

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**BJP MP KHAGEN HIT ON HEAD, LEFT BLEEDING AFTER STONES THROWN IN BENGAL****Diary Times Desk :**

Khagen Murmu, the BJP MP from Bengal's Maldaha Uttar seat, was seriously injured in an attack in the state's flood-affected Jalpaiguri region Monday afternoon. Horrific visuals showed Murmu with severe head injuries and profuse bleeding; his white scarf was bathed in blood. Murmu and other BJP leaders, including MLA Shankar Ghosh, were both attacked, as they distributed relief materials to people affected by the floods. They are being treated at a local medical facility. The BJP's Bengal unit chief, Samik Bhattacharya, was also due to visit affected areas. JP Nadda, the BJP's national boss, spoke to Murmu over the phone, sources said. AD

Sources also said over 500 men blocked the roads, chanting 'go back', before the attack.

**"TIME TO APOLOGISE, ACCEPT MISTAKE": KAMAL HAASAN VISITS KARUR STAMPEDE SITE**

**Diary Times Desk :** It is "time to apologise, time to accept mistake", underlined Makkