

NEWS IN BRIEF

RSS CENTENARY
CELEBRATIONS: PM
MODI UNVEILS RS
100 COIN, SPECIAL
STAMP

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday released a special postage stamp and a commemorative coin, which features the first-ever depiction of Bharat Mata on an Indian currency, to mark the centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The Rs 100 coin features the National Emblem on one side and on the other side it depicts a majestic image of Bharat Mata in Varada Mudra (gesture of offering with the palm outward) with a lion, while swayamsevaks are shown bowing before her in devotion and dedication. "For the first time in the history of Independent India the image of Bharat Mata has been featured on Indian currency which marks a moment of great pride and historical significance."

IAF PROCURING
MORE RADARS
THAT CAN DETECT
STEALTH AIRCRAFT,
FILL IN GAPS LEFT
BY TRADITIONAL
EQUIPMENT

Diary Times Desk : To beef up its capabilities to detect stealth aircraft and to fill in certain existing gaps in the air defence network, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has drawn up plans to procure additional very high frequency (VHF) radars to deployment in remote high altitude areas.

VHF radars, according to experts, operate use longer wavelengths than traditional radars. These wavelengths are able to penetrate the radar-absorbing coatings on stealth aircraft, then making them easier to detect. They can also pick up targets at longer ranges.

The IAF's move to procure VHF radars assume significance in the light of China fielding fifth generation J-20 fighters that have stealth capabilities and reports of Pakistan also moving to acquire these aircraft. Also the emerging nature of warfare revolving around low observable platforms like drones and cruise missiles require enhanced, multi-pronged surveillance capability.

CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEESCENTRE HIKES DA/DR BY 3 PER CENT; TO BENEFIT
1.18 CRORE EMPLOYEES, PENSIONERS

Diary Times Desk : The Union Cabinet on Wednesday increased Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 3 per cent for about 49.19 lakh Central Government employees and 68.72 lakh pensioners.

The DA/DR increase of 3 per cent over the existing rate of 55 per cent of the basic pay/pension to compensate against the price rise is effective July 1, 2025.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of an increase in DA and DR will be Rs 10,083.96 crore per annum, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while briefing on decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting.

The hike in DA and DR comes days after rationalisation of GST rates, bringing down prices of mass consumption items like ghee, paneer, butter, 'namkeen', ketchup, jam, dry fruits, coffee and ice creams, and aspirational goods like TV, AC, washing machines will become cheaper.

The increase is in accordance with the accepted formula based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

The Centre revises DA/DR twice a year. The last revision, announced in March, was effective from January 1.

The Union Cabinet last month had approved a performance-linked bonus for railway employees.

The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27. Mr Vaishnaw said that the government has increased the MSP of Rabi crops to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The absolute highest increase in MSP has been announced for safflower at 600 per quintal, followed by lentil (masur) at 300 per quintal.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has also approved the widening and improvement of the existing highway to four lanes of the Kalibor-Numaligarh section of NH-715 in Assam. The project will be developed on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode with a total length of over 85 kilometres and a total capital cost of six thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven crore rupees.

PARLIAMENTARY PANELS RECONSTITUTED: THAROOR TO HEAD
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CHANNI AGRICULTURE PANEL

Diary Times Desk : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor will head the department-related parliamentary standing committee on External Affairs and former Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi will head the panel on Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

A bulletin from Lok Sabha on Wednesday night notified the reconstituted parliamentary committees with the incumbent chairpersons retained in all.

There are eight department-related parliamentary standing committees of the Rajya Sabha and 15 of the Lok Sabha. Besides these 23 panels, there are two select committees.

BJP MP Baijant Pandya will chair the select committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill 2025 and Tejaswi Surya will head the select panel on the Jan Vishwas Amendment of Provisions Bill 2025.

Among Rajya Sabha panels, Home committee will again be headed by BJP's Radha Mohan Das Agrawal; Commerce by TMC's Dola Sen; Education, Women and Children by Congress' Digvijay Singh; Industry by DMK's Tiruchi Siva; Science and Technology by BJP's Bhuvaneshwar Kalita; Transport, Tourism and Culture by NDA partner Sanjay Jha of JDU; Health by SP's Ram Gopal Yadav; Personnel, Law and Justice by BJP's Brij Lal, and Agriculture and Animal Husbandry by Charanjit Singh Channi.

ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE, INFILTRATION
TOP NATIONAL CHALLENGES, PM MODI
AT RSS CENTENARY EVENT

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday termed economic dependence on other countries and illegal infiltration as top challenges to India's unity and internal security and hailed the RSS for working to address these issues.

Addressing a special event in the capital where he launched a postal stamp and a Rs 100 coin to commemorate the 100-year journey of the RSS, the ruling BJP's mother organisation, the Prime Minister said, "Economic dependence on other nations is a conspiracy to break our unity. Conspiracies are also under way to change our demography. As PM I must state humbly that the government is moving fast to address these challenges." The PM referred to the demography mission announced during his Independence Day address and also hailed the RSS for "not just identifying but also drafting a roadmap to address the challenges of import dependence and infiltration". Modi said self-reliance is a necessity and not an option anymore, adding, "Unity in diversity is India's greatest strength and this has to be lived and preserved." Lending weight to RSS five-point pledge – self-realisation, social harmony, family values, citizen duties and ecological preservation, the PM said, "Swa-bodh" means self-realisation and pride in one's heritage. Self-reliance is not just an option but a necessity."

RS 60 CRORE CHEATING CASE: SHILPA SHETTY,
KUNDRA MOVE HC SEEKING NOD TO TRAVEL
ABROAD, SUSPEND LOOK OUT CIRCULAR

Diary Times Desk : Actor Shilpa Shetty and her businessman-husband Raj Kundra, accused in a Rs 60 crore fraud and cheating case, have moved the Bombay High Court seeking suspension of the Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against them so that they can travel abroad.

Their plea came up for hearing on Wednesday before a bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekar and Justice Gautam Ankhad, which directed the authorities concerned to file their reply affidavits. A criminal complaint was lodged against the couple by businessman Deepak Kothari alleging that between 2015 and 2023, they convinced him to invest Rs 60 crore in their now defunct company—Best Deal TV Pvt Ltd—but the amount was used for their own personal benefits. Kundra had appeared before the Mumbai police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) for questioning in the case, while Shetty was yet to be summoned by the probe agency.

The LOC, which imposes overseas travel curbs, against the couple was issued at the instance of the EOW in connection with the probe. As per the petition of the couple, Shetty had resigned from the company in September 2016 itself. Kundra was a businessman who is required to travel abroad frequently, while Shetty, being an actor, has to go overseas to fulfil her professional commitments, it said. "The applicants have a fundamental right to carry on their business and/or profession and denying such opportunities (to travel abroad) would amount to violation of their fundamental rights," the petition argued.

DROUPADI MURMU'S INTERVENTION

SONAM WANGCHUK'S WIFE
SEEKS PRESIDENT MURMU'S
INTERVENTION FOR HIS
RELEASE

Diary Times Desk : Sonam Wangchuk's wife, Gitanjali J Angmo, on Wednesday sought President Droupadi Murmu's intervention for the release of the climate activist, who has been lodged in Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan since being taken into custody following the September 24 violent clashes in Ladakh.

In a three-page letter addressed to the president, Wangchuk's wife alleged "witch-hunt" against her husband for espousing the cause of the people over the past four years and said she was completely unaware about her husband's condition.

"We request for an unconditional release of Wangchuk, a person who can never be a threat to anyone, leave alone his nation. He has dedicated his life to serve the brave sons of soil of Ladakh and stands in solidarity with the Indian Army in defence of our great nation," Angmo said in the representation forwarded through the Deputy Commissioner, Leh.

Wangchuk was detained under the National Security Act on September 26, two days after violent clashes in Leh town left four persons dead and scores of others injured. The violence broke out during the protests in support of the demands, including statehood for Ladakh and the region's inclusion in Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

She termed Wangchuk's detention as "illegal" and said she was informed of this by a Station House Officer.

"I was also told the officer would explain to me my legal rights. Even that has not been done till today. I am shocked and devastated," she said.

UNUSUAL ORDER: TRIAL
JUDGE REFUSES TO DECIDE
CASE SAYING SUPREME
COURT-SET TIMELINE HAS
EXPIRED

Diary Times Desk : In an unusual development, a trial judge from West Bengal has refused to decide a case, saying the timeline set by the Supreme Court has expired.

Terming it as "uncommon", the top court has directed the district judge of South 24 Parganas to call for an explanation of the judge concerned and report back to it within a month.

"He (the judge in question) has to state as to why and under what circumstances, he has reported that he has ceased to have jurisdiction over the matter and would not proceed any further thereof," a bench led by Justice Pankaj Mishra said in its September 26 order.

