# DIARY TIMES 🗐



Thursday 18 September 2025 | Shimla | Vol: 05 | Issue: 572 | Pages: 14 | Price: 4

www.diarytimes.com ·twitter.com / thediarytimes ·facebook.com/thediarytimes

NEWS IN BRIEF EU SETS OUT NEW STRATEGY TO REINFORCE PROSPERITY AND SECURITY WITH INDIA

Diary Times Desk: Diary .

Today, the proposing a new areagic agenda to relations with India to a higher

Furopean Commission and the Representative High adopted Joint Communication

'New outlining а EU-India Strategic Agenda' marking a significant milestone EU-India relations. This initiative. announced bv

President Leyen in her Political Guidelines for 2024-2029, aims to deepen, broaden, and better bilateral coordinate cooperation, enhance prosperity and partners and tackle major global challenges.

President Ursula von der Leyen said "Now is the time to focus on reliable partners and double down partnerships rooted in shared interests and guided by common values.

MAOISTS OFFER "TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ARMED

STRUGGLE", CALL FOR TALKS WITH CENTRE

Diary Times Desk The b Maoists, CDI operating from shadows for decades, depleting the country of its life blood, are apparently suing for peace after cornered sustained crackdown by security forces. A month-old press note surfaced has offered unilateral

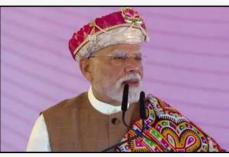
"temporary suspension of armed struggle", saying they are ready for peace talks with the Central

August 15. 2025. accessed by was issued by Maoist central spokesperson Abhay. It declares that they are ready to suspend violence for month, during which can be initiated with governmentappointed committee.

The note said the jailed Maoist leaders be allowed to take warned that police nressure . continued encounters in this undermine dialogue process. An email ID has been asking the Centre to respond.

#### **75TH BIRTHDAY**

#### FROM EU CHIEF TO NETANYAHU: PM MODI THANKS WORLD LEADERS FOR BIRTHDAY WISHES



Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday conveyed his gratitude to a host of world leaders for their warm wishes and greetings on his 75th birthday.

The leaders who greeted PM Modi included Russian

President Vladimir Putin, European Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu

and UAF President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zaved. Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Bhutanese PM Tshering Tobgay, New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon, Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing, President of Guyana Irfaan Ali and PM of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit also extended birthday greetings to PM Modi.

Papua New Guinea PM James Marape, Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides, and Trinidad and Tobago PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar also wished PM Modi.

While several leaders dialled PM Modi, some others posted video or text messages on social media for the prime minister "Thank you, my friend, President Putin, for your phone call and warm wishes on my 75th birthday. We are committed to further

strengthening our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership," PM Modi said on 'X'.
In a reply to the Australian PM, PM Modi said: "Thank you, my friend, Prime Minister Albanese for your kind wishes. I look forward to

In a reply of the Australian Prije Miscola and Thank you, Thy Therita prine Printing Printer Strengthening the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and our close people-to-people ties." In response to Tobgay's greetings, PM Modi said: "Thank you, Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, for your kind wishes. I look forward to working with you to further strengthen our special partnership with Bhutan."

PM Modi also thanked PM Meloni for her wishes. "Thank you Prime Minister Meloni for your warm wishes. Deeply appreciate Italy's friendship and look forward to strengthening it further."

In his reply to PM Skerrit, PM Modi said: "Thank you for your kind wishes, Prime Minister Skeritt. India deeply cherishes the strong bonds of friendship and solidarity with the Commonwealth of Dominica."

PM Modi also thanked New Zealand PM Luxon. "Thank you, Prime Minister Luxon, for your warm wishes. I deeply cherish our

friendship. New Zealand is an important partner in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047."
In a reply to Guyana's Ali, the prime minister said: "I am touched by your warm sentiments that reflect the deep bonds of friendship

and mutual trust between India and Guyana." PM Modi was born on September 17, 1950, in a small town in Guiarat's Vadnagar

#### AI-GENERATED VIDEO SHOWS WORLD LEADERS AT PM MODI'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, INTERNET CALLS IT "CUTEST"

Diary Times Desk: On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, an Al-generated video of his birthday party, labelled as "Modi Ji Birthday Bash", is winning hearts online. The video reimagines PM Modi with world leaders as adorable babies. From Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the world leaders have wished him with unique gifts in the video. The video starts with Meloni giving a gift that looks like a toffee, with "Melody" written on it. PM Modi and Meloni share a warm and friendly connection, affectionately dubbed "#Melodi" by social media users

Baby versions of the US President Donald Trump and Putin are seen giving a gift of tariffs and a toy form of the S-400 missile system, respectively. The video shows Chinese President Xi Jinping and Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

The AI video featured Indian politicians like opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, Uttar Pradesh Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee.
"From ladoos bigger than our cheeks to hugs warmer than our tiny arms, baby leaders from

across the world - Meloni, Trump, Putin, Xi Jinping - and our very own baby netas have gathered for one grand, giggly celebration," the user wrote in the caption.

Social media reaction

The video received huge traction online, with the internet calling it the "Cutest". One user wrote, "Okay, this is genuinely wonderful n sweet. Major credit to the creative mind behind this, You have made my day!"



#### PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

#### "IAISH TERRORISTS EXPOSED PAKISTAN": PM PRAISES OP SINDOOR ON 75TH BIRTHDAY



Times Desk : Prime Narendra Modi on Wedne esday reiterated that India is not afraid of nuclear threats, as he lauded the success of 'Operation Sindoor' that was carried out in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

He also said that terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM)'s acknowledgment of the losses during Operation Sindoor on its terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir only "exposed" Islamabad's role in sponsoring terrorism against New Delhi.

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar, where he launched a slew of projects on the occasion of his 75th birthday, when he made the remarks.

"This is new India. It is not scared of anyone. The Indian forces can enter houses to bring down enemies. New India is not afraid of nuclear threats," he said, in an apparent reference to Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir's earlier warning of a nuclear war and threat to take down "half the world" if Islamabad faced an existential threat in a future war with India. "We obliterated terror launch pads during Operation Sindoor. The Jaish terrorists exposed Pakistan," he added.

His comments came days after a high-ranking JeM member Masood Ilyas Kashmiri said outfit chief Maulana Masood Azhar's family was "torn apart by Indian forces in Bahawalpur" during Operation Sindoor

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the country's first Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in the district. He also launched the 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' and 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' campaigns from the district.

#### JAIRAM RAMESH ACCUSES CENTRE OF 'FALSE CLAIMS' OVER ADANI'S **DHIRAULI COAL MINE CLEARANCE**



Diary Times Desk: Congress senior leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday accused the Union Environment Ministry of making "false claims" while clearing Adani Group's Dhirauli coal mining project in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh, alleging blatant irregularities in the approval process and violations of tribal rights.

Ramesh, in a post on X, drew attention to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change's response to his objections raised on September 12.

The Ministry had asserted that the mining land did not fall under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution and that all legal processes under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) had been duly completed. Calling the first claim "false, Ramesh cited a parliamentary reply given on August 9, 2023, when the then Union Coal Minister "clearly and categorically" stated in the Lok Sabha that the Dhirauli project indeed fell in an area protected under the Fifth

On the second claim, Ramesh argued that the FRA covers not only individual forest rights but also community forest resource rights and habitat rights of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs). He pointed out that the Dhirauli project entails diversion of about 3,500 acres of forest land across five villages, with at least three neighbouring villages also dependent on the same forest

#### "IF IT'S A WOMAN, YOU CAN GIVE BAIL," BMW CRASH ACCUSED TELLS COURT



Diary Times Desk: The death of a senior finance ministry official in a BMW crash with a two-wheeler in Delhi last week is unfortunate but one cannot overlook that at least 5,000 accidents are also reported a Delhi court on Wednesday.

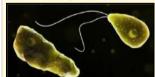
ccused, Gaganpreet Kaur who was arrested on Monday, said a DTC bus that collided with the two-wheeler and an ambulance that reportedly passed by should also be made an accused in the case that has garnered attention and sparked nationwide outrage.

Kaur's counsel and senior advocate Ramesh Gupta made the remarks while seeking bail in the case, even as the Patiala House Court adjourned the hearing for Saturday.

Kaur was arrested on Monday and remanded in judicial custody after her BMW hit a motorcycle that was being driven by Navjot Singh, a deputy secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, near Dhaula Kuan in Delhi on Sunday. Singh died while his wife, who was riding pillion, sustained injuries in the accident. Seeking bail for his client, Mr Gupta said: "It is an unfortunate incident.

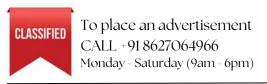
Five thousand accidents happen every year, that's also unfortunate." The lawyer, however, sought to know why no action was taken against a DTC bus as the police claimed that the two-wheeler rammed into the four-wheeler after getting knocked down by the BMW. Similarly, she alleged that an ambulance passed the area but refused to help the victims.

#### 'BRAIN-EATING AMOEBA' KILLS 19 IN KERALA. HOW IT SPREADS, HOW TO STAY SAFE



Diary Times Desk : Kerala health authoritie are on alert after a spike in cases of Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM). Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), a brain infection with a high fatality rate. This infection is caused by Naegleria fowleri, commonly known as the 'brain-eating amoeba'. This year, Kerala has recorded 61 confirmed cases of PAM and 19 deaths, with many of these deaths being reported in the past few weeks. State Health Minister Veena George has said Kerala is grappling with a serious public health challenge. The infections, previously linked to clusters in districts like Kozhikode and Malappuram. are now appearing sporadically across the state. Patients range from a three-monthold infant to a 91-year-old. "Unlike last year, we are not seeing clusters linked to a single water source. These are single, isolated water source. These are single, isolated cases, and this has complicated our epidemiological investigations," she said. According to a Kerala government document, PAM affects the central nervous system. "This infection destroys brain tissue, causing severe brain swelling and death in most cases. PAM is rare and usually occurs

in otherwise healthy children, teens and young adults," it says. This puts those swimming, diving, or bathing in water bodies contaminated with this amoeba at a high risk of infection.



#### COPS TRY TO ARREST ACCUSED IN DELHI LOCALITY, GET THRASHED BY HIS RELATIVES



Diary Times Desk: Several Delhi Police personnel were injured in an attack by a group of men while attempting to arrest a person in Delhi's Fatehpur Beri area on Tuesday.

According to officials, a police team had reached Chandan Hola village to arrest a man identified as Azam, against whom a non-bailable warrant had been issued.

When the officers tried to detain him, Azam and some of his relatives allegedly resisted and launched a violent assault on the police team. The clash left multiple personnel injured, who were later admitted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment.

Videos of the assault show several men clashing with cops on the road. One of the attackers is also seen running away from the cops.

Police say that a case has now been registered against Azam and those involved in the attack, based on the statements of the injured policemen. A search operation has been launched to track down the accused

#### **INDIA REJECTED THIRD-PARTY** MEDIATION DURING OPERATION SINDOOR: PAKISTAN

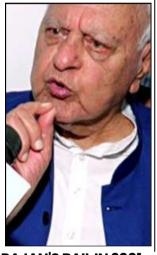


Diary Times Desk: Pakistan's top diplomat said that India had rejected any third-party role in mediating bilateral disputes during Operation Sindoor, contradicting US President Donald Trump's claim that Washington brokered a ceasefire.During an interview with Al Jazeera on Modany, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had "not sought" US mediation, adding that India had made its opposition to third-party involvement clear.

#### WRATH OF ALLAH TO BLAME...': FAROOQ ABDULLAH ON CRISISC REFUSES TO INTERFERE WITH KERALA HC IN J&K APPLE INDUSTRY ORDER ON GLOBAL AYYAPPA SANGAMAM.

Diary Times Desk: The "wrath of Allah" is to blame for the transportation crisis affecting Jammu and Kashmir's apple industry, National Conference leader Farooa Abdullah said Wednesday, "It is because we don't offer namaaz. Such difficulties (are meant to) awaken us and turn us towards Allah." Responding to question about the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu highway for the past three weeks - due to a 60m cave-in Udhampur that has trapped thousands of trucks carrying apples - the former ex-Chief Minister rubbished talk of 'sabotage' and shot down criticism of his party's administration.

He accused critics of the NC government, led by his son, Omar Abdullah, of 'playing politics with the lives of the people of J&K'. Referring obliquely to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the federal representative in Kashmir, he declared, "Some people's houses run on this politics."



#### **SUPREME COURT CANCELS CHHOTA RAJAN'S BAIL IN 2001 MURDER CASE**



Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court on Wednesday cancelled the bail of gangster The residence is occupied by the actor's family. Present Chhota Rajan, which was granted to him by the Bombay High Court in October 2024 in at the time of the shooting were Ms Patani's father, retired the 2001 murder of Jaya Shetty.

Chhota Rajan, originally Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje, had been convicted and sentenced her mother, and elder sister Khushbu Patani. to serve life imprisonment in the said murder case in May 2024. Subsequently, on Gang Takes Responsibility appeal, he was granted bail by the High Court.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued the ruling on a plea filed by Canada-based criminal with extensive links to organised the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that had sought cancellation of Chhota networks -- claimed responsibility through a social Ranian's bail

The Additional Solicitor General (ASG), SV Raju, appearing for CBI, submitted that Rajan online, in which he alleged the attack was carried out in has been convicted in four cases, which include two murders.



Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court on Wednesday in its order refused to interfere with the Kerala High Court's September 11 order, which refused to restrain the . Travancore Devaswom Board and the state government from holding "Global Ayyappa Sangamam" on September 20, 2025, an event or using temple funds/properties/contributions for it.

#### 2 MEN ACCUSED OF FIRING AT ACTOR **DISHA PATANI'S HOUSE KILLED IN ENCOUNTER**

Diary Times Desk: Two men accused of opening fire at the Bareilly residence of Bollywood actor Disha Patani were killed following a police encounter in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad today, police said. Both suspects are linked to a prominent transnational criminal gang. A Delhi police personnel was injured during the encounter in what was a joint operation by the Delhi Police's Special Cell, Haryana STF and UP STF.

The case stems from a shooting that took place in the early hours of September 12, when gunshots were fired at Ms Patani's ancestral home in Bareilly's Civil Lines area. Police said the firing occurred at around 3:45 am, startling the quiet residential neighbourhood.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Jagdish Singh Patani,

Shortly after the incident, gangster Goldy Brar -- a media post. Screenshots of his statement circulated protest against remarks supposedly made by Ms Patani.

# **NATIONAL**

#### PM LAYS FOUNDATION STONE, INAUGURATES DEVELOPMENT WORKS IN DHAR, MADHYA PRADESH



Diary Times Desk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the inaugurated foundation stone, development works in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh today. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister bowed at the feet of Goddess of Knowledge -Vagdevi, the revered mother of Dhar Bhojshala. Adding that today marks the birth anniversary of Lord Vishwakarma, the divine architect and deity of skill and creation, Shri Modi offered salutations to Lord Vishwakarma. He also paid respects to the crores of brothers and sisters who are engaged in nation-building through their craftsmanship and dedication.

Remarking that the land of Dhar has always inspired valour, Shri Modi highlighted, "the bravery of Maharaja Bhoj teaches us to stand firm in defence of national pride". He further added that the sacrifice of Maharshi Dadhichi gives us the resolve to serve humanity. Drawing inspiration from this legacy, the Prime Minister stated that today, the nation gives topmost priority to the security of Mother India. He recalled that terrorists from Pakistan had shattered the sindoor of our sisters and daughters, and affirmed that through Operation Sindoor, destroyed their terror hideouts. Shri Modi emphasized that our brave soldiers brought Pakistan to its knees in the blink of an eye. Referring to a recent incident, he noted that just yesterday, another Pakistani terrorist was crying and narrating his ordeal. "This is the new India, one that does

not fear anyone's nuclear threats and responds by striking directly at

the source", exclaimed the Prime

Minister. He highlighted that 17th

occasion when the nation witnessed

the iron resolve of Sardar Patel. On

this day, the Indian Army liberated

Hyderabad from numerous atrocities

and integrated it with India.

а

historic

marks

September

## "SEND A FEW BEHIND BARS": SUPREME COURT ON FARMERS BURNING STUBBLE



**Diary Times Desk:** Sending some farmers behind bars for burning stubble can send a strong message to others and act as a deterrent, the Supreme Court said today as it heard petitions linked to choking air pollution in Delhi-NCR every October.

Earlier, Amicus Curiae Aparajita Singh told the bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran that farmers have been offered subsidies and equipment to address the stubble burning issues. "But farmers have the same story. Last time, farmers said that they were asked to burn at a time when the satellite does not pass over that area. I am sorry to say that since 2018, the Supreme Court has passed extensive orders, and they only plead helplessness before you," she said.

The Chief Justice questioned why the authorities are not thinking about penal provisions to address this issue.

#### A BHARAT RATNA DEMAND, LEADERSHIP REMINDER: INSIDE EPS-AMIT SHAH MEET



Diary Times Desk: A Bharat Ratna for Pasumpon Muthuramalinga, freedom fighter and Thevar community icon, and expedition of corruption cases – specifically those related to the alleged TASMAC liquor scam, sand mining, and drugs – against the ruling DMK were among the points raised by AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami in a 25-minute meet with Home Minister Amit Shah this morning.

Sources told NDTV the agenda was to 'strengthen the National Democratic Alliance' ahead of next year's Tamil Nadu Assembly election. A significant aspect of that discussion point, sources said, was EPS' reminder to not antagonise the AIADMK by demanding the return of expelled leaders.

#### IN DARING HEIST, GOLD WORTH RS 20 CRORE LOOTED FROM SBI BANK IN KARNATAKA



**Diary Times Desk:** Dressed in military-style uniforms and armed with guns, a gang of three masked men stormed into a State Bank of India branch at Karnataka's Chadachan town on Tuesday evening and looted gold ornaments worth Rs 20 crore and Rs 1 crore cash, according to police. The robbers overpowered the bank staff, tied up the manager and other employees, before locking them inside the toilet.

### COMMITTED TO MAKE INDIA FREE OF DRUGS: SHAH



Diary Times Desk: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the government is determined to wipe out narcotics from the country and asked anti-drug agencies to go after both big cartels and small street-level peddlers. Addressing the inaugural session of the Second National Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF) in New Delhi, Shah said, "When a big cartel is busted, agencies should not stop there. They must trace the network down to the end user. And when a small vendor selling 'pudiya' at a paan shop is caught, they must track the source upwards. Only then can the chain be broken."

# KHALISTANI OUTFIT ANNOUNCES SIEGE ON INDIAN CONSULATE IN VANCOUVER

**Diary Times Desk:** As India and Canada resume diplomatic ties, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a US-based Khalistani outfit, has threatened to "siege" the Indian Consulate in Vancouver. The pro-Khalistan group said it will take over the Indian consulate on Thursday and asked Indo-Canadians, planning a routine visit to the consulate, to choose another date.

They also released a poster showing the new Indian High Commissioner, Dinish Patnaik, with a target on his face. In a statement, the group accused Indian consulates of running a spy network and surveillance targeting Khalistanis.

"Two years ago -- 18 September 2023 -- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told Parliament that the Indian agents' role was under investigation in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar," the statement said.

"Two years on, Indian Consulates continue to run a spy network and surveillance targeting Khalistan Referendum campaigners," it added.

The group alleged that the threat to them "was so grave" that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had to offer "witness protection" to Inderjeet Singh Gosal, who assumed leadership of the Khalistan Referendum campaign after Nijjar's death.

## INTERNATIONAL

# THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS FLEE AS ISRAELI TROOPS PUSH INTO GAZA CITY



**Diary Times Desk:** Thousands of Palestinians are continuing to flee Gaza City, as Israel's major ground offensive aimed at occupying the area enters a second day.

Israel says its aim is to free hostages held by Hamas and defeat up to 3,000 fighters in what it describes as the group's "last stronghold", but the offensive has drawn widespread international condemnation.

The leaders of more than 20 major aid agencies, including Save the Children and Oxfam, warned that "the inhumanity of the situation in Gaza is unconscionable".

It comes a day after a UN commission of inquiry concluded that Israel had committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza - an allegation the Israeli government strongly denied.

Amid large-scale Israeli bombardment, Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said al-Rantisi children's hospital in Gaza City was targeted in three separate Israeli attacks on Tuesday night, prompting around half its patients to leave.

A source at the hospital said there were no injuries but that air conditioning units, water tanks and solar panels were severely damaged.

"This hospital is the only specialist facility for children with cancer, kidney failure, and other life-threatening conditions," said Fikr Shalltoot, Gaza director of the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it was looking into the reports.

The IDF announced on Wednesday morning that it had struck more than 150 targets across Gaza City in two days in support of its ground troops.

## KING CHARLES GIVES TRUMP ROYAL WELCOME ON UK STATE VISIT



**Diary Times Desk:** Donald Trump was treated to a royal reception featuring gun salutes, soldiers on horseback and bagpipes as he met Wednesday with Britain's King Charles III for a historic second state visit, which unfolded far from marching protesters.

The pair laughed and joked as Trump inspected troops at Windsor Castle, west of London, in an elaborate spectacle featuring a carriage procession designed to play into the mercurial American leader's love of pomp and pageantry.

Some 120 horses, and 1,300 members of the British military -- some in red tunics and gold plumed helmets -- feted Trump during a ceremonial guard of honour that UK officials called the largest for a state visit to Britain in living memory.

The president and First Lady Melania Trump were greeted by heir-to-the-throne Prince William and wife Catherine at Windsor after stepping off the Marine One helicopter under grey skies at 12:15 pm (1115 GMT).

# "MUST TREAT THEM LIKE AL QAEDAS": FBI CHIEF ON DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANISATIONS



**Diary Times Desk:** Drug trafficking organisations must be treated the way foreign terrorist organisations were treated after the September 11, 2001, attacks, FBI Director Kash Patel said on Tuesday, pledging that the campaign against them will be a years-long mission.

# COLOMBIA HALTS US ARMS PURCHASES AS ROW OVER DRUG FIGHT DELISTING ESCALATES



**Diary Times Desk:** Colombia has halted arms purchases from the United States, its biggest military partner, over Washington's claim that the South American country is failing to halt cocaine trafficking.

Colombian Interior Minister Armando Benedetti announced the move on Tuesday, as President Gustavo Petro accused the US of seeking to "participate" in the country's domestic politics and looking for a "puppet president" ahead of elections next year.

"From this moment on ... weapons will not be purchased from the United States," Benedetti told Blu Radio in an interview on Tuesday.

US President Donald Trump on Monday decertified Colombia as an ally in the fight against drugs, accusing the country of allowing cocaine production to surge to "all-time records".

#### EU PROPOSES SUSPENSION OF TRADE CONCESSIONS WITH ISRAEL OVER GAZA WAR



Commission, the European Union's main executive body, has presented a much anticipated and delayed proposal to "suspend certain traderelated provisions of the Association Agreement between the EU and Israel" in response to Israel's war on Gaza.

The sanctions, however, do not currently have enough support among the EU's 27 member countries to pass. The proposals announced on Wednesday also included suggested sanctions on "extremist" Israeli ministers and violent settlers as well as on Hamas

Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, urged the member nations to increase tariffs on some Israeli goods and impose sanctions on 10 Hamas leaders, Israeli settlers, and two farright members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN HEART SURGEON GUILTY OF SEXUAL OFFENCES GETS 6 YEAR JAIL IN UK

**Diary Times Desk:** An Indian-origin heart surgeon convicted of abusing his position to sexually assault female members of staff at a National Health Service (NHS) hospital in northern England has been jailed for six years.

Dr Amal Krishna Bose, 55, was convicted of 12 counts of sexual assault, including inappropriate touching and making sexualised comments to five female members of staff at the Blackpool Victoria Hospital in Lancashire between 2017 and 2022.

Lancashire Constabulary said he had been sentenced at Preston Crown Court on Monday after a jury found him guilty at the end of a trial in June. Bose had denied the charges, claiming his actions were just "flirting" and "workplace banter".

"Everyone should feel able to go to work and feel safe, confident and secure, but Mr Bose has undermined that by abusing his position of power to sexually assault these female members of staff and by doing so has caused enormous damage," said Detective Chief Inspector Kirsty Wyatt of Lancashire police.



Shimla | Thursday | 18-09-2025

# 5

## TEXT MESSAGES BETWEEN CHARLIE KIRK ACCUSED AND ROOMMATE

After reading the note, the roommate responded, "What?" | Now right????"

Robinson:

Roommate:
Robinson:
Roommate:
Robinson:
Robinson:

Robinson:
I am still ok my love, but am stuck in orem for a ling shouldn't be long until I can come home, but I gow be honest I had hoped to keep this secret till I die to involve you.

you weren't the one who did it right????
I am, I'm sorry
I thought they caught the person?
no, they grabbed some crazy old dude, then similar clothing. I had planned to grab my after, but most of that side of town got long enough to get out, but theres one vehicle why?

Why did I do it?

Diary Times Desk: The man suspected of killing conservative commentator Charlie Kirk texted his roommate after the shooting to discuss a possible motive, according to court documents. The unnamed roommate told investigators that Tyler Robinson had messaged to say he had left a confession under his keyboard after last Wednesday's shooting at Utah Valley University campus in the city of Orem, said prosecutors. Authorities have said the unnamed roommate was a "biological male" who was transitioning from man to woman and was in a romantic

relationship with the defendant.

Here's the full record of a series of text messages exchanged with the alleged gunman on the day of the shooting, which the roommate provided to investigators.

Robinson: drop what you are doing, look under my keyboard.

[When the roommate looked under the keyboard, there was a note that allegedly read: "I had the opportunity to take out Charlie Kirk and I'm going to take it."]

Roommate: "What??????????? You're joking, right????

Robinson: I am still ok my love, but am stuck in orem for a little while longer yet. Shouldn't be long until I can come home, but I gotta grab my rifle still. To be honest I had hoped to keep this secret till I died of old age. I am sorry to involve you.

Roommate: you weren't the one who did it right????

Robinson: I am, I'm sorry

Roommate: I thought they caught the person?

Robinson: no, they grabbed some crazy old dude, then interrogated someone in similar clothing. I had planned to grab my rifle from my drop point shortly after, but most of that side of town got locked down. Its quiet, almost enough to get out, but theres one vehicle lingering.

Roommate: Why?

Robinson: Why did I do it?

Roommate: Yeah

Robinson: I had enough of his hatred. Some hate can't be negotiated out.

# EU CHIEF, TRUMP DISCUSS INCREASING "ECONOMIC PRESSURE" ON RUSSIA



Diary Times Desk: EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday said she and US President Donald Trump discussed additional steps to tighten the screws on Russia over the Ukraine war.

"I had a good call with (Trump) on strengthening our joint efforts to increase economic pressure on Russia through additional measures".

#### INDIA JOINS RUSSIA-BELARUS DRILLS AMID NUCLEAR WEAPONS LAUNCH REHEARSAL

**Diary Times Desk:** Indian troops have participated in the Russian-led Zapad-2025 military drills, Russian state agency TASS said on Tuesday, highlighting Moscow's close ties with New Delhi, whose growing ties with the United States have been strained by the imposition of hefty tariffs by President Donald Trump.

The Indian Ministry of Defence confirmed it had sent 65 armed forces personnel to participate in the drill. At the wargames, Russia and Belarus also rehearsed the launch of Russian tactical nuclear weapons as part of joint military exercises, which also featured the Oreshnik hypersonic missile that Moscow test-fired last year in the war with Ukraine.

#### ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TIKTOK, ITS ALGORITHM, AND US-CHINA



#### DEAL

**Diary Times Desk:** A central question to TikTok's potential shutdown saga has been whether the popular social video platform would keep its algorithm - the secret sauce that powers its addictive video feed - after it's divested from Chinese parent company ByteDance. Now, it appears that it can. Wang Jingtao, deputy director of China's Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, told reporters in Madrid Monday there was consensus on authorisation of "the use of intellectual property rights such as (TikTok's) algorithm" - a main sticking point in the

deal. The sides also agreed on entrusting a partner with handling U.S. user data and content security, he said. But while China has agreed that a divested TikTok could use its algorithm, it's uncertain how that would work.

Little is known about the actual deal in the works, including what companies are involved and whether the United States would have a stake in TikTok. Li Chenggang, China's international trade representative, said the two sides have reached "basic framework consensus" to properly solve TikTok-related issues in a cooperative way, reduce investment barriers and promote related economic and trade cooperation. The sides now have until December 16 to hash out the details, following the latest deadline extension by the Trump administration.

# TESTS SHOW NAVALNY WAS POISONED IN JAIL, HIS WIDOW SAYS



**Diary Times Desk:** The wife of the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has said he was killed by poisoning while serving a prison sentence in an Arctic penal colony in 2024.

In a video shared on social media, Yulia Navalnaya said analysis of smuggled biological samples carried out by laboratories in two countries showed that her husband had been "murdered".

She did not provide details on the poison allegedly used, on the samples or on the analysis – but challenged the two laboratories to publish their results.

Navalny – an anti-corruption campaigner and Russia's most vociferous opposition leader - died suddenly in jail on 16 February 2024 at the age of 47.

In 2020 he was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent. He underwent treatment in Germany, and was arrested at the airport upon his return to Russia.

At the time of his death he had been in jail for three years on trumped-up charges and had recently been transferred to a penal colony in the Arctic Circle.

Navalny's supporters and colleagues at his Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) have always maintained the Russian government was involved in his demise.

#### FROM SOCIAL MEDIA BAN TO TOTAL COLLAPSE: HOW NEPAL'S GEN Z REVOLT ENDED IN GOVERNMENT DOWNFALL

Diary Times Desk: Events in the second week of September exposed how weak and mechanical the institutions of the Nepali state had become after years of political chaos and misgovernance. Beyond its other failings, the grand coalition of the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Communist Party of Nepal-UML, led by Prime Minister K.P. Oli, could not even implement a coherent plan to regulate social media platforms.

The government had issued repeated notices to international tech giants to appoint a 'point person' in Kathmandu, mainly to facilitate investigations into complaints and cybercrime though there may also have been the motive to control expression. TikTok and Viber complied, but others – including the US-based Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp.

# INTERNATIONAL

### US OFFICERS TIED US UP AND POINTED GUNS AT US, SOUTH KOREAN ENGINEERS TELL BBC

**Diary Times Desk:** When Youngjin looked out of his office window and saw armoured trucks and immigration enforcement officers running around with guns, he was surprised, but not worried.

The young South Korean was certain it had nothing to do with him. He was in the US only for a few weeks on a short-term visa, he thought to himself.

Then the armed agents burst into his room and ordered him outside. They handcuffed him, before attaching chains to his waist and ankles, and loaded him onto a bus bound for a detention centre.

"I panicked and my mind went blank. I felt sick," he told the BBC, now back home in South Korea.

"I couldn't understand why I was being treated like this."

Youngjin is one of more than 300 Korean workers who were detained in the US state of Georgia earlier this month, in one of the largest immigration raids of Donald Trump's presidency to date. He and others interviewed for this article didn't want to reveal their real names in order to protect their identity.



### NEW ZEALAND URGED TO BUILD NEW TRADE BLOCS



**Diary Times Desk:** BRICS, the powerful bloc of emerging economies led by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, could open doors to new markets and strengthen New Zealand's independence on the world stage, says Auckland University Associate Professor in Global Studies Chris Ogden.

#### TEXAS STUDENT RE-ENACTS CHARLIE KIRK'S ASSASSINATION, EXPELLED FROM UNIVERSITY

**Diary Times Desk:** The Texas State University has expelled a student for re-enacting the assassination of Charlie Kirk during a memorial event on campus.

The incident came to light after a video was shared on X with the note, "This was at Texas State, a Charlie Kirk memorial event hosted by the local TPUSA chapter. Student imitates Charlie Kirk's death and mocks him, goes up to the statue where TPUSA members are and imitates his death again, and spits near them. Also uses a vape/weed pen near the end of the video, which is against campus policy."

In the footage, the student is also heard using profanity directed at the local chapter of Turning Point USA (TPUSA), the conservative youth organisation co-founded by Charlie Kirk.

#### against campus policy."

#### TRUMP CLASHES WITH AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OVER BUSINESS DEALS IN

OFFICE

Diary Times Desk: Donald Trump has accused an Australian journalist of "hurting Australia" after the leader was asked about his business deals while in office.

The US president was asked by John Lyons from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) how much wealthier he had become since returning to the White House in January.

"I don't know," Trump replied, saying his children handled the family businesses. "In my opinion, you are hurting Australia very much right now, and they want to get along with me."

Trump said he was going to be meeting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese "very soon", adding: "I'm going to tell him about you. You set a very bad tone."

When Lyons tried to ask another question, Trump held his index finger to his lips before saying "quiet" and moved away to speak to another journalist.

For months, Albanese has been seeking a meeting with the US president after talks between the pair were cancelled at the last-minute when Trump left the G20 summit in June earlier than expected to deal with the war in the Middle East.

Albanese - who will be in the US for the UN General Assembly next week - told ABC radio on Monday that he and Trump would "see each other in New York".

"He's hosting a reception on Tuesday night of next week. And as well, we'll see each other at various forums that are taking place between now and the end of the year."

In recent months, US-Australia relations have become strained since the Trump administration announced a review into Aukus, a major submarine deal worth £176bn (\$239bn; A\$368bn) between the US, UK and Australia which was signed in 2021.

In April, Australia was also hit with a tariff of at least 10% on all exports to the US, which Albanese said was "not the act of a friend".

Lyons said after the terse response from Trump that it was an "absurd notion" that asking legitimate questions politely would hurt relations between the long-time allies.

"For me, it was a perfectly normal thing to do to ask questions that I don't think were provocative," he told the ABC, adding his enquiries were fair, based on research and not asked in an abusive way.

#### JAPAN SAYS WON'T RECOGNISE PALESTINIAN STATE FOR NOW



**Diary Times Desk:** Japan will not recognise a Palestinian state for the time being, and Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba will skip a relevant meeting during the United Nations General Assembly this month, the Asahi newspaper reported on Wednesday, citing unnamed government sources.

Japan's stance would run counter to moves to recognise a Palestinian state by France, Britain and Canada – its Group of Seven peers – as well as Australia. The stance aligns Japan with the United States, Israel's closest ally, which has rejected the idea of recognising a Palestinian state.

Within the G7, German and Italian officials have called an immediate recognition of Palestine "counterproductive".

# INTERNATIONAL

DIARY TIMES | Shimla | Thursday | 18-09-2025

#### OVER 65,000 PALESTINIANS KILLED IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR: GAZA'S HEALTH **MINISTRY**

Diary Times Desk : Over 65,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza's Health Ministry said Wednesday.

The ministry said the death toll has climbed to 65,062, with another 1,65,697 wounded since Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack.

Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90 per cent of the population and caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts announcing famine in Gaza City.

The ministry does not say how many were civilians or militants, but has said women and children make up around half the dead.



#### **UAE PRESIDENT CONFERS FIRST-CLASS** ORDER OF ZAYED II ON INDIAN **AMBASSADOR**



Diary Times Desk: President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has conferred the First-Class Order of Zayed II on Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the UAE, in recognition of his efforts during his tenure in the country to strengthening and advancing the joint cooperation and comprehensive strategic relations between the two nations across various fields. HH Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented the decoration to the Ambassador during a meeting with him today in Abu Dhabi.

### 'FAKE' PAKISTANI FOOTBALL TEAM

Diary Times Desk: A "fake" Pakistan Football Team was deported from Japan following the revelation of its fraud, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said on Wednesday.

A human trafficking network was involved in sending a 22-member fake football team to

The fake players were dressed in football kits and claimed they were registered with the Pakistan Football Federation. They also claimed to have scheduled matches with a Japanese club.

"The 22-member fake football team, which managed to get a 15-day visa, reached Japan in June 2025. However, it was deported by the Japanese immigration authorities from the airport, and the matter was then reported to the

### **DEPORTED FROM JAPAN: FIA**

Japan, the FIA said in a statement.

FIA." it said.

#### DUBAI'S BURJ KHALIFA LIGHTS UP TO CELEBRATE PM MODI'S 75TH **BIRTHDAY**

Diary Times Desk: Dubai's iconic Burj Khalifa was illuminated with the images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of his 75th birthday on Wednesday.

The world's tallest building dazzled Dubai's skyline with PM Modi's portraits and celebratory messages.

The celebrations highlight the growing ties between India and the UAE, based on mutual respect and collaboration.

Earlier in the day, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

Al Nahyan wished PM Modi in a post on X. "Sincere congratulations to Narendra Modi on your birthday. I wish you continued good health and happiness, and ongoing success in advancing India's progress and the prosperity of its people," the UAE President said in his post.

Wishes have poured in from across the world on PM Modi's

Earlier today, the WHO chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, also extended wishes to PM Modi on his birthday.

He wrote on X, "Happy 75th birthday, Prime Minister @narendramodi! Wishing you all the best. I am impressed by your leadership in action. Even on your special day, you are marking it with the launch of an important initiative to promote and protect women's health in #India."

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom's King Charles sent a Kadamb tree to PM Modi on his birthday, inspired by the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative.

The British High Commission shared the details in a post on



#### **TRUMP NAMES** AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, CHINA, **PAKISTAN AMONG MAJOR DRUG TRANSIT COUNTRIES**

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump has named China, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan among 23 major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries, saying manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these nations are threatening the safety of the US and its citizens.

In a 'Presidential Determination' submitted to Congress Monday, Trump said he has identified 23 countries as "major drug transit or major illicit drug producing" nations.

These nations are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

Trump delivered the "Major's List" to Congress, desianatina these countries as responsible sourcing and transporting illicit drugs into the US, the White House

The State Department announced the Presidential Determination of these 23 countries, with five countries -- Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, and Venezuela -

as having "failed listed demonstrably to make substantial efforts," calling upon them to improve their counter-narcotics efforts.

#### **NEPAL MINISTERS INSPECT** CHARRED PARLIAMENT. **ORDER REPAIR OF DAMAGED STRUCTURES**

Diary Times Desk: Three Nepal ministers on Wednesday inspected the Parliament building that was set on fire by the Gen Z protesters and also ordered repair works for government buildings partially damaged during the violent protests last week.

The interim government also formed a taskforce to assess the damage incurred by the structures under its jurisdiction.

At least 72 persons, including 3 policemen, died during the violent protests on September 8 and 9 leading to the ouster of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. During the agitation led by the Gen Z group, protestors set fire to houses of political leaders, important government buildings, including Parliament, business the establishments and shopping complexes.

# BUSINESS FINANCE DIARY TIMES Shimla | Thursday | 18-09-2025

#### WHO IS LARRY ELLISON, WHO BECAME THE **WORLD'S RICHEST PERSON THIS WEEK?** Diary Times Desk:

Larry Ellison briefly became the world's richest person Wednesday before ending the day just \$1 billion shy of the lead.

The uber-billionaire is still on the verge of becoming the world's richest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, growing his net worth \$88 billion Wednesday, briefly toppling longtime title holder Elon Musk from his perch.

81-year-old is Oracle's largest individual shareholder and whose stock is having its biggest single-day gain since 1992. Ellison's wealth stands at \$383 billion, slightly below Musk's billion, according to Bloomberg's calculations.

It traces back to 1977, when Ellison, Bob Miner and Ed Oates founded Software Development Laboratories in Santa Clara, California. They were contracted by the CIA to build a database program code-named "Oracle." Five years later, the company changed its name to Oracle and went public in 1986. Throughout the four decades, the company has found various levels of success in technology, but most recently in demand for its data capacity from center customers.

#### **FLYING CARS COLLIDE AT AIRSHOW**

#### **REHEARSAL IN CHINA**

Diary Times Desk: Two flying cars crashed into each other during a rehearsal for an airshow in northeastern China on Tuesday, injuring one of their pilots and forcing one of the vehicles to the ground, where it caught fire. Videos circulating online and featured in Chineses media state-run showed plumes of smoke billowing from one of the vehicles, while fire trucks and ambulances raced to the scene. The accident occurred Tuesday afternoon in Changchun, Jilin Province, as the city prepared for a five-day airshow set to begin Friday. The flying cars, or electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicles, were developed by Xpeng Aeroht, a subsidiary of Chinese electric vehicle giant Xpeng. In a statement to CNN, the company said the collision took place because of "insufficient spacing," and one vehicle "sustained fuselage damage and caught fire upon landing."

#### **COSTCO WARNS OF SHATTERING PROSECCO BOTTLES IN RECALL** NOTICE



#### **Diary Times Desk:**

Costco is issuing a recall for its Kirkland Signature Prosecco Valdobbiadene, saying that unopened bottles of the wine could "shatter" without being touched.

In a letter posted on its website, the company warned customers in 12 states across the Midwest and South to immediately dispose of the bottles "by wrapping the unopened bottle in paper towels and placing it in a plastic bag before placing in the garbage to avoid risk from shattered glass."

The warning was directed at customers who bought the Prosecco between April 25th and August 25th of this year in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Customers were told not to return the item to a store but instead to present the recall letter in a store to receive

#### ÖRMER BLS COMMISSIONER SAYS FIRING HER WAS A 'DANGEROUS' STEP FOR THE US ECONOMY



#### **Diary Times Desk:**

When the July jobs report was first released on August 1, it didn't feel any different for Erika McEntarfer, former commissioner at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, compared to when other employment reports came out.

But that quickly changed after she learned that President Donald Trump had taken to Truth Social to publicly announce her firing. Soon, she was on her way to "becoming a household name," McEntarfer said Tuesday in her first public remarks since her departure from the BLS.

#### MORE FAMILIES SUE CHARACTER.AI DEVELOPER, ALLEGING APP PLAYED A ROLE IN **TEENS' SUICIDE AND SUICIDE ATTEMPT**



Diary Times Desk: The families of three minors are suing Character Technologies, Inc., the developer of Character.AI, alleging that their children died by or attempted suicide and were otherwise harmed after interacting with the company's chatbots.

The families, represented by the Social Media Victims Law Center, are also suing Google. Two of the families' complaints allege its Family Link service – an app that allows parents to set restrictions on screen time, apps and content filters – failed to protect their teens and led them to believe the app was safe.

The lawsuits were filed in Colorado and New York, and also list as defendants Character Al co-founders Noam Shazeer and Daniel De Freitas Adiwarsana, as well as Google's parent company, Alphabet, Inc.

# BUSINESS | FINANCE | DIARY TIMES | Shimla | Thursday | 18-09-2025



#### **FACEBOOK'S** SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS **ARE GOING OUT, HERE'S** WHAT TO EXPECT

#### Diary Times Desk:

Facebook users who filed a claim in parent company Meta's \$725 million settlement related to the Cambridge Analytica scandal may soon aet a payment.

It's been over two years since Facebook users were able to file claims in Meta's December 2022 settlement. The class-action lawsuit began after the social media giant said in 2018 that as many as 87 million Facebook users' private information was obtained by data analytics firm Cambridge Analytica, which had worked with President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.

Meta was accused of allowing Cambridge Analytica and other third parties, including developers, advertisers and data brokers, to access private information about Facebook users. The social media giant was also accused of insufficiently managing thirdparty access to and use of user data.

#### **JERRY QUITS BEN & JERRY'S**

#### **Diary Times Desk:**

Ben & Jerry's co-founder Jerry Greenfield has quit the ice cream brand he started in 1978 amid a dispute with its British owner Unilever, according to a post by the company's other co-founder, Ben Cohen.

Cohen shared a statement from Greenfield that said quitting was "one of the hardest and most painful decisions" he has made. accused Unilever He of curtailing Ben & Jerry's ability to speak out on social and political which became causes synonymous with the brand's identity.

"It's with a broken heart that I've decided I can no longer, in good conscience, and after 47 years, remain an employee of Ben & Jerry's," he added.

Greenfield and Cohen sold their cream Vermont-based ice company to Unilever in 2000 and, according to Greenfield, were guaranteed "independence to pursue (their) values." But the brand's relationship with Unilever eroded over the years.

disagree with perspective and have sought to engage both co-founders in a constructive conversation on how to strengthen Ben & Jerry's.

#### COULD AI NURSING ROBOTS HELP HEALTH CARE STAFFING **SHORTAGES?**



#### Diary Times Desk :

Around the world, health care workers are in short supply, with a shortage of 4.5 million nurses expected by 2030, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Nurses are already feeling the pressure: around one-third of nurses alobally are experiencing burnout symptoms, like emotional exhaustion, and the profession has a high turnover rate. That's where Nurabot comes in. The autonomous, Al-powered nursing robot is designed to help nurses with repetitive or physically demanding tasks, such as delivering medication or guiding patients around the ward.

#### MICROSOFT AND OPENAI REACH NON-BINDING DEAL TO ALLOW **OPENALTO RESTRUCTURE**



#### Diary Times Desk:

Microsoft and OpenAI said on Thursday they have signed a non-binding deal for new relationship terms that would allow OpenAI to proceed to restructure itself into a for-profit company, marking a new phase of the most high-profile partnerships to fund the ChatGPT frenzy.

Details on the new commercial arrangements were not disclosed, but the companies said they were working to finalize terms of a definitive agreement. This marks a step forward in OpenAI's prolonged talks with Microsoft as the former seeks to raise capital under a more common governance structure and eventually go public to fund artificial intelligence development.

#### FTC INVESTIGATING AI 'COMPANION' CHATBOTS AMID GROWING CONCERN **ABOUT HARM TO KIDS**

#### **Diary Times Desk:**

The Federal Trade Commission has launched an investigation into seven tech companies around potential harms their artificial intelligence chatbots could cause to children and teenagers.

The inquiry focuses on AI chatbots that can serve as companions, which "effectively mimic human characteristics, emotions, and intentions, and generally are designed to communicate like a friend or confidant, which may prompt some users, especially children and teens, to trust and form relationships with chatbots," the agency said in a statement Thursday.

The FTC sent order letters to Google parent company Alphabet; Character.Al; Instagram and its parent company, Meta; OpenAl; Snap; and Elon Musk's xAl. The agency wants information about whether and how the firms measure the impact of their chatbots on young users and how they protect against and alert parents to potential risks.

The investigation comes amid rising concern around AI use by children and teens, following a string of lawsuits and reports accusing chatbots of being complicit in the suicide deaths, sexual exploitation and other harms to young people. That includes one lawsuit against OpenAI and two against Character.AI that remain ongoing even as the companies say they are continuing to build out additional features to protect users from harmful interactions with their bots.

## **STATES**

# DIARY TIMES Shimla | Thursday | 18-09-2025

#### **US BRIDE-TO-BE KILLED** FOR MONEY IN PUNJAB: **BODY BURNED, ASHES DUMPED**

Diary Times Desk: In a shocking case of betrayal and murder, a 72-year-old US citizen, Rupinder Kaur Pandher, was allegedly killed in Kila Raipur village, Ludhiana, after travelling from Seattle to India to marry a 75vear-old UK-based NRI in Puniab.

The main suspect, Sukhjeet Singh Sonu, has confessed to murdering her on the night of July 12-13, under instructions from the would-be groom, Charanjit Singh Grewal according to police.

Police revealed that the victim was lured to Punjab under the pretext of marriage. She had reportedly transferred large sums of money to accounts linked to the suspects. Investigators now believe that financial gain was the primary motive behind the brutal killing.

#### STUBBLE BURNING: SC **ASKS PUNJAB WHY FEW ERRANT FARMERS** SHOULDN'T BE ARRESTED TO SEND **MESSAGE**

Diary Times Desk: Concerned over the usual spike in pollution levels in winter, the Supreme Court asked the Puniab government on Wednesday why some errant farmers should not be arrested for indulging in stubble burning, a key contributor to air pollution, to send across a stern message.

"You take a call, otherwise we will issue a mandamus," a Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran said making observations on the issue.

The Bench was hearing a suomotu (on its own) plea relating to filling up vacancies in the state pollution control boards of Uttar Pradesh. Harvana, Rajasthan and Punjab.

The court asked these states, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to fill up vacancies within three months.

As the proceedings progressed, the CJI asked senior advocate Rahul Mehra, who represented the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab in the court, why errant farmers should not be arrested and penalised for stubble burning.

#### KANGANA RANAUT PERFORMS HAVAN IN MANDI, CLAIMS CENTRE PROVIDED RS 10,000 CRORE AID TO STATE

Diary Times Desk: Mandi MP and Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut today visited the Sidhkali Temple in Mandi town, where she performed a Havan ceremony for the welfare of the state and the country. The religious ritual was organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as part of its initiative to promote peace, prosperity, and protection from natural calamities.

The event witnessed the presence of Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, who also took part in the Havan. The BJP stated that the ceremony was held with the intention of seeking divine blessings for Himachal Pradesh and the nation.

Speaking to the media, Kangana Ranaut claimed that the Central Government has extended approximately Rs. 10,000 crore.



#### **PUNJAB FLOODS: MANN INITIATES** 'MISSION CHARDI KALA' AMIDST RS 13.800 CRORE LOSS

Diary Times Desk: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday launched 'Mission Chardi Kala' a global fundraising campaign to raise funds for the state government's rehabilitation efforts for 2025 Puniab flood victims.

In a video message, the Chief Minister said that in the past days, the state witnessed a scene that our generations will never forget. He said that the floods didn't just bring water, rather it washed away millions of dreams.

The CM said that this is the most horrifying tragedy in Punjab's history adding that this is state's biggest test, too, as every time Punjab has faced a crisis, "...we have never bowed down but we have stood tall, with strength and courage".

The Chief Minister said that now it is time to move beyond relief and begin rehabilitation as the farmers need to sow their fields again. He appealed to every Punjabi, to every citizen of India, to industrialists, artists, charitable trusts, and to all Punjabi brothers and sisters across the world that today Punjab needs them. He gave them a clarion call to come together and hold Punjab's hand in this time of need.

#### **COOPERATIVES DRIVING RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH: SUKHU**

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday said that despite challenging topography and small landholdings, cooperatives in Himachal Pradesh have played a crucial role in strengthening the rural economy. "At present, over 5,000 cooperative societies, including around 2,000 primary agricultural credit societies, are active in the state that provide essential financial services to farmers and rural households," he added while speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day national cooperative conference held here. Sukhu said that the state government had dissolved the Board of Directors of Kangra Central Cooperative Bank due to irregularities during the previous government. He reaffirmed that it would not tolerate the misuse of public resources. He added that the Congress government was bringing major reforms in the education, health and the rural economy sectors. The Bench expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of stringent measures put in place by the Punjab government to check stubble burning, a practice in vogue among farmers in Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to quickly clear

#### YOUR HOROSCOPE

Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will

of improvement in business.Today, you

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

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

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 infinancial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. 
Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of

walking due to nerve pain problems.

their fields for the next sowing cycle.

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.

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.

#### OVER 5 LAKH FARMERS IN HARYANA REPORT CROP LOSS ON 29.46 LAKH ACRES

Diary Times Desk: In the aftermath of the recent floods, 5.03 lakh farmers across 23 districts of Haryana have reported crop losses on 29,46,259 acres of land, according to data available on the e-Kshatipurti portal. The portal closed for registrations on September 15, with farmers rushing to submit claims before the deadline

District-wise figures show that Bhiwani topped the list with 76,419 farmers reporting damage on 4,52,709 acres, followed closely by Hisar, where 75,348 farmers registered losses 4.54.045 acres. on Mahendragarh reported 67,652 farmers affected on 2,86,158 acres. Sirsa had 36,544 farmers claiming losses on 2,43,908 acres

In other districts, 25,739 farmers from Jhajjar reported losses on 1,63,784 acres, while 27,310 farmers in Rewari claimed damage on 1,23,216 acres. Charkhi Dadri had 43,922 farmers with losses on 2.18.167 acres and Palwal reported 19.553 farmers on 1.16.887 acres. Karnal and Panipat recorded minimal damage, with 1,998 farmers on 15,571 acres and 106 on 7,599 respectively. Panchkula had just 383 farmers reporting loss on 1.385 acres.

#### NDRF TO THE RESCUE AS CHILD HANGS ONTO LIFE ATOP ELECTRIC POLE

Diary Times Desk: In a heart-stopping rescue operation, a brave National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) member saved a child stranded on an electric pole in the swirling waters of the Swarna River, Dehradun, on Tuesday.

The child's precarious situation was a result of flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall and a cloudburst in the Karligarh Sahastradhara area.

The NDRF's daring rescue was captured in a video shared on X, showing the officer navigating a ropeway across the flooded river to reach the stranded child. Upon reaching the electric pole, the officer attached a carabiner, enabling the child to zipline to safety.

## SC REVERSES 2022 VERDICT ON HARYANA VILLAGE COMMON LANDS, RESTORES LAND RIGHTS TO PROPRIETORS

**Diary Times Desk:** In a jolt to the Haryana Government, the Supreme Court has set aside its April 2022 decision which had directed that the village common lands be returned to gram panchayats.

The top court on April 7, 2022, had also held that in respect of the land taken from the proprietors from their permissible ceiling limits under a Punjab law, it is the management and control alone which would vest with the panchayat, and not the title. It had said the management and control include leasing of land and use of the land by non-proprietors, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, etc. which is for the benefit of the village community.



## RAIN FURY: 2,500 TOURISTS STUCK IN UTTARAKHAND'S MUSSOORIE

**Diary Times Desk:** Around 2,500 tourists were stranded in Uttarakhand's Mussoorie on Wednesday as the road from Dehradun to the popular hill station remained closed for the second consecutive day following cloudbursts and heavy rain in the state capital.

Meanwhile, Delhi witnessed a cloudy sky on Wednesday, with parts of the city receiving showers. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert, advising that the situation be monitored and updated in line with its colour-coded guidelines. Heavy showers ravaged the Himalayan states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, already bruised by a string of deadly natural calamities over the past couple of months, on Tuesday.

The cloudbursts and heavy rain left 15 people dead, 16 missing, and more than 900 stranded in Uttarakhand, while in Himachal Pradesh, three members of a family were killed as rains triggered massive landslides and flash floods

#### CONFIRMATION AFTER TRAINING FIXES DSP SENIORITY, HC DISMISSES SPORTSPERSONS' PLEA

**Diary Times Desk:** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has dismissed a petition filed by Mamta Kharb and other sportspersons appointed as Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) in Haryana under the sports quota after holding that their seniority cannot be reckoned from the date of initial appointment.

"We are of the considered view that the action of the State in granting benefit of confirmation to petitioners in first writ from the date of their successful completion of training is just, legal and fair. The consequential determination of seniority also merits no interference," the Bench of Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor asserted

Kharb and others petitioners – all international athletes who had brought "laurels" to Haryana and India in Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, World Championships and other major events – had contended that their seniority should flow from the date of their initial appointment.

## J-K: VAISHNO DEVI PILGRIMAGE RESTARTS AFTER 22-DAYS PAUSE, HALTED AGAIN DUE TO BAD WEATHER

**Diary Times Desk:** After a 22-day suspension due to a deadly landslide and continuous heavy rainfall, the pilgrimage to revered Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district resumed on Wednesday, bringing smiles on the faces of the devotees.

However, the respite was short-lived, as the shrine board once again suspended the yatra amid inclement weather this evening after allowing 2,500 pilgrims during the day, the officials said

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) announced the reopening of the yatra subject to favourable weather conditions from this morning, much to the relief of hundreds of devotees who were camping in Katra town — the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the shrine.

Chanting slogans like 'Jai Mata Di', the enthusiastic pilgrims gathered at Banganga Darshani gate, the starting point of the yatra, in the early hours of the day, much before the start of the yatra.



## **EDITORIAL**

#### Supreme Court Precedents That Targeting 'Hate Speech' Would Violate

A ttorney General Pam Bondi's opaque threat to target "hate speech" following the assassination of conservative crusader Charlie Kirk would, if carried out, run up against a litany of Supreme Court precedent on an issue that has largely united conservative and liberal justices for decades.

Bondi has drawn bipartisan and biting criticism this week for suggesting that there is a distinction between free speech and hate speech, an idea that the Supreme Court has repeatedly rejected. And her subsequent attempts to walk back that statement have also bumped up against landmark rulings – some longstanding and others more

recent – from the high court.
"Freedom of speech is sacred in our country, and we will never impede upon that right," Bondi said in a statement to Axios after her nitital remarks on a podcast Monday caused an uproar.



"My intention was to speak about threats of violence that individuals incite against others."

The attorney general's warnings, which initially included vague threats of prosecution, are part of a broader push by President Donald Trump to use the anger over Kirk's brutal killing to punish the

In 2011, for instance, an 8-1 majority ruled that members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Kansas were entitled to protest funerals of American military personnel, including with placards that read, "Thank God for Dead Soldiers"

"Speech is powerful," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in that case, Snyder v. Phelps. "It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and – as it did here – inflict great pain. ... We cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker. As a nation we have chosen a different course – to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate."



Legal experts say Bondi's new tack – focusing on "threats of violence" and speech that "incites" violence – ignores the exceedingly narrow way in which the Supreme Court has interpreted those exceptions to the First Amendment. It's highly unlikely, experts said, that any criticism directed at Kirk after his killing would meet that high bar.

"In some ways she made it worse," said Aaron Terr, director of public advocacy at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, which advocates for free speech rights.

In a major 1969 precedent, Brandenburg v. Ohio, the Supreme Court struck down an Ohio law that had been used to charge a Klu Klux Klan leader who was captured on video suggesting there might have to be "some revengeance" for supporting Black Americans. To qualify as speech that incites, the court ruled, the language at issue must be aimed at causing "imminent lawless action" and must be likely to result in that

Eugene Volokh, a First Amendment expert and law professor at UCLA, said that Bondi's statements appeared to "fuzz over" the careful lines the justices have long drawn around protected speech.

# 'The Big One'

### No, Mount St. Helens isn't Erupting Again

or a moment, it seemed like a blast from the past: a plume over Mount St. Helens on Tuesday looked like the volcano might be erupting again. But fortunately, this was not an eruption — just a wind-whipped encore decades in the making.



Briana Waxman

So, no, Mount
St. Helens
isn't erupting
right now. But
scientists
believe it will
again in the

According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), strong easterly gusts swept across the crater and nearby slopes in the southern Washington Cascades, kicking up old deposits of ash from its historic 1980 eruption, often referred to as the "big one," and flinging them thousands of feet into the air.

The agency emphasized this is "not a sign of renewed volcanic activity." Both the volcano alert level and the aviation color code remain at green, the lowest setting, and activity "remains at normal, background levels."

Images shared by the USGS and the National Weather Service in Portland showed plumes of ash drifting downwind, fueling momentary panic for anyone watching the skies. The ash was also visible on satellite and the NWS said pilot reports indicated ash had risen up to 10,000 feet in the air.

Resuspended volcanic ash isn't unusual at Mount St. Helens. The massive 1980 eruption blasted a



On September 16, 2025, the USGS had to reassure the public that Mount St. Helens was not erupting after large plumes of what looked like smoke rose from above the historic mountain peak.

column of ash and gas more than 15 miles into the atmosphere and triggered a devastating landslide, killing 57 people in what was the most destructive eruption in modern US history.

Pockets of that fine, powdery rock still linger today on the volcano's flanks and inside the crater. When conditions line up — dry surfaces, no snow cover and strong winds — the deposits can be lofted again.

That's exactly what happened Tuesday when a stubborn ridge of high pressure over the Pacific Northwest not only brought record September temperatures to Washington and Oregon, where large parts are experiencing a severe drought, but also set off dry, gusty east winds barreling across Mount St. Helens.

The impacts of resuspended volcanic ash are often not hazardous, but visibility can dip, air quality can suffer and aircraft engines can ingest volcanic grit. "There have been no significant changes in hazards at Mount St.

Helens as a result of this activity," the USGS said. Luckily, the plume should fade once winds die down. Mount St. Helens again erupted in 2004-2008, when it produced only minor explosive activity but a series of spectacular lava spines with a cumulative volume of almost 100 million cubic meters that doubled the size of the lava dome. Tremors and millions of small earthquakes accompanied both of the recent eruptions. Since early 2008 no eruptions have taken place and the lava dome has shrunk in height as its steep sides crumble into a broader. more symmetrical shape.

Strong easterly-southeasterly winds in the vicinity of Mount St. Helens have picked up loose volcanic ash deposited during the 1980 eruptions and are carrying it to the west-northwest. The resuspended ash has been reported by commercial pilots in the area.

This phenomenon is not the result of recent volcanic activity and occasionally occurs during times of high winds and dry snow-free conditions in the Mount St. Helens area. No eruption is in progress and Mount St. Helens remains at Aviation Color Code GREEN and Level NORMAL. volcanic Resuspended ash should be considered hazardous and could be damaging to aircraft and health

## **Shadow Selves**

#### WHAT WE SAW AT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

warehouse Episcopal served as shows, as Week kick month.

Jacqui Palumbo

At the Collina

Strada show, where founder and creative director Hillary Taymour often presents a playful but politically salient concept, models came out in twos. They wore identical looks — except that one outfit was entirely in black.

n Manhattan's breezy piers, inside golden-hour lit warehouses and even in an Episcopal church: such locations served as the venue for runway shows, as New York Fashion Week kicks off a busy fashion month.

While a growing number of influential designers (Ralph Lauren, Carolina Herrera and Marc Jacobs, to name a few) are opting to show outside the official calendar, or not at all, the city still drew big stars to its front rows: see Gwyneth Paltrow and "White actor Leslie Bibb at Lotus" Michael Kors; or singer Rosalía, "Emily in Paris" star Lily Collins, and Jung Kook of BTS - whose fans flooded the streets to see at Veronica Leoni's sophomore collection for Calvin Klein.

Later that evening, another round of blaring car horns sounded in Chinatown as quests attending Alexander Wang swarmed a corner of Bowery, where Wang announced he would be turning a former bank into a permanent cultural space dedicated to Asian arts. The show marked a return of sorts for Taiwanese American designer, who has been largely absent from the schedule since facing multiple accusations of sexual assault in late 2020 and

early 2021. (The allegations led to public apologies from the designer and a shift in his market, as he instead focused on brand growth in China and staged an LA show in 2022).

Wang's latest show, which mixed risqué suiting and clubwear redolent of the 2000s, was attended by Cardi B and her young daughter Kulture, Martha Stewart, stylist Law Roach and "Love Island" couple Nic Vansteenberghe and Olandria Carthen (known to fans as Nicolandria). The show's VIP guests sat at mahjong tables in the center of the floor, becoming part of the runway.

Other designers leaned into a sense of community. Off-White, designed by Ib Kamara, staged maximalist. 1970s-inspired collection (modeled by Kobe Bryant's daughter Natalia, Jude daughter Iris, and Solange's son Julez Smith) on the rooftop basketball court of a Manhattan high school. There, he invited street artists to transform environment with visual homages to the city's boroughs.

Meanwhile, Nicholas Aburn's first collection for the avant-garde label Area featured theatrical party looks as well as more wearable streetwear, though with unexpected twists.



Rounding out the week, Coach ambassadors Elle Fanning, Charles Melton, Storm Reid and K-pop star Soyeon sat front row for the American heritage brand. Hours later, Jessica Alba, Emma Roberts, Naomi Watts, Tessa Thompson and Mindy Kaling traveled to downtown Brooklyn for Tory Burch. Meanwhile, Vivian Wilson, the estranged daughter of Elon Musk, was cast in several shows, including Prabal Gurung, where she modeled an oversized white knit top and matching mermaid skirt.

Many eyes will be on Europe in the weeks to come, as a number of high-profile designers make their debuts at big brands amid a wider industry reshuffle. But New York also had new talent to welcome: Rachel Scott, founder of the emerging label Diotima, is now also designing for cool-girl brand Proenza Schouler. Early indications of her vision for the latter could be seen at an intimate show in a Chelsea gallery, which she worked on as a consultant, before formally stepping into the role next season.

