

NEWS IN BRIEF

**CABINET
APPROVES RS
3,822-CRORE
FOUR-LANE
HIGHWAY TO CUT
PATNA-BETTIAH
TRAVEL TIME TO
2.5 HOURS**

Diary Times Desk :

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the construction of a 78.94 km, four-lane highway under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), connecting Sahebganj-Areraj-Bettiah section of NH-139W in Bihar. The project, valued at Rs 3,822.31 crore will cut the travel time between Patna and Bettiah to just 2.5 hours, down from the current six-hour journey. This greenfield project will link Patna, the state capital, to Bettiah and key districts such as Vaishali, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran, and West Champaran. The new highway will link seven PM Gati Shakti Economic Nodes, six Social Nodes, and eight Logistic Nodes, significantly improving trade and commerce.

**RAJYA SABHA
POLLS FOR FOUR
JAMMU& KASHMIR
SEATS ON OCTOBER
24**

Diary Times Desk : Biennial elections to fill four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir, lying vacant since 2021, will be held on October 24, the Election Commission said on Wednesday.

While announcing the schedule, the EC said that the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (with legislature) and Ladakh (without legislature). As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, four sitting members of the Rajya Sabha representing the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir will be deemed to have been elected to fill the seats allocated to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. All four seats were lying vacant since the expiration of the term of the sitting members due to the non-availability of the required electorate to conduct the elections at the time of occurrence of the vacancies. After the constitution of the State Legislative Assembly of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, there is a required electorate to conduct the Biennial Elections, it noted.

DELHI HIGH COURT

"12 YEARS SINCE HE WAS BURIED. WHY NOW?" HIGH COURT ON AFZAL GURU, MAQBOOL BHAT GRAVE PLEA

During the hearing the court was critical about the timing of the PIL.

"It has been 12 years (since Afzal Guru was buried). Why are you raising this now?" a division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked.

The court also told the petitioner it would have to be convinced the Sangh's rights had been impacted in some concrete manner, and that the requested relief could not be granted - under a PIL - based on personal feelings. "We requested you at the start of this case... you have to make out a case of infringement of your rights. Something that my brother judge or I may want cannot become a PIL. We are a democratic society. Use other forums to agitate those issues."

"We do not, prima facie, agree with you that it is a nuisance (under the law) which is to be removed by the authorities. Where is the prohibition? If prohibition is not there, can the court read into it a prohibition? Are we policy-makers? This lies in their realm."

In response to the petitioner's argument - "the graves are being treated as a site of pilgrimage by a particular community... this cannot be allowed in a secular community" - the court demanded material evidence to show the graves had, in fact, become a 'pilgrimage' site. This, however, the petitioner was unable to provide. "I have shown newspaper reports..." the counsel for the petitioner said, to which the court shot back, "You are a seasoned advocate. Are you asking us to rely on news reports or social media posts? Where is the empirical data?"

Diary Times Desk : The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a public interest litigation seeking removal of graves of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat, both executed for terror-related offences, from Delhi's Tihar Jail.

A PIL filed by Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh claimed the burial sites had become a 'pilgrimage' site, but the court shot down the plea, demanding data to back the claim.

The court agreed that Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat's graves could not become 'pilgrimage' sites, but refused to issue any order without hearing the federal government's response.

The court, therefore, dismissed the PIL as withdrawn but granted the petitioner permission to re-file with empirical data rather than presenting newspaper reports and social media posts.

SUPREME COURT ASKS BCI TO ENSURE STATE BAR COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD BY JANUARY 31, 2026

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday urged the Bar Council of India (BCI) to take steps to ensure that State Bar Council elections are conducted by January 31, 2026, whether they take place simultaneously across States or in a phased manner [M Varadhan v. Union Of India and anr and connected matters].

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and NK Singh also told the BCI to inform the Court if any State Bar Council shows reluctance to conduct its election by this date.

This was after the BCI's counsel requested the Court to push the deadline for conducting the Bar Council elections to March 2026 instead of January 2026.

The Court added that it may modify the timeline depending on the BCI's status report to be submitted to the Court by October 31.

"Having regard to the fact that elections of State Bar Councils haven't been held for (years), we have impressed upon Senior Advocate Guru Krishnakumar, appearing for BCI, to ensure that elections of State Bar Councils are held, if not simultaneously, in a phased manner by 31st January, 2026. Senior Advocate Guru Krishnakumar requests Bench to extend the date to 31st of March. In the event of reluctance shown by any State Bar Council, the BCI is directed to submit a status report by 31st October 2025. In that event, we will consider as to what recourse ought to be resorted to in respect of that State Bar Council," the order said.

**'INDIANS IN GERMANY EARN MORE': ENVOY'S MIGRATION CALL AMID H-1B VISA ROW**

Diary Times Desk : As chaos shrouds the United States' H-1B visa programme following Team Trump's \$100,000 fee hike, Germany is seizing the moment to attract Indian professionals. German Ambassador to India, Philipp Ackermann, has issued an open call to "highly skilled Indians" to take on the job opportunities in the European nation's IT, management, science and tech sectors.

"Here is my call to all highly skilled Indians. Germany stands out with its stable migration policies, and with great job opportunities for Indians in IT, management, science and tech," Ackermann wrote on X on Tuesday.

In a video shared alongside the post, the envoy pointed out that Indians are among the top-earning group in Germany. "The average Indian working in Germany earns more than the average German working in Germany. Because a high salary means Indians are contributing big time to our society and our welfare. We believe in hard work and giving the best jobs to the best people," he said. In a veiled dig at ever-changing US immigration policies under President Donald Trump's administration, the German envoy compared his country's migration rules with German cars-- that are known to be some of the most reliable vehicles in the world.

"Our migration policy works a bit like a German car. It's reliable, it is modern, it is predictable. It will go in a straight line with no zigzags. And you don't have to fear a full break at the top speed," Ackermann said, adding that Germany does not change its rules fundamentally overnight.

SP LEADER AZAM KHAN WALKS FREE AFTER TWO YEARS, SAYS CASES POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

Diary Times Desk : Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan was released on bail from a jail in Sitapur on Tuesday following two years of incarceration.

Khan had 95 cases of land grabbing, theft, intimidation, forgery and cheating against him, but nothing has been proved yet.

Allahabad High Court had on September 18 accepted Khan's bail plea in some cases. In a few other cases, the witnesses didn't turn up. The MP-MLA Special Court had earlier granted him bail in 53 cases.

"I have not done any harm to anybody ever and I can't say why it is happening to me," Khan told reporters in Rampur.

Earlier, Khan had said the cases against him were politically motivated.

Asked about his future political plans, the SP leader said: "I have spent substantial time in jail (in two phases) and all I wish is to go for some medical treatment."

Speculation is rife that his wife and former Rampur MLA, Tazeen Fatma, had met BSP chief Mayawati in Delhi a fortnight ago, and the SP leader might be contemplating quitting his party.

Fatma had said a few months ago that the SP didn't stand by her family in crisis and she had to "look towards Allah only for help". Saxena, the BJP MLA of Rampur Sadar, was one of the complainants against Khan.

DELHI MUSEUM

**ASHOKA UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR ACCUSED OF
STEALING MOHENJODARO
DANCING GIRL REPLICA
FROM DELHI MUSEUM**

Diary Times Desk : A professor of a private university was briefly arrested for allegedly stealing a replica of the iconic Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl statue from the National Museum in Delhi.

The accused professor, 46, is employed with Ashoka University in Haryana's Sonapat.

Officials said the incident occurred on Saturday afternoon.

At around 2:40pm, a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) head constable noticed that a replica from one of the museum galleries was missing. He immediately alerted the museum staff, and a quick check was carried out.

During the inquiry, the professor was identified, and the artefact was found in his possession.

The CISF then informed the Delhi Police, following which the professor was arrested.

The teacher was charged under sections 305(e) (theft in a dwelling, means of transport or place of worship) and 317(2) (handling stolen property) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

However, the accused managed to get bail the very same day.

According to police sources, the professor claimed there had been no intent to steal. He told investigators that he had purchased three replicas at the museum but had accidentally placed a fourth item, the Dancing Girl replica, in his bag. CCTV footage, officers added, appears to support his version of events.

"The incident that happened at the National Museum on Saturday was brought to our attention. The University will conduct an inquiry to examine the matter," Ashoka University said in a brief statement.

GJPEC SEEKS RELIEF FROM US TARIFFS FOR GEM & JEWELLERY

Diary Times Desk : The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJPEC) on Wednesday met with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and sought urgent relief measures for the sector, which has been severely impacted by the recent 50 per cent tariff imposed by the US, a statement said.

GJPEC stated that the resumption of India-US trade discussions is encouraging, but the immediate introduction of relief measures to help the sector survive and sustain employment is essential as the talks may take time to conclude.

"We are pleased that India-US trade discussions have resumed, which is encouraging news. However, the process may take time, and until a resolution is achieved, it is essential to introduce relief measures to help the sector survive and sustain employment,[] the industry body stated.

"We have requested allowing SEZ units to undertake reverse job work and DTA sales to keep factories and artisans engaged, extending export obligation periods for the US shipments, and providing an interest moratorium on packing credit and working capital loans to ease financial stress," GJPEC Chairman Kirit Bhansali said in a statement.

UP TRADERS, CONSUMERS TO GAIN THE MOST FROM GST REFORMS: CM YOGI ADITYANATH



Diary Times Desk : Claiming that the 'Next Gen GST Reform', implemented on the first day of Sharadiya Navratri, had infused fresh momentum into the market, UP CM Yogi Adityanath said that the reduction in GST rates was providing significant benefits to consumers, traders, and entrepreneurs. "While offering direct relief to the public, the reform is also set to strengthen the market and generate new avenues of employment," he said while emphasising that as India's state with one of the largest consumer markets, Uttar Pradesh's traders and consumers stood to gain the most from those reforms. While interacting with media persons at Universal Book Depot in posh Hazratganj market, the CM said: "GST has been reduced to zero on notebooks, pencils, and other educational materials, while most essential household items now fall under the 0% or 5% tax slab. Additionally, 33 life-saving medicines have been fully exempted from GST."

The measures, he said, would provide substantial relief to consumers during the festive season.

Underscoring the economic impact, CM Yogi pointed out that GST collections nationwide had risen from Rs 7 lakh crore to Rs 22 lakh crore since its implementation, while in Uttar Pradesh, collections had more than doubled from Rs 49,000 crore to over Rs 1.15 lakh crore.

PLA INSURGENT ARRESTED FOR AMBUSH ON ASSAM RIFLES IN MANIPUR, RAIDS GOING ON

Diary Times Desk : Security forces have arrested the prime accused in the September 19 ambush on Assam Rifles personnel in Nambol that left two soldiers dead and five others injured. The operation also led to the seizure of a substantial arsenal of weapons.

The breakthrough came in the early hours of Tuesday, following a meticulously planned joint operation conducted by District Police Imphal West, Bishnupur Police, and the 33 Assam Rifles. The forces zeroed in on and arrested Khundongbam Ojit Singh (47), alias Keilal, a resident of Awang Leikinhabhi Awang Leikai in Imphal West.



Singh is no stranger to the security apparatus. Identified as a former cadre of the banned People's Liberation Army (PLA), he has a history of militant involvement, having been arrested previously in 2007. During intensive interrogation following his latest arrest, Singh confessed to his direct role in the September 19 ambush at Sabal Leikai.

"MUST REGULATE CONTENT": HIGH COURT REJECTS X'S CHALLENGE TO CENTRE'S AUTHORITY



Diary Times Desk : The Karnataka High Court today rejected a petition by Elon Musk's X Corp, which challenged the authority of government officials to issue information blocking orders.

"Social media needs to be regulated, and its regulation is a must, more so in cases of offences against women, in particular, failing which the right to dignity, as ordained in the Constitution of a citizen gets railroaded," the court maintained.

X Corp, formerly known as Twitter, had approached the Karnataka High Court seeking a declaration that Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, did not empower government officers to issue blocking orders. Instead, the company argued that only Section 69A of the Act, read with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, provided the due legal framework for such action.

INDIA, CHINA SHOULD NOT ALLOW BOUNDARY DISPUTE TO DEFINE TIES: CHINESE ENVOY



Diary Times Desk : Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong noted that despite ups and downs, China-India relations have been "overwhelmingly defined by friendly cooperation" and stressed the need to strengthen dialogue, trade, and exchanges.

"This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. Over the past 75 years, despite the ups and downs, the relationship is overwhelmingly defined by friendly cooperation. Recently, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a successful meeting .

ON CCTV, CUSTOMERS, BOUNCERS FIGHT OVER BILL IN HYDERABAD PUB

Diary Times Desk : Several people were injured after a fight broke out over the bill at a pub in Hyderabad, the police said.

The incident which happened at 'Mad Club and Kitchen' was seen on CCTV camera.

Three bouncers and four customers suffered serious injuries. All are being treated at a local hospital.

The police said the argument over the bill between customers and bouncers escalated after both sides started hurling abusive words at each other. Within minutes, they started throwing punches.

A complaint has been filed with Madhapur police station in Cyberabad. The complainant said the pub manager asked the patrons to pay their bills, but they refused.

The police have started an investigation based on CCTV evidence and eyewitness accounts.

Madhapur circle inspector confirmed that legal action is underway, and an effort is being made to identify and arrest all those involved in the pub brawl.

MODI GOVERNMENT APPROVES OVER 10,000 NEW MEDICAL SEATS IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGES

Diary Times Desk : In a significant move to strengthen medical education and healthcare infrastructure, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, approved 5,000 new postgraduate (PG) seats and 5,023 undergraduate (MBBS) seats in government medical colleges. The approval came as part of Phase-3 of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), which focuses on strengthening and upgrading existing state and central government medical colleges, standalone postgraduate institutes, and government hospitals.

Under the scheme, the cost ceiling per seat has been raised to Rs 1.50 crore to ensure improved infrastructure and facilities. The total estimated expenditure is Rs 15,034.50 crore, with the central government contributing Rs 10,303.20 crore and state governments providing Rs 4,731.30 crore. The initiative is expected to significantly expand the availability of doctors in the country by creating a steady flow of both general physicians and specialist doctors.

By introducing new specialties in government institutions, the move is designed to improve access to quality healthcare, particularly in underserved rural and remote areas. It also leverages existing infrastructure for cost-effective expansion, while ensuring that healthcare resources are distributed more equitably across states and union territories.

1940 TO 2025: ALL THAT HAS CHANGED BETWEEN 2 CONGRESS MEETINGS IN BIHAR



Diary Times Desk : Congress Working Committee meets in Ramgarh in undivided Bihar. Presided over by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, this session committed the Congress to the creation of a Constituent Assembly to frame and adopt a Constitution for a free India. Patna, 2025: The Congress is holding its Working Committee meeting in Bihar again. Much has changed in the 85 years between Ramgarh and Patna. The Congress, then at the forefront of the freedom movement, now leads the opposition at the Centre and is gearing up for the Assembly election in Bihar.

The Congress's who's who, from party chief Mallikarjun Kharge to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to all Congress chief ministers, are meeting at Patna's Sadaqat Ashram today. Mr Kharge unfurled the party flag at the Bihar Congress headquarters this morning, after which the meeting began. The party leadership may pass key resolutions with the Bihar polls in mind, sources have said.

IN BIG PAHALGAM ATTACK BREAKTHROUGH, MAN WHO HELPED TERRORISTS ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk : Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested a man who provided logistical support to the April 22 Pahalgam attack terrorists, sources told NDTV Wednesday evening.

Mohammad Katari was arrested after a forensic analysis of weapons and equipment recovered during July's Operation Mahadev, which saw security forces track down and neutralise two gunmen who slaughtered 26 people at Baisaran Valley, a popular tourist spot near Pahalgam.

Katari will be produced in court and sent to judicial custody, sources said.

This is the first big moment for security forces since Op Mahadev, and underlines the government's continued focus on tracking down all those responsible for the Pahalgam attack.

A faction of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba claimed responsibility.

"MOB TRIED TO BURN CRPF PERSONNEL": LADAKH LT GOVERNOR DECLARES CURFEW IN LEH



Diary Times Desk : Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday said curfew has been imposed across the Leh district of the Union Territory after violent clashes in the cold desert that has left four people dead and scores injured. Protest erupted over statehood demand for Ladakh amid growing resentment against direct central rule in the union territory. The Lieutenant Governor has termed clashes as a conspiracy and vowed to act against all those involved in today's violence. Security forces opened fire after violent crowds attacked police vehicles and the BJP headquarters in Ladakh. After pulling down party flags, the mob set the BJP office on fire. Several vehicles were also burnt. Mr Gupta blamed protesters for deaths and arson.

PILOTS' BODY CITES BIAS IN AIR INDIA CRASH REPORT, DEMANDS JUDICIAL PROBE

Diary Times Desk : The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has formally urged the Civil Aviation Ministry to constitute a 'Court of Inquiry', headed by a retired Supreme Court judge into the June 12 crash of Air India Flight AI 171, alleging that the ongoing probe by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has been compromised.

In a letter dated September 22, 2025, pilots' body said the Aviation probe body's conduct had "fundamentally and irrevocably compromised the integrity, impartiality and legality" of the investigation into the crash of the Boeing 787-8 aircraft (VT-ANB) operating from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick.

The accident killed two senior pilots, 10 cabin crew members, 229 passengers and 19 people on the ground, making it one of the worst aviation disasters in India's history.

"COME TO MY ROOM, I'LL TAKE YOU ABROAD ON TRIP": DELHI BABA'S SLEAZY CHATS

Diary Times Desk : 'Come to my room... I'll take you on a trip abroad, you won't have to pay anything' - sleazy messages sent by 'Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati' to young women entrusted to his care as the 'director' of a privately-run management institute in Delhi's posh Vasant Kunj area. WhatsApp messages found on the mobile phones of 50 women from the Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management have uncovered details of the abuse dozens of women suffered over the past 16 years, including receiving lewd text messages and forced physical contact. In one message 'Swami Chaitanyananda' lures a woman by promising her wealth. In another he threatens someone else with poor marks; "... if you don't obey me, I will fail you..." he said. Based on the investigation so far, and the recovered texts, police believe 'Swami Chaitanyananda', born Parthasarathy in Odisha, has been preying on women for at least 16 years, emboldened by escaping two previously filed molestation cases, in 2009 and 2016.

VETERAN KANNADA NOVELIST AND PADMA BHUSHAN AWARDEE SL BHYRAPPA PASSES AWAY AT 94

Diary Times Desk : Veteran Kannada writer SL Bhyrappa, a Padma Bhushan awardee, passed away in Bengaluru on Wednesday, September 24. He was 94.

Bhyrappa, who had been suffering from age-related ailments and a brain condition, died of a heart attack at 2.38 pm at Rashtrapati Hospital in Rajarajeshwari Nagar. For the past three months, he had been living in Bengaluru after leaving Mysuru due to health issues.

Born in Santeshivara village of Hassan district, Bhyrappa rose to become one of the most celebrated Kannada novelists and philosophers of his time. Over a literary career spanning more than six decades, he published 21 novels and several works on aesthetics and philosophy. His celebrated works include Parva, Varanasi, Grihabhanga, Vamshavruksha, Daatu, Tantu, and Mandra.

Many of his novels were adapted into award-winning films.

CABINET APPROVES RS 69,725-CRORE PLAN FOR SHIPBUILDING, MARITIME DEVELOPMENT

Diary Times Desk : The Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, on September 24 okayed Rs 69,725-crore plan to revitalise India's shipbuilding and maritime sector, said I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

"The package introduces a four-pillar approach designed to strengthen domestic capacity, improve long-term financing, promote greenfield and brownfield shipyard development, enhance technical capabilities and skilling, and implement legal, taxation, and policy reforms to create a robust maritime infrastructure," said government in a statement.

Under this package, the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) will be extended until 31 March 2036 with a total corpus of Rs 24,736 crore. The scheme aims to incentivise ship building in India and includes a Shipbreaking Credit Note with an allocation of Rs 4,001 crore. A National Shipbuilding Mission will also be established to oversee the implementation of all initiatives.

In addition, the Maritime Development Fund (MDF) has been approved with a corpus of Rs 25,000 crore to provide long-term financing for the sector. This includes a Maritime Investment Fund of Rs 20,000 crore with 49% participation from the Government of India and an Interest Incentivization Fund of Rs 5,000 crore to reduce the effective cost of debt and improve project bankability. Furthermore, the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), with a budgetary outlay of Rs.19,989 crore, aims to expand domestic shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million Gross Tonnage annually, support mega shipbuilding clusters.

AI IS TRANSFORMING HOW GOVERNMENTS AND COMPANIES ADDRESS GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Diary Times Desk : On Tuesday, steps away from the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York City, TIME hosted a panel to discuss how AI is transforming systems to address global challenges.

When asked by TIME Executive Editor Nikhil Kumar about the government's role, Justina Gallegos, a former deputy director in the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, argued that its responsibility lies in setting the guardrails of innovation, ensuring the safety of broad communities, and fueling clean energy solutions. "Ninety-six percent of everything that came online last year was clean energy and that's spurred by fundamental investments from the government," Gallegos explained. Chris Walker, Director of Sustainability at Amazon Web Services (AWS), emphasized that the private sector already played a role. He noted that AWS and Amazon have been "the largest corporate purchaser of renewable energy for the last five years running," citing 600 projects worldwide that are producing enough energy to power 8 million U.S. homes. In California, he said, they are even using AI-powered robots to help to install solar panels.

Julie Linn Teigland, EY's Global Vice Chair for Alliances & Ecosystems, acknowledged that getting companies ready to implement AI tools requires a "flexible" and "agile" management and leadership style, and a lot of "unsexy" work such as regulation and oversight measures.

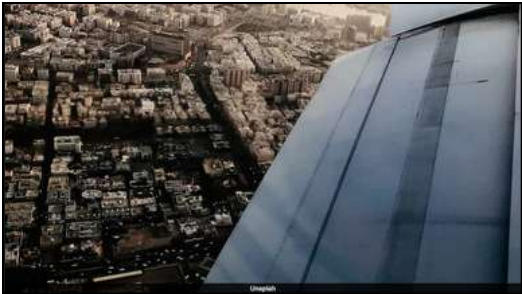
"When people think they can send an email and drive change, I'm sorry, but that's not it," she quipped. Teigland also emphasized that companies will have to embrace deeper collaboration in the future, arguing, "you're never going to solve anything by yourself." Nathalie Flores, Vice President of Carbon Markets and Strategic Accounts at StoneX Group, kicked off an audience Q&A session by asking about how companies should give back.

Walker pointed to AWS' investment in local education, citing the establishment of STEM labs for students in Loudoun County, Virginia, where one of the company's data centers is located. Another question came from Onika Williams at Meta, who asked the panelists to elaborate on how to embrace the unknown of AI.

ONE YEAR OF LANKA NPP PRESIDENCY TAMILS URGE TALKS

Diary Times Desk : On the first anniversary of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake assuming office, the main Tamil party in Sri Lanka has written to him urging for talks to address the "Tamil national question." Dissanayake took oath on September 23 last year following a landslide win. His party, the National People's Power (NPP), had promised devolution of power to local governments in its manifesto. "It is now one year since you took office as the president of the country. In your election manifesto and in several announcements you have promised to resolve this most pressing issue. However no action seems to have been taken in respect of this matter in last one year," the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK), the principal Tamil party in the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), said in its letter dated September 22 to Dissanayake. The ITAK letter added that an eight-member committee has been appointed by the party to start a dialogue with Dissanayake on the issue. The NPP manifesto for the September 2024 presidential election had stated, among other things, "(to) introduce a new constitution.....the proposed constitutional reforms will guarantee equality and democracy and the devolution of political and administrative power to every local government." Commenting on the progress made by the NPP government on the pledge to formulate a new constitution, the government spokesman and minister Nalinda Jayathissa admitted to reporters on Tuesday that no action had been taken for constitutional reform. Despite a pledge to hold the postponed provincial council election within a year, the government recently announced that there will be a further delay.

DID UAE SUSPEND TOURIST, WORK VISAS FOR BANGLADESH? ENVOY RESPONDS



Diary Times Desk : The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has not imposed any visa restrictions on Bangladeshi nationals, a senior Bangladesh official confirmed, dismissing social media reports as false, according to Khaleej Times. Tareq Ahmed, Bangladesh's Ambassador to the UAE, stated that no official directive has been issued by UAE authorities regarding any tourist or work visa ban.

Several online platforms had reported that the UAE had suspended visa issuance for citizens of certain countries, including Bangladesh. However, these claims lacked confirmation from any UAE government source, as per the news portal. Speaking to the Bangladeshi daily newspaper Business Standard, Tareq Ahmed said that "so far, neither our embassy nor the consulate has received any information from the UAE government regarding such a ban."

SYRIA, ISRAEL EDGE CLOSER TO 'DE-ESCALATION' PACT: US ENVOY

Diary Times Desk : Israel is close to striking a "de-escalation" agreement with Syria, after the latter's president signalled that his country was "scared" of the former's relentless attacks since the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad's rule last year. United States Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack said on Tuesday that the agreement would see Israel stopping its attacks on its neighbour, while Syria will agree not to move any machinery or heavy equipment near the Israeli border.

Barrack said that both sides were negotiating "in good faith" on the agreement, which had been slated for completion this week, but had been slowed down by the Rosh Hashanah holiday – the Jewish New Year – this week. The agreement would serve as a first step towards an eventual security deal, he said. "We are scared of Israel, not the other way around," he told an event of the Middle East Institute in New York.

WHY IRAN REFUSES TO STEP BACK FROM URANIUM ENRICHMENT

Diary Times Desk : Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, rejected any compromise over his country's nuclear programme this week, vowing not to yield to pressure to give up uranium enrichment. The issue has long been at the centre of disputes with Western powers, especially the United States, which accuse Tehran of seeking a nuclear weapon -- a claim Khamenei again denied. He says nuclear energy is used for electricity as well as health, agriculture and advanced technologies. Khamenei said enriched materials support sectors including Iran's strained power grid during rare summer heatwaves. Civilian nuclear plants use uranium enriched to between three and five percent, while Tehran's research reactor requires up to 20 percent, according to Iranian media. Enrichment rose to 60 percent after Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on Iran during his first term as US president in 2018.

WHY RAPTURE DEY TREND FOR SOCIAL MEDIA?

Diary Times Desk : One South African man wey simply describe imself as a believer and servant of God don cause tok-tok for social media afta e predict say Rapture, one Christian belief about di end time go take place weda on 23rd and 24th of September 2025. Joshua Mhlakela for one TV interview tok say im see Jesus in a vision. For dis vision, Jesus return to Earth on Rosh Hashanah, di New Year in Judaism. Di pastor also announce say Rapture go take place on either September 23 or 24."Di rapture dey upon us, weda you dey ready or not. God carry me to see di future and e bring me back. For heaven, I see Jesus for one throne room and I hear am very loud and clear I dey come very soon. "E tell me say on di 23rd and 24th 2025, I go come to take my church," Mhlakela tok. Oga Mhlakela comments bin start di trend RaptureTok on TikTok, wey share how pipo dey react to im prediction of di 'return of Jesus Christ' on di 23rd and 24th of September 2025. Di video wey dem share on YouTube for June don get more dan 560,000 views as at 22 September. Rapture na belief of di followers of Jesus Christ say e go return to Earth for di Second Coming. Wen e hapun, all Christ followers – living and dead – go rise into di sky to meet am. Though news reports don widely describe am as pastor, for di YouTube video from June, e say "I just be simple pesin, no title. I no be apostle, I no be pastor, I no be Bishop. I just be believer."

BOMB ATTACK ON JAFFAR EXPRESS LEAVES DOZEN INJURED IN
BALOCHISTAN, SECOND BLAST IN 10 HOURS



Diary Times Desk : At least a dozen-odd people, including women and children, were injured in a bombing attack on Jafar Express in the Balochistan province of Pakistan.

The Quetta-bound Jaffar Express was targeted in the Spizend area of Mastung on Tuesday, latest in a series of attacks that have targetted this train since March this year. According to railway officials, six bogies of the train coming from Peshawar derailed after the blast and one overturned.

Kimmel predicted that ABC and its parent company Disney would come under further scrutiny from the Trump administration for reinstating his show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!," days after Trump wrongly said Kimmel had been "fired."

Noting that Trump has openly rooted for Kimmel's cancellation — and thereby the loss of work for his staffers — the comedian said, "Our leader celebrates Americans losing their livelihoods because he can't take a joke."

Then Kimmel noted that Trump has also called for NBC to fire "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon. "I hope that if that happens, or if there's even any hint of that happening, you will be ten times as loud as you were this week," Kimmel said. "We have to speak out against this," he added over the approving cheers of his studio audience.

Attendees told CNN that Kimmel received a several-minute-long standing ovation when he walked on stage for Tuesday evening's taping.

Clearly fighting through tears, Kimmel thanked those who'd supported him during his suspension, including a lengthy roster of fellow comedians. "Maybe most of all," he said, "I want to thank the people who don't support my show and what I believe, but support my right to share those beliefs anyway."

He named conservative media and political figures like Ben Shapiro, Clay Travis, Candace Owens, Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, and "even my old pal Ted Cruz," alluding to Kimmel's ruthless mockery of Sen. Cruz in the past.

According to railway officials, six bogies of the train coming from Peshawar derailed after the blast and one overturned, injuring several of the passengers in that carriage in the evening, reported Dawn.

BRAZIL TO INVEST \$1 BILLION IN
GLOBAL FOREST FUND, SOURCES SAY

Diary Times Desk : Brazil will announce a \$1 billion investment in the Tropical Forests Forever Facility, a multilateral funding mechanism it has proposed to support conservation of endangered forests, two people with knowledge of the plans told Reuters.

The investment will be announced by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva later on Tuesday at a United Nations event in New York, the sources added, making Brazil the first country to commit a contribution to the forest fund.

Sources said the move aims to unlock more contributions from both wealthy and developing economies, which have been at odds about funding global climate policy.

SAUDI ARABIA'S GRAND MUFTI WHO
OVERSAW ERA OF LIBERAL REFORMS
DIES AT 80

Diary Times Desk : Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah al-Sheikh, Saudi Arabia's grand mufti who served the kingdom's top religious figure over a quarter century that saw the ultraconservative Muslim nation socially liberalize, died Tuesday. He was in his 80s.

Sheikh Abdulaziz's role as grand mufti put him as one of the top Islamic clerics in the world of Sunni Muslims.

Saudi Arabia, home to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, hosts the annual Hajj pilgrimage required of all able-bodied Muslims once in their lives, making the pronouncements of the grand mufti that much more closely followed.

PAKISTAN'S JIHAD
FACTORIES MAY SOON BE
GETTING A 'SAUDI' LIFELINE

Diary Times Desk :

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) at the Royal Court in Al-Yamamah Palace, Riyadh, on September 17. Under this pact, any aggression against either country will be treated as aggression against both, thereby spectacularly formalising and consolidating a military partnership that has spanned decades.

The details remain opaque; however, the agreement essentially consolidates what has long been an informal practice between the two nations. Pakistan has historically maintained close ties with Saudi Arabia, mainly rooted in the Islamist orientation enshrined in Article 40 of the Pakistani Constitution and sustained by decades of financial support by the Kingdom.

FREMONT SUSPECT KILLS
REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER
IN TARGETED STABBING,
INVESTIGATORS SAY

Diary Times Desk : Fremont police are investigating how a registered sex offender was targeted and stabbed to death.

Police say last Thursday, a 29-year-old suspect showed up outside the 71-year-old man's home on Solstice Court. ABC7 News is not identifying the suspect until he is arraigned.

Court documents say the stabbing victim was David Brimmer.

The Megan's Law website shows a man named David Brimmer living on the cul-de-sac where the stabbing happened. Brimmer was convicted of several sex crimes against children in 1995. ABC7 News covered his case at the time - Brimmer was a pastor at a popular San Jose church.

We spoke with attorney Roland Soltesz, Senior Partner at the Law Offices of William V. Pernik about the Megan's Law website, which makes information of registered sex offenders available to the public.

"They're like sitting ducks in so many ways in fact, I'm shocked that we don't hear more of these types of offenses out there," Soltesz said.

Investigators say the suspect in the case used the site to find his victim.

"He told the police he was looking for sex offenders and people who were elderly, which means he was cognizant of the fact that someone couldn't fight back and they're particularly vulnerable," Soltesz said.

According to our media partners at The Bay Area News Group, the suspect posed as an accountant and went door-to-door before arriving at Brimmer's home.

"ONLY POSSIBLE IF...": WHAT MACRON SAID ON TRUMP'S NOBEL PRIZE
AMBITIONS



Discussing Trump's speech, Macron said: "I see an American president who is involved, who reiterated this morning from the podium: 'I want peace. I have resolved seven conflicts', who wants the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Peace Prize is only possible if you stop this conflict," Macron said. Several countries, including Israel, Pakistan and Cambodia, have nominated Trump for the annual prize for brokering peace agreements or ceasefires.

Diary Times Desk : If U.S. President Donald Trump really wants to win the Nobel Peace Prize, he needs to stop the war in Gaza, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday.

Speaking to France's BFM TV from New York, Macron said that only Trump has the power to put pressure on Israel to end the war.

"There is one person who can do something about it, and that is the U.S. president. And the reason he can do more than us, is because we do not supply weapons that allow the war in Gaza to be waged. We do not supply equipment that allows war to be waged in Gaza. The United States of America does," Macron said.

Trump on Tuesday gave a combative, wide-ranging speech to the United Nations General Assembly that rejected moves by Western allies to endorse a Palestinian state, saying that would be a reward for Hamas militants.

"We have to stop the war in Gaza immediately. We have to immediately negotiate peace," Trump said.

JAISHANKAR URGES GLOBAL SOUTH TO CUT SUPPLY CHAIN DEPENDENCE, PUSH FOR MULTILATERAL REFORM

Diary Times Desk : Pitching for economic self-reliance and systemic reform, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar urged Global South nations to reduce their dependency on single-source supply chains and advocate for fairer global governance, during a high-level meeting on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly. In an implicit reference to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, Jaishankar also called for the urgent resolution of conflicts that are impacting food, fertiliser, and energy security.

Addressing a gathering of Like-Minded Global South Countries, Jaishankar warned that the world is facing “mounting concern”, with developing nations bearing the brunt of cascading crises — from the aftershocks of the pandemic and conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, to climate extremes and the slowing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“In the face of such a proliferation of concerns and multiplicity of risks, it is natural that the Global South would turn to multilateralism,” he said.



TRUMP PROMISES ARAB, MUSLIM LEADERS HE WON'T LET ISRAEL ANNEX THE WEST BANK

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump promised Arab and Muslim leaders during a meeting Tuesday that he would not allow Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to annex the West Bank, according to six people familiar with the discussion.

Two of those people said that Trump was firm on the topic and that the president promised that Israel would not be allowed to absorb the West Bank, which is governed by the Palestinian Authority, not Hamas. Another one of the people familiar with the talks noted that, despite Trump's assurance, a ceasefire to end Israel's nearly two-year war against Hamas was nowhere close to fruition. Two others familiar with the matter said Trump and his team presented a white paper outlining the administration's plan to end the war, including the annexation promise and other details such as governance and postwar security.

INDIA, CHINA 'PRIMARY FUNDERS' OF UKRAINE WAR, EUROPEAN COUNTRIES 'GOING TO HELL': THE DONALD TRUMP SHOW COMES TO UN

Diary Times Desk : China and India are the “primary funders” of the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine by continuing to purchase Russian oil, US President Donald Trump said in his UN General Assembly address on Tuesday.

Trump also demanded that European allies immediately stop buying oil from Russia.

“They have to immediately cease all energy purchases from Russia. Otherwise we're all wasting a lot of time,” Trump said of Europe in his address.

The Trump administration had earlier imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on New Delhi as a penalty for its purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on India by the US to 50 per cent, among the highest in the world.

India has called the tariffs imposed by the US “unjustified and unreasonable”.

TRUMP'S ESCALATOR INCIDENT AT UN SPARKS CONSPIRACY THEORIES



Diary Times Desk : An escalator at the United Nations headquarters in New York, which abruptly stalled on Tuesday morning just as President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump stepped onto it, has become the subject of conspiracy theories, despite a straightforward technical account from UN officials.

The incident, brief though it was, overshadowed parts of President Trump's second-term debut speech to the UN General Assembly, and provided fresh material for both his critics and supporters online.

What Happened

At approximately 9:50 am, President Trump and the US First Lady entered the UN through the delegates' entrance, passing through security before approaching the main escalator that leads up to the second floor. A White House videographer, walking backwards ahead of them to record their arrival, reached the top just as the couple stepped on. At that moment, the escalator jolted to a sudden stop.

"IF DONE BOMBING YOUR OWN COUNTRY": INDIA RIPS INTO PAKISTAN AT UN

Diary Times Desk : India slammed Pakistan at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Tuesday for “bombing their own people” in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while misusing the international forum to hurl “baseless and provocative” accusations against New Delhi. Speaking at the 60th session of the Human Rights Council, Indian Diplomat Kshitij Tyagi said Islamabad should focus on rescuing its own economy that's “on life support” and a “human rights record stained by persecution”.

“A delegation that epitomises the antithesis of this approach continues to abuse this forum with baseless and provocative statements against India,” said Tyagi, who is Counsellor at Permanent Mission of India in Geneva.

“Instead of coveting our territory, they would do well to vacate the Indian territory under their illegal occupation and focus on rescuing an economy on life support, a polity muzzled by military dominance, and a human rights record stained by persecution, perhaps once they find time away from exporting terrorism, harbouring UN-proscribed terrorists, and bombing their own people.”

ERIKA KIRK FORGAVE HER HUSBAND'S KILLER AND GAVE THE US WHAT IT MOST NEEDS RIGHT NOW

Diary Times Desk : Erika Kirk's speech at her husband and political activist Charlie Kirk's memorial was one of those rare moments when private grief and public witness converged in a way that felt larger than the occasion itself. The memorial carried unmistakable religious overtones, but Erika's words stood out for their clarity, vulnerability, and courage. While others leaned into the rhetoric of combat and retribution, she chose a different register: Forgiveness.

In a nation deeply fatigued by polarisation and inequalities, her decision to place mercy at the centre may be the most radical and necessary gesture America could hear right now.

The most striking element of her speech was her public act of forgiving 22-year-old Tyler Robinson, the man accused of killing her husband. “I forgive him,” she said, invoking Christ's words from the cross: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” It was not a throwaway line or an attempt at easy piety; it was the core of her message. To offer forgiveness at such a moment is almost unthinkable in human terms. Yet, in that unthinkable act lay its power. She chose to break the chain of vengeance that often defines both personal tragedies and narratives.

President Donald Trump proclaimed Charlie Kirk a “martyr for American freedom” in a memorial ceremony to commemorate the political activist as Erika Kirk said she forgave the man who gunned down her husband.

“On that day, this evangelist for American liberty became immortal,” Trump said Sunday before tens of thousands of mourners inside the State Farm stadium in Glendale, Arizona. “He's a martyr now for American freedom.”



ROSENBERG: RUSSIA BRUSHES OFF TRUMP'S CLAIM OF 'PAPER TIGER' IN AIMLESS WAR

Diary Times Desk : On paper, there was plenty in Donald Trump's comments to rile the Kremlin. For starters, his description of Russia as a "paper tiger" that had been "fighting aimlessly" in Ukraine. Moscow won't like that. I remember when President Barack Obama described Russia as a "regional power", as opposed to a global one: that was taken as a big insult here. President Trump's suggestion that Ukraine could win back all the territory Russia had seized will have raised eyebrows, too, in Moscow. And Russian eyebrows will have shot up even higher after Trump's reply to a reporter's question. "Do you think that Nato countries should shoot down Russian aircraft if they enter their air space?" the reporter asked. "Yes, I do," replied Trump. Yet the Kremlin's initial response to all of this has been rather restrained. Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov gently brushed aside the "paper tiger" insult. "Russia's in no way a tiger," Mr Peskov to a Russian radio station. "It's more associated with a bear. And there is no such thing as a paper bear." What of the suggestion that Kyiv could retake lost territory?



RECOGNIZING A PALESTINIAN STATE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN AND HOW WOULD IT COME ABOUT?

Diary Times Desk : Some 160 states have signed up to recognize a Palestinian state. In the last week, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and Australia have done so, but the prospect of it becoming a reality amid US opposition and Israeli resistance is at best a distant one. What does recognizing a Palestinian state mean in reality; is it just a gesture? In reality, the recognition of a Palestinian state is a diplomatic declaration aimed at rescuing the vision of a two-state solution that would settle decades of conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said this weekend that it was the path toward creating a viable Palestinian state co-existing with a secure Israel. But he and other leaders admit that such a vision is at the moment very distant in the face of Israel's adamant refusal to accept any form of Palestinian statehood.

DONALD TRUMP'S TYLENOL AND AUTISM CLAIMS DON'T MATCH SCIENCE

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump announced Monday that his administration is strongly recommending that women limit Tylenol use during pregnancy unless medically necessary. "I want to say it like it is, don't take Tylenol," he said, encouraging women to "just fight like hell not to take it." But his comments came under intense criticism from medical experts and researchers - because there's no proof tying the painkiller to autism. He also made a number of dubious claims about autism, vaccines and treatments. Here's a look at the facts. TRUMP: "Since 2000, autism rates have surged by much more than 400%." He said the rate used to be 1 in 20,000, then 1 in 10,000 and now is 1 in 31, saying "there's something artificial" to explain it. THE FACTS: It's true that autism rates have ballooned but Trump's numbers are off. The 1 in 10,000 figure dates back to the 1990s.

TRUMP'S DANCE AT CHARLIE KIRK MEMORIAL GOES VIRAL, WIDOW ERIKA KIRK SMILES

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met US President Donald Trump on Wednesday on the sidelines of the high-level 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The meeting happened during a gathering of Arab Islamic leaders hosted by Trump and the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, according to a statement released by Sharif's office. The Pakistani leader reportedly "engaged in an informal conversation" with Trump after the conclusion of the summit. Visuals of the meeting shared on social media showed that Trump's interaction with the Pakistani delegation lasted for only 36 seconds. Sharif led the Pakistani delegation to the high-level segment UNGA. He was accompanied by his deputy and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, besides other ministers and senior officials. Last week, Pakistani media reported that their Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, may also accompany Sharif during the meeting. However, Munir was noticeably absent from the gathering. **US-Pak Ties** After years of diplomatic shunning, US-Pakistan ties saw warmth when Islamabad gave Trump credit for his so-called peace intervention during



the military conflict with India in May. The US President has said that he has helped in brokering a truce between two nuclear-armed Asian neighbours using trade and tariff threats, a claim India vehemently denies. Islamabad also initially said the ceasefire was reached after its Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) approached his Indian counterpart with the proposal, but later gave the credit for the breakthrough to Washington, and went as far as nominating Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. Later, Trump welcomed Pakistan's army chief Munir at the White House in June and discussed trade, economic development, and cryptocurrency. Days later, in July, the Trump administration announced a trade deal with Pakistan and said Washington would help Islamabad develop its "massive oil reserves".

INDIA "MOSTLY" WITH UKRAINE ON KYIV'S CONFLICT WITH RUSSIA: ZELENSKY

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed cautious optimism in India's support for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia, stating that India is "mostly" aligned with Kyiv's position, while acknowledging New Delhi's position on energy-related complexities. During an interview with Fox News, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday (local time), Zelensky highlighted the need to strengthen ties with India while addressing challenges related to Russian energy dependencies. "I think India is mostly with us. We have these questions with energy, but I think President Trump can manage it. With the Europeans make closer and stronger relations with India," Zelensky said. He emphasised the importance of ensuring India does not drift away from supporting Ukraine, adding, "I think we must do everything not to withdraw Indians and they will eventually change their attitude toward the Russian energy sector." He noted, however, that engaging China on this issue is "more difficult" due to Beijing's historic alignment with Russian interests.

SIR SADIQ KHAN: TRUMP IS RACIST AND SEXIST

Diary Times Desk : Sir Sadiq Khan has said Donald Trump has shown he is "racist, sexist, misogynistic and Islamophobic" after the president made comments about him to the United Nations. Speaking to the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, Trump said London had "a terrible, terrible mayor, and it's been changed, it's been so changed". He added: "Now they want to go to Sharia law." Speaking to BBC London, Sir Sadiq said: "People are wondering what it is about this Muslim mayor who leads a liberal, multi-cultural, progressive and successful city, that means I appear to be living rent-free inside Donald Trump's head." He added: "I think President Trump has shown he is racist, he is sexist, he is misogynistic and he is Islamophobic." "When people say things, when people act in a certain way, when people behave in a certain way, you've got to believe them," he said. Responding to the president calling him a "terrible mayor", he said he was "thankful we have record numbers of Americans coming to London". He added that different criteria showed London was "often the number one city on the globe when it comes to culture".

INFLATION COULD BE A THIRD LOWER WITHOUT TARIFFS, FINANCIAL DECISION MAKERS SAY

Diary Times Desk :

Tariffs are fueling a significant chunk of price hikes across the economy, according to a survey of executives released Wednesday.

Chief financial officers estimate tariffs are to blame for about one-third of their companies' price growth this year, according to The CFO Survey issued by Duke University and the Federal Reserve Banks of Richmond and Atlanta.

So, inflation could have been about a third lower this year without President Donald Trump's historically high tariffs.

That's nothing to sneeze at. If the latest inflation reading of 2.9% were a third lower, it would be essentially right at 2% – the level the Federal Reserve targets for price increases that are neither too hot or too cold.

YOUTUBE TO REINSTATE ACCOUNTS BANNED FOR POSTING FALSE CLAIMS ABOUT COVID-19, 2020 ELECTION

Diary Times Desk :

YouTube said Tuesday it plans to reinstate some accounts that it previously banned for violating rules against repeatedly posting misinformation about Covid-19 and the 2020 election.

That announcement came in a letter sent by a lawyer for the platform's parent company, Alphabet, to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Jordan, in response to an investigation by Republicans into whether former President Joe Biden's administration pressured big tech companies to remove certain types of content.

The move is the latest example of how YouTube – like other tech platforms – has loosened its content moderation efforts in recent years, a trend that has accelerated across Silicon Valley this year amid pressure from conservatives.

YouTube previously rolled back policies that barred repeatedly posting some false claims about Covid-19 and the outcome of the 2020 US presidential election.

WELCOME TO THE MUCH BIGGER, MESSIER ERA OF 'TOO BIG TO FAIL'

Diary Times Desk : Every time I think there can't possibly be another way for a big tech company to intertwine its fate with that of OpenAI, the tech titans manage to turn the industry into even more of a rat's nest. On Monday, Nvidia announced a \$100 billion investment in OpenAI, the privately owned maker of ChatGPT. The idea is that Nvidia gives OpenAI cash to build data centers, and in return, OpenAI buys Nvidia's chips (at a discount) to power those data centers. In short: OpenAI gets some much-needed cash and Nvidia secures demand for its chips. OpenAI "is now too big to fail for the sake of the (generative AI) data center buildout," wrote Peter Boockvar, chief investment officer of wealth management firm OnePoint BFG Wealth Partners, in a note Tuesday. "For this whole massive experiment to work without causing large losses, OpenAI and its peers now have got to generate huge revenues and profits to pay for all the obligations they are signing up for and at the same time provide a return to its investors." For now, there's a lot we don't know about the Nvidia-OpenAI agreement, which so far exists only as a letter of intent. We don't know the time frame for the investment, for one. And it is unclear how OpenAI, which has never turned a profit and brings in only about \$13 billion a year in revenue, would actually, like, pay for any of it.



Per Reuters' Stephen Nellis: Even with Nvidia's cash, OpenAI would need an additional \$40 billion for each gigawatt of capacity it plans to build (and in the end, it plans to build 10 gigawatts of computing power – roughly the equivalent of powering 8 million homes).

OpenAI, which didn't respond to a request for comment, is burning through cash at a rate that would make even Silicon Valley's most bullish AI bro choke on his matcha latte. The Information recently reported that the company's projected cash burn for this year through 2029 will hit \$115 billion – about \$80 billion higher than OpenAI previously expected.

JOE ROGAN DEFENDS KIMMEL AND TELLS CONSERVATIVES SUPPORTING CENSORSHIP: 'OH MY GOD, YOU'RE CRAZY'

Diary Times Desk :

Right-leaning podcaster Joe Rogan has chimed in on the suspension of late night host Jimmy Kimmel amid pressure from the Trump administration, saying the government should not determine what comedians say and that conservatives were "crazy" to support any such interference.

Disney's ABC last week took Jimmy Kimmel's late night talk show off the air over his comments about the suspected killer of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. But his show returned on Tuesday night, ending a nearly weeklong standoff that has raised questions about free speech and the First Amendment.

Rogan was an influential supporter of President Donald Trump during the 2024 campaign.

"I definitely don't think that the government should be involved ever in dictating what a comedian can or cannot say in a monologue," Rogan said on his podcast.



TRUMP'S NEW ABC THREAT PROVES JIMMY KIMMEL RIGHT – AND HIS MAGA ALLIES WRONG

Diary Times Desk :

When Jimmy Kimmel taped his back-to-work monologue Tuesday night, he predicted that the restoration of his show would "unfortunately and unjustly" put ABC at risk of additional pressure from the government.

One hour before the monologue aired, President Trump proved him right, posting a blustery new legal threat against ABC on Truth Social. Trump's message swerved between dismissive – Kimmel's "audience is GONE," he claimed – and intimidating. He claimed Kimmel "puts the Network in jeopardy by playing 99% positive Democrat GARBAGE. He is yet another arm of the DNC and, to the best of my knowledge, that would be a major Illegal Campaign Contribution. I think we're going to test ABC out on this. Let's see how we do."

ABC has not responded to CNN's request for comment about Trump's post, which lacked any clear legal basis.



MICHAELS IS REVIVING JOANN — BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU THINK

Diary Times Desk :
A few months after the collapse of Joann, a former foe is reviving the crafting and fabric store's brand name.

Michaels announced Wednesday that it is bringing a "Knit & Sew Shop" format to all of its US and Canada locations, which features the Joann name on the signage as well as the Big Twist yarn, a cult-favorite collection that Michaels bought when it also purchased Joann's intellectual property in June.

The "store within a store" concept, which encompass about 25% of a Michaels store, is now available in 840 stores and will expand to an additional 250 locations in the coming months. The selection is also available online.

"We knew when we acquired the brand — and it's been proven to us — that Joann was a beloved brand by a whole bunch of customers," said Michaels CEO David Boone. "Those customers have been looking to Michaels to provide more products and services that Joann provided and this is a major step forward."

AN EMOTIONAL KIMMEL RETURNS TO ABC AND ASSAILS TRUMP'S 'UN-AMERICAN' ATTACKS ON FREE SPEECH

Diary Times Desk : Jimmy Kimmel returned to his late-night stage Tuesday night and urged viewers to stand up to President Donald Trump's threats, even as Trump sent out a new social media attack against Kimmel's network, ABC.

In an eloquent and emotional monologue, Kimmel assailed "anti-American" efforts to curtail free speech in the United States and signaled that he won't temper his criticism of the president after a nearly week-long suspension of his show amid pressure from the Trump administration. "This show is not important," Kimmel told viewers. "What's important is that we live in a country that allows us to have a show like this." Kimmel spoke about spending time with comedians from countries where people "get thrown in prison for making fun of those in power, and worse."

MISSED KIMMEL'S RETURN? HERE'S A TRANSCRIPT OF HIS MONOLOGUE



Diary Times Desk :
Jimmy Kimmel returned to his late night show on Tuesday night after a suspension amid pressure by the Trump administration and a furor over Kimmel's remarks about the killer of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

Kimmel delivered an opening monologue — occasionally choking up — that ranged across everything from jokes to the importance of the First Amendment.

Here's what Kimmel said.
"Anyway, as I was saying before I was interrupted, if you're just joining us, we're preempting your regularly scheduled encore episode of 'Celebrity Family Feud' to bring you this special report. I'm happy to be here tonight with you. Please be seated. I'm not sure who had a weirder 48 hours: me or the CEO of Tylenol. It's been overwhelming. I've heard from a lot of people over the last six days. I've heard from all the people in the world over the last six days. Anyone I have ever met has reached out 10 or 11 times. Weird characters from my past, or the guy who fired me from my first radio job in Seattle, where we are not airing tonight by the way! Sorry, Seattle. His name is Larry."

'KEEP CALM AND CARRY CASH': KEEP BANKNOTES AT HOME TO PREPARE FOR CRISES, RESEARCHERS SAY



Diary Times Desk :
Households should keep some cash at home so they can pay for essentials during crises, according to an analysis of four major disruptive events in Europe, including the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Consumer demand for banknotes surged in Europe during each of a string of crises, the research, published by the European Central Bank, showed Wednesday. Physical currency offers "distinct psychological and practical utility," says the study, whose title urges the public to "keep calm and carry cash." The findings support the growing recognition among authorities that cash is "a critical component of national crisis preparedness," the researchers write. For example, they note, authorities in the Netherlands, Austria and Finland recommend that households keep between about €70 (\$82) and €100 (\$117) per person at home, or enough to cover essential needs for around 72 hours. In Sweden, the recommendation is to hold enough cash to pay for things like food, medicines and fuel for at least a week. "Calculate the total cost of at least a week's worth of these items for your family. Keep cash at home, in small denominations, for trading purposes if digital payment methods have been interrupted," the official advice says. Explaining banknotes' appeal, the European Central Bank study says that in moments of acute stress the public sees cash as a reliable store of value and a resilient means of payment. Another such crisis erupted in April, when a massive outage knocked out power in Spain and Portugal, affecting payment terminals and forcing many shops to accept only cash payments.

11 YEARS ON, FOUR-YEAR-OLD YUG'S FAMILY STILL SEEKING JUSTICE AFTER HIGH COURT'S VERDICT

Diary Times Desk : The high court's order, acquitting one accused and commuting the death sentence of two others to life imprisonment, has left the family of four-year-old Yug, whose kidnapping and murder shook the state in 2014, utterly devastated. Unaware of the final order being delivered, the family was absent from court when it was pronounced.

"We are dissatisfied with the high court's order and will appeal against it in the Supreme Court," said a tearful Vinod Gupta, Yug's father. Yug's grandmother and mother stood beside him, shattered and sobbing. "We miss him every single day and want the accused to be punished accordingly. Justice hasn't been served to our child even after 11 years. He was four when he was killed, and today he would have been 15," Gupta said, reminiscing about the horrific murder.

"We've been living for justice for our child, and if we have to sacrifice everything to get it, we will," Gupta vowed.

PUNJAB CABINET APPROVES POLICY TO CLAIM CHARGES FOR ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED LAND

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Council of ministers led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann today gave its nod to bring in a new policy that will allow the government to claim charges for the illegally occupied land, meant for common roads and water courses/ channels. A decision had been taken today to set up Price Fixation Committees headed by deputy commissioners in each district, for fixing the prices of these lands, which have been under illegal occupation of the colonisers. Finance Minister Harpal Cheema said that four times charges of whatever price is fixed by the committee will be charged from the coloniser. Amongst other decisions taken by the Cabinet are bringing an OTS scheme for defaulters amongst rice shelling units. These are 1688 sheller owners whose interest and penalty have been waived-off, and they will just have to pay 50 per cent over and above the principal amount.

CM ASSASSINATION: WHY RAJOANA NOT HANGED TILL NOW, SC ON BEANT SINGH'S KILLER

Diary Times Desk : As former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh's killer Balwant Singh Rajoana continued to stare at the gallows since 2007, the Supreme Court on Wednesday wondered why he had not been hanged as yet.

"The question is why didn't you hang him till now? Who is to be blamed for that? At least we would not have stayed his execution," a three-judge Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath told Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj, who represented the Centre.

The Bench – which also included Justice Sandeep Mehta and Justice NV Anjaria – made the comments after the ASG said it was a "serious offence".



2 PUNJAB BROTHERS, 1 SURVIVAL STORY: THE 1996 STOWAWAY INCIDENT THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

Diary Times Desk : Just yesterday, a 13-year-old Afghan boy was discovered at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport after hiding in the landing gear compartment of a Kam Air flight from Kabul. This, however, is not an isolated incident.


In a similar, yet more harrowing incident in 1996, two brothers, Pardeep Saini and Vijay – from Punjab – attempted to stow away on a British Airways plane to enter the UK. Hidden in the wheel bay of the Boeing 747, they braved extreme conditions. The 10-hour flight was a test of endurance, with temperatures plummeting to -60°C and oxygen levels dwindling at 40,000 feet. Once in the air, the thunderous jet engines drowned out any chance of communication, while the freezing temperatures sent their heart rates into a downward spiral.

The brothers fled India after being accused of links to a Sikh militant group fighting for independence. Desperate for a new life, they turned to a people smuggler who promised them passage to Britain for £150. However, the smuggler's misinformation about accessing the luggage compartment from the wheel bay proved disastrous.

DELAYED WATER RELEASE WORSENER PUNJAB FLOODS: BBMB TELLS HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk : The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) today told the Punjab and Haryana High Court that the flood situation in Punjab would not have been "so grave" had the water been released at the appropriate time.


Appearing on BBMB's behalf before the division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry, senior advocate Rajesh Garg contended: "The jurisdiction and power of BBMB is that, according to seasonal conditions – monsoon, summer, etc. – water should be regulated month-wise. That does not alter the overall share position of the states. This was the position before the writ petition came up (for hearing at the initial stage)." He added that the issue and the challenge before the court related only to a one-month alteration of 8,500 cubic feet of water. "That situation is now gone. Now had they released the water at that time, the flood situation in the state would not have been that grave. They (Punjab) refused to release the water. BBMB had no option but, in the monsoon, to release excess water downstream," Garg added. He was assisted in the matter by advocate Neha Matharoo.




YOUR HOROSCOPE

25-09-2025


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.

HARYANA TO BEGIN
PROCUREMENT OF
KHARIF PULSES AND
OILSEEDS ACROSS 100
MANDIS

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi on Wednesday reviewed the arrangements for procurement and production of kharif pulses and oilseeds for the 2025-26 marketing season at more than 100 mandis across the state. The state government has fixed procurement schedules and designated mandis for each crop. Moong is being procured from September 23 to November 15, 2025, at 38 mandis, while procurement of arhar and urd will begin in December 2025 at 22 and 10 mandis, respectively. Groundnut procurement will start from November 1 to December 31, 2025, at 7 mandis, while Til (sesame) will be procured in December 2025 through 27 mandis. Soybean and Nigerseed will be procured between October and November 2025 at 7 and 2 mandis, respectively.

The Chief Secretary has directed officials to ensure hassle-free procurement process for farmers. He also emphasised timely procurement, along with adequate arrangements for storage facilities and availability of gunny bags at the mandis.

LAWRENCE BISHNOI'S
CRUMBLING CRIMINAL
SYNDICATE: INTERNAL
RIVALRIES AND HIGH-
PROFILE BETRAYALS

Diary Times Desk : The powerful criminal syndicate, led by Lawrence Bishnoi, once a sprawling empire operating across multiple states and countries, is now crumbling due to internal rivalries and high-profile betrayals. The network, known for its involvement in murders, kidnappings, extortion, and drug trafficking, is fracturing as key members turn against each other, sparking violent conflicts and new turf wars. The split began last year when Bishnoi's younger brother, Anmol, was detained in the United States for entering with forged documents. Anmol was also allegedly linked to the 2022 killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, a crime that shocked India.

SUSPECTED VIRAL INFECTION CLAIMS LIVES OF 10 CATTLE HEAD IN HISAR VILLAGE

Diary Times Desk : Anxiety has gripped livestock owners in Harikot village of Hisar district after nearly 10 cattle head died over the past week, with villagers suspecting a viral infection following recent floods. According to residents, several buffaloes, cows and calves have fallen seriously ill in recent days. "On September 22 alone, four cattle head died in a single day," said Rajesh, a villager, told 'The Tribune'. He said families including his own, along with those of Rasal, Ramesh, Sandeep, Ravinder, Pushkar, Ram Kishan and Madan Kumar, have lost valuable livestock. Losses are estimated to run into lakhs. The panic-stricken villagers fear the outbreak could be foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). However, veterinary officials disagree. Dr Mitu, a veterinary surgeon from the Mangali hospital, said: "We have started vaccination against HS and FMD in the village after residents reported cattle deaths on Monday. But the cause is not FMD."



EMPLOYMENT FRAUDS POSE GRAVE
PUBLIC THREAT: PUNJAB AND
HARYANA HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has flagged cases where vulnerable individuals are lured with false promises of government jobs and exploited for financial gains as serious offences requiring strict judicial scrutiny. Referring to the broader societal stakes, Justice Sumeet Goel made it clear that pre-trial leniency could not embolden such criminal schemes. "Cases where vulnerable young individuals are lured with false promises of providing government jobs and are subsequently subjected to exploitation, fall within the ambit of inducement and cheating and merit strict judicial scrutiny and deterrence," Justice Goel observed. The bench added that the courts must remain vigilant and ensure that such rackets were not emboldened by leniency at the pre-trial stage. "The court cannot overlook the broader public interest involved in cases of securing employment and were induced to pay a substantial amount of money for the same. Such offences necessitate a strong and principled judicial response to prevent their recurrence," Justice Goel added.

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HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL SEEKS REPORT ON HUMILIATION OF 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN
SONEPAT SCHOOL

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged punishment and public humiliation of an 11-year-old girl at a private school in Ridhana village, Sonapat, directing the police and education authorities to submit detailed reports. The girl was allegedly forced to do 50 push-ups and clean the UKG classroom floor by the school principal for not completing her homework. In addition, UKG students were reportedly made to chant "shame, shame" at her, while the principal allegedly threatened to shave her head if she failed to finish homework in the future. "These actions are stated to have caused psychological trauma to the child, rendering her unable to attend school and requiring psychological treatment," the Commission observed. The HHRC held that if established, the incident amounted to a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution – protecting the right to life, liberty, and dignity – and Article 14, which guarantees equality and protection from arbitrary action. It further noted that as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), India is bound to shield children from all forms of physical and mental violence. "The child's mental health and future development are at serious risk. Immediate remedial steps must be taken to protect her and prevent similar incidents in other institutions," the Commission stressed.



Chinese Hackers Breach US Software And Law Firms

A team of suspected Chinese hackers has infiltrated US software developers and law firms in a sophisticated campaign to collect intelligence that could help Beijing in its ongoing trade fight with Washington, cybersecurity firm Mandiant said Wednesday.

The hackers have been rampant in recent weeks, hitting the cloud-computing firms that numerous American companies rely on to store key data, Mandiant, which is owned by Google, said. In a sign of how important China's hacking army is in the race for tech supremacy, the hackers have also stolen US tech firms' proprietary software and used it to find new vulnerabilities to burrow deeper into networks, according to Mandiant.

The FBI is investigating the intrusions and US officials are still trying to understand the full scope of the hacks, sources told CNN.

It's a fresh five-alarm fire for the FBI's cyber experts, who at any given time are investigating multiple sophisticated Chinese cyber-espionage campaigns aimed at US government and corporate secrets.

In some cases, the hackers have lurked undetected in the US corporate networks for over a year, quietly collecting intelligence, Mandiant said.

The disclosure comes after the Trump administration escalated America's trade war with China this spring by slapping unprecedented tariffs on Chinese exports to the United States. The tit-for-tat tariffs set off a scramble in both governments to understand each other's positions.

"The FBI is aware of this matter and we continue to work with our law enforcement and private sector partners," a bureau spokesperson told CNN. "We encourage the public to contact their local field office or tips.fbi.gov, if they believe to be a victim."

Mandiant analysts said the fallout from the breaches — the task of kicking out the hackers



and assessing the damage — could last many months. They described it as a milestone hack, comparable in severity and sophistication to Russia's use of SolarWinds software to infiltrate US government agencies in 2020.

The suspected Chinese hackers are "very active right now," said Charles Carmakal, Mandiant's chief technology officer. "We believe that there are many organizations that are actively compromised that don't know about it."

This is "the most prevalent [cyber] adversary in the United States over the past several years," Carmakal said.

CNN has requested comment on Mandiant's findings from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC. Beijing routinely denies US hacking allegations and accuses the US of conducting cyberattacks against China. Law firms are attractive espionage targets because of the role that they play in helping government and corporate clients navigate trade and national security disputes. Suspected Chinese hackers this summer breached the email accounts of attorneys at Washington, DC-based firm Wiley Rein, CNN previously reported.



Sean Lyngaas

"He is one of the first hackers linked to Chinese intelligence services to be captured by the FBI," the bureau's Houston field office said at the time.



Jordan Valinsky

Other products are taking on their fan-given nickname, such as Kirkwood frozen chicken items, which will be called "Red Bag Chicken," Reitz said.

Aldi announced Wednesday sweeping changes across its product portfolio, drastically reducing the number of in-house brands from about 90 to 26 and consolidating them under a unified "The Aldi Brand" label. The store's more popular labels — like Clancy's and Simply Nature — remain but will have "An Aldi Original" title added to their packaging.

The changes are in response to customer feedback, according to Scott Patton, Aldi's chief commercial officer. He told CNN that customers "often refer to all of the Aldi products as the 'Aldi brand,' so we made it a little bit easier for customers to talk about them."

Aldi, which started in Germany, is rapidly expanding across the US with about 2,570 locations already and plans to open an additional 200 by the end of the year. The discount grocer has found success thanks to a plethora of private labels, which account for 90% of its selection, sold at prices usually marked below name brands.



"We asked customers, 'What are areas where brands are important?' and 'Where are areas where brands aren't?'" said Kristy Reitz, Aldi's director of brand and design.

Private labels have been resonating with consumers in recent years not just because of cost, but also as they've improved in quality and design. Once known for dowdy packaging and perhaps questionable tastes or ingredients, the products now compete with national name brands, sparking a shakeup among major food companies.

National chains are investing heavily in their private labels as spending from consumers on store brands hit a record-breaking \$271 billion in 2024, outpacing the growth of national brands.

Last year, Amazon launched Saver, a no-frills lineup of household staples mostly priced under \$5. Whole Foods Market has said sales of its home-grown products has soared 50% since 2019. Kroger recently said it plans to add 900 more products to its private label lineup.

"Shoppers aren't willing to try cheaper alternatives, they're seeking them out," said Greg Petro, CEO of First Insight, a retail analysis firm. "When a private label product

matches the look, feel, and quality of a premium brand at a lower price, it's seen as a smart choice rather than a compromise."

Petro told CNN that Aldi has been a big benefactor of this trend since it's made shopping "both affordable and surprisingly fun," a nod to the chain's viral totes that often sell out.

"Aldi has built a model that delivers quality goods at consistently low prices — something shoppers value more than ever amid inflation and economic uncertainty," he said. "Its heavy investment in private label products keeps costs down while still competing directly with national brands on quality."

Aldi is privately held and doesn't reveal financial earnings. But cost-conscious customers appear to be attracted to the brand, with visits per location in 2025 up 1.6% year-over-year and a staggering 26.7% compared to 2022, according to Placer.ai, a firm that traffics foot traffic.

With Aldi cultivating an almost cult-like fandom for its products, it was careful not to mix any brands that had a passionate following. Some brand names that were scrapped include its Baker's Corner collection of flour and baking soda, as well as canned items such as Dakota's Pride beans — both of which will be folded into "The Aldi Brand" label.

INFA

Operating Costs

THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMERCIAL SPACE STATION IS GETTING CLOSER TO LAUNCH

The International Space Station (ISS) is one of humanity's greatest achievements, providing a habitat in orbit that has been occupied continuously for almost 25 years. Visited by almost 300 people from 26 countries so far, it is a shining example of international collaboration and a one-of-a-kind technological marvel.



Jacopo Prisco

"In order to have any chance of viability, a future commercial space station will have to 'land' its annual operating costs somewhere in the range between \$1-2 billion per year, corresponding to an annual cost of between \$2.7 to 5.5 million per day, less than half the ISS."

But its lifespan is drawing to a close, and even though it has long outlived its originally scheduled 15-year mission, NASA plans to de-orbit the station around 2030.

The agency is working with private companies to transition to a commercial space station. A competition will select the best designs and one or more partners for an initial demonstration that will include a 30-day, crewed mission in space. Further down the line, NASA would essentially buy "station services" from a private contractor tasked with launching a modern ISS successor. The entries for the competition are due to be submitted next year, but NASA is already working with several companies developing commercial station designs before the actual ISS replacement work begins. Among these companies is California-based Vast Space,

which signed a deal with SpaceX to launch what would be the world's first commercial space station — called Haven-1 — currently slated for May 2026.

The single-module design is a simple proof-of-concept meant to be in orbit for three years, to support four two-week missions performed by a crew of four astronauts each.

Sporting a "human-centric" design and a science lab capable of supporting microgravity research and manufacturing opportunities for technology including semi-conductors, Haven-1 would be available for both private and government missions, allowing Vast Space to gain experience for the much more complex undertaking of building an ISS successor, should it win the NASA competition.

"Our number one priority is to become an actual space station company — one that has a station in orbit, has sent people to it for a duration of time and has brought them back safely to Earth," said Vast Space CEO Max Haot. "That's really the race we are in."

Haven-1 would have a diameter of 4.4 meters (14.7 feet) and a habitable volume of 45 cubic meters (1,500 cubic feet), or about the same as inside a single-deck bus—about 1/8 of the ISS, whose habitable volume

is 388 cubic meters (13,696 cubic feet). It would be launched into orbit using a SpaceX Falcon 9, with the first crew to follow a couple of months after the station reaches orbit, using SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft.

The internal design includes a 1.2-meter (4-foot) dome window, a deployable communal table, a private sleeping space for each crew member and high-speed internet connectivity, provided by Starlink. "It's not designed to be a luxury hotel," said Haot, "but we believe that in every environment, if you feel better, if you can rest better, and if you can communicate better, then you can work better."



Since the announcement of the project, in mid-2023, Vast Space has grown from about 200 to its current 950 employees, Haot said, and has invested in its own facilities that are capable of not only producing the Haven-1 module, but two modules a year of the much bigger Haven-2 — the potential ISS successor that Vast is in the very early stages of planning.

The company finished building a "qualification" version of Haven-1 earlier this year — one that is not meant to fly and only used for ground testing — and tested the structure against pressurization and launch.

HOW KLAUS HEGEWISCH BUILT ONE OF THE FINEST COLLECTIONS OF PRINTS AND DRAWINGS IN THE WORLD



Diary Times Desk : It wasn't the most likely route into art collecting, but it was certainly effective. In 1950, Klaus Hegewisch was a partner in a fruit and vegetable import business. He married his fiancée Helga that year, the daughter of a successful shipper who transported fruit from Latin America to Hamburg.

The two men joined forces commercially, and Helga was tasked with giving the company's cargo ships a fresher look — boasting as they did a number of additional cabins for passengers. The pair began visiting Hamburg's art academy, the Landeskunstschule, where they befriended teachers and students, and purchased pictures for display on board.

'My interest in art was thus awakened,' said Hegewisch later in life, by which point he had put together a stunning collection of prints and drawings. Spanning several centuries, it features some of the most important graphic works by the likes of Dürer, Goya, Ensor and Munch, as well as the collector's modern compatriots Max Beckmann and Otto Dix.

The collection's central figure is Picasso, who is represented by — among other pieces — a rare, early impression of his great etching *Le repas frugal*, a haunting image of an emaciated man and woman sitting in a tavern.

Hegewisch's collection is being offered at Christie's across three sales with the collective title 'Spellbound'. The first takes place on 16 October 2025 in London, with the others scheduled for March and September 2026.

The title works on two levels. For one, it connotes that Hegewisch was enthralled by the art he collected. Second, it reflects the content of the imagery he was attracted to. 'The mysterious and the dreamlike... interest me much more than unambiguous realism,' he said. More on which below.

Hegewisch was born in Hamburg in 1919. His mother and father separated when he was a child, and money was tight. Young Klaus joined the city's oldest sailing club, sparking a love of the sea that would last his whole life.

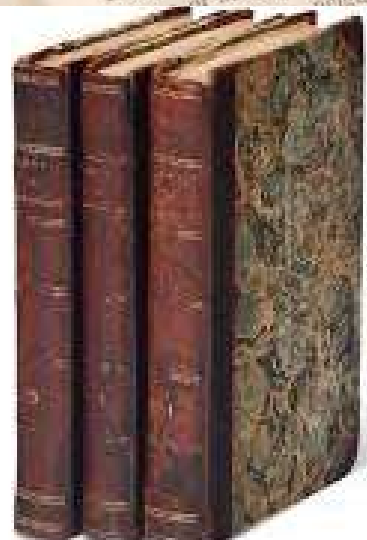
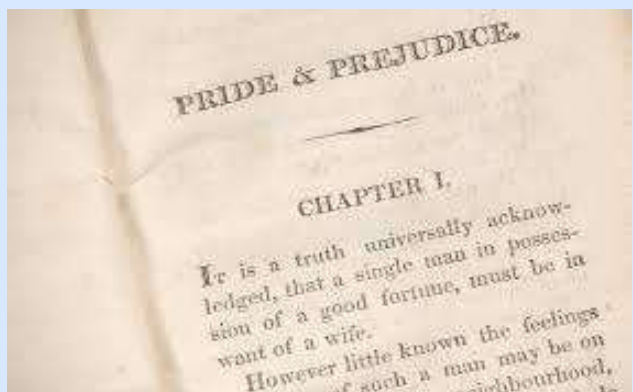
JANE AUSTEN AT 250: AN ICON UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED

'You will be glad to hear that every copy of *Sense and Sensibility* is sold and that it has brought me £140 beside the copyright,' Jane Austen wrote to her brother in 1813. 'If,' she added, 'that should ever be of any value.' Austen had no way of anticipating the abiding appreciation and popularity of her oeuvre (nor the irony of doubting the value of her first novel's copyright). And yet it's tempting to imagine that she had some inkling. 'It was an uphill battle to get her work into print,' says Heather Weintraub, Specialist in Books, Manuscripts and Archives at Christie's. 'But she knew she was good. She believed in her work.'

As museums and institutions around the globe celebrate the 250th anniversary of the English author's birth, a superlative collection of first and second editions of Austen's novels will appear in Christie's Fine Printed Books and Manuscripts including Americana, an online auction from 2 to 16 October. Compiled with ardent dedication by a single collector, 'this grouping is possibly the best complete collection of first editions by Jane Austen that we've seen come to auction,' Weintraub notes.

Few writers in the English language have achieved the cultural and artistic legacy Austen claims today. Film and television adaptations tally somewhere in the hundreds (and counting — new versions of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility* are in production); her Chawton home is a popular museum; in 2013, the Bank of England replaced Charles Darwin's face with an image of Austen on the £10 note. She is surely one of the only writers to have inspired the pens of both literary theorists and fan fiction writers alike. Her iconic status has, in short, attained mythic proportions; yet nowhere is her legacy more palpably experienced than in the medium in which it first emerged: the books themselves.

The exquisitely preserved 1813 first edition of Austen's most famous novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, is the highlight of the auction. 'This first edition is what we believe to be the earliest datable copy of the novel, insofar as ownership inscriptions in other copies are dated,' says Weintraub. The inscription is made to one Maurice Fitzgerald, a likely acquaintance of Mary Wilkins, who appeared frequently in Austen's letters. The book is an extraordinary example of what Weintraub describes as 'immediate ownership — for the person who was reading it when it first came out to be someone within the real-life orbit of Austen is remarkable.'



FERMIN LOPEZ OPENS UP ON INJURY, GAVI RELATIONSHIP,
CHELSEA OFFER – ‘NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF LEAVING’



Diary Times Desk :

The final few days of the summer transfer window were tense for Barcelona youngster Fermin Lopez, as Chelsea were making a strong push to sign him.

There were murmurs that the player himself might consider the possibility of a move, and the club could be open to his sale.

In the end, however, both Fermin and Barça decided that their partnership would remain intact and the Spanish attacking midfielder stayed put.

Having made a solid start to the season, including a brace against Valencia, Fermin has now been sidelined with a muscle injury, which will keep him out for three weeks.

LAMINE YAMAL – THE EVE OF A NEW
FOOTBALL ERA

Diary Times Desk : At just 18, Lamine Yamal stood on the cusp of rewriting history.

Had he lifted the Ballon d’Or in Paris, he would have become the youngest winner ever. He didn’t – Ousmane Dembele’s collective triumph with PSG proved too much – but that hardly matters. The very fact the teenager was even a candidate is revolutionary. He seems destined to create an era.

Lamine Yamal, who did win the young player of the year award on Monday, is not simply a footballer, he is a mirror for his generation.

‘Closer to a pop star than a traditional footballer’ For decades, football sold us the idea that greatness came through sacrifice and humility.

Lionel Messi spoke of the Ballon d’Or as a “consequence of the team’s work”. Cristiano Ronaldo turned discipline into theatre, sculpting his body into a monument of effort.

Lamine Yamal, by contrast, represents something new. He embodies a youth culture that does not hide its ambition. He has previously declared: “I don’t dream of one Ballon d’Or, I dream of many. If I don’t get them, it will be my fault.”

XABI ALONSO TALKS TO MANAGING
MADRID ABOUT CAMAVINGA’S
VERSATILITY

Diary Times Desk : Xabi Alonso praises Camavinga’s versatility after Real Madrid’s 4–1 win over Levante

After Real Madrid’s comfortable 4–1 victory away to Levante, Xabi Alonso shed light on Eduardo Camavinga’s role within the squad during a post-match exchange with Managing Madrid’s Lucas Navarrete.

When asked about the Frenchman’s most natural position, Alonso highlighted Camavinga’s adaptability across midfield roles:

“You saw that he started one play as a 6 and then finished it as a 10, almost reaching our last line of offense. He’s a very dynamic player with a very good skill set. So I am very happy about having this because this is the first time I’ve worked with him since I’ve arrived at the club because he hasn’t been available. He will enter our rotation little by little just like Jude, who is also back and will be very important.”

The Real Madrid manager’s words underline what many supporters already know: Camavinga is not confined to a single position. His ability to break up play, carry the ball forward, and join the attack makes him one of the most versatile pieces in Alonso’s setup.

BARCELONA’S GAVI OUT FOR
UP TO FIVE MONTHS

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona midfielder Gavi could miss the next five months after having knee surgery. The 21-year-old featured in Barcelona’s opening two matches of the season before injuring his right knee during a training session in August.

There were fears the Spain international had suffered a recurrence of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear he sustained in 2023.

Although scan results revealed Gavi had avoided an ACL tear, he has had an operation to repair damaged cartilage.

“Gavi has had an arthroscopy to resolve a medial meniscus injury, which was sutured to preserve the meniscus,” a Barcelona statement read.

“Recovery time is estimated at around four to five months.”

“He’s a player with a big heart and a lot of emotion,” Barcelona manager Hansi Flick said.

“It’s not easy for this team, because he has a huge quality for us, but every one of us will support him and will help him to reach his level again.”

Gavi became the fourth youngest debutant in Barcelona history when he made his debut in 2021.

MASTANTUONO: “I TRY TO
IMPOSE MY GAME AND MY
PERSONALITY”



Diary Times Desk : Franco Mastantuono was one of the players who stopped in the mixed zone after Real Madrid’s 4–1 away win against Levante, and the young Argentine shared his thoughts on his adaptation to life at the club, his role within the squad, and more. “I pushed hard today. I was hoping for that goal, even though it wasn’t the main goal, but it was a step toward gaining confidence in this team that’s getting better and better. It’s a huge joy.”

“I congratulate Lamine Yamal on his second place in the Ballon d’Or. I think he’s a great player. Comparison? Obviously, it’s not my place to say that. I try not to compare myself to anyone, but rather to play for my team, which I believe is what ultimately leads to individual success.” “I feel very comfortable. It feels like I’ve been here longer because of the way I’m treated by my teammates and the team. It’s great to compete and train like this, doing a very nice job that’s also our passion.

HOW GEORGE GRABBED LIFELINE IN CHELSEA’S PROBLEM POSITION

Diary Times Desk : Tyrique George looked set to be on his way out of Chelsea in the summer, with a £22m move to Fulham only falling through late on deadline day.

Handed a first-team lifeline, the 19-year-old took it with a starring role as the Blues battled back to avoid a Carabao Cup upset at Lincoln City.

The League One side deservedly led at half-time through Rob Street’s effort, but George hit a fine half-volley to level in the 48th minute, before setting up Facundo Buonanotte to slide in the winner two minutes later.

It was a vital contribution from the academy graduate as he fights for his future at his boyhood club.

Playing out of position as a lone striker rather than on the wing, George stepped up, having struggled like the rest of his team-mates under the aggressive approach from Lincoln. Following back-to-back defeats against Bayern Munich in the Champions League and then Manchester United in the Premier League, a humiliating loss at Sincil Bank would undoubtedly have raised questions about Enzo Maresca’s ability to oversee the next stage in Chelsea’s development.

The Italian admitted he “absolutely” fired up his players in the half-time interval to spark their comeback.