This top court had on January 18, 2024, disposed of the criminal appeal with one of the directions that the Judicial Magistrate, 4th Court at Alipore, South 24 Parganas may dispose of the case within six weeks.

2 COPS RAPE ANDHRA WOMAN IN TAMIL NADU. SHE HAD COME TO SELL FRUITS

Diary Times Desk : Two policemen in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannamalai district have been arrested and suspended for allegedly gang-raping a 25-year-old woman from Andhra Pradesh, the police said.

According to investigators, the survivor and her mother had travelled from Andhra Pradesh to sell fruits in Tiruvannamalai on Monday.

After stopping their vehicle and waiting on the roadside late at night, they were intercepted by two policemen on patrol duty - identified as constables D Sureshraj and P Sundar.

The women were then forcibly taken to a secluded location, where the daughter was sexually assaulted, the police said in a statement.

The accused were arrested and suspended from service.

"Steps are being taken to award the maximum punishment of dismissal from service," the police said, adding that further investigation is underway.



INDIA'S 5TH-GEN STEALTH FIGHTER CLOSER TO REALITY, 7 FIRMS MAKE PROTOTYPE BID

Diary Times Desk : Seven Indian companies have bid to partner with the Defence Research and Development Organisation to design and develop prototypes of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft or AMCA - India's homegrown fifth-generation stealth fighter jet.

Two bidders will now be shortlisted and receive Rs 15,000 crore between them to build five models of the AMCA - to the highest standards - before manufacturing rights are given.

The seven companies in the mix include Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, and Adani Defence, and their bids will be evaluated by a committee led by ex-BrahMos Aerospace chief A Sivathanu Pillai, defence officials told news agency ANI.

The committee will submit its report to the Defence Ministry.

6 CHILDREN DIE OF KIDNEY FAILURE IN 15 DAYS IN MADHYA PRADESH, 2 COUGH SYRUPS BANNED

Diary Times Desk : In a heart-wrenching tragedy that has shaken Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, six children have died of kidney failure in the past 15 days.

What initially appeared to be a routine wave of seasonal fever has now taken a sinister turn, with investigators suspecting contaminated cough syrup laced with toxic diethylene glycol as the cause of the deaths.

According to distraught families, the children, all under the age of five, had first complained of a cold and mild fever. Local doctors prescribed routine medication, including cough syrups, after which the children seemed to recover. But within days, the symptoms returned, followed by a sudden and alarming decrease in urine output. The condition quickly worsened into kidney infections.

Despite being rushed to Maharashtra's Nagpur for advanced treatment, three of the children died there.

"Our children had never even been sick before," said a grieving parent. "This time, they had a small fever. After the syrup, their urine stopped. We couldn't save them."

The turning point came when kidney biopsies revealed the presence of diethylene glycol contamination, a toxic chemical often associated with pharmaceutical poisoning. Most of the victims had been administered Coldrif and Nextro-DS syrups.

UNION MINISTERS LIKELY TO HIT NDA CAMPAIGN TRAIL



Diary Times Desk : With the Bihar Assembly elections approaching, Union ministers from the BJP-led NDA are expected to be deployed for intensive campaigning across the state. Sources indicated that beginning October 2, several ministers will be entrusted with promoting the NDA's agenda and canvassing for public support for its candidates. Each minister will be responsible for four to five assembly constituencies, working closely with local party workers and leaders to ensure a coordinated effort to rally voters in favour of the NDA.

Sources stated that the aim is to establish a stronger connection between the national leadership and the local electorate, while reinforcing the BJP's commitment to Bihar's development.

ASADUDDIN OWAIISI ASKED WHAT HE WOULD'VE DONE AS PM AFTER PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK. HIS RESPONSE

Diary Times Desk : AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday brushed off a question about a hypothetical situation where he was the Prime Minister during the Pahalgam terror attack, saying he only "deals with reality".

During a press conference, a reporter asked Owaisi what he would have done if he were the PM during the April 22 terror attack. To this, the AIMIM chief said, "Mere bhai, ye khwab dekhne ka mujhe shaukh nahi (my brother, I do not dream about these things). I deal with reality and know the extent of my reach. Our aim is not just to sit in power or become ministers."

He, however, questioned why India stopped giving a response to Pakistan - referring to the truce between the two countries.

"As an Indian national, I must say, after Pahalgam, we had a real opportunity to give a strong response. Why did it stop? I don't know, truly, I don't know why it stopped...It was a war-like situation.

AICTE PANEL PROPOSES NEW GUIDELINES FOR PHD, DSC IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Diary Times Desk : A five-member expert committee appointed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has recommended a new framework for doctoral studies in technical institutions, seeking to standardise PhD and DSc programmes across the country.

Until now, technical institutes have been following the University Grants Commission's (UGC) regulations for PhDs, while relying on their own criteria for DSc programmes.

Most of the guidelines proposed for PhD research broadly align with UGC's 2022 minimum standards, but the AICTE panel has suggested key changes. These include mandatory publications during the course of study and the removal of interview-based criteria for candidate selection, measures that have already stirred debate in academic circles. The committee has also set quantitative benchmarks for DSc eligibility, such as at least 20 years of teaching experience, 25 research publications and over 5,000 citations. This threshold is around 25 Per cent lower than what is prescribed at the university level. While many academicians have termed these conditions as restrictive, the committee has defended the move as necessary to preserve research quality. With the AICTE Executive Council already approving the recommendations, the guidelines have been forwarded to the government for final clearance. "Once it receives approval, it will be gazetted," Prof. Venugopal confirmed.

VIJAY'S STATEWIDE TOUR
CALLED OFF DAYS AFTER 41
DIED IN KARUR RALLY
STAMPEDE

Diary Times Desk : Actor-politician Vijay's party, TVK, has suspended his statewide tour for two weeks after a stampede in Tamil Nadu's Karur claimed 41 lives and triggered massive outrage. The TVK announced the decision to suspend Vijay's tour through its official X handle. "In this situation where we are in pain and sorrow over the loss of our loved ones, the public meeting programme of our party leader for the next two weeks is being temporarily postponed. New details regarding these public meetings will be announced later," a post read. This was expected as Vijay is yet to meet the families of the 41 victims, although he announced a relief of Rs 20 lakh for each family. Yesterday, in a recorded video, Vijay said he would meet the families soon. The stampede has also triggered a sense of fear among the party cadre and the public. The police, too, would look at the venues more closely, and a lot needs to be done by both sides to restore public confidence.

UNLIKE THE REST OF INDIA,
THIS UP VILLAGE WORSHIPS
RAVANA ON DUSSEHRA

Diary Times Desk : While the country gears up to burn towering Ravana effigies on October 2, a village in Uttar Pradesh observes Dussehra in a unique way. The locals here worship Ravana, the demon king from the epic Ramayana. They believe that Ravana was born in Bistrakh, near Greater Noida, and consider him an ancestor and a great scholar, or "Maha Brahman". Instead of burning his effigy, they offer prayers, a tradition followed for generations. Many also believe that whoever makes a wish here, it doesn't go unfulfilled. The Shiv Mandir in the Bistrakh village is also identified as the Ravana temple. Not long ago, a head statue of Ravana was also installed in the temple. Ramdas, the temple's head priest, said, "This is Ravana's birthplace and the ashram of Rishi Brahma and Pulastya Muni. Vijayadashami is celebrated here, but Ravana's effigy is never burned. We place his idol before the yajna and offer prayers instead." Krishna Kumar, a resident, said, "We consider Ravana like our grandfather or father. That's why we do not burn his effigy here."

Another villager, Sanjeev, added, "Ravana worshipped this Shiva Lingam here. This is an ancient Shiva temple. Vijayadashami is celebrated here, but no effigy is ever burned."

NEIF ORGANISER, ZUBEEN GARG'S MANAGER
ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH SINGER'S
DEATH; REMANDED TO 14 DAYS' CUSTODY



Diary Times Desk : North East India Festival (NEIF) chief organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta and singer Zubeen Garg's manager Siddhartha Sharma have been remanded to 14 days' police custody in connection with the singer's death in Singapore. The two were arrested and flown to Guwahati from Delhi. Mahanta was held upon arrival at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport from Singapore, while Sharma was tracked and arrested from an apartment in Gurugram after reportedly travelling across Delhi and Rajasthan. Due to Durga Puja holidays, they were produced at the residence of the Kamrup Chief Judicial Magistrate, who granted 14-day police custody. The duo was then taken to the CID office for further interrogation.

BIHAR TO GET 19 OF 57 NEW KENDRIYA
VIDYALAYAS APPROVED BY CENTRE

Diary Times Desk : Poll-bound Bihar is all set to get 19 Kendriya Vidyalayas out of the 57 approved by the government on Wednesday. The opening of the new KV's will benefit 86,640 students and generate 4,617 permanent teaching jobs, the ministry said. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in a post on X, said the 57 new KV's will cover 17 States and Union Territories. They will be opened in underserved areas in Telangana, Bihar, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir. An Education ministry source said, "Bihar will get 19 of the new KV's approved." MP from Srikakulam and Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said, Andhra Pradesh gets four KV's - Palasa, Guntur, Chittoor and Kuppam. G Kishan Reddy, Secunderabad MP, said, "Today four more KV's have been sanctioned in addition to the existing 35, to provide quality primary and secondary education in remote areas - Bhadradri Kothagudem District HQ, Mulugu district HQ, Jagityala District and Wanaparthy district."

NO PROPOSAL TO LEVY CONGESTION
TAX: DCM DK SHIVAKUMAR

Diary Times Desk : Following the proposal to introduce congestion tax as part of its 90-day action plan to decongest the city, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar ruled out any such move at a high-level meeting held on Tuesday. Shivakumar told reporters on the sidelines of an event here that there is no such proposal before the government. "It is false. Some industrialists have advised that in the interest of Bangaloreans. It should be a proposal before the Union government. We don't have any such proposal before us," Shivakumar stated. Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka strongly criticized the proposal, describing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's administration as a "Tughlaq government". He warned that the state government would be reprimanded if the matter went to court. "First repair roads, and everything will be fine. Without repairing roads, they want to tax people," Ashoka charged.

5K NEW TEMPLES WILL BE BUILT WITH DEVOTEES' DONATIONS:
MINISTER ANAM RAMANARAYANA REDDY

Diary Times Desk : The funds being utilised for the construction of 5,000 new temples in Andhra Pradesh are contributions from devotees, Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said. Addressing the media at his camp office on Tuesday, the minister outlined the government's plans for temple development and protection of Hindu traditions. The minister said that over the next five years, 5,000 temples would be built in Dalit and tribal colonies. Highlighting the present government's measures, he said that the Vijayawada Kanakadurga Navaratri celebrations were now being held with grandeur, thousands of lamps, and tight security. He stressed that the coalition government was taking steps to safeguard Hindu dharma and Sanatana dharma, ensuring past mistakes would not be repeated.

Ramanarayana Reddy announced that Rs 10,000 per month is being allocated for dhooa deepa daily rituals in 5,523 temples, with salaries for priests also increased.



FAIR SUBMITS PUBLIC COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF NONIMMIGRANT VISA REFORMS

Diary Times Desk : Earlier this week, the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) submitted a public comment in support of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Establishing a Fixed Time Period of Admission and an Extension of Stay Procedure for Nonimmigrant Academic Students, Exchange Visitors, and Representatives of Foreign Information Media, which would make needed reforms to the nonimmigrant visa system. Under this rule, the F student visa, J exchange program visa, and I visa for foreign media employees would be issued for fixed admission periods, replacing the open-ended "duration of status" system. These changes would enable DHS to better track visa holders and ensure that they are in the United States only for the limited purposes for which they were admitted. The nonimmigrant visa system provides visas for those seeking to come to the U.S. temporarily for business or leisure, to attend schools, play professional sports, carry out religious duties, or perform seasonal agricultural work, among other activities. The United States has a clear interest in keeping track of these individuals and ensuring that their actions while present in the country adhere to the stated purposes for which their visas were granted. While the majority of nonimmigrants are admitted for a specific period, F, J, and most I visa holders are admitted for a "duration of status" lasting so long as they are engaged in a particular activity. This distinction lacks a sound foundation and should be corrected.

"MOST BEAUTIFUL": TRUMP SAYS ASIM MUNIR PRAISED HIM FOR INDIA-PAKISTAN TRUCE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump doubled down on his claim of brokering a truce between India and Pakistan during military conflict earlier this year. He claimed that during his recent meeting with the Pakistani leadership, their army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, credited him for "saving millions of lives" by stopping the war.

"The prime minister of Pakistan (Shehbaz Sharif) was here along with the field marshal (Munir), who's a very important guy in Pakistan. He was here (White House) a few days ago.

WEDDING BELLS IN 'SPACE' FOR TOM CRUISE AND ANA DE ARMAS?

Diary Times Desk : If rumours are to be believed then Tom Cruise and Ana de Armas are reportedly gearing up for an out-of-this-world wedding, with plans to make it as unforgettable as possible.

According to sources, the couple is considering an unconventional venue like 'Space' for their big day. Their shared love for adventure and daring feats is said to be a key part of their bond, and they want their wedding to reflect that. The 63-year-old actor and 37-year-old Cuban actress have been moving quickly since they started dating earlier this year. Their romance was confirmed in July when they were spotted holding hands during a getaway in Vermont. Tom, who has been married thrice before, to Mimi Rogers, Nicole Kidman and Katie Holmes, is reportedly hoping this will be the relationship that lasts. Tom's passion for space travel is said to be a major inspiration for their wedding plans.



US VISAS TO COST \$250 MORE FROM TODAY: TRUMP'S 'ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL' BRINGS NEW INTEGRITY FEE



Diary Times Desk : The United States has implemented a new mandatory fee for all non-immigrant visas, known as the Visa Integrity Fee. Effective from the new fiscal year that began on October 1, 2025, the fee will apply to every visa issuance, covering categories such as F-1 and F-2 student visas, J-1 and J-2 exchange visas, H-1B and H-4 work visas, as well as tourist B-1/B-2 visas. The Integrity Fee, set at a minimum of \$250 for fiscal year 2025, is in addition to the existing "machine-readable visa" (MRV) application fee and reciprocity fees. The amount is determined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), with automatic inflation adjustments scheduled to take effect from fiscal year 2026 onward. Mandatory but reimbursable The fee is compulsory and cannot be waived or reduced. However, applicants who fully comply with the terms of their visa will be eligible for reimbursement. This includes those who do not engage in unauthorised employment and either exit the US within five days of their authorised stay ending or secure a legitimate extension or adjustment of status.

RAREST OF RARE CASE: BRAZIL BABY BORN WITH CONTRACEPTIVE CLENCHED IN FIST

Diary Times Desk : Bizarre or miracle? Image of a new born baby in Brazil photographed withan Intrauterine Device (IUD), has gone viral. An IUD is a contraceptive also known as copper T and copper coil, inserted in a woman's uterus to avoid pregnancy.

And now, call it destiny or God's plan, the infant with a copper T in hand at the time of birth is quite an unusual site. The device is said to be 99% effective, looks like baby Matheus Gabriel made it with just a success chance of 1%.

MUNICH'S OKTOBERFEST TEMPORARILY SHUT DUE TO BOMB THREAT



Diary Times Desk : Authorities temporarily closed Munich's Oktoberfest on Wednesday over a bomb threat in a letter written by a suspect accused of starting a deadly house fire, police said.

The suspect has been accused of setting a building on fire in a family dispute in which one person died. The annual festival was permitted to reopen after police found nothing suspicious there.

Joachim Herrmann, interior minister of the state of Bavaria where Munich is the capital, said: "It was the right thing to do to take it seriously."

PM MODI HAILS TRUMP'S GAZA PLAN AS 'PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE'

Diary Times Desk : India on Tuesday welcomed US President Donald Trump's announcement of a comprehensive peace plan to end the Gaza conflict, describing it as a "viable pathway to long-term and sustainable peace" in West Asia.

"We welcome President Donald J Trump's announcement of a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict. It provides a viable pathway to long-term and sustainable peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people, as also for the larger West Asian region," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

He expressed hope that all concerned parties would rally behind the initiative to "end conflict and secure peace". Early diplomatic signals suggest that Trump's proposal has generated broad international support — a rarity in the decades-old conflict. For India, which has consistently backed a two-state solution, the plan offers renewed hope of stability in West Asia, a region vital for New Delhi's energy security and diaspora interests.

In a statement, Palestine welcomed Trump's "sincere and determined efforts" to end the war in Gaza and voiced confidence in his ability to chart a path toward peace.

5 SURVIVORS PULLED FROM INDONESIA SCHOOL RUBBLE AS RESCUERS RACE AGAINST TIME



Diary Times Desk : Rescuers pulled five survivors from a collapsed school in Indonesia on Wednesday as frantic parents demanded searchers speed up efforts to find dozens of children believed still trapped in the rubble two days on.

Part of the multi-storey boarding school, in the town of Sidoarjo on the island of Java, gave way suddenly on Monday as students gathered for afternoon prayers.

"Today we managed to evacuate seven victims, five of them were rescued alive, and two were found dead," Yudhi Bramantyo, operational director of the search and rescue services, told a press briefing in Sidoarjo, 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the city of Surabaya.

"HOW MUCH CAN I GIVE YOU TO MAKE YOU STOP?" US WOMAN RAPED BY HOMELESS MAN

Diary Times Desk : A 36-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a homeless man inside her apartment in Norwood, New York City.

The incident happened at around 5 am when she was approached by a 21-year-old man inside a residential building on East Gun Hill Road near Putnam Place, police said.

The accused, Kenneth Siriboe, covered the woman's mouth with one hand and squeezed her throat with the other, according to The NY Post. He then allegedly threw the woman to the ground and repeatedly punched her.

THIS IS DONALD TRUMP'S "FAVOURITE WORD". HINT: IT'S "MAKING AMERICA RICH"

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has defended his much-criticised trade policy, saying 'tariff' is his favourite word in the English dictionary and credited it for making America 'rich'. He argued that many other nations had been taking advantage of the US for years, but his tariffs on trading partners have restored fairness in trade. "I love tariffs. Most beautiful word, but I'm not allowed to say that anymore. Tariff is my favourite word. I love the word tariff. We're becoming rich as hell. We have a big case in front of the Supreme Court, but I can't imagine it because this is what other nations have done to us," the US President said while speaking at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico.

AFTER CUTS TO RESEARCH FUNDING, TRUMP PLEDGES MILLIONS FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER INITIATIVE INVOLVING AI



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday that the White House says will use artificial intelligence to transform the way scientists fight childhood cancer. However, the move comes amid cuts to hundreds of millions of dollars in science research grants and proposed cuts to the budget of the nation's primary agency for cancer research and training – moves that experts say could mean dramatic losses in cancer treatments. "We're going to defeat childhood cancer once and for all," Trump said Tuesday in the Oval Office, accompanied by children who have had cancer. "I'm thrilled to sign a very historic executive order to massively accelerate pediatric cancer research and harness the extraordinary potential of artificial intelligence to fight this terrible disease." During the announcement, Trump turned to the children standing to the left of his desk and told them, "You're all going to be better very soon."

HOW DOES CHINA'S K VISA WORK AND CAN IT COMPETE WITH THE H-1B?

Diary Times Desk : China is rolling out a new visa aimed at attracting foreign talent in the fields of science and technology. The K visa comes into effect from Wednesday, following a proclamation last month by the State Council, China's cabinet. The visa has attracted particular attention in light of United States President Donald Trump's tightening of the eligibility rules for the H-1B, which Silicon Valley heavily relies on to recruit skilled labour from overseas. **What is the goal of the K visa, and how does it work?** The Chinese government has cast the visa as part of its efforts to attract foreign talent to boost the country's competitiveness in science and technology.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Guo Jiakun on Tuesday said the visa's purpose was to "promote exchanges and cooperation" between science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) talent from China and other countries. The visa is the latest in a series of recent reforms intended to make China more attractive to foreigners, including streamlined visa processing and the introduction of a redesigned permanent residency card.

PFIZER TO OFFER CHEAPER DRUGS VIA TRUMP'S WEBSITE

Diary Times Desk : The Trump administration has announced a deal allowing patients to buy prescription drugs at discounted prices via a new website operated by the federal government. The agreement with pharmaceutical giant Pfizer will see prices for some medicines slashed by up to 85% on the direct-to-consumer TrumpRx site, the White House said in a press conference on Tuesday. Pfizer also agreed to lower prescription drug prices for the state-run Medicaid program, the government's public health insurance plan for low-income Americans, in a move that will see the company avoid paying tariffs. It comes after the US president announced last week a 100% levy on branded or patented drug imports from 1 October. Pfizer is the first pharmaceutical firm to settle a deal after Donald Trump sent letters to 17 drug companies in the summer, giving them 60 days to respond to his demands for lower prices – a deadline that expired this week. During the press conference, Trump referred to a policy aimed at aligning prices in the US with lower ones abroad. He said: "Pfizer is committing to offer all of their prescription medications to Medicaid, and it will be at the most-favoured nations prices."

RESIDENTS OF A NYC PUBLIC HOUSING TOWER ESCAPE UNHARMED AFTER A MASSIVE CHIMNEY COLLAPSES

Diary Times Desk : A massive brick chimney running 20 stories up the side of a New York City apartment building collapsed after an explosion Wednesday, sending tons of debris plummeting to the ground.

The falling bricks buried a sidewalk, landed on the public housing building's playground and sent a cloud of dust billowing over the block in the Bronx, but amazingly did not injure anyone.

"We avoided a major disaster here," said Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson at a news conference. Mayor Eric Adams confirmed no injuries or deaths were reported in the collapse of the chimney, which rose up from the building's boiler room. Authorities learned of explosion just after 8 a.m. and were trying to determine if there had been a gas leak. The mayor noted that Oct. 1 is typically the first day that heating systems are turned on for the season.



PAK ARMY CHIEF BRANDED 'SALESMAN' AFTER RARE EARTH PIC WITH TRUMP GOES VIRAL

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, is facing a storm of criticism after his latest high-profile visit to Washington, which was his third in less than six months.

A photograph from the Oval Office showing Munir and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presenting a box of Pakistan's rare earth minerals to US President Donald Trump has triggered a political uproar and raised uncomfortable questions back home.

The gesture, meant to highlight Pakistan's mineral wealth, instead turned into a political embarrassment. In the country's parliament, Senator Aimal Wali Khan accused Munir of behaving "like a salesman" while the prime minister looked on "like a manager watching the drama".

He questioned in what capacity the Army chief was negotiating with foreign leaders, calling it a "joke with the constitution" and a "contempt of parliament".

AFGHANS REJOICE AS INTERNET RETURNS AFTER TALIBAN BLACKOUT

Diary Times Desk : Afghans have taken to the streets to rejoice in the restoration of internet and telecom services after the Taliban government shut them down, provoking widespread condemnation.

Local reporters said communications were resuming, while internet monitor Netblocks said network data showed a "partial restoration" of connectivity.

A source close to the government confirmed to BBC Afghan that the internet was back by order of the Taliban prime minister.

The 48-hour blackout disrupted businesses and flights, limited access to emergency services and raised fears about further isolating women and girls whose rights have been severely eroded since the hardline Islamist group swept back to power in 2021.

On Wednesday evening hundreds of Afghans took the streets in the capital city Kabul to spread the word that the internet was back.

One man told BBC Afghan: "Everyone is happy, holding their cell phones and talking to their relatives.

"From women, to men and Talibs [a member of the Taliban], each was talking on phones after services were restored. There are more crowds now in the city."

Suhail Shaheen, a senior Taliban spokesman in Qatar, said "all communications" were restored by Wednesday afternoon.

US GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN HITS H-1B VISA PROCESSING: HOW IT AFFECTS INDIANS

Diary Times Desk : After US President Donald Trump and Congress failed to reach a funding deal by Wednesday's deadline, the government shutdown began. As a result, hundreds of thousands of federal employees face furloughs, and many offices will be closed. H-1B visas will also face a pause until the shutdown ends, says immigration attorney Nicole Gunara.

She said that H-1B visa filings will not be processed until the Congress can agree on federal funding allocations.

Gunara explained how the H-1B visa process goes through different steps, starting from filing a labour condition application known as an LCA with the Department of Labour (DOL). Once the LCA is certified, the concerned company moves ahead to file an H-1B petition with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

SWISS CHOCOLATES SET TO BECOME CHEAPER IN INDIA UNDER A NEW TRADE DEAL

Diary Times Desk : Swiss wines and chocolates are set to become cheaper in India after a new trade agreement it signed with a bloc of four European nations came into effect on Wednesday. India signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - which includes Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein - in March 2024. Under the agreement, India will cut tariffs on 80-85% of goods coming from these countries to zero, while Indian exporters will get duty-free access to 99% of goods in EFTA markets.

The two sides have also committed to invest \$100bn (£74bn) and create a million direct jobs over the next 15 years as part of the deal.

This is India's first trade agreement where market access is directly tied to these investment pledges.

FOR TRUMP AND HEGSETH, THE 'WARRIOR ETHOS' COMES WITH ULTIMATUMS FOR HUNDREDS OF GENERALS AND ADMIRALS



Diary Times Desk : Top American military brass looked on in silence Tuesday as they sat for an extensive lecture from US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, who wants to be known as the Secretary of War, and their commander-in-chief, President Donald Trump.

The message from Hegseth is that the US military isn't ready to fight in the way it needs to be and that he's tired of seeing "fat generals" parading around the Pentagon.

But his demand that the military clean up and get more fit was less important than the new mission generals and admirals got from their commander-in-chief, who sees an invasion from within: American inner cities are "a big part of war now," Trump said.

If the brass didn't like it, they should leave the room, Trump said, apparently joking before issuing the warning: "Of course, there goes your rank, there goes your future," he said.

Hegseth made a similar point—and seemed quite serious. "If the words I'm speaking today are making your hearts sink, then you should do the honorable thing and resign," he said.

For the men at the top, the new "warrior ethos" comes with ultimatums.

WHY GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS SEEM TO ONLY HAPPEN IN THE US



Diary Times Desk : The US government has shut down for 11th time since 1980.

In other countries, governments keep functioning, even in the midst of wars and constitutional crises. So why does this uniquely American phenomenon keep happening?

For most of the world, a government shutdown is very bad news – the result of revolution, invasion or disaster. But in the US, it has become a kind of bargaining tool for political leaders – and a perennial phenomenon.

America's federal system of government allows different branches of government to be controlled by different parties. It was a structure devised by the nation's founders to encourage compromise and deliberation, but lately it has had the opposite effect. That's because in 1980, the attorney general under President Jimmy Carter issued a narrow interpretation of the 1884 Anti-Deficiency Act. The 19th Century spending law banned the government from entering into contracts without congressional approval; for almost a century, if there was a gap in budgets, the government had allowed necessary spending to continue. But after 1980, the government took a much stricter view: no budget, no spending.

STATE OF CALAMITY IN PHILIPPINES PROVINCE AS EARTHQUAKE KILLS 69

Diary Times Desk : At least 69 people have been killed and dozens injured after a powerful 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck the central Philippines late on Tuesday.

The province of Cebu, which suffered the brunt of the damage, declared a state of calamity early on Wednesday, after thousands spent the night on the streets amid repeated aftershocks.

One Cebu resident told the BBC he was among them, adding that power and water supplies were cut off. He says the voices of crying children could be heard around him, adding that they were "traumatised". The earthquake comes barely more than a week after the country was hit by back-to-back typhoons which killed more than 20 people. Most of the earthquake victims were from Bogo, a small town on one of the largest islands in the Visayas Islands, the Philippines' central region – and the place closest to the earthquake's epicentre.

SUPREME COURT AGREES TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN CASE ON FEDERAL RESERVE INDEPENDENCE, LEAVING LISA COOK IN JOB FOR NOW

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court agreed Wednesday to decide whether President Donald Trump can temporarily fire Lisa Cook from the Federal Reserve, setting up a blockbuster showdown over the independence of an agency with vast power over the American economy.

Cook will remain on the job until the court holds oral arguments – set for January – and decides what to do with the president's appeal. That move came despite Trump's request for Cook to be removed immediately.

In that sense, the order was a win for Cook – and a rare instance in which the court has decided against quickly jettisoning federal officials Trump has fired.

The high court's brief and unsigned order came months after a majority of justices appeared to draw a line of protection around the Fed, calling the rate-setting agency a "uniquely structured" entity with a "distinct historical tradition" shielding it from presidential politics – even as the court has permitted Trump to fire leaders at other agencies, like the Federal Trade Commission.

3 US LAWMAKERS AND 2 PROPOSED CHANGES TO H-1B, L-1 VISA PROGRAMMES

Diary Times Desk : United States lawmakers continued tightening rules for the H-1B and L-1 worker visa programmes Monday after three senators introduced two separate pieces of legislation to target "loopholes" used by for- and non-profit employers.

The top Republican and Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee – Chuck Grassley, a Republican from Iowa, and Democrat Dick Durbin of Illinois – tabled a bill to raise wage and hiring standards, mandate public job postings, and narrowing visa eligibility, among others.

"Congress created the H-1B and L-1 visa programs as limited pathways for businesses to acquire top talent when it can't be found at home. But over the years, many employers have used them to cut out American workers in favour of cheap foreign labour," Grassley said.



QATARI PM HOPES 'MOMENTUM' NOW TO END ISRAEL'S GAZA WAR; HAMAS DELIBERATES

Diary Times Desk : Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani says the Gaza ceasefire plan unveiled by United States President Donald Trump meets the key goals set by mediators – stopping the killing and displacement of Palestinians – and urged all sides to seize the "momentum" to bring Israel's war to an end.

In an interview with Al Jazeera aired on Wednesday, Sheikh Mohammed said Doha had passed the plan, already backed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to Hamas's negotiating team and discussed its broad terms.

He acknowledged the plan has "practical and implementation challenges," but said it tackles the most urgent priority: ending the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip while also opening the door to "opportunities".

"Everyone agreed on stopping the war, preventing displacement and the full withdrawal of the Israeli army. These are the three main, pivotal matters," he said. "And the direct responsible party for managing Gaza are the Palestinian people themselves."

WHY TRUMP'S PLEDGE TO DEFEND QATAR IS SO EXTRAORDINARY

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump has bestowed upon the nation of Qatar a remarkable security guarantee that could include coming to its defense militarily.

In an executive order dated earlier this week, Trump declared that the United States will regard any attack on Qatar's territory, sovereignty or critical infrastructure "as a threat to the peace and security of the United States" itself.

And perhaps most crucially, the order suggests the US might come to Qatar's defense militarily.

"In the event of such an attack, the United States shall take all lawful and appropriate measures – including diplomatic, economic, and, if necessary, military – to defend the interests of the United States and of the State of Qatar and to restore peace and stability," the order says.

This is an extraordinary development in Trump's controversial relations with the Middle East, for several reasons.

Article 5 of NATO says that member nations like the United States agree that an armed attack against one of them shall "be considered an attack against them all."

STOCKS SHRUG OFF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN FOR NOW

Diary Times Desk :
Stocks were mixed on Wednesday as the US government officially entered a shutdown and Wall Street grappled with the uncertain implications for the economy.

The Dow was up 67 points, or 0.14%. The broader S&P 500 was flat. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite was down 0.1%.

The government at midnight officially shut down for the first time in seven years after lawmakers failed to agree on a funding bill.

The gridlock on Capitol Hill is set to put many federal employees out of work indefinitely, in addition to stoking uncertainty about the fate of regularly scheduled releases of key economic data.

NIKE TURNAROUND TAKES ROOT DESPITE \$1.5 BILLION TARIFF BILL



Diary Times Desk : Nike on Tuesday reported a surprise rise in first-quarter revenue and beat profit expectations as the storied sportswear brand's turnaround effort gained traction despite weakness in China and tariffs pressuring margins. Nike (NKE) shares rose more than 3% on Wednesday after the company also managed to clear some of its bloated inventory and wholesale revenues returned to growth in a sign of early success for CEO Elliott Hill's plan to get Nike back to its former glory.

Executives warned the recovery was still a way off. Nike now expects tariffs to cost it about \$1.5 billion this year, compared with the \$1 billion expected earlier.

The sportswear brand makes nearly all its shoes in countries such as Vietnam that have been hit with steep duties under President Donald Trump.In the company's earnings statement, Hill admitted Nike still had "work ahead to get all sports, geographies, and channels on a similar path."

US AGENCY SUES APPLE FOR ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWISH WORKER

Diary Times Desk :
The US agency that enforces workplace anti-discrimination laws sued Apple on Tuesday, claiming the manager of a retail store made antisemitic comments and denied a Jewish employee's requests for time off before firing him. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says the manager of the Reston, Virginia, Apple store told the worker, Tyler Steele, that he smelled like body odor, forced him to work on the Jewish Sabbath and warned him not to discuss the October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel with coworkers. The lawsuit in Alexandria, Virginia federal court accuses Apple of religious discrimination and retaliation in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC is seeking unspecified back pay and other damages for Steele, including punitive damages for "malicious and reckless conduct." Apple did not respond to a request for comment. The EEOC routinely sues employers for discrimination based on sex, race, disability, pregnancy and other protected traits. Under Acting Chair Andrea Lucas, a conservative Christian who was appointed to the post by Republican President.



WHAT THIS SHUTDOWN COULD MEAN FOR THE ECONOMY AND YOUR 401(K)

Diary Times Desk : Although painful for federal workers, travelers, and thousands of people and businesses in and outside Washington that partner with the US government, shutdowns typically aren't significant events for the stock market or the economy.

This time could be different. What a shutdown usually means Shutdowns are typically short-term events, and whatever economic damage occurs during that time tends to be limited and quickly fixed. Even the last government shutdown – the record-long 35-day shutdown in 2018-2019 – had few long-lasting impacts on the US economy and financial markets. Although hundreds of thousands of nonessential federal employees get furloughed during government shutdowns, investors and economists normally shrug off those temporary layoffs, because impacted workers are repaid and return to work when the shutdown inevitably ends.



AI IS NOT YET REPLACING WORKERS IN THE US, RESEARCHERS FIND

Diary Times Desk :
ChatGPT is not yet causing the massive upheaval in the US labor market that many have feared since the chatbot's launch in 2022, according to a new study by a research center at Yale University. The study comes amid widespread concerns that the proliferation of generative artificial intelligence, the technology that underpins ChatGPT, could put many jobs at risk as US companies increasingly turn to AI to cut costs through greater automation. The researchers looked at changes since the launch of ChatGPT in the distribution of workers among all the jobs available in the economy. The chatbot is underpinned by generative artificial intelligence technology, which can create original text, images and other content in response to prompts from users. "By measuring this over the time generative AI has been publicly available, we can test the claim that AI is substantially changing the workforce by... pushing workers from one job to another, automating workers out of a job, or creating new jobs," they said in the study, published by The Budget Lab Wednesday.



PELOTON GOES ALL IN
ON AI IN PRODUCT
RELAUNCH

Diary Times Desk :
Peloton is unveiling a sweeping revamp of its portfolio with a focus on artificial intelligence as the once-hot fitness company looks to kickstart growth. On Wednesday, the company is releasing five products, including a cheaper base model and more expensive “plus” versions of its bike and treadmill as well as a new rowing machine — all of which have a new swiveling screen so users can take strength, yoga and other classes. The equipment also has upgraded speakers and improved Wi-Fi connectivity, while the bike has an improved seat in response to consumers’ complaints. The “plus” versions of its bike, treadmill and rowing machine have a new feature called Peloton IQ, an AI-assisted feature that acts like a personal trainer offering feedback on users’ form, plus rep counting and suggestions on weights and workout plans. Prices have also gone up, with the Bike now costing \$1,695 (a \$150 increase), and the Bike+ costing \$2,695 (a \$200 increase). The base model of the treadmill has also increased by \$300, to \$3,295; and the Tread+ now costs \$6,695, a whopping \$700 increase. The monthly membership price has also increased for the first time in three years, by \$5, to \$49.99.

TAIWAN SAYS IT WILL RESIST PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON TO MOVE HALF OF CHIP PRODUCTION TO US

Diary Times Desk : Taiwan has vowed to resist pressure from Washington to shift half of its chip production capacity to the United States, throwing down the gauntlet to the Trump administration.

Washington has grown increasingly concerned about its heavy dependence on Taiwan, where chip giant TSMC supplies the vast majority of the world’s advanced semiconductors to major clients like AI chip designer Nvidia and Apple.

But many in self-ruled Taiwan view its chip-making prowess a “silicon shield” that could deter a potential invasion from China and rally international support for its security.

HOLLYWOOD IS FUMING OVER A NEW ‘AI ACTRESS’



Diary Times Desk : After an artificial intelligence-generated “actress” drew intense backlash from human actors, the character’s maker says it’s not meant to replace people. But many in Hollywood aren’t buying it. It’s just the latest movie-industry feud over a technology that many creatives worry has stolen their work and could eventually replace them.

“Tilly Norwood” looks like a young woman with wavy brown hair and clear skin who, since February, has posted on Instagram much like any other Gen Z influencer. She’s pursuing an acting career — and recently posted about doing “screen tests” in hopes of landing a gig. But Tilly Norwood isn’t a real person, she’s AI-generated, created by Eline Van Der Velden, founder of AI startup Particle6, which says it creates “digital content” for film and TV.

In a recent post, AI Tilly bragged that “in 20 seconds I fought monsters, fled explosions, sold you a car, and nearly won an Oscar. All in a day’s work... literally! Find yourself an actress who can do it all,” along with the hashtag #AIActress.

“This is incredibly thoughtless and frankly disturbing,” wrote actor Cameron Cowperthwaite, who appeared in “Shameless” and “American Horror Story.”

JIMMY KIMMEL EXPLAINS HOW HE LEARNED HE WAS BEING YANKED
OFF THE AIR — AND THOUGHT HE’D NEVER RETURN



Diary Times Desk : When ABC executives told Jimmy Kimmel last month that his show was being pulled off the air, the late-night show’s audience was seated, a guest chef had already started making food, the musical guest had performed a warm-up act, and Kimmel was in the bathroom.

“It was about 3:00; we tape our show at 4:30,” Kimmel told Stephen Colbert on an episode of “The Late Show” Tuesday. “I’m in my office, typing away as I usually do. I get a phone call. It’s ABC. They say they want to talk to me. This is unusual: They, as far as I knew, didn’t even know I was doing a show previous to this.”

Kimmel said he had five writers in his office at the time, and the only private place where he could take the call was the bathroom.

“So I go into the bathroom, and I’m on the phone with the ABC executives. and they say, ‘Listen, we want to take the temperature down. We’re concerned about what you’re going to say tonight, and we decided that the best route is to take the show off the air.’”

The audience booed, and Kimmel joked: “That’s what I said: I started booing.”

“I said, ‘I don’t think that’s a good idea,’ and they said, ‘Well, we think it’s a good idea.’ Then there was a vote, and I lost the vote.”

Kimmel said he called some of the show’s executive producers into his office to share the news, and he turned white.

“I thought, that’s it. It’s over, it’s over. I was like, I’m never coming back on the air.”

Kimmel returned to the air the following Tuesday with an emotional monologue — and mega-ratings.

LIBERTY OVER BRICKS:
LACK OF PERMANENT
HOME NOT A GROUND
TO REFUSE BAIL, SAYS
HC

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has flagged a sharp, often overlooked reality in bail law: when property prices are soaring beyond reach, and rentals are barely affordable, many accused simply do not have a permanent residence — and that alone cannot bar them from bail.

“When individuals are arraigned as accused, it would be a miscarriage of justice to deny them bail solely because they lack a permanent residence,” the court observed, adding that the bail’s purpose was to safeguard liberty and ensuring presence at trial, not to penalise economic circumstances.

Making it clear that justice could not be measured in square feet, the bench alluded to spiritualists and transient citizens while indicating that residence was not a prerequisite for accountability. The court also cautioned against assuming that a permanent address guaranteed compliance, while observing that properties could be vacated or secretly transferred.

The ruling came on a petition filed by an accused in a cheating and criminal breach of trust case registered at a police station in Gurugram in September last year. Among other things, the State and the complainant opposed the bail plea on the ground that the petitioner was not having a permanent abode and was a “fleeing risk”.

HARYANA RANKS 4TH
IN CRIME RATE
NATIONWIDE, SAYS
NCRB REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Haryana recorded the fourth-highest crime rate in the country in 2023, with 739.3 cases per one lakh population, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report. A total of 2.24 lakh cases were registered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL), based on a mid-year population estimate of 3.03 crore.

RELIEF FOR FLOOD-HIT FARMERS: HARYANA GOVERNMENT PUTS OFF CROP LOAN
REPAYMENT

Diary Times Desk : Providing a major relief to flood-hit farmers, the Haryana Government today announced postponement of crop loan repayment and agricultural electricity bill payment.

This was announcement by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini at a press conference here today. Reiterating Haryana Government’s commitment to farmers’ welfare, he said that through the e-Kshatipurti portal, the government on Wednesday transferred the compensation amount of Rs 4.72 crore in the accounts of 2,386 persons whose houses, house articles were damaged and livestock perished in heavy rains. The compensation amount included Rs 4.67 crore for damage to houses and Rs 4.21 lakh for cattle loss. Saini said 5.37 lakh farmers in 6,397 villages had registered themselves with the e-Kshatipurti portal for crop damage.



6 HARYANA RESIDENTS KILLED AS
SUV RAMS INTO STATIONARY TRUCK
IN UP’S MUZAFFARNAGAR

Diary Times Desk : An SUV rammed into a stationary truck here on Wednesday, leaving six persons dead and another seriously injured, police said. The accident took place near a roadside eatery on the Panipat-Khatima highway, officials said. Circle Officer Rupali Rao told PTI that the victims were travelling from Haryana to Haridwar to immerse the ashes of a relative when the accident took place. The deceased were identified as Mohini (44), Anju (30), Vimmi (35), Rajender (50), Shiva (30, driver) and Piyush (30), all residents of Faridpur in Haryana. The injured has been admitted to hospital.



HARYANA CONGRESS NEW CHIEF
RAO NARENDER MEETS SENIOR
LEADERS, VOWS TO TAKE ALL
ALONG

Diary Times Desk : Sending out a clear message that he wants to unite the faction-ridden Congress, newly appointed state party chief Rao Narender Singh today went “leader-hopping” in New Delhi, as he called on party “seniors” and leaders of various factions in the state unit.

He met the newly appointed Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Singh Surjewala, former Union minister Birender Singh and former minister Capt Ajay Singh Yadav — also a contender for the post of state chief — to drive home the point that he belongs to no faction and would take everyone along. Sirsa MP Kumari Selja was, however, not present as she was out of the country.

Speaking to “The Tribune”, Rao Narender said, “It is my duty to meet every senior leader and ensure that we all work collectively to strengthen the party and spread the Congress’s ideology.”

GOVT RAISES WHEAT MSP BY 6.59% TO RS 2,585 PER QUINTAL FOR 2026-27

Diary Times Desk : The government on Wednesday announced a 6.59 per cent increase in the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat to Rs 2,585 per quintal for the 2026-27 marketing year, up from Rs 2,425 per quintal last year.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Briefing the media, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Cabinet had approved the MSP for six rabi crops for 2026-27 based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

In absolute terms, the highest increase has been announced for safflower at Rs 600 per quintal, followed by lentil (masur) at Rs 300 per quintal.



The US Economy Lost 32,000 Private-Sector..

Private payrolls plunged in September, complicating the picture for the US economy as policymakers and investors struggle to assess the state of the labor market amid a government shutdown.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is unlikely to release the monthly jobs report this Friday due to the closure. That means many flying blind without critical economic data are having to key into any information they can get, including Wednesday's private sector jobs data from payroll company ADP.

US private-sector businesses lost 32,000 jobs in September, according to the report. August's previously estimated 54,000 payroll gains were downwardly revised to negative 3,000.

However, ADP's latest numbers come with some big caveats: A preliminary "rebenchmarking" of the data was a significant factor behind the negative August revision forecasts called for a net gain of 50,000 jobs last month and that the unemployment rate would hold steady at 4.3%. ADP's chief economist Nela Richardson said Wednesday.

"We found that once we benchmarked that data, it actually shows a September slowdown that has been consistent with what we've been reporting all year," Richardson told reporters Wednesday, noting the process resulted in a reduction of 43,000 jobs in September, compared to pre-benchmarked data.

"In fact, though the numbers changed, the story and the narrative and the trend remain the same: Hiring momentum has slowed from the beginning of the year through September," she added.

Similar to the BLS's two-step annual process, ADP recalibrates its estimates annually to the full-year 2024 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. The report provides a more comprehensive read on the number of businesses, employees and wages at the state, regional and county level because it derives that data from quarterly tax reports submitted by businesses to their states. However, the QCEW is heavily lagged.

A low-turnover environment September's estimated job gains, which ADP tabulated using anonymized and aggregated payroll data from its clients, came in well below economists' expectations for 50,000 jobs added. Small private-sector businesses drove last month's decline, and losses were widespread across industries (with some of the largest losses in professional and business services and leisure and hospitality), ADP reported. The bulk of the hiring occurred at health care businesses, which have been the sole source of consistent employment growth this year.



While ADP's estimates don't often correlate with the official monthly jobs numbers when they're released days later — and have been frequently criticized by economists for having a poor track record in making short-term predictions — the report is still considered an indicator of the labor market's trajectory. And that outlook has been looking increasingly bleak. In addition to the private-sector job losses, the latest (and last-for-now) release from the BLS showed that the US labor market activity has grown increasingly stagnant.

Worshippers In Ethiopia

At Least 25 Killed As A Church Under Construction Collapses

At least 25 people were killed when a church under construction collapsed on Wednesday in Ethiopia's Amhara region, according to local authorities.

The incident happened early on Wednesday at Menjar Shenkora Arerti Mariam Church in Amhara, northern Ethiopia, as worshippers gathered for an annual event celebrating St. Mary.

Seyoum Altaye, a clinician with a local hospital, said the victims include some children and elderly people. "So far we have confirmed 25 dead and over a hundred injured," he said.

He said the hospital is seeking support from the Red Cross to look after the injured.

Teshale Tilahun, the local administrator, warned that the death toll could potentially rise. "It is a tragic loss for the community," he said.

Mr Ahmed said the death toll might increase, adding that those confirmed deceased were aged between 25 and 80. "A large section of the church collapsed - the sound of the wooden structure giving way was loud and terrifying," said one eyewitness.

A government statement shared by the state-run Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) expressed "deep condolences



Seyoum Altaye, a clinician with a local hospital, said children and elderly people were among the victims. "So far we have confirmed 25 dead and over a hundred injured," he said.

for the damage caused by the collapse of the scaffolding".

The statement also stressed that "safety must be given priority" during all construction projects.

Health and safety regulations are poorly enforced in Ethiopia and construction disasters are common.

Images shared on a Facebook page showed collapsed wooden poles scattered across the church grounds, with crowds of people standing amid the wreckage. Other photos depicted the outside of the church, where scaffolding had been precariously set up.

A government statement carried expressed condolences to the victims' families and stressed that "safety must be given priority".

Officials acknowledged that health and safety regulations are virtually absent in Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation, where fatal construction accidents are common.

The tragedy underscores the fragility of

infrastructure in a country that is home to one of the world's oldest Christian communities. Ethiopia's Axumite Empire declared Christianity the state religion in the fourth century, and churches continue to be central to its social fabric.

Teshale Tilahun, the local administrator, said the death toll could climb further. "It is a tragic loss for the community," he told reporters.

"A large section of the church collapsed - the sound of the wooden structure giving way was loud and terrifying," said one eyewitness.

A government statement shared by the state-run Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC) expressed "deep condolences for the damage caused by the collapse of the scaffolding".

The statement also stressed that "safety must be given priority" during all construction projects.

Health and safety regulations are poorly enforced in Ethiopia and construction disasters are common.

The incident happened early in the morning at Menjar Shenkora Arerti Mariam Church in northern Ethiopia as worshippers gathered for an annual celebration of St. Mary.

INFA

Chubby Champion

FAT BEAR WEEK 2025 CROWNS A WINNER

The Yankees and the Red Sox. Celtic and Rangers. Real Madrid and Barcelona.

In a competition bear-ly more ferocious, 12 chunky brown bears in Alaska's Katmai National Park and Preserve have been battling it out in one of the most cutthroat places on the planet — the internet.

As part of the park's annual Fat Bear Week, the oversized ursines are pitted against each other in online popularity contests, where fans from around the world vote for the bear they like best.

A live camera lets voters follow along with the bears as they forage for salmon in a last-gasp chance to pack on the pounds ahead of their upcoming winter hibernation.

After one week of voting, bears competed against each other until only two challengers remained — numbers 856 and 32. This year's winner is bear 32, AKA Chunk.

In addition to his impressive girth, Chunk's Cinderella story appealed to voters as he suffered from a jaw injury that threatened to derail his salmon-eating activities. He defeated bear 602, affectionately known as "Flotato," by roughly 70%-30% in the semis to secure his place in the final.

Meanwhile, bear 856 beat last year's reigning champion, 128 Grazer, by around 68%-32% in the semis. Grazer was the last female bear left in the competition.

Bear 856 lost out to Chunk 60.2%-39.8% in the final round of voting, which was held Tuesday. The final total was 96,350 votes for Chunk and 63,725 for 856. Beyond the fun of selecting a chubby champion, Fat Bear Week is also an opportunity to educate people about brown bears and their habitat in Alaska.

The contest, which began in 2014, spotlights the park rangers do at Katmai, the fourth-largest national park in the US.

To survive Alaska's punishing winters, brown bears spend the season hibernating in their dens. The more weight they put on ahead of that, the more likely they are to survive the season. That goes double for pregnant bears, who usually enter their dens earlier than their peers.

As Katmai's website notes, "fat bears are successful bears," so it's safe to say all the park's brown bears are winners.

Chunk will now have his photo added to the Fat Bear Week Hall of Champions, where previous winners are honored for their achievements.

Fat Bear Week, which started in 2014, is an annual competition where brown bears from Alaska's Katmai National Park face off in head-to-head matchups — similar to a March Madness bracket — with people around the world voting for who they believe is the fattest of the bunch, the National Park Service said in a press release.

"Are you ready for #FatBearWeek, where Katmai's beefiest bruins flaunt their fluffifying for glory as if they're the wobbliest, blue-ribbon-winning Jell-O mold at a Midwest state fair?" the NPS wrote on Instagram at the start of the competition.

This year's bracket consisted of 11 bears. Along with Chunk and 856, another standout in the race for the crown included 609, who was the 2022 Fat Bear Junior champion, according to NPS.

The annual competition, which is a single-elimination tournament, celebrates these rotund creatures who have successfully scarfed down enough salmon to "endure winter hibernation," the NPS said.



Lilil Marcus

The bears, who live in the Brooks River area of the national park, can gain a few hundred pounds in fat before they retire for the winter, the NPS said.

GERHARD RICHTER'S TULIPS (1995): 'IT'S ABOUT WHAT IS MISSING, THAT YEARNING FOR AN IDEAL IMAGE THAT CAN NEVER BE A REALITY'

Diary Times Desk : The philosopher Roland Barthes once wrote that photography is 'tormented by the ghost of painting'. But what happens when a painter is haunted by photography? For more than 60 years, the German artist Gerhard Richter has been in a tense dialogue with the medium, and it has led to an extraordinary body of work.

Richter was born in Dresden in 1932, his early life shaped first by the Second World War, then by the Soviet occupation of East Germany. After studying fine art in Dresden, he could have had a successful career as a Socialist Realist painter. He did not believe in the communist cause, however, and so in 1961 — just before the Berlin Wall was built — he moved to West Germany. At the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf he discovered abstraction and became part of the Pop art-inspired Capitalist Realism movement, which sought to address the divide between Europe's two competing ideologies.

