

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**'WHAT KIND OF PATRIOTISM IS THIS?': UDDHAV THACKERAY SLAMS BJP OVER WANGCHUK'S ARREST**

**Diary Times Desk :** Shiv Sena UBT supreme Uddhav Thackeray questioned the patriotism of the BJP over the arrest of Indian patriotic and activist Sonam Wangchuk, while also playing cricket with the 'enemy country', Pakistan in the meanwhile. Uddhav Thackeray pointed out that Sonam Wangchuk has been doing research for the Indian military's aid, but the BJP-led government still arrested him. "What kind of patriotism does the BJP have?" Uddhav Thackeray asked.

"Pakistan sponsored the terrorism and orchestrated the Palgham terrorist attack, but the Indian cricket team was forced to play cricket with Pakistan. This has pulled down the façade of the BJP as a nationalist party."

**2 SUSPENDED AFTER CHANDIGARH CIVIC WORKERS CAUGHT ON CAM MAKING MARKET 'DIRTY' FOR KHATTAR TO 'CLEAN'**

**Diary Times Desk :** How do you clean a city that's already clean? By first making it dirty. And that's what Chandigarh Municipal Corporation workers did, ahead of a sanitation drive by Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's in the sector 22 market. Now the corporation has suspended two officials for "dereliction of duty" and ordered an investigation.

Soon after the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign in Chandigarh on 25 September, the birth anniversary of Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Khattar posted pictures of himself on X, sweeping the market with a broom, wearing a mask.

The X post by the Office of Manohar Lal and reposted by Khattar from his personal handle on September 25, reads, "Shri @mlkhattar, Hon'ble Union Minister, joined citizens at Sector 22, Chandigarh for the 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath' initiative".

Chandigarh Municipal Corporation also posted pictures on its social media X.

**VIJAY'S RALLY IN TAMIL NADU**

**36, INCLUDING 8 CHILDREN, KILLED IN STAMPEDE AT TVK CHIEF VIJAY'S RALLY**



**Diary Times Desk :** A massive tragedy unfolded at Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay's rally in Tamil Nadu's Karur district, where 34 people were killed in a stampede. Officials said 46 people were injured.

Police sources told NDTV some people had fainted at a point where large numbers had surged forward, triggering the stampede. A senior police officer estimated that "at least 30,000 people had gathered" at the venue, where Vijay was scheduled to speak after his earlier rally in Namakkal.

His arrival, however, was delayed by more than six hours, by which time the crowds had swelled uncontrollably.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sought a report from the Tamil Nadu government on the incident, sources said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, who is coming to Karur tonight, in a post on X expressed shock over the tragedy.

"Reports from Karur saddening. I have ordered urgent treatment for those who fainted, and instructed the health minister, collector and former minister Senthil Balaji to help. The ADGP [senior police officer] has been tasked to restore normalcy. Minister Anbil Mahesh has been directed to extend help on a war footing. I appeal to the public to cooperate with the police," Mr Stalin said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the unfortunate incident during the political rally in Karur is deeply saddening. "My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. Wishing strength to them in this difficult time. Praying for a swift recovery to all those injured," he said.

After the incident, Vijay went to the airport in Trichy and took a flight to Chennai. He declined to give a comment to the media and hid his face from cameras at the airport.

Citing safety concerns, the police had imposed 23 conditions for TVK rallies, including a ban on joining convoys, public receptions, and advisories for pregnant women, the elderly and the differently abled to follow events online.

Courts, too, had made strong observations about public safety and the actor-politician's responsibility even as TVK alleged bias against the party. Despite Vijay's repeated appeals, most of these conditions were openly defied by his supporters. Many had brought in children and infants.

**PM MODI UNVEILS DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS WORTH OVER RS 50,000 CRORE IN ODISHA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid the foundation stone and inaugurated development projects worth over Rs 50,000 crore across telecommunications, railways, higher education, healthcare, skill development and rural housing sectors.

The prime minister laid the foundation stone for Rs 11,000 crore infrastructure expansion projects in eight IITs - Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, Dharwad, Jodhpur, Patna and Indore - in order to increase 12,000 seats over the next four years.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the construction of a rail flyover between Sambalpur City and Sarala at an investment of Rs 273 crore, and for the setting up of a semiconductor and electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) park in collaboration with IIT-Bhubaneswar.

The PM launched the MERITE (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education) scheme, designed to improve quality, equity, research, and innovation in 275 state engineering and polytechnic institutions across the country.

He also launched Odisha Skill Development Project Phase-II, which will establish world skill centres at an investment of Rs 1,979 crore in Sambalpur and Berhampur, covering emerging sectors such as agritech, renewable energy, retail, marine, and hospitality. Five ITIs will be upgraded into 'Utkarsh ITIs', 25 ITIs will be developed as Centres of Excellence, while a new Precision Engineering Building will provide advanced technical training.



**WHO IS PETAL GAHLOT, INDIAN DIPLOMAT WHO GAVE SHARP RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN PM AT UN**



**Diary Times Desk :** Petal Gahlot, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, has emerged as the face of the country's strong diplomatic pushback after she issued a scathing reply to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Exercising India's right of reply at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Gahlot dismantled Sharif's assertions over Operation Sindoor and the tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. As per reports, she charged that the Pakistani PM had "once again glorified terrorism."

Who is Petal Gahlot?

Petal Gahlot is a seasoned diplomat with expertise in political science, translation and international relations. She joined India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations as First Secretary in July 2023. In September 2024, she was appointed Advisor at the UN.

Before her current posting, Gahlot served as Undersecretary in the Ministry of External Affairs' European West Division from June 2020 to July 2023. During this time, she was also posted at India's missions in Paris and San Francisco, according to She The People. Beyond her professional achievements, Gahlot is a passionate musician. She often shares videos of herself playing the guitar on social media, where her renditions of Bella Ciao, Lost On You and Kabira from Yeh Jawaani Hai Deevani among others have attracted considerable attention.

**IN BIHAR MAHABHARAT FOR WOMEN'S VOTE, A TALE OF DIFFERING STRATEGIES**



**Diary Times Desk :** In the heart of Bihar, as the sun sets, casting golden hues across the green fields, a different kind of light is emerging - one that illuminates the evolving role of women in the political landscape. The forthcoming Assembly elections are poised to be a battleground not only for parties but also for ideologies, and one issue that is set to dominate is women's empowerment and welfare. Call it the Mahabharat for the 'mahila' vote in Bihar.

In what was partly a coincidence and partly fierce electoral competition, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi reached Patna and Motihari on Friday, the same day Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana via videoconference from Delhi.

The political landscape suddenly became awash with promises and proclamations for the women of Bihar. The elections have, thus, shifted the focus to what is one of the most pressing issues in contemporary Bihar: women's empowerment in a largely patriarchal state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the main vote getter of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has descended with a promise of a direct transfer of cash. The Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana (brainchild of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar) is not a promise of future gain but an immediate deposit: Rs 10,000 each for 75 lakh women, a sum so big that it feels like a tectonic shift in the poor state's financial landscape. It is a move that bypasses the long, winding road of structural reform for the straight-line immediacy of the bank account, betting that the weight of a rupee in hand is worth more than the promise of a distant institution. It is not surprising, then, that some experts are calling it a "game-changer" and comparing it to similar schemes in Madhya Pradesh (Ladli Behna) and Maharashtra (Ladki Bahin Yojana).

## PAKISTAN ANGLE

**ARRESTED PAK INTEL OPERATIVE LINKED TO SONAM WANGCHUK: LADAKH TOP COP**



**Diary Times Desk :** A Pakistan angle has emerged in the probe against Ladakh statehood activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was arrested yesterday for allegedly instigating a mob that led to violent clashes and the death of four protesters in Ladakh last Wednesday.

Ladakh Director General of Police (DGP) SD Singh Jammwal questioned Mr Wangchuk's Pakistan visits at a press conference this afternoon. He said the activist had attended a Dawn event in Pakistan and accused him of trying to sabotage the statehood talks with the centre.

He also informed about the arrest of a Pakistan Intelligence Operative (PIO) linked to Mr Wangchuk's arrest and clues regarding the activist being in touch with Pakistani people.

"We also arrested a Pakistan PIO in the recent past who was in touch with him and was reporting back across. We have a record of this. He (Mr Wangchuk) had attended a Dawn event in Pakistan. He also visited Bangladesh. There is a big question mark on him," said DGP Jammwal in response to an NDTV question. Later speaking to NDTV's Aditya Raj Kaul about the PIO, he said, "We found somebody who was sending things across. We have put that person on surveillance." Sonam Wangchuk has been charged under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) that provides for long preventive detention without any scope for bail. Sources suggest he has been shifted to a facility in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. A curfew has been imposed in Leh, and internet services have been snapped to stop the spread of misinformation.

**'VOTE FOR DMK IS VOTE FOR BJP,' CHARGES TVK CHIEF VIJAY AT NAMAKKAL RALLY**



**Diary Times Desk :** Embarking on his campaign in the western Kongu region for the first time, TVK chief Vijay said a vote for Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK in the 2026 Assembly election is a vote for the BJP and slammed the main opposition AIADMK's alliance with the Saffron party as "inappropriate and opportunistic."

In his address, Vijay alleged the "DMK family" has underground dealing with the BJP and hence, a vote for DMK is a vote for the BJP and reiterated that the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam will never make any compromises with the "fascist BJP regime."

"Did they do? he asked, targeting the ruling DMK over its 2021 poll assurances and he listed promises made in chronological order. He asked if promises such as implementing the Old pension scheme for government employees had been operationalised. Hitting out at the main opposition AIADMK for forgetting the ideals of late party patriarch J Jayalalitha despite often "chanting Amma's name," he said it has forged an inappropriate, and unsuitable alliance with BJP and it is also opportunistic.

The AIADMK claims that such an alliance was for Tamil Nadu's welfare and the TVK will not replicate such an opportunistic political stand.

## HARJIT KAUR, HANDCUFFED AND DEPORTED BY US, HAS JUST ONE WISH



**Diary Times Desk :** Over 30 years ago, when Harjit Kaur moved to the United States with her two sons, she couldn't imagine this day. Originally from Punjab, she was an undocumented immigrant in California; she worked and paid her taxes in the US and diligently marked her attendance to authorities every six months, as required by the law. Fast forward to 2025, the 73-year-old grandmother to five US residents was shackled and sent back to India, after a prolonged custody without food and medicines.

Ms Kaur is yet to come to terms with being uprooted from her family after three long decades in the US. While she's unaware of the reason behind her sudden deportation, the action points to the unrelenting crackdown on immigrants by the Trump administration and a sheer lack of compassion.

Struggling to hold back her tears, she recalled being handcuffed and arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

## 'THE UNHOLY NEXUS': CBI RAIDS BUILDERS, FINANCIERS IN KOLKATA, BENGALURU AND MUMBAI OVER ALLEGED HOMEBUYER FRAUD

**Diary Times Desk :** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday carried out searches at 12 locations across Kolkata, Bengaluru and Mumbai after registering six new cases against builders and officials of financial institutions accused of cheating homebuyers, officials told PTI. The fresh action, which includes the seizure of documents and digital records, comes on the back of Supreme Court directions to investigate a suspected nexus between developers and lenders that allegedly exploited unsuspecting buyers through controversial home loan schemes. Which companies are under the scanner According to the FIRs, the companies booked include:

Bengaluru-based Ithaca Estate Pvt. Ltd, LGCL Urban Homes, and Ozone Urbana Infra Developers Pvt. Ltd

Mumbai-based Shashwati Realty Pvt. Ltd (with projects in Bengaluru) and ACME Realities Pvt. Ltd

Kolkata-based MKHS Housing LLP

## INDIA MAY IMPORT US CORN FOR ETHANOL PRODUCTION AS TRADE TALKS ADVANCE

**Diary Times Desk :** India is exploring the purchase of US corn for ethanol production, along with increased energy imports, as part of fresh proposals in ongoing trade negotiations with the United States. The discussions aim to conclude a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) by this fall.

New Delhi has also pressed Washington to lift the 25 per cent additional tariffs imposed as a penalty for Indian imports of Russian crude oil, which the US claims is funding the war in Ukraine. A report by Economic Times cited an official saying, 'Fresh offers have been made... there is discussion to buy corn for ethanol production.'

US pushes for soybean and corn imports

The US has been encouraging India to increase imports of American soybean and corn. India, however, has resisted, citing concerns over genetically modified (GM) crops entering the food chain. Officials have emphasised that protecting domestic farmers and preventing GM products from entering the market remain key priorities for the Indian side.

In August, India exported goods worth \$6.86 billion to the US, while imports were valued at \$3.6 billion, according to government data.

## WEATHER AGENCY PREDICTS RAINFALL DURING 5-DAY DURGA PUJA FESTIVAL IN WEST BENGAL



**Diary Times Desk :** The Durga Puja festivities may get somewhat dampened as a new low pressure area likely to form over the Bay of Bengal on October 1 would bring rain in many areas during next seven days with downpour at isolated places in some districts of south Bengal, the IMD said on Saturday. The five-day Durga Puja festival is going to commence from September 28 and conclude on October 2, the 'Vijaya Dashami' day. However, the idols are immersed in many places later. The existing depression is very likely to continue to move across south Odisha and Chhattisgarh and weaken gradually into a well marked low pressure area by Sunday.

## MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD BULLET TRAIN TO BE OPERATIONAL BY 2029, SURAT-BILIMORA SECTION READY BY 2027

**Diary Times Desk :** The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train will be operational by 2029, and the 50-km stretch of India's first high-speed rail corridor between Surat and Bilimora in Gujarat is expected to open by 2027, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Vaishnaw inspected the under-construction Surat station, including track installation and the first turnout. According to him, people will be able to cover the distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in two hours and seven minutes on the bullet trains, against nine hours as shown on Google Maps.

"Overall progress of the first bullet train project is very good. The first 50 km section between Surat and Bilimora will be open by 2027. By 2028, the Thane-Ahmedabad section will be commissioned, and by 2029, the full Mumbai-Ahmedabad line will open," the minister said.

Vaishnaw highlighted the use of modern technology to ensure safety, including vibration absorption mechanisms along the track and special safety features to handle high winds and earthquakes.

## SETBACK FOR HIMANTA AS BJP MANAGES ONLY FIVE SEATS IN BODO TERRITORIAL REGION POLLS

**Diary Times Desk :** In a setback to Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fared badly in the autonomous council elections of the Bodo Territorial Region (BTR).

Sarma, who led the party's campaign through marathon rallies, had gone ahead with the polls without continuing the ruling alliance of the BJP with the United People's Party-Liberal (UPPL) in the hope of dissociating itself from the anti-incumbency faced by the local party. He had told reporters that whichever of the two major local parties would win the elections, BJP would tie up with it, thereby hinting at a fractured mandate of the elections, held on September 22.

However, the counting of votes of the elections for the 40 constituencies showed that the opposition Bodo People's Front (BPF) has swept the polls, cornering 29 seats, while the other local party with which BJP had an alliance, the UPPL, could pocket only seven seats.

BJP itself could win only five seats. The voting of the Council elections was held through paper ballot. Counting began on September 26.



## SSC SUB-INSPECTOR RECRUITMENT 2025: APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR 3,073 SUB-INSPECTOR POSTS, SALARY UP TO RS 1,12,400

**Diary Times Desk :** SSC Sub-Inspector Recruitment 2025: Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has invited applications for 3,073 Sub-Inspector vacancies in Delhi Police and CAPF. Both the posts offer a salary up to Rs. 1,12,400. Interested candidates can apply for the posts on the official website of the commission - ssc.gov.in. Applications are invited for Sub-Inspector General Duty (GD) in Central Police Armed Forces (CAPFs) and Sub-Inspector (Executive) (Male, Female) in Delhi Police. Both come with a pay range of Rs. 35,400 to Rs. 1,12,400. 10 per cent of the total vacancies in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) are reserved for Ex-Servicemen. Of the total 212 vacancies in Delhi Police, 142 are reserved for males and 70 for females. 10 per cent (14) of vacancies are reserved for departmental candidates (male), 8 Male vacancies for Ex-Servicemen (Others) and 6 for Ex-Servicemen (Spl. Category).

## 5 DEAD AS SPEEDING THAR LOSES CONTROL, HITS DIVIDER ON GURUGRAM HIGHWAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Five people died and one was left severely injured after a speeding Thar they were in lost control and crashed into a divider on the National Highway in Gurugram on Saturday morning. The incident took place around 4:30 am near the highway's exit number 9. According to officials, the group of six people - three men and three women - had travelled to Gurugram from Uttar Pradesh for some work. As the driver of the high-speed SUV lost control, it crashed into a divider. Four people died on the spot, and the remaining two were rushed to a nearby hospital - where one of them died. The injured victim, undergoing treatment, is said to be in a critical condition. The impact of the collision was so severe that Thar was left in a completely mangled wreck.

This is yet another incident involving the Mahindra Thar - which is known for often featuring in reels and short videos. The SUV, in recent times, has been under the spotlight for rash driving and accidents. Last month, a biker died after a speeding Thar hit him in Delhi's Moti Nagar area. Visuals showed the bike completely crushed between the car and a truck. Many cracks could also be seen on the car's windshield.

## DELHI ASHRAM BABA WITHDREW OVER RS 50 LAKH AFTER CASE WAS FILED AGAINST HIM



**Diary Times Desk :** Self-styled godman Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati, accused of sexually harassing 17 girl students of a Delhi institute, allegedly used different names and particulars to operate bank accounts and withdrew over Rs 50 lakh after FIR was registered against him, investigators claimed on Friday. During the investigation, it was revealed that Saraswati had allegedly been operating a bank account under two different names by submitting documents with varying particulars at the time of account opening and transfer. Police also said that around Rs 50-55 lakh had been withdrawn since the registration of the FIR. Meanwhile, a Delhi court on Friday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Saraswati in a case of alleged cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy against him.

## TELANGANA GETS NEW POLICE CHIEF AFTER MAJOR RESHUFFLE OF IAS, IPS

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major reshuffle of IPS officers, the Telangana government on Saturday issued orders appointing B Shivadhar Reddy as the new Director General of Police of Telangana, and VC Sajjanar as Hyderabad Police Commissioner. B Shivadhar Reddy, an officer from the 1994 batch, who worked as the Director General of Police for the state's Intelligence Department, has been transferred and posted as the Director General of Police (Coordination) and is also placed in "full additional charge" of the post of Director General of Police (Head of Police Force) for Telangana, replacing the retiring DGP, Jitender. Mr Reddy was also the first Intelligence Chief of Telangana in 2014. Mr Sajjanar, an officer from the 1996 batch, who has been appointed to replace CV Anand, is well-known for his tenure as the head of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) and for his earlier role as the Commissioner of Cyberabad Police, when the four accused in the 2019 veterinary doctor's rape and murder case were killed in an encounter.

## MP HORROR: CHILD BEHEADED IN FRONT OF MOTHER IN DHAR, ACCUSED DIES FOLLOWING MOB ATTACK

**Diary Times Desk :** In a horrific incident on Friday, a five-year-old boy, Vikas, was brutally beheaded in front of his mother by a man believed to be mentally unstable. As per eyewitnesses, the accused, identified as 25-year-old Mahesh, arrived on a motorcycle and entered the home of resident Kalu Singh. The family reportedly did not know him.

Without warning, Mahesh allegedly grabbed a spade-like tool lying inside the house and attacked the child, severing his neck. The attacker also struck the boy's shoulder, leaving the body mutilated, stated an NDTV report. The boy's mother attempted to intervene but sustained injuries in the process. Neighbours and villagers rushed to the scene and, in a surge of anger, caught hold of Mahesh. He was severely beaten before police arrived. Dhar Superintendent of Police Mayank Awasthi described the crime as "extremely heartbreaking" and confirmed that the accused died en route to the hospital. "The real cause of death will be confirmed after the post-mortem. Initial investigations suggest he was mentally unstable," Mr Awasthi said. A case has been registered against the accused, and a judicial inquiry has been ordered into his death. According to preliminary investigations, Mahesh was a resident of Jobat Bagdi in Alirajpur district. His family told police that he had been mentally unstable and had been missing for the past three to four days.

## WANTED IN PUNJAB, BABBAR KHALSA LINKED TERRORIST EXTRADITED FROM UAE

**Diary Times Desk :** In a landmark operation, Punjab Police on Saturday extradited Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Parminder Singh Pindi, from Abu Dhabi in the UAE to India with the close coordination and support of Central agencies, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said. He said Pindi is a close aide of foreign-based terrorists Harwinder Singh, alias Rinda, and Happy Passia and is involved in multiple heinous crimes, including petrol bomb attacks, violent assaults, and extortions in the Batala-Gurdaspur region. Acting swiftly on a Red Corner Notice (RCN) requested by Batala Police, a dedicated four-member team led by a senior police officer travelled to the UAE on September 24, coordinated with the Ministry of External Affairs and the UAE authorities, completed all legal formalities, and successfully brought the accused back to face justice, said the DGP. "This successful extradition underscores Punjab Police's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and organised crime as well as its advanced investigative capabilities.

## THIRD CAR LINKED TO ACTOR DULQUER SALMAAN IN BHUTAN LUXURY VEHICLE SMUGGLING CASE SEIZED

**Diary Times Desk :** Customs officials investigating the smuggling of luxury vehicles from Bhutan seized another car belonging to Malayalam actor Dulquer Salmaan on Saturday, officials said.

With this seizure, the agency has confiscated 40 vehicles in the case, including three linked to the actor.

A red Nissan Patrol SUV was taken into custody from an apartment complex in Vennala, where a relative of Dulquer resides, Customs sources said. Investigators stated that the SUV was smuggled from Bhutan and brought to Himachal Pradesh, where it was re-registered before being sold to the actor. According to Customs, details of Dulquer's four cars are being collected, though all were purchased from previous owners in India.

GLOBAL ARMS EMBARGO, STIFF  
ECONOMIC SANCTIONS NEEDED TO  
HALT ISRAELI ATTACKS ON GAZA

**Diary Times Desk :** THE Malaysian Government has urged the international community to impose a comprehensive global arms embargo and tighter economic sanctions on Israel, in an effort to immediately halt its military offensive in Gaza. Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the world could no longer remain silent while “thousands of innocent lives are lost”. “We must intensify engagement with members of the UN Security Council to invoke Chapter VII of the UN Charter — a crucial step toward enabling global arms and economic sanctions,” he told the High-Level Meeting on Halting the Genocide in Gaza, organised by The Hague Group in New York. Mohamad called for closer cooperation with the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to build collective diplomatic pressure.

IRAQ RESUMES KURDISH OIL  
EXPORTS TO TURKIYE AFTER TWO-  
AND-A-HALF-YEAR HALT

**Diary Times Desk :** Iraq has resumed crude oil exports from the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region to Turkiye after an interim deal broke a two-and-a-half-year deadlock over legal and technical disputes. The resumption started at 6am local time (03:00 GMT), according to a statement from Iraq’s oil ministry on Saturday. “Operations started at a rapid pace and with complete smoothness without recording any significant technical problems,” the ministry said. Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar also confirmed the development in a post on X. The agreement between Iraq’s federal government, the Kurdistan regional government (KRG) and foreign oil producers operating in the region will allow 180,000 to 190,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude to flow to Turkiye’s Ceyhan port, Iraq’s oil minister told Kurdish broadcaster Rudaw on Friday. The resumption follows a tripartite agreement reached earlier this week between the ministry, the Kurdish region’s natural resources ministry, and international oil companies operating in the region. Iraq’s OPEC delegate, Mohammed al-Najjar, said his country can export more than it is now after the resumption of flows via the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline, in addition to other planned projects at Basra port, state news agency INA reported on Saturday.

UN LISTS 158 FIRMS TIED TO ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

**Diary Times Desk :** The United Nations has released a report, revealing that more than 150 companies, including Airbnb, Booking.com, Expedia and TripAdvisor, are profiting from Israel’s illegal settlement enterprise in the occupied West Bank.

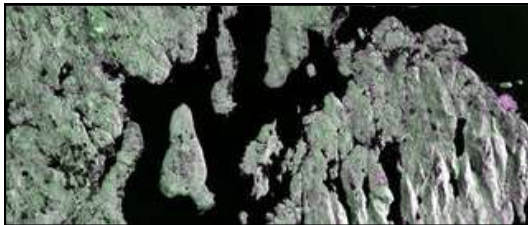
The UN human rights office on Friday updated its database, listing 158 firms operating inside settlements deemed unlawful by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). While most of the companies are Israeli, the list also includes multinationals registered in the United States, Canada, China, France, and Germany. The report emphasised that businesses have a duty to avoid fuelling abuses. “Where business enterprises identify that they have caused or contributed to adverse human rights impacts, they should provide for or cooperate in remediation through appropriate processes,” it said.

“DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES”:  
MOSCOW DENOUNCES IDEA OF NATO  
DOWNING RUSSIAN AIRCRAFT; CALLS IT  
RECKLESS



**Diary Times Desk :** Moscow has denounced the idea that NATO allies shoot down Russian aircraft entering their airspace as “reckless”, after US President Donald Trump said alliance members should do so. Several NATO countries say Russian fighter jets and drones have violated their airspace in Europe over recent weeks, accusing Moscow of testing the alliance. Asked on Tuesday whether he thought NATO states should shoot down any Russian planes that violate their airspace, Trump said: “Yes, I do.” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday denounced what he called “irresponsible statements about the need to shoot down Russian aircraft, which are, at the very least, reckless, irresponsible and carry dangerous consequences,” in an interview with Russian state TV. Peskov did not specifically refer to Trump and instead cast the calls as coming from Europe. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said Thursday he supported the idea of targeting Russian jets if they violate members’ airspace.

FIRST IMAGES FROM NISAR SHOW  
FORESTS, WETLANDS, ISLETS IN US IN  
GREATER DETAIL



**Diary Times Desk :** The first images from the joint NASA-ISRO satellite show a snapshot of the American landscape ranging from narrow waterways, islets dotting the fringes of an island, forests and wetlands, and large swathes of farms.

‘I’M ABSOLUTELY  
TERRIFIED’: FEDERAL  
WORKERS BRACE FOR  
POTENTIAL GOVERNMENT  
SHUTDOWN, MASS  
LAYOFFS

**Diary Times Desk :** Federal employees from agencies across the US government say they’re “terrified,” “disoriented” and filled with anxiety as they brace for a possible shutdown that the Trump White House has threatened will pave the way for new rounds of fast-tracked mass layoffs.

There is widespread confusion and fear among federal workers as the Tuesday night deadline approaches for Congress to approve a spending package, according to more than a dozen employees from 11 federal agencies who spoke to CNN. Many are still waiting to find out who will be required to work through a shutdown — and who will be furloughed.

Complicating matters, the White House budget office has directed federal agencies to “use this opportunity” to prepare sweeping new layoffs, based on which programs lose funding in the event of a shutdown and which don’t align with President Donald Trump’s priorities, according to a memo obtained by CNN.

EU TO DEVELOP ‘DRONE  
WALL’ AMID REGIONAL  
AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** European Union defence ministers have agreed to develop a “drone wall” along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to detect, track and intercept violations of their airspace, according to the bloc’s defence chief. Friday’s announcement comes after rogue drones entered Polish airspace on September 10, rattling eastern EU members. Earlier this week, Denmark closed some of its airports after drones were flown near them, with the country’s Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warning that hybrid attacks were becoming more frequent.

Although Danish authorities have not concluded their investigations, Frederiksen stressed that Russia was currently the primary threat to European security.

The Kremlin has denied any involvement in the drone incidents in Poland and Denmark. “The repeated violations of our airspace are unacceptable. The message is clear: Russia is testing the EU and NATO. And our response must be firm, united and immediate,” EU Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius said after chairing a virtual meeting of 10 countries on Europe’s eastern flank on Friday.





## AFTER U.S. & RUSSIA, PAKISTAN IS 3RD COUNTRY TO OFFER IT “NUCLEAR UMBRELLA”; WHAT LIES AHEAD OF SAUDI-PAK DEAL?



**Diary Times Desk :** The new mutual defence treaty inked by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia astounded many. It came just days after the Gulf region was shell-shocked by Israeli strikes on a Hamas compound in Qatar.

The pact comes at an especially volatile time in the wake of both Iranian and Israeli strikes on Doha, uncertainty over the future of Tehran's nuclear programme, and clashes between India and Pakistan in May.

“Even those accustomed to dramatic developments in the Middle East and South Asia were caught off guard by the announcement,” said Joshua White from the Brookings Institution. While the agreement follows decades of close military ties between the countries, questions remain unanswered regarding its exact parameters, particularly any potential nuclear dimensions.

“The pact clearly formalises and deepens decades of Saudi-Pakistani security and defence cooperation, building on a landmark 1982 protocol agreement,” said White, which saw a significant deployment of Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia.

“There are a large number of Saudi military personnel who have been trained by Pakistanis, and there are Pakistani officers seconded within the Saudi Ministry of Defence,” added Camille Lons, a Gulf expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

According to Lons, the pact likely resulted from lengthy negotiations.

## TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS AT THE OPENING OF THE 4TH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON NCDs AND MENTAL HEALTH

**Diary Times Desk :** He also urged all countries to turn commitments into sustained action and measurable impact, highlighting three key priorities: 1. Increase investment in promoting health and preventing disease. Health does not start in clinics and hospitals. It starts in homes, schools, streets, and workplaces. In the food people eat, the products they consume, the water they drink, the air they breathe, and the conditions in which they live and work.

2. Integrate services for NCDs and mental health into primary health care at the foundation of universal health coverage.

## US GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN LOOMS: HOW IT COULD UNFOLD

**Diary Times Desk :** The threat of a government shutdown has become a recurring event in Washington, though most of the time lawmakers and the president are able to head it off. This time, however, prospects for a last-minute compromise look rather bleak.

Republicans have crafted a short-term measure to fund the government through November 21, but Democrats have insisted that the measure address their concerns on health care. They want to reverse the Medicaid cuts in President Donald Trump's mega-bill passed this summer as well as extend tax credits that make health insurance premiums more affordable for millions who purchase through the marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act. Republicans say that's all a non-starter.

## TRUMP ASKS SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE WHETHER HE CAN END BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP



**Diary Times Desk :** The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court on Friday to review the constitutionality of President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship, pushing the issue before the justices for the second time this year.

Despite more than a century of understanding that the 14th Amendment confers citizenship on people born in the United States, the Trump administration told the Supreme Court in an appeal that notion was “mistaken” and that the view became “pervasive, with destructive consequences.” “The lower court's decisions invalidated a policy of prime importance to the president and his administration in a manner that undermines our border security,” wrote Solicitor General D. John Sauer, the administration's top appellate attorney. “Those decisions confer, without lawful justification, the privilege of American citizenship on hundreds of thousands of unqualified people.”

## BANGLADESHI DIASPORA RAISES ‘GO BACK TO PAKISTAN’ SLOGANS AGAINST MUHAMMAD YUNUS OUTSIDE UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK

**Diary Times Desk :** Members of the Bangladeshi diaspora staged a demonstration outside the United Nations headquarters on Friday (26 September), voicing strong opposition to Muhammad Yunus, the interim Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, India Today reported.

Protesters accused Yunus of presiding over worsening human rights conditions, particularly targeting religious minorities, following the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024.

The demonstrators carried placards and chanted slogans, including “Yunus is Pakistani. Go back to Pakistan,” underscoring the anger and resentment among Hasina's supporters abroad.

## EX-US PREZ OBAMA TAKES AIM AT TRUMP, SAYS 80% OF WORLD'S PROBLEMS INVOLVE 'OLD MEN'

**Diary Times Desk :** Former US President Barack Obama has remarked that a significant portion of the world's issues, around 80 per cent, stem from elderly men clinging to power and legacy, in comments widely interpreted as a veiled dig at 77-year-old Donald Trump.

Speaking in London on Friday with British historian David Olusoga, Obama, 64, said, “It's fair to say that 80 per cent of the world's problems involve old men hanging on who are afraid of death and insignificance, and they won't let go. They build pyramids, and they put their names on everything. They get very anxious about it.”

The timing of his remarks is notable, coming just weeks after Trump defended the deployment of National Guard troops in Washington, DC, justifying it as a response to what he described as rising violent crime. “They say: ‘We don't need him. Freedom, freedom, he's a dictator.’ I don't like a dictator. I'm not a dictator. I'm a man with great common sense and a smart person,” Trump had said at the time.

Trump, who returned to office on 20 January after defeating Democrat Kamala Harris, made those comments amid mounting criticism that his actions mirrored authoritarian tendencies.

Obama has previously voiced concerns about ageing political figures refusing to step aside. Back in 2019, he said, “If you look at the world and look at the problems.

"I DID MY DUTY": US MAN ADMITS TO KILLING, BURYING HIS PARENTS ON TV

**Diary Times Desk :** A man admitted during a television interview to killing his parents and burying them in the backyard of their upstate New York home eight years ago, then was arrested as he left the studio.

The stunning on-camera confession from Lorenz Kraus, 53, came Thursday, a day after police say they recovered two bodies from the home in Albany as part of an investigation that found Kraus' parents, Franz and Theresia Kraus, were still receiving Social Security payments despite not having been seen or heard from in years.

Lorenz Kraus contacted local news outlet CBS6, and sat for a half-hour interview, in which he described the deaths as mercy killings for aging parents who were becoming more frail.



"They knew that this was it for them, that they were perishing at your hand?" news anchor Greg Floyd asked Kraus.

"Yes," said Kraus. "And it was so quick."

CHINA'S PREMIER WARNS AGAINST 'COLD WAR MENTALITY' IN VEILED CRITICISM OF US

**Diary Times Desk :** Chinese Premier Li Qiang warned Friday against a return to a "Cold War mentality" and defended multilateralism and free trade, in a veiled criticism of the United States from the United Nations.

The Chinese premier made no explicit reference to US President Donald Trump as he addressed the UN General Assembly. But he cast the Asian power as a defender of the global order, of which Washington until recently was the chief custodian.

"The world has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation," Li said.

"Unilateralism and (the) Cold War mentality are resurfacing. The international rules and order built over the past 80 years are under serious challenge and the once effective international system is constantly disrupted," he said, adding that humanity had "once again come to a crossroads."

NETANYAHU SAYS WESTERN COUNTRIES 'BUCKLED' IN RECOGNIZING PALESTINIAN STATE, AS FIERY UN SPEECH PROMPTS WALKOUT

**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lashed out on Friday at Western countries' recent recognition of Palestinian statehood, accusing world leaders of "buckling under the pressure of a biased media, radical Islamist constituencies and antisemitic mobs."

Addressing the UN General Assembly in New York, Netanyahu rejected growing global criticism of Israel's war in Gaza, stretching over almost two years, as "political and legal warfare against Israel." He claimed the West is "appeasing your way out of jihad by sacrificing Israel." Days after France, Britain, Canada, Australia and other European countries recognized a Palestinian state, Netanyahu condemned the Palestinian diplomatic push as "shameful and disgraceful," stating Western leaders are "giving the ultimate reward to intolerant fanatics who perpetrated."

'CONDEMN IN STRONGEST TERMS': BRICS JOINT STATEMENT ON J&K'S PAHALGAM ATTACK

**Diary Times Desk :** India's upcoming BRICS Chairship in 2026, a firm stand against terrorism, a renewed call for UN Security Council (UNSC) reforms, and alarm over trade-restrictive measures dominated discussions at the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting held on the margins of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80).

The meeting held on Friday was chaired by India, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar leading the session as India prepares to assume the BRICS presidency next year.

The call received unanimous support from counterparts for hosting the annual meeting and steering the group's agenda, as per a Joint Statement issued following the meeting.

"The Ministers expressed appreciation to India for holding the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations meeting on the margins of UNGA 80. They extended their full support to India for its BRICS Chairship in 2026 and the holding of the XVIII BRICS Summit in India," the joint statement declared.

WALL STREET TO ACADEMIA, WHO IS IN TRUMP'S LINE OF FIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has escalated his criticism and actions against executives, corporations and institutions. His unprecedented actions — from novel export deals to frozen university grants — have upended the status quo between the government, law, academia and corporate America.

On Friday, Trump called for the firing of Lisa Monaco, Microsoft's global affairs president, calling her a "menace to US National Security."

Here are some influential figures and entities that Trump has publicly criticized:

**GOLDMAN SACHS**

Goldman's economic research arm had published a note in August that said US consumers had absorbed 22% of tariff costs through June, and their share could rise to 67% if the recent levies follow the same pattern as the earliest ones.

"David Solomon and Goldman Sachs refuse to give credit where credit is due," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, shortly thereafter.

Trump said it was mostly "companies and governments, many of them foreign, picking up the tabs". He also took a dig at Solomon for his former DJ-ing hobby.

**INTEL**

In early August, Trump demanded Intel CEO Lip-Bu Tan step down due to China ties..

WORLD CONTRACEPTION DAY 2025: WHY SAFE SEX IS IMPORTANT BESIDES PREVENTING PREGNANCY

**Diary Times Desk :** The leader of Nepal's recent youth-led protests that toppled the government within days has announced he will run in the country's March general elections, saying his movement will "fight till the end" to build a people's government.

In an exclusive interview with Start Here's Sandra Gathmann, Sudan Gurung said his group is already mobilising supporters nationwide to form a "movement for change" rather than a traditional political party.

"They have dragged us into politics," he said about the former government of "selfish" and "corrupt" politicians. "If it's politics they want, that's what they'll get. We will be running for the next election because we are not going to back down now."

Gurung, 36, rose to prominence as the face of a grassroots uprising led largely by Nepal's Gen Z.

The demonstrations erupted after the government blocked social media platforms, including Facebook, X and YouTube, saying the companies had failed to register and submit to government oversight.

But the protests soon spiralled into broader discontent, fuelled by anger over alleged corruption, state violence and impunity. Dozens of young demonstrators were killed, and thousands more were injured.





IRAN RECALLS ENVOYS TO UK, FRANCE, GERMANY AS UN SANCTIONS REIMPOSED



**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday faced a mass walkout during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. As he vowed to continue the devastating war on Gaza, he was met with a mix of jeers and applause. He said that Israel "must finish the job" against Hamas. He explained that his speech was being broadcast through loudspeakers in Gaza so that Israeli hostages could hear it. He also claimed that in an 'unprecedented operation' the speech was being streamed through the cell phones of people in Gaza after the devices were taken over by Israel's intelligence services. "We have not forgotten you, not even for a second. The people of Israel are with you," he spoke to the hostages. In a message to Hamas, he said, "Lay down your arms. Let my people go". Threatening them, he said, "If you do, you will live. If you don't, Israel will hunt you down." Netanyahu said that while "Western leaders may have buckled under the pressure," he guaranteed that "Israel won't."

PAK SECURITY FORCES KILL 17 TALIBAN MILITANTS IN RAIDS IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistani security forces on Friday raided a militant hideout in the country's restive northwest, triggering a shootout that left 17 Pakistani Taliban fighters dead, police said. The clash took place in Karak, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to regional Police Chief Shehbaz Elahi. He said three officers were wounded in the gunbattle. Elahi provided no further details but said that the killed militants were "Khwarij," a term often used by Pakistani authorities to refer to members of the Pakistani Taliban. While security forces frequently carry out such operations, Friday's raid followed a similar intelligence-based operation two days earlier in Dera Ismail Khan, another district in the northwest, where 13 Pakistani Taliban fighters were killed in a shootout. Pakistan has seen a rise in militant violence in recent years, much of it claimed by separatist groups and the Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP.

US SUPREME COURT LETS TRUMP WITHHOLD \$4 BILLION IN FOREIGN AID

**Diary Times Desk :** The U.S. Supreme Court sided again on Friday with Donald Trump, allowing his administration to withhold about \$4 billion in foreign aid authorized by Congress for the current fiscal year as the Republican president pursues his "America First" agenda. The justices blocked Washington-based U.S. District Judge Amir Ali's order that had directed the administration to promptly take steps to spend the aid at issue in the dispute. Ali's decision came in a lawsuit by aid groups challenging the administration's action. The case centers on the degree to which a president has the authority to rescind funds Congress has appropriated for programs that do not align with his policies. The administration said in court papers that the money it targeted is "contrary to U.S. foreign policy," reflecting Trump's effort to scale back U.S. assistance abroad as part of an "America First" agenda.

THERE WAS A DIFFERENT VIBE AT THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. 5 ATTENDEES WEIGH IN

**Diary Times Desk :** It's the first United Nations General Assembly since President Donald Trump shook up the foreign aid landscape by cutting billions of dollars in assistance. "There's a lot of anxiety, apprehension. It's almost like everybody's waiting for the other shoe to drop," says Solomon Zewdu, the CEO of The END Fund, a group that focuses on eliminating neglected tropical diseases. He's one of thousands of people from all over the world who descended on Manhattan for a week of high-level meetings at the 80th session of the U.N. General Assembly. NPR reporters were on the ground in New York and spoke with global health leaders about their impressions of the week. Here's what they told us – edited for length and clarity. Solomon Zewdu, the CEO of The END Fund

Dr. Solomon Zewdu is based in South Africa and he says the thing that struck him most this General Assembly is that global health leaders are "talking in silos."

"We're not hearing each other," he says. Some are having conversations about how dependent countries are on aid, while others are lamenting the cuts.

"But now, what's the next step? Let's move on. There's urgency. Time kills people," he says. He's afraid "everybody's going to scatter, and then we might wait for the next summit to happen – and, in between, people dying, people's health is being compromised."



US REVOKES COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT'S VISA OVER 'RECKLESS AND INCENDIARY' REMARKS

**Diary Times Desk :** The US has said it will revoke Colombian President Gustavo Petro's visa, after he urged US soldiers to disobey his American counterpart Donald Trump during remarks at a rally in New York. The State Department described Petro's comments at a pro-Palestinian street protest on Friday as "reckless and incendiary". The Colombian leader was in the US for the UN General Assembly, where earlier this week he called for a criminal inquiry into the Trump administration's airstrikes on alleged drug-trafficking boats in the Caribbean. He was already on his way back to Bogota when the US announced it would cancel his visa, Colombian media reports. Petro shared a video on social media of him addressing a large crowd through a megaphone in Spanish on Friday. He called for the formation of a "world salvation army, whose first task is to liberate Palestine". "That is why, from here in New York, I ask all soldiers in the United States Army not to point their rifles at humanity," he said. "Disobey Trump's order! Obey the order of humanity!"

**US UNVEILS 21-POINT PEACE PLAN: ISRAEL TO EXIT GAZA, HAMAS TO DISARM**

**Diary Times Desk :** The United States has shared a 21-point proposal to end the war in Gaza and for the creation of a pathway for a future Palestinian state. The plan further entails proposals for immediate release of hostages, encouraging Palestinians to remain in the Strip and granting amnesty to peaceful Hamas members, among others, according to Times of Israel.

The document was shared by the US with a few Arab and Muslim nations this week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. However, the plan to urge Palestinians to remain in the Strip signals a major shift in US policy as US President Donald Trump had said in February that America will take over Gaza and relocate two million Gazans permanently. Moreover, the idea of a future Palestinian state also departs from Trump's policy as the administration has never backed a two-state solution.

The proposal has favourable points for Israel as well, such as a commitment for Hamas to disarm, demilitarisation of Gaza and establishing a process to de-radicalise the population.

## SILICON VALLEY'S SENIORS GET A CRASH COURSE IN AI

**Diary Times Desk :** Jacob Shaul is the kind of rising high school student who spends Saturdays playing chess and devours books by Malcom Gladwell and Angela Duckworth. He can just as readily explain the principles of quantum computing as he can bang out a drum solo with his band. And, after learning to code himself, he decided to share his passion by founding a nonprofit that has brought free courses on coding to more than a thousand students across five continents. What started as a one-man “test run” at Shaul’s former middle school, Live Oak School, is now a 16-person operation offering weeks-long, online and in-person courses across more than 30 institutions, including more than a dozen schools and assisted-living facilities in the Bay Area, where Shaul lives. Shaul and his volunteers take the bus, since none of them has a driver’s license. Not yet, anyway. “I genuinely just enjoy teaching tech to people,” Shaul, 17, says when asked why he spends his free time this way. “I want to utilize the power that tech has and help people use it.”

## A 100% TARIFF ON SOME IMPORTED DRUGS IS COMING OCTOBER 1, TRUMP SAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump announced Thursday that brand-name or patented pharmaceutical products will be subject to a 100% tariff starting October 1 – unless the drugmaker is building a manufacturing plant in the US.

Trump has been promising for months to levy tariffs on pharmaceutical imports, which avoided tariffs during his first term. The president sees tariffs as a way to pressure drug manufacturers to ramp up production in the US and to strengthen the supply chain for essential medicines.

Also, Trump has pointed to tariffs as a way to fulfill his vow to lower drug costs, though experts say that is unlikely to happen.

Drugmakers have taken Trump’s tariff threats seriously, unveiling hundreds of billions of dollars of commitments to build or expand US manufacturing operations in the coming years.

## HOW LARRY AND DAVID ELLISON REACHED THE PEAK OF THEIR WEALTH – AND POLITICAL POWER

**Diary Times Desk :** He may be 81-years old, but Oracle chairman and mega-billionaire Larry Ellison, a database technology pioneer and a mainstay of Silicon Valley for five decades, is at the peak of his influence, wealth and political power.

He is leading a group of investors who will buy and oversee the bulk of TikTok’s US assets, affirmed by an executive order President Donald Trump signed on Thursday. He is backing his son David’s massive ambitions to become one of the country’s top media moguls. And earlier this month, Ellison briefly became the richest person in the world, eclipsing Elon Musk, as Oracle’s stock exploded on its prognostications for its booming AI business.

Ellison is cementing his place as one of the most powerful business figures in the world. A big part of that evolution has come as a result of his relationship with Trump. Like many in Silicon Valley, Ellison’s political positions have evolved – from Bill Clinton loving Democrat, to a quiet Republican donor, to standing alongside Trump at the White House.



## WHY STARBUCKS IS CLOSING HUNDREDS OF STORES

**Diary Times Desk :** The days of a Starbucks on every corner seem to be coming to an end. For years, Starbucks staked its reputation on its ability to expand relentlessly in cities and suburbs. Comedian Lewis Black even riffed in 2001 that the “end of the universe” was in Houston, Texas, where he found one Starbucks directly across the street from another. But both the universe – and Starbucks – have changed since then. More competition, inflation and consumer shifts have hurt Starbucks’ bottom line. Starbucks announced Thursday that it will close 1% of its stores in North America this month. The closures – and layoffs of 900 corporate employees – are part of a \$1 billion restructuring plan. Starbucks CEO Brian Niccol said the stores it will shut weren’t “what our customers and partners expect” or weren’t making money. Closing roughly 400 stores is like a rounding error for the coffee giant, which has more than 32,000 locations worldwide. And it still plans to open new stores next year. But the fact that Starbucks is shrinking right now represents something significant for its business.



## NO ONE CAN SEEM TO KILL AMERICA’S ECONOMY, DESPITE EVERYONE’S BEST EFFORTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Americans hate this economy, but they keep spending like they love it.

The Commerce Department reported Friday that consumer spending rose 0.6% in August. Although that may not sound like a lot, it represented significantly stronger growth than economists had expected.

The report wasn’t an outlier: Retail sales also rose 0.6% in August, the Commerce Department said in a separate report two weeks ago. Corporate earnings and sales have proven resilient in the past quarter, with many companies saying customers continue to give them business despite concerns about a flagging economy. And a revised report issued Thursday on the second-quarter gross domestic product, the broadest measure of US economic growth, showed that GDP grew by the fastest rate in almost two years, buoyed by strong consumer spending.





CHINESE ELECTRIC CARS  
ARE GOING GLOBAL. A  
CUT-THROAT PRICE  
WAR AT HOME COULD  
KILL OFF MANY OF ITS  
BRANDS

**Diary Times Desk :**  
In the spring of 2024, Li Hongxing, who runs a social media ad agency, took on a client he believed to be a rising star in China's electric vehicle market.  
A marketing veteran in the auto industry, Li went so far as to borrow to cover the cost of ads for Ji Yue, expecting payment later from the EV startup he thought had everything it needed to succeed: efficiency, growing sales, and deep-pocketed backers. But it didn't.  
Within half a year, the carmaker collapsed, turning Li's gamble into a nightmare, saddling him with debt of 40 million yuan (\$5.6 million).  
"It was a feeling of sheer despair," Li said.  
Ji Yue's downfall is hardly unique in China's auto industry, where hundreds of brands have gone under in a brutal race to the bottom over the past few years. The country's EV boom not only gave rise to global leaders like BYD; it has also led to extensive overcapacity in which a crowd of carmakers are scrambling for market share.

TRUMP'S TARIFFS ARE  
DRIVING A WEDGE  
THROUGH THE US  
ECONOMY, FURTHER  
SEPARATING THE HAVES  
FROM THE HAVE-NOTS

**Diary Times Desk :**  
Americans ramped up their spending in August; however, their costs of living were on the rise as food and other goods became even more expensive last month and services prices remained stubbornly high.  
  
New economic data released Friday showed that consumer spending rose 0.6% in the key back-to-school shopping month of August, and 0.4% when adjusting for inflation. That's further indication that a critical driver of the US economy continues to chug along despite broader uncertainty and a slowdown in the labor market. However, that spending is increasingly being focused on essential purchases, such as health care, at a time when income gains aren't keeping up.

THE JIMMY KIMMEL BLACKOUT IS COMPLETELY OVER: NEXSTAR AND  
SINCLAIR BACK DOWN



**Diary Times Desk :**  
The blackout of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" is over.  
  
Sinclair and Nexstar, the two major station groups that preempted the talk show earlier this month, are allowing the show to return to their ABC-affiliated stations on Friday evening.  
  
This means that Kimmel will be seen again in major cities like Washington, DC, Nashville, and Seattle, as well as several dozen other markets.  
  
The reversal is a victory for Kimmel and ABC and a reflection of the power that national networks have over local affiliates.  
Both Nexstar and Sinclair, which together operate nearly a quarter of ABC-affiliated stations, have been accused of trying to curry favor with President Trump and TV station regulator Brendan Carr by keeping Kimmel off the air even after ABC reinstated the show nationally earlier this week.

BOEING IS ONCE AGAIN ALLOWED TO CERTIFY 737 MAX AND 787  
DREAMLINERS AS SAFE TO FLY ON BEHALF OF THE FAA



**Diary Times Desk :**  
For years, following significant and continuous quality and safety errors, Boeing has been barred from certifying the safety of some of its own aircraft on behalf of the US government. Following 18 months of intense oversight and scrutiny from US regulators, the Federal Aviation Administration is restoring Boeing's safety certification ability for some of the 737 Max and 787 Dreamliners it manufactures.  
  
Manufacturers are typically delegated permission to perform some functions on behalf of the FAA, such as issuing airworthiness and production certifications, but Boeing lost that delegation for the two models.  
  
The FAA revoked Boeing's authority to issue airworthiness certificates for 737s in 2019 after the deadly Lion Air and Ethiopian Air crashes and 787s in 2022 for production quality issues. A 737 Max door plug blowout in January 2024 – and the embarrassing government-led investigation that followed – led Boeing to commit to monumental changes to its quality and safety controls.  
  
But the FAA isn't ready to turn over the safety certification keys entirely: On Friday, the FAA announced Boeing would be allowed to issue airworthiness certificates on alternating weeks while the agency itself would issue them on the other weeks.  
"Safety drives everything we do, and the FAA will only allow this step forward because we are confident it can be done safely," the agency said in a statement. "This decision follows a thorough review of Boeing's ongoing production quality and will allow our inspectors to focus additional surveillance in the production process." The agency said despite the changes, it would still maintain "direct and rigorous oversight of Boeing's production processes."

# PUNJABI SINGER RAJVIR JAWANDA IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER ROAD ACCIDENT IN HIMACHAL

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjabi singer and actor Rajvir Jawanda was admitted to Fortis Hospital in Mohali on September 27 after a severe road accident in Himachal Pradesh.

He was referred to the hospital in critical condition after sustaining serious head and spine injuries earlier that morning. Jawanda had also suffered a cardiac arrest at Civil Hospital before being transferred to Fortis Hospital. The 35-year-old's bike met with an accident near Baddi. Upon arrival at 1.45 pm, the Emergency and Neurosurgery teams immediately assessed him. Detailed examinations and investigations were conducted, and he was placed on advanced life support. Currently, Jawanda is on ventilator support and remains in critical condition under close monitoring.

## LAND TRANSFER CLEARS WAY FOR POLICE LINES IN DEHRA

**Diary Times Desk :** The long-pending demand for a Police Lines in Dehra Police District has taken a step forward with the transfer of one hectare (2.5 acres) of land in Dhaliara to the Police Department.

The order for the transfer was issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Kangra on September 25, a spokesman of the district administration confirmed on Friday.

Dehra Congress MLA Kamlesh Thakur, wife of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who had been pursuing the matter for a long time, welcomed the development. "The allotment of land is a significant step in strengthening the newly created district. The dream of a Police Lines in Dehra is about to come true," she said, thanking CM Sukhu and the state government. The Police Department had originally sought around three hectares of land through the SDM of Dehra. Of this, one hectare has now been transferred. The MLA added that efforts would continue to secure the remaining land for a sports ground and an administrative building.

## MINERAL RICHES UNLOCKED BILASPUR MINES AUCTIONED FOR RS 3.46 CRORE

**Diary Times Desk :** The auction process for minor mineral mines in Bilaspur district was successfully conducted on under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Om Kant Thakur at Bilaspur on Friday. A total of 11 identified mining sites were put up for auction during the session and seven are auctioned at Rs 3.46 crore.

Om Kant Thakur said of the 11 mines approved by the auction, seven mines were allocated in favour of the highest bidders for a period of one year, with an advance security deposit of 25 percent, amounting to Rs 86.53 lakh. He added that all participants strictly followed the guidelines laid down for the transparent allocation of mineral resources.

Highlighting the importance of this process, Thakur emphasised that such auctions play a vital role in ensuring the proper utilisation of mineral resources while also boosting mineral production in the district. He said these transparent auctions would promote the growth of the mineral industry, strengthen the district's economy and create new employment opportunities.



## MONSOON WITHDRAWS AFTER INFLICTING HEAVY DAMAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** The monsoon withdrew completely from the state today, a day after the normal date of return. The state received a precipitation of 1,022 mm this monsoon, 40 per cent more than normal. Also, the rainfall received this monsoon was the highest since 1995 when the state had received 1,029 mm of rain. The region had received the highest rainfall of 1,314 mm in 1922.

The southwest monsoon had entered the state on June 20 and covered the entire state by June 24, a day earlier than the normal date of June 25. Starting from September 24, the complete withdrawal was recorded today.

The monsoon has withdrawn from the state in September for the first time in the past five years. From 2021 to 2024, the monsoon withdrew in the first or second week of October. Heavy rain during this monsoon season triggered extreme-weather events like cloudbursts, flashfloods and landslides frequently across the state, resulting in a massive loss of human life and damage to both public and private property.

## 'WAS HANDCUFFED, GOT COLD TREATMENT': 73-YEAR-OLD HARJIT KAUR RECOUNTS ORDEAL IN US DETENTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Harjit Kaur, a 73-year-old woman deported from the US after 33 years, said her grandchildren are repeatedly calling her to ask whether she has a bed to sleep on, clothes to wear, and whether she had food in the morning, afternoon and night.

Harjit and her two young sons made it to California in 1992 to make a living; she has now been deported back to India on September 22. Her home, her children, and her grandchildren remain in Hercules in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she worked in a saree store.

She is now in Mohali, staying put for a while with her distant brother-in-law, who has offered her familial support and refuge.

Harjit is now all alone in a country that was once her home. Her husband, parents, and elder brothers are all dead. She only has one younger brother here in Patti, Punjab, but Harjit is not sure how long she will be able to stay with him.

**YOUR HOROSCOPE**  
28-09-2025

## Aries

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

## Taurus

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

## Gemini

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

## Cancer

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

## Leo

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

## Virgo

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

## Libra

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

## Scorpio

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

## Sagittarius

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

## Capricorn

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

## Agurius

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

## Pisces

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



FARIDABAD POLICE  
APPREHEND FOUR  
CRIMINALS IN TWO  
SEPARATE ENCOUNTERS

**Diary Times Desk :** In the early hours of Saturday, the Faridabad police apprehended four criminals in two separate encounters. The accused were identified as Shashikant from Koylak village in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; Rohit from Uncha village in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh; Kamal Bhadana from Mohamatabad in Faridabad; and Manish from Motihari, Bihar.

According to Varun Dahiya, ACP Crime-2, Faridabad, around 4 am, the Crime Branch Sector 30 team attempted to apprehend two bike-riding suspects on the Pali-Surajkund road. The suspects opened fire, prompting the police to retaliate, injuring Shashikant in the leg. Shashikant and his accomplice Rohit were subsequently arrested, and a motorcycle and two illegal pistols were seized. During Rohit's interrogation, it was revealed that his associates Kamal Bhadana and Golu were planning another crime. The Crime Branch team reached Sainik Colony, where they spotted two individuals on a motorcycle who attempted to flee upon seeing the police. The suspects opened fire, and in the ensuing exchange, Kamal Bhadana sustained leg injuries. He and his associate Manish were apprehended, and a motorcycle, six illegal weapons, a magazine, and four cartridges were seized.

WATER, DRAINAGE  
PROJECTS WORTH RS  
443 CR AWAIT GOVT  
NOD

**Diary Times Desk :** Residents of Rohtak continue to grapple with shortage of drinking water, supply of contaminated water and overflowing sewage as proposals of drinking water and drainage projects worth about Rs 443 crore await government approval. In separate letters to CM Nayab Singh Saini and Public Health Engineering and Public Works (B&R) Minister Ranbir Gangwa, Congress MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra has urged them to direct the authorities concerned to approve the estimates and sanction the funds so that the projects can be executed timely. "As you are well aware, the sewerage of the city is out of order and supply.

5 KILLED AFTER SPEEDING THAR COLLIDES WITH DIVIDER ON DELHI-GURUGRAM  
EXPRESSWAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Five people, including three women, were killed and one person was critically injured after the vehicle they were travelling in crashed into a divider of exit 9 of the Delhi-Gurugram expressway early Saturday morning. According to police, the victims were in a Mahindra Thar that lost control and collided with the divider at high speed. All five people, including three women and two men, died on the spot. The lone survivor, a man was taken to a private hospital and is currently undergoing treatment. Preliminary investigation reveals that all six occupants of the Thar had come from Uttar Pradesh to Gurugram. The driver reportedly lost balance near exit 9, leading to the fatal collision.



BKU PROTESTS IN KARNAL OVER  
DELAY IN DIGITAL SCALES, PADDY  
PROCUREMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Farmers under the banner of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) staged a dharna outside the Karnal market committee on Friday, alleging negligence by the government and officials in paddy procurement and in implementing the state's order to install digital weighing machines in grain markets.

The protest was led by district president Surender Singh Ghumman, while state president Rattan Mann launched a sharp attack on the government. "It is shameful that despite being a farmer himself, Chief Minister Nayab Saini has failed to address the plight of farmers. He should step into the field and review the situation personally," Mann said. He alleged a nexus between marketing board officials and commission agents for delaying the installation of digital weighing machines. Warning the administration, Mann said, "If arrangements for digital scales and proper procurement of paddy are not ensured by Monday, we will lock the main gate of the Karnal market committee from Tuesday, and the administration will be held responsible."

AAP PROTESTS IN PANIPAT, SEEKS  
RELIEF ON PUNJAB PATTERN FOR  
FLOOD VICTIMS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday organised a protest march in Panipat demanding compensation for farmers and flood-affected residents on the lines of the Punjab Government.

Led by AAP state vice-president Surender Ahlawat, party leaders and supporters marched from Red Light Chowk to the Mini Secretariat, where they submitted a memorandum addressed to the Haryana Chief Minister through District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Jaipal Hooda. Ahlawat said farmers and villagers had suffered huge losses during this year's monsoon floods. "Their livelihoods, crops, land and livestock have been severely damaged due to heavy floods," he said.

He accused the state government of providing meagre relief compared to Punjab. "The state government has provided relatively little compensation, while neighbouring Punjab has provided full compensation," Ahlawat said.

10 HISAR VILLAGES STILL MAROONED, IRRIGATION DEPT INTENSIFIES WATER-  
DRAINAGE DRIVE

**Diary Times Desk :** Nearly 10 villages in Hisar district continue to reel under waterlogging even after the withdrawal of monsoon, with stagnant water persisting in homes and fields.

The Irrigation Department has deployed machinery at 284 locations in the affected villages, including Arya Nagar, Gangwa, Kaimri, Litani, Gurana Mirkan, Kulana, Karar Alipur and Puthi Mangal Khan. Balraj, a resident of Litani, said: "The water inundated fields and residential areas. Unfortunately, it remains stagnant in many places. Our entire crop is lost. Now, the stagnant water is causing diseases and threatening homes as foundations are weakening." Officials said additional pump sets and turbines have been requisitioned from neighbouring districts. "Water remains in low-lying areas and dhanis (hamlets). Many villagers are yet to return, taking shelter with relatives or in rented accommodation," a senior officer said. The floods have been compared to the 1995 deluge, with officials admitting the situation was worsened by a breach in the Hisar-Ghaggar drain. "We are facing a shortage of machinery. A proposal for Rs 8 crore to buy new equipment was submitted earlier, but approval delays hampered timely procurement. Last year, we got only Rs 2.4 crore for drainage work," the officer added.



Taxis For Women Only: The Female Cabbies Rebelling Against Brutal Violence

Ruth Rojas got a flat tire almost as soon as she picked us up, so she slowed her little red car to a crawl. There was a tire shop four blocks away, an interminable distance at that speed with the evening heat and rush hour exhaust pouring through the open windows.

By the time we reached the tire shop, the sky was darkening and the sidewalk in front of the little shop partially blocked by a group of drunken men, one quietly vomiting between his knees.

The tire was just bad luck. After everything she'd seen on the road, Rojas was cool about it; we'd be back on route soon, she assured. A punctured tire is the least of the concerns of a female cabbie in Mexico City.

In a country where thousands of people disappear every year and mass graves keep turning up, surviving a night of work as a driver for hire can feel like a roll of the dice. A string of gory killings and assaults on both drivers and passengers in rideshare vehicles and taxis has focused



Ladan Anoushfar

"You never really know who will get in the car," she said, her gaze fixed on the road ahead. The fare turned out to be a grandmother, her daughter, her nephew and 1-year-old baby. They hustled down the street at the sight of Rojas' ruby-colored ride.

national attention on the issue, with tabloid frontpages recounting women fatally jumping out of moving vehicles, abandoned on the side of the road by drivers, and raped by passengers.

Rojas let CNN ride along for an evening of driving. She tries to pick her rides as carefully as she can based on scant profile details and has an idea of high-crime "red zones" to avoid across the sprawling Mexican capital - but nevertheless she says she has already been assaulted multiple times, including at gunpoint, in seven years.

"I go into neighborhoods like Chimalhuacán, Ixtapaluca, Cuautitlán Izcalli, Atizapán and see people selling drugs or robbing others on the street. It's very complicated and scary, but I've learned it's part of my job," she said.

After two hours at the shop watching the nearby pharmacy, chicken rotisserie, taco stand and ice cream shop shutter around us, the tire was finally patched. Her black hair pulled tightly back in the humidity, Rojas counted out 300 pesos (about \$16 USD) to the mechanic sweating under a single bare lightbulb, and we set off again in the dark.

Taxis for women, by women  
Married at 17, Rojas spent most of her adult life raising kids, the youngest of whom had health problems that saw them in and out of hospital. Now 49, she finally has her own income and her own car, a carefully polished four-door Chevrolet watched over by a painted wooden folk-art dog glued to the dashboard. A feathered dream-catcher sways from her rearview mirror.

"I love to drive, I love to meet people in the car that I call my little cherry. This for me is my safe place, it's one of my safe places. There I cry, scream, sing, dance, cry out loud, everything and anything I feel like," she said.



"It has happened to me that when I get to my destination, I tell them to get out, and they don't want to leave. They'll say something like, 'I told you we're going to have sex,'" she said.  
"Or they come doing drugs. Even if I say 'No, you can't do that here,' they say 'You drive, that's what I pay you for, right?' I think they would respond to a male driver differently."

Attacks have been reported on all the major ridesharing apps in Mexico, as well as in metered cabs.

Egyptian Port

Archaeologists Have Uncovered



Rather than allowing herself to be captured by the Romans, legend has it that Cleopatra let a poisonous asp bite her in Alexandria, according to the documentary.

The findings were announced on September 18 by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, published by National Geographic and aired in its documentary called "Cleopatra's Final Secret," now streaming on Disney+ and Hulu.

"I've been doing this for 50 years. I've been underwater. I've never seen anything like this. This clearly looks like it's man-made," said Ballard of the underwater structures in the documentary. The renowned oceanographer, a senior scientist emeritus in applied ocean physics and engineering at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, found the wreck of the RMS Titanic in 1985. As a new three-month excavation begins at the temple and underwater site, Martínez, a criminal lawyer from the Dominican Republic who has turned to diplomacy and archaeology, believes the find is a promising next step in her 20-year search for the tomb of Queen Cleopatra VII.

"The discovery of the tomb of Cleopatra will be one of the biggest discoveries of the century,"

The discovery of a sunken port off the coast of Egypt may offer a puzzle piece in the longstanding search for Cleopatra's lost tomb and glimpses into the country's ancient maritime activity, according to researchers.

A team of underwater archaeologists, including National Geographic Explorer Kathleen Martínez and National Geographic Explorer-at-Large Bob Ballard, uncovered rows of towering structures that may have been columns, reaching over 20 feet (6 meters) high, within the Mediterranean Sea. The researchers also found evidence of polished stone floors, cemented blocks, ship anchors and tall storage jars called amphorae — all dated to the time of Cleopatra.

The team found the port after tracing a previously unearthed tunnel spanning 4,281 feet (1,305 meters) that appeared to link the site of the ancient temple of Taposiris Magna, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of Alexandria, to the sea.

Martínez believes Taposiris Magna is a key location in relation to Cleopatra's burial, although many archaeologists disagree with her hypothesis.



Ashley Strickland

Martínez's hypothesis is that after death, Cleopatra's body was brought to Taposiris Magna, transported through the tunnel to the offshore port and laid to rest in a secret location.

Fashion Week

SEXY, BOLD AND UNINHIBITED: THIS IS WHAT THE NEW VERSACE LOOKS LIKE



Kati Chitrakorn

Vitale's debut is a punchy offering that offers a respite to the neutral shades and soft tailoring (perceived as hallmarks of refined taste) that have dominated the Milan runways in recent years.

Milan — Of all the designers to present a debut collection for a major house during fashion week this September, Dario Vitale arguably had one of the lowest profiles. Prior to his appointment as Versace's new chief creative officer in April, Vitale was rarely mentioned in the press and fairly unknown to the wider public — unlike his predecessor Donatella Versace, who has become synonymous with, if not more recognizable than, the brand itself.

It's in part why Vitale's first show for Versace has been so highly anticipated by fashion editors, buyers, and enthusiasts. Questions abound about what the Napoli designer — who is the first from outside the Versace family to fill the role — would bring to the storied Italian house, which was acquired by the Prada Group in a landmark \$1.38 billion deal that is expected to close by the year's end. There were finally answers Friday night, when Vitale presented his first collection for brand. What was originally intended to be an intimate event turned into a full-scale show, with high-profile guests including Bianca Jagger, Mia Khalifa, Romeo Beckham and the South Korean rapper Hyunjin.

which came in the form of a passionate letter quoting the English poet John Keats — indicated it would be in the center of Milan. But it was only on arrival that many attendees learnt the venue was the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, a historical art gallery filled with masterpieces by Caravaggio and Raphael. Guests sat across two floors in different rooms, each in a slight state of disarray — from the office with a game of Solitaire left open on the desktop, to the unmade bed with shirts strewn across it, the space felt like someone's private residence. It was a fitting backdrop for the new Versace designs, which the show notes described as "an expression of life lived freely, fully, without apology or restraint." Indeed, the clothes were sexy, colorful and uninhibited, with an '80s tinge. There were gaping vest tops, striped trousers, leather jackets, and shimmering gowns, worn by models walking to a lively soundtrack that included Prince, George Michael and the Eurythmics. Some signature Versace motifs also appeared, like the Medusa symbol on cardigans or sparkly checkerboard patterns on dresses — reminiscent of the look worn by Claudia Schiffer on the brand's 2023 runway.

Growing up in Italy meant that Vitale was familiar with Versace's codes early on, he told a group of editors after the show. The sense of familiarity is impermeable, he said, drawing comparisons to pop culture. "It's almost like Coca Cola, you know. Everybody knows Versace, it's so popular." And so, when exploring the brand's archives, he sought to extract "the feeling of (the late founder) Gianni." Rather than draw inspiration from specific pieces, he questioned: "What is the spirit of Versace beyond the clothes?" There were also plenty of shirts, which despite being a key part of Versace's heritage appear to have only returned to focus now. At the Venice Film Festival in August, Hollywood stars Julia Roberts and Amanda Seyfried had voluntarily shared the same Versace outfit.



The address on the invitation —



10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT EDWARD WESTON



**Diary Times Desk :** 1. He was given his first camera on his 16th birthday

Edward Weston was born in Highland Park, Illinois, in 1886. His father, an obstetrician, bought him his first camera (a Kodak Bulls-Eye No. 2) for his 16th birthday. The gift came with a note that included the helpful advice: ‘Don’t be too far from the object you wish to take, or it’ll be very small’. Weston dropped out of high school soon afterwards, before taking his only formal training in the medium to which he would devote his life: a six-month programme at the Illinois College of Photography in Effingham.

2. He fell in love with California

Weston’s elder sister Mary had moved from the Midwest to the Los Angeles suburb of Tropic (present-day Glendale). On a visit to see her, he fell in love with California’s wide-open terrain, and when he was 20 he decided to move to Tropic himself. Unlike the other great pioneers of American photography — notably Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Steichen, who lived and worked in New York — Weston preferred to stay on the West Coast for the rest of his life, and would shoot many of his most famous photographs there.

3. John Singer Sargent was an early influence

Weston opened a photography studio in Tropic in 1911, producing soft-focus portraits of well-to-do customers modelled on paintings by John Singer Sargent. These were images in the so-called ‘pictorialist’ style associated with artists like Stieglitz, which, taking a cue from Victorian portraiture, rejected photography’s raw, documentary roots in favour of a more sumptuous aesthetic. Satisfying the demands of his clientele was something Weston came to loathe.

4. Cubism offered escape from an artistic dead end

Portraiture allowed Weston to financially support his wife Flora and their four sons, but he found it an artistic dead end. In his early thirties, largely inspired by Cubism, he began to experiment with geometric compositions featuring angular shafts of darkness and light. In Betty in her Attic, his disparately-lit female subject is tucked into a network of intersecting planes formed by the floor, walls, rafters and an unseen dormer window.

IN THE FRAME: WILLO PERRON

What are you working on currently?  
Willo Perron: ‘A mix of studio and personal projects that aren’t public yet, but we did just launch a new chair with Knoll.’

What ritual or routine keeps you going?  
WP: ‘Most mornings start with tennis before heading into the studio. If we’re talking creative input, I’m always researching across different sources – books, film, exhibitions, online, etc. And when I travel, I’m on the ground exploring the area through its museums, galleries, local markets, restaurants – whatever exposes me to what is distinctive about that place’

What work of art made you see things differently?  
WP: ‘Music was probably my gateway drug into any of the creative fields. There’s a moment in Straight, No Chaser, the documentary on Thelonious Monk, that has stayed with me: he’s rehearsing before a show in Europe, shifting time signatures mid-performance, while the band continues on. Watching him deconstruct time like that made me understand the depth of his genius. When you get so good at something it’s at a point where it no longer controls you, but instead you see above the clouds.’

Which artist or designer from history do you wish you knew more about?  
WP: ‘I was just in Sao Paulo and someone recommended the book Francis Bacon in Your Blood by Michael Peppiatt. I just started reading it, and I’m obsessed with him and his work.’

What artists or designers are you excited about right now?  
WP: ‘In the basement of the MASP in Sao Paulo, there is this one Salman Toor painting, and seeing it reminded me of how much I love his work. There is something very kind and vulnerable that comes through his paintings. On the same trip, I came across the sculptor Laura Vinci. It was my first time seeing her work and I found some really interesting ideas – like her use of smoke and perishable materials. There was an element of impermanence that really struck me – something that parallels the nature of working on shows and temporary spaces.’



EX-POLAND GOALKEEPER TOMASZEWSKI BLAMES HANSI FLICK FOR BARCELONA STAR’S BALLON D’OR SNUB



**Diary Times Desk :** Ever since his arrival at FC Barcelona, Hansi Flick has given very little cause for complaint and has impressed both with his professional demeanor and with the results he has achieved on the pitch. As a result, both the club’s fans and administration has been very satisfied with the German coach. However, there are still some people who remain discontented with the Blaugrana trainer’s work.

As SPORT has reported, one such individual is the former Polish goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski, who recently aired his discontent with Flick to the media.

The legendary Polish goalie blamed the German coach for Robert Lewandowski not featuring prominently in the recent Ballon d’Or rankings.

BARCELONA CAPTAIN WISHES TO FINISH HIS CAREER AT CLUB; DREAMS OF WINNING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Diary Times Desk :** Back in January, after seriously considering the possibility of leaving FC Barcelona, Araujo made a firm decision: to extend his contract with the club until 2031.

The agreement included a release clause of €65 million valid for this summer, but the Uruguayan centre-back chose not to utilise it to secure an exit.

His determination to remain at Barcelona stayed intact, convinced by the trust shown by the club and by the project led by Hansi Flick. Araujo fully committed to Barcelona

Now, according to Mundo Deportivo, no surprises are expected in the winter transfer market. Araujo’s intention is clear: to remain at Barcelona not only until the end of the season, but until the conclusion of his contract in 2031. In fact, if circumstances remain as they are, he would be delighted to finish his professional career at the club that gave him the opportunity to establish himself at the highest level. Araujo knows that this campaign represented a fresh start after a difficult period with injuries. He has embraced it with the same enthusiasm and commitment as on his first day. His dedication to Barcelona has never been questioned.

ENZO MARESCA GIVES CONCERNING JOAO PEDRO UPDATE AMID MOUNTING INJURY ISSUES

**Diary Times Desk :** Enzo Maresca has revealed Joao Pedro trained for the first time on Thursday after his own fitness issues following the defeat against Manchester United.

Chelsea welcome Brighton to Stamford Bridge on Saturday, looking to return to winning ways in the Premier League.

The Blues have taken just one point from their last two games, and will be desperate to ensure they don’t lose further ground on the teams above.

Enzo Maresca gives Joao Pedro update  
Chelsea head into the game on the back of beating Lincoln in the Carabao Cup on Tuesday night, but they were far from convincing.

The Blues will need to show a significant improvement against the Seagulls, but they face a tough task with their mounting injury list.

Maresca confirmed Cole Palmer is out until after the international break with a groin issue that’s been causing him issues, whilst there’s a real shortage at centre back.

NUNO SET FOR WEST HAM JOB AFTER POTTER SACKED

**Diary Times Desk :** West Ham are set to appoint former Nottingham Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo as head coach after sacking Graham Potter. Nuno is expected to be in place before Monday’s Premier League match against Everton, having said he has had positive talks with the West Ham board.

Potter was dismissed on Saturday morning after only eight months in charge, with the club 19th in the table. The Hammers took only three points from their opening five league games this season under Potter.

West Ham said they believed “a change is necessary in order to help improve the team’s position in the Premier League as soon as possible”.

They added: “Results and performances over the course of the second half of last season and the start of the 2025-26 season have not matched expectations.”

SCHOLES SLAMMED AS ‘BITTER’ AND ‘TOXIC’ OVER ‘PROBLEMATIC’ RASHFORD CRITICISM

**Diary Times Desk :** Longtime reader, first time mailer. Naturally I decided to pop the cherry on a safe and non-controversial topic: Marcus Rashford. I think the problem with what Ian Watson and a handful of Mailbox ultras have been saying about the ongoing Scholes/Rashford drama is that they think that the reason why what Scholes said is problematic is solely because of the content. It’s not. It’s the very presence of the comment in a public space.

To explain: Paul Scholes is fully entitled to enjoy (or not enjoy) any opinion of Marcus Rashford that he likes. He can hate him for any number of reasons, including – and this is important – stupid, nonsensical ones. Furthermore, as a United fan it makes perfect sense for him to resent Rashford up and leaving them, and there is no sense in demanding that he or any United fan wish him the best.

The problem is that Paul Scholes is not just a United fan. He is a massively famous pundit who is paid, I imagine, a lot of money to talk about football. And what irks me about him STILL moaning about Rashford is just how utterly unnecessary it all is at this point. Love them or hate them, United this season are absolutely delicious narratively. They are either a sleeping giant about to awake or an old palace burning down, depending on your outlook, but the one thing that is totally not part of this saga is Marcus bloody Rashford. He is GONE. It is time to MOVE ON.

I guess what I’m saying is that there seems to be an assumption from old pros that their every opinion deserves to be heard, all the time, no matter what. But I don’t particularly give a monkey’s what Scholes thinks of Rashford as a person.

MIKEL ARTETA WANTS TO SIGN LEFT-BACK FROM BUNDESLIGA

**Diary Times Desk :** Arsenal’s strong September form has propelled them to second in the Premier League table with 10 points from five matches. Mikel Arteta’s men sit just behind leaders Liverpool, having drawn once amid a trio of victories. The defense remains stout, conceding only five goals, but the attack craves more bite.

This week’s reports spotlight Arsenal’s growing interest in Eintracht Frankfurt’s Nathaniel Brown as a left-back solution. The 22-year-old Englishman, valued at £19 million, blends defensive grit with midfield forays in the Bundesliga. Scouts praise his pace and crossing, ideal for Arteta’s inverted full-back role.

CaughtOffside details Arsenal’s initial contacts with Brown’s representatives, alongside Manchester City’s pursuit. Frankfurt, holding firm until his 2028 contract expiry, eyes a January sale to maximise returns. No release clause strengthens their hand in fending off Premier League giants.

Other reports highlights Newcastle, Manchester United, and City as rivals in the race for the German talent. Brown’s four outings this season include a goal and an assist, underscoring his rapid rise since joining Frankfurt last year. Sports Mole notes his fit beside Gabriel Magalhães, offering balance to the Gunners’ defence.

X insiders, via 365Scores, suggest Arsenal could table a bid next month to outpace competitors.

