by the analytics company. Although credit scores remain significantly higher than during the Great Recession, they are down for the second year in a row. FICO found a growing share of borrowers are falling behind on car loans, credit cards and personal loans.

PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE’S BANKRUPTCY MEANS ‘FOREVER’ WINNERS WILL NO LONGER GET PAID



**Diary Times Desk :**  
For nearly 60 years, Publishers Clearing House had been known for changing individuals’ lives, fulfilling their dreams with prize money it promised would keep coming for as long as they lived.  
But now the company is in bankruptcy, and winners’ dreams have turned into nightmares. ARB Interactive, a mobile gaming company that bought PCH’s remaining assets, said that under the terms of the sales agreement it would not honor payouts for those who won their life-changing prizes before July 15th of this year.  
Some winners, who thought they’d never have to work again, are now finding themselves uncertain of how they’ll pay their bills.

HOW BORING ORACLE BECAME COOL AGAIN

**Diary Times Desk :**  
In the late 1970s, a startup founded by Larry Ellison and two fellow computer programmers got a big break in the form of a CIA contract to build a database program code-named Oracle, which later became the name of the company.  
  
Now, nearly 50 years after its founding, the database and enterprise software giant has gotten another big break. It has become a key player in the artificial intelligence boom, with its cloud computing business helping to meet crushing demand for computing power for AI applications. One of its most prominent partnerships is with industry leader OpenAI, which reportedly agreed earlier this month to pay Oracle \$300 billion over five years for data center space.  
  
Oracle’s eye-popping growth projections for its cloud business — laid out in its latest earnings report last week — sent its shares soaring. Oracle’s (ORCL) stock is up more than 80% since the start of this year, outpacing Nvidia, Google, Meta and Microsoft. The surge briefly made Ellison, now the company’s chairman and largest shareholder, the world’s richest person.  
Like Nvidia, which was known as a niche gaming processor company before it started producing must-have AI chips, Oracle’s recent rise is an example of how Silicon Valley stalwarts are seeing new life and opportunity in the AI era.  
Oracle was late to cloud computing, trailing other big players like Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud and Microsoft Azure. Ellison in 2008 even called the technology “complete gibberish.”

## LANDSLIDES TRIGGERED BY TORRENTIAL RAIN DAMAGE VEHICLES IN SHIMLA

**Diary Times Desk :** Dozens of vehicles were damaged in Shimla after landslides, triggered by torrential rain, struck multiple parts of the city late Monday night and into early Tuesday morning.

The heavy downpour battered the state capital for hours, setting off landslides that uprooted several trees and caused widespread disruption. However, no loss of life has been reported in the incidents. According to the Meteorological Department, rain is likely to continue in Shimla and surrounding areas for the next few hours. A yellow weather warning has been issued for the region.

## DRUG-LADEN PAK DRONES SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO INDIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY: NCB REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** A "sharp" spike has been seen in the sightings and recovery of drugs-laden drones coming into India from Pakistan across the international border in Punjab over the last four years posing a "significant" threat to the country's internal security, according to a report released on Tuesday. Anti-narcotics agencies have also witnessed a six-time increase in the seizure of synthetic drugs from 2019-24, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said in its annual report for 2024.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the report during the 2nd national conference of heads of anti-narcotics task force (ANTF) of various states and UTs that he inaugurated on Tuesday.

The NCB is a federal anti-narcotics agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"The use of drones for cross-border smuggling of narcotics has emerged as a significant threat to India's internal security, particularly along the Pakistan border in Punjab.

"This evolving modus operandi has replaced traditional smuggling methods and poses a complex challenge for law enforcement and border security agencies," the report, accessed by PTI, said.

## 'IS IT NOT INDIA?': RAHUL GANDHI ARGUES WITH PUNJAB OFFICIAL WHEN STOPPED FROM VISITING FLOOD-HIT BORDER VILLAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was stopped by Punjab officials from visiting a flood-affected border village across the Ravi river during his recent visit to Punjab, sparking a political controversy.

Gandhi was in Punjab to assess flood damage and meet affected families in Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts.

After visiting Ghonewal village in Amritsar and Gurchak village in Gurdaspur, he attempted to travel to Toor, a village near the India-Pakistan border. However, police officials reportedly prevented him from crossing the Ravi river, citing security concerns.



## MONSOON BEGINS RETREAT FROM PUNJAB AND HARYANA; WATER LEVEL IN DAMS STILL HIGH

**Diary Times Desk :** Amid a forecast of light to moderate rains over parts of northwestern India over the coming few days, the southwest monsoon commenced its withdrawal from Punjab and Haryana on Tuesday.

The rains have receded from the southwestern parts of Punjab, comprising Fazilka, Muktsar, and Bathinda districts, and from the adjoining district of Sirsa in Haryana.

"The line of withdrawal of the southwest monsoon now passes through Bhatinda, Fatehabad, Pilani, Ajmer, Deesa, and Bhuj," a bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on September 16 said. The monsoon is expected to withdraw completely from Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh by September 25.

The monsoon had commenced its withdrawal from the country on September 14-15, affecting the western parts of Rajasthan, which are also the last areas to be covered during its onset.

## NO RELIEF FROM RAIN AS MONSOON RETREAT TRIGGERS FLASH FLOODS IN HIMACHAL'S MANDI; 3 DEAD, 4 MISSING, BUSES WASHED AWAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Heavy rains wreaked havoc in Mandi district in the wee hours on Tuesday, triggering landslides and flash floods that caused widespread devastation, left three persons dead, four missing, while two victims were rescued. In Bragta village under Boe panchayat of Nihri tehsil, Sundernagar subdivision, a massive landslide hit a residential house, burying five family members under the debris. Villagers immediately launched a rescue operation and managed to pull out two individuals alive, both of whom were critically injured. They were rushed to the nearest hospital and are undergoing treatment. A joint rescue team comprising local residents, police, and disaster response personnel is continuing the search for the remaining three individuals who are feared to be trapped under the debris. The operation is being hampered by continuous rain and unstable soil conditions.

**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
17-09-2025

## Aries

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

## Taurus

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

## Gemini

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

## Cancer

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

## Leo

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

## Virgo

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

## Libra

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

## Scorpio

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

## Sagittarius

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

**Capricorn**

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

## Aquarius

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

## Pisces

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



DEHRADUN HIT BY  
MASSIVE FLASH  
FLOODS, MANY MISSING  
AS RESCUE EFFORTS  
CONTINUE

**Diary Times Desk :** Cloudbursts and heavy rains overnight left a trail of destruction in Uttarakhand's capital Dehradun and its neighbouring areas on Tuesday, sweeping away at least five people and leaving more than 500 stranded in different locations.

Sahastradhara, Maldevta, Santla Devi and Dalanwala were the worst-hit by the disaster, according to the district disaster management office here. Sahastradhara received 192 mm of rain, followed by Maldevta (141.5 mm), Hathi Barkala and Jolly Grant (92.5mm each) and Kalsi (83.5 mm). Several roads, houses and shops were damaged while a bridge was washed away. Five people were swept away by the torrential waters in different parts of the city, and 584 have been left stranded, it said.

Most rivers were in spate following the showers. The Tamsa river, on the banks of which the famous Tapkeshwar temple is located, is flowing very close to the danger mark. The Ganga and the Yamuna are flowing close to the warning level.

KASHMIR APPLE  
GROWERS AS TRUCKS  
REMAIN STRANDED ON  
JAMMU HIGHWAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Apple growers and traders across Kashmir Valley staged protests on Monday against the prolonged closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, accusing the government of inaction and warning that fruit produce worth thousands of crores is at risk of being ruined. Fruit mandis across the Valley remained shut for the second consecutive day as a mark of protest. The highway-Kashmir's only all-weather road link to the rest of India-has remained either completely or partially closed for much of the past four weeks due to damage caused by heavy rainfall. Though the highway was reopened briefly last week, fruit growers say it has not been fully restored, leaving hundreds of apple-laden trucks stranded en route.

DEFAMATION: SC DISMISSES RETIRED IPS OFFICER'S PLEA AGAINST QUASHING OF  
SUMMONS TO ABHAY CHAUTALA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea filed by a retired IPS officer challenging an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which quashed the summoning of Indian National Lok Dal chief Abhay Singh Chautala in a defamation case filed against him by the officer in 2008. A Bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma said it was not inclined to interfere with the high court order. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Param Vir Rathee challenging an order dated December 19, 2023, of the high court which quashed the summoning of Chautala.



HARYANA CM MEETS UNION  
MINISTER, TAKES UP FARMER ISSUES

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini held a meeting with Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi in New Delhi today to discuss key issues concerning farmers' interests and procurement. He requested the Central Government to allow early commencement of the upcoming procurement in Haryana, prior to the scheduled date of October 1, so that farmers can sell their produce without inconvenience. The request has been accepted.



PDP'S ILTIJA MUFTI CALLS ON J-K  
L-G, FLAGS APPLE INDUSTRY'S  
'CRISIS' DUE TO HIGHWAY  
CLOSURE

**Diary Times Desk :** PDP leader Iltiija Mufti on Tuesday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and apprised him of the "crisis" being faced by the Union Territory's apple industry owing to the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway over the past few weeks.

Fruit-laden trucks from Kashmir have been stranded for days due to the closure of the critical highway following heavy rains and flash floods, with growers expressing apprehensions of losses. A day earlier, apple growers and traders in Kashmir staged a protest against the highway closure and "government inaction" in the matter. "Called on Hon'ble L-G Manoj Sinha ji to apprise him of the severe crisis crippling Jammu and Kashmir's apple industry owing to the shutdown of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway," Mufti said in a post on X.

2 BURNT ALIVE AFTER CAR CATCHES FIRE FROM OVERTURNED CHEMICAL TANKER  
ON DELHI-JAIPUR HIGHWAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Two businessmen died and two others were seriously injured when their car caught fire after coming in contact with a burning chemical tanker on the Delhi-Jaipur Highway near Banipur Chowk, Bawal, on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Sanjeev of Delhi and Vineesh alias Anshu of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The injured — Sumit of Delhi and Rahul of Ghaziabad — have been admitted to a hospital in Delhi. Although no FIR had been lodged till the time of filing the news report, a police investigation is underway. The incident occurred when a chemical-laden tanker overturned on the highway and exploded, causing a massive fire. The four victims, who were en route to Khatu Shyam temple in Rajasthan, were travelling in a car that passed by the burning tanker and caught fire.

Sanjeev and Anshu reportedly could not escape and were burnt alive. Sumit and Rahul managed to get out of the vehicle but sustained serious burn injuries. Emergency responders — including the fire brigade and police — arrived at the scene and rushed the injured to a nearby hospital, from there they were transferred to a hospital in Delhi.



### Coachella 2025 includes headliners Sabrina Carpenter, Justin Bieber and Karol G

Music lovers, dressed in perfectly impractical desert wear, will return to Coachella next April, where the gathering will offer something for just about everyone.

The Coachella Music and Arts Festival will take place April 10 – 12 and April 17 – 19, 2026, with headliners Sabrina Carpenter on Friday, Justin Bieber on Saturday and Karol G on Sunday, organizers announced Tuesday.

Others slated to perform include Central Cee, David Byrne, The Stokes, Katseye, Teddy Swims, Addison Rae, Sexy Red, The XX, Iggy Popp and Young Thug.

Sabrina will take to the stage first on the Friday with Bieber and Karol G set to headline the Saturday and Sunday respectively.

There's a number of UK artists also on the bill for next year with the likes of Disclosure, Wet Leg, Lambrini Girls, Little Simz and FKA Twigs.

Tickets are not on sale yet but fans can register for passes.

The line-up has been met with mixed reaction from fans.

"I don't think there has ever been a worse Coachella lineup in the history of the festival," one wrote on X. But others said they were already figuring out ways to bag a ticket.

One wrote: "I will literally do anything for someone to sponsor my Coachella trip this line-up is so insane to me".

The Coachella Music and Arts Festival will take place April 10 – 12 and April 17 – 19, 2026, with headliners Sabrina Carpenter on Friday, Justin Bieber on Saturday and Karol G on Sunday, organizers announced Tuesday.

Others slated to perform include Central Cee, David Byrne, The Stokes, Katseye, Teddy Swims, Addison Rae, Sexy Red, The XX, Iggy Popp and Young Thug.

"Hard launch. Passes on sale Friday, September 19 at 11 a.m. PT. Register now for access," an announcement on the Coachella Instagram account reads.

Carpenter roared to No. 1 earlier this month with her new album Man's Best Friend, for her second leader, following Short n' Sweet in 2024. Karol G, meanwhile, made history last year as the first Latina named woman of the year at the annual Billboard Women In Music ceremony.

Organizers Goldenvoice, a subsidiary of AEG Presents, have, once again, booked a deep pool of talent to satisfy every taste.



*Lisa Respers France*  
The first day of festivities will feature the likes of The XX, Disclosure, Teddy Swims and Devo.



Ashley Strickland

Kareta, who has previously studied mini-moons and quasi-moons, was not involved in the research and said bad weather has thus far interfered with his plans to observe it.

Astronomers have spotted a quasi-moon near Earth — and the small space rock has likely been hanging out near our planet unseen by telescopes for about 60 years, according to new research.

The newly discovered celestial object, named 2025 PN7, is a type of near-Earth asteroid that orbits the sun but sticks close to our planet. Like our world, 2025 PN7 takes one year to complete an orbit around the sun.

Quasi-moons differ from temporary mini-moons that occasionally orbit Earth such as 2024 PT5, which circled the planet for two months in 2024 and could be an ancient fragment that was blasted off of our primary moon.

The newly found 2025 PN7 is just one of a handful of known quasi-moons with orbits near our planet, including Kamo'oalewa, which is also thought to be an ancient lunar fragment.

Kamo'oalewa is one of the destinations of China's Tianwen-2 mission launched in May, which aims to collect and return samples from the space rock in 2027.



The quasi-moon is expected to remain in its current near-Earth orbit for about another 60 years before the gravitational tug of the sun pulls it back into a horseshoe orbit.

The Pan-STARRS observatory located on the Haleakala volcano in Hawaii captured observations of 2025 PN7 on August 29. Archival data revealed that the object has been in an Earth-like orbit for decades.

The quasi-moon managed to escape the notice of astronomers for so long because it is small and faint, said Carlos de la Fuente Marcos, a researcher on the faculty of mathematical sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid who recently authored a paper about the space rock. The paper was published on September 2 in the journal Research Notes of the American Astronomical Society, which is for timely non-peer-reviewed astronomical observations.

Astronomers are still trying to figure out 2025 PN7's size. About 98 feet (30 meters) across is a reasonable estimate, de la Fuente Marcos said. It also has the potential to be 62 feet (19 meters) in diameter, according to EarthSky.

The space rock swings within 186,000 miles (299,337 kilometers) of us during its closest pass of our planet, de la Fuente Marcos said. For reference, 2025 PN7 is 238,855 miles (384,400 kilometers) away from Earth on average, according to NASA.

"It can only be detected by currently available telescopes when it gets close to our planet as it did this summer," de la Fuente Marcos explained. "Its visibility windows are few and far between. It is a challenging object."

Finding and studying quasi-moons can reveal more about our corner of the universe, de la Fuente Marcos said.

"The Solar System is full of surprises so we keep looking," he wrote in an email. "For Earth's neighborhood, the existence of 2025 PN7 suggests that there may not exist a lower limit to the size of a quasi-satellite."

Over time, 2025 PN7 switches between a closer, more circular Earthlike orbit and a horseshoe orbit, similar to Kamo'oalewa's. During the horseshoe orbit, the space rock can reach a distance of 185 million miles (297 million kilometers) from Earth.

INFA

## Out Of Breath

### USAIN BOLT ON HOW RETIREMENT MADE HIM FEEL HUMAN AGAIN



The line-up has been met with mixed reaction from fans.

"I don't think there has ever been a worse Coachella lineup in the history of the festival," one wrote on X. But others said they were already figuring out ways to bag a ticket.

One wrote: "I will literally do anything for someone to sponsor my Coachella trip this line-up is so insane to me".

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Amy Woodyatt

"Well normally, I wake up just in time to see the kids off to school, and then it depends on what I have to do. If I have nothing to do, I just chill out. I might work out sometimes if I'm in a good mood. I just watch some series and chill until the kids come home."

Eight-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt is human just like the rest of us, admitting retirement sees the famed sprinter now getting out of breath after walking up the stairs.

Widely regarded as the greatest sprinter of all time, the 39-year-old – who still holds the world records for the 100m, 200m and the 4x100m relay – told reporters at the World Athletics Championships that due to a ruptured achilles, he no longer runs.

"No, I mostly do gym workouts. I'm not a fan, but I think now that I've been out for a while, I have to actually start running because, when I walk up stairs, I get out of breath," he told assembled media in Tokyo, including The Guardian and The Telegraph.

"I think when I start working on it fully again, I will probably have to do some laps just to get my breathing right."

The Jamaican announced his retirement from elite sprinting in 2017. When asked about his daily routine nowadays, he said now he spends much of his time with his children.

"Well normally, I wake up just in time to see the kids off to school, and then it depends on what I have to do. If I have nothing to do, I just chill out."

I might work out sometimes if I'm in a good mood. I just watch some series and chill until the kids come home.

"I spend some time with them, hang out, until they start annoying me then I leave. And then afterwards, I just stay at home and watch movies or I'm into Lego now, so I do Lego."

When asked why the current cohort of runners haven't yet caught up with his generation, in spite of technological advancements including such as spikes, he replied: "You want the real answer? We're just more talented."

"That's all I'm saying. Of course, it shows when it comes to the men. You can see the women are different. They're running faster times and faster times. So it shows – it has to be the talent."

He nodded to fellow Jamaican sprinting legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce's times post-spikes.



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He nodded to fellow Jamaican sprinting legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce's times post-spikes.

"You have Shelly, who has got the new spikes, and she ran faster. So it's just the talent. We're just way more talented men over that time. It shows if you look at it."

"No, I mostly do gym workouts. I'm not a fan, but I think now that I've been out for a while, I have to actually start running because, when I walk up stairs, I get out of breath," he told assembled media in Tokyo, including The Guardian and The Telegraph.

"I think when I start working on it fully again, I will probably have to do some laps just to get my breathing right."



## ELAINE WYNN, THE BELOVED ‘QUEEN OF LAS VEGAS’, BUILT A SINGULAR ART COLLECTION WHERE ‘EVERYTHING IS THE BEST OF ITS KIND’



**Diary Times Desk :** Glamour. Grace. Generosity. The hospitality entrepreneur, arts patron and philanthropist Elaine Wynn is remembered for her heart as much as for her style. Growing up in New York City and Miami Beach, Wynn moved during the late 1960s to Nevada, where she became known as the ‘Queen of Las Vegas.’ In her adopted city, as well as in Los Angeles and throughout America, she played a vital role in advocating for education and the arts.

One of the many institutions she supported was the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), where in 1989 she donated a rose garden in honour of her mother. Inscribed on a commemorative stone in the Lee Pascal Memorial Rose Garden is the opening line of John Keats’s *Endymion* (1818): ‘A thing of beauty is a joy forever.’ Living the adage, Wynn surrounded herself with exquisite art and objects from across the globe. Fundamentally believing the enjoyment of beauty should not be a solitary experience, she simultaneously sought opportunities to share art with others and create a lasting impact. With tenacity and an impeccable eye for beauty, Wynn developed a reputation — and an art collection — that preceded her.

### Elaine Wynn: the collector

In addition to raising her two daughters, Kevyn and Gillian, and being the grandmother to seven grandchildren, Wynn’s crowning achievements may very well include building an exceptional art collection. ‘Elaine was incredibly passionate. When an artwork she wanted became available, she went for it,’ says Christie’s Deputy Chairman Sonya Roth, who calls the late collector a ‘friend, mentor and role model.’ In 2013, Wynn made history when she won Francis Bacon’s 1969 triptych *Three Studies of Lucian Freud* at Christie’s for \$142.4 million — at the time, the highest price an artwork had ever achieved at auction.

Wynn’s collecting journey, which began in the 1980s, was something she enjoyed alongside her daughters. Drawn to what moved her, Wynn collected works spanning the 19th through 21st centuries. ‘The joy and thrill my mother experienced when she acquired a painting by Joseph Mallord William Turner or Francis Bacon was no different than the joy and thrill she experienced back in the ‘80s when her purchases were more modest,’ says Gillian Wynn. ‘She was a true lover of art and a collector guided by that love. Her pursuits were always driven by authenticity, an uncompromising adherence to the voice of her heart and soul.’ Kevyn Wynn continues, ‘Our mother lived a life filled with passion, conviction and grace. She had uncompromising standards and we have every confidence that Christie’s will uphold her vision and legacy.’

## HOW JOAN MITCHELL BECAME THE ULTIMATE CONDUCTOR OF COLOUR

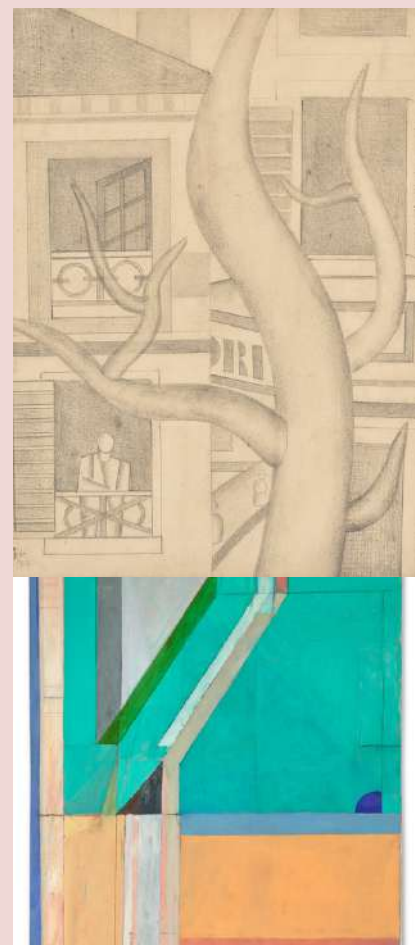
There’s nothing quite like standing before a Joan Mitchell painting. Basking in the dizzying dance of colour and texture, the viewer’s eye darts around the canvas, where every inch has been meticulously considered. With Mitchell’s kaleidoscopic compositions, each element is as enthralling as the work in its entirety.

‘Mitchell’s canvases pull you in in a bodily way. They project their physicality, prompting you to wonder about the mark-making, layering and motion that went into how the work was made,’ Sarah Roberts, the Joan Mitchell Foundation’s Senior Director of Curatorial Affairs, tells Christie’s. Roberts recalls the Abstract Expressionist’s painting that stopped her in her tracks when visiting the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth: *Untitled* (1961), a nearly ten-foot-tall canvas whose mud-like impastoed lower portion ascends into flurries of amethyst, coral and sage, punctuated by swathes of burnt tones, all framed in a spectrum of creamy beige.

‘From her very spare canvases up to the ones that are flooded with multiple hues, Mitchell’s colour is always absolutely extraordinary,’ says Roberts, who co-curated the 2021-22 Joan Mitchell retrospective organised by SFMOMA and the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA). Then Andrew W. Mellon Curator and Head of Painting and Sculpture, Roberts worked with Katy Siegel, then BMA Senior Programming Curator, to realise the show, which travelled to the Fondation Louis Vuitton and ran concurrently with the museum’s *Monet – Mitchell* blockbuster. The latter exhibition concluded at the Saint Louis Art Museum in 2023.

On the heels of this whirlwind world tour, Mitchell is celebrating another milestone: her centennial. Born in Chicago in 1925, the intrepid artist spent four decades in New York and France, where she established herself as one of the 20th century’s foremost painters. In 2025, celebrations will span the globe as more than 70 museums will display nearly 100 works by Mitchell. The initiative is spearheaded by the Joan Mitchell Foundation, whose mission is to preserve the artist’s legacy and provide invaluable resources, such as grants and residencies to visual artists. Centennial programming highlights include an exhibition at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans featuring alumni of the Foundation’s residency programme (artists include Maren Hassinger, Firelei Báez and Carrie Moyer, amongst others) in August, a public symposium at the Art Institute of Chicago in October and an exhibition of mid-1960s works at David Zwirner in New York in November and December.

‘At Mitchell’s core was an unflagging belief in the ability of abstract painting to collect and convey multifaceted experience,’ says Roberts. ‘She went through so many different cycles and approaches, but running through it all is this extraordinary ability to orchestrate colour and to create a sense of movement and dynamism on the surface.’



ED SHEERAN ON BARCELONA'S KIT: CATALAN GIANTS KICK OFF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SUPERSTAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona is gearing up for an extraordinary collaboration with British musician Ed Sheeran ahead of their pivotal season showdown against Real Madrid.

Details: According to RAC1, the superstar's name will appear on the team's match kit as part of the club's ongoing tradition of teaming up with global artists through their partnership with Spotify.

In previous seasons, Barcelona has already featured the names and logos of renowned musicians such as Drake, Coldplay, and Travis Scott on their kit for high-profile clashes, including El Clásico. The 2025/26 season will be no exception, with the Ed Sheeran collaboration set to be another eye-catching highlight for fans. For El Clásico, Hansi Flick's side will take to the pitch with Ed Sheeran's name emblazoned on their shirts, adding a musical and spectacular touch to the occasion and drawing the attention of both football enthusiasts and music lovers alike.

