

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**"WE TOOK DOCUMENTS, A FEW CLOTHES AND RAN": WITNESSES ON DARJEELING HORROR**

**Diary Times Desk :** Residents in West Bengal's Darjeeling narrated the horror they lived through in the pitch black night at 2.30 am when a key bridge in the area collapsed. A local told NDTV the bridge took along two houses as it came crashing down into the river.

Residents said the water level rose so fast that they did not have enough time to mentally process the situation, and head toward safety.

"All of us had been watching the intensity of rain increase and so we decided to leave if something happened," the local resident told NDTV, and looked at the collapsed bridge in the distance.

"It was around 2.30 am when we heard a loud noise. After that we picked up all our important documents, a few clothes and ran for safety," he said.

**EMERGENCY TURBINE DEPLOYS ON AIR INDIA FLIGHT TO UK, PLANE LANDS SAFELY**

**Diary Times Desk :** The operating crew of Air India's Amritsar-Birmingham flight reported that the Boeing 787's Ram Air Turbine (RAT) unexpectedly deployed during the final approach on October 4, but the aircraft landed safely, the airline said on Saturday.

RAT deploys automatically in the eventuality of a dual engine failure or total electronic or hydraulic failure. It uses wind speed to generate emergency power. Air India said it has cancelled its Birmingham-Delhi flight as the aircraft has been grounded for inspection.

"The operating crew of flight AI117 from Amritsar to Birmingham on 4 October 2025 detected deployment of the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) of the aircraft during its final approach.

All electrical and hydraulic parameters were found normal, and the aircraft performed a safe landing at Birmingham," the Tata Group-owned Air India said in a statement.

The airline, however, did not share specific details, including the number of people on board.

## DALLAS IN THE US

## HYDERABAD MAN SHOT DEAD WHILE WORKING AT GAS STATION IN DALLAS



**Diary Times Desk :** A 28-year-old man from Hyderabad was shot dead on Friday night at a gas station in Dallas in the US where he was working. The deceased, Pole Chandrashekhar, a resident of LB Nagar, had gone to Dallas for higher studies. Chandrashekhar's brother, Damodar, said he had left for the US in 2023 to pursue higher studies after completing a bachelor's degree in dental surgery in the city.

Nearly six months back, he had completed his studies in the US. He subsequently began applying for jobs and appearing for interviews in the US. Meanwhile, he was working at the gas station to meet his expenses.

The family has requested the government to bring back his mortal remains.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the death of Pole Chandrashekhar in a shooting in the US caused him deep shock and grief.

"I pray to God that his soul may find peace and express my profound condolences to his family members," he said in a post on social media platform X, adding that the government will stand by Chandrasekhar's family. "We will provide all possible assistance to bring his mortal remains back to his hometown," the CM said.

Assuring support to the family of the deceased, CM Revanth said his government would extend all cooperation to bring back the body. Former minister T Harish Rao went to the family's residence and offered his condolences. Later, he posted on X, saying, "It is tragic that Chandra Shekhar Pole, a Dalit student from Nagar who completed BDS and went to America (Dallas) higher studies, died in a shooting carried out by miscreants."

The tragedy comes close on the heels of two separate incidents in the United States involving Indian nationals. Just weeks ago, 30-year-old Mohammed Nizamuddin from Telangana was allegedly shot dead by police in Santa Clara, California, following an altercation with his roommate. His family in Mahabubnagar said he had earlier spoken of facing racial discrimination and workplace harassment in the US.

Just days before Nizamuddin's murder, another tragedy struck the Indian diaspora in the US when Chandra Mouli "Bob" Nagamallai, a motel manager, was brutally beheaded in Dallas, Texas.

## SONAM WANGCHUK'S 'GANDHIAN' MESSAGE FROM JAIL TO LADAKH STATEHOOD PROTESTERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is in a Jodhpur jail after his arrest in the aftermath of the unrest in Ladakh, has appealed for peace and unity and urged the people of Ladakh to continue their struggle for statehood in the "true Gandhian way of non-violence". Wangchuk was arrested under the National Security Act in the wake of the September 25 violence in Ladakh that claimed four lives. His elder brother, Ka Tsetan Dorjey Ley, and his lawyer, Mustafa Haji, met him at the Jodhpur prison. "I am doing well, both physically and mentally, and thank everyone for their concern and prayers. My heartfelt condolences to the families of those people who lost their lives, and my prayers are with the people who are injured and arrested. There should be an independent judicial inquiry into the killing of our four people, and unless that is done, I am prepared to stay in jail," Wangchuk has said in a statement shared by his lawyer.

The activist has said he stands firmly with the statehood demand. "I stand firmly with Apex Body and the KDA and the people of Ladakh in our genuine constitutional demand for the Sixth Schedule and statehood, and whatever actions Apex Body takes in the interest of Ladakh, I am with them wholeheartedly. I appeal to people to keep peace and unity and continue with our struggle peacefully - in the true Gandhian way of non-violence," he has said. Wangchuk's wife, Gitanjali J Angmo, has now challenged his detention under the National Security Act and approached the Supreme Court. The bench of Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice NV Anjaria will hear the matter tomorrow, according to the court's cause list.



## MADRAS HC ORDER BANNING RALLY ON NH: COPS DENY NOD FOR EPS'S EVENT



**Diary Times Desk :** Following the Madras High Court's ruling on Friday directing authorities not to permit public meetings or gatherings on state or national highways until Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are framed for holding such events, the Namakkal police have denied permission for AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami's campaign in four constituencies in the district on October 5 and 6.

While Namakkal Superintendent of Police S Vimala said that permission was refused for the requested venues, Inspector General (West Zone) T Senthilkumar said an alternative site suggested by the AIADMK is under the consideration of the authorities.

EPS had planned to campaign in Thiruchengode (near Anna Statue) and Komarapalayam (near Rajan Theatre) on October 5, and in Namakkal (Old Bus Stand) and Paramathi Velur (Pothanur Road, a four-road junction) on October 6.

Police officials said that all the four venues are along state or national highways, making them ineligible under the court's directive. Meanwhile, the AIADMK has rescheduled the rallies, with EPS expected to campaign in Thiruchengode and Komarapalayam on October 8, and in Namakkal and Paramathi Velur on October 9.

EPS is currently on a statewide "Makkalai Kaappom, Thamizhagathai Meetpom" campaign to reach out to voters across Tamil Nadu ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

## WE ARE COMMITTED TO WELFARE OF AUTO DRIVERS: DYCM PAWAN KALYAN, MINISTER LOKESH



**Diary Times Desk :** Reiterating the NDA government's commitment to people's welfare, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said, "We are standing by every section of society, and honouring every election promise. Auto drivers faced hardship due to Green Tax, and poor roads, and we acted swiftly to provide them real relief."

Within just 18 months, the coalition government has repaired damaged roads, and addressed people's grievances that were ignored by the previous regime.

"Despite financial constraints, we are willing to shoulder this burden to ensure their livelihoods are protected. The Auto Drivers Sevala programme compensates any losses due to Stree Shakti scheme, and reflects our responsibility towards auto drivers' welfare," he said.

Highlighting the 'double engine government' in the State, HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said, "Because of the excellent cooperation of the Central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the State government led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, we are able to fulfil every poll promise, and implement welfare schemes despite financial constraints."

District Incharge Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath, Central MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, District Collector G Lakshmesh and others participated in the programme.

## VIJAY'S RALLY IN TAMIL NADU'S KARUR

**"WE'RE 'P' TEAM": BJP AS OPPOSITION ALLEGES ACTOR VIJAY IS THEIR 'B-TEAM'**

**Diary Times Desk :** Days after the stampede at actor-turned-politician Vijay's rally in Tamil Nadu's Karur that killed 41 people, BJP leader Khusbu Sundar called it a "planned" and "created" incident. She also slammed Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) for "not providing" a proper space to Vijay to hold his rally.

"The entire people of Tamil Nadu believe that there was complete negligence. It seems like it was a created calamity because DMK knew the kind of crowd Vijay was going to garner - despite this, they did not give him a proper space to conduct the rally. MK Stalin is in a mute mode now and not answering questions. 41 people died. He should speak now; someone needs to unmute him," Sundar said.

41 people died and at least 60 were injured in the stampede during Vijay's rally on September 27 in Karur. According to eyewitnesses, a power outage, a sudden surge of the crowd, and a narrow space contributed to the deadly incident. The actor-turned-politician, who was supposed to arrive at the venue at 12 pm, turned up around 7 pm.

The crowd had swelled till Vijay arrived, and he brought another crowd surge with his campaign bus, an eyewitness said. During this time, many people climbed trees, roofs, and power lines, due to which authorities had to cut electrical lines to avoid cases of electrocution. When Vijay arrived, people started pushing each other and threw slippers at the campaign bus to get Vijay's attention, he said, adding that during this time, many people fainted.

Sundar, however, questioned the police's action. "Why did the police use a lathi charge? A lot of videos have emerged now. It must be a planned and created incident," she said.

## INTERNET BANNED, 36-HOUR CURFEW IN ODISHA'S CUTTACK AFTER CLASHES



**Diary Times Desk :** Odisha's Cuttack, the thousand-year-old city long celebrated for its communal harmony, remained on edge on Sunday after fresh incidents of violence erupted following clashes during Durga Puja idol immersion two days earlier.

The clashes allegedly stem from disagreements over loud music during a procession in the city's Dargah Bazaar area, which have since spiralled into an internet shutdown, a bandh call, and appeals for peace from across the political spectrum. The city administration has imposed a 36-hour curfew across several areas, including the Dargah Bazaar region.

Clash At Dargah Bazaar According to police and witnesses, the first outbreak of violence occurred between 1:30 am and 2 am on Saturday, when a Durga idol immersion procession passing through the Dargah Bazaar area towards the banks of the Kathajodi river was halted by a group of locals who objected to high-decibel music being played late at night.

The disagreement quickly escalated. Stones and glass bottles were allegedly thrown from rooftops as members of the procession retaliated. Several people, including Cuttack's Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo, were injured in the chaos.

BJP HITS OUT AT CONGRESS FOR 'SIDING WITH ENEMY' OVER  
REPORTS OF RUSSIA AIDING PAKISTAN JETS

**Diary Times Desk :** The BJP on Sunday termed reports about Russia proceeding with the supply of JF-17 jet engines to Pakistan a "reckless information warfare" and slammed the Congress for raising the issue on social media, accusing it of choosing the "side of the enemy" instead of India. Citing media reports on Saturday, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh had asked the government why India's "once most reliable strategic ally" Russia is "providing" military support to Pakistan by supplying engines of Chinese-made JF-17 fighter jets.

In a post on X, the Congress Rajya Sabha MP had also called it a failure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "personalised brand of diplomacy". Hitting back, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya cited another media report and said Russia has dismissed claims of Moscow proceeding with the supply of RD-93MA engines to Pakistan for integration into the JF-17 Thunder Block III fighter jets.



MAN WITH RS 50 LAKH SALARY SAYS HE "DOESN'T FEEL RICH  
ENOUGH" TO SHOP AT LUXURY AIRPORT STORES

**Diary Times Desk :** A man earning Rs 50 lakh per annum (LPA) has sparked discussion on social media after admitting he doesn't feel "rich enough" to shop at luxury airport stores. The Twitter user shared photos of high-end stores like Swarovski, Dior, and The White Crow at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, saying he lacks confidence in making purchases.

"Even after 50LPA+ CTC, I don't feel rich and confident enough to purchase from these Airport Shops," the post says.

His post resonated with many, highlighting the psychological barrier to luxury consumption. His admission has sparked a conversation about income, lifestyle aspirations, and the allure of luxury spaces.

Some users pointed out that a 50 LPA salary doesn't necessarily translate to disposable income, while others noted that these stores cater to a specific audience – generationally wealthy individuals, foreigners, or those with transit flights.

One user wrote, "Bro, airport shops aren't retail—they're psychological warfare. You walk in with a 50LPA CTC and still feel like a broke intern next to a ₹900 Toblerone and a ₹3,200 neck pillow that looks like it's judging you."

ILLEGAL STRUCTURES RAZED, GOVT LAND WORTH RS 3,600  
CRORE IN HYDERABAD RECLAIMED



**Diary Times Desk :** The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) reclaimed 36 acres of prime government land valued at approximately Rs 3,600 crore at Bikshapathi Nagar in Kondapur, Serilingampally mandal, by removing unauthorised structures early on Saturday amid heavy police deployment. The operation was carried out following a directive from the high court.

The land, situated near the Kondapur RTA office under Survey No 59, had been under illegal occupation for several years. Denying that they had encroached upon the land, local residents claimed they had been living there for several years and that the government had distributed pattas to them.

A heated argument ensued between HYDRAA teams and the occupants, who attempted to obstruct JCBs from carrying out the demolitions.

BRS SLAMS RTC BUS FARE HIKE  
IN HYDERABAD

**Diary Times Desk :** Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has slammed the Congress government for the hike in bus fares in Hyderabad. BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao said on Sunday that the decision to hike city bus charges by Rs 10 at once is reprehensible. He took to 'X' to react to the decision of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) to hike the bus fares.

KTR, as the BRS leader is popularly known, accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of emptying the pockets of poor middle-class passengers in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The BRS leader said that at a time when people are struggling with rising prices of essential commodities, an additional burden of 500 rupees per month is imposed on every passenger. He said the Chief Minister should explain how the poor will survive. "As if increasing student bus charges and T-24 ticket charges weren't enough already, now raising ticket prices by 50 per cent without any mercy is a testament to Revanth's incompetent policies," he said.

INVITED BY FRIEND FOR PARTY, SCHOOL  
TEACHER GANG-RAPED BY FOUR GYM  
TRAINERS IN GURUGRAM

**Diary Times Desk :** A female school teacher has accused four men of sexually assaulting her after being called to a friend's house in Gurugram for a party late at night. All four suspects, identified as gym trainers, have been arrested and sent to judicial custody, News18 reported citing police.

As per the report, the woman, who teaches foreign languages at a noted school in the city, lives in Gurugram with her husband. She met one of the accused, Gaurav, 37, from Himachal Pradesh, at a party in September. The two stayed in touch after exchanging phone numbers and met several times over the following weeks.

On October 1, Gaurav allegedly called the woman and asked to meet her. Since, she was already out, she agreed and was given the address of his friend Neeraj, 32, who lives in the city. When she reached late that night, Gaurav allegedly assaulted her.

Police was quoted as saying that he then called his friends Neeraj, Yogesh, 29, and Abhishek, 28, who also raped the woman.

ARMY WANTS NEW GUN FOR AIR DEFENCE  
ALONG PAKISTAN BORDER

**Diary Times Desk :** The Indian Army is looking at a new gun for its layered air defence system along the border with Pakistan. The gun can be especially used against enemy drones, loitering munitions and missiles.

The Army has issued a request for proposal (RFP) for the procurement of six AK630 30-mm multi-barrel mobile air defence guns. An RFP is the second stage of tender process, it will be followed by price negotiation and contract signing.

The project, with participation from Advance Weapon and Equipment India Ltd (AWEIL), is aimed at enhancing India's layered air defence shield against evolving aerial threats. The AWEIL is a company owned by the Ministry of Defence.



'ROOM IN OUR HOME  
USURPED, MUST RECLAIM  
IT': MOHAN BHAGWAT'S  
CALL FOR UNITY

**Diary Times Desk :**  
Stressing the oneness of entire Bharat, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday referred to the Partition of India, and said "a room in our home" usurped by someone has to be reclaimed.

Addressing a gathering in Satna after inaugurating a gurdwara at Sindhi Camp, Bhagwat said the Partition (of India) displaced people who had to leave their homes and belongings behind.

"They must reclaim them one day and once again set up their dwellings", he added.

"Irrespective of one's language or sect, we all are one, we all are Hindus," he said.  
Bhagwat stated that many Sindhi brothers chose to live in undivided Bharat. "I am glad they did not go to Pakistan. They chose the undivided Bharat. This feeling should go down to the new generation, because we have a home (in Pakistan), though the situation made us leave that home. These two homes are not apart," he said.

TRADE DEAL WITH US HAS  
TO RESPECT INDIA'S 'RED  
LINES': JAISHANKAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Any trade deal between India and the US has to respect New Delhi's "red lines" and efforts are under way to find a "landing ground", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday amid strain in ties between the two countries over Washington's policy on tariff.  
In an interactive session at an event, Jaishankar acknowledged having issues between India and the US and that many of them are linked to the inability to firm up the proposed trade deal.

The external affairs minister said an understanding on trade between the two sides is necessary as the US is the world's largest market but at the same time noted that India's red lines should be respected.  
"We today have issues with the United States. A big part of it is the fact that we have not arrived at a landing ground for our trade discussions, and the inability so far to reach there has led to a certain tariff being levied on India," he said.  
Jaishankar was speaking at the discussion on the theme 'Shaping Foreign Policy in Turbulent Times' at the Kautilya Economic Enclave.

RAT DEPLOYED 'UNCOMMANDED' ON AIR INDIA  
FLIGHT MINUTES BEFORE LANDING AT  
BIRMINGHAM; DGCA LAUNCHES PROBE



**Diary Times Desk :** In a major incident involving an Air India plane, Ram Air Turbine (RAT), which is usually used in case of engine failures, got deployed without any command from a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft a few minutes before landing at the Birmingham airport on Saturday, according to officials.  
Aviation watchdog DGCA is probing the incident involving aircraft VT-ANO operating the flight AI117 from Amritsar to Birmingham on October 4. The plane landed safely, the officials said on Sunday. Generally, RAT gets deployed automatically in the eventuality of a dual engine failure or electrical/electronic or hydraulic failure, among others. It uses wind speed to generate emergency power. The incident has also raised safety concerns, with the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) urging DGCA to carry out thorough checks and investigate the electrical system of all Boeing 787 aircraft in the country.

'NOT OUR CULTURE': HINDU OUTFIT  
MEMBER INTERRUPTS RISHIKESH  
DANCE AUDITION, OBJECTS TO  
WOMEN'S 'INAPPROPRIATE' ATTIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** A man allegedly barged into a hotel in Rishikesh where auditions for a singing and dance competition were being held and created a ruckus over the women's attire, claiming what they were wearing was "inappropriate".

This led to a huge quarrel with the women on Friday who told him that they have all the necessary permission for the event. The matter blew up later on social media after a purported video of the incident surfaced.  
According to eyewitnesses, the man, claiming to be a member of a Hindu outfit, entered the audition venue at the hotel's basement without the organisers' permission and began pressuring the women to leave immediately, calling their attire "inappropriate".

REPORTED SALE OF RD-93  
ENGINES TO PAKISTAN WILL  
BENEFIT INDIA: RUSSIAN  
EXPERTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Russian defence experts on Sunday said the reported sale of RD-93 engines to Pakistan for integration into the JF-17 will actually benefit Delhi, dismissing the criticism of the Indian government by the opposition over the issue as unjustified.

"I don't think the criticism here is justified. If reports about Russia providing engines for the JF-17 are correct, it actually benefits India in two ways," Pyotr Topychkanov, who heads the Section on New Challenges in South and Southeast Asia at the prestigious Moscow-based Primakov Institute, told PTL.  
"First, it shows that China and Pakistan haven't yet managed to replace the Russian-origin engine. Second, the new aircraft will be familiar and predictable to India, especially since they share the same engine and India observed the JF-17's operational use during the May 2025 crisis (Operation Sindoor)," he added.

INDIA, AUSTRALIA LIKELY TO SIGN 3  
MILITARY AGREEMENTS DURING  
RAJNATH'S VISIT THIS WEEK

**Diary Times Desk :** India and Australia are likely to ink three military-related agreements this week to enhance cooperation in the areas of information-sharing, maritime domain, and joint military activities.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the agreements are planned to be signed when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be on a two-day official visit to Australia on October 9 and 10 at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Australia Richard Marles.  
It will be the first visit of a defence minister to Australia under this government, since 2014, the Ministry of Defence said.

Richard Marles last visited India in June 2025 and met Rajnath, and also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

TREADMILL TUMBLE: KERALA BJP CHIEF RAJEEV  
CHANDRASEKHAR'S CALL FOR CAUTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Kerala BJP presidenon Sunday suffered minor injuries after falling from a treadmill.

Chandrasekhar shared pictures of bruises on his head on Facebook, narrating the incident with a touch of humour.

"If you are on a treadmill and try to reach out to a ringing phone — and are careless — there are chances you can slip and fall and scrape your face or injure yourself," he wrote, adding that he was speaking from personal experience.

"I have the embarrassing pain and scars to prove it. Moral of the story: use phone on a treadmill with extreme caution," he quipped.



## TRUMP AUTHORISES DEPLOYMENT OF 300 NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO CHICAGO

**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump has authorised the deployment of 300 National Guard troops to Chicago to address what he says is out-of-control crime.

The move came hours after immigration authorities said they faced off with protesters in the Democrat-run city. Officials said an "armed woman" was shot after claiming she and others rammed their cars into law enforcement vehicles.

State and local leaders have for weeks criticised Trump's deployment plans and called it an abuse of power. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker said Trump was "attempting to manufacture a crisis".

The announcement came as a federal judge in Portland, Oregon temporarily blocked the Trump administration from deploying 200 troops there.

Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement: "Agents were unable to move their vehicles and exited the car. One of the drivers who rammed the law enforcement vehicle was armed with a semi-automatic weapon."

## GEORGIA PROTESTERS TRY TO STORM TBILISI PRESIDENTIAL PALACE



**Diary Times Desk :** Police in Georgia have arrested five people after clashes with anti-government protesters trying to storm the presidential palace in the capital, Tbilisi.

Security forces used water cannons and pepper spray to disperse demonstrators.

The Caucasus country has been in crisis since the ruling Georgian Dream party claimed victory in last year's election, which the pro-European Union opposition says was stolen. Since then the government has paused talks on joining the EU.

The protest took place on the same day as local elections, which the opposition is largely boycotting following a government crackdown.

## INDONESIA SCHOOL COLLAPSE DEATH COUNT RISES TO 37, SEARCH ON FOR

**Diary Times Desk :** The death count from an Indonesian school collapse rose to 37 on Sunday, officials said, as rescuers recovered more victims buried under the rubble.

Part of the multi-storey building on Indonesia's Java island suddenly collapsed on Monday as students gathered for afternoon prayers.

"As of Sunday morning, the number of recovered victims was 141 people. 104 were in safe condition, 37 were dead," national search and rescue agency operations director Yudhi Bramantyo said in a statement. He added that 26 people were still missing.

The death count included a body part that rescuers retrieved from the rubble on Saturday, Yudhi said.

The recovery operation was around "60 percent" complete, national disaster agency official Budi Irawan told reporters, adding that he hoped it would be concluded soon.

## "IT WILL LAST A COUPLE OF DAYS": TRUMP ON GAZA DEAL TALKS



**Diary Times Desk :** President Donald Trump on Sunday said talks on implementing a truce for Gaza will take days, while his foreign policy chief Marco Rubio warned that Israel needs to stop bombing for a hostage release to happen.

"They're in negotiations right now as we speak. They've started the negotiations. It'll last a couple of days," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"We'll see how it turns out. But I'm hearing it's going very well," he added.

In a text exchange with CNN released Sunday, Trump said "yes" when asked if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was on board with ending the military campaign in Gaza.

Negotiators from Israel and Hamas were set to hold talks in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El-Sheikh, with Netanyahu expressing hope that hostages held in Gaza could be released within days.

## SYRIA COUNTS VOTES AFTER INDIRECT ELECTION FOR FIRST POST-ASSAD PARLIAMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Vote counting has begun in some districts in Syria's first parliamentary elections since the overthrow of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad, a landmark moment in the country's fragile transition after nearly 14 years of war.

Nawar Najmeh, spokesperson for Syria's Higher Election Committee, told the state-run SANA news agency that voting in Sunday's elections had concluded in some electoral districts, and the winning candidates will be announced during a news conference later in the day.

Members of Syria's electoral colleges had gathered to vote for the new lawmakers in a process being criticised as undemocratic, with a third of the 210 members of the revamped People's Assembly appointed by interim leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa. The remaining representatives have not been voted on directly by the people, but chosen instead by electoral colleges around the country.

## MORE GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS ALLEGE MISTREATMENT IN ISRAELI DETENTION



**Diary Times Desk :** International activists deported from Israel after joining an intercepted Gaza aid flotilla have given further accounts of mistreatment by guards during their detention.

The latest claims made by participants in the Global Sumud Flotilla added to the growing scrutiny of Israel on Sunday for its treatment of the activists.

Some 450 participants in the flotilla were arrested between Wednesday and Friday as Israeli forces intercepted the boats, which were seeking to break a naval blockade of Gaza and deliver a symbolic amount of aid to Palestinians in the besieged territory.

## 'EUROPE WEAKENED ITS POSITION IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON IRAN'S N-PROGRAMME'



**Diary Times Desk :** Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that Europe has weakened its position in future talks on Iran's nuclear programmes. He said that the three European nations have weakened their role and will play a much smaller part in any future talks, local media reported.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting with foreign ambassadors in Tehran on Sunday, Araqchi said all nations know about Iran's rightful stance and the manner in which Western powers created the situation. He stressed that Iran has consistently sought fair and balanced solutions and accused Western nations of rejecting them due to their excessive demands, Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported.

Speaking on the recent talks held in New York, Araghchi called diplomacy the only way forward. He stated: "For years, they threatened military action and used the snapback mechanism, but just as war was not a solution."

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POLICE RELEASE PHOTOS OF MOSQUE ARSON SUSPECTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Police investigating a report of suspected arson at a mosque in East Sussex have issued images of two people they wish to identify.

Fire crews were called to the mosque on Phyllis Avenue in Peacehaven at about 21:50 BST on Saturday. While no-one was injured in the incident, the front entrance of the building and a vehicle parked outside were damaged according to Sussex Police, who are investigating it as a hate crime.

Det Insp Gavin Patch said: "This was an appalling and reckless attack which we know will have left many people feeling less safe."

The photos show one man wearing a distinctive black jacket with a Pre London logo in white on the chest.

The second is wearing bright red gloves.

"We are treating this as an arson with intent to endanger life and are continuing to pursue a number of lines of enquiry to identify those responsible," added Det Insp Patch.

There has been an increased police presence at the scene since the incident, as well as additional patrols taking place at other places of worship across the county to provide reassurance, the force said.

A volunteer at the mosque, who asked not to be named, told the BBC two people tried to enter through the front door, only to find it locked.

They then poured a liquid at the entrance and near a car parked outside, which was set alight, he added.



51 KILLED IN LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS NETANYAHU HOPES TO ANNOUNCE  
TRIGGERED BY DOWNPOUR IN NEPAL RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES FROM GAZA

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 51 people have been killed in different places of eastern Nepal till Sunday morning in various incidents caused by landslides and floods triggered by downpour since Saturday night, an official of the Armed Police Force said.

As many as 37 people have been killed in different places of Ilam district in Koshi province due to landslides triggered by heavy rain in the past two days, said Kalidas Dhaubaji, spokesperson of the Armed Police Force (APF).

Of the 37, eight people each were killed in Deumai and Maijogmai municipalities, six each in Ilam municipality and Sandakpur rural municipality, five in Suryodaya municipality, three in Mangsebung and one in Fakfokthum village.

**'IN COMING DAYS'**

**Diary Times Desk :** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hopes to announce the release of all hostages from Gaza "in the coming days," as Israel and Hamas prepare for indirect talks in Egypt on Monday on a new US plan to end the war.

In a brief statement late Saturday, Netanyahu said he has sent a delegation to Egypt "to finalise technical details," adding that "our goal is to contain these negotiations to a time frame of a few days." But Netanyahu signalled there would not be a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, something Hamas has long demanded. He said Israel's military will continue to hold territories it controls in Gaza, and that Hamas will be disarmed in the plan's second phase, diplomatically .

PUTIN WARNS RELATIONS WITH US WILL BE DESTROYED IF IT SUPPLIES TOMAHAWK  
MISSILES TO UKRAINE



**Diary Times Desk :** Russian President Vladimir Putin said that if the United States supplied Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine for long-range strikes deep into Russia then it would lead to the destruction of Moscow's relationship with Washington.

Less than two months since US President Donald Trump met Putin at a summit in Alaska, peace looks even further away with Russian forces advancing in Ukraine, Russian drones allegedly flying in NATO airspace and now Washington talking about direct participation in striking deep into the world's biggest nuclear power.

Trump has said he is disappointed with Putin for not making peace and has cast Russia as a "paper tiger" for failing to subdue Ukraine. Putin last week hit back, questioning if NATO was not the "paper tiger" for failing to stop Russia's advance.

US Vice President JD Vance said last month that Washington was considering a Ukrainian request to obtain long-range Tomahawks that could strike deep into Russia, including Moscow, though it is unclear if a final decision has been made.

ONLY 5% INDIAN STUDENTS  
PER CAMPUS, TRUMP GOVT  
ISSUES NEW DIKTAT; 15%  
CAP ON INTL STUDENTS

**Diary Times Desk :**

The United States government has sent a memo to nine universities asking them to meet several requirements if they want "preferential access" to federal funds. Under a new 10-point memo issued by the Trump administration, US colleges must cap international undergraduate students at 15% of total enrollment. Moreover, no more than 5% of students can come from a single country.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the memo instructs universities to reduce foreign student enrollment and overhaul departments that "belittle" conservative ideas. The White House has not publicly explained why these specific universities were chosen.

The memo is titled "A Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education". Key requirements include:

Admissions and financial aid must not consider race or sex for students, faculty, or staff.

Universities must publicly share admissions data, including GPA and test scores, broken down by race, sex, and national origin.

All applicants must take standardised tests like the SAT.

Tuition fees must be frozen for five years, administrative costs reduced, and graduate earnings by program publicly shared.

INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN  
EXTRADITED FROM US TO  
CANADA IN 2021 ASSAULT  
CASE

**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian-origin man, arrested in Texas over an assault case by the United States Marshals Service, has been extradited to Canada, local media reported.

Sukhpreet Singh, 25, is one of the several suspects wanted in connection with the assault of Elnaz Hajtamiri in 2021 in Canada, CTV News reported on Friday.

He was arrested in June this year by the members of the United States Marshals Service and charged in August, the report quoted York Regional Police as saying.

Singh, extradited to York Region on Tuesday, is facing charges of aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence, it added.

A Canada-wide warrant was issued for Singh in 2023 after he was identified as a suspect in the violent attack on Hajtamiri in an underground parking garage in Richmond Hill, City News reported. In 2022, four suspects, including Hajtamiri's ex-boyfriend, Mohamad Lilo, were charged in connection with the assault, attempted murder and attempted kidnapping, the report added.

LITHUANIA'S VILNIUS AIRPORT SUSPENDS TRAFFIC OVER POSSIBLE BALLOONS IN AIRSPACE; FLIGHTS DIVERTED

**Diary Times Desk :** Lithuania suspended air traffic at Vilnius Airport due to balloons possibly flying in its airspace, and flights have been diverted to neighbouring countries, the airport's operator said late on Saturday.

European aviation has repeatedly been thrown into chaos in recent weeks by drone sightings and air incursions, including at airports in Copenhagen and Munich. "The decision was made due to a possible series of balloons heading toward Vilnius Airport," the operator said in a statement on its Facebook page. "As a result of this incident, flights have been affected." At 23:40 GMT, the airport said that the closure was expected to last until 4:30 am on Sunday (01:30 GMT), two hours later than the previous estimate. Travellers should check for updates on the airport's website and through airline announcements, it said.



MILLIONS ALLOCATED TO HELP RESTORE AGRICULTURAL AREAS DAMAGED IN IRON SWORDS WAR

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Reconstruction Administration will support the restoration of lands/fields damaged in the "Iron Swords" war.

Within this framework, they will provide 9 million Shekels (USD 2.72 million) for the restoration of agricultural lands destroyed due to military activity and terror attacks. During the "Iron Swords" War, extensive agricultural areas were used for military activity, which led to serious damage to the soil structure and fertility, the growth capacity of agricultural crops, as well as the quality and quantity of the crop in the short and long term. In addition, access to some fields was restricted due to the war, and therefore the required treatments were not carried out, which harms the ability to grow in agricultural areas for several seasons to come.

INDIA CHARTS COURSE FOR 2026 BRICS PRESIDENCY AT RI CONFERENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** India hosted the 4th BRICS RI International Conference, bringing together diplomats, scholars, and policymakers for two days of high-level discussions on the theme "BRICS Multilateralism: Peace & Security, Economic Development & Cultural Exchanges."

Speakers emphasised that the forum allows the Indian community to contribute to shaping the agenda of the upcoming BRICS Summit, ensuring it reflects both India's priorities and the group's shared vision, TV BRICS reported.

BRICS Sherpa, Dammu Ravi, reflected on India's evolving role within the bloc and underlined the importance of building consensus on shared priorities ahead of the 2026 Summit.

MUSLIM COUNCIL OF ELDERS CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN UNITED KINGDOM

**Diary Times Desk :** The Muslim Council of Elders has strongly condemned the criminal attacks that have recently taken place in the United Kingdom, targeting a mosque in Peacehaven, near the city of Brighton on the country's southern coast, which was deliberately set on fire, as well as a Jewish synagogue in Manchester, resulting in casualties and injuries.

In a statement today, the council firmly rejected such acts of terrorism, which constitute a flagrant violation of the sanctity of houses of worship and a blatant assault on human values, societal principles, and the teachings of all religions and divine laws, as well as international conventions that call for respecting religions and protecting their sacred sites. It stresses that attacking places of worship is a form of terrorism and extremism that threatens peace and stability within societies.

ISRAEL CALLS ON UN TO COLLECT, DISTRIBUTE UNDELIVERED GAZA AID

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel on Sunday called on the United Nations to step up its efforts to collect and distribute undelivered humanitarian aid sitting on the Palestinian side of the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

The crossing will be closed on Monday and Tuesday due to the start of the week-long Sukkot holiday, said Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT).

"On the Gazan side of Kerem Shalom, hundreds of trucks' worth of food – thousands of pallets – are still waiting for collection by the UN and international organizations," COGAT said.

"Over the past month, more than 7,000 truckloads of food entered Gaza – well above the assessed need in the Strip. We urge the UN and international organizations: come collect the food and deliver it to the people who need it," it added.

The week-long holiday of Sukkot begins Monday night. The October 7 attack took place during the festive holiday of Simchat Torah, which concludes Sukkot. Simchat Torah begins at sundown on Monday.

The crossing was similarly closed on Wednesday and Thursday during the Yom Kippur holiday.

ANTISEMITISM INTENSIFYING WORLDWIDE SINCE OCTOBER 7 HAMAS ATTACK, REPORT WARNS

**Diary Times Desk :** Two years after the deadly October 7, 2023, Hamas attack in Israel, antisemitism has surged into a global crisis, according to a new report by the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM). The report warns that hatred of Jews has not only persisted but intensified, spreading across borders and into mainstream society.

"The Hamas massacre was not only an attack on Israel; it was a turning point for Jews everywhere," said Sacha Roytman Dratwa, CEO of the U.S.-based CAM. "Two years later, the wounds have not healed -- and the hatred has not faded. What followed was the largest surge in antisemitism in modern history -- and that surge has not slowed. It has deepened, spread, and been excused." CAM's Antisemitism Research Centre documented 13,339 incidents worldwide between October 7, 2023, and October 1, 2025. The final three months of 2023 alone nearly matched the total number of cases recorded in all of 2022, while 2024 shattered previous records with more than 6,300 incidents -- double the year before. The United States has seen a particularly sharp rise, with antisemitic acts on university campuses almost tripling from 249 in 2022 to 742 in 2024. The trend has continued into 2025, with over 5,100 incidents already reported by early October and projections nearing 6,800 by year's end.



ISLAMIC ARTS FESTIVAL APPROVES ARTWORKS FOR 26TH EDITION



**Diary Times Desk :** The Higher Committee of the Islamic Arts Festival has approved the artworks for the 26th edition, scheduled to take place in November under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

The decision was made during a meeting at the Sharjah Department of Culture, chaired by Mohammed Ibrahim Al Qaseer, Director of Cultural Affairs and Festival Director, alongside members of the Higher Committee.

The committee has intensified preparations for this new edition, which aims to reflect the Ruler of Sharjah's vision of arts as a global cultural language. The festival continues to strengthen its international presence by hosting artists from around the world.

Invitations were sent to artists, and the selected works embody innovative ideas aligned with this edition's theme, Siraj, meaning "light."

SPECTATOR KILLED, EIGHT INJURED IN VARNA MOUNTAIN CAR RACE CRASH

**Diary Times Desk :** A spectator died and eight people were injured during an accident at the "Aladzha Monastery" mountain climbing car race, which is taking place in Varna, the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Interior in Varna announced.

A person from the audience died when the car crashed into it after the driver missed the turn and went over the guardrail.

The deceased is 60 years old. A 27-year-old woman is in intensive care with life-threatening injuries. A 39-year-old man is in orthopedics with an ankle fracture.

TWO KILLED AMID SURGE IN ISRAELI-ARAB VIOLENCE

**Diary Times Desk :** The wave of deadly violence in Israel's Arab communities shows no sign of slowing, as two people were killed in separate incidents during the weekend, bringing the number of Arab sector homicides in 2025 to 192.

Early Sunday morning, a 50-year-old man from the northern Israeli village of Deir al-Assad was shot and killed while sitting in his car, Israeli police reported. The victim, whose name has not been released, was taken to the Galilee Medical Center in critical condition but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Meanwhile, in Rahat, a Bedouin city in southern Israel, authorities arrested three suspects in connection with a fatal shooting on Saturday night, which appears to have been a retaliatory attack stemming from a knife fight between two men. Police said the incident reignited a long-standing blood feud between rival families.

NEW FAO FORECASTS POINT TO HIGHER CEREAL PRODUCTION, UTILISATION, STOCKS, TRADE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) released updated forecasts for global cereal production in 2025, with total output now pegged at 2 971 million tonnes, up 3.8% from last year's level and marking the largest annual growth since 2013.

The new Cereal Supply and Demand Brief attributed the upward revisions to higher production prospects across all crops. Notable increases are anticipated for wheat in Australia, maize in the United States of America, and rice in India.

World cereal total utilisation in 2025/26 is now forecast to rise to 2 930 million tonnes, with plentiful supplies available for both human consumption and animal feed.

Briefing reporters, Slavi Slavov, director of the race, said the victims were in a place off-limits to the public. He specified that there was a warning sign and tape placed in the area of the incident.

The driver of the car was not injured. He voluntarily gave a blood sample to determine beyond a doubt whether or not he had used alcohol or drugs before getting behind the wheel.

INDIAN ARMY ASSISTS IN SWIFT FLOOD RESCUE OPERATION IN BHUTAN

**Diary Times Desk :** A sudden flood in the Amochu River area early Sunday morning left several families and workers stranded in Bhutan's temporary housing and workforce camp. Despite challenging weather conditions, a coordinated rescue effort between Bhutanese authorities and the Indian Army ensured all affected individuals were brought to safety.

SYRIA HOLDS FIRST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SINCE FALL OF BASHAR-AL ASSAD

**Diary Times Desk :** Members of the electoral colleges in Syria on Sunday morning voted for the first Syrian Parliamentary Elections since the country's ruler Bashar al-Assad was overthrown.

State media reported that that voting process, which will mark the formation of the first Syrian People's Assembly since the fall of the defunct regime.

Sana news agency reported that voting was held at designated electoral district centres across most provinces, as set by the Higher Committee for Parliamentary Elections. The 11 members of the Committee were chosen by the president in June.

A later date will be scheduled for voting in Kurdish controlled certain areas of Raqqqa and Hasakah provinces (Ma'dan, Ras al-Ayn, and Tal Abyad), while seats in the remaining districts of these provinces, as well as all districts in Sweida province, will remain vacant until conditions allow, the news outlet said.

Syria's new transitional government doesn't control all of the country and authorities say they have postponed the polls for security reasons in parts of the Druze region of Sweida and also the Kurdish areas of eastern Syria which saw deadly fighting between government forces and Druze militias.



When a Druk Air helicopter was unable to take off due to inclement weather in Paro, Bhutan sought urgent support from India.

Responding swiftly, the Indian Army deployed two helicopters at the site around 12:55 PM (local time). The teams airlifted stranded workers to safety and ensured they received immediate medical care, Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management, Bhutan said in a release. The helicopters successfully airlifted the three stranded individuals to the CST ground, from where they were transported to the hospital for medical care.

In a positive turn of events, it was later confirmed that the two previously reported missing workers were also found alive and safe.

### Taylor Swift Brings Music Craze Back to the Box Office

**Diary Times Desk :** After another bittersweet end to the summer box office season, American multiplexes are going to “shake it off.”

The AMC-distributed “Taylor Swift: The Official Release Party of a Showgirl” opened Friday as part of a three-day run in 3,700 theaters to coincide with Swift’s 12th studio album, “The Life of a Showgirl,” providing a much-needed lift for movie theaters. The movie pulled in \$15.8 million domestically on Friday, according to a statement AMC shared with CNN, and is expected to earn up to \$30 million domestically over the three-day weekend.

The limited theatrical run comes about two years after the release of “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour,” which was the biggest opening weekend for a concert movie (\$93 million domestically) and the highest-grossing concert movie domestically (\$180 million), according to Box Office Mojo.

While “The Eras Tour” movie was a collection of concert scenes spread across three days at one venue, “The Official Release Party of a Showgirl” is similar to the private listening parties Swift hosted in 2017. The 89-minute movie includes a music video, behind-the-scenes footage, lyric videos and Swift’s personal reflections on songs from the album, according to AMC’s website.

### Rite Aid Closes All Remaining Stores After 63 Years in Business

**Diary Times Desk :** Rite Aid, once one of America’s biggest pharmacy chains, shuttered its remaining 89 stores this week after filing for bankruptcy in May for the second time in less than two years.

“All Rite Aid stores have now closed. We thank our loyal customers for their many years of support,” the company said in a statement on its website.

The company’s website, which has since removed all of its services, remains available for former customers to request pharmaceutical records or locate another nearby pharmacy to fulfill prescriptions.

### Swifties Flock to Movie Theaters for ‘Taylor Swift: The Official Release Party of a Showgirl’

**Diary Times Desk :** In an unprecedented win for a theatrical release announced just two weeks ago, the album debut event from American pop superstar Taylor Swift topped the domestic box office with about \$33 million domestically.

“Taylor Swift: The Official Release Party of a Showgirl,” released in theaters for a three-day run to coincide with Swift’s latest album, “The Life of a Showgirl,” played in more than 3,700 theatres in the United States and Canada and in another 3,588 cinemas internationally. The movie earned an estimated \$13 million internationally, according to AMC, bringing its global earnings to \$46 million.

Unlike Swift’s 2023 “The Eras Tour” movie, which broke concert movie records, “The Official Release Party of a Showgirl” is the only album-debut movie to finish first at the domestic box office and is the highest-grossing album-debut movie at the box office, according to AMC.

“Taylor Swift just realizes how important a movie theater is as a cultural touchstone. Her fans can all be together without having to go to one of her concerts,” said Paul Dergarabedian, head of marketplace trends at Comscore.



### Trump Considers Massive Bailout of at Least \$10 Billion for American Farmers Hurt by His Trade War

**Diary Times Desk :** American farmers are having a tough year, in no small part because of President Donald Trump’s trade war. Now, the White House is gearing up to extend them a multi-billion-dollar bailout, sources tell CNN.

Surging costs and foreign retaliation from tariffs have hurt the US agriculture industry — as have immigration-related labor shortages and plummeting commodity prices.

Farm production expenses are estimated to reach \$467.4 billion in 2025, according to the Agriculture Department, up \$12 billion from last year.

Farm bankruptcies rose in the first half of the year to the highest level since 2021, according to US courts data. Trump’s policies have exacerbated those woes, from the deportation of the industry’s key migrant workforce to renewed trade tensions between the United States and China. And for traditional American crops, such as soybeans, the situation has grown particularly precarious.



### How to Protect Your Money When You’re Married to a Gambling Addict

**Diary Times Desk :** No matter how much they may love their families, gambling addicts can pose direct financial harm to them.

That harm might range from never repaying loans to stealing their spouse’s and children’s identities to access more credit. It could involve emptying joint bank accounts and college funds, or tapping home equity. It could mean getting into trouble with the IRS and facing the prospect of wage garnishment or property liens. Or it could lead to stealing money at work to pay gambling debts and then losing their job, reducing the family’s income.

Whatever the scenario, it’s often the problem gamblers’ spouses who try to remedy the damage to the family finances, as well as prevent future financial abuse of themselves and their kids.

While problem gambling is not new, it could become more prevalent. Ever since the Supreme Court struck down in 2018 a federal ban on state-authorized betting, which paved the way for the legalization of online sports betting sites.



FAIR PRICES, MORE  
FLIGHTS: AVIATION  
BODY TO AIRLINES  
BEFORE DIWALI RUSH

Diary Times Desk :

As the aviation sector braces for one of its busiest travel periods of the year, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has stepped in to prevent sharp fare hikes ahead of the Diwali season. The regulator has directed domestic airlines to increase flight capacity and maintain fair pricing amid a surge in passenger demand.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the DGCA said it had "proactively taken up the issue with airlines" to ensure passengers are not burdened by inflated ticket prices during the festive period. The move, it added, follows a review of airfare trends across major routes.

Responding to the regulator's advisory, major carriers have announced the deployment of hundreds of additional flights through October and November. IndiGo, which holds India's largest market share at 64.2 per cent, said it would operate around 730 additional flights across 42 sectors. Air India and Air India Express together will add approximately 486 flights across 20 routes. SpiceJet will deploy 546 additional services covering 38 sectors.

**RECORD IPO WEEK  
AHEAD: 7 ISSUES,  
INCLUDING TATA  
CAPITAL AND LG  
ELECTRONICS, TO HIT  
DALAL ST; TO RAISE  
OVER RS 30,000 CR**

Diary Times Desk : The week starting from October 6 is set to be the biggest ever for the primary market in terms of fund raising size as seven IPOs worth much more than Rs 30,000 crore will hit Dalal Street. Though it is smaller in terms of number of IPOs seen in previous two weeks.

The last record week for the Indian primary market was led by passenger vehicle maker Hyundai Motor India alone, which had raised Rs 27,859 crore in October 2024.

Non-banking finance company Tata Capital will be the first to launch its Rs 15,512-crore IPO on October 6 with price band of Rs 310-326 per share. This would be the largest initial share sale by the NBFC in India and the biggest since Hyundai IPO.

UBER AND LYFT DRIVERS IN CALIFORNIA WIN THE RIGHT TO  
UNIONIZE



**Diary Times Desk :** More than 800,000 drivers for ride-hailing companies in California will soon be able to join a union and bargain collectively for better wages and benefits under a measure signed Friday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Supporters said the new law will open a path for the largest expansion of private sector collective bargaining rights in the state's history. The legislation is a significant compromise in the yearslong battle between labor unions and tech companies.

California is the second state where Uber and Lyft drivers can unionize as independent contractors. Massachusetts voters passed a ballot referendum in November allowing unionization, while drivers in Illinois and Minnesota are pushing for similar rights.

Newsom announced the signing at an unrelated news conference at University of California, Berkeley. The new law will give drivers "dignity and a say about their future," he said.

MARKET SHOWS SIGNS OF A RECOVERY AS BENCHMARKS END  
LOSING STREAK



**Diary Times Desk :** India's equity market is showing signs of a pullback after facing a brutal selling spree for eight straight sessions.

Following the outcome of the latest RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting and dovish tone of its members, the market broke its losing streak with the benchmark indices - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty - gaining about 1% each during the week.

The Nifty settled the Friday session at 24,894.25 and the Sensex at 81,207.17.

"The RBI's policy decision was the central highlight of the week," said Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking. The MPC kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.5% for the second consecutive meeting, while revising the FY26 GDP growth projection upward to 6.8% and lowering its inflation forecast.

On the positive side, GST collections rose 9.1% year-on-year to Rs 1.89 lakh crore in September, highlighting resilient consumption trends.

"The market enters the new week with cautious optimism. The RBI's supportive policy stance and strong GST collections offer domestic comfort, though volatility could persist due to FII outflows and global headwinds. Investors should closely track Q2 earnings, particularly from IT and banking heavyweights, for cues on sectoral leadership. A buy-on-dips strategy remains advisable, with a preference for domestic cyclicals such as metals, autos, financials, and themes like defense, while selectively adding from other sectors," stated Mishra.

The rebound was broad-based, with all major sectors ending in positive territory. Metals led the rally, climbing nearly 4% on firm global cues, followed by banking and financials, which advanced between 1.6% and 2.2%. Primary market activity is set to remain strong this week, with large IPOs from Tata Capital and LG Electronics lined up.

**LUDHIANA GRAIN  
MARKET SHED  
OCCUPIED BY CEMENT-  
LADEN TRUCKS WHILE  
FARMERS STRUGGLE TO  
PROTECT PADDY FROM  
RAIN**

**Diary Times Desk :** This morning's rainfall once again exposed the glaring infrastructural gaps at the grain market located on Gill Road near Arora Palace in Ludhiana. With no adequate shed facility available, farmers were seen hurriedly covering their harvested paddy produce with tarpaulins to protect it from moisture damage.

What added to their woes was the fact that the limited shed area at the market was already occupied — not by grain, but by trucks loaded with cement sacks. The presence of these trucks raised eyebrows among farmers, who questioned why non-agricultural goods were being stored in a space meant to safeguard food grains. “Who allowed these trucks to be stationed here?” asked several farmers.

## INDIA NOW A GLOBAL MANUFACTURING HUB, REFORMS BOOSTING ECONOMY: ANURAG

**Diary Times Desk :** Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur today addressed students of the IIT-Mandi during an event on the theme of “Kulhad Economy”, highlighting its alignment with the Make in India initiative and local empowerment. Anurag called the theme a symbol of India’s grass-roots economic vision. He said, “The Kulhad economy is about empowering the bottom line of society and integrating it into India’s mainstream just like Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision.”

Anurag said, "India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy and a global manufacturing powerhouse, thanks to Make in India and Startup India." He added that India had undergone historic transformation between 2014 and 2025. He highlighted the repeal of over 2,000 outdated laws, reforms to boost ease of doing business and initiatives like Startup India, MSME support and the Jan Dhan Yojana, under which over 56 crore bank accounts had been opened.

## OVER 5L TONNE PADDY REACHES GRAIN MARKETS, 96% LIFTED SO FAR

**Diary Times Desk :** In a major respite for the flood-hit farmers in Punjab, the pace of paddy procurement is gradually improving although crop arrival remains slow. Arhtiyas have expressed satisfaction over the ongoing lifting and payment process.

Harbans Singh Rosha, president of the Khanna Grain Market Arhtiyas Association, said out of nearly seven lakh bags that had arrived so far, over six lakh had already been lifted and payments made to the farmers.

"So far, over 5,14,036.61 metric tonne (MT) paddy has arrived in the mandis, of which over 4,81,967.08 MT has been lifted by procurement agencies. Around Rs 923-crore payments have been released to farmers, while Rs 743 crore dues are pending," he said.

Rosha said the government's decision to start procurement from September 15, instead of October 10, had helped streamline the process. "Generally, procurement starts around October 10 and picks up pace by October 15. This often delays harvesting and triggers panic harvesting and also results in farm fires. This year's early start has helped both farmers and arhtiyas," he added.



## BKU DOABA TO HOLD EFFIGY BURNING PROTESTS OVER STUBBLE BURNING FIRS ON OCTOBER 6

**Diary Times Desk :** The members of the Bharti Kisan Union Doaba will hold an effigy burning protest against the state and Central Government at all district headquarters on October 6 against the recent FIRs filed against state farmers on the issue of stubble burning. In a statement issued today regarding the same, the Bharatiya Kisan Union Doaba said it will not tolerate any notices or FIRs against farmers who set stubble on fire. While the BKU Doaba had issued sharp reactions condemning the first FIR on a Jalandhar-based farmer — who set stubble on fire some days ago — the union had since then made the declaration that it would oppose any action against farmers on stubble burning. In his statement issued today, BKU state president Manjit Singh Rai said, “On October 6, at all district headquarters and at tehsildar and block levels, the effigies of the Punjab Government and the Government of India will be burnt. Therefore, all the district presidents, block presidents, circle presidents are requested to make an effigy in their respective areas and hold a protest. The Bharatiya Kisan Union Doaba will not tolerate FIRs against farmers who set stubble on fire.”

## HIMACHAL TO RECEIVE HEAVY RAINFALL ON OCTOBER 6, 7

**Diary Times Desk:**

Himachal Pradesh is set to receive heavy rainfall for the next two days as the state's Meteorological Department has issued orange and yellow weather warnings for October 6 and 7.

As per the department, an orange warning has been issued for Mandi, Kullu, Kangra and Chamba district for October 6, resulting in a very heavy spell of rain along with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds in isolated areas of these districts. The department has also issued a yellow weather warning for Shimla, Solan, Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kinnaur, Sirmaur and Lahaul and Spiti districts for October 6, resulting in heavy rain along with thunderstorms and lightning in isolated places of these districts. Apart from this, a yellow weather warning has also been issued for seven districts, including Kullu, Mandi, Kangra, Una, Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Chamba for October 7. Meanwhile, light to moderate rainfall occurred in many parts of the state during the last 24 hours. Dharamsala received 25.5 mm rain, Bilaspur 20.4 mm, Kangra 18.4 mm, Bhuntar 17 mm, Mandi and Manali received 13 mm, Palampur 10.2 mm, Sundernagar 9.4 mm, Shimla 8 mm, Kasauli 7 mm and Nahan 4 mm rain.


**YOUR HOROSCOPE**
  
**06-10-2025**

## 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

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

## Pisces

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

CONGRESS LEADER  
BRIJENDRA SINGH  
KICKS OFF 'SADBHAV  
YATRA' FROM JIND'S  
DANODA VILLAGE

**Diary Times Desk :** Former MP and Congress leader Brijendra Singh launched his 'Sadbhav Yatra' from Danoda village in Jind amid murmurs of dissent among state party leaders regarding the event.

Brijendra's father and former Union minister Birender Singh, Congress MP from Rajasthan's Churu Rahul Kaswan, Kaithal MLA Aditya Surjewala and other local Congress leaders were present on the occasion.

Brijendra Singh stated that the yatra aims to promote harmony among all communities in the state, while accusing the ruling BJP of fostering divisions in society for political gain.

FORMER CM HOODA  
SLAMS HARYANA GOVT  
FOR BELOW-MSP  
PADDY PROCUREMENT,  
DEMANDS IMMEDIATE  
RELIEF FOR FARMERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Chief Minister and newly appointed Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday strongly criticised the Haryana government for failing to ensure the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers.

Hooda visited Gharaunda and Karnal grain markets to interact with farmers, labourers and arhtiyas, listening to their grievances regarding delayed procurement and low payments. He alleged that paddy is being procured at throwaway prices.

"Farmers are facing severe difficulties this season. Their crops are not being purchased on time, MSP is not being paid, and payments are being delayed. Farmers are trapped in endless formalities – from the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal to verification, gate restrictions, and lifting delays," said Hooda while interacting with media persons.

Hooda alleged that the government is cheating farmers, saying, "MSP rates are short by Rs 200, Rs 400, and even Rs 800 per quintal.

OF OVER 25,000 HARYANA JAIL INMATES, 28% SCS, 13% MUSLIMS

**Diary Times Desk :** The proportion of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Muslims in Haryana jails was higher than their share in the state population, according to the Prison Statistics India report for 2023. Of the total 25,833 inmates in Haryana jails as on December 31 (2023), 7,393 or 28.6 per cent (more than one in four) belonged to the SC community, which included 263 women. Among them, 1,496 were convicts, 5,868 undertrials and 29 detainees. The share of SC undertrials stood even higher at 30.4 per cent. The count of total SC inmates stood at 25.4 per cent in 2022. Compared to inmates, the SC share in the state's population was 20.2 per cent, as per the 2011 Census. Ambala Congress MP Varun Chaudhary said, "This reflects the poor socioeconomic background of the SCs in Haryana. They should be provided proper legal aid." Muslims made up for 13.6 per cent of the total inmates whereas their share in the state population was nearly half at 7 per cent. There were 3,502 Muslim inmates, including 768 convicts, 2,548 undertrials and 186 detainees. Haryana jails had a total 248 detainees and 75 per cent of them were Muslims. In 2022, the share of Muslim inmates was slightly lower at 12.8 per cent.



COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT WORKS IN  
GRAM PANCHAYATS ON TIME: CM

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today said that the ongoing development works in the gram panchayats should be completed within the stipulated time frame. He said officials must ensure that the benefits of public welfare schemes reach every eligible person at the grassroots level. He directed that the progress be reviewed every 15 days.

The CM was chairing a review meeting with Additional Deputy Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers of Zila Parishads, District Development and Panchayat Officers and Executive Engineers of the Panchayati Raj Department regarding various schemes of the Development and Panchayat Department and the Rural Development Department. Development and Panchayat Minister Krishan Lal Panwar was also present. Saini directed that gram sabha meetings be convened in gram panchayats to expedite the regularisation of unauthorised houses on shamlat land up to 500 sq yards. He added that gram sabha meetings be held within the next three weeks to ensure the timely settlement of cases under the scheme, and that registrations for approved cases be completed without delay in districts where approvals had been granted.

HARYANA MOOTS DEDICATED  
CLUSTER FOR JAPANESE FIRMS

**Diary Times Desk :** Even as the BJP government proposes a dedicated cluster for the Japanese companies in CM Nayab Singh Saini's home turf, Naraingarh, in Ambala district, the Honda Company is evincing keen interest in the industrially backward district in the northern part of the state.

A proposal for the setting of the cluster was mooted by Saini during a meeting with representatives of Japanese firms in Gurugram in September. The cluster is set to be a part of the industrial township at Naraingarh, which is being developed as part of the 10 industrial model townships (IMT) across the state to give a boost to investment, a senior functionary of the state government told 'The Tribune'.

He said Saini was "personally inclined" to set up the cluster at his hometown as the area was behind in industrial development as compared to the National Capital Region (NCR), where major Japanese firms have already set up manufacturing facilities.

3 MISCREANTS NABBED AFTER ENCOUNTER, 2 INJURED



**Diary Times Desk :** The Special Task Force (STF) and Gohana police arrested three persons following an encounter for allegedly demanding Rs 5 crore from an industrialist after kidnapping him. Two miscreants sustained bullet injuries and have been hospitalised. The accused have been identified as Kapil and Deepak of Nizampur village and Mohammad Sahil of Dera Bassi in Punjab. Bharti Dabas, Gohana DCP, said Inspector Yogender Singh, STF incharge, and Virender Singh, Inspector, CIA Gohana, worked continuously to nab the accused.

Acting on a tip-off, the team gheraoed the accused on Khri Damkan-Sikanderpur Majra road in the wee hours of Saturday, the DCP said. When the miscreants spotted the team, they opened fire. In retaliation, the team also fired on them.

## Two Teen Girls Went For A Bike Ride

Two teenage best friends set out for an afternoon e-bike ride earlier this week in Cranford, New Jersey, a small city just 18 miles south of New York City.

They never made it home. Both girls were struck by a car and killed September 29, according to local authorities. And now another teenager – whom the Union County Prosecutor's Office identified as a 17-year-old male – has been arrested and charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

The victims' names have not been released by

law enforcement, but family members have identified them to local media as Maria Niotis and Isabella Rose Salas, both 17 years old. On Tuesday night, hundreds of people gathered to remember the teenagers, according to CNN affiliate WABC. They lit candles and left balloons, stuffed animals and images of the two girls.

Among the mourners was Maria's mother, Fouli Niotis.

"She wasn't just my daughter; she was my best friend," she said. "The kind of girl who could walk into a room and light it up just by being herself."

The deaths have disturbed the Cranford community. "I don't think any of us had a decent night's sleep, because it could be our own" child, Brandi Schmidt, who attended Tuesday's vigil, told WABC. "So, you put yourself in their shoes and come out and support."

A visitation is taking place for Isabella on Saturday. The teenager was an avid singer and actor who volunteered at a local food pantry, according to her obituary. Her funeral is scheduled for Monday.

And a Mass was held Friday for Maria, who was remembered as an aspiring cosmetologist who worked at a local cafe in her obituary. Maria was passionate about helping people see the beauty on the inside, her mother said after her daughter's visitation.

"It wasn't just about glam," Niotis said, according to CNN affiliate News 12 New Jersey. "It was about helping people see the beauty in themselves that maybe they had forgotten. She loved deeply, she gave generously, she dreamed boldly."

A GoFundMe set up to support the families of both victims has already raised more than \$150,000.



17-year-old from neighboring town arrested  
The killings have also left in their wake a flurry of questions. The suspect has not been named by law enforcement, who didn't respond to CNN's questions about whether the killing was targeted and if a motive has been identified, citing New Jersey laws about minors and criminal cases. The suspect was detained and questioned on Monday, according to the Union County Prosecutor's Office. He was released and then arrested on Wednesday morning, the prosecutor's office said in a statement to CNN.

# Cracks In Schools

## Military Children Are Slipping

A few years ago, when my husband was still in the army, we went to a semi-regular parent and staff meeting at our kids' school.

It was the beginning of the school year, just after Blue Star Welcome Week, an annual event launched by the nonprofit Blue Star Families to support the families of the more than 600,000 active duty and transitioning veteran families that settle into a new community each year.



Brianna Keilar

The teens set out to change that, drafting a law requiring training for educators on the agreement and how to better support military families in schools, and lobbying legislators to support it.

I'm on the board of Blue Star Families and I had been talking to military spouses about what makes them feel welcome in a new place and many pointed to gestures by others in the community involving their children: recommendations for pediatricians, an invitation to a playdate, an offer to be an emergency contact.

With these families on my mind, I decided to see if their kids might be in class with mine, feeling sheepish it hadn't occurred to me to do so before.

"Are there any military families in the school?" I asked at the meeting. "It would be good to reach out and see if they need anything."

"No, there are no military families in the school," a school official told us.



"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.

My husband and I looked at each other. "Well, there's at least one," I laughed.

The school official asked if we had checked the box to identify our children as belonging to a military family at registration and my husband confirmed he had. She immediately made a note to check if there were any other military families at the school who were flying under the radar as we were, which we greatly appreciated.

Military families blend into our towns and cities. Seventy percent of them live off base in our neighborhoods where communities are not always equipped to manage their transitions.

Military families often move every two to three years, a pace so disruptive to their quality of life that the Pentagon is looking to extend assignments to reduce the tempo of military moves, known as permanent changes of station.

Moving can be tough on kids, tougher if they run into red tape as they transition schools between states, which happens a lot.

That's why there's an agreement between all 50 states and Washington, DC called the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (also known as MIC 3). The compact is supposed to ease the moving pains of military transitions.

But Kaitlyn Chin and three other recent graduates of Sumner High School in Hillsborough County, Florida found, despite the MIC 3 compact, that military children were falling through the cracks in their state. High school credits from schools in other states were not transferring to their new Florida school. Some were unable to enroll in time for the school year, which meant they were occasionally left out of sports and clubs.

"Students [were] falling behind, having their GPAs lowered, and some of them were not even able to graduate on time," Kaitlyn explains. "This takes a very emotional toll and mental toll on these students as well as their families, because their parents are trying to fight for them as well as fighting for our country at the same time."

"Here I am, enjoying my senior year, getting to go to all my events and do 'Senior Sunrise' and 'Senior Skip Day,'" Grace says, "and other students who have families who are serving in the military, protecting our country, they can't do some of these events because they're being held back." INFA

## Religious Persecution

### ATTACK ON LDS CHURCH HARKENS BACK TO ITS EARLY HISTORY

The early history of the LDS Church is one of persecution and violence.

Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), commonly known as the Mormons, was killed by a mob in 1844 in Illinois. Fearing continued persecution, Smith's successor, Brigham Young, led church members on an exodus to Utah, at the time a territory outside the jurisdiction of the United States, to freely practice their religion.

For LDS Church members, that history is taught from a young age as part of their self-identity. And that history of persecution is newly relevant after the mass shooting and arson targeting an LDS church in Michigan last Sunday.

"The idea that Mormons were a persecuted group in the 1800s is deeply ingrained in the Mormon psyche," said David Campbell, a University of Notre Dame professor and author of "Seeking the Promised Land: Mormons and American Politics."

"This incident now in the 21st century will be remembered as yet another example of the sort of persecution and marginalization that Mormons have experienced over their history."

The attack on the LDS church in Grand Blanc, which left four dead

and wounded others, is part of a series of violent episodes targeting so-called "soft targets," including religious institutions and schools. In the wake of this latest attack, other religious and civil groups have reached out to the LDS Church and its members in a show of support and solidarity. Still, to quickly group all those shootings together is to obscure how this particular shooting has affected this particular church with its particular past.

The 40-year-old military veteran suspect had expressed a hatred of the LDS Church, according to a family friend and a city council candidate in Michigan who met the suspect a week prior to the attack. The FBI is investigating reports he "hated people of Mormon faith," White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt told Fox News on Monday. "My church has a heritage of having faced persecution in the past," Mitt Romney, the LDS Church member and former Republican presidential candidate, told CNN's Dana Bash. "And you wonder, well, are we in for another bout of this?" When Brandt Malone visited the burnt aftermath of what had been his church, he was hit with a flood of memories. Of teenage dances, young romances, basketball tournaments – all turned to ash.

"Honestly it was a really hard flood of emotion," he told CNN. "It's really hard to look at it, realizing all those memories I had in that building are now gone."

Like Romney, he noted the LDS Church's history of persecution and voiced a concern there may be something deeper going on here.

"Because of that history, it does become top of mind for a lot of people to say, 'Is there something connected here?'" Malone said. Still, he said he has been heartened by the support the church has received from outside groups.

"It's been so touching to see the Grand Blanc community come out and show their support for us, and most importantly, all the interreligious groups, whether they be Christian or non-Christian, whatever. The outpouring of support is great," he said. "The fact that this really isn't an anomaly, that this violence has happened at other church places."



Eric Levenson

Elder David A. Bednar, an LDS Church leader, relayed the overarching views of his conversations with church members. "I've not detected any bitterness," he said. "Certainly sorrow, but no bitterness, no resentments."

## THE LONG WAIT FOR THE NEW MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN WARSAW: 'WE ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE NEGOTIATING OUR EXISTENCE'

**Diary Times Desk :** Central Square in downtown Warsaw is immense. Occupying 60 acres, it has had umpteen uses since its creation in the 1950s. Reflecting its erstwhile name of Parade Square, it hosted many a political procession during Poland's era of communist rule. Pope John Paul II gave a giant open-air mass there in 1987. Funfairs and flea markets filled it in the 1990s, since when the square has mostly served as a parking lot.

'Now, however, it's being totally reimagined,' says Joanna Mytkowska, director of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (also known as MSN Warsaw). 'There's no square in Europe like this one, and the topic of how to use it caused discussion, disagreement and tension in Poland for a long time.'

More on this below, but Mytkowska is referring to a period that began in 1989 with the collapse of communism. Eventually, the city of Warsaw decided that the square should serve a cultural purpose. A theatre called TR Warszawa is currently under construction — on a site adjacent to MSN Warsaw, which opened in February.

Spread across four floors, the museum owns an ever-expanding art collection, currently numbering about 4,000 pieces. It focuses chiefly on work made in the 36 years since democracy returned to Poland. International artists do feature, but two-thirds of the pieces are by Poles — the likes of Magdalena Abakanowicz, Mirosław Bałka, Wilhelm Sasnal and Ewa Juszkiewicz. According to Time magazine, MSN Warsaw is one of the 'World's Greatest Places' to visit in 2025, part of the draw being the building itself: a coolly minimalist, rectangular structure made of white concrete.

One might see the museum as an expression of confident, modern-day Poland — a country whose economy is growing at such a rate that it is now among the 20 largest on Earth.



## FRANCIS NEWTON SOUZA — THE 'ENFANT TERRIBLE' OF MODERN INDIAN ART

**Diary Times Desk :** Who was Francis Newton Souza?

Francis Newton Souza was born in Goa, India, in 1924, and would go on to become one of India's most influential Modern painters. After his death in 2002, Indian Modernist M.F. Husain paid a moving tribute to the artist. 'Souza was my mentor,' he said. 'He is the most significant painter, almost a genius.'

As a small child, Souza moved with his mother from Goa, which was a Portuguese Catholic colony at the time, to Bombay, and went on to attend St Xavier's High School, then run by Jesuit priests. It was there that he developed an interest in drawing, studying oleographs, prints and pictures imported from Europe. He was a precocious, rebellious child, however, and was expelled at 15 for, among other antics, drawing pornographic images in the school lavatories.

He later enrolled at the Sir J.J. School of Art in Bombay, from which he and 21 other students were suspended for joining Gandhi's Quit India movement. On the day of his suspension, Souza produced *The Blue Lady* (1945), a landmark work painted with pigment squeezed straight out of the tube and spread over the canvas with a palette knife. It was, according to Edwin Mullins in his monograph of the artist, utterly different from anything he had done before: 'It was an angry impulsive picture, and in painting it he discovered the way he wanted to paint.' Souza elected not to return to the art school to complete his studies.

What was F.N. Souza best known for?

Over the course of his six-decade career, Souza experimented with a number of genres and styles, but it's probably his strong figurative practice, his line drawings and series of 'black paintings' produced in London during the 1950s and '60s for which he is most famous. His well-known themes and motifs include Catholicism, the female nude, and the dichotomy between good and evil. What unites his work, though, is a visceral, evocative sensuality that's sometimes violent, sometimes sexual.

Was Souza involved with India's most radical art movement?

Yes, Souza co-founded the Progressive Artists' Group (PAG) in Mumbai in 1947, the same year that India gained independence and Souza joined India's Communist Party. Although the founding members of the PAG, which included S.H. Raza, K.H. Ara, M.F. Husain, S.K. Bakre and H.A. Gade, had wildly different styles, they unanimously agreed to define the meaning of Modern art in India. 'They saw the importance of looking back to India's classical, artistic past and to the West for innovations in technique and style,' explains Avari. 'In doing so, they created a new language for Modern art in India.'



BARCELONA DEFENSIVE ACE TURNED DOWN FOUR OFFERS TO  
LEAVE LAST SUMMER



**Diary Times Desk :** According to SPORT, it has come to light that Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo turned down no fewer than four offers to leave the club last summer, reaffirming his commitment to the Catalan side.

Despite a summer filled with speculation about his future, the Uruguayan defender made it clear that he wants to succeed at Barcelona and help the team achieve its goals.

Araujo's name was heavily linked with potential transfers due to Barcelona's financial situation and the need to register new signings.

STEVE CLARKE IS THE MASTER OF  
RETRIBUTION – BUT CAN HE AVENGE  
SCOTS' GREEK TRAGEDY?

**Diary Times Desk :** EVERY football manager, every successful one at any rate, has traits which come to be known and loved by supporters.

Sir Alex Ferguson's teams were renowned, from his early days in charge of St Mirren in the 1970s right through to his final seasons with Manchester United in the 2010s, for playing a dynamic and attacking brand of football which entertained and delighted supporters.

His old Scotland and United assistant Walter Smith, God rest him, had a reputation, rightly or wrongly, for favouring a more pragmatic and disciplined approach to games during his two trophy-laden spells in charge of Rangers.

What are the characteristics of the current incumbent of the Ibrox hotseat? This column is, you will probably be relieved to hear, going to be focusing exclusively on the national team. A double header which will go an awfully long way to determining if this country can qualify for the World Cup in Canada, Mexico and the United States next summer – Andy Robertson and his compatriots take on Greece at Hampden on Thursday and then host Belarus in Mount Florida three days later – is coming up after all.

LEWANDOWSKI 3, FERRAN TORRES 4 | SEVILLA 4-1 BARCELONA: PLAYER RATINGS



ARAUJO, RASHFORD START IN A 4-2-3-1  
– HOW BARCELONA CAN LINE UP  
AGAINST SEVILLA



**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona will be looking to quickly recover from a disappointing Champions League defeat when they face Sevilla later today.

The Catalan giants have shown remarkable dominance over Sevilla in recent years, boasting a seven-game winning streak against them. Last season alone, Barcelona secured emphatic 5-1 and 4-1 victories in La Liga, highlighting their superiority. In fact, the team has not lost to Sevilla in the league since October 2015, giving Hansi Flick plenty of confidence heading into today's clash.

**Diary Times Desk :** The Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan played host to Barcelona on Sunday afternoon as the Catalans locked horns with Sevilla in their final game before the international break.

Coming off a gutting defeat to PSG midweek, Barcelona were expected to enter with intensity and a feeling of revenge to show that what happened against the European champions was a one-off.

What unfolded, however, was quite different as Barcelona were clearly second-best to the hosts for the better part of the game. The first half saw them outplayed as Sevilla went 2-0 up and only a moment of brilliance from Pedri and Marcus Rashford saw the Catalans pull one back.

The second half was better for Barcelona, but a missed penalty from Lewandowski made matters more complicated and Sevilla found a third to bury matters. A fourth in extra-time just made matters humiliating for the champions.

PEDRO FELIPE RECEIVES  
MAIDEN FIRST TEAM CALL-UP!

**Diary Times Desk :** Pedro Felipe will always remember this Saturday – October 5, 2025 – as the day the 21-year-old Brazilian defender has received his first call-up to the Men's First Team for the Serie A Matchday 6 fixture against Milan at the Allianz Stadium.

Wearing the no.44 shirt, Pedro Felipe has started to reclaim what a serious knee injury in November 2024 had threatened to take from him.

Under Massimo Brambilla's guidance with the Next Gen, he began this season with determination. He got back onto the pitch in mid-August during a Coppa Italia Serie C win, and has since made eight appearances – all from the start – and even scored his first goal in Bianconero, which came in the form of a late match-winner against Torres.

Who Is Pedro Felipe?  
A 21-year-old Brazilian defender, Pedro Felipe arrived in Turin on loan from Palmeiras in January 2024 and became a Juventus player on a permanent basis in February 2025.

FIFA HAS REPORTEDLY  
RELEASED THE OFFICIAL  
SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST  
MATCHES OF THE 2026 WORLD  
CUP

**Diary Times Desk :** With the 2026 FIFA World Cup just around the corner, more details are beginning to emerge about the tournament that will take place across the United States, Mexico, and Canada. After the unveiling of the official mascots – Zayu, Clutch, and Maple – and the new match ball, Trionda, new reports have surfaced revealing the tentative kick-off times for the opening group-stage matches. According to multiple Mexican outlets, there could be up to four games per day, offering fans nonstop soccer action across North America.

The FIFA organizing committee is expected to officially confirm match times in the coming weeks, ahead of the World Cup draw scheduled for December 2025, when the full fixture list will be unveiled. The 2026 edition will mark the first time 48 teams compete, resulting in a record 104 total matches across 16 host cities.

Countdown to the official draw  
FIFA will officially release the match calendar at the World Cup draw in December, which will also finalize the venues for each group. The tournament opener is expected to take place in Mexico City's Estadio Azteca, while the final will likely be held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, capable of hosting over 80,000 fans. Meanwhile, the final qualification rounds are heating up. By November, Europe (UEFA) will begin confirming its first qualified teams, joining a growing list of nations that have already booked their tickets.