

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**HEAVY RAIN  
FORECAST ON  
OCTOBER 6-7 HAS  
PUNJAB GOVT ON  
EDGE****Diary Times Desk :**

The forecast of heavy rainfall in Punjab and the catchment areas of the Ravi and the Beas in the upper areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh on October 6-7 has the Punjab Government on tenterhooks.

Wary, the state government has already started releasing excess water from the reservoirs of Ranjit Sagar dam into the Ravi, while continuing outflows from the Pong dam into the Beas.

With the state having suffered the worst-ever floods in recent history in August-September that devoured 59 human lives and thousands of livestock, damaged thousands of homes and destroyed crops on nearly 5 lakh acres of land, the prediction of the Indian Meteorological.

**PAKISTAN'S F-16,  
J-17 FIGHTER JETS  
DESTROYED IN  
OPERATION  
SINDOOR, SAYS IAF  
CHIEF**

**Diary Times Desk :** Air Chief Marshal AP Singh has stated that IAF destroyed or damaged at least a dozen Pakistani planes during Operation Sindoor. Addressing a press conference, he dismissed Islamabad's claims of causing major losses to IAF as "Manohar Kahaniyan" (feel-good tales).

Addressing a press conference here, he said IAF would need 35 to 40 new planes each year to remain relevant and he batted for expanding air power over the next two decades, but refrained from putting a number to the expansion. On being asked about Pakistan's losses during Operation Sindoor (May 7-10), the IAF Chief said during the airstrikes on Pakistan Air Force (PAF) bases, one C130-J plane, one air-borne early warning plane and 4 to 5 US-made F-16 jets were hit on the ground, which were at a base for maintenance. Counting the IAF strikes in the air, he said, "We have clear evidence that a long-range hit was made almost 300 km away. It happened to be a PAF signal intelligence plane.

**SURAT HIGH-SPEED  
RAIL****ASHWINI VAISHNAW, JAPAN'S MINISTER NAKANO VISIT  
CONSTRUCTION SITE OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL IN SURAT**

**Diary Times Desk :** Japan's minister of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism Hiromasa Nakano visited the construction site of high-speed rail in Surat on October 3. Nakano was accompanied by Union railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw as both reviewed key components of the project, including the track slab laying car and the track slab adjustment facility. The Surat High Speed Rail Corridor is a component of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor, which is set to connect the two major cities with a high-speed train travelling at a speed of up to 320 km/hour.

The Surat bullet train station is currently under construction with the completion of Gujarat section of the corridor likely to be done by August 26 next year.

Both Vaishnaw and Nakano expressed satisfaction with the quality standards being followed and commended the rapid pace of construction.

The new line aims to significantly reduce travel time and integrate the economies of the cities along its route. The line will serve cities like Mumbai, Thane, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara and Ahmedabad.

The visit of Nakano to the Surat site reflects strong collaboration between New Delhi and Tokyo in implementing India's first High-Speed Rail corridor.

Expressing satisfaction with the progress, both leaders lauded the high-quality standards maintained at the site and praised the rapid pace of construction. The joint visit highlights the deepening partnership between India and Japan in realising India's first bullet train corridor. India and Japan share a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership'. Friendship between the two countries has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties.

India-Japan relations were elevated to 'Global Partnership' in 2000, 'Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2006, and 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2014. Regular Annual Summits have been held between India and Japan since 2006.

Notably, the first High Speed Rail (HSR) corridor is being implemented from Mumbai to Ahmedabad with technical and financial assistance from the Government of Japan.

Cooperation in the field of education is being conducted through partnerships between education and research institutions, student and teacher exchange, government scholarships, promotion of Japanese language education in India etc.

**HOW EX-COMMANDO WHO FOUGHT 26/11 TERRORISTS  
TURNED INTO DRUG KINGPIN**

**Diary Times Desk :** A former National Security Guard (NSG) commando has been found involved in a drug smuggling network. Bajrang Singh had participated in the 26/11 anti-terror operation in Mumbai. Rajasthan Police have now declared him the kingpin of a ganja smuggling racket. He was arrested on Wednesday night in Churu, the police said. Singh was involved in smuggling ganja from Telangana and Odisha into Rajasthan, said Inspector General of Police Vikas Kumar, adding that the former commando was caught with 200 kg of the banned drug. A resident of Sikar district, Singh had been on the police radar due to his criminal activities and carried a reward of Rs 25,000. The police said Singh was arrested after two months of tireless effort under 'Operation Gaanjaney', carried out by the state's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF).

Bajrang Singh had left studies after Class 10. But his six-foot-tall structure and fitness enabled him to pursue a career in the Border Security Force (BSF). During his service as a BSF constable, he served in Punjab, Assam, Rajasthan, Odisha, and West Bengal, protecting the country's borders against infiltrators and fighting Maoists.

His dedication to his country's security was noticed by his officers, and he was selected for the NSG, the country's elite counter-terrorism forces. He served as a commando for seven years. During his NSG service, he took part in the 26/11 anti-terror operation in 2008.

**VICE ADMIRAL GOKHALE TAKES  
CHARGE AS CHIEF OF STAFF, WESTERN  
NAVAL COMMAND**

**Diary Times Desk :** Vice Admiral Rahul Vilas Gokhale has assumed charge as Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command, the Indian Navy said on Friday.

A specialist in Navigation and Direction, Gokhale assumed charge on October 1, it said. He commanded the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy prior to his present role, a defence release said.

Gokhale is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune; Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; Naval War College, Goa and the Australian Defence College, Canberra.

His command appointments include Executive Officer of INS Kora and Commanding Officer of INS Khukri and INS Kolkata. He has also been Fleet Operations Officer of the Eastern Fleet.

He has also served as Naval Adviser at the Indian High Commission at Islamabad, Pakistan. The officer commanded INS Circars, the premier and oldest establishment on the Eastern Seaboard, prior to being promoted to Flag Rank.

**TAMIL NADU STAMPEDE: HIGH COURT FORMS  
SIT, DENIES PRE-ARREST BAIL TO TVK  
LEADERS**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Madras High Court on Friday formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the September 27 stampede at the political rally of actor and TVK founder Vijay, on a day when two senior party leaders' anticipatory bail petitions were rejected by the High Court which also found fault with the party and the police over the incident that killed 41 persons and injured over 60.

The principal bench of the HC here also dismissed a BJP leader's plea seeking a CBI probe into the incident, and directed her to approach the Madurai bench.

Chief Minister M K Stalin and the ruling DMK trained their guns against the BJP and Vijay, respectively.

While Stalin accused BJP of trying to gain political mileage over the deadly incident, his party DMK slammed Vijay for his alleged "arrogance, hunger for money, publicity mania and the desire for chair."

It said his challenge to the state government to arrest him for the stampede was aimed at diverting attention away from the deaths of as many as 41 persons.

**EXAMINATIONS MORE TRANSPARENT, SECURE, AND  
CONVENIENT****SSC ALLOWS CANDIDATES TO  
VIEW, STORE AND REVIEW  
QUESTION PAPERS ALONG  
WITH RESPONSES AND  
CORRECT ANSWERS**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has rolled out a series of reforms designed to make its examinations more transparent, secure, and convenient for lakhs of aspirants across the country. Officials said the steps balance exam integrity with candidate welfare, as the Commission prepares for a busy examination cycle in the coming months.

A key reform relates to disclosure and dissemination of question papers. Candidates appearing in SSC exams can view their own question papers, responses, and the correct answers. This allows them to challenge answer keys with evidence, as well as keep copies for their personal use. SSC officials clarified that restrictions apply only during ongoing multi-shift exams to ensure that papers from later sessions are not compromised.

To further assist aspirants, the Commission has also decided to publish selected past question papers as official sample sets at regular intervals. According to officials, this will provide authentic study material for candidates while ensuring that the confidentiality of upcoming exams is fully protected.

In a bid to make the process more candidate-friendly, SSC has halved the fee for challenging questions—from ₹100 to ₹50 per question—reducing the financial burden on aspirants who wish to contest an answer. In addition to the already existing toll-free helpline 1800-309-3063, an online feedback and grievance portal has also been set up, enabling quicker redressal of candidate concerns. One of the most significant measures is the introduction of equi-percentile normalization. Simply put, this method compares candidates on the basis of their percentile score rather than raw marks. It removes any advantage or disadvantage that may arise from variation in difficulty levels across different exam shifts. For example, if one batch of candidates gets a slightly tougher paper than another, normalization ensures that results remain fair and consistent across all groups.

**GLOBAL STUDY PROJECTS 51  
LAKH IN INDIA COULD BE AT  
RISK OF CHIKUNGUNYA  
EVERY YEAR IN LONG-TERM**

**Diary Times Desk :** India could experience the biggest impacts of chikungunya in the long term, potentially putting 51 lakh people at risk of the mosquito-borne infection every year, a global modelling study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health suggests.

Brazil and Indonesia might be the second and third most affected, with impacts due to the disease in India and Brazil accounting for 48 per cent of the global impact on healthcare systems and individuals, the findings show.

The study, led by researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, suggests chronic health impacts will be the biggest concern, with existing evidence suggesting around 50 per cent of the affected possibly grappling with a long-term disability. Around the world, more than 1.40 crore people every year could be at risk of chikungunya infection in the long term, the study estimated.

GAUTAM ADANI THANKS "EVERY HAND, HEART" THAT  
WORKED ON NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Days before the Navi Mumbai International Airport will be inaugurated, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani walked through its premises and met the staff that worked on it and will manage it. In a post on X, he said that the airport is the creation of "every hand that worked and every heart that cared". Gautam Adani's social media post came in response to his son and Adani Airports director Jeet Adani's X post, which said that the former's walk through the airport and his gratitude towards those who built it was a "deeply touching and humbling lesson in leadership". Gautam Adani saluted the efforts of differently-abled colleagues, construction workers, and other staff members who worked for the development of the airport.

The airport is scheduled to be inaugurated on October 8 and will accommodate both domestic and international passengers.



SONAM WANGCHUK'S WIFE  
GOES TO SUPREME COURT,  
SEEKS HIS RELEASE FROM JAIL

**Diary Times Desk :** Gitanjali J Angmo, wife of Sonam Wangchuk, has approached the Supreme Court seeking the release of the climate activist who was arrested last week under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) in Rajasthan's Jodhpur. Gitanjali Angmo has challenged Wangchuk's arrest and has questioned the decision to slap the anti-terror law NSA against Wangchuk. Sharing a screenshot of her plea on X, Angmo said she had no information about Wangchuk's health. Angmo has refuted the allegation that Wangchuk was in touch with a Pakistani intelligence operative, and accused the Ladakh police of working with an agenda. Alleging that a "full-scale witch hunt has been unleashed" over the past month to "kill the spirit" of the climate activist, Angmo said Wangchuk can "never be a threat to anyone, let alone his nation".

CENTRE RELEASES DRAFT ONLINE GAMING RULES, PROPOSES  
NEW REGULATOR: KEY TAKEAWAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has released draft rules for online gaming, proposing the creation of the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) as a dedicated regulator. The draft rules, issued on Thursday, are open for public consultation until October 31.

They are intended to operationalise the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Act, 2025, which bans real money gaming (RMG) platforms such as online poker, rummy and fantasy sports while permitting only social games and e-sports.

Key takeaways

The Online Gaming Authority of India is likely to be a corporate body headquartered in Delhi-NCR, with permanent existence and a common seal. It will have powers to acquire and sell property, enter into contracts, and, in its own name, sue or be sued.

The authority can operate digitally, summoning and examining individuals under oath through technology without requiring physical presence. Its members will include officials from the Ministry of IT, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, financial authorities and legal experts.

UNSC PANEL CLEARS MUTTAQI'S TRAVEL, PAVING WAY FOR  
TALIBAN'S FIRST MINISTERIAL TRIP TO INDIA



**Diary Times Desk :** For the first time, a Taliban leader will travel to India after the United Nations Security Council's sanctions committee cleared Afghan foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit for five days next week.

The Wire had reported in August that India was preparing for the first ministerial-level visit from Afghanistan since the Taliban seized power four years ago. At that time, dates for Muttaqi's trip to India were being finalised, after which New Delhi was planning to move the Security Council for a travel waiver.

India had made no outreach to the Taliban during their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001, making this the first-ever visit by a Taliban leader to New Delhi.

DRISHTI IAS TO PAY RS 5 LAKH FINE FOR  
MISLEADING ADS ON UPSC RESULTS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Drishti IAS (VDK Eduventures Pvt Ltd) for publishing misleading advertisements regarding the results of the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2022. Drishti IAS, in its advertisement, prominently claimed "216 selections in UPSC CSE 2022" along with names and photographs of successful candidates. However, upon examination, CCPA found that the claim was misleading and concealed crucial information regarding the type and duration of courses opted for by these candidates, the Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement. The investigation revealed that out of the 216 candidates claimed by Drishti IAS, as many as 162 candidates (75 per cent) had only taken the free Interview Guidance Programme (IGP) of the institute, after independently clearing the Preliminary and Mains stages of UPSC CSE. Only 54 students were enrolled in IGP and other courses.

CJI BR GAVAI ON THREE-DAY OFFICIAL  
VISIT TO MAURITIUS; MEETS PRESIDENT,  
PM & CHIEF JUSTICE

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Justice of India BR Gavai arrived in Mauritius on a three-day official visit at the invitation of the Chief Justice of Mauritius, Mrs. Rehana Bibi Mungly-Gulbul. Upon arrival, Justice Gavai, accompanied by his family, took part in the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in Mauritius and paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary. The MGI, a joint initiative between India and Mauritius, works to promote Indian culture and heritage.





'WILL ERASE FROM MAP, WON'T EXERCISE RESTRAINT': ARMY CHIEF WARNS PAKISTAN

**Diary Times Desk :** India has issued a fierce warning to Pakistan: stop supporting terrorism or lose your geographical presence. If Pakistan wants to retain its place on the map, it must stop state-sponsored terrorism, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi has said, warning the western neighbour known for its deep-state backing of terror masters.

Speaking at an Army post in Rajasthan's Anupgarh, General Dwivedi said the Indian forces won't show any restraint this time, hinting that a second version of 'Operation Sindoor' wouldn't be far away if Islamabad refuses to stop exporting terror.

"This time we will not maintain the restraint that we had in Operation Sindoor 1.0. This time we will do something that will make Pakistan think whether it wants to retain its place in geography or not. If Pakistan wants to retain its place in geography, then it must stop state-sponsored terrorism," he said at an army post in Rajasthan.

He also asked the soldiers to stay prepared. "If God wills, you'll get an opportunity soon. All the best," the Chief of Army Staff said.

'NOT POLITICAL ARENA': HIGH COURT REFUSES CBI PROBE INTO VIJAY RALLY STAMPEDE

**Diary Times Desk :** No public rallies shall be held near highways and must have basic facilities, such as drinking water and toilets, the Madras High Court has ordered while disposing of petitions related to the deadly stampede at South superstar Vijay's rally in Karur last week. The High Court's Madurai bench, comprising Justices M Dhandapani and M Jothiraman, passed the interim order this afternoon, six days after the stampede left 41 people dead, including 10 children.

It also dismissed a petition filed by ML Ravi of Desiya Makkal Sathi Katchi, demanding a CBI probe into the stampede. The petitioner is a politician, the bench noted, stressing that the court should not be turned into a political arena. It noted that the petitioner was not related to the victims and that the probe is still in an initial stage.

Another petition seeking a CBI probe was also dismissed, with the court saying it was not maintainable. On petitions demanding compensation for victims, the court issued notices to the Tamil Nadu government and actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vетtri Kazhagam (TVK) party.

TAMIL NADU BANS 'COLDRIF' COUGH SYRUP AFTER CHILD DEATHS IN MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN



**Diary Times Desk :** The Tamil Nadu government has banned the sale of cough syrup 'Coldrif' and ordered its removal from the market following suspicions linking it to the death of 11 children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

With effect from October 1, the sale of the cough syrup manufactured by the city-based firm, has been prohibited across Tamil Nadu, an official of the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department said.

Inspections were carried out at the pharmaceutical company's manufacturing facility in Sunguvarchathram in neighbouring Kancheepuram district during the last two days and samples have been collected, he said.

The company, he said, supplies the medicines to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry.

PUTIN ORDERS GOVT TO SOFTEN TRADE IMBALANCE WITH INDIA, PRAISES MODI AS 'BALANCED, WISE' LEADER

**Diary Times Desk :** Putin said Russia may buy more agricultural products and medicines from India to remove the trade imbalance

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered to devise measures, including purchasing more agricultural products and medicines from India, to soften the trade imbalance with New Delhi, which is due to the heavy import of crude by the country.

Speaking at the Valdai plenary session on Thursday, Putin also said that he was looking forward to his trip to India in early December and meeting with "my friend and our reliable partner Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi."

Putin, who will travel to India in early December for an annual summit, lauded India's nationalist government led by PM Modi, calling him a "balanced, wise," and "nationally oriented" leader. Putin said he feels comfortable in their trustworthy interactions.

TALIBAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT INDIA IN HISTORIC DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH

**Diary Times Desk :** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India's capacity to absorb external shocks is strong at a time when the world economy is undergoing a structural transformation.

She said the task before nations is not only to manage uncertainty but to confront trade, financial and energy imbalances. "Geopolitical conflicts are intensifying. Sanctions, tariffs, and decoupling strategies are reshaping global supply chains... For India, these dynamics highlight both vulnerability and resilience. Our capacity to absorb shocks is strong, while our economic leverage is evolving.

"Our choices will determine whether resilience becomes a foundation for leadership or merely a buffer against uncertainty," Sitharaman said at Kautilya Economic Conclave 2025 here.

"India's rise as a stabilising force is neither accidental nor transient; instead, it results from a powerful combination of factors," Sitharaman added.

PROBE AGENCY ED, INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT TO JOIN ASSAM POLICE IN ZUBEEN GARG CASE: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (I-T) Department are likely to join the Assam Police in investigating alleged organised financial crimes and acquisition of benami properties by event manager Shyamkanu Mahanta, an accused in the death of Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam Police has also unearthed more than 20-year-old financial irregularities allegedly committed by Mahanta during his earlier job at a non-banking financial company (NBFC).

Sources privy to the development told PTI that officials from ED and the I-T Department have already visited the CID headquarters to look into the case. Assam Police have initiated a separate probe against festival organiser Mahanta for "organised financial crimes" and "acquiring huge amounts of benami properties through money laundering".

JOURNALIST TJS GEORGE DIES AT 97

**Diary Times Desk :** Renowned journalist and author Thayil Jacob Sony George, popularly known as T J S George, passed away at a private hospital here on Friday. He was 97.

A Padma Bhushan awardee, Thayil Jacob Sony George was widely respected for his incisive writings, often marked by satire and sarcasm.

He was the Editorial Advisor of The New Indian Express and gained acclaim for his widely read weekly column, Point of View, which he wrote for 25 years until 2022, continuing till the age of 94.

Hailing from Kerala, Thayil Jacob Sony George spent most of his life in Bengaluru and Coimbatore. He is survived by children, Sheba Thayil and author-poet Jeet Thayil.

Mourning his demise, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on 'X', "Saddened by the passing of veteran journalist, editor & author T J S George. With his sharp pen and uncompromising voice, he enriched Indian journalism for over six decades. He was a true public intellectual who made readers think, question and engage.



VIDEO: 2 DELTA JETS COLLIDE ON TAXIWAY AT NEW YORK AIRPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Two Delta Air Lines regional jets were involved in a low-speed collision on a taxiway at LaGuardia Airport Wednesday night, resulting in at least one injury.

According to a statement from Delta, the wing of a jet preparing for departure to Roanoke, Virginia, struck the fuselage of another aircraft that had just arrived from Charlotte, North Carolina. A flight attendant sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to a hospital, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey confirmed. No injuries were reported among the passengers. Both aircraft were operated by Endeavor Air, a regional carrier for Delta Connection. Delta stated that the remainder of the airport's operations were not affected by the incident. The airline also said it would cooperate fully with authorities to investigate the collision. "The safety of our customers and employees is our top priority," Delta said in a statement. "We apologise to our customers for the experience."

INDIAN ENVOY KWATRA MEETS US CONGRESSMAN GREG MURPHY DISCUSS BILATERAL TIES



**Diary Times Desk :** Ambassador of India to the United States Vinay Mohan Kwatra met Congressman Greg Murphy, a Republican from North Carolina, and discussed recent developments in India-US relations. Posting on X, Ambassador Kwatra said, "Engaging conversation with @RepGregMurphy. We discussed the recent developments in India-US relationship in trade, defence, technology. Highlighted the long-term benefits of legal mobility to the U.S., especially in healthcare, technology and research. Agreed to work closely together to strengthen the relationship."

INDIA, BRAZIL HOLD STRATEGIC DIALOGUE IN NEW DELHI TO DEEPEN COOPERATION

**Diary Times Desk :** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met Ambassador Celso Amorim, Special Advisor to the President of Brazil, in New Delhi.

Sharing details of the meeting in a post on X, he wrote, "A pleasure meeting Amb. Celso Amorim, Special Advisor to President of Brazil, today in New Delhi. Had a useful exchange on the current global scenario and on opportunities for deepening our strategic cooperation." In the backdrop of his visit, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval also met Ambassador Amorim in New Delhi for the 6th India-Brazil Strategic Dialogue, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in an official statement. Ambassador Amorim was accompanied by a delegation of senior Brazilian government officials and advisors, according to the MEA.

ECHOES OF MUZAFFARABAD UNREST RESONATE IN UK'S BIRMINGHAM AS KASHMIRI COMMUNITY TAKES TO STREETS



**Diary Times Desk :** Birmingham's streets this week became the stage for one of the first overseas echoes of violent protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Hundreds of members of the city's Kashmiri community gathered outside Pakistan's consulate, chanting slogans, waving banners and holding placards in solidarity with relatives caught up in the clashes in Muzaffarabad.

One demonstrator, Amina Qureshi, told Birmingham Live: "I came here because I can't stay silent when my family back home are under fire." Another, Bilal Khan, added: "We stand here not just for ourselves but for every mother in Muzaffarabad who's lost a child — this is personal, not politics." According to Birmingham Live, "hundreds of people from the city's Kashmir community protest about ongoing tensions ..." Video clips circulating on social media showed a dense crowd gathered outside the consulate, though neither police nor consular officials have issued clarifying statements.

KABUL RESIDENTS FACE SEVERE WATER SHORTAGES, CALL FOR URGENT ACTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Residents of Kabul's District 5 have raised alarm over a worsening water crisis, complaining that they lack daily access to clean drinking water, Tolo News reported. Locals said dug wells have dried up and government-supplied pipelines are providing water only intermittently. Several parts of the Afghan capital are currently facing shortages, according to the report. Naveed Rahman, a resident of District 5, told Tolo News: "Government-supplied water comes through the pipes only two to three times a week, and people are struggling with water shortages." Another resident, Mohammad Mokhtar, echoed the concern. "In District 5 of Kabul city, we are facing severe water shortages and cannot meet our needs with such a limited supply," he said.

LUXEMBOURG'S GRAND DUKE ABDICATES AFTER 25 YEARS, PASSING THRONE TO SON



**Diary Times Desk :** Luxembourg's Grand Duke Henri abdicated his throne on Friday in favour of his son, Guillaume.

Henri, 70, had served the tiny duchy in the heart of Europe for 25 years in a largely symbolic role.

Guillaume, 43, will be crowned in a ceremony later on Friday and then greet the public atop a balcony of the Grand Ducal Palace with the royal family at his side.

Guillaume will be Luxembourg's seventh grand duke since 1890, when the modern monarchy was established. He will swear an oath to Luxembourg's constitution before the 60 elected members of the Chamber of Deputies, the duchy's parliament.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA! OFFICE SHENANIGANS GO VIRAL

**Diary Times Desk :** A hilarious video has taken the Internet by storm, showcasing employees caught off guard by a hidden security camera in the office. The clip, shared on X (formerly Twitter) by the account "This Account Makes You Happy," has racked up nearly 19 million views and sparked a lively debate about workplace surveillance, productivity, and trust.

The video was captioned "The boss of this company placed a security camera hidden from employees and they found out in the worst possible way." In the video, employees are seen lounging around the office, some sitting on the floor, others lying down, casually chatting, watching Netflix, or playing games on their phones. It's a scene that's both relatable and entertaining, with staff members seemingly unbothered by the presence of work-related tasks. However, the mood shifts dramatically when they discover the hidden camera. Within seconds, they're scrambling to pick up papers and pretend to be busy, leaving viewers in stitches.





US SENDS \$230 MILLION TO LEBANON AS IT MOVES TO DISARM HEZBOLLAH:  
REPORT



**Diary Times Desk :** U.S. President Donald Trump's administration approved \$230 million for Lebanon's security forces this week as they push to disarm the once powerful armed group Hezbollah, sources in Washington and Beirut said. A Lebanese source familiar with the decision said the funding included \$190 million for the Lebanese Armed Forces and \$40 million for the Internal Security Forces. Democratic U.S. congressional aides said the funds had been released just before Washington's fiscal year ended on September 30. "For a small country like Lebanon, that's really, really significant," one of the aides said on a call with reporters, requesting anonymity in order to speak freely. The U.S. State Department did not respond to a request for comment. The funding was released at a time when the Republican president's administration has been slashing many foreign assistance programs, saying that its priority in spending taxpayer dollars is America First.

'INTROSPECT, DON'T SHIFT BLAME': PUTIN CALLS PM MODI A 'WISE LEADER',  
INDIA TEARS INTO BANGLADESH REAFFIRMS INDIA-RUSSIA 'STRATEGIC  
OVER CHITTAGONG UNREST PARTNERSHIP'

**Diary Times Desk :** India on Friday rejected allegations from Dhaka that New Delhi was linked to recent unrest in Bangladesh's Khagrachhari district, and instead blamed the Bangladeshi interim government for failing to uphold law and order in the country. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the charges were "false and baseless" and accused Dhaka of routinely shifting blame to external factors rather than addressing its own internal failures. "The interim government of Bangladesh, as you are aware and we've spoken about it on several occasions, is unable to maintain law and order in the country, and has this habit of routinely trying to shift the blame elsewhere," Jaiswal said at the weekly briefing.

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday (local time) hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, calling him a "wise leader" and stating that PM Modi thinks first about his country, according to Russia Today. Putin was speaking at the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi and mentioned that India and Russia both share a "special" relationship. "People in India do not forget about this and our relations, I believe. Some 15 years ago, we made an announcement about a privileged strategic partnership, and that is the best description. Prime Minister Modi is a very wise leader who thinks first about his country," Putin said, quoted by Russia Today.

CARING COLLEAGUES & CUTTHROAT COMPETITION! A RUSSIAN'S PERSPECTIVE  
ON INDIAN OFFICE CULTURE



**Diary Times Desk :** A Russian woman's 12-year journey in Bengaluru's corporate world has given her a unique perspective on Indian office culture. Her recent Instagram post — shared by the name @yulia\_bangalore — has gone viral for highlighting several habits and practices that are considered "normal" in India but might seem unusual or even "abnormal" in other countries. One of the most striking aspects of Indian office culture is the genuine care and concern colleagues show for each other. The Russian professional recounts how her colleagues would often ask about her meals, tea, or coffee, making her feel welcome and valued. Indian employees face immense pressure to perform, not just from their employers, but also from their families. With family responsibilities extending beyond parents to relatives, the burden to succeed is significant. This pressure can take a toll on mental health, leading to burnout and stress.

MELANIA TRUMP SHARES  
HER OWN AI VIDEO. HERE'S  
WHY IT IS MAKING WAVES  
ON INTERNET

**Diary Times Desk :** US First Lady Melania Trump has shared an AI-generated video of herself, sparking widespread curiosity and speculation on social media. The video, originally posted by the official X (formerly Twitter) account @TrueMELANIameme and reshared by her, comes amid a wave of AI-driven content from US President Donald Trump, signaling a new phase in the Trump family's digital strategy. The short clip, titled "Into The Future", shows a digital version of Melania Trump emerging from pixels, blinking, and standing in what appears to be the luxurious interior of Trump Tower. She is dressed in a dark formal outfit with her signature highlighted hair. The futuristic style and AI-generated format have led many viewers to wonder about its meaning and implications.

PRINCE WILLIAM HINTS AT  
'CHANGES' TO BRITISH  
MONARCHY WHEN HE IS  
KING



**Diary Times Desk :** Prince William has given his first indication of plans when he succeeds his father, King Charles III, as British monarch in a rare candid interview for a light-hearted international travel documentary.

The 43-year-old Prince of Wales and heir to the British throne told Canadian actor Eugene Levy during filming at Windsor Castle for 'The Reluctant Traveller' that change was on his agenda.

In clips released to promote the show that airs this week, Levy asks William if the monarchy would be "shifting in a slightly different direction" when he assumes the role of King.

"I think it's safe to say that change is on my agenda," William replied. "Change for good, and I embrace that and I enjoy that change. I don't fear it, that's the bit that excites me — the idea of being able to bring some change.

Not overly radical change, but changes that I think need to happen," he said.

**GERMANY'S DRONE CRISIS: MYSTERY UAVS SHUT AIRPORTS, FLY OVER SENSITIVE SITES; ARE RUSSIA & CHINA PROBING NATO'S DEFENSES?**

**Diary Times Desk :** Germany's Munich airport halted flights after several drone sightings, a police spokesperson told AFP. The airport issued a statement stating that 17 flights departing from Munich were cancelled on Thursday night, affecting nearly 3,000 passengers, and 15 flights due to land were diverted to other cities.

Several people spotted drones around the airport at about 1930 GMT Thursday, and again an hour later, leading to the closure of both runways for an hour, the police spokesperson told AFP. German authorities have launched a probe to trace the origin of the drones.

Earlier, German State Interior Minister Sabine Sütterlin-Waack confirmed that drone sightings had occurred overnight last week in a report submitted to the legal committee of the Schleswig-Holstein parliament on October 1.

**LOS ANGELES SKY TURNS ORANGE AS FIRE BREAKS OUT AT CHEVRON'S OIL REFINERY**

**Diary Times Desk :** A fireball lit up the night sky in Los Angeles on Thursday after an explosion that led to a massive fire at a Chevron refinery in LA County's El Segundo area. Authorities in El Segundo, California, urged people to stay indoors while firefighting operations were underway.

Videos shared on social media by residents in El Segundo -- a coastal suburb a few miles south of the Los Angeles International Airport -- showed towering flames rising from the refinery with a loud, extended rumble.

"I thought we got nuked or something," Mike Rogers, an LA resident, told the New York Post. Rogers's adult soccer league match was cancelled moments after the fire erupted because of the heavy smoke from the fire. In a statement issued about 30 minutes after the flames began, authorities said there was no immediate threat to public safety and no evacuations had been ordered. There are also no reports of any casualties in the incident at the time of filing this report.

**PAKISTAN POLICE RAID ISLAMABAD PRESS CLUB AMID POK PROTEST**

**Diary Times Desk :** As Pakistan boils over alleged atrocities and internet blackout in violence-hit Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), police in Islamabad stormed the National Press Club (NPC), where several journalists were attacked. According to the Pakistani media reports, police raided the club, located in the heart of the capital, Islamabad, to arrest Kashmiri journalists covering a "call to protest" by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), the body that called for protests in PoK against Shehbaz Sharif government.

Visuals circulating on social media showed policemen armed with batons entering what appeared to be the cafeteria of the press club and attacking people sitting there. Videos also showed the policemen dragging some protesters outside.

Another viral image showed a journalist holding his camera in one hand as he tried to free his collar from the grip of a policeman with the other.

**WILL PM MODI MEET TRUMP AT ASEAN SUMMIT LATER THIS MONTH? HERE'S WHAT MEA SAID**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday weighed in on a likely meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump during the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia later this month.

The summit will take place from October 26-28 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Speaking at a presser, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said there still time for the ASEAN Summit to take place and related information will be shared at the correct time, hinting that a meeting between the two leaders may happen.

If it happened, this would be the first meeting between PM Modi and Trump since the US president imposed an additional tariffs on Indian imports, taking the total levies to a whopping 50%. Washington citing New Delhi's purchase of Russia oil as the reason, triggering a row as India refused to budge.

Trump to attend ASEAN Summit

Malaysia has conveyed to India that US President Donald Trump will be in Kuala Lumpur from October 26 to 28 to attend the ASEAN and East Asia summits.

Although there has been no formal announcement regarding Prime Minister Modi's visit, preparations are in progress. The US too has not issued any official statement on Trump's travel, either from the White House or the State Department.

**AFTER TRUMP'S BIG PRAISE, PAK SAYS IT BACKED DIFFERENT VERSION OF GAZA PLAN**

**Diary Times Desk :** Days after US President Donald Trump praised the Pakistani leadership for supporting the Gaza peace deal, Islamabad has denied backing Washington's '20-point' proposal to end the war between Israel and Hamas. According to Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the 20-point Gaza plan that Trump announced this week was not in line with the draft proposed by a group of Muslim-majority countries in Washington.

"Changes were made in the plan," Dar told Pakistani lawmakers in parliament on Friday.

"I have made it clear that these 20 points, which Trump has made public, are not ours. These are not the same as ours. I say that some changes have been made in it, in the draft we had."

**"THEN WHAT'S NATO?" PUTIN MOCKS TRUMP'S "PAPER TIGER" JIBE AT RUSSIA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday promised a "significant" response to "Europe's militarisation", as he addressed a foreign policy forum in southern Russia.

Relations between Russia and the EU spiralled downward after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine, leading the bloc to bolster its defence.

"We are closely monitoring the rising militarisation of Europe," he told the forum's audience, adding: "Retaliatory measures by Russia will not take long. The response to such threats will be very significant."

"Russia will never show weakness or indecisiveness," Putin added.

Drone incidents in Denmark and aerial incursions from Moscow in Estonia and Poland have heightened fears that Russia's war against Ukraine could spill over Europe's borders.

Putin accused Europe of stoking "hysteria" to excuse rising military spending and said Russia did not pose a threat. "Just calm down," the Russian President said.

He claimed Russia was fighting the NATO alliance in Ukraine and mocked US President Donald Trump's comment that Russia was a "paper tiger."

"But given we are at war with the entire NATO bloc and are advancing, feeling confident, and we are still being called a paper tiger, then what is NATO itself?" Putin said. The Russian leader also blamed Kyiv for conducting strikes around the occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, warning that Moscow may respond in kind.



TRUMP GIVES HAMAS SUNDAY DEADLINE TO ACCEPT GAZA PEACE PLAN



**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has given Hamas a deadline to accept a US peace plan for Gaza or face "all hell".

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Friday that an agreement must be reached by 18:00 Washington time (22:00 GMT) on Sunday. The plan proposes an immediate end to fighting and the release within 72 hours of 20 living Israeli hostages held by Hamas - as well as the remains of hostages thought to be dead - in exchange for hundreds of detained Gazans. Arab and Turkish mediators are understood to be pressing Hamas for a positive response to the proposal, but a senior Hamas figure has said the armed group is likely to reject it. "If this LAST CHANCE agreement is not reached, all HELL, like no one has ever seen before, will break out against Hamas. THERE WILL BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ONE WAY OR THE OTHER," Trump wrote in the Truth Social post. The deadline announced on Friday comes after Trump said on Tuesday that he was giving Hamas "three to four days" to respond to the peace plan.

MAN UTD & MAN CITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO SYNAGOGUE ATTACK VICTIMS

**Diary Times Desk :** Manchester United and Manchester City will pay tribute to the victims of the Manchester synagogue attack before their Premier League fixtures this weekend.

But tributes will not be routinely held across the Premier League or English Football League over Thursday's incident in which two people died and three others were injured.

United players will wear black armbands and hold a minute's silence before their match against Sunderland at Old Trafford on Saturday, while the women's team will do the same at their Women's Super League match against Chelsea on Friday night.

Speaking at his news conference on Friday, United men's manager Ruben Amorim said: "It is a crazy world we are living in at the moment, lot of big things happened, sympathy to victims, we will pay tribute tomorrow."

United's under-18 and under-21 sides will also wear black armbands in their games.

City will also wear black armbands when they travel to Brentford on Sunday and have agreed with the Bees to hold a moment's silence before kick-off.

A commemoration was already planned by Brentford in memory of their head of academy goalkeeping Christopher Ramsey, who died on Wednesday of bowel cancer.

Brentford have agreed to change the tribute from a minute's applause to silence given the gravity of Thursday's attack.

ISRAEL DEPORTS FIRST ACTIVISTS FROM GAZA AID FLOTILLA

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel on Friday deported four Italian activists, the first of hundreds detained from an aid flotilla bound for Gaza, shortly after the interception of the group's final boat brought an end to its mission. The Global Sumud Flotilla set sail last month, ferrying politicians and activists including Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg towards Gaza, where the United Nations says famine is taking hold. The Israeli navy began intercepting the boats on Wednesday, and an Israeli official said the following day that boats with more than 400 people on board had been prevented from reaching the Palestinian territory.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND NAMES FIRST FEMALE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Church of England has named Sarah Mullally as the next archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to be appointed to the Church's most senior office. Mullally, 63, will become the spiritual head of 85 million Anglicans globally, and like her predecessors will face a Communion divided over several issues, including the role of women in the Church and the acceptance of same-sex couples. Mullally replaces Justin Welby, who resigned due to a child abuse cover-up scandal last year.

The new archbishop addressed congregants for the first time at Canterbury Cathedral on Friday and spoke of the hope she saw in the world despite uncertain times. Mullally said her first calling is to follow Christ and spread his message, but she also used her speech to address issues in the United Kingdom, including migration and the deadly attack on a synagogue in Manchester on Thursday, which killed two people.

RUSSIA UNLEASHES BIGGEST STRIKE OF THE WAR ON UKRAINE'S GAS FACILITIES, CRIPPLING NAFTOGAZ SITES

**Diary Times Desk :** In one of the most intense nights since the war began, Russia unleashed a massive wave of 381 drones and 35 missiles on Ukraine, striking at the heart of the country's energy infrastructure. The coordinated assault, the largest since February 2022, targeted Naftogaz gas extraction and processing facilities in the northeastern Kharkiv and central Poltava regions. Ukrainian officials, cited in a report by Associated Press, said the bombardment was aimed squarely at wrecking the power grid and heating supply ahead of winter, part of a recurring Russian strategy to turn plunging temperatures into a weapon of war. Naftogaz CEO: 'This is deliberate terror' Serhii Koretskyi, chief executive of state-owned Naftogaz, accused Moscow of pursuing "deliberate terror against civilian facilities" with no military purpose.

TRUMP WIELDS AXE OVER 'DEMOCRAT AGENCIES' AS SHUTDOWN BLAME GAME RAGES

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump has said he and his budget director will work out which "Democrat Agencies" to cut as the US government shutdown approached its third day. He suggested Republicans should seize the opportunity to "clear out dead wood" and gave no hint of concessions to Democratic demands that legislation funding the government should include healthcare insurance subsidies. Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill, meanwhile, continued to blame each other for failing to keep federal agencies open. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers are staying home, while others worked without pay. Some federal attractions closed to visitors while others, including the Statue of Liberty, stayed open. Analysts don't expect either side to budge without pressure from everyday Americans, most of whom have yet to feel direct impacts on their lives. It was unclear exactly what Trump could decide in Thursday's meeting with Russell Vought, director of the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB). When Congress fails to keep the US government open, the OMB director works with the president to pick which government activities should stop and which are essential. It then gives directions to federal agencies about which employees to place on furlough, which means unpaid leave. At the height of hurricane season in the US, the National Flood Insurance Program isn't able to write new policies during the shutdown, said Daniel Schwarcz.



## APPLE REMOVES ICE TRACKING APPS AFTER TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SAYS THEY THREATEN OFFICERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Following a request from the US Department of Justice, Apple has removed ICEBlock and similar apps that allow people to alert others nearby about sightings of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in their area. President Donald Trump and his administration have railed against the apps for months, arguing that they pose a threat to ICE agents.

In an email to ICEBlock creator Joshua Aaron, Apple wrote that “upon re-evaluation,” the app does not comply with its app store guidelines around “objectionable” and “defamatory, discriminatory, or mean-spirited content,” according to a copy of the message viewed by CNN.

“Information provided to Apple by law enforcement shows that your app violates” the app store guidelines because “it’s purpose is to provide location information about law enforcement officers that can be used to harm such officers individually or as a group,” the email states.

## LIVE-STREAMING JOURNALIST DEPORTED TO EL SALVADOR AFTER MONTHS IN ICE CUSTODY

**Diary Times Desk :** Mario Guevara, the Salvadoran journalist who gained popularity by documenting immigration raids, has been deported after spending months in federal custody.

Guevara was deported to his native El Salvador early Friday morning, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) confirmed to CNN, more than three months after the Spanish-language live-streamer was arrested while covering an Atlanta-area “No Kings” protest. He was transferred to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention shortly after his arrest.

His deportation comes after the Bureau of Immigration Appeals closed his case on September 19, ordering that he be removed from the US. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

## AMERICAN COMEDIANS AT SAUDI FESTIVAL DRAW BACKLASH FROM HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

**Diary Times Desk :** A comedy festival in Saudi Arabia featuring high-profile American performers is drawing intense criticism from human rights advocates who say the star-studded event helps gloss over the kingdom’s ongoing human rights abuses. The Riyadh Comedy Festival, which kicked off on September 26, has styled itself as “the world’s largest comedy festival,” with sets from more than 50 star comedians, including Kevin Hart, Dave Chappelle, Bill Burr and Pete Davidson. Running through October 9, the festival was organized by the Saudi Tourism Authority as part of the kingdom’s push to attract more visitors.

The festival also falls during the seventh anniversary of the assassination of Washington Post columnist and Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi, which a US intelligence report says happened at the behest of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

That timing hasn’t been lost on the festival’s critics, who say the high-profile American comics are lending legitimacy to a government that represses dissent, jails activists and restricts free speech. Marc Maron ridiculed the festival performers and the crown prince in a recent stand-up routine, noting that “the same guy that’s gonna pay them is the same guy that paid that guy to bonesaw Jamal Khashoggi ... but don’t let that stop the yuks!”

“I am disgusted, and deeply disappointed in this whole gross thing,” comedian David Cross wrote last week on his website. “You’re performing for literally the most oppressive regime on earth.” Shane Gillis, a fellow irreverent comedian, said he “took a principled stand” against accepting a “significant” offer to perform. Atsuko Okatsuka shared a screenshot of the festival’s offer — which she said she rejected — that included a prohibition on making jokes or derogatory remarks about Saudi Arabia, religion or the royal family.

## WHY THE DOW IS UP 300 POINTS IN THE MIDDLE OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

**Diary Times Desk :** Stocks were mixed on Friday as investors continue to brush off concerns about the government shutdown.

The Dow was up 300 points, or 0.67%, after rising as much as 530 points earlier. The S&P 500 was flat. Meanwhile, the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite fell 0.4%. All three major indexes are coming off a day of record highs.

Stocks have moved higher in recent weeks due to relatively strong corporate earnings, enthusiasm about artificial intelligence and hopes for Federal Reserve rate cuts.

The Dow led the market higher on Friday as the rally broadened out to left-behind sectors while tech investors took some profits.

History shows that stocks are usually unaffected by shutdowns, which tend to be short lived and have minimal long-term effect on the economy. “History essentially says that government shutdowns have been more headline events than bottom-line-affecting events,” said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA Research.

## WHY YOU NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO SORA 2 AND OUR FUTURE AI UNREALITY

**Diary Times Desk :**

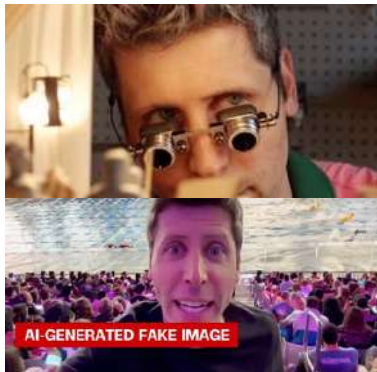
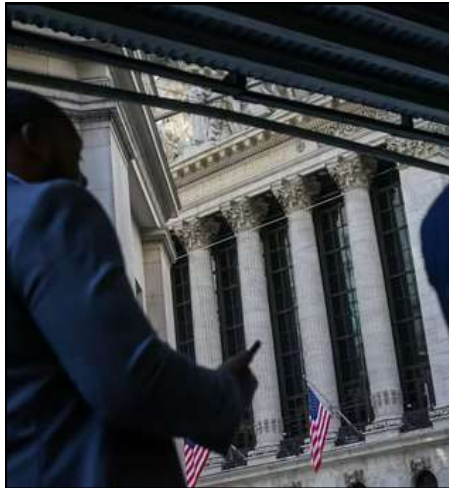
If you work in the media industry or simply care about the quality of the information ecosystem we all inhabit, you need to pay attention to Sora 2.

“This feels to many of us like the ‘ChatGPT for creativity’ moment,” OpenAI CEO Sam Altman wrote in a blog post announcing the product, and many early testers agree. Sora 2 is an AI video generator, a TikTok challenger, and a social network all in one. And right now, at Altman’s urging, the feed is full of Altman “deepfakes.”

Now, Sora 2 might just be another online fad, a reality-deadening distraction that people will soon tire of. But more likely it’s a new form of communication, turning users into the stars of AI-created mini-movies — copyright owners and professional actors and scam victims be damned.

When seeing stops believing

Sora 2, currently the no. 1 free app in Apple’s US App Store, is part of a fast-growing (and so destabilizing it’s frightening) phenomenon. It comes fast on the heels of Meta releasing a new AI video feed called Vibes. And it adds to a season full of heightened stress about “AI slop.” Unreal videos are moving from a concerning sideshow to being the centerpiece of our feeds.





CRACKER BARREL  
DUMPS THE DESIGN  
FIRM BEHIND ITS  
DISASTROUS LOGO  
CHANGE

Diary Times Desk :

Cracker Barrel has cut ties with the design firm that created its controversial new logo and redesigned restaurants. The restaurant chain started implementing the changes but quickly reversed course following online backlash – including from President Donald Trump.

The company confirmed the split late Thursday in a press release, announcing that it's "ending its engagement with Prophet," the design agency that Cracker Barrel hired just seven months ago to help refresh its brand.

In August, Cracker Barrel unveiled a new logo created by the San Francisco-based firm, which ditched the iconic man in overalls and the barrel for a streamlined design. The new logo featured an outline that the company said was "rooted even more closely to the iconic barrel shape and word mark that started it all," according to a press release initially announcing the change.

It didn't work out: The logo was the target of culture war, which even caught the ire of the White House and dragged down the stock. Visits to Cracker Barrel tumbled.

SHUTDOWN THREATENS  
TO STALL RURAL LOANS  
AND FLOOD INSURANCE

Diary Times Desk : Slower mortgage approvals, stalled rural home loans and a freeze on new flood insurance policies: The government shutdown, which began at midnight on October 1, could gum up some of the gears that keep the US housing market running.

It is unclear how long the shutdown will remain in effect. Experts say most housing programs will continue amid the closure, and most people may not be impacted yet. But with home sales already stalled by high prices, the government's first shutdown in nearly seven years threatens to slow parts of the housing market even further.

"Anything that you need to reach the government for.

THERE'S NO JOBS REPORT TODAY. SO HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW  
ABOUT THE US LABOR MARKET



Diary Times Desk : On this particular Friday, at 8:30 a.m. ET, the Bureau of Labor Statistics was supposed to release the September jobs report.

Instead, the agency behind the market-moving release – data that has starkly become even more important, given economic uncertainty – is almost entirely dark due to the federal shutdown.

There will be no more employment data until the government is funded again.

In the absence of official data, a constellation of previously reported federal data, private metrics, economists' analyses, Federal Reserve indicators and job seekers' lived experiences can help cobble together a rough snapshot of the current US labor market.

Consensus estimates, according to financial data firm FactSet, are that the economy added 50,000 jobs in September, a pickup from August's preliminary 22,000-job gain, and the unemployment rate held pat at 4.3%.

FOOD DELIVERY ROBOTS HAVE HUMAN NAMES AND BLINKING EYES.  
BUT THEY'RE NOT OUR FRIENDS



Diary Times Desk : Courtney doesn't have eyes, but it's got sensors everywhere. There are two blinking lights on the front of its boxy body to approximate wide, moony pupils. It's been described as a "large cooler on four wheels."

Courtney is a food delivery robot from Serve Robotics, transporting Uber Eats orders typically when there's a mile or less between a restaurant and a customer. Courtney showed up in my Atlanta neighborhood one day toward the end of June with dozens of other four-wheeled bots with names like Deandre and Orion. Courtney and the bots have had some trouble navigating Atlanta. They get confused at crosswalks. They move with the speed and caution of a first-time driver, stilted and shy, until they suddenly speed up without warning. Their four wheels look like they were made for off-roading, but they still get stuck in the cracks of craggy sidewalks. Most times I see the bots, they aren't moving at all. When they first got here, they were objects of curiosity. People took pictures of them and made TikToks when they spotted them on the street for the first time – the future is now! Three months after their arrival, though, the novelty has worn off. They're not photo ops anymore. Cyclists swerve to avoid them like any other obstacle in the road. Patrons of Shake Shack (a national partner of Serve) weave around the mess of robots parked in front of the restaurant to make their way inside and place orders on iPads. They're as much an accepted part of life in my neighborhood as the obnoxious scooters that litter sidewalks. "I think folks are always asking, 'When are robots finally here?' They really are finally here," Serve Robotics CEO Ali Kashani told me. "If you're lucky to live in one of these cities, you see it today. If not, probably in a couple of years, it will be something that everybody will have seen in their environment."

PUNJAB TO HOLD  
FIRST-EVER VIDHAN  
SABHA SESSION AT  
ANANDPUR SAHIB ON  
GURU TEGH BAHADUR'S  
350TH MARTYRDOM  
ANNIVERSARY

**Diary Times Desk :** For the first time in Punjab's history, a special Vidhan Sabha session will be held outside the state capital, in Anandpur Sahib on November 24. This session is proposed to be held as part of the series of events to be observed by the state's Aam Aadmi Party government, to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

This was announced by the Punjab Education Minister Harjot Bains and Advisor in state Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department, Deepak Bali, here today after they held a meeting with religious leaders to discuss the plans for holding a series of events to mark the occasion.

"We are in talks with the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat to hold the Assembly session in Anandpur Sahib on November 24," said Bains, after the meeting.

He said that blood donation camps, tree plantation and organ donation drives will also be launched at Anandpur Sahib on this occasion. "A heritage street will be built there and its foundation stone will be laid by the CM on Sunday. A huge tent city will also be set up there for devotees from November 19-30," he said.

PROTEST OVER 'I LOVE  
MOHAMMAD' POSTER  
ROW TURNS VIOLENT IN  
PUNJAB'S JALANDHAR

**Diary Times Desk :** A nationwide protest by the Muslim community over the 'I Love Mohammad' poster row led to unrest in Punjab's Jalandhar this evening. Around 4 pm, a group of Muslims was protesting outside the district administrative complex, holding a banner with the words 'I Love Mohammad' and chanting slogans. When a youth passed by on his scooter and responded with 'Jai Shree Ram', the situation escalated. The Muslims stopped Yogesh Maini, a BJP activist, and forcibly took away his scooter keys.

PUNJAB CM MANN ANNOUNCES HARMEET SANDHU AS AAP CANDIDATE FOR  
TARN TARAN BYPOLL

**Diary Times Desk :** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday announced former MLA Harmeet Singh Sandhu as the AAP candidate for the upcoming bypoll on the Tarn Taran Assembly seat.

The seat fell vacant following the death of AAP MLA Kashmir Singh Sohail in June.

The Election Commission is yet to announce the date of the bypoll.

Addressing a gathering in Tarn Taran, CM Mann announced that Sandhu will be the Aam Aadmi Party's nominee for the bypoll. "He (Sandhu) is your choice," Mann told the gathering. Mann was in Tarn Taran for the launch of a project for the construction of rural link roads.



POLICEMAN CONFINED BY TRUCK  
DRIVER FERRYING ILLEGAL QUARRY  
MATERIAL

**Diary Times Desk :** In a case highlighting the audacity of the mining mafia, a policeman was not only driven away in a mini truck, but also intimidated by its driver after a police team nabbed him while transporting illegal quarry material near Manpura village on the Baddi-Nalagarh highway around 2.20 am last night.

A mini truck coming from Kharuni on the Nalagarh-Baddi highway abruptly started reversing after seeing a police team on the highway, near Manpura last night. When chased and stopped by the policemen, the truck was found loaded with illegal quarry material mined from the government land along the Sarsa river at Handakhundi village. On enquiring by the police, the driver identified himself as Madan, a resident of Handakhundi village. He, however, failed to produce any valid document like registration and insurance certificate of the vehicle when asked by the police. A honorary head constable Laxmi Chand then seated himself on the conductor seat of the said truck and directed Madan to drive towards the Manpura police station in a bid to impound the vehicle.

FOUNDATION STONE OF SWAN  
RIVER BRIDGE, LAID BY MINISTER  
HARJOT BAINS, VANDALISED

**Diary Times Desk :** Barely a day after Punjab Cabinet Minister Harjot Singh Bains laid the foundation stone for the much-awaited high-level bridge over the Swan River at Bhallari Nangal, it was vandalised by unidentified miscreants — triggering strong condemnation from political leaders and local representatives, and vitiating political milieu in the area.

The project, which will connect Bhalli village to Mahindpur-Kheda Kalmot, is seen as a crucial step to improve connectivity and ease transportation in the region. The foundation stone was ceremoniously laid yesterday by Harjot Singh Bains, who hailed it as a milestone in infrastructure development. However, late at night, the stone was broken by unknown persons. Following a complaint lodged by Gurwinder Singh, SDO PWD Anandpur Sahib, the Nangal police registered an FIR today under Section 3 of the Punjab Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act against unknown persons at Nangal Police Station.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

04-10-2025

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Sagittarius

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

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

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.

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.



NEW CRIMINAL LAWS:  
JUSTICE PROCESS MADE  
SIMPLER, SAYS AMIT

SHAH IN KURUKSHETRA

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the enactment of three new criminal laws will make the justice process simpler and time bound, while asserting that after 2026, an FIR will be disposed of in three years on an average.

He stressed that the new laws—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)—are going to transform the criminal justice system in the country.

Shah was addressing a gathering after inaugurating a week-long exhibition on the three new criminal laws in Haryana's Kurukshetra.

He said there is a perception among people that if they go to a police station, they will not get justice for years.

"I can say it with confidence that after 2026, a First Information Report (FIR) will be disposed of in three years on an average and justice will be ensured," Shah said.

INLD LEADERS PROTEST  
IN KARNAL, ACCUSE  
GOVT OF 'LOOTING'  
FARMERS AS PADDY  
PROCUREMENT BELOW  
MSP

**Diary Times Desk :** Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leaders on Friday reached the new grain market in Karnal and accused the government of "looting" farmers on the pretext of moisture content in paddy. They also demanded paddy of farmers would be procured on the minimum support price (MSP). Party leaders submitted a memorandum to the market committee secretary for the Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, warning of intensified agitation if their demands are not met soon.

State vice president Yashvir Rana said that farmers are being cheated as their paddy is being purchased at rates Rs 300–400 below the minimum support price.

National Secretary Dharamvir Padha alleged that procurement in the Karnal mandi is not running smoothly.

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, TRIALS TO BE FAST-TRACKED IN HARYANA

**Diary Times Desk :** Criminal proceedings and trials are set to be fast-tracked across Haryana, with the management of evidence — to be produced in courts — going high tech. The government, through a notification issued by Sumita Misra, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), has put in place the Haryana (eSakshya) Management Rules, 2025, governing the electronic management of evidence.

Now, the evidence would be collected and recorded through the eSakshya mobile application of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs or any application developed and maintained by the government. The stored evidence will consist of audio-video recordings and photographs of investigating officer or person whose statement is being recorded during investigation.

"All evidence recorded through eSakshya mobile application shall generate a secure packet of event (eSakshya packet) with a unique ID with opening, closing stamp and geo-location," the notification said.



TO PROTECT TWIN DAUGHTERS  
FROM TRAUMA OF PARENTAL  
DISCORD, COURT ORDERS  
ADMISSION IN BOARDING SCHOOL

**Diary Times Desk :** Putting the well-being of minor twin daughters above the legal tussle over their custody, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has intervened to shield them from the psychological impact of parental discord. Justice Sanjay Vashisth, after personally interacting with the children inside his chamber, ordered that they be admitted to a boarding school in Gurugram so that their future is not jeopardised by the hostility at home.

"Irrespective of the issue, whether custody of twin female minor children with their father is legal or illegal, this court firstly proceeded to decide the foremost and primarily concern, i.e. better future prospects of minor children amidst continued matrimonial discord of their parents," Justice Vashisth observed. During the hearing, the Judge noted that any further delay in arriving at a decision could adversely affect "the tender minds of the minor children, if they are allowed to be stayed in the company of either of the parents".

HARYANA CLOSER TO TB-FREE GOAL: HEALTH MINISTER AARTI SINGH RAO

**Diary Times Desk :** Health Minister Aarti Singh Rao has said the state government is working swiftly and effectively to achieve the Central government's goal of eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by 2030.

Highlighting the initiatives taken so far, she informed that over 4 lakh people have been screened across the state this year, of which 95,000 underwent X-ray exams. Based on these tests, 57,000 cases have been identified and notified. She said the government provides free medicines to patients, along with financial assistance of Rs 1,000 per month for nutrition support. So far, Rs 131 crore has been transferred directly into patients' accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme.

She said under the Nirogi Haryana Scheme, 94 lakh beneficiaries have been screened and more than 5.5 crore tests conducted. In addition, Rs 3,000 crore has been spent on 27 lakh claims under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, while Rs 1,300 crore has been disbursed for 9.50 lakh claims under the Chirayu Scheme.

She also said Haryana has made progress under the Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. Earlier, it was ranked 10th in the country, and now it is fifth.

AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES  
COUNTRY'S LARGEST  
PRODUCTION FACILITY FOR CURD  
AT ROHTAK

**Diary Times Desk :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday inaugurated the country's largest curd, yogurt and butter-milk production dairy plant at Rohtak. The Sabar Dairy Plant will produce 150 metric tonnes of curd, 3 lakh litres of butter-milk, 10 metric tonnes of yogurt and 10 metric tonnes of sweets per day.

Shah announced that 75,000 new cooperative dairy societies would be constituted in the country, with every village panchayat having a cooperative dairy society by 2029.

Shah also distributed latest machines, tool-kits, and margin money under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) among artisans at the Khadi Karigar Mahotsav organised on the campus of Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU) at Rohtak.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was also present at the inauguration ceremony.



## Female Mammals Live Longer Than Males

Sexual behavior is one reason why female mammals typically live longer than their male counterparts, according to a new study.

Researchers from Germany, Denmark, France, Hungary and Belgium analyzed data relating to 528 mammal species and 648 bird species in zoos, in the most comprehensive study to date on sex differences in adult life expectancy in mammals and birds, published in the journal *Science Advances* on Wednesday.

They also analyzed data on populations in the wild for 110 species, to see if the findings would be the same in natural settings.

Among mammals, adult females lived 12% longer than males, the study found. However, the opposite trend was found among birds, with adult males living 5% longer.

The differences in longevity between the sexes were much more pronounced in the wild than in zoos for both mammals and birds, as there were fewer stressors, such as harsh climates and predators, in zoos, the study said.

Competing theories

There are several theories about why there are these sex differences in longevity. A leading theory relates to the sex chromosomes, explained study co-author Fernando Colchero, a statistical and mathematical ecologist who leads the Statistical Demography Group at Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

In this theory, known as the heterogametic sex hypothesis, it is thought that females, who have two X chromosomes, have an advantage over males, who have one X chromosome and a Y chromosome, because "if there are mutations in the X chromosome, if you only have one copy of that X chromosome, you don't have a backup essentially. So, those mutations will eventually be harmful and reduce your longevity," Colchero told CNN.

The same is thought to apply to birds, but with males living longer. They have two Z chromosomes, giving them an advantage over females, which have only one Z chromosome, along with one W.

However, there were exceptions to the longevity trends among some animals, leading the researchers to explore other factors that could also be causing the differences, Colchero said.

For example, some birds of prey did not conform to the male advantage among birds, with female falcons and hawks in zoos outliving their male counterparts, according to the study.

Colchero described this as "puzzling" because, among these animals, "the females are the largest, the females tend to engage more — sometimes more than the males — in territorial defenses and things like that. But, still, the females are the ones that live longer."

Since these exceptions were found among particular families, the study authors suggested that some groups "may have evolved different strategies."

They therefore looked at how sexual selection and the cost of reproduction relate to the sex differences in life expectancy.



Amara Ori

One theory, the sexual selection hypothesis, suggests that some male animals spend their energy developing traits and behavior to compete for and attract mates, such as changing their physical size, developing big antlers or horns, and fighting to compete for a female. In doing so, they may be "sacrificing their survival," Colchero said.

## Undisputed Champion

### Cecilia Brækhus Was Told Women Couldn't Enter Boxing Gyms

Cecilia Brækhus embarked on her against-the-odds career in professional boxing almost two decades ago, and she's hardly stopped fighting before or since.

Along the way, her opponents have been many and varied, from world champions in the ring to a professional boxing ban in her native country and those who believed that women had no place in the sport at all.

Now, at the age of 43, Brækhus is ready to hang up her gloves, her far-reaching legacy already etched into boxing's history books as the first-ever undisputed women's world champion.

But to have experienced such success during your career only makes it harder to say goodbye. Ahead of her final fight against Slovenian Ema Kozin on Saturday, Brækhus has been coming to terms with the pain and finality of her retirement from boxing.

"This has kind of like been my whole life, and I love it," she tells CNN Sports. "It's going to be very sad; it's going to be hard; it's going to be like a heartbreak."

Boxing is no stranger to underdog tales, to seeing fighters rise from obscurity and hardship



George Ramsay

"And when you're doing this sport, we actually could go to jail if you were to do that in Norway, so I just wanted to take away that stigma. And I wanted to introduce the sport to Norwegians."



**"There was a very, very big stigma (around boxing), and you're also a criminal in Norway, so it was very hard to get sponsorship, it was hard to get recognition," says Brækhus.**

At the time, most female fighters had little-to-no footprint in the sport, which was geared overwhelmingly towards men. This, coupled with a professional ban in her home country, meant that a boxing career seemed almost unthinkable for someone like Brækhus, even after becoming European champion and a world silver medalist. But she remained undeterred.

"This was before girls could go to the Olympics (for boxing)," Brækhus explains about the start of her professional career. "This was before the #MeToo movement. And this was when there were still boxing gyms that didn't allow women."

"I was literally told, 'Hey, women are not allowed in the gym,' and there were male coaches that didn't want to train women. That was the kind of environment."

I said I was going to be a boxing star, a boxing champion and world champion. I did get a lot of sh\*t for that, and that kind of drove me."

## 6.6 Billion Tons

### ROGUE PLANET HAS A RECORD GROWTH RATE

Astronomers have observed a planet that in some ways behaves more like a star — including a massive growth spurt unlike anything witnessed before in a free-floating planet.

The rogue planet, which does not orbit any star, is called Cha 1107-7626 and is outside of our solar system, 620 light-years from Earth in the Chamaeleon constellation. A single light-year, or the distance light travels in one year, is equal to 5.88 trillion miles (9.46 trillion kilometers).

The planet has a mass five to 10 times that of Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system. And it's getting bigger every second, according to new research published Thursday in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*. Estimated to be 1 million to 2 million years old, Cha 1107-7626 is still forming, said study coauthor Aleks Scholz, an astronomer at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. It may sound old, but astronomically speaking, the planet is in its infancy. By contrast, the planets in our solar system are about 4.5 billion years old.

Cha 1107-7626 is surrounded by a disk of gas and dust, which constantly falls onto the planet and accumulates during a process that astronomers call



Ashley Strickland

**"From that we can find out how much they really contribute to the growth, or what is triggering strong accretion bursts," Scholz said. "The fact that we see accretion bursts across such a wide range of (objects) must be telling us something — we are not quite sure yet what it is."**

"From that we can find out how much they really contribute to the growth, or what is triggering strong accretion bursts," Scholz said. "The fact that we see accretion bursts across such a wide range of (objects) must be telling us something — we are not quite sure yet what it is."

Seeing behavior typically associated with the formation of stars in an isolated young planet is significant, said Dr. Jacco van Loon, an associate professor of astrophysics and director of the Keele Observatory at Keele University in England.

He was not involved in the new research but noted that the wealth of observational detail revealed a rich molecular chemistry within the disk around the planet.

"Further research might clarify to what extent this differs from the disks around forming stars, but my curiosity focuses on what the composition might be of possible moons of this massive planet that might also form in this material," van Loon said.

"One can only think of Saturn's moon Titan, which boasts an atmosphere and weather, to imagine what such moon might be like and whether it could eventually play host to life."

not much heftier than Jupiter. Their infancy appears to be much more tumultuous than we had realized."

An unprecedented burst of growth

Astronomers first discovered Cha 1107-7626 in 2008, and since then, they have observed it with different telescopes to learn more about how the infant planet evolves, as well as to study its surroundings.

The research team observed the planet with Webb in 2024, making a clear detection of the surrounding disk. Next, the researchers studied it using the X-shooter spectrograph on the Very Large Telescope, which can capture different wavelengths of light emitted by an object ranging from ultraviolet to near-infrared.

The observations detected a puzzling event as the planet transitioned from a steady accretion rate in April and May to a burst of growth between June and August.

"I fully expected that this is a short-term event, because those are much more common," Scholz said. "When the burst kept going through July and August, I was absolutely stunned."

Follow-up observations made using the Webb telescope also showed that the chemistry of the disk had changed. Water vapor, present during the growth spurt, wasn't in the disk before. Webb is the only telescope capable of capturing such detailed changes in the environment for such a faint object, Scholz said. Prior to this research, astronomers had only ever seen the chemistry of a disk change around a star, but not around a planet.





**TIQUI ATENCIO ON DISCOVERING HER TASTE AND LIVING WITH ART: 'YOU'RE NOT BORN WITH AN EYE, YOU MUST DEVELOP IT'**

**Diary Times Desk :** 'Trust me,' says Tiqui Atencio, 'I was completely uninformed in those early days.' She throws up her hands in mock horror. For someone who is known for her discerning taste and has been described by the New York Times as 'a highly regarded collector', this is something of an admission. 'I really was ignorant,' she continues, laughing. 'Thankfully, I realised if I was going to do this, I was going to have to get educated.'

Sitting on a sea-green sofa in her beautiful home furnished with an elegant mix of mid-century modern design, Atencio is a warm presence. Her high blonde ponytail is immediately recognisable from her Instagram account. On the wall behind her is *Bedtime Story* (1999), a sensual pink and red painting by Cecily Brown. Atencio discovered the New York-based British artist long before her works hit the seven-figure mark. 'I should have found more!' she says.

There's something at once timeless and very current about Atencio. She was well ahead of the market on Latin American artists in the 1980s, and today she stands at the high connoisseurship level. She has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the new crop of art stars currently on the ascent, and is an active presence both online and at exhibitions and fairs around the globe. It's fair to say that Atencio lives and breathes art 24/7.

The Venezuelan-born collector is also the author of three books on the lives and living spaces of prominent figures in art and design — meaning that her appreciation of how to place an impressive Serge Mouille triple-armed standing lamp alongside a monolithic fly painting by Damien Hirst, so as not to take away from the artwork's appeal but rather to add to it, may be considered to be in the realms of behavioural science, or perhaps even a professional sport.

Throughout 2025, Atencio and her husband Ago Demirdjian have offered art and design in *For Art's Sake: Selected Works by Tiqui Atencio & Ago Demirdjian*, a series of sales held across New York and Paris. London's 20th/21st Century Art season in October will showcase post-war and contemporary works from the couple's collection in the 20th/21st Century: London Evening Sale, the Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale and Post-War and Contemporary Art Online.

**WHAT EVERY COLLECTOR NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT HERMÈS HANDBAGS**

**Diary Times Desk :** Thierry Hermès began his career in 1837 making harnesses, and from the outset was fastidious in his devotion to materials, quality and craft. In 1880, Hermès and his sons introduced saddlery to their array of products.

In the 20th century, Hermès further enhanced its product range by adding accessories for women, including carrés, or silk scarves, and handbags. The techniques that for two centuries were used to craft the highest-quality saddles are still seen today in the ateliers where Hermès artisans stitch and sew Birkin and Kelly handbags by hand.

It takes a single expert craftsman up to 40 hours to produce a Birkin bag. The stitch on which the brand's reputation is based — the saddle — cannot be replicated by a machine, as it requires two needles simultaneously passing through the same seam. If done correctly, the saddle stitch will never unravel — either on a saddle or a Birkin.

**The birth of the Hermès Kelly**

Emile-Maurice Hermès was the creative mind behind the first Hermès accessories. After the advent of the automobile, Emile-Maurice diversified the brand's offerings with an array of products that reflected the changing times. For example, Hermès became the first French firm to introduce the modern zipper mechanism in leather goods and clothing.

Among his many contributions was the 'Sac à dépêches', which was produced in 1935 for his wife. The bag would go on to achieve worldwide recognition 20 years later in 1956, when Grace Kelly, who had recently become Princess Grace of Monaco, used her 'Sac à dépêches' to shield her baby bump from the paparazzi. In an early instance of what might today be described as 'viral marketing', Hermès received so many requests for 'the Kelly bag' — as it immediately became known — that it was renamed in honour of the princess.

**The origins of the Birkin**

The story of the invention of the Birkin bag — the result of a chance meeting in 1983 between actress Jane Birkin and Jean-Louis Dumas, then creative director of Hermès — has become legendary among Hermès lovers. The two were seated next to each other on an international flight. When Dumas asked why she travelled with a simple straw tote, Birkin explained that most leather bags were too structured for her taste. She wanted something much more casual, and the two came up with the design for the handbag on that flight — on the back of an airsickness bag. Since its inception, the Birkin has changed little in style or function.

**The genesis of the Constance**

Said to have left the factory on the same day that Hermès designer Catherine Chaillet's fifth child was born, the Constance entered the market in 1959, and was named after the designer's newborn daughter.



'WE NEED THE FANS MORE THAN EVER' – TOUNEKTI



**Diary Times Desk :** Celtic winger Sebastian Tounekti is urging supporters to get behind the team after a disappointing 2-0 defeat at home to Braga.

Brendan Rodgers' side have picked up one point from their opening two Europa League game, but Tounekti insists Thursday night's game would have gone differently had Kelechi Iheanacho's equaliser not been controversially disallowed.

"We watched the video over again and I spoke to Kele about it, it was never a handball," the 23-year-old said.

"It was his face. I'm really interested in what VAR saw on the video because that was never a handball. We got the goal so early in the second half I think if that goal stood we would win the game 100%."

The attacker, who joined from Swedish side Hammarby last month, made his home European debut against Braga.

WORLD'S 'LARGEST ILLEGAL LIVE SPORTS' PIRACY NETWORK SHUT DOWN, ANTIPIRACY GROUP SAYS



**Diary Times Desk :** Notorious online soccer piracy network Streameast has been shut down after more than 1.6 billion visits in the past year, an antipiracy coalition announced Wednesday. The United States-based Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment (ACE) said the shutdown was made in collaboration with Egyptian authorities. With its 80 associated domains, Streameast was the largest illicit live sports streaming operation in the world, ACE said. "Today, ACE scored a resounding victory in its fight to detect, deter, and dismantle criminal perpetrators of digital piracy: by taking down the largest illegal live sports platform anywhere," ACE chairman Charles Rivkin said.

A TEAM UNITING A DIVIDED NATION: WAR-TORN SUDAN'S REMARKABLE RISE TO THE PRECIPICE OF WORLD CUP HISTORY



**Diary Times Desk :** For over two years, Sudan has endured a brutal civil war which has divided towns and families across the African nation. The conflict, which the UN has labeled the "world's largest humanitarian disaster," has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, with morgues in the capital of Khartoum reaching their capacity, aid workers say, leaving thousands of corpses to rot on the streets. Humanitarian organizations estimate over 13 million people have been displaced by the fighting between the government's military forces and the rebel RSF fighters, with famine and disease a by-product of the struggle for power. However, a surprise uniting force has begun to emerge from the rubble of the conflict, as the Sudanese national soccer team continues to defy the odds and stands on the precipice of a first-ever FIFA World Cup qualification.

LEICESTER CEO'S CHILLING WARNING TO FANS UPON DEPARTURE FROM CLUB

**Diary Times Desk :** Paris Saint-Germain manager Luis Enrique spoke highly of Barcelona aftThe very recently departed Leicester City chief executive officer left on Thursday, in what was a shock to some but a more predictable exit to others. Director of Football Jon Rudkin was always going to use a City scapegoat or Foxes fall guy in order to cling onto his role. Rudkin's position as No.2 in the entire King Power organisation has been described as 'untouchable' by some. Whereas I prefer the term immortal: due to his unsusceptible status when making or overseeing monumental mistakes.

However, we were all wrong about the DoF who the Srivaddhanaprabha family (owners) appear to consider infallible. In truth, if Rudkin needed a 'patsy' or a victim - he must be under more scrutiny from chairman Aiyawatt 'Khun Top' Srivaddhanaprabha, as well as his own staff monitoring LE2. While we don't yet know why the former fell out with ex-CEO Susan Whelan, a rift between the pair of important Leicester directors has been alluded to.

"HERE WE GO" – FABRIZIO ROMANO CONFIRMS MAN UNITED TRANSFER AGREEMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Manchester United have completed an out-of-window agreement for Colombian teenager Cristian Orozco, a move that underlines the club's growing commitment to securing elite talent early. The 17-year-old midfielder, widely tipped in South America as a player of significant promise, will join Old Trafford from Fortaleza in the summer of 2026 after seeing out the current campaign in his homeland.

The deal, reported by Fabrizio Romano with his trademark "Here we go" confirmation, is worth around \$1m (£740,000, €850,000). United's latest investment highlights an ongoing recruitment strategy that focuses on young prospects who can be moulded into first-team contributors under Ruben Amorim's guidance. Since INEOS co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe formalised his £1.3bn investment in February 2024, Manchester United have spent in excess of £400m across two summer transfer windows. The aim has been to assemble a squad capable of challenging on all fronts while also building for the long term.

Ratcliffe has repeatedly stressed his desire to develop rather than simply purchase superstars, tasking director of recruitment Christopher Vivell with finding outstanding prospects worldwide.