## DIARY TIMES



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# NEWS IN BRIEF PRINCIPAL BENCH OF GSTAT TO ACT AS NATIONAL APPELLATE AUTHORITY FOR ADVANCED RULING: FM

#### Diary Times Desk :

With the GST
Appellate Tribunal
(GSTAT) coming into
effect, the principal
bench of the tribunal
will be functioning as
the national appellate
authority for advanced
ruling, confirmed
finance minister
Nirmala Sitharaman at
the launch of the
Goods and Services
Appellate Tribunal
(GSTAT) in New Delhi
on Wednesday

"From April 2026, the principal bench of the GSTAT will also act as the national appellate authority for advanced ruling - providing businesses with clarity and ensuring consistency across states. This makes GSTAT not just a tribunal, it makes it a one-stop

comprehensive forum for GST disputes, both before initiation and after initiation of the proceedings," said the minister.

## RAJYA SABHA POLLS FOR FOUR JAMMU& KASHMIR SEATS ON OCTOBER

## **24**Diary Times Desk: Biennial elections to fill four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu

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.

#### BIHAR ELECTION

### UNION MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN GIVEN BJP'S BIHAR ELECTION CHARGE



Diary Times Desk: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been made the BJP's in-charge for the upcoming Bihar elections that will test the Nitish Kumar-led NDA's resilience against the state's ingrained caste equations and the opposition's call for a change.

Mr Pradhan will be assisted by two co in-charges, Union Jal

Mr Pradhan will be assisted by two co in-charges, Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil and Uttar Pradesh minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

The election dates are expected to be announced next month. Bihar election will be a closely watched political contest this year, with all 243 seats in the state's legislative assembly electing their representatives. It has already raised the political decibel from Patna to Delhi.

Patria to Deini.
The election will be fought on planks ranging from development to law and order, pitting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's governance record against Tejashwi Yadav's social justice push,

with both sides readying their choice of allies. Another factor to watch out for is the influence of election strategist Prashant Kishor's new Jan Suraaj party.

The BJP has also announced its in-charges for West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, both due early next year. Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav is the in-charge for Bengal and Tripura MP Biplab Deb the co in-charge, while Lok Sabha MP Baijayant Panda has been made the in-charge for Tamil Nadu.

The BJP has already made inroads in Bengal and will trying to expand the gains it made last election at the expense of the ruling Trinamool, and test its luck once again in Tamil Nadu against the duopoly of the main Dravidian parties.

The BJP has appointed Odisha MP Baijayant Panda as the election in-charge for Tamil Nadu, while Maharashtra MP Murlidhar Mohol will be the co-in-charge. Like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu also has assembly elections in 2026. The BJP is exploring the possibility of an alliance between the DMK and AIADMK for next year's elections. Panda's appointment is part of the BJP's expansion plan in South India. The recent BJP core committee meeting discussed the 2026 election strategy, which included the appointment of district-level in-charges and alliance talks. The selection of Dharmendra Pradhan is significant for the BJP because he hails from Odisha and has previously handled election responsibilities in states like Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

#### TELANGANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PUBLISHES LIST OF SELECTED GROUP-I CANDIDATES FOLLOWING HC ORDER

**Diary Times Desk:** The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has published the list of selected candidates for Group 1 posts on its official website on Wednesday late night.

This announcement comes after the Division Bench of the Telangana High Court directed the Commission to proceed with appointments. According to TGPSC, the recruitment drive targeted filling 563 vacancies across various prestigious administrative posts. However, as per High Court orders, one post remains vacant.

The candidates selected for 562 posts can now proceed with further steps as per the recruitment process. Transport and other key administrative posts under the Group 1 category include Deputy Collector, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Commercial Tax Officer, Municipal Commissioner, and various welfare officer roles.

Candidates can check the detailed select list and further updates on the official TGPSC website. As per the release, Lakshmi Deepika secured the first rank in the TGPSC Group 1 recruitment, followed by Venkata Ramana, who obtained the second rank, and Vamsikrisha Reddy, who claimed the third rank. The TGPSC has clarified that the final selection of candidates will be subject to the final ruling of the Telangana High Court.



#### **QUAD SUMMIT**

TALKS WITH INDIA

'INCREDIBLY PRODUCTIVE',
TRUMP AND MODI SHARE

'VERY POSITIVE'
RELATIONSHIP: US OFFICIAL



Diary Times Desk: US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi share a "very, very positive" relationship and will meet, a senior State Department official has said, while underlining that planning is underway for the next Quad Summit, expected either later this year or in early 2026. India is slated to host leaders from the US,

India is slated to host leaders from the US, Australia, and Japan for the Quad summit. The 2024 edition of the summit was held in the US at Wilmington, Delaware.

"In the US at Wilmington, Delaware.
"In terms of meetings coming soon, I certainly don't want to get ahead of announcing anything for the President, but I'm sure you'll see the two (PM Modi and President Trump) meet," the State Department official told PTI.

"They have a very, very positive relationship. We've got a Quad Summit, we're working on planning, so at some point that will happen, if not this year, early next year. Working on the dates of that," the official said.

Describing the ongoing US-India engagements as "incredibly productive", the official said "continuous positive developments" are expected in the corning months.

"We have differences. It's been clear over the last few weeks that we've been working through some differences, particularly when it comes to trade and the purchase of Russian oil. We're working through those," the official said.

The official also referred to Trump's recent phone call to Modi to wish him on his 75th birthday, describing the exchange as "incredibly positive."

#### POWER PRODUCTION ESSENTIAL FOR ANY COUNTRY TO DEVELOP RAPIDLY IN 21ST CENTURY: MODI IN BANSWARA



Diary Times Desk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused the erstwhile Congress government of ignoring the importance of electricity, saying increasing power production is necessary for any country to develop

"Before 2014, there were 2.5 crore households in India that did not have electricity connection. Even after 70 years of Independence, electricity poles had not even been installed in 18,000 villages across the country.

"The Congress government did not pay any attention to the importance of electricity." Modi said while addressing a public meeting in this Rajasthan district on Thursday, where he laid foundation for a nuclear power project to be built at a cost of Rs 42,000 crore.

"Power cuts were frequent during Congress rule. It was considered a big deal if there was electricity for even four-five hours in the villages. People would congratulate each other when electricity came." Modi said.

"New industries could not be established (during Congress rule). In 2014, our government resolved to change this situation as electricity reached every village in the country, and life became easier for the people," he said

#### REVIVE PRACTICE OF DAY-TO-DAY TRIAL IN SENSITIVE CASES: SC TELLS HCS



Diary Times Desk: Expressing serious concern over discontinuation of the practice of day-to-day trial in important/sensitive cases, the Supreme Court has asked all high courts to constitute committees to deliberate on its revival and effective implementation at the district level

"One of the significant factors contributing to delays in the justice system is the discretionary practice of non-continuous criminal trials, where evidence is heard by the court in piecemeal fashion, with cases effectively spread out over the course of many months or even years," a Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice KV Viswanathan said while dealing with the CBI's plea seeking cancellation of bail of Mir Usman Ali – a rape accused from West Bengal.

"While limited judicial or court resources and a shortage of available court time due to the volume of cases are often cited for the use of this discretionary practice, the costs of non-continuous trials to both parties and to the justice system as a whole can far outweigh the perceived benefits," it said, issuing a series of directions.

"The practice of conducting trials on a day to day basis more particularly in important or sensitive cases as was the tradition about 30 years ago has been given a complete go-by. We sincerely believe that it is high time that the courts revert to that practice. For the purpose of reverting to the old practice, it is necessary to understand the current social, political and administrative scenario including the way the police are functioning," the Bench said.

#### JAISHANKAR SLAMS 'DOUBLE STANDARDS' ON CONFLICTS AT G20 FMS MEETING



Diary Times Desk: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday hit out at what he described as "double standards" in the global response to conflicts, warning that the fallout was being disproportionately borne by the Global South.

Speaking at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly summit, Jaishankar stressed that international peace and development were closely intertwined and must not be undermined by selective approaches

Citing the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, he said the impact on energy, food and fertiliser security had starkly exposed vulnerabilities in developing countries. "Apart from jeopardising supplies and logistics, access and cost themselves became pressure points on nations. Double standards are clearly in evidence," he noted. Arguing that threatening development

Arguing that threatening development cannot bring peace, the minister urged a stronger push towards dialogue and diplomacy rather than steps that risk aggravating fragile economic situations. "Making energy and other essentials more uncertain in an economically fragile situation helps no one," he warned.

## TRUMP AIDE'S "DON'T WANT TO PUNISH INDIA" REMARK AND A CRUDE SUGGESTION



**Diary Times Desk:** US Energy Secretary Chris Wright has urged India to reconsider its purchases of discounted Russian crude and said Washington does not intend to punish New Delhi with punitive tariffs, but aims to bring an end to Moscow's military actions in Ukraine. He emphasised that the US sees a "bright future" with India and called for a greater alignment on the Ukraine conflict.

"There are lots of oil exporters in the world. India doesn't need to buy Russian oil. India buys Russian oil because it is cheaper. Nobody wants to buy Russian oil; they have to sell it at a discount. India has decided to make the trade-off to buy cheaper oil and look the other way, which is giving money to a guy who's murdering thousands of people every week," Wright told news agency ANI at the New York Foreign Press Centre.

"We wish India would work with us to buy (oil). You can buy oil from every nation on the earth, just not Russian oil. That's our position. America has oil to sell, so does everybody else," he said.

#### DELHI HIGH COURT DENIES BAIL TO TAHIR HUSSAIN IN IB OFFICER MURDER CASE

**Diary Times Desk:** The Delhi High Court on Thursday denied bail to former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain booked in the murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Ankit Sharma.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna passed the order rejecting bail to Hussain.

Sharma was killed during the February 2020 northeast Delhi riots. His body was recovered from a drain and the Delhi Police chargesheet said he had sustained multiple stab wounds.

Police investigation and the chargesheet alleged that Sharma was specifically targeted by a mob that dragged him into a house in Jaffrabad, and named a group of accused, including then-AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, in connection with his murder.

The Court said that Hussain and others are liable to be tried for offences under Sections 147 (Rioting), 148 (Rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion.

### PM MODI TO DIRECTLY TRANSFER RS 10,000 EACH INTO BANK ACCOUNTS OF 75 LAKH WOMEN ON FRIDAY

Diary Times Desk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana on Friday (September 26) at 11 am via video conferencing.

During the programme, the Prime Minister will also directly transfer Rs. 10,000 each into the bank accounts of 75 lakh women across Bihar, totalling Rs. 7,500 crore.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the scheme, an initiative of the Government of Bihar, is aimed at making women Aatmanirbhar and promoting women's empowerment through self-employment and livelihood.



### DUSSHERA FESTIVITIES UNDER RAIN CLOUD AS TWO LOPARS IN A ROW HOVER OVER ODISHA



**Diary Times Desk:** Bring out your raincoats and umbrellas this Durga Puja as the rains cast a shadow on the Dussehra festivities with back-to-back systems predicted over the weekend.

Weather experts said Durga Puja is expected to not only start on a rainy note but the showers may continue during the festival too.

Director of SOA University's Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) Sarat Sahu said another cyclonic circulation may form over west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coasts on October 1. It may intensify into a low pressure on October 2 and move in northeast direction towards north Odisha-West Bengal coasts, he said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), however, has not come out with any prediction for next week yet.

## SIKH GRANDMOTHER, 73, DEPORTED FROM US, DENIED BED, SHOWER ON PLANE: LAWYER

Diary Times Desk: A 73-year-old Sikh woman from Punjab, Harjit Kaur, was among deportees from the United States who landed in India Thursday evening. She had been detained by California authorities during a routine check-in with the US' Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. On her arrival in India today her lawyer alleged Mrs Kaur and other deportees - 131 of them, as the Donald Trump administration continues is controversial 'crackdown' on illegal migrants - on the flight had been treated badly. The lawyer, Deepak Ahluwalia, said one US official was going to shackle and handcuff Mrs Kaur, a grandmother, till another stopped him, citing her age.

US officials shackling men and women ejected from that country has been an issue since ICE began these flights; in February there was a massive political row, with the Congress ripping into the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, over visuals of handcuffed Indian citizens on deportee flights.

#### 'BANGLADESH HAS PROBLEMS WITH INDIA': MUHAMMAD YUNUS ON SHEIKH HASINA, SAARC REVIVAL

Diary Times Desk: Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus courted controversy in New York, where he claimed Dhaka's ties with New Delhi are strained because India didn't like last year's student protests that led to the dramatic ouster of former premier Sheikh Hasina. Speaking in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Yunus talked about reviving SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), with Bangladesh serving as a bridge for regional trade and ocean access.

"We have problems with India right now because they didn't like what the students have done," he remarked bluntly, alleging 'fake' reports in Indian media have worsened the tensions.

"A lot of fake news is coming from India, propaganda that it's an Islamist movement," the Nobel Laureate said.

Since the student uprising in August last year in Bangladesh, New Delhi has, on multiple occasions, flagged concerns over rising anti-India statements and threats to occupy India's northeast in the neighbouring nation. India has also flagged the spike in attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh. However, the Yunus administration has refused to address the concerns, and the relationship has continued to decline.

## NATIONAL.

#### WHO IS PRIYA SHARMA? MEET THE YOUNG FIGHTER **PILOT LEADING HISTORIC FAREWELL OF IAF'S MIG-21'S**



Diary Times Desk: After ruling India's skies for more than 60 years, the iconic MiG-21 fighter jet is all set to retire with a ceremonial farewell at Chandigarh - the same base where it first entered the Indian Air Force. The official phasing out of the MiG-21 will take place on September 26 with a decommissioning event and a flypast, closing significant chapter in India's military aviation history.

The final batch of MiG-21s, operated by No. 23 Squadron, famously known as the "Panthers," will take part in the event at the Chandigarh Air Force Station. On the day of the ceremony, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh will fly the squadron's last sortie under the call sign Badal 3.

Six MiG-21s from No. 23 Squadron will perform the farewell flypast and receive a traditional water cannon salute on landing, with Sharma playing an important role in the historic send-off.

graduate of the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, in 2018, Sharma is the seventh woman to become a fighter pilot in the IAF. She was commissioned as a Flying Officer by then Army Chief General Bipin Rawat.

#### **KARNATAKA HC REFUSES** TO STAY ONGOING CASTE **SURVEY, DIRECTS COMMISSION TO ENSURE DATA CONFIDENTIALITY**

Diary Times Desk: The Karnataka High Court on Thursday declined to stay the ongoing Socio-Educational Survey being conducted by the Karnataka State Commission Backwards Classes across the state. A division bench of Chief Justice

Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C. M. Joshi passed the interim order refusing to stay the survey.

"We do not consider it apposite to interdict the survey," the court stated, while directing the Commission not to disclose the data, including to the state government.

The court directed the Commission to ensure that the data is fully protected and kept confidential. It further instructed the Commission to inform the public that participation in the survey is voluntary and that there is no obligation to disclose any information.

#### **CENTRE SEALS RS 62,000-CRORE DEAL TO BUY** 97 TEJAS MARK 1A FIGHTER JETS



Diary Times Desk: The defence ministry on Thursday sealed a Rs 62,370 crore deal with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to procure 97 Tejas MK-1A light combat aircraft for the Indian

The signing of the contract came over a month after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi green-lighted the mega procurement. The delivery of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) would commence in 2027-28 and the supplies will have to be completed over a period of six years, officials said.

"The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for procurement of 97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A, including 68 fighters and 29 twin seaters, along with associated equipment, for the Indian Air Force, at a cost of over Rs. 62,370 crore (excluding taxes)," according to an official readout.

#### SHE FELL, BABA ASKED FOR X-RAY REPORTS, "BABY, I LOVE YOU" MESSAGES FOLLOWED

Diary Times Desk: The police probe into allegations of sexual harassment at a prominent educational and spiritual institution in New Delhi has widened, with disturbing new details surfacing against Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati, a selfstyled spiritual leader and director of the Sri Sharda Institute of Indian Management in the Vasant Kunj area of the national capital.

According to the FIR filed in August 2025, multiple women students have accused the 52-year-old religious figure -- born Partha Sarathy in Odisha of harassment, coercion, intimidation. Officials confirm WhatsApp messages recovered during the investigation reveal that he allegedly addressed young students with messages such as "Baby," "I love you," "I adore you," and comments about their appearance, including compliments about hair and clothing.

The FIR mentions how the ordeal began for one student shortly after her admission in October 2024.

#### 60 DETAINED AFTER SOCIAL MEDIA **POST SPARKS VIOLENCE IN GUJARAT** VILLAGE: COPS

district following an objectionable social media post, police said on Thursday.

Police have detained around 60 persons from Bahiyal village under Dehgam taluka for the clash and rioting that took place there late Wednesday night, officials said.

Four shops and five to six vehicles were damaged in the attack, they said.

"A social media post by a Hindu man on the ongoing trend 'I love Muhammad' enraged the minority community which led to the attack," Gandhinagar SP Ravi Teja Vasamsetty told

"The group later hurled stones on Hindu areas. In retaliation, stones were pelted at the group from Hindu areas." the official said.

#### AMID LADAKH PROTESTS, SONAM WANGCHUK'S NGO'S FOREIGN **FUNDING LICENCE CANCELLED**

Diary Times Desk: A group of minority community Diary Times Desk: The government on Thursday members damaged several shops and vehicles evening cancelled the FCRA registration of Ladakh and hurled stones at a village in Gandhinagar activist Sonam Wangchuk's nonprofit - the Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh - over repeat' violations of the law governing foreign funding for non-governmental organisations.

> The cancellation comes 24 hours after violent protests over statehood demands for Ladakh.

> Only a few hours earlier sources told NDTV the federal government is planning to act against Mr Wangchuk, who has emerged as the face of Ladakh's statehood push, and who has been blamed for the violence and the deaths of four people.

The Home Ministry said his 'provocative speeches' had urged a mob to attack a local BJP office and that of the Ladakh election officer.

#### CALCUTTA HIGH COURT SEEKS REPORTS FROM POWER UTILITY, CIVIC BODY OVER ELECTROCUTION DEATHS

Diary Times Desk: The Calcutta High Court on Thursday sought a report from the private power utility. CESC Ltd, on multiple electrocution deaths in Kolkata and its suburbs due to waterlogging.

This comes against the backdrop of the discorn disowning responsibility for the deaths, saying that the fatalities were unrelated to its network, a day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused the Sanjiv Goenka-owned power generation-cum-distribution utility of negligence.

At least ten people died in rain-related incidents in West Bengal, including eight in Kolkata, after coming in contact with the naked electricity wires submerged in the waterlogged streets in different pockets of

Taking a suo motu cognisance in the matter, the division bench of Calcutta High Court's Acting Chief Justice Soumen Sen and Justice Apurba Sinha Roy asked Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC Ltd.) to file a detailed report on the electrocution death by the next date of hearing, scheduled for

The court directed CESC to clarify its safety protocols, rapid response mechanisms, and reasons for not initiating power outages in advance despite the orange alert issued by the India Meteorological Department

Additionally, the division bench directed Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) to file a report by the same date on the measures taken by the corporation to ensure the effective functioning of the city's sewerage system to prevent waterlogging, including desilting drives and drainage clearance.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

## PAKISTAN BECOMES TRUMP'S 'BROKER' TO LEVERAGE HIS MIDDLE EAST GAME. HOW LONG BEFORE IT BACKFIRES?

Diary Times Desk: Pakistan is once again making desperate attempts to remain relevant in the global spotlight by exploiting regional turbulence. As South Asia analyst Michael Kugelman describes, Pakistan is "having its moment in the sun in global geopolitics, fleeting though it may be." At a time when the Middle East is undergoing transformative churn, Islamabad is leveraging its strategic location and its nuclear status. It is trying to capitalise on opportunities presented by two unexpected developments: the downturn in India-US ties and the rapid improvement in US-Pakistan relations.

Today, Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by his Army chief Asim Munir, is set to meet US President Donald Trump in Washington. This comes three months after Trump hosted Munir in the White House in an unexpected move. Today's meeting is emblematic of Islamabad's carefully cultivated strategy of playing the US as a partner in the Middle East, while keeping India at arm's length. For New Delhi, this is not just another diplomatic engagement; it is a reminder of Pakistan's continued attempts to manipulate global powers while hiding the risks inherent in its approach.

Pakistan's appeal to the United States in the Middle East is built on multiple pillars. Its longstanding relationships with Gulf Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, give it a level of influence that the US finds useful in a region roiled by conflicts in Yemen, Syria, and Gaza. Kugelman notes that Pakistan's nuclear status adds another layer of strategic value, making it a country that cannot be ignored despite its economic weakness.

The country's military and diplomatic elites have cultivated a narrative of indispensability. The Trump administration appears to have taken note, increasing engagement with Islamabad even as India faces growing strains in its relationship with Washington. Kugelman observes that India has long accepted that the US and Pakistan will maintain a friendly military relationship. However, this resurgence in US-Pakistan ties has become "a tension point in US-India relations" because of other simultaneous strains. The rapid strengthening of US-Pakistan ties underscores Islamabad's capacity.

### ISRAEL DEEPENS GAZA CITY OFFENSIVE AS NETANYAHU HEADS TO US



**Diary Times Desk:** Israeli forces advanced deeper into Gaza City on Thursday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, with US President Donald Trump pursuing a deal to end the Gaza war.

Israeli strikes killed at least 19 persons across the Palestinian enclave on Thursday, local health authorities said. They included 11 persons from two families in Zawayda town in the central Gaza Strip, where planes hit a residential building.

Israel's military did not comment on the incident but said it had struck 170 targets across Gaza in the past 24 hours and attacked "terror infrastructure" used by militant groups to attack soldiers. Its forces were deep in Gaza City, it said.

## OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY SERVES UP 'CARIBBEAN FLAVOUR' WITH 12 NEW WORDS

**Diary Times Desk:** The Oxford English Dictionary has just added a dash of Caribbean spice with 12 new words that showcase the region's vibrant culture and cuisine. Let's dive into the fascinating world of Caribbean English and explore these new additions.

- Bulla: A small, round, flat Jamaican cake made with flour, molasses, brown sugar, and spices like ginger, nutmeg, coconut, and pineapple. This sweet treat originates from the Spanish word "bollo," meaning bread roll.
- Buss Up Shut: A popular Trinidadian dish consisting of fried unleavened bread with a flaky texture, similar to paratha or roti. The name "buss up shut" comes from the Caribbean pronunciation of "bustup shirt," likely due to the bread's resemblance to torn fabric.

## "THEY BURN HOMES, ATTACK VILLAGES AND KILL CIVILIANS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT": PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT SLAMS ISRAEL AT UNGA

**Diary Times Desk:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who addressed the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly via video link after being denied a US visa, launched a scathing attack on Israel, accusing it of war crimes, illegal settlements and violations of international law.

Turning to the situation in the West Bank, Abbas said, "The extremist Israeli government continues to implement its settlement disease through illegal settlement expansion and developing projects for annexing settlements."

He specifically referred to Israel's latest EI settlement plan, warning that it "would divide the West Bank into two parts and would isolate occupied Jerusalem from its surroundings and would undermine the option of the two-state solution, in a blatant violation of international law and relevant Security Council resolutions."

The Palestinian Authority leader also rejected remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu advocating for a "greater Israel." Abbas said, "We reject and completely deplore" such calls, stressing that they involve "expanding into sovereign Arab states in addition to the brutal attack against the sisterly State of Qatar."

# TYPHOON RAGASA BATTERS HONG KONG AND SOUTH CHINA AFTER KILLING DOZENS IN TAIWAN AND THE PHILIPPINES

Diary Times Desk: Typhoon Ragasa, one of the strongest storms to hit Asia in years, whipped waves taller than lampposts onto Hong Kong promenades and turned seas rough on the southern Chinese coast after leaving deadly destruction in Taiwan and the Philippines.

In Taiwan, 14 people died on Wednesday after floods submerged roads and carried away vehicles in one county, and 10 deaths were reported in the northern Philippines. More than 2 million people were relocated across Guanadona province, the southern Chinese economic powerhouse, Ching's state-run Xinhua news agency said. A weather station in Chuandao town recorded maximum gusts of 241 kph (about 150 mph) at noon, a high in Jiangmen city since record-keeping

State broadcaster CCTV said the typhoon made landfall along the coast of Hailing Island in Yangjiang city at about 5 pm, packing maximum winds near the center of 144 kph (89 mph). Violent winds battered trees and buildings, with torrential rain lowering visibility, video from Xinhua showed.

#### INDIAN AMONG 7 BUDDHIST MONKS KILLED IN SRI LANKA MONASTERY CABLE CART ACCIDENT



Diary Times Desk: Seven Buddhist monks, including an Indian national, were killed and six others were injured after a cable-operated rail cart overturned at a forest monastery in northwestern Sri Lanka, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Wednesday night at the Na Uyana Aranya Senasanaya, a renowned Buddhist monastery located in Nikaweratiya, about 125 km from Colombo. The monastery is known for its meditation retreats and draws practitioners from around the world.

Among the seven deceased monks were an Indian, a Russian, and a Romanian national, police said.

Of the six injured, four are in critical condition, they said.

### INTERNATIONAL

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#### ITALY, SPAIN SEND NAVY SHIPS TO PROTECT GAZA FLOTILLA AFTER DRONE ATTACKS



**Diary Times Desk:** Spain and Italy have sent naval ships into the Mediterranean Sea, charged with protecting the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF), which is carrying aid towards Gaza.

Italy said on Thursday that it is sending a second ship, while Spain said its navy will also act. Rome dispatched a frigate the previous day following a drone attack on the GSF in international waters after it came under drone attack en route to Gaza to deliver aid.

"We have sent one ship and another is on its way, ready for any eventuality," Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said in a speech to the lower house of parliament.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Wednesday that his country's navy will join Italy in sending warships.

Speaking to reporters in New York on Wednesday, where he is attending the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Sanchez said international law must be respected and the citizens of 45 nations participating in the aid mission had every right to sail in the Mediterranean unharmed.

"The government of Spain demands that international law be complied with and that the right of its citizens to navigate the Mediterranean under safe conditions be respected," he said.

"Tomorrow we will dispatch a naval vessel from Cartagena with all necessary resources in case it is necessary to assist the flotilla and carry out a rescue operation."

#### WHITE HOUSE SAYS TO PREP FOR MASS FIRINGS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTS DOWN

**Diary Times Desk:** The White House has told its agencies to prepare for mass firings if Congress does not avert a government shutdown next week, according to a memo obtained by US media.

In the memo, the Office of Budget and Management directs federal agencies to begin drafting "reduction in force" plans for programmes whose funding will lapse if Congress fails to meet a 30 September budget deadline.

The warning came after Trump on Tuesday refused a meeting with Democrats who are seeking to secure healthcare funding as part of budget negotiations.

#### BIG BLOW TO ASIM MUNIR, SHEHBAZ SHARIF AS TRUMP SECY BUSTS PAKISTAN OIL RESERVES MYTH, SAYS US NOT INTERESTED IN...

**Diary Times Desk:** In a major setback for Pakistan, US energy secretary Chris Wright has stated that the United States is not interested in exploring oil reserves in Pakistan, seemingly distancing himself from US President Donald Trump and Islamabad's claims about Pakistan housing reserves worth billions.

According to media reports, citing US intelligence sources, the remarks made by Chris Wright indicate that Donald Trump's claims about vast Pakistan oil reserves were mere political posturing, rather than a concrete policy or investment plan by Washington.

#### CHINA NOW MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN THE US IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HERE'S



WHY
Diary Times Desk: Tariffs, aid cuts and visa limits under Donald Trump's foreign policy are eroding US influence in Southeast Asia, where China is increasingly seen as dominant, the Sydney-based Lowy Institute said in a report. In its Southeast Asia Influence Index released Wednesday, the think tank ranks Washington behind Beijing as the region's most influential external partner, citing "patchy" diplomacy. China, by contrast, has entrenched itself across the region with consistent trade, investment and diplomatic efforts."China is everywhere in Southeast Asia," the report said, assessing partners on trade, investment and defense. "The United States, by contrast, shows two differing faces in Southeast Asia.""The global policies of the Trump administration on tariffs, aid cuts, and international education are only likely to accentuate the disconnect between the United States and these countries," it adds. Those dynamics will be on display next month, when Trump is expected to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Malaysia.

#### AI'S DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD: UN LEADERS WEIGH ITS PROMISE AND PERIL

#### Diary Times Desk:

The rise of artificial intelligence took center stage at Wednesday's meeting of the U.N. Security Council, with world leaders and diplomats acknowledging Al's nearly immeasurable capabilities while urging caution about its potential harms in nefarious hands, as well as possible dangers involving military use of the technology.

"The question is not whether AI will influence international peace and security, but how we will shape its influence used responsibly," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in opening remarks at Wednesday's meeting. "AI can strengthen prevention and protection, anticipating food insecurity and displacement, supporting de-mining, helping identify potential outbreaks of violence, and so much more. But without guardrails, it can also be weaponized."

#### 'DEEPLY SADDENED' BY KILLING OF CIVILIANS IN BOMBING IN TIRAH VALLEY: IMRAN KHAN

**Diary Times Desk**: Sept 25 Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday said he was "deeply saddened" by the killing of civilians in the bombing in Tirah Valley, asserting that such actions will only fuel more terrorism.

Thirty people, including women and children, were killed in airstrikes in Tirah Valley on Monday. A local police officer, however, claimed that a bomb-making material stored at a compound run by the Pakistan Taliban exploded, killing militants and civilians.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of innocent children, women, and ordinary civilians in the bombing of Tirah Valley," Khan said in a post on X.

## 6.4-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS NORTHWESTERN

#### **VENEZUELA**

Diary Times Desk: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 jolted northwestern Venezuela, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences said. The tremors were felt around 10:21 p.m. on Wednesday (local time). The epicentre, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 9.75 degrees north latitude and 70.94 degrees west longitude. The epicentre of the earthquake was near the town of Mene Grande in Zulia state, some 600 kilometres west of the capital, Caracas, according to media reports. The tremor was felt in many cities, including Caracas. No casualties or property damage have been reported so far, Xinhua news agency reported.

## INTERNATIONAL

#### KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM DAY TWO AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S WORLD LEADERS WEEK

**Diary Times Desk:** The world's most powerful people have converged in New York this week for the UN's annual gathering of leaders.

Here are some key takeaways from the second day of

Surprise from Albanese among standard talking points

Compared to Donald Trump's "your countries are going to hell" speech on Tuesday, Anthony Albanese's address was pretty unremarkable.

In his first-ever UN speech, the prime minister spoke about Australia's emissions goals (but didn't go near Trump's assertion that climate change is a "con job").

He restated Australia's position on Ukraine and Gaza (but didn't mention Israel, nor the UN inquiry's recent genocide finding against it).

And he said Australia would invest in its capabilities and relationships to help secure the Indo-Pacific (but only used the word "China" when referencing the South China Sea).



#### "3 VERY SINISTER EVENTS": TRUMP CALLS FOR ARRESTS OVER UN 'TRIPLE SABOTAGE'

**Diary Times Desk:** President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he was the victim of "three very sinister events" during his time at the United Nations on Tuesday and that the Secret Service will be looking into the issues.

The president was attending the UN General Assembly, where he gave a speech excoriating the institution for having squandered its potential. He also criticised US allies in Europe for their handling of the Russian war in Ukraine and their acceptance of immigrants as he told fellow world leaders that their nations were "going to hell."

On his social media website, Trump indicated that he was in a sour mood at the UN because of a trio of mishaps that he suggested was part of a conspiracy against him.

Second, Trump said his teleprompter went "stone cold dark" during his address to the UN The problem with that accusation is the White House was responsible for operating the teleprompter for the president, according to a UN official.

#### TWENTY INJURED IN YEMEN DRONE ATTACK ON ISRAEL, RESCUERS AND MILITARY SAY

**Diary Times Desk:** Rescuers say at least 20 people have been injured in southern Israel after the Israeli military said a drone was launched from Yemen.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said the drone struck the resort town of Eilat on the Red Sea coast, with attempts made to intercept it.

The Magen David Adom emergency medical service said 20 people were taken to Yoseftal Hospital - including two men with serious limb injuries.

The Iranian-backed Houthis claimed responsibility for the strike following the attack.

A spokesman for the group, Yahya Sarea, said two drones targeted two "Israeli enemy targets" in a "successful" operation.

Israeli TV stations broadcast live footage of the drone strike and the area it hit, which showed billowing smoke rising from the site.

#### "REPENT": INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN CHASED SEX OFFENDER IN US, SLIT HIS THROAT





Diary Times Desk: A 29-year-old Indian-origin man, Varun Suresh, has been charged with murder in Fremont, California, for stabbing 71-year-old registered sex offender David Brimmer to death. Police described the attack as "targeted" and arrested Suresh at the scene, where a knife was recovered from him. Brimmer, a convicted child sex offender, died from multiple stab wounds despite receiving emergency aid, the Independent reported.

According to court documents released on Monday, Varun Suresh

confessed to police that he had long desired to kill a sex offender, stating that "they hurt children" and "deserve to die," providing his justification for the alleged murder. Investigators revealed that Suresh used California's Megan's Law database to identify and locate David Brimmer, a registered sex offender who served nine years in prison for child sexual assault in 1995. Authorities confirmed that Suresh and Brimmer had no prior personal relationship before the attack.

On the day of the attack, Suresh armed himself with a knife and posed as a certified public accountant (CPA) soliciting clients door-to-door, carrying a bag, notebook, and coffee to appear legitimate. Upon reaching David Brimmer's home, he confirmed his identity, shook his hand, and allegedly said, "I knew I had the right guy." When Brimmer fled, attempting to flag down a vehicle for help without success, he ran two blocks into a neighbour's garage and kitchen. Suresh pursued him, stabbed him in the neck while telling him to "repent," and, as Brimmer tried to crawl away, slit his throat.

Investigators found screenshots of multiple profiles from California's Megan's Law website on Suresh's phone, including Brimmer's. Notably, the screenshot of Brimmer's profile was taken roughly 45 minutes before the first 911 call reporting the stabbing, according to police.

#### HAL, BEL, OTHER DEFENCE SHARES RISE UP TO 3% ON EUROPEAN BOOST AFTER TRUMP'S UKRAINE REMARKS, OTHER TRIGGERS

**Diary Times Desk:** Shares of defence companies rose up to 3 percent on Thursday, tracking gains in European defence stocks after US President Donald Trump voiced support for Ukraine's efforts to reclaim all of its lost territory.

The trigger was Trump's striking change of tone on Ukraine. Speaking on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Trump said Kyiv could recapture its original borders with backing from Europe and NATO. This led to sharp rally in many of the defence stocks in Europe, including Saab, Hensoldt, MilDef among others.

Many defence firms in India have existing supply partnerships with European defence companies, making them potential beneficiaries of European rearmament. Moreover, the Indian defence exports have grown rapidly, with Europe emerging as a key destination.

The Nifty Defence index ended a three-session losing streak and rose 1.6 percent. Gains were led by Cochin Shipyard, Mazagon Dock and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), with 13 of the 18 constituents trading in the green.

#### ACTIONS ON PALESTINE ISSUE DRIVEN BY PM, NETANYAHU FRIENDSHIP: SONIA GANDHI

Diary Times Desk: Asserting that India demonstrate needs to leadership on the issue of Palestine, Parliamentary Congress chairperson Sonia Gandhi Thursday slammed the Modi government's stance, saying its response has been characterised by "profound silence" and an abdication of both humanity and morality.

She said the government's actions appear to be driven primarily by the personal friendship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and rather than India's constitutional values or its strategic interests.

"This style of personalised diplomacy is never tenable and cannot be the guiding compass of India's foreign policy. Attempts to do the same in other parts of the world, most notably in the United States", have come undone in the most painful and humiliating ways in recent months," Gandhi said in her article published in The Hindu.

This is the third article by Gandhi on the Israel-Palestine conflict, published in a national daily in the recent past.

### EX FRANCE PRESIDENT, MUAMMAR GADDAFI AND MONEY TRAIL: LIBYA CASE EXPLAINED



**Diary Times Desk:** Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was sentenced to five years in prison on Thursday for allegedly taking campaign funds from ex-Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2007.

He was acquitted of three other charges, including passive corruption, illegal campaign financing, and concealment of embezzled public funds, as per the Associated Press.

The 70-year-old former president was present in court

The 70-year-old former president was present in court with his wife, singer and model Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, while his three adult sons also attended the proceedings.

Sarkozy was accused of orchestrating a scheme from 2005 to 2007 in which his aides sought campaign funds from Libya in exchange for potential diplomatic favours. Prosecutors described the arrangement as a "corruption pact" with Gaddafi's regime.

The court concluded that Sarkozy allowed his close aides to pursue financial support from Libya for his 2007 Presidential campaign, but it could not definitively prove that any Libyan funds were used in his campaign. Under French law, a corrupt scheme is punishable even if money was never transferred.

The criminal association charge carries a potential sentence of up to 10 years in prison. Sarkozy was cleared of other major accusations.

#### CHINA UNVEILS NEW CLIMATE GOALS, PLANS 7-10% EMISSIONS CUT BY 2035

**Diary Times Desk:** China has for the first time made specific emission cut pledges, though its goal of reducing planet-warming greenhouse gases just seven to 10 percent by 2035 is seen as far too modest. But Beijing has often under-promised and overdelivered, analysts say, and its pledge offers a path towards more ambitious efforts to tackle climate change.

China is the world's second-biggest economy and the largest polluter. It accounts for nearly 30 percent of global emissions.

It is also a clean energy powerhouse and sells most of the world's solar panels, batteries and electric cars. China's trajectory determines whether the world will limit end-of-century warming to 1.5C and avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate disruption.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries must update their "Nationally Determined Contributions" every five years. Many are racing to do so before the COP climate summit in Brazil this November

## MAN WHO OPENED FIRE ON ICE FACILITY HOPED ATTACK WOULD

GIVE AGENTS 'REAL TERROR,' FBI SAYS Diary Times Desk: The gunman who opened fire on an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Dallas, killing a detainee and critically wounding two others, left behind a note saying that he hoped the attack would "give ICE agents real terror," the FBI director said Thursday.

The post by Kash Patel on the social platform X offered the first hint of a motive behind the shooting on Wednesday that targeted the ICE building, including a van in a gated entryway. The detainees were in the van. No ICE personnel were wounded.

The assailant, who authorities said fired indiscriminately from a nearby rooftop, was involved in a "high degree of pre-attack planning," Patel said, and agents have seized electronic devices, handwritten notes and other evidence from a Dallas-area home.

## THE REAL REASON WORLD IS SUDDENLY RUSHING TO RECOGNISE PALESTINE

Diary Times Desk: The debate around Palestinian statehood has once again gathered steam. A spate of countries, notably European or white, have recognised Palestine as a state. The United Kingdom spearheaded the latest wave, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer saying, "In the face of the growing horror in the Middle East, we are acting to keep alive the possibility of peace and a two-state solution." He was followed by Canada, Australia and Portugal. On September 22, President Emmanuel Macron of France also followed suit, with Malta, Monaco, Luxembourg and San Marino announcing similar decisions. The move came at the Highlevel International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in the US. Belgium and Andorra have also issued declarations of recognition, though both have conditioned it on the release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas and the group's removal from power in Gaza.

In total, 153 of the UN's 193 member states – around 80% – now officially recognise Palestine. Other states that have announced such recognition more recently are South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Sweden, as well as Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Slovenia, Armenia and Mexico added their names.

India, for one, had recognised the State of Palestine decades ago in 1988, becoming one of the first countries to do so.



#### PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT SAYS READY TO WORK WITH TRUMP FOR TWO-STATE PEACE PLAN

Diary Times Desk: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said he is ready to work with world leaders to implement a peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians announced by France on Monday. Speaking via video at the UN General Assembly, Abbas reiterated his rejection of a future governing role for Hamas in Gaza and demanded it disarm.

He also called on countries which had not yet recognised a Palestinian state to do so, and for the UN to grant it full membership. Abbas denounced Israel's military offensive in Gaza, accusing it of committing "one of the most horrific humanitarian tragedies of the 20th and 21st Centuries". But he said he "rejected" the actions of Hamas in its attack on Israel on 7 October 2023.

That attack, in which about 1,200 people - mostly civilians - were killed and 251 taken hostage, triggered the war in Gaza. At least 65,502 Palestinians, about half of them women and children, have been killed by Israeli military action in Gaza since then, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry. Abbas, 89, was barred from travelling to New York to appear in person when he and 80 other Palestinian officials had their visas revoked by the department last month.

#### "GOAL IS TO FINISH WAR": ZELENSKY SAYS READY TO LEAVE PRESIDENCY AFTER PEACE

Diary Times Desk: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said that he would be ready to step down after the war with Russia is over. In an interview with Axios on Thursday, he said, "If we finish the war with the Russians, yes, I am ready not to go (for elections) because it's not my goal, elections". Zelensky explained that he wanted to help Ukraine during the war and his only goal right now is to finish the war. He also said that he would ask the parliament to hold elections if a ceasefire reached

Speaking to Axios, he said that, "During the ceasefire, I think security can give the possibility to have elections. It can be so."

The president of Ukraine, a former comedian, was elected in 2019, and although an election was due in 2024, it was suspended because of martial law after Russia's invasion in February 2022.

Zelensky said that Ukraine was seeking long-range weapons from the US and if Moscow does not end the war

#### TRUMP TO SIGN **EXECUTIVE ORDER ON** TIKTOK THURSDAY. WHITE HOUSE SAYS. **BUT THE DEAL ISN'T** COMPLETE

#### Diary Times Desk:

President Donald Trump is expected to sign an executive order on Thursday that will clear the way for the completion of a deal to sell TikTok's US assets to consortium of mostly American investors, a White House official tells CNN.

The order will mark an important procedural step toward finalizing the TikTok sale, but the deal remains far from complete. Although both US and Chinese officials have signaled they are alianed on the deal's framework. it will still likely require regulatory approvals from both countries. And as of Monday, the list of investors participating in the deal had not yet been finalized, according to a senior White House official

Thursday's executive order is expected to state that the deal constitutes qualified а divestiture as required by the ban-or-sale law that passed with strong bipartisan consensus last year. The US law, which went into effect in January, bans the app unless parent company ByteDance divests approximately 80% of its US assets to non-Chinese investors. Trump has repeatedly delayed enforcement of the law.

#### THE US ECONOMY **GREW AT A 3.8% RATE** IN THE SECOND QUARTER, **SIGNIFICANTLY** STRONGER THAN **PREVIOUSLY REPORTED**

#### Diary Times Desk:

The US economy's comeback in the second quarter was just revised higher again, and economists estimate that momentum carried on in the third quarter, underscoring the resilience of the world's largest economy.

Gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic output, rose at an annualized rate of 3.8% from April through the Commerce Department said Thursday in its third and final estimate. That's significantly higher than the 3.3% rate reported in the second estimate, and well above the 3% initially reported.

#### IF TRUMP HAS A SMOKING GUN IN THE LISA COOK MORTGAGE FRAUD CASE, WE HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET

Diary Times Desk: Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook is accused of falsely claiming two homes as her primary residence to secure better mortgage terms. But documents reviewed by CNN show that Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer did the same taking out two mortgages in one year, appearing to list both homes as primary residences.

Yet Cook is the only one under investigation by the Trump administration for mortgage fraud.

On paper, the mortgage documents may seem to raise red flags, since a borrower isn't supposed to hold two principal-residence mortgages at once. But while their situations differ, all three deny wrongdoing, and each has evidence to back their claims, including documents suggesting Cook told her lender one property was a vacation home, not a primary residence. With assistance from Federal Housing Finance Agency Director Bill Pulte and Palantir's artificial intelligence, the administration has combed mortgage records to lodge fraud allegations that seemingly target political opponents: Pulte has also called for mortgage fraud investigations into Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff of California and New York Attorney General Letitia James, both of whom have denied wrongdoing.



#### AMAZON TO PAY HISTORIC \$2.5 BILLION SETTLEMENT FOR ALLEGEDLY TRICKING CUSTOMERS INTO SIGNING UP FOR PRIME

#### Diary Times Desk:

Amazon is paying a historic \$2.5 billion settlement with the Federal Trade Commission, the agency announced Thursday, ending a 2-year dispute over allegations the company tricked consumers into signing up for its Prime subscription service and then made it hard to cancel.

As part of the agreement, Amazon will pay a \$1 billion civil penalty and provide \$1.5 billion in refunds to an estimated 35 million customers that were "harmed by their deceptive Prime enrollment practices," the agency said in a press

The settlement comes just a few days into a trial between the FTC and Amazon. The lawsuit was filed in 2023 under the Biden administration over the company's cancellation policies."Today, the Trump-Vance FTC made history and secured a record-breaking, monumental win for the millions of Americans who are tired of deceptive subscriptions that feel impossible to cancel," said FTC Chairman Andrew Ferguson.



#### KIMMEL NODS TO BIG RATINGS, HECKLES TRUMP AS AN '80S-MOVIE-STYLE **BULLY' IN SECOND POST-SUSPENSION SHOW**

#### Diary Times Desk:

Jimmy Kimmel opened his second night back on the late-night stage by taking on President Donald Trump's latest attacks against him and his network ABC, describing the president as a "80s-movie-style bully."

In his opening monologue, Kimmel performed a sentence-by-sentence roast of Trump's social media post from Tuesday, in which the president accused the comedian of being "yet another arm" of the Democratic Party and threatened "to test ABC" for airing content tantamount to "a major Illegal Campaign Contribution."

"Only Donald Trump would try to prove he wasn't threatening ABC by threatening ABC," Kimmel quipped Wednesday night.

Kimmel defended his own routine heckling of the president, echoing his Tuesday night return monologue in which he urged the public to stand up to Trump's threats and "anti-American" attacks on free speech.



## BUSINESS | FINANCE | DIARY TIMES | Shimla | Friday | 26-09-2025 |



#### **DISNEY IS A CULTURAL TOUCHSTONE - AND** THAT'S WHY IT'S A **MAGNET FOR CONTROVERSY**

#### Diary Times Desk:

The nearly 102-year-old Walt Disney Company is no stranger catapulted into beina America's culture wars. But the wrangling over "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" this month marked a new milestone in the entertainment behemoth's frequent foray into culture-war flashpoints.

Just since 2020, Disney has dealt with political controversies including its response to Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill, its theme park reopenings located in two states with polar opposite COVID safety protocols, its firing of Gina Carano from "The Mandalorian" over some of her social media posts and its re-theming of Splash Mountain in the wake of a nationwide racial justice reckoning after the killing of George Floyd.

But no matter what the company does - or doesn't do seemingly half of the country gets upset.

#### THE ARGENTINA **BAILOUT IS ALL ABOUT PROPPING UP A TRUMP ALLY**

#### Diary Times Desk:

The Trump administration is negotiating a financial lifeline Argentina, seeking to stabilize its currency and prevent broader economic fallout.

an extraordinary intervention might seem like an odd choice for the Trump administration, whose "America First" agenda calls for a more hands-off approach to foreign affairs. But it starts to make some sense (ideologically, at least) when you view the effort through a global MAGA lens: It's one wealthy, far-right leader helping out his like-minded, loyal pal.

deal: Treasury Here's the Secretary Scott Bessent said Wednesday that the US would extend a \$20 billion swap line exchanging US dollars for pesos to help stabilize Argentina's financial markets and potentially scoop up Argentine government debt.

Why? There's an economy answer and a geopolitics answer - which are obviously related, but let's start with the econ basics.

#### STARBUCKS ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT STORE CLOSURES AND **LAYOFFS**



#### Diary Times Desk:

Starbucks is taking "significant action" to turn around its struggling business, closing a large number of cafés and announcing a second round of layoffs at its headquarters as part of CEO Brian Niccol's efforts to resuscitate the troubled chain.

Niccol announced Thursday that Starbucks will close hundreds of stores this month, or about 1% of its locations. The company had 18,734 North American locations at the end of June, and the company said it will end September with 18,300 stores.

The company expects its restructuring efforts will cost \$1 billion. Shares of Starbucks (SBUX) were flat in premarket trading.