As is clear from his prodigious output, ranging from abstraction and portraiture to seascapes and colour charts, Richter is not committed to any particular style or genre. This could be a statement of neutrality. 'I always felt a style is like a diktat,' he once said. 'I have a special fear of diktats and style.'

Today, Richter's most popular works are his photorealist paintings, which he began in the 1960s. They are based on snapshots and newspaper reportage, and painted in his trademark 'Richter blur', a technique that involves dragging a dry brush over wet paint to make the image look out of focus or like a badly tuned TV set. The paintings are unsettling, eerie even — there is something uncanny about taking a casual snapshot and placing it in the world of slow and thoughtful looking.

The subjects the artist chooses to paint can often seem banal: apples on a windowsill, fields glimpsed from a passing train, or a family group on the beach. For some, these ordinary, everyday scenes are about the passage of time, each snapshot like the beat of a ticking clock. But for others, Richter's seeming banality hides a suppressed family narrative, one intricately bound up in Germany's recent past.

'I blur things to make everything equally important and equally unimportant,' says the artist. A painting such as Aunt Marianne (1965), depicting Richter's aunt, who died as a result of the Nazi euthanasia programme, reminds us that the worst atrocities can be recorded in the same way as a family snapshot.



BEST ART EXHIBITIONS IN LATE 2025: ASIA-PACIFIC

Diary Times Desk : Born in 1891, Robert Lehman was the third generation of a great banking dynasty in New York. His father Philip was part of a group of American collectors — also including Isabella Stewart Gardner, Henry Clay Frick and J.P. Morgan — who began using their fortunes to fill their mansions with European Old Masters.

Robert followed in his father's footsteps initially, buying pictures by Bellini and Botticelli. But during the 1940s his tastes shifted to the 19th century, and he started to purchase pieces by Van Gogh, Matisse, Renoir, Gauguin, Seurat and Degas. Around the same time, he was elected to the board of trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, subsequently becoming its vice president. When he died in 1969 — two years after being elected chairman of the board — he left some 2,600 works of art to the institution, which went on display his bequest in a dedicated wing.

Until 12 October, 81 of those works, dating from between 1850 and 1950, and mostly by French artists, are being loaned from the Met's holdings to go on show at the National Palace Museum in Taiwan. The exhibition is divided into five thematic sections: 'The Body'; 'Portraits and Personalities'; 'In Nature'; 'From the City to the Country'; and 'By the Water'. Standout paintings on display include Cezanne's Trees and Houses Near the Jas de Bouffan, Gauguin's Tahitian Women Bathing and Renoir's Two Young Girls at the Piano.

The potter Lucie Rie was born and trained in Vienna, but it was in London — where she lived after escaping the Nazi regime in 1938 — that she made her name as one of Britain's most influential studio ceramicists.

Rie pioneered new techniques and styles, including her distinctive raw glazes, a modernist aesthetic and the inclusion of subtle variations and irregularities that reveal her work's organic character. Her ceramics have been described in paradoxical terms: functional yet decorative, light and dark, economic and precious. Rie herself said that her work has 'nothing sensational about it, only a silent grandeur and quietness'.

It's little surprise, then, that Rie's work is widely admired in Japan. A new show at Kanazawa's National Crafts Museum charts Rie's life and examines her ties with East Asian ceramics. It contains work from the museum's own holdings, as well as important loans from other national institutions and private collections. There is also a range of sublime ceramics on display created by the other successful — mostly male — studio potters she associated with, including Hans Coper and Bernard Leach.



LIVERPOOL STUNNED BY GALATASARAY IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE,
CHELSEA BEAT JOSE MOURINHO'S BENFICA

TITLE FAVORITES BARCELONA,
PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN GO
HEAD-TO-HEAD IN
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Diary Times Desk : A Victor Osimhen penalty gave Galatasaray victory over Liverpool in the Champions League on Tuesday, while Chelsea edged out Jose Mourinho's Benfica and Kylian Mbappe hit a hat-trick for Real Madrid in Kazakhstan. Elsewhere in the second round of matches in the league phase of Europe's elite club competition, Tottenham battled back to draw with Bodo/Glimt as Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid, Marseille and Inter Milan recorded big wins.

In Istanbul, Osimhen beat Alisson Becker from the spot in the 16th minute, giving Galatasaray a 1-0 win and condemning Liverpool to a second straight loss after their defeat by Crystal Palace in the Premier League. The English champions thought they had a chance to equalise late on when Ibrahima Konate went down and a penalty was given, but the referee overturned his decision on review.

Liverpool, who finished first in the league phase last season.

PSG's success last season led to suggestions the French club could start a new era of dominance - but Barcelona is expected to be one of its biggest challengers this season.

"For us, it's exciting to play against a team with the same mentality," PSG coach Luis Enrique said. "It's a special match for both teams."

Two other teams expected to go far in the competition this season are Arsenal and Manchester City.



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR TRANSFER NEWS:
SPURS KEEN ON REAL MADRID STAR IN
'DELICATE' SITUATION

Diary Times Desk : Tottenham Hotspur are reportedly pursuing a Real Madrid star amid criticism of the player's recent performances.

Thomas Frank's team are said to be interested in the Los Blancos star, offering him an escape route from the Spanish capital.

The player in question is Federico Valverde, whose future at the Santiago Bernabeu is uncertain, according to recent reports emerging from Spain.

According to Fichajes, Real Madrid are conflicted about the Uruguay international, who has made over 300 career appearances for the 36-time La Liga champions.

Is Valverde a victim of Alonso's Real Madrid system change?

The report indicates that the midfielder is in a 'delicate' situation, considering the recent changes in game style under Xabi Alonso.

The former Bayer Leverkusen manager aims for a more controlled style of play, involving skilled technicians who favour ball circulation.

TOTTENHAM 'NEED TO BE A LITTLE LESS
EUROPA LEAGUE'



Diary Times Desk : Despite being in the Champions League, there was always the faint smell of the Europa League when Tottenham's fixtures popped out of the big computer at Uefa HQ. Villarreal, Frankfurt, Monaco, Copenhagen, and our old friends Bodo/Glimt are not quite the glamour ties you dream of. Nevertheless, you have to step up and play like it is the top-tier competition - a standard Spurs failed to meet in Norway. On Tuesday night, for large periods of time, it felt like last year's Ange Postecoglou European tour. There was no control, no shape and the fundamentals of elite football were missing. The team even looked like an Ange line-up as no new signing started. It was the familiar faces and weaknesses.

LISBIE HAT-TRICK FOR POSH AS LINCOLN BEAT MAN UTD IN EFL TROPHY



Diary Times Desk : Kyrill Lisbie scored a second-half hat-trick as Vertu Trophy holders Peterborough United roared back from two goals down to beat Aston Villa Under-21s 4-2.

Posh, winners at Wembley in the last two seasons, were facing the prospect of an early exit after losing their opening group game against Leyton Orient when Mohamed Kone and Alfie Lynskey put Villa in control.

But Lisbie netted twice and had another disallowed for offside before rounding off the scoring with a header after Jimmy-Jay Morgan had grabbed the third - James Donnelly providing three of the assists. Lincoln City had a more comfortable evening against Manchester United, who included Jack and Tyler Fletcher, the twin sons of former Old Trafford favourite Darren, in their starting line-up but went down 3-0.

Tom Hamer put the 2018 winners in front early in the second half and Erik Ring doubled the lead before Reeco Hackett fired into the far corner with his left foot with two minutes remaining.

In the same group, League Two side Notts County inflicted a fourth successive defeat in all competitions on Barnsley, winning 2-1 at Meadow Lane. Jayden Luker scored in the ninth minute and although Davis Keillor-Dunn brought the Tykes level, they then had Jonathan Bland sent off, and Tyrese Hall won it for the Magpies in the 89th-minute.

MAN UTD NEWS: RUBEN
AMORIM ADMITS £36M
MISTAKE AND IS IN THE
'WORST PLACE' AMID SACK
THREAT



Diary Times Desk : Ruben Amorim's Manchester United nightmare could soon come to an end, if recent reports are anything to go by. The Portuguese head coach's torrid start to the season got even worse last Saturday as United were humbled 3-1 at Brentford.

The result was Amorim's third Premier League defeat in six games to start the campaign, having also been knocked out of the Carabao Cup by Grimsby Town.

As such, it piled even more pressure on the 40-year-old, who was only appointed 11 months ago, with names such as Andoni Iraola, Xavi, Gareth Southgate and Oliver Glasner emerging as potential replacements.

Another tough Premier League fixture awaits against a recently-promoted but impressive Sunderland side on Saturday at Old Trafford. Here, Mirror Football takes a look at two of the biggest recent stories surrounding the Red Devils boss.