The showdown with Real Madrid is scheduled for October 26 at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium.



WILL THIS BE BARCELONA'S YEAR IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE?



**Diary Times Desk :** The 2025-26 Champions League is set to kick off with the first round of fixtures taking place this week in Europe's premier club competition.

Paris Saint-Germain will be out to defend their title and have already been installed as one of the favorites along with Liverpool, Real Madrid, Arsenal, Bayern Munich and Barcelona.

Hansi Flick's side made it to the semi-finals last year but then tasted defeat in heart-breaking style against Inter.

The German coach will be aiming for more this time around, with the Catalan giants set to open up their campaign on Thursday night against Newcastle at St James' Park.

HANSI FLICK COULD TURN TO 'VERY STRONG' BARCELONA DEFENDER TO HANDLE 6 FEET 6 INCHES WOLTEMADE IN NEWCASTLE CLASH



**Diary Times Desk :** One question that FC Barcelona manager Hansi Flick still does not have an answer to this season is who his first-choice pairing for the centre-back positions will be. The four La Liga games so far have featured three different pairings.

Ronald Araujo, the club vice-captain and effectively the captain in Marc-Andre Ter Stegen's absence, started the first two games alongside Pau Cubarsi, but he was benched for the third and fourth. He missed the Valencia encounter, possibly due to his long flight back from South America. For Araujo, facing Newcastle United on a big Champions League night would be a huge test, considering his direct role in Barcelona's .

DOES EUROPEAN FOOTBALL COME AT A PREMIER LEAGUE COST?



**Diary Times Desk :** A record-breaking nine English sides will play European football in 2025-26 - Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Newcastle and Tottenham in the Champions League; Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest in the Europa League; and Crystal Palace in the Conference League.

But will those clubs who are not in Europe be able to capitalise on having a less hectic fixture schedule and more rest between matches?

When Leicester City shocked the footballing world to win the Premier League in 2015-16, they only played 43 games in all competitions, with no European distractions.

If an English club were to triumph in Europe this season, they would play a minimum of 55 matches - 38 in the Premier League.

ATLÉTICO'S JULIAN ÁLVAREZ RULED OUT FOR LIVERPOOL CLASH

**Diary Times Desk :** Julián Álvarez has been left out of Atlético Madrid's squad for their Champions League trip to face Liverpool at Anfield on Wednesday.

A club source told ESPN that the star forward was suffering from discomfort, without providing further details.

Álvarez, 25, was substituted at halftime in Atlético's 2-0 LaLiga win over Villarreal on Saturday -- after providing the assist for Pablo Barrios to open the scoring -- being replaced by Alexander Sørloth.

USMNT midfielder Johnny Cardoso was also omitted from the squad to face Premier League Champions Liverpool on matchday one, while Atlético are also without two of their high-profile summer signings, Álex Baena and Thiago Almada. Álvarez has been a key player for Atlético since signing from Manchester City in 2024, scoring 17 LaLiga goals last season, as well as seven in ten Champions League appearances.

The forward's double-touch penalty in the round of 16 shootout against rivals Real Madrid saw Atlético eliminated from last season's competition. In his absence, coach Diego Simeone has Sørloth, Antoine Griezmann and Giacomo Raspadori as experienced attacking options available at Anfield, as well as wide forward Nico González.



ARE MAN UTD SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF PROGRESS UNDER AMORIM?



**Diary Times Desk :** The Reds have just two victories from their past 13 top-flight matches and produced another lacklustre display in Sunday's 3-0 loss to neighbours Manchester City.

Despite the growing external unease around Amorim, not helped by the derby defeat, senior officials remain fully supportive of the Portuguese.

And club sources insist that on most statistics United are performing better than last season despite sitting in 14th place, after their poorest start to a league campaign since 1992-93 with four points from the opening four games.

Some of their underlying stats do actually reveal a modest improvement in the past six months but this has often been undermined by issues in both boxes. Since the start of March, United have scored nine fewer goals than would be anticipated based on the quality of chances they create (their expected goals figure, excluding penalties) and conceded 3.4 more, figures indicative of wasteful finishing and uncertain goalkeeping.

The graph below shows United's 31 league fixtures under Amorim.