In a letter to employees, Niccol said the company underwent a review of its footprint and the locations that will close were ones "unable to create the physical environment our customers and partners expect, or where we don't see a path to financial performance."

Starbucks often closes locations for a variety of reasons, including underperformance. But Niccol said this larger-scale effort is more

#### US OPENS TARIFF INVESTIGATIONS INTO MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, **ROBOTICS AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY**



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

The US Commerce Department said Wednesday that it had opened new national security investigations into the import of personal protective equipment, medical items, robotics and industrial machinery.

The "Section 232" investigations, which were opened on September 2 but not publicly disclosed previously, could be used as a basis for even higher tariffs on a wide swath of medical and industrial goods including imported face masks, syringes and infusion pumps, as well as for robotics and industrial machinery like programmable computer-controlled mechanical systems and industrial stamping and pressing machines. The probe asks companies to detail projected demand for robotics and industrial machinery and the extent to which "domestic production of robotics and industrial machinery, and their parts and components can meet domestic demand," as well as the role of foreign supply chains in meeting US demand.

The US Commerce Department is particularly interested in the role of major exporters like China in meeting US medical needs and the "impact of foreign government subsidies and predatory trade practices."

The potential tariffs could also cover surgical masks, N95 respirators, gloves, gowns and other medical and surgical instruments and supplies including IV bags, gauze/bandages, sutures, wheelchairs, crutches and hospital beds.

The probe also covers pacemakers, insulin pumps, coronary stents, heart valves, hearing aids, prosthetics, blood glucose monitors, orthopedic appliances, computed tomography scanners and magnetic resonance imaging machines.

Pharmaceuticals including prescription drugs, as well as drones, are part of separate 232 probes.

### **STATES**

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH HC **SEEKS AFFIDAVIT ON CHIEF SECRETARY'S EXTENSION**

Diary Times Desk: The bail application of Sant Rampal, who is in iail since November 2014. has been rejected by a Hisar district court in connection with a sedition case agaThe HP High Court has directed the state government to file additional affidavit placing on record the consequential order passed after the approval was granted by the Central Government on March 28, 2025, regarding the extension granted to Prabodh Saxena as Chief Secretary of the state government.

During the course of arguments, while referring to Rule 16 of the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits), Rules, 1958, the counsel for Saxena has referred to the third proviso of the said rule, whereby the recommendations have to be made by the concerned state government with full justification and in public interest.

In view of this contention, the Advocate General prays for time to file the specific affidavit to effect whether the recommendation made admittedly by the chief minister in the present case would fall within the parameters of the said rules

#### **GURUGRAM WOMAN BOOKED FOR** HARASSING FATHER-**IN-LAW IN PALAMPUR**

Diary Times Desk: A senior citizen of Palampur has lodged a police complaint against his daughter-in-law, who lives in Gurugram, accusing her of harassment, issuing threats and extortion of huge sums of money from him.

The Palampur police have registered an FIR under Section 308(2) of the BNS (outlines the punishment for the offense of extortion) and investigation

According to a complaint filed by the 75-year-old man belonging to a reputed rich family of the area, his daughterin-law, at present residing in Gurugram, had been pressuring him since 2022 to part with his assets. He alleged that she had been continuously asking him to transfer his immovable property in New Delhi worth Rs 15 crore in her name.

#### PUNJAB CABINET APPROVES POLICY TO CLAIM CHARGES FOR ILLEGALLY **OCCUPIED LAND**

**Diary Times Desk:** Puniab 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.

Another OTS scheme for 20,039 traders, who have defaulted in payments in all pre-GST laws, has also been approved.



#### **DOCTORSPEAK: WHY HEART** ATTACKS ARE RISING AMONG THE YOUNG

Diary Times Desk: At 34, Mohali-based Pranav is suffering from various lifestyle diseases, including hypertension and diabetes. The IT professional also suffers from anxiety and insomnia. Employed with a US-based company, he keeps late hours in accordance with American working hours. Add to this his smoking habit and the use of recreational cocaine, it was hardly surprising when he was rushed to Emergency after a heart attack. An urgent angioplasty saved his life.

The near-fatal experience was a wake-up call for Pranav. With counselling and family support, he quit smoking and drugs, adopted a balanced diet, started exercising daily and lost five-kg weight. Having a healthy lifestyle has helped him go off almost all his medicines. He just takes one tablet now to control his

In recent years, a large number of young people are turning up at OPDs or hospitals with many such worrying symptoms. For a long time, heart problems were seen in an older population. But in past two decades, the patient profile with cardiac problems has gone younger.

#### **'PUNJABI CAN NEVER GO** AGAINST HIS COUNTRY': DILJIT DOSANJH BREAKS SILENCE ON SARDAAR JI 3 ROW

Diary Times Desk: At his recent concert in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh finally addressed the controversy surrounding his film Sardaar Ji 3 and his collaboration with Pakistani actor Hania Aamir. The film became a subject of national debate following the tragic Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, after which Diljit was heavily criticised for working with a Pakistani artist. Speaking in Punjabi to a packed international audience, Diljit clarified the timeline, saying that Sardaar Ji 3 was filmed well before the Pahalgam incident.

"When my film Sardaar Ji 3 was shot in February, the matches were being played. After that, the tragic Pahalgam terror attack happened. At that time, and even now, we have always prayed that the terrorists receive the strictest punishment," he

The singer said he had many answers, but he chose silence, admitting that he had faced immense pressure and criticism, but chose not to respond in public.

#### YOUR HOROSCOPE



Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.

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

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.

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

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

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

walking due to nerve pain problems.

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.

checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

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.

## HISAR COURT REJECTS GODMAN RAMPAL'S BAIL PLEA IN SEDITION CASE

**Diary Times Desk:** The bail application of Sant Rampal, who is in jail since November 2014, has been rejected by a Hisar district court in connection with a sedition case against him today.

Dismissing the bail application, the court of Additional Sessions Judge Parminder Kaur stated that the applicant's detention in the present case cannot be said to be unconstitutional on the ground of delay; that the offences alleged are grave, serious, and strike at the authority of law; and that the apprehensions regarding disruption of public order and obstruction of trial are founded upon demonstrable conduct.

Stating that his release would severely disrupt public order, impede the ongoing trial, and pose a significant threat to the administration of justice, the court recalling the events of violence which led to the reaistration of case stated "... Rampal's ashram was converted into a veritable fortress to thwart the majesty of law, and the State machinery had to mobilise extraordinary resources to regain control. Such conduct strikes at the very root of the rule of law and constitutes a direct challenge to the authority of courts".

# CM NAYAB SAINI LAUNCHES 'DEENDAYAL LADO LAKSHMI YOJANA'; ELIGIBLE WOMEN TO RECEIVE RS 2,100 MONTHLY

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Singh Saini today Navab launched the 'Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana', which provide Rs 2,100 to about 20 lakh women per month directly in their bank accounts. At a statelevel ceremony held at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula, the CM also launched a dedicated application mobile implementation of the scheme. Marking the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the Haryana Government dedicated the occasion to development, the upliftment of the last person in the queue, and women empowerment. address difficulties faced during the application process, the Chief Minister released a toll-free number (18001802231) and a helpline number (01724880500).

### TOP POLITICAL LEADERS FROM REGION UNITE AT INLD RALLY HONOURING DEVI

Diary Times Desk: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal, Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, BRS leader K. Kavitha—daughter of Telangana's first Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao—and Congress leader Sampat Singh are among the key political figures who have arrived at the INLD's Samman Rally in the new grain market on Thursday.

The rally is being organised by INLD chief Abhay Singh Chautala to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister Ch Devi Lal.

Supporters wearing green turbans and women adorned with green dupattas from various parts of the state are participating in the rally.



## KAITHAL POLICE RESCUE 2 YOUTHS HELD HOSTAGE IN TEHRAN FOR RANSOM

**Diary Times Desk:** A Special Detective Unit of Kaithal police safely rescued two youths who had been held hostage abroad for ransom. The rescued victims have been identified as Somil Sigh of Sisla village in Kaithal and Naveen Mor of Chhattar village in Jind district. They landed at Delhi airport this morning after being freed with the help of the Indian Embassy in Tehran. However, no arrest has been made so far in the case.

Kaithal Superintendent of Police (SP) Upasana said that on September 7, both the victims travelled to Iran through Jaipur, Sharjah and Tehran airports, en route to Australia. A deal was finalised for Rs 22 lakh for each. The accused misled them with fake Australian visas and tickets, assuring the families that their departure would be arranged soon. However, on September 11, the families received WhatsApp calls from the victims' numbers, informing them that both had been kidnapped and a ransom of Rs 80 lakh was demanded. They were threatened that the victims would either be killed or sold in Afghanistan if the money was not paid.

#### HARYANA ROADWAYS BUS RUNS OVER BIKE IN DELHI, 2 DEAD

**Diary Times Desk:** Two men died after their motorcycle was run over by a Haryana roadways bus in north Delhi's Civil Lines area on Thursday morning, police said.

According to police, the accident took place at around 7.25 am near Sanjay Akhada on Outer Ring Road when a bus hit a bike.

The impact caused the motorcycle to skid, and the bus crushed the heads of both riders — Narela residents Savi (19), and Karan (28) — leaving them dead on the spot, a senior police officer said.

The police said the riders were on their Kashmere Gate ISBT from Burari when the accident occurred. "The bus driver, identified as Rohtak resident Narendra (49), was apprehended from the spot. A case has been registered at Civil Lines police station," the officer added.

The officer further said that a team shifted the bodies for post-mortem, and further proceedings are underway.

Savi worked in a slipper manufacturing factory at Narela Industrial Area, while Karan was employed at the laundry section of a hospital in Greater Noida, they said.

#### RAO INDERJIT LAUNCHES FREE HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP AT REWARI VILLAGE

Diary Times Desk: The Health Department, under the National Health Mission (NHM), organised a health check-up camp at Khol village, as part of the 'Swasth Naari-Sashakt Parivaar' campaign. The camp was formally inaugurated by Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh and his daughter Haryana Health Minister Kumari Aarti Singh Rao.

Following the inauguration, both ministers reviewed the health services being provided to the public by the department. On their arrival at the camp, Civil Surgeon Dr Narendra Dahiya welcomed and felicitated the dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Rao said even after 75 years of Independence, adulteration in food and lack of nutrition had become widespread, negatively affecting people's diets. He remarked that advances in medical science had reached a point where medicines were keeping people alive, even when nutrition was lacking. He urged Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to actively spread awareness about the benefits of such camps in their respective villages. Highlighting the common deficiencies found in women, especially related to iron and hemoglobin levels, Rao encouraged all women to undergo full health checkups and follow expert advice to address any health issues. The minister emphasised that women should get their hemoglobin levels checked during the campaign and consume more green leafy vegetables.



#### 'Sponge city' architect Kongjian Yu among 4 killed in Brazil

he crash of a small plane in southwestern Brazil killed four people including Chinese landscape architect and urban planner Kongjian Yu, Brazilian authorities said Wednesday

The accident happened late Tuesday during a landing attempt at a large farm about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the municipality of Aguidauana in Mato Grosso do Sul state, firefighters said.

Yu, who was known for promoting ecologically sound development, was traveling with two Brazilian documentary makers, Luiz Fernando Feres da Cunha Ferraz and Rubens Crispim Jr. who were making a film about the Pantanal wetlands. All three were killed along with pilot Marcelo Pereira de Barros, authorities said.

Yu was know for developing the concept of "sponge cities. infrastructure that can absorb rainwater to mitigate flood risks improve urban climate.

"In times of climate change," Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva wrote on social media, "Yu became a global



In times of climate change, "In times of climate change," Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva wrote on social media, "Yu became a global reference with his sponge cities, which unite quality of life and environmental protection."

reference with his sponge cities, which unite quality of life and environmental protection.

Yu argued that by creating large spaces to hold water in city centers, such as parks and ponds. extreme rainfall can be absorbed, helping prevent floods. The idea is widely cited in Chinese urban planning, and in recent years Yu worked on projects in other countries including Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

He was known for his "notable contributions to sustainable urbanism, the preservation of biodiversity, and the protection of the planet," Brazil's Vice President Geraldo Alckmin said on X, adding that Yu's legacy will continue to inspire those dedicated to ecological cause.Yu founded the College of Architecture and Landscape at Peking University, one of China's most prestigious universities. The university did not respond a request for comment



The military fire department in Aquidauana was called at around 8:10 p.m. local time on Tuesday to respond to a plane crash, firefighters said. A and rescue operation approximately nine hours.

Yu and the filmmakers were part of a team producing a documentary about the world's largest tropical wetlands. The Pantanal, fed by tributaries of the Paraguay River and mostly located in Brazil, is a biodiversity hotspot and a popular destination for tourists to see jaguars, macaws, caimans, capybaras and migratory birds in the wild.

In an interview with The Associated Press in 2022, Yu criticized much of Asia's modern infrastructure for being built on ideas imported from Europe, which he said are ill-fitted to the monsoon climate that prevails over much of the continent.

## Rihanna, 34 A\$AP Rocky, 33

#### Rihanna welcomes third child with A\$AP Rocky

Rihanna is no longer the only girl in her household.

The singer and modul has given birth to baby number three, daughter, who they named Rocki Irish Mayers, according the singer, who posted a photo of her new addition on her official Instagram account



Lisa Respers France

The announcement comes months after Rihanna after Rihanna debuted her baby bump ahead of the Met Gala in New York City. The Diamonds singer walked the red carpet in a

Marc Jacobs suit.

She and her longtime partner, rapper and entrepreneur A\$AP Rocky, are also the parents of son, RZA, born in 2022, and son, Riot, who was born in 2023.

fusing fashion with her pregnancy included children.

'em," she said. "The only thing Riot. that matters is happiness, that's Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky's announcement of That's the only thing that can raise a child truly, is love.'

Rihanna, 34, and A\$AP Rocky, went public with their romantic each name unravel in years to come. relationship in 2021. He called



In April, he told Vogue his love for Rihanna was "internal, external, infinite, the past, the future."

Rihanna shared the news via Instagram, posting sweet photos of her holding the Rihanna kept up her tradition of newborn, whom she wrapped in a pink blanket. She captioned one image: "Rocki Irish Mayers reveals by debuting her latest Sept 13, 2025". Alongside that, she posted a baby bump in May at the MET picture of two pink boxing gloves, tied with silk Gala. She told British Vogue in ribbons, a visual nod, observers say, to the 2020 that her 10-year plan name and its possible symbolism. This naming In continues their established "R-name" theme: "I'll have kids - three or four of the couple's first two children are RZA and

the only healthy relationship their baby, Rocki Irish Mayer,s is more than a between a parent and a child. name drop. It carries layers of personal meaning, family ties, and symbolic tribute. Beyond the excitement of their newest child, the story reminds us how names can encapsulate identity, wishes, and lineage. As 33, were friends for years and their family grows, so may the meaning behind

her "the love of my life" during an The couple had revealed the pregnancy at the I hope it's a baby girl, man. I need interview with GQ, adding that 2025 Met Gala, where Rihanna flaunted her fatherhood was "in my destiny, baby bump in a pinstripe ensemble paired with a dramatic hat.

Rihanna and A\$AP Rocky, who have known each other since their 2012 performance of 'Cockiness' at the MTV Video Music Awards, confirmed their relationship in

They welcomed their first child, son RZA Athelston Mayers, in 2022 and their second, Riot Rose Mayers, in August 2023

A\$AP Rocky released his fourth studio album 'Don't Be Dumb' in 2025, while Rihanna's last album 'Anti' came out in 2016 before she launched her beauty brand Fenty Beauty in 2017. She sang the track "Friend of Mine" for the recently released animated feature film Smurfs.

previous interview, ASAP spoke about their new child. "I hope it's a girl. I really do. We're praying for a girl. Our first time, we wanted to know the sex of the baby. The second time, we didn't want to know. Third time, we don't want to know until, you know.'

"I feel like it's going to be a girl. This pregnancy is so different from the other two. You can tell from the experience.

that," the American rapper added.

## Taste Of Validation

#### COUTURE DESIGNER ROBERT WUN TAKES A LIGHTER TO HIS PIECES



Leah Dolan

Seventeen years later, perhaps a young fashion student will see Wun's designs at the Barbican and start to imagine their own future in the industry.

When couture designer Robert Wun was nominated for the 2022 Andam Fashion Awards, a prestigious French honor for emerging talent previously won Martin Margiela and Christophe Lemaire, he went to Paris for the ceremony purely as formality. Convinced wouldn't win. Wun stood at the very back of the room, nursing his drink, and barely registered when his own name was called out (albeit in French) as the recipient of the Prix Spécial, the competition's runner-up prize, which comes with a cash reward of almost \$120,000. It took his team two minutes to find Wun in the crowd of attendees and ferry him onto the stage.

When reeling off his accolades which include becoming the first Hong-Kong-born designer to be part of Paris' exclusive haute couture schedule. designing costumes for The Royal Ballet, and dressing Lady Gaga, Adele, Beyoncé and Björk anecdote is at risk of sounding like faux-modesty. But for years Wun felt unsupported in his chosen industry, and the idea of formal recognition had slowly begun to feel like a pipe dream.

Despite living, studying and working in London for the past 15 years, Wun has never shown on the city's official fashion week

schedule. "I never really got any institutional support he said. "All the endorsement," London-based **British** or designers that people can name." Wun said, "they all came from a of system, certain type umbrella." After graduating from a degree in womenswear London College of Fashion in Wun's designs 2012 spotted by Hong Kong fashion retailer Joyce Boutique. He launched his eponymous label in 2014.

Wun applied for grants, schemes emerging designer showcases hosted by the British Fashion Council (BFC) from 2014 until 2018 - when he was deemed ineligible because his business had reached three years old. He never received the of approval" permission to "carry on to be a professional," he said. "I think happened was was stubborn enough to keep doing it. And I think essentially it got to a point that I also stopped searching for that approval too." His first taste of validation came many years into his career, when judges at the Andam Awards told how much they had to deliberate between first and second place. "That was the first time I felt like I am actually good enough," said Wun.

Today, he is a fully fledged couturier, operating at the highest level of craft in the industry and is about to have his work exhibited in London for the first time. On the day we meet in late August, the east London studio he has worked in for the last eight years is hot from the ironing machine used to press the fabric and patterns that will eventually become one-ofa-kind pieces. Mannequins are dressed in full looks ready to be couriered to the Barbican, where they will be displayed in a new exhibition titled "Dirty Looks," on the contemporary fashion designers embracing deterioration and imperfection, opening on 25 September. Outside, the studio's unassuming brick facade currently covered in scaffolding - makes it hard to believe that dresses costing up to £150,000 (around \$200,000) are produced



### ARTS & STORIES

#### A CONVERSATION WITH PIET OUDOLF ON PHILADELPHIA'S NEW CALDER GARDENS







Diary Times Desk: Philadelphia's new Calder Gardens redefines the art-viewing experience by uniting architecture, nature, and the groundbreaking work of Alexander Calder. The museum, which opened on 21 September, functions as a living, breathing environment with a rotating selection of artworks spanning Calder's entire career. The architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron designed the 18,000-square-foot building, while the extensive gardens were created by renowned landscape designer Piet Oudolf. Celebrated for his perennial-forward designs that embrace the seasonal life cycles of plants, Oudolf has designed gardens for New York City's High Line and Battery Park, amongst others. He recently sat down with Christie's to discuss his vision for Calder Gardens as a growing and changing site for great art.

How did you become involved in Calder Gardens?

Piet Oudolf: I met Sandy Rower [Alexander S. C. Rower, Calder's grandson and president of the Calder Foundation] for the first time at Hauser & Wirth in England. He told me he loved my work and wanted me to come to America to see what I could do for a garden. I think the Calder Garden was already in his mind, but he did not share the idea with me then. When I finally visited him — this was around 2022 — I understood he wanted me to work on Calder Gardens specifically. We've worked several years on this, and I think it has worked out very well.

Does the garden represent your initial vision? Plants are living specimens — do plans ever turn out differently than expected?

**PO:** At the start, you only have an abstract vision. You know the conditions, the site, the architect's building, but you haven't yet been there in person. You start imagining what could be done — especially when it's not one garden but a series of spaces, each with a different mood. A lot changed along the way — architectural elements, fences, pathways. You always wait for a 'final' master plan, but in practice, it never stays the same. You have to stay flexible.

Tell us about the different 'concept' areas within the garden.

**PO:** On both sides of the garden, there are small woodland areas, 'garden concepts', ideas that make each part of the garden feel unique. So, from some entrances, you don't see the full garden at once. You walk through woodland and then the garden opens up into different types of plantings. There's a perennial garden we call the 'robust borders' and another we refer to as a 'matrix' or meadow-type planting, especially around the entrance. Each space offers a different experience.

## COLLECTOR OLE FAARUP: 'HE COULD NEVER REALLY UNDERSTAND PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE MEANS TO BUY ART BUT CHOOSE NOT TO'

It's fair to say that Ole Faarup made the most of his time living in New York in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Professionally, his roles included heading up the home furnishings department for Macy's across a dozen stores. Then, in his spare time, he revelled in the art that the city had to offer.

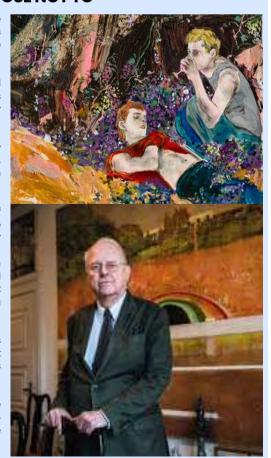
Many a lunch hour was spent visiting the Museum of Modern Art. Faarup also frequented galleries in Chinatown and SoHo, as well as the restaurant and nightclub Max's Kansas City, a famed hangout for creative types on Park Avenue South. He came across Andy Warhol there more than once.

1 chatted with him a bit,' Faarup recalled in later life. 'It was mainly, you know, "Hello, how are you? Congratulations on your exhibition" — that sort of stuff.' It's worth adding, though, that the Dane was tentatively starting to acquire art at that time, and — through their brief conversations — Warhol convinced him 'to buy things that are cutting-edge'.

Faarup took this advice to heart and, across five decades, put together a collection of such note that his home in Frederiksberg became a port of call for anyone in the contemporary art world who visited Denmark. In August, Christie's staged a four-day exhibition of the collection at Kunsthal n in Copenhagen, which attracted 5,000 visitors. It is a collection rich in work made by artists in the early part of their career — artists from across the globe, including Warhol's friend Jean-Michel Basquiat and the renowned Swedish painter Karin Mamma Andersson. Faarup took an especial liking to the work that was coming out of London in the 1990s, and he acquired standout pieces by Peter Doig and Chris Ofili in particular.

He passed away in February this year, aged 90. As set out in his will, his collection is being offered for sale, with proceeds going to the newly established Ole Faarup Art Foundation, the primary purpose of which is to support younger artists (more on this below).

Works will be presented across three sales — the 20th/21st Century: London Evening Sale on 15 October 2025, followed by the Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale on 16 October, and from 8 to 21 October, Among the Artists: The Ole Faarup Collection Online Sale



#### LIVERPOOL FORCED INTO ALEXANDER ISAK U-TURN AS ARNE SLOT PLANS MAJOR CHANGES



Diary Times Desk: Liverpool boss Arne Slot is expected to ring the changes once again for their Premier League clash this weekend. The Reds, who have enjoyed a perfect start to the season, visit Selhurst Park to face unbeaten Crystal Palace on Saturday afternoon. After resting several key players in Tuesday's 2-1 victory over Southampton in the Carabao Cup, many of them are expected to return looking refreshed for the match in south London. This includes Alisson Becker and Virgil van Dijk, who were part of the Liverpool contingent that attended Monday night's Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris. They will be joined by Ibrahima Konate, while Milos Kerkez, who was a substitute on Tuesday, is tipped to start at left-back.

Liverpool's head coach Slot faces a selection headache on the right side, with both Jeremie Frimpong and Conor Bradley competing for the spot

#### NEITHER HARRY KANE NOR JULIÁN ÁLVAREZ, BARÇA SIGNS ANOTHER STRIKER: 'MEETING CONFIRMED'

Diary Times Desk: Neither Harry Kane nor Julián Álvarez: this has been confirmed by Barça in "petit comité" more than 10 months before the start of the next summer transfer window. It's no secret that Barça's main challenge for next summer will be to sign a new center forward to replace Robert Lewandowski, whose contract will expire. Many names have been linked to Barça, with Harry Kane and Julián Álvarez standing out, but the Catalan club is working on signing another striker: meeting already confirmed. Julián Álvarez and Harry Kane are highly regarded by Barça and Hansi Flick, but their price could be somewhat prohibitive, so the Barcelona entity is working on an alternative. However, Barça confirms that, in this upcoming summer transfer window, it will make a move with the goal of signing a striker. Lewandowski is already a Barça legend, but Joan Laporta acknowledges that the Pole's performance, as is logical due to his age, will drop significantly.

For all these reasons, Barça wants to get things done in advance and already has a meeting scheduled with the player who would become the future starting "9" of FC Barcelona. Neither Harry Kane nor Julián Álvarez: Barça is looking to close ranks and go all in for another striker, who would arrive at Barça for a price close to €45M.

### ALEXANDER ISAK: WE WANT TO BE COMPETING ACROSS ALL FRONTS

**Diary Times Desk:** The Sweden international bagged his first goal in the red shirt during Tuesday night's Carabao Cup victory over Southampton at Anfield.

A 2-1 win to kick off their League Cup campaign added to a 100 per cent record across the Premier League and Champions League for Arne Slot's men so far this season.

"I think especially when you play for a club like Liverpool, you've got to compete on all fronts," Isak told Liverpoolfc.com post-match.

"That's the main goal: to be competitive in all competitions, going out to every game wanting to win."

Isak's finish put Liverpool 1-0 up against Saints just a few minutes prior to half-time and his withdrawal, as he continues to build up match sharpness following his arrival from Newcastle United.

A typically confident first-time stroke past the goalkeeper, he was assisted by impactful play by Federico Chiesa, who closed down in the box, won the ball and squared it to the No.9.

He said: "All of the work was really done by Fede, a high-pressure regain and from that moment I was trying to be in the right place, which I was and I just tucked it away."

#### ARTETA: EZE HAS A LOT MORE TO GIVE ARSENAL AFTER FIRST GOAL

**Diary Times Desk:** Mikel Arteta said he believes Eberechi Eze still has plenty more to bring to Arsenal's attacking play after watching him score his first goal for the club in Wednesday's 2-0 Carabao Cup win over Port Vale.

Eze struck just eight minutes into the match at Vale Park but, despite that early strike, Arsenal struggled to create clear opportunities against their League One hosts, not killing the game off until substitute Leandro Trossard struck in the 86th minute.

But Eze's goal -- his first since he returned to the club in a £60 million move from Crystal Palace -- already looked like being enough for Arsenal on a night when the 27-year-old was the brightest of Arsenal's attacking players.

"He played very centrally against a team that went 5-4-1, supercompact inside, it's not easy to find the space but he's very capable with the goal and with another three or four actions that he is completely through and [playing] people through," Arteta said.

"He needs to still play more time a little bit with those guys to understand the timings, especially the things that he needs to do, and then actions like that will be more consistent and better for us. In general very good, there is still a lot more to give I think."



## LIONEL MESSI'S BRACE HELPS INTER MIAMI CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT

Diary Times Desk: Lionel Messi led the charge for Inter Miami CF, scoring twice in the second half to extend his tally to five goals in the past nine days, securing a 4-0 victory over New York City FC on Wednesday night at Citi Field and a spot in the 2025 Major League Soccer playoffs.

Miami head coach Javier Mascherano emphasized that the team had accomplished an important goal, but it was only the first step for a club with aspirations to repeat as Supporters' Shield champions.

"We are happy and with the tranquility of having achieved the first goal, which was to qualify for the playoffs. Now we'll try to finish as high as possible in the standings, which would allow us to have home-field advantage," Mascherano said.

Messi had the opportunity to record a hat trick when Inter Miami earned a penalty in the 83rd minute, but the Herons captain chose to give the chance to longtime teammate Luis Suárez instead

## PREMIER LEAGUE DEFENDER ASKS AGENT TO OPEN TALKS WITH REAL MADRID



**Diary Times Desk:** Real Madrid are looking to sign a new centre-back next summer, one that can serve as a long-term mainstay to serve alongside Dean Huijsen and compete with Eder Militao.

Several players have made themselves available to the club hearing of the vacancy with Liverpool Ibrahima Konate and Bayern Munich's Dayot Upamecano being the best-placed targets while Arsenal's William Saliba continues to be an option.

Marc Guehi wants Real Madrid

Now, as relayed by SPORT in a recent update, Crystal Palace's Marc Guehi has also entered the scene as a possibility and has made himself available to the club.

As forwarded by the outlet, Guehi finishes his contract in England next summer and will be a free agent in June – much like Upamecano and Konate.

Given Real Madrid's history of targeting free-agents, he knows he has a good chance of entering the Merengues and has asked his agent to negotiate a transfer with Real Madrid.