### **INFOTAINMENT**

## MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN WARSAW: 'WE ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE NEGOTIATING OUR EXISTENCE'







Diary Times Desk: Central Square in downtown Warsaw is immense. Occupying 60 acres, it has had umpteen uses since its creation in the 1950s. Reflecting its erstwhile name of Parade Square, it hosted many a political procession during Poland's era of communist rule. Pope John Paul II gave a giant open-air mass there in 1987. Funfairs and flea markets filled it in the 1990s, since when the square has mostly served as a parking lot.

'Now, however, it's being totally reimagined,' says Joanna Mytkowska, director of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (also known as MSN Warsaw). 'There's no square in Europe like this one, and the topic of how to use it caused discussion, disagreement and tension in Poland for a long time.'

More on this below, but Mytkowska is referring to a period that began in 1989 with the collapse of communism. Eventually, the city of Warsaw decided that the square should serve a cultural purpose. A theatre called TR Warszawa is currently under construction — on a site adjacent to MSN Warsaw, which opened in February.

Spread across four floors, the museum owns an ever-expanding art collection, currently numbering about 4,000 pieces. It focuses chiefly on work made in the 36 years since democracy returned to Poland. International artists do feature, but two-thirds of the pieces are by Poles — the likes of Magdalena Abakanowicz, Mirosław Bałka, Wilhelm Sasnal and Ewa Juszkiewicz.

According to Time magazine, MSN Warsaw is one of the 'World's Greatest Places' to visit in 2025, part of the draw being the building itself: a coolly minimalist, rectangular structure made of white concrete.

One might see the museum as an expression of confident, modern-day Poland — a country whose economy is growing at such a rate that it is now among the 20 largest on Earth.

The plan is to combine displays and exhibitions of different sizes, based on MSN Warsaw's holdings and outside loans. The initial offering, however, is a show titled The Impermanent. Spread out across the entire venue, it features 150 highlights from the museum collection.

#### 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT FERNANDO BOTERO

Fernando Botero was born in 1932 in Medellín, Colombia. Located in a valley of the Andes mountain range, Medellín was at that time a relatively small and isolated city. His father, David, was a travelling salesman who died suddenly at the age of 40, leaving a four-year-old Botero, his two brothers and his mother, who worked as a seamstress, destitute.

Botero began drawing and painting watercolours as a young child. In 1944 an uncle, who had taken on an important role in family life following the death of his father, enrolled him in a training school for bullfighters, only to recognise that his nephew was more interested in drawing and painting bulls than in fighting them. Botero's first works — watercolours of bulls and matadors — were sold by a man who traded tickets to bullfights. In 1948, when he was just 16, he had his first illustrations published in one of the most important newspapers in Medellín. Three years later he had his first one-man show in Bogotá

At the age of 20, after winning second prize in Bogotá's Salón Nacional de Artistas, Botero booked his passage on a boat to Europe, travelling with a group of fellow artists. During a year in Madrid he spent his days copying the Prado's Old Masters. He then moved to Paris and on to Florence to study the Masters of the Italian Renaissance. This was a revelatory period for the artist, who had previously only seen European art through reproduction. While Botero was enrolled in art schools for periods during these early years, he considered himself to be primarily self-taught.

Botero's early artistic inspiration came from both Latin America and Europe. The Mexican muralists as well as the Spanish masters Pablo Picasso and Juan Gris were among those who first sparked Botero's creative imagination. Not unlike Picasso, whose Cubist breakthrough came after experimenting with the construction of a guitar, Botero had his artistic 'eureka' moment with a mandolin. In 1956 while he was living in Mexico City, Botero painted a mandolin with an unusually tiny sound hole, allowing the instrument suddenly to take on exaggerated proportions. (A similar work from around the same time was sold at Christie's in 2019.) Thus began the artist's lifelong exploration of volume

Botero is recognised throughout the world for his singular style incorporating rotund, whimsical figures and objects, often suffused with a subtle brand of satire. By manipulating space and perspective, he drew attention to the monumentality of his figures, showing them in spaces that seem too small to contain them. He was adamant that he does not paint 'fat people'; what he paints, he insisted, was 'volume', and the 'sensuality of form'. He explored volume and sensuality of form in subjects as diverse as the circus, reinterpretations of Old Masters, nudes, Latin American street scenes, domestic life, bordellos, and portraits of political figures.

Between 1990 and 2000, Botero donated more than 300 works, both his own and those by 19th- and 20th-century European Masters, to the Museum of Antioquia in Medellín, as well as to the Banco de la República in Bogotá. The latter collection became the basis for what is now the Botero Museum.



# MORE THAN 180 GOALS – BARCELONA'S 11-YEAR-OLD JEWEL ALREADY BEING COMPARED TO MESSI, LAMINE

**Diary Times Desk:** FC Barcelona continue to produce exciting talents one after the other in their fabled La Masia youth academy.

From the golden generation of Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta, Xavi Hernandez, and Sergio Busquets, to the new era of Lamine Yamal, Gavi, Pau Cubarsi, and Alejandro Balde, La Masia always provides.

And given the crop of young talents now shining in the youth teams, across all age groups, the future is only bright.

Destiny Kosiso the next big thing?

One such name in the Barcelona ranks who is already making waves at the tender age of 11 years is Destiny Kosiso.

Indeed, as reported by MARCA, the La Masia forward, born in 2014, is already drawing comparisons to Lionel Messi and Lamine Yamal thanks to his exploits at the youth level.

After all, the 11-year-old forward has taken Barcelona's academy by storm with a staggering scoring record.



### MAN UTD ANNOUNCE RECORD REVENUE DESPITE POOR FORM



**Diary Times Desk:** Manchester United earned record financial revenue of £666.5m last year despite the poor on-pitch performance of their men's team.

United finished 15th in the Premier League last season, their worst placing since the 1973-74 relegation campaign.

However, the start of their five-year front-of-shirt sponsorship deal with Snapdragon enabled them to post record commercial revenue of £333.3m, while matchday revenue was also a record at £160.3m in the year to 30 June 2025."To have generated record revenues during such a challenging year for the club demonstrates the resilience which is a hallmark of Manchester United," said chief executive Omar Berrada.

#### 'VERSATILE AND IMPRESSIVE' MOSQUERA EXCITING ARSENAL FANS



**Diary Times Desk:** Summer signing Cristhian Mosquera continues to impress for Arsenal and again showed against Athletic Club why there is so much excitement around his early performances.

The 21-year-old defender has played a key role during the Gunners' start to the season and has had a big impact since deputising for William Saliba. Mosquera made his debut in Arsenal's first home game of the season coming on at right-back for Jurrien Timber.

He was signed for his quality and his ability to play in multiple positions in the backline, but it is his performances at centre-back which have made supporters and those around the club take notice of his potential.

#### JUVENTUS SALVAGE POINT AGAINST BORUSSIA DORTMUND WITH STUNNING LATE COMEBACK



Diary Times Desk: Juventus staged an incredible comeback on Tuesday as the Italians recovered from two goals down in stoppage time to draw 4-4 in a thrilling Champions League match with Borussia Dortmund. Lloyd Kelly saved a point for Juve in the final seconds of a wild game by heading home a pinpoint cross from Dusan Vlahovic to spark bedlam in the stands in Turin. While Kelly was the hero of the hour it was substitute Vlahovic who was the key man as the Serbia striker once again proved his doubters wrong with a brace, including the goal in the fourth minute of added time which got Juve back into the gane.

#### MOURINHO CLOSE TO SUCCEEDING LAGE AT BENFICA



Diary Times Desk: Jose Mourinho is close to a return to management with Benfica, replacing Bruno Lage who was sacked after the Champions League defeat against Qarabaa.

The Portuguese club threw away a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 against their Azerbaijani opponents at Estadio da Luz on Tuesday.

Benfica president Rui Costa said they intend to have a new manager in place by Saturday, but would not be drawn on speculation that Mourinho is their preferred option.

BBC Sport has been told Mourinho is in talks about to returning to work in Portugal, 21 years after he left for Chelsea.

Mourinho was sacked by Fenerbahce on 29 August, two days after the Turkish club were eliminated from the Champions League play-offs by Benfica.

"A Benfica coach's profile must be that of a winner," Costa said.

### 'KING KEV' RETURNS: KEVIN DE BRUYNE BACK TO PLAY HIS FORMER CLUB MANCHESTER CITY IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Diary Times Desk:** New club, new country, new culture, new position. Kevin De Bruyne seems to have adapted to it all at Napoli, but the 34-year-old midfielder is heading back to his old life this week. Napoli's Champions League opener on Thursday sees De Bruyne return to Manchester City, just a few months after his tearful goodbye following 10 trophy-laden years at the club where "King Kev" became a firm fan favorite and one of its greatest ever players. After nine years working under Pep Guardiola, De Bruyne has slotted seamlessly into Antonio Conte's team and has already scored two goals in three matches to help Napoli's title defense get off to a perfect start.

"Kevin is a bit of a genius," Conte said after Saturday's 3-1 win at Fiorentina. "We are trying to carve out a new role for him that fits in with what he can give us."

Conte has a midfield packed with talent at Napoli and that has seen - in a tactical shift that appears to be working - De Bruyne and Scott McTominay taking turns in switching from their central roles to a more unusual position for them out wide.

And the pair already seem to be forming a lethal duo, with their physical strength, awareness and eye for goal, as they alternate positions with fluidity.

