

NEWS IN BRIEF

AFTER IT SECTOR,
INDUSTRIES RAISE
ALARM OVERPOOR
INFRASTRUCTURE
IN BENGALURU

Diary Times Desk :

As potholes in Bengaluru are now creating serious problems for industries, especially in the Peenya Industrial Area, the industrial community in the city has now raised red flags over deteriorating infrastructure.

Following repeated concerns from citizens and stakeholders in the IT sector, the Peenya Industrial Association has written to Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar, urging urgent action to repair roads and improve facilities.

In the letter, the Association highlighted severe potholes and damaged roads across Peenya and more than 25 surrounding private industrial zones, stating that the poor conditions are damaging goods, delicate machinery, and raw materials during transport.

DR JITENDRA
SINGH URGES CAT
TO REDUCEBACKLOG; ADOPT
TECH, STREAMLINE
JUSTICE FOR
GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES

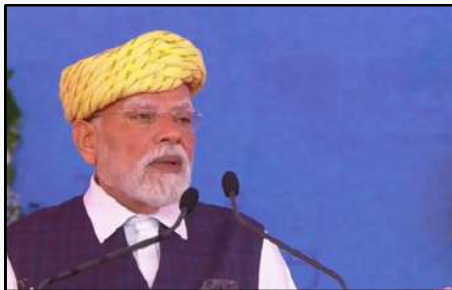
Diary Times Desk : Union Minister for the Department of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, at the 10th All India Conference of the Central Administrative

Tribunal, organised by the DoPT on Saturday, emphasised the need to find ways of avoiding unnecessary appeals in High Courts.

He noted that the entire purpose of the CAT was to provide finality at the tribunal level for ease of justice to employees and to streamline judicial procedures.

Singh also urged all concerned to help ensure that the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) fulfils its basic original mandate of reducing the backlog of service-related cases in higher courts.

Speaking at the 10th All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal, he encouraged members of the judiciary to voluntarily come forward to take up assignments in the CAT.

CRUISE
TERMINALPM MODI INAUGURATES MUMBAI CRUISE
TERMINAL, LAUNCHES RS 34,200 CRORE PROJECTS

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the 'Samudra se Samridhhi' programme on Saturday, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several development projects across multiple sectors worth more than Rs 34,200 crore while also stressing the importance of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)'.

A major focus of the event is the maritime sector, with PM Modi inaugurating and launching projects worth more than Rs 7,870 crore. These initiatives span critical infrastructure upgrades across key Indian ports.

Addressing the large gathering at Jawahar Maidan in Bhavnagar, PM Modi said, "This event is being held in Bhavnagar, but is for the entire nation. Today, to decide the direction of India from 'Samudra' (ocean) to 'Samridhhi' (progress), Bhavnagar has been chosen as the centre of the event. I congratulate the people of Gujarat and Bhavnagar for this."

Several children made paintings and sketches for the Prime Minister. Seeing this, he thanked them for the love and asked the officials to collect the art.

Hailing the 'Sewa Pakhwada' events, PM Modi said, "From Vishwakarma Jayanti to Gandhi Jayanti, that is, from September 17 to October 2, millions of people across the country are participating in 'Sewa Pakhwada'. I have been informed that in Gujarat, too, a 15-day 'Sewa Pakhwada' is currently underway. Over the past 2-3 days, many activities have taken place."

"Blood donation camps were organised at various places, and so far, over 1 lakh people have donated blood. This is the information from only Gujarat. Lakhs of people also joined the cleanliness drives organised across the nation," he said.

"Health camps are also being organised in the country, with a special focus on women. I thank everyone who is associated with these works of service," he added.

PM Modi also paid tributes to Krishnakumar CG and said, "By joining Sardar Sahab's mission, he made a significant contribution to India's unity. Inspired by such great patriots, we are strengthening India's unity and the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'." Speaking about the 'Samudra Se Samridhhi' programme, the Prime Minister said, "21st-century India sees the ocean as a huge opportunity. A little while ago, several projects worth thousands of crores of rupees were inaugurated and had their foundation laid here to accelerate port development. To promote cruise tourism in the country, an International Cruise Terminal was also inaugurated today in Mumbai."

'TILAK', RAKSHA SUTRA', 'GAU MUTRA': VHP'S CRITERIA FOR
GARBA ENTRY SPARK ROW

Diary Times Desk : Seeking to ensure that only Hindus get entry to garba events, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has said people will have to apply a 'tilak' (a mark on the forehead), tie a sacred thread ('raksha sutra') and offer prayers to a Hindu god before being allowed in.

'Gau mutra', or cow urine, will also be sprinkled on attendees, the organisation's Vidarbha general secretary Prashant Titre said in Nagpur on Saturday, adding that VHP and Bajrang Dal workers will monitor garba pandals to ensure the guidelines are followed during the Navratri celebrations, which begin on Sunday and end on October 1.

All of this, the VHP said, is necessary to ensure only Hindus enter the events and there are no cases of "love jihad", which is a term used by some right-wing outfits to allege attempted conversion of Hindu girls and women by Muslim men. The issue, incidentally, gets brought up before the Navratri celebrations every year.

While the opposition has hit out at the VHP and the Sangh for trying to sow division in society by issuing such diktats, Maharashtra minister and senior BJP leader Chandrashekhar Bawankule said organisers can decide who enters such events.

"Every organising committee sets certain rules, and they have a right to do so. As long as they have police permission to organise the event, there is no problem," Mr Bawankule said. Maharashtra BJP media head Navnath Ban said garba is a Hindu event and those from other religions "should not interfere".

ENCOUNTER BREAKS OUT BETWEEN
SECURITY FORCES, TERRORISTS IN
J&K'S KISHTWAR

Diary Times Desk : An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Friday night, Army officials said.

"In an intelligence-based operation in the general area of Kishtwar, alert troops of the White Knight Corps established contact with terrorists at around 8 pm," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Confirming that an exchange of fire took place, the Army said, "The operations is currently underway."

This comes days after a gunfight broke out between terrorists and security forces in the Kulgam district. During that encounter, two terrorists, including one who was believed to be a Pakistani national, were neutralised by the security forces. The two terrorists were identified as Rahman, a Pakistani national, and Amir Ahmed Dar, a resident of Shopian's Daramdora, said the Army, adding that a huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Besides, two Indian Army personnel also lost their lives. According to the Indian Army, the two soldiers were identified as Sub Perbhat Gaur and Lance Naik Narendra Sindhu, who died during the encounter that was launched in the Gudar forest area of Kulgam after officials received specific inputs about the presence of the terrorists. "Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of the Bravehearts, Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/Nk Narendra Sindhu, in line of duty for the Nation."

YASIN MALIK BEGGED FOR HIS LIFE BEFORE
ISI, LASHKAR-E-TAIBA: SOURCES TO NDTV

Diary Times Desk : Separatist leader Yasin Malik once pleaded for his life before Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), top intelligence sources disclosed to NDTV.

The episode dates back to 2013, during a turbulent period in Jammu and Kashmir's separatist movement.

Intelligence inputs accessed by NDTV showed that Lashkar operative Hilal Dar from Sopore was deputed in 2012 to assassinate Malik. Dar, acting on ISI's directions, conducted a video reconnaissance of Malik's residence at Maqbool Manzil in Srinagar's Maisuma locality.

The plot, sources said, was hatched after Pakistan grew suspicious that Malik was secretly working with Indian agencies. The killing of Molvi Showkat, a close associate of Malik, in a bicycle IED blast near his residence had already deepened Pakistan's distrust of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief.

Dar was arrested in Srinagar after a tip-off by the Jammu and Kashmir Police late in 2012. In his confession, he claimed the ISI-Lashkar jointly wanted to eliminate Malik since he was found to be engaged and working for India's Intelligence Bureau.

The turning point came in 2013, when Afzal Guru was hanged in India for his role in the Parliament attack. Malik, who was then in Pakistan, immediately organised protests against India. Among those joining him was Lashkar founder Hafiz Saeed. The sources revealed that during these demonstrations, Malik privately begged Saeed for mercy, promising that he would never again cooperate with Indian agencies and would instead follow ISI's orders.

MANIPUR AMBUSH

WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY
HELD FOR TWO SOLDIERS
KILLED IN MANIPUR AMBUSH

Diary Times Desk : A wreath-laying ceremony was held in Manipur's Imphal to honour the two Assam Rifles soldiers who died in the Friday's ambush in Bishnupur district.

At around 6 pm on Friday, unidentified gunmen ambushed personnel of the 33 Assam Rifles by firing at their vehicle while they were traveling from Imphal to Bishnupur at Nambol Sabal Leikai, Bishnupur District. The attack resulted in the death of two personnel and left five others injured.

The two soldiers who died were identified as Naib Subedar Shyam Gurung (58) and Rifleman (GD) Kashav (29).

The Manipur government announced Rs 5 lakh compensation for each of the families of the soldiers. A compensation of Rs 2 lakh was announced for each of the five soldiers injured in the ambush.

The ceremony was attended by Governor of Manipur Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Chief Secretary Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel, Security Advisor Kuldeep Singh, 3 Corps Commander Lt Gen Abhijit S Pendharkar (AVSM, YSM), IGAR (South) Maj Gen Ravroop Singh (YSM, SM), ADGP Manipur Police Ashutosh Sinha, along with senior officers of BSF, CRPF, Assam Rifles, and officials of the state government.

'JAISH' NO MORE. HIT BY
SANCTIONS, BANNED
TERROR GROUP CHANGES
NAME

Diary Times Desk : Banned terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed will now be known as Al-Murabitun - which means 'defenders of Islam' in Arabic - within Pakistan, intel sources told NDTV this week. The new name will be used during the 'memorial' next week for Yusuf Azhar, the brother of founder Masood Azhar. Sources said the group - responsible for the attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001, the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, and on the Army in Jammu and Kashmir's Uri and Pulwama - wants to delink from the 'Jaish-e-Mohammed' name because sanctions make it difficult to access funding. The name change, however, is only expected for its Pak operations, sources said. A July report by the Financial Action Task Force, a global anti-terror funding watchdog, underlined the funding challenge facing the terrorist group. The FATF said the Jaish is now using digital payments, i.e., e-wallets and UPI transfers, to channel money into rebuilding itself.

According to the FATF five such e-wallets have been traced so far, and each has direct links to the terrorist group and members of founder Masood Azhar's family. The goal, reports indicate, is to raise nearly four billion Pak rupees to set up over 300 'markaz', i.e., hubs or training centres.

INDIA SAYS 'IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY' AFTER TELANGANA
TECHIE WAS SHOT DEAD BY US COPS



Diary Times Desk : The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday confirmed that India is in touch with the US authorities and with the family of a man from Telangana who was allegedly killed in California. While addressing the weekly briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that, "There has been an incident in California. We are in touch with the family. We also understand that an investigation is underway by local authorities."

Jaiswal added that US authorities had already released preliminary details of the case. "You would have also seen that the local police department, they have put out a video and a statement giving details of the circumstances," he said. Reiterating India's commitment to providing support in such situations, the MEA stated, "We are also in touch with the family and will render our possible assistance in this matter." Mohammed Nizamuddin, a 30-year-old software engineer from Mahabubnagar, Telangana, was shot by police in California earlier this month. Before his death, Nizamuddin had publicly spoken about facing harassment and racial discrimination, both at his workplace and in his personal life. He even claimed that attempts had been made to poison his food. In a LinkedIn post, he identified himself as a "victim of racial hatred" and urged an end to what he described as the "white supremacy/racist white American mentality."

WHY TEJASHWI IS STEERING CLEAR OF
SIR IN HIS SOLO BIHAR YATRA



Diary Times Desk : Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav's ongoing Bihar Adhikar Yatra is being viewed in some quarters as a move to assert his leadership within the Opposition alliance in Bihar. This impression has been fuelled by the Congress party's hesitation in formally naming Tejashwi as the Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial face. The fact that the RJD leader's new march was launched shortly after Rahul Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra concluded has added to perceptions of a carefully timed political manoeuvre.

MULTIPLE DELHI SCHOOLS RECEIVE BOMB THREATS; SEARCH
OPERATIONS UNDERWAY

Diary Times Desk : Multiple schools in Delhi allegedly received bomb threats on, prompting large-scale search operations by the police and bomb disposal squads. Authorities swiftly cordoned off the affected areas and evacuated students and staff as a precautionary measure. A senior police officer confirmed that four FIRs under the Arms Act had been registered in connection with the ongoing investigation. "The arrested people were identified as Abbas alias Guddu Chundha (45), Ishrat (45), Altaf (22), Ayaan alias Salman (23), and Armaan (22)," he added.



Police sources said that search operations were still underway at several schools and that they were working with specialised agencies to ensure the safety of students and staff. Officials have stated that the threats are being taken "extremely seriously" and that further questioning of the arrested individuals is in progress.

FIVE MORE BODIES FOUND IN RAIN-
RAVAGED CHAMOLI, TOLL RISES TO SEVEN



Diary Times Desk : Five more bodies were found in the rain-ravaged villages of Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday as rescue teams dug through debris and waded through sludge in search of the missing. With this, the death toll due to landslides and flooding in the area has climbed to seven. Two bodies were found on Thursday, officials said. As rescuers pulled out the bodies, the family members of the victims broke down.

'PAYING HIDDEN TAX': BENGALURU TECHIE'S RANT OVER
TRAFFIC, COMMUTE VIRAL



Diary Times Desk : Bengaluru's employees face daily, serpentine traffic jams while commuting to work, a problem highlighted by a Reddit user who expressed frustration over paying significant taxes without seeing any return on investment, as road infrastructure and traffic management remain a mess.

In the post titled "Traffic is the new tax", the user, a tech employee for Oracle, living in JP Nagar, detailed their commute problems. The user stated that they had an annual income of Rs 28 lakh but were paying approximately Rs 6.5 lakh in income tax and Rs 1.4 lakh in GST on everyday expenses, which collectively represent over three months of their yearly earnings.

RAVISH KUMAR MOVES DELHI HIGH
COURT AGAINST GOVERNMENT ORDER TO
REMOVE CONTENT ON ADANI



Diary Times Desk : Journalist Ravish Kumar has approached the Delhi High Court against a Central government order to remove allegedly defamatory videos on Gautam Adani and his companies from Kumar's YouTube channel. Kumar has said that Adani's defamation lawsuit against journalists and the subsequent government action represent a "classic Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP), designed to silence legitimate journalism through legal intimidation.

PUJA KHEDKAR FAMILY'S
BODYGUARD ARRESTED IN
KIDNAPPING CASE, COPS
SUSPECT PARENTS FLEEING
INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar's family bodyguard, accused of abducting a truck driver after a road rage incident in Navi Mumbai, was arrested from Maharashtra's Dhule on Friday night, officials said. Praful Salunkhe, who has also been the Khedkar family's driver, was produced before the Navi Mumbai Belapur Court and was remanded to five days of police custody.

Khedkar's parents, Dilip and Manorama, are still missing, with the police suspecting they might have fled the country.

The kidnapping case unfolded earlier this month when a concrete mixer truck, driven by Prahlad Kumar (22), brushed against a Land Cruiser on the Mulund-Airoli Road, triggering an argument with two occupants of the car. Investigation revealed that Khedkar's father and his bodyguard allegedly bundled the truck driver in the SUV and took him to Khedkar's bungalow - in a bid to get compensation for the damage caused to the car.

When the cops returned to the bungalow, they found that the car involved in the crime was missing, along with Khedkar's father and their bodyguard. As they tried to enter the premises, Manorama unleashed two ferocious dogs to scare them. A day later, the police visited the bungalow again, only to find Manorama missing too.

FATAL SHOOTING
'DISGUISED' AS ROAD
ACCIDENT EXPOSED IN
JAMMU; THREE COPS
SUSPENDED

Diary Times Desk : Three policemen were suspended after a probe into the death of a woman here last month revealed that she died of gunshot wounds and not of a road accident, an officer said on Saturday. On August 21, Mehjabeen Akil Sheikh, 30, a resident of Mumbai, her sister Fatima, 21, and Jaspreet Kour, 28, of Ludhiana were brought to a private nursing home on the outskirts of Jammu by two men, who claimed that they had sustained injuries in a road accident on the Ring road. On August 29, Mehjabeen Sheikh succumbed at the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital. A probe, however, revealed that the three had been fired upon by unidentified persons and were not injured in a road accident.

RAJNATH SINGH TO INAUGURATE TATA'S FIRST
INDIAN DEFENCE MANUFACTURING PLANT IN
AFRICA



Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a visit to Morocco on Sunday, where he will inaugurate the Tata Advanced Systems' new manufacturing facility for the Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8 at Berrechid, the first-ever Indian defence manufacturing plant in Africa. The Defence Minister will also hold a bilateral meeting with his Moroccan counterpart Abdeltif Loudiyi and interact with the Indian community in Rabat. Rajnath Singh said the new facility in Morocco marks an important milestone that reflects the growing global footprint of India's defence industry. Tomorrow, 21st September, I shall be in Morocco. There is a growing strategic convergence between India and Morocco. Looking forward to further strengthen the growing relationship. During my visit I will hold a bilateral meeting with my counterpart Mr. Abdeltif Loudiyi.

CAN'T ORDER BEGGAR TO MAINTAIN
HIS DESTITUTE WIFE: KERALA HIGH
COURT ASKS STATE TO STEP IN

Diary Times Desk : A court cannot order a beggar to part with his alms to maintain his destitute wife, observed the Kerala High Court recently while dealing with a unique case where a woman sought maintenance from her blind husband, who survived by begging. Justice PV Kunhikrishnan, instead, ordered the State to step in and ensure that the beggar's destitute wife was provided with food and clothing. The Court noted that the beggar had married twice under Muslim personal laws, and urged the State to take measures to help both his wives. "I am of the considered opinion that this Court cannot direct a beggar to pay maintenance to his wife. However, the government should ensure that the petitioner's wives are also provided with food and clothing," the Court said. "As mentioned by the Family Court, no court can direct a beggar to pay maintenance to his wife when the wife admits that her husband is a beggar .

INDIA PROGRESSING WITH
COURAGE, CONFIDENCE
UNDER VIKSIT BHARAT: PM'S
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY PK
MISHRA

Diary Times Desk : "India is progressing with courage and confidence under Prime Minister Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat, driven by the mantra of 'Reform, Perform and Transform'," remarked Dr PK Mishra, who is the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. Addressing the convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai on Saturday, Dr Mishra congratulated the graduating MBA, Executive MBA, and PhD students, while commending the institution's impressive rise to sixth place among India's leading IIMs.

Extending his congratulations to students and their families, Dr Mishra emphasised that success is a collective achievement, made possible through the unwavering support of teachers, families, and peers. "This degree carries all their love, patience and support along with your own efforts," he noted.

LET'S REVEAL POOMPUHAR'S PRIDE,
SAYS TN CM, AS UNDERSEA
EXCAVATION BEGINS IN EARLY CHOLA
CAPITAL

Diary Times Desk : After Keezhadi, Poompuhar undersea excavation has begun, and it will reveal the ancient civilisation that once flourished, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said on Saturday. The deep-sea excavation between the early Chola capital, Poompuhar, and Nagapattinam, a medieval trade hub with maritime links to Southeast Asia, was commenced by the state Archaeology department on September 19 in collaboration with the Indian Maritime University. The ancient port city was once known as Kaviripoompattinam located in the present-day Mayiladuthurai district. The previous undersea survey was carried out in Poompuhar in 1991. The Keezhadi site on the banks of the Vaigai River in Sivaganga district is situated close to Madurai and a series of excavations carried out by the state Archaeology Department showed evidence of an urban civilization dating back to the Sangam.

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT BANS MENTION OF CASTE IN POLICE
RECORDS, ORDERS ACTION AGAINST CASTE STICKERS ON
VEHICLES

Diary Times Desk : The Allahabad High Court recently directed the Uttar Pradesh government and its Director General of Police (DGP) to amend the police manuals to prohibit the disclosure of caste in investigations and related public records [Praveen Chetri v State of UP and Another]. Justice Vinod Diwakar also called for amending the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR) to explicitly ban caste-based slogans and caste identifiers on all private and public vehicles. It also called for their removal and imposition of fines on vehicle owners. "The entries, in paragraph and column pertaining to the requirement of caste or tribe shall stand deleted, whereas the Mother's Name shall be added along with the name of father and husband in all the aforesaid FORMATS annexed with the counter affidavit filed by Director General of Police, UP," the Court ordered. It also directed that the caste column on the notice boards installed at police stations be also deleted. However, the Court clarified that there would be exemption in cases where there is a statutory requirement for mentioning caste, like in cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (SC/ST Act). "The aforesaid directions shall be applicable in the territorial jurisdiction of Uttar Pradesh and are optional for the central government, as it was not before this Court," the Court said.

**UKRAINE SAYS THREE KILLED IN
'MASSIVE' RUSSIAN AERIAL ATTACK**

Diary Times Desk : At least three people have been killed and more than 30 injured in a "massive" overnight Russian aerial attack on Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelensky says.

He says regions across the country were targeted as part of a "deliberate strategy" to "intimidate civilians and destroy our infrastructure", with one direct missile hit reported on a residential building.

Ukraine's air force says Moscow launched 619 drones and missiles. Russia's defence ministry says its "massive strike" used "precision weapons" and targeted military-industrial facilities.

Separately, Russia says four people were killed in a Ukrainian drone attack on the Samara region. Kyiv says it hit a major oil refinery there.

Ukraine also says another Russian oil refinery was damaged in the neighbouring Saratov region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

In a post on social media, President Zelensky said Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Zaporizhzhia, Poltava, Kyiv, Odesa, Sumy and Kharkiv regions were attacked by Russia overnight.

He said "residential areas and civilians facilities" were hit.

In the central city of Dnipro, the president added, there was a "direct hit of a missile with cluster munitions on a high-rising residential building". The BBC has verified footage uploaded this morning showing a missile in flight and an impact, as well as still images of a badly damaged building in the same location in Dnipro.

In Russia, Samara regional Governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev said four people were killed "as a result of an overnight attack by enemy drones".

He said that another person was injured, without giving any other details.

**XI HINTS TIKTOK DEAL HAS HIS BLESSING
– IF TRUMP MAKES CONCESSIONS
ELSEWHERE**

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump's much-touted call with Xi Jinping failed to finalize a long-awaited deal to spin off TikTok's US operations, but China's top leader did signal his blessing for the plan – as long as it aligns with Beijing's interests.

At first glance, Beijing's willingness to play ball on TikTok looks like a sharp reversal from its years of resistance to relinquishing control over the viral video app – the first global social media hit to come out of China.

But rather than bowing to Trump's pressure campaign, analysts say, Chinese leaders are using an app cherished by the US president and millions of Americans as leverage to extract other, far more consequential concessions.

And judging by comments from Chinese officials and state media on the "framework" reached by the US and China in Madrid this week, Beijing appears intent on retaining ownership of TikTok's most prized asset, its algorithm that has helped the app attract 170 million Americans and more than 1.5 billion users worldwide.

**PAKISTAN MINISTER ON WHETHER
SAUDI ARABIA WILL GET INVOLVED IF
THERE IS WAR WITH INDIA**

Diary Times Desk : Saudi Arabia will defend Pakistan in the event of India declaring war on its neighbour, Pak Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told reporters in Islamabad Friday, emphasising the 'strategic mutual assistance' component of the deal two countries signed this week.

"Yes, absolutely. There is no doubt about it..." Mr Asif told Geo TV, a Pak news channel, drawing parallels with Article 5 of the NATO agreement that refers to 'collective defence', which essentially means a military attack against one bloc member is an attack on all.

**ESTONIA SEEKS NATO
CONSULTATIONS AFTER
RUSSIA JETS INCIDENT**

Diary Times Desk : Three Russian fighter jets violated NATO member Estonia's airspace for 12 minutes on Friday in an "unprecedented brazen" incursion, its government said.

Russian jets have violated Estonian airspace in the past, but usually only briefly. The length of Friday's incursion was unusual.

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Russia's incursion in Estonia was a "dangerous provocation," while US President Donald Trump said it "could be big trouble."

However, a statement from Russia's Defense Ministry said the flight was in keeping with "international rules governing airspace" and "did not violate" Estonia's borders.

Meanwhile, Poland deployed aircraft during a massive overnight Russian attack on neighboring Ukraine.

**TRUMP TO IMPOSE \$100K FEE
PER YEAR FOR H-1B VISAS,
LIKELY TO IMPACT INDIANS**

Diary Times Desk : The Trump administration said on Friday it would ask companies to pay \$100,000 per year for H-1B worker visas, potentially dealing a big blow to the technology sector that relies heavily on skilled workers from India and China.

Since taking office in January, Trump has kicked off a wide-ranging immigration crackdown, including moves to limit some forms of legal immigration. The step to reshape the H-1B visa program represents his administration's most high-profile effort yet to rework temporary employment visas.

"If you're going to train somebody, you're going to train one of the recent graduates from one of the great universities across our land. Train Americans. Stop bringing in people to take our jobs," US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said.

Trump's threat to crack down on H-1B visas has become a major flashpoint with the tech industry, which contributed millions of dollars to his presidential campaign.

Critics of the programme, including many US technology workers, argue that it allows firms to suppress wages and sideline Americans who could do the jobs. Supporters, including Tesla CEO and former Trump ally Elon Musk.

**GAZA HOSPITAL DIRECTOR RECEIVES BODIES OF BROTHER AND OTHER
RELATIVES WHILE ON DUTY**

Diary Times Desk : On Friday, Dr. Mohammed Abu Salmiya left his family home for a shift as the director of the Al-Shifa hospital. A day later, the bodies of six family members arrived while he was still on duty. An Israeli airstrike struck his home in the Al Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City, where multiple generations had been living together, the doctor said.

"This is the family home where we live. My brother, two of my brother's sons, my nephew's wife, and two of their children were martyred," Abu Salmiya told CNN.

The strike on Abu Salmiya's family home killed six people and injured seven others, including the hospital director's sister, niece and nephews, he said.

CNN has reached out to the Israel Defense Forces for comment on the target of the strikes. A video shared by the Director General of Gaza's Ministry of Health, Dr. Munir Al-Bursh, showed a grief-stricken Abu Salmiya kneeling next to the bodies of his family members at the hospital, still wearing his doctor's scrubs.



HAMAS RELEASES "FAREWELL" PHOTO OF HOSTAGES, BLAMES ISRAEL'S GAZA INVASION



Diary Times Desk : Hamas, shared a compilation picture of the remaining 47 Israeli hostages held in Gaza on Saturday. Hamas said that the image released was a farewell picture and each hostage has been labelled as "Ron Arad", an Israeli Air Force navigator who was captured in 1986. Along with it, the hostages were also given a number.

The text on the image accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of rejecting a ceasefire-hostage deal and blamed the IDF Chief of Staff for going ahead with the invasion of Gaza.

despite his reported opposition to it. It reads, "Because of [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's refusal, and [IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal] Zamir's capitulation, a parting image as the military operation in Gaza City begins."

According to a report by Ynet, an Israeli publication, officials say out of the 47 hostages, only 20 are believed to be alive. 2 of the remaining hostages are in a grave condition and the rest are dead.

A statement from al-Qassam Brigades said, "Your prisoners are distributed within the neighborhoods of Gaza City, and we will not be concerned for their lives as long as Netanyahu has decided to kill them," as reported by CNN.

"The commencement of this criminal operation and its expansion means that you will not receive any prisoner, neither alive nor dead, and their fate will be the same as that of (Ron Arad)."

During the ceasefire between January and March 2024, Hamas released 30 hostages – 20 Israeli civilians, five soldiers, and five Thai nationals. They also released the bodies of eight killed Israeli captives. In May, they released an American-Israeli hostage as a "gesture" to the United States.

Israel, in exchange, released 2,000 prisoners and detainees.

Israeli strikes killed at least 14 people overnight in Gaza City, said health officials, as Israel ramps up its offensive there and urges Palestinians to leave.

The strikes come as Western countries are getting fed up with the intensifying war in Gaza with some moving to recognise Palestinian statehood at the United Nations General Assembly next week.

US FORCES STRIKE THIRD ALLEGED DRUG VESSEL KILLING THREE, TRUMP SAYS

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump has said US forces carried out a "lethal kinetic strike" on a vessel which he said was trafficking drugs, and the attack killed three "male narcoterrorists" on board.

Trump said he ordered the attack on the boat, which was in the US Southern Command's area of responsibility, after US intelligence confirmed it was trafficking drugs. It was the third such strike on alleged drug boats in recent weeks.

Trump's statement on Truth Social on Friday said the strike happened in international waters. The US Southern Command's area of responsibility covers most of South America and the Caribbean.

TRUMP SAYS HE IS SPEAKING WITH TALIBAN TO REGAIN CONTROL OF BAGRAM AIRFIELD



TRUMP UNVEILS \$1 MILLION 'GOLD CARD' VISA PROGRAM FOR US RESIDENCY

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump signed an executive order for a 'Gold Card' visa program with fees set at USD 1 million for individuals and USD 2 million for businesses.

"We think it's going to be very successful... It's going to raise billions of dollars, which will reduce taxes, pay off debt, and do other good things," Trump said as he signed the executive order.

United States Secretary of Commerce, Howard Lutnick, noted that through the gold card plan, the US will only allow "extraordinary people at the very top" to come to the US who can create business and jobs for Americans.

Lutnick called the employment-based green card program "illogical".

Diary Times Desk : U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday said he was speaking with Afghanistan about regaining control of the Bagram air base.

"We should have never given it up," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

The comments come a day after Trump, in a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, said the United States sought to regain control of the base used by American forces following the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The withdrawal of American forces in 2021 led to a takeover of the base by the Islamist Taliban movement.

Afghan officials expressed opposition to a revived U.S. presence.

"Afghanistan and the United States need to engage with one another ... without the United States maintaining any military presence in any part of Afghanistan," Zakir Jalal, an Afghan foreign ministry official, said in a post on X on Thursday.

NEPAL'S GEN-Z MOVEMENT AND THE GHOSTLY AFTERLIVES OF REVOLUTION



Diary Times Desk : Pomp and politics, warm words, tech deals and a sumptuous state banquet. Britain pulled out all the stAfter the end of the decade long People's War in 2006, mostly based in the hinterlands, one of the key Maoists leaders was asked by the media, "Now that you have moved to the city, what kind of a city is your 'dream city'?" Pat came the reply – Bangkok-like shopping malls, roads as wide and shiny like that of the West and so on. The imagery that these words sketched together was a mimicry of a city, whose making would only be possible through large-scale investments of unregulated financial capital.

Ironical as it was, coming from a revolutionary figure, the outline of the dream was a revelation of a desired future, one whose arrival had begun to take shape in Kathmandu, particularly following the 2015 earthquakes.

High-rises carrying global five-star luxury brands, boutique hotels, exquisite cafes, hotel-like hospitals now line the cityscapes of Kathmandu. In this rise of "urban gigantism", the recently constructed Hilton Hotel in the north end of the city stood tall, broad and excessively large compared to the adjoining minnows of houses and buildings surrounding it. The stuff of the Nepali Maoist dream was more or less being realised, it seemed. Except, there is now a glitch in the system.

On the 9th of September, 2025, alongside many similar structures, the Gen-Z movement set Hilton on fire, and burned it down to the ground. For now, the dream has derailed.

LAST SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 2025 TOMORROW NIGHT, WON'T BE VISIBLE IN INDIA

Diary Times Desk : After witnessing a Total Lunar Eclipse or Blood Moon, skygazers across the globe are in for a treat today as the last solar eclipse of 2025 will grace the skies on Sunday night.

The last solar eclipse of 2025, scheduled for September 21, will be partial and will not be visible from India. People living in parts of Australia, Antarctica, the Pacific Ocean, and the Atlantic Ocean may be able to witness the celestial event.

PORTUGAL CONFIRMS IT WILL RECOGNISE PALESTINIAN STATE

Diary Times Desk : Portugal says it will recognise a Palestinian state on Sunday, making it the latest Western nation preparing to shift policy as the war in the Gaza Strip shows no sign of stopping. The foreign ministry made the announcement ahead of next week's United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. France, the UK, Canada and Australia are preparing similar announcements. Israel has denounced the move, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying it "rewards terror" following Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack on Israel. The US - Israel's main ally - has echoed Netanyahu's argument. President Donald Trump, speaking alongside Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer this week, while on a state visit to the UK, said he disagreed with recognition. Around three quarters of the UN's 193 members already recognise a Palestinian state, which in 2012 was granted the status of non-member observer state. As world leaders prepare to gather at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.



MINISTER REJECTS TRUMP'S CALL FOR MILITARY TO TACKLE ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Diary Times Desk : The UK military is focused on defending the nation rather than stopping asylum seekers from crossing the Channel, a cabinet minister has said. US President Donald Trump suggested that military intervention could be used to deal with illegal migration to the UK during his state visit this week. But Trade Secretary Peter Kyle has rejected that call, telling BBC Breakfast the UK Border Force has specific responsibility for policing UK borders. About 1,000 migrants are believed to have crossed the the Channel earlier on Friday, as two more deportations under the government's "one in, one out" deal with France took place. Six boats are believed to have set off from northern France, as the smugglers made the most of a break in the windy weather in the Channel. There had been no crossings for a week before then due to choppy seas. The French authorities rescued 23 people on Friday who had got into difficulty at sea - but others refused assistance and continued their journey towards the UK.

US ATTORNEY, UNDER PRESSURE TO CHARGE TRUMP'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS, "FIRED"

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he "fired" a federal prosecutor who was reportedly facing pressure over investigations into two of the Republican leader's political foes. Erik Siebert, US attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, told staff of his resignation via an email on Friday, the New York Times and other US media outlets reported. Siebert had been under pressure to prosecute two of Trump's political adversaries, former FBI director James Comey -- whom Trump fired in 2017 -- and New York Attorney General Letitia James, the Times reported. Some officials in the administration had argued for Siebert to keep his position, according to the Times. "Today I withdrew the Nomination of Erik Siebert as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, when I was informed that he received the UNUSUALLY STRONG support of the two absolutely terrible.

US TOURIST VISA DENIED IN 3 MINUTES TO INDIAN CUSTOMS OFFICER WITH CLEAN RECORD



Diary Times Desk : An Indian customs officer recently shared his experience of being denied a US B1/B2 tourist visa during the September 2025 interview at the US Embassy in Delhi.

Despite a stable government job, owning a house, substantial savings over Rs. 50 lakh, and a clear travel plan, the officer and his wife were refused visas under Section 214(b) in a brief three-minute interview.

The visa officer repeatedly focused on the computer screen with minimal engagement and did not ask about his finances or property, even though he carried all necessary documents.

"The whole thing lasted around 3 minutes. No questions were asked about my finances, property, etc. I carried all necessary documents to support my claims, but nothing was asked or sought at all," he wrote in the Reddit post.

INDIAN EMBASSY ISSUES TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR NEPAL, URGES CAUTION

Diary Times Desk : The Indian embassy in Kathmandu on Friday issued a travel advisory for Indian nationals travelling to Nepal, stating that while the situation in the country has improved considerably over the past week, visitors should still exercise due caution and strictly adhere to updates and instructions issued by the mission or local authorities.

"The situation in Nepal has improved considerably over the past week. Road transport and flights are now operating regularly," the Indian embassy wrote in the Nepal advisory.

"Indian nationals travelling to Nepal are, however, advised to exercise due caution and adhere to advisories/updates that may be issued by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu or local authorities of Nepal," the advisory added.

The advisory also provided dedicated contact details for assistance. Indian citizens in Nepal can reach out to the Embassy through its helpline number +977-9808602881 (including WhatsApp calls), the permanent emergency number +977-9851316807, and via email at [helpdesk.eoiktm@gmail.com].

ELDERLY BRITISH COUPLE BACK IN UK AFTER TALIBAN RELEASE



Diary Times Desk : An elderly British couple released by the Taliban authorities after almost eight months in detention in Afghanistan arrived back in the UK on Saturday. Peter Reynolds, 80, and his wife Barbie, 76, arrived on a flight from the Qatari capital Doha, where they had stayed for medical checks following their release on Friday. Qatar played a key role in helping to free the couple after mounting fears about their health. Barbie Reynolds smiled broadly as the couple walked out of the arrivals area at London's Heathrow airport, but did not stop to talk to reporters.

CYBERATTACK CAUSES DISRUPTION AT EUROPEAN AIRPORTS INCLUDING LONDON'S HEATHROW

Diary Times Desk : A cyber attack targeting a service provider for check-in and boarding systems has disrupted operations at several major European airports including London's Heathrow, Brussels and Berlin, causing flight delays and cancellations, the operators said.

The attack has rendered automated systems inoperable, allowing only manual check-in and boarding procedures, according to Brussels Airport. "This has a large impact on the flight schedule and will unfortunately cause delays and cancellations of flights," the operator said in a statement published on its website.

"The service provider is actively working on the issue and trying to resolve the problem as quickly as possible." Heathrow also warned of delays caused by "a technical issue" at a third-party supplier. Passengers with a flight scheduled for Saturday were advised by the affected airports to confirm their travel with airlines before heading to the airport.



WORLD WAR II-ERA BOMB WEIGHING 450 KG DISCOVERED IN HONG KONG, THOUSANDS EVACUATED

Diary Times Desk : Thousands of people were evacuated from their homes in Hong Kong overnight so experts could defuse a large US-made bomb left over from World War II that was discovered at a construction site.

Police said the bomb was 1.5 metres in length and weighed about 1,000 pounds (450 kg). It was discovered by construction workers in Quarry Bay, a bustling residential and business district on the west side of Hong Kong Island. "We have confirmed this object to be a bomb dating back to World War II," said Andy Chan Tin-Chu, a police official, speaking to reporters ahead of the operation. He said that because of "the exceptionally high risks associated with its disposal," approximately 1,900 households involving 6,000 individuals were "urged to evacuate swiftly".

TCS SECOND-HIGHEST BENEFICIARY OF APPROVED H-1B VISAS; MICROSOFT, APPLE ALSO IN TOP 10

Diary Times Desk : Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the second-highest beneficiary with over 5,000 approved H-1B visas in 2025, after Amazon, according to federal data. According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Amazon had 10,044 workers using H-1B visas as of June, 2025. Coming in at the second spot was TCS with 5,505 H-1B visas approved. Other top beneficiaries include Microsoft (5189), Meta (5123), Apple (4202), Google (4181), Deloitte (2353), Infosys (2004), Wipro (1523) and Tech Mahindra Americas (951). In a move that could significantly impact Indian IT and professional workers in the US, the Trump administration announced a staggering annual fee of USD 100,000 on H-1B visas, a move it said aims to check the "systemic abuse" of the programme. In July, USCIS had said that it has received enough petitions to reach the congressionally mandated 65,000 H-1B visa regular cap and the 20,000 H-1B visa US advanced degree exemption, known as the master's cap, for fiscal year 2026. US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation 'Restriction on entry of certain nonimmigrant workers' on Friday that will restrict entry into the United States of individuals as nonimmigrants unless their H-1B petitions are accompanied or supplemented by a payment of USD 100,000.

PAK TRAIN HIJACK MASTERMIND KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Diary Times Desk : The mastermind behind the Jaffar Express terrorist attack in Pakistan, Gul Rahman, was killed in Afghanistan, ARY News reported on Saturday.

According to reports, Gul Rahman alias Ustad Mureed, an Indian-sponsored terrorist, died under mysterious circumstances in Helmand province on September 17. Gul Rahman was the trainer and operational commander of the Indian proxy group Fitna al Hindustan (Majeed Brigade). He was involved in several terrorist attacks against Pakistani security forces, innocent civilians, Chinese nationals and various institutions. Sources stated that Gul Rahman's death underscores the continued use of Afghan territory for orchestrating terrorist activities against Pakistan. Notably, on March 11, 2025, the Jaffar Express passenger train traveling from Quetta to Peshawar, with 380 passengers, was hijacked by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA).

US SENATORS INTRODUCE SHRIMP TARIFF ACT TO PROTECT LOUISIANA INDUSTRY AGAINST ALLEGED UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES BY INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Republican US Senators Bill Cassidy and Cindy Hyde-Smith introduced the India Shrimp Tariff Act to shield local shrimp and catfish farmers from India's allegedly unfair trade practices, specifically the dumping of cheap shrimp into the US market, a statement by Cassidy's office said.

"People come from all over to try Louisiana gumbo, jambalaya, and shrimp and grits. That's because our shrimpers and catfish farmers meet high standards," said Cassidy. "By leveling the playing field, this bill protects Louisiana seafood and the jobs that depend on it." Senator Hyde-Smith said that Indian shrimp was being 'dumped' there, and the legislation is aimed at focusing on local fishermen.

INDIA-GREECE BILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE MARKS MILESTONE IN DEFENCE COOPERATION

Diary Times Desk : The Indian and Hellenic navies concluded their bilateral maritime exercise on Thursday, marking a milestone in the defence cooperation between the two nations as they shared best practices and enhanced professional rapport between them, the Indian Navy shared on Saturday. As per the Indian Navy, the harbour phase of the maritime exercise included cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, a pre-sail conference onboard Hellenic Navy's HS Themistokles, and a cultural event onboard INS Trikanth. The sea phase featured night VBSS, replenishment at sea, joint ASW operations, coordinated gunfire, and cross-deck helicopter operations, enhancing interoperability and operational synergy. In a post on X on Saturday, the Indian Navy shared, "#IndianNavy - #HellenicNavy Maiden bilateral maritime exercise concluded on #18Sep 25 in the Mediterranean Sea, marking a milestone in India-Greece defence cooperation."



GST 2.0: MRP OF ROOM ACS DOWN UP TO RS 4,700, DISHWASHER PRICES SLASHED ABOUT RS 8,000 FROM SEPT 22

Diary Times Desk :
 Leading appliance makers have reduced prices of room air conditioners by up to Rs 4,500 and on dishwashers by up to Rs 8,000, with new rates set to be rolled out from Monday as companies extend GST benefits to consumers. The companies, in turn, are expecting a double-digit increase in sales during the festival season, with Navratra starting this week.
 Leading players, such as Voltas, Daikin, Godrej Appliances, Panasonic, and Haier, have already come out with a new revised price list, which will be applicable from Monday, September 22, when the revised GST rates take effect. Some AC manufacturers, along with their dealers, had started pre-booking of units at reduced prices, anticipating pent-up demand as lower GST rates take effect next week, and are quite buoyed by the initial consumers' response.

BASILIC FLY STUDIO RAISES INR 85 CRORE THROUGH QIP TO FUEL GLOBAL EXPANSION

Diary Times Desk : Basilic Fly Studio Limited (BFS), a pioneering force in the world of visual effects (VFX), has successfully raised ₹84.99 crore via a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). The company issued 20.25 lakh equity shares, priced at ₹419.72 per share, inclusive of a premium of ₹409.72. Basilic Fly Studio Limited (BFS), a pioneering force in the world of visual effects (VFX), has successfully raised ₹84.99 crore via a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). The company issued 20.25 lakh equity shares, priced at ₹419.72 per share, inclusive of a premium of ₹409.72. The proceeds from the QIP will strengthen the company's balance sheet, enhance financial flexibility, and support its strategic priorities. These include investing in advanced VFX technologies, expanding delivery capabilities, building creative talent, and pursuing growth opportunities in international markets. The company remains committed to consolidating its leadership in the global VFX industry by driving innovation, operational excellence, and long-term value creation.

WITH THE JIMMY KIMMEL SAGA, THE MEDIA IS LEARNING WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE

Diary Times Desk : Late last year, ABC News spent \$16 million to settle a defamation lawsuit with President Donald Trump. At the time, you could squint and see the business sense of it: Just pay up, say you're sorry and this will all blow over.
 It's not blowing over. And it won't.
 Across Corporate America, companies are learning the hard way that giving Trump what he wants won't appease him — it will only stoke his appetite. (It seems some folks have forgotten the sage wisdom underpinning Laura Joffe Numeroff's 1985 classic "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie." Spoiler alert: The mouse has some more demands.)
 ICYMI: ABC in December agreed to donate \$15 million to Trump's presidential library and pay \$1 million in legal fees to the law firm of Trump's attorney. It also published an editor's note expressing regret for an on-air misstatement by George Stephanopoulos. The case had centered on the anchor's imprecise wording around the 2023 verdict that found Trump liable for sexually abusing E. Jean Carroll in the 1990s. (Under New York law, Trump was not found liable for "rape," as Stephanopoulos had characterized it.)



THE TROPE OF 'LIBERAL MEDIA' IS FINALLY DEAD



Diary Times Desk : Growing up in Missouri, the home state of Rush Limbaugh, I often heard the word "media" spoken with a fair bit of derision, sandwiched by the words "liberal" and "bias." It was an accusation that crystallized as a capital-T Truth for much of the country as Fox News emerged in the late 90s, wielding it as a cudgel to reinforce the network's conservative credentials.
 The perception of "liberal" media was always exaggerated, and often unfair, rooted partly in the fact that most mass media giants were headquartered in Democratic strongholds like DC and New York (where, of course, Fox is also based.) But President Donald Trump's MAGA coalition are done crying about perceived bias. Even "fake news" has lost its bite. In his second term, Trump is taking his complaints straight to the source, siccing lawyers and regulators on outlets he sees as a threat (the New York Times, NPR), or allowing his billionaire supporters to wrest control of those he thinks he can jostle into compliance (CBS, Nexstar).

WHY TRUMP AND HIS FCC CHAIRMAN'S THREATS AGAINST TV STATION LICENSES ARE 'AGGRESSIVE YET HOLLOW'

Diary Times Desk : President Trump keeps threatening the licenses of local TV stations, but his government has limited power to follow through on those threats.
 The FCC has not denied any license renewal in decades. And any move to revoke a station license would result in lengthy, protracted legal challenges. "But the threats are the point," as the FCC's lone Democratic commissioner, Anna M. Gomez, wrote on X this week.
 In other words, Trump can't actually stop local stations from broadcasting shows he doesn't like, but he can use his bully pulpit to pressure media companies into submission and self-censorship.

Ex-Disney CEO Michael Eisner summarized it well in an X post on Friday that FCC chair Brendan Carr's recent threat over "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" was "aggressive yet hollow."



THE ELECTRIC CAR
REVOLUTION IS ON
TRACK, SAYS IEA

Diary Times Desk :
Global electric vehicle sales are set to rise by more than a fifth to reach 17 million this year, powered by drivers in China, according to the International Energy Agency.

In a report Tuesday, the IEA projected that “surging demand” for EVs over the next decade was set “to remake the global auto industry and significantly reduce oil consumption for road transport.”

It expects half of all cars sold globally to be electric by 2035, up from more than one in five this year, provided charging infrastructure keeps pace. The IEA includes battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles in its definition of EVs.

The agency’s bullish long-term outlook for EVs — based on current government policies — comes just days after the world’s biggest battery EV maker Tesla slashed its prices in major markets to counter declining sales and growing competition from Chinese upstarts and established carmakers.

Recent negative headlines about slowing EV penetration are out of step with positive global trends, according to IEA executive director Fatih Birol. The data “does not at all show a reverse of the growth of electric cars. It shows an extremely robust increase of global electric car sales,” he told reporters Tuesday.

DIGITAL HUMANS: THE
RELATABLE FACE OF
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE?

Diary Times Desk : Scrolling through the Instagram account of DJ and aspiring model Dex you'll see her wearing new outfits, performing at shows around the world and chatting to her thousands of followers about her hobbies.

However, it's clear that there is something different about Dex; she's an entirely virtual “digital human,” designed by a startup in the UK. For her performances, Dex is displayed on a video screen or as a holographic projection, with her mixes created by humans.

WITH THE JIMMY KIMMEL SAGA, THE MEDIA IS LEARNING WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE

Diary Times Desk :
“Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – the Movie Infinity Castle” shattered the record for biggest opening weekend domestic gross for an anime movie, hauling in an estimated \$70 million.
“Demon Slayer: Infinity Castle,” which is distributed in North America by Sony Pictures Entertainment-owned Crunchyroll, raked in \$33 million on Friday alone, surging past Warner Bros. Pictures’ 1999 anime hit “Pokémon: The First Movie,” which grossed \$31 million in its opening weekend. Warner Bros. Discovery is the parent company of CNN.
“Infinity Castle” is also the best opening for a “Demon Slayer” movie, after FUNimation Entertainment’s “Demon Slayer: Mugen Train” (\$21 million) in 2021 and Sony’s “Demon Slayer: To the Hashira Training” (\$11.5 million) in 2024.
“We can easily call this a surprise hit,” said Paul Dergarabedian, head of marketplace trends at Comscore, adding that, “to have this one dominate the (domestic box office), I don’t think anyone could see this coming.”



ELON MUSK IS BACK TO ASKING XAI EMPLOYEES TO PROVE ‘WHAT
YOU’VE ACCOMPLISHED’



Diary Times Desk :
Elon Musk is back to business – and back to sending emails asking employees what they’ve accomplished.
On Tuesday afternoon, Musk sent an email asking all xAI employees to “send a one page summary of what you’ve accomplished in the past four weeks and what you intend to accomplish in the next four weeks.”
“This is due by noon on Thursday,” Musk wrote in the email, according to a copy of the email shared with CNN by a source familiar with the situation. A spokesperson for xAI did not respond to a request for comment.
Musk is known for making such requests from employees at various companies and agencies he has led throughout his career.
In August 2024, Musk sent out an email to all staff at X asking for a “one page summary of your contributions to the company over the last month and over the last twelve months” as a way to make “stock & option awards proportionate to the likely future contributions of people at X,” according to a source who received the email. The Verge first reported on the email last year.

While Musk was advising the White House and the Department of Government Efficiencies, all federal employees were sent mass emails asking them to list what they accomplished in the past week. Musk announced on X at the time that “failure to respond will be taken as a resignation.”

But the emails were sent so broadly, federal employees working in sensitive areas such as national security and the judiciary were warned by agency leaders not to respond. In February, the Office of Personnel Management told agencies that responses to Musk’s email were voluntary and failure to respond did not equal resignation. By August, the entire program was completely rolled back by OPM.

**FLOODWATERS FORCE
FARMER TO FERRY
MOTHER'S BODY BY
BOAT, CREMATE IN
COURTYARD**

Diary Times Desk : In a heart-wrenching incident, tragedy struck twice at the home of Satnam Singh, a farmer from Sangra village, as devastating floods first destroyed his entire paddy crop and then he lost his mother. The family, overwhelmed by loss and trapped by floodwaters, had no option but to perform the cremation in the courtyard.

"She was shattered after seeing our fields underwater," said Satnam Singh, his voice heavy with emotion. "Our entire crop was wiped out. On the 17th, my mother's health deteriorated suddenly. We rushed her to the hospital by boat at around 3 pm, but she suffered a heart attack and didn't survive." Even bringing Gurnam Kaur's body back home was an ordeal. "We returned at 10 pm that night – again by boat," he said. "With the village's cremation ground completely submerged, we were forced to cremate her right near our home on September 18."

AMRITSAR FARMERS WATCH HELPLESSLY AS FLOODED RAVI SWALLOWS 50 ACRES ALONG BORDER

Diary Times Desk : Already struggling with the challenge of cultivating their fields across the barbed fence along the India-Pakistan border, farmers in Amritsar's Kakkar and Rania villages have now suffered another blow as the swollen Ravi has swallowed around 50 acres of their fertile farmland. Sukhrajbir Pal Singh Gill of Kakkar said the raging water wreaked havoc even as the villagers fought for survival. "The Ravi changed its course and entered our fields. It washed away fertile tracts before flowing into Pakistan. All we could do was watch helplessly as our ancestral land disappeared," he said.

For the villagers, the loss is not just economic but emotional. "Most families here solely depend on farming. Our livelihood has been crippled. We already needed security clearance to access our fields.

RAVI FLOODS: PUNJAB GOVT SUSPENDS 3 OFFICERS POSTED AT MADHOPUR HEADWORKS OVER FLOODGATE FAILURE IN AUGUST

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Government has suspended three officers, who were posted at the Madhopur headworks when the floodgates there did not open during the recent heavy inflow of water in the Ravi river, leading to severe flooding in areas of Pathankot and Gurdaspur districts. Those issued suspension orders by the Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, include XeN Nitin Sood, SDO Arun Kumar and JE Sachin Thakur. The three officers posted there were responsible for the maintenance of the flood gates.

The incident happened on the intervening night of August 26-27. It is believed that 2.12 lakh cusecs of water was released from the Ranjit Sagar Dam. The 54 floodgates at the barrage were reportedly sealed after Operation Sindoor, to stop the flow of water to Pakistan.



PM MODI PURCHASES TRADITIONAL HIMACHALI HEMP SLIPPERS FOR KASHI TEMPLE PRIESTS

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again purchased traditional Himachali hemp slippers called 'pullas' that are made in villages of Mandi and Kullu for use by priests in the Vishwanath temple at Kashi. Modi asked Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur to send the brightly handcrafted 'pullas' for use by priests inside the Vishwanath temple, especially during the winter. Since these slippers are made from hemp, these can be worn in the temple as these are considered pure as compared to any other kind of slippers that are not permitted into the shrine. The Prime Minister had earlier ordered hemp slippers for the Kashi Vishwanath priests in January 2022. It was during a visit to Mandi in December 27, 2021, that Modi had first seen the 'pullas', which were on display at a stall in an exhibition at the Paddal maidan in Mandi city. Thakur said that the Prime Minister had asked him to arrange the 'pullas'. "I got in touch with two self-help groups in Mandi that are into handcrafting 'pullas'. The Prime Minister personally made the payment of Rs 12,000 to these two SHGs," he added. The consignment of the hemp slippers was sent to the Prime Minister.

VIOLENCE AT MUKTSAR JAIL: INMATES THRASH GUARDS, SNATCH KEYS AND ATTACK RIVAL GROUP WITH RODS; 4 HOSPITALISED

Diary Times Desk : The Muktsar Sadar police have booked 23 inmates after a clash broke out between two factions at the district jail here on Friday evening. Four of them have been admitted to Muktsar Civil Hospital. During the clash, the inmates thrashed a jail employee, tore his uniform, and confined another.

According to a complaint filed by Assistant Superintendent Nachhattar Singh, the incident was initiated by inmates in Block 6. A group, led by prisoners Gurmeet Singh, alias 'Meeta', and Baljinder Singh, alias 'Gandhi', allegedly assaulted guard Rana Singh and forcibly took his keys. After freeing more inmates, they locked the guard inside the block and proceeded towards the de-addiction barrack to attack a rival group, he stated in the FIR.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
21-09-2025

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.

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.

GOVERNOR VISITS
HEALTH CENTRE AT
KARNAL VILLAGE

Diary Times Desk : Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Kharkali village in the district on Friday and reviewed the facilities being provided at the centre and described the services as satisfactory and effective.

He interacted with doctors and paramedical staff, urging them to work with dedication to further improve healthcare delivery. At the PHC, he inspected the OPD register and reviewed the availability of medicines. He spoke to tuberculosis patients undergoing treatment. He advised the homoeopathy doctor to ensure proper treatment at the initial stage of illness and to pay special attention to TB patients. The Governor also visited the vaccination room and checked the storage of medicines.

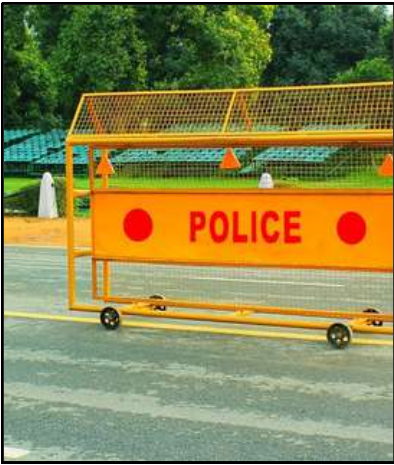
MASKED GUNMEN OPEN
FIRE AT GURUGRAM
BUILDER'S OFFICE



Diary Times Desk : Unknown masked miscreants opened fire at the office of MNR Buildmark located in Sector 45 last night, spreading panic in the area. It is said that approximately 25-30 rounds were fired at the office. Police are investigating the incident, and bullet marks have been found on the office windows and vehicles parked there. According to the police, the incident took place around 9:30 pm on Thursday when four to five masked miscreants entered the office of MNR Buildmark in Sector 45, started firing indiscriminately, and escaped easily. After receiving information, a police team reached the spot and began an investigation. Bullet marks were found on the office's windows and on the BMW and Jaguar cars parked inside. The builder and his staff have remained silent about the incident. MNR Buildmark Company has its office in Sector 45, where 11 builders are involved in the operation and have been buying and selling projects of renowned builders in Gurugram and Delhi.

PANCHKULA POLICE ISSUE TRAFFIC ADVISORY AHEAD OF NAVRATRI FAIR AT
MANSA DEVI

Diary Times Desk : To ensure the smooth and safe conduct of Navratri Fair at the Mata Mansa Devi Temple complex from September 22 to October 1, the Panchkula traffic police has issued a detailed traffic advisory. Anticipating a large number of devotees, special arrangements have been made, and all motorists have been urged to follow designated routes and parking locations to maintain a smooth traffic flow. According to the advisory issued by DCP Traffic Manpreet Singh Sudan, vehicles traveling between Panchkula and Chandigarh should avoid the Mansa Devi Temple road and instead use the Housing Board route. Parking for heavy vehicles, such as buses and tractor-trolleys carrying devotees, will be arranged near the Mansa Devi police station, accessible via a left turn from Kohni Sahib Gurdwara. The entry of other heavy vehicles into the temple area will remain strictly prohibited. Parking for smaller vehicles, including cars, auto-rickshaws, and two-wheelers, will be provided at the common parking area near Mansa Devi Gaushala.



WHERE WERE MLAS, MP WHEN
GURUGRAM WAS DROWNING, ASKS
CONGRESS

Diary Times Desk : While MP Rao Inderjit Singh is reviewing delay in infrastructure upgrade in Gurugram and pulling up local authorities, the Congress has accused the six-time MP and local MLAs of indifference.

Senior Congress leader and former minister Capt Ajay Singh Yadav said before posing questions to officials, Rao needed to explain the mess Gurugram got into while he himself had been representing it for six terms. He also asked the MLAs to take responsibility for the mess. "It's strange that when the city was drowning, neither the MP concerned nor the MLAs cared to step out. After the mess, everybody is blaming officials. The MP has been here and has seen the city deteriorating. Local MLA Rao Narbir too has been minister and MLA for repeated terms. MLA Mukesh Sharma based an entire manifesto on sanitation and waterlogging, but what happened? These people should be held accountable and tell people what they have done for Gurugram," said Yadav, while meeting a group of residents.

13 YEARS ON, PILLUKHERA FAMILY
STILL AWAITS RECOGNITION FOR
SON'S SACRIFICE

Diary Times Desk : For 13 years, 60-year-old trader Chander Bhan of Pillukhera, Jind, has been fighting for recognition of his son Saurabh Garg's bravery. At 19, Saurabh saved 11 lives during an LPG blast in December 2012, only to die in the rescue attempt.

Despite repeated recommendations, the teenager never received a bravery medal. "Probably because he didn't come from a family of politicians or bureaucrats, nor is his father a wealthy businessman," Bhan says bitterly. In 2023, he approached the Haryana Human Rights Commission, which has now directed the Chief Secretary to fix accountability for the delay, take up the matter afresh with the Ministry of Home Affairs, and even consider a state-level gallantry award. The Commission noted, "The denial of recognition to the late Saurabh Garg is not due to any lack of merit in his act of bravery but solely on account of the dereliction and administrative apathy of the public authorities concerned."

TWO MISCREANTS HELD BY STF UNITS AFTER EXCHANGE OF FIRE IN
KURUKSHETRA VILLAGE

Diary Times Desk : In a joint operation, the STF Ambala and Karnal units have nabbed two miscreants after a brief exchange of fire near Pratapgarh village on Thursday night in Kurukshetra. In the exchange of fire, both miscreants, identified as Rahul and Rajiv Sandhu, residents of Peedal village in Kaithal, suffered bullet injuries in their legs. They were taken to the Lok Nayak Jai Parkash District Civil Hospital for treatment. The STF had recovered two country-made pistols and six live cartridges from their possession. As per the STF, the miscreants were involved in a firing incident that took place on September 12 at an immigration centre in Kurukshetra. According to the information, the accused are habitual offenders and had been involved in cases of murder, attempt to murder, extortion and Arms Act. DSP STF Ambala Aman Kumar said following an input received regarding the presence of two miscreants near Pratapgarh village on the national highway, the teams of STF Ambala and STF Karnal started a search operation. After spotting the policemen, the miscreants opened fire and tried to flee but in response and to catch them the STF units also opened fire and the miscreants suffered bullet injuries. Nearly 15 rounds were fired from both sides.



Overtourism is leading to more car crashes in Scotland

In our travel roundup this week, a Scottish hotel owner has invented "tourist plates" to combat the rise in dangerous crashes on his nation's roads. Plus, why Google Maps doesn't work in one of Asia's most developed countries – and how a government decision in October might change that.

Tourists and road safety
It was a white-knuckle drive through Tenerife that inspired Scottish man Robert Marshall to come up with Tourist Plate, an adhesive sticker travelers can put on their cars to alert other road users that they're newbies to the area.

"I was completely stressed, I was driving on the opposite side of the road from what I'm used to," he says. "I couldn't read the signs, but everybody was tailgating me. I shouted at my partner, 'I wish these people knew I was a tourist, because they would just stay away from my car.'"

In the Scottish Highlands, where Marshall owns a hotel, there has been a rise in the number of serious road traffic accidents involving tourists. There have been close to 50 deaths in the past decade on the A9, Scotland's longest road, which has gained notoriety for its regular changes from single to multiple-lane highway.

Last year, the BBC reported local police were working with US Embassy officials to deliver safety advice to American visitors in particular. In May 2025, Transport Scotland reported that the number of crashes involving overseas drivers on the wrong side of the road had increased by 46% in a year.

"We are suffering from overtourism," says Laura Hänsler, a safety campaigner for the A9, who has been working with Marshall on promoting his T-plates. "The infrastructure is practically on its knees because we're straining to cope with it."

The plates have yet to be officially endorsed by any authorities. When contacted by CNN, Transport Scotland said national driving standards, including the requirements for displaying vehicle plates, were a matter for the Department of Transport. But "as we understand it — as long as it's not offensive, you can put what you like on your car."

The plates have been generating buzz online and have been a particular hit on TikTok. Marshall says he's received orders for the £9.99 plates (around \$13.50, of which 10% goes to road-safety charities) from as far afield as the United States, Pakistan and India.

In a Facebook video demonstrating other road users' reactions to the T-plate, Hänsler says that she tested the plates by going on the A9 and keeping to a steady 50 miles per hour (on a 60 mph road).

So why do 70% of the world's countries drive on the right-hand side of the road, but another 30% drive on the left?

In mainland Europe, the standardization of driving on the right began with the sweeping away of class distinctions in revolutionary France — the left had previously been the preserve of the carriage-riding wealthy.



Maureen O'Hare

In America, it goes back to pioneers and their wagons, and an adjustment that gave drivers more control over the vehicle.

Exciting, Incomplete

Earth-like exoplanet could be habitable

Astronomers might be close to confirming the presence of an Earth-like atmosphere on an exoplanet for the first time, if more detailed analyses verify preliminary observations from the James Webb Space Telescope.

The planet is part of a planetary system about 40 light-years away from Earth called TRAPPIST-1, which five Belgian astronomers discovered in 2016 and named after their favorite beer. The system has been heavily studied ever since.

"As a planetary system, it's as alien as it gets," said Néstor Espinoza, an astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. "The star is very, very small — the size of Jupiter — and it has at least seven rocky planets orbiting around it. Three of those are in what we call the habitable zone, which means they are close enough to the star that if they had an atmosphere, they could sustain liquid water."

Espinoza and his colleagues focused on TRAPPIST-1 e, the fourth planet from the star in the system, in a study published last week in The Astrophysical Journal Letters. Four observations performed in 2023 with the Webb telescope were

When looking for an atmosphere, astronomers wait for a planet to transit in front of its star and notice any minor changes in the starlight that filters through. They search for telltale signs of an atmosphere while learning about its chemical composition.

With the four transits observed by the Webb telescope in 2023, astronomers were able to rule out the presence of a primary, hydrogen-based atmosphere on TRAPPIST-1 e, which was likely blown away by significant amounts of radiation emitted by its star. (Earth similarly lost its primordial, primary atmosphere early on but then built a secondary one; astronomers hope that TRAPPIST-1 e could have done the same.)

This scenario is detailed in a second study, also published last week in The Astrophysical Journal Letters. It notes that the planet is unlikely to have an atmosphere rich in carbon dioxide like those of Venus and Mars, and points toward a nitrogen-heavy one, more similar to Earth and Saturn's icy moon Titan. "TRAPPIST-1e remains one of our most compelling habitable-zone planets, and these new results take us a step closer to knowing what kind of world it is."

unable to rule out the presence of an atmosphere, prompting optimism.

"Based on the first four observations, we cannot tell that (this planet) doesn't have an atmosphere, so the dream is still alive — it could still have an atmosphere," Espinoza said, "and that's super exciting, because we do have a follow-up program of 15 more observations."

The Webb telescope has only been able to rule out any atmosphere on TRAPPIST-1 b, the innermost planet, but the jury is still out on the other six, Espinoza said, with TRAPPIST-1 e seen as one of the best candidates for liquid surface water.

"Three years ago, before the launch of James Webb, these kinds of studies were science fiction," Espinoza said about the possibility of detecting atmospheres on faraway planets. "Now I'm pretty confident we'll be able to see what kind of atmosphere TRAPPIST-1 e could have — and if it has an Earth-like atmosphere, we'll be able to tell."

"The data are not yet conclusive," he added in an email, "but they prove that JWST has the power to detect an Earth-like atmosphere if it exists. For the first time in history, we are truly within reach of discovering an atmosphere around a potentially habitable rocky exoplanet."

Creepy Crawlies

THIS BUMBLEBEE-LIKE ROBOT MIGHT ONE DAY POLLINATE PLANTS

A bee-like robot currently under development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is part of a new generation of bots inspired by creepy crawlies.

The machine, which weighs less than a paperclip, can flap its wings up to 400 times a second and has achieved a maximum speed of two meters (6.5 feet) per second. It can also flip and hover.

"We're just trying to mimic these amazing maneuvers that bumblebees can achieve," says Yi-Hsuan "Nemo" Hsiao, a fourth-year PhD student who is working on the robots.

Researchers hope that it could someday help with tasks like artificial pollination, maybe even on other planets.

"If you're going to grow something on Mars, you probably don't want to bring a lot of natural insects to do the pollination," says Hsiao. "That's where our robot could potentially come into play," he adds.

Kevin Chen, an associate professor at MIT and the principal investigator at its Soft and Micro Robotics Lab adds that the team doesn't want to replace bees, but put the robots to work in scenarios where the insects can't. They could be used in warehouse farms with rows of crops stacked high and ultraviolet lighting.

Across the world, technologists are taking lessons from nature to create robots that might perform better at complex tasks or in difficult environments than traditional technology.

At Yale University, researchers developed a gecko-inspired robot that can amputate its own limbs — a capability that could be helpful in search and rescue missions in dangerous rubble, according to its creators.

And researchers at South Korea's Chung-Ang University recently unveiled a soft robot that can bend and crawl like a caterpillar.

"Millions of years of evolution has helped to give (insects and animals) the best solution, especially for any type of locomotion," says Hsiao, who writes the algorithms that tells the bee robots how to move.

The robot bee flies using soft artificial muscles that elongate and contract to flap the wing, developed by PhD candidate Suhan Kim. The robot's laser-cut wings, and its tiny internal mechanisms, similar in size to watch components, are also made in-house.

The team is also working on a grasshopper-like robot. The machine, smaller than a human thumb, can hop 20 centimeters (almost 8 inches) into the air and

take on terrains ranging from grass to ice to a leaf. Hsiao says that the jumping robot is more energy efficient than a flying robot.

The small size of the bee and grasshopper-like robots means they could be useful for search and rescue missions or exploring places like the inside of a pipeline or a turbine engine.

Hsiao says the next step in taking the technology into the real world is to add sensors that can feed information to the robots, and batteries to power them.

The machines currently rely on a wire to power them. "It's very difficult to put a small energy source onboard tiny robots," adds Chen.

The ability to deploy a fully autonomous robot in the field could be 20 to 30 years away, he estimates.

But studying insects' natural abilities will give his team a jumpstart. "They have evolved for millions of years" says Chen. "There's a lot to be learned from insect motion, behavior and structure."

Chen and his colleagues hope the insect-inspired robots could one day help with tasks like artificial pollination or search and rescue operations. Insects have "evolved for millions of years. There's a lot to be learned from insect motion, behavior and structure," Chen explains.

THE COLLECTION OF WRITER AND CURATOR DANIEL ABADIE: ‘HIS TOTAL COMMITMENT TO ARTISTS WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED’



Diary Times Desk : Daniel Abadie was just 18 and still at school when he published his first poetry magazine, *Strophes* (‘Stanzas’), from his parents’ home on the outskirts of Paris in 1963. The black-and-white publication, featuring texts by the poets Max Jacob and René Char, revealed a schoolboy passion for Surrealism in its heyday and a love affair with the 1920s Marxist magazine *Philosophies*, edited by Pierre Morhange, Henri Lefebvre, Georges Politzer and Norbert Guterman. In the febrile intellectual atmosphere of mid-1960s Paris, Abadie’s fanzine attracted interest from the avant-garde, and before long the precocious editor was making a name for himself on the city’s art scene.

Over the next 60 years, until his death in 2023, Abadie forged a unique path as a curator and writer. He devised groundbreaking exhibitions for the Grand Palais, the Centre Pompidou and the Jeu de Paume, and reintroduced the public to artists such as the Italian painter Alberto Magnelli and the American Surrealist Dorothea Tanning.

Abadie was a bold and assertive personality, as characterised by Catherine Millet (Catherine M.) in her autobiographical novel *Commencements*, which recounted their lives as twentysomethings in Paris. His enthusiasm for art was honed by his devotion to Surrealism, and he used its tenets to great effect, finding imaginative and subversive ways of sidestepping technical and bureaucratic hurdles.

‘He gave new visibility to key figures in French abstraction — often swimming against the current of prevailing trends,’ says his friend and colleague, France’s former Minister of Culture, Rima Abdul Malak. In 1970, Abadie co-commissioned the exhibition *Hélion: 100 works 1928–1970* at the Grand Palais. At just 25, Abadie was committed to reintroducing the work of Jean Hélion to the French public. The artist had left France for New York in 1934, where he had something of a Damascene conversion to figuration. This was a seismic shift for the painter, who — together with Jean Arp and Theo van Doesburg — had been a pioneer of abstraction in Paris, celebrated for his biomorphic forms.

COLLECTING GUIDE: TOP BURGUNDY WINE PRODUCERS

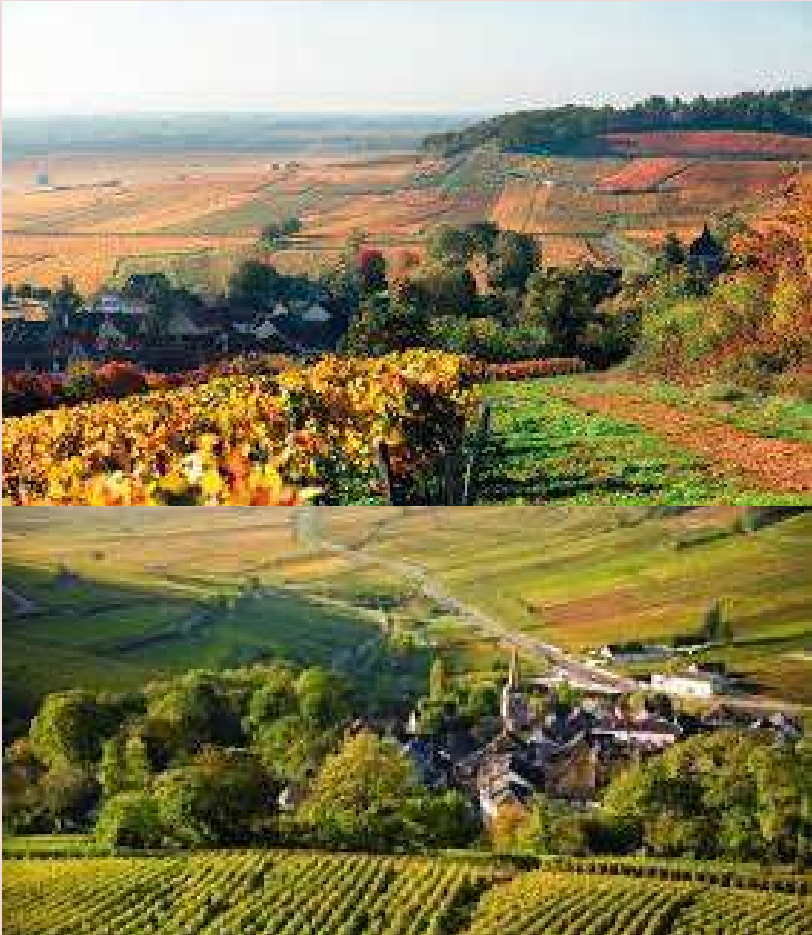
The jewel in the crown of the Côte d’Or, this peerless estate commands a roll call of the greatest Grand Cru vineyards: Romanée-Conti, La Tâche, Romanée-Saint-Vivant, Richebourg, Echézeaux and Grands-Echézeaux, among others.

Very few people are able to taste the magnificent wines that emanate from the old cuverie of the monks of Saint Vivant. Those who do are imbibing mythic beasts, pinot noir that displays aromatic fireworks, spherical structure and luscious texture.

The colourful nature of the wines is matched by the intriguing history of the estate: in 1760 it was the subject of a bidding war between Louis XV’s mistress, Madame de Pompadour, and the king’s cousin, the Prince de Conti. The mistress’s pockets were not as big as the prince’s, and he handed over 8,000 livres for the estate, appending the best vineyard with his title. This regal pedigree is felt, even today, in the sumptuous and evolved nature of the wines.

Lalou-Bize Leroy is a force of nature. She took over the reins of Maison Leroy in 1955 and maintained the high standards of her father Henri, who had been buying the best wines from up and down the Côte d’Or for production under his own label. The family were heavily tied to the other great name in Burgundy, the Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, as part owners, and the quality of winemaking at both estates was so high that today the wines are among the most collectable in the world.

In the late 1980s Lalou bought vineyards, rather than just barrels as her father had, and started crafting handsome wines from plots such as Richebourg and Romanée St Vivant. She maintains that 90 per cent of the work of the estate is in the vineyard and she is an innovator, allowing the vines to flourish without cutting and overseeing a savage selection process.



LIVERPOOL BEAT EVERTON TO MAINTAIN PERFECT PREMIER LEAGUE START

Diary Times Desk : Liverpool stretched their perfect Premier League start to maintain their stranglehold of the Merseyside derby with a 2-1 win over Everton and open up a six-point lead at the top of the table. Goals from Ryan Gravenberch and Hugo Ekitike were the defending champions' reward for a dominant first half and enough for a fifth consecutive Premier League win. But Liverpool ran out of steam after the break and were left hanging on after Idrissa Gana Gueye fired Everton back into the contest. Arne Slot's men had needed late goals to win all of their previous four Premier League games and Champions League opener against Atletico Madrid in midweek. This time the Reds did the bulk of their good work inside the first 30 minutes to leave Everton still without a win at Anfield in front of a crowd in the 21st century. Slot left both his £100 million (\$135 million) plus signings Florian Wirtz and Alexander Isak on the bench, but Liverpool were all the better balanced for the return of Alexis MacAllister alongside Dominik Szoboszlai and the impressive Gravenberch in midfield.



FLICK TALKS CUBARSI, LAMINE, GAVI, BALDE, RASHFORD, BALLON D'OR AHEAD OF BARCELONA VS GETAFE



Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona will look to extend their unbeaten streak in the new season when they take on Getafe at Estadi Johan Cruyff on Sunday night.

Coming off a tough contest against Newcastle United in the UEFA Champions League and the fatigue from the travel, changes are likely to be made for tomorrow's game.

Hansi Flick, appearing in front of the media on the eve of the game, addressed the same, while also issuing updates on the fitness situation of several players.

Kicking things off, he discussed the game tomorrow and his players' situation heading into it, saying:

"What matters most to me is my team. We know what to expect, and it's obviously very important to recover. Today we trained more gently, but well. It's important to have fresh legs."

Pau Cubarsi had picked up a knock to his knee against Newcastle and has not trained with the group on Friday or today, leading to question marks over his availability tomorrow.

But Flick assured that the young defender will be at his disposal, saying: "He'll be an option for tomorrow; we'll see if he'll be on the bench or in the starting lineup."

Barcelona did receive some good news on the fitness front today as Gavi's condition has improved and the possibility of him undergoing surgery is no longer being considered.

Providing an update, Flick said: "I hope to see him back soon. This isn't the time to make decisions, but let's wait two or three more days and see how things progress and what decision is made."

On the conditions of Lamine Yamal and Alejandro Balde, Flick remarked: "Of course, we're working on it. As I said before, we have to take it day by day with Lamine."

"With Balde, his case is better, and we hope to see him again soon. Lamine needs more time."

MANCHESTER UNITED CHIEF MAKES SIR JIM RATCLIFFE PLEA AMID RUBEN AMORIM SACK PRESSURE

Diary Times Desk : Manchester United's director of football Jason Wilcox has plead with minority owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe for more time to turn things around at Old Trafford. Pressure has begun to build on United boss Ruben Amorim, along with Wilcox and the club's CEO Omar Berrada following last weekend's defeat to Manchester City.

United endured a dismal 2024/25 campaign and have taken four points from their opening four Premier League games so far this season, though the defeat in the Manchester derby was another disappointing blow.

Ratcliffe flew into Carrington for talks with United staff on Thursday, with the club's current form on the agenda. The minority owner spoke with Amorim about the 'data around the team' with the Portuguese head coach reiterating he had full backing of the ownership. Now, Wilcox has issued his own plea for time to turn things around at a rare public appearance this week. Speaking at a gala dinner celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Association of Manchester United Players, he said: "I just pray that we get the opportunity to turn it around and I really feel that it's not will we win again, it's when we'll win again."

BARCELONA DEFENSIVE PRODIGY POISED TO START AGAINST GETAFE

Diary Times Desk : Following wins over Valencia and Newcastle United, Barcelona will look to continue their winning momentum as they take on Getafe at home this weekend.

However, given the recent run of congested fixtures, Hansi Flick might want to make a few rotations to his squad. And one of the beneficiaries could be Jofre Torrents.

A great opportunity for Torrents With Alejandro Balde sidelined due to an injury, Flick has been largely playing Gerard Martin in the left-back position.

Martin, though, has started Barcelona's last two matches and keeping that in mind, Flick might want to switch things around this weekend.

According to AS, Torrents could be poised to start instead of Martin in the left-back spot against Getafe.

Regarded as one of La Masia's best defensive talents right now, Torrents was a part of Barcelona's pre-season camp and trained with the squad many times in the recent past.

CRISTIANO RONALDO HITS OUT AT 'IDIOTS' WHO CRITICISED PORTUGAL TEAM-MATE'S SWITCH TO SAUDI ARABIA AS AL-NASSR MAKE FLAWLESS START TO NEW CAMPAIGN

Diary Times Desk : Felix's decision to leave Europe at a relatively young age raised eyebrows, especially after turbulent spells with Chelsea, AC Milan, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid on the back of his rise to fame at Porto. The forward has since hit the ground running in Saudi Arabia, contributing goals three goals and an assist in his first few games. But comments made on the popular podcast Chuveirinho triggered Ronaldo to publicly fire back at detractors. "Idiots don't understand anything about football, yet they still give their opinions," Ronaldo wrote on Instagram in response to criticism of Felix. The post, which included crying emojis, has since been deleted. Ronaldo is also said to have played a key role in convincing Felix to join Al-Nassr, with Felix himself admitting: "He was one of the first to talk to me about coming here, and when he talked to me, I felt a wonderful moment and a beautiful feeling, and that helped convince me." Ronaldo has been instrumental in raising the profile of Saudi football since his own high-profile switch in 2022. His backing of Felix highlights how top stars are now actively recruiting each other to the league. For Al-Nassr, the Portuguese duo's partnership has provided a strong platform as they continue their flawless start to the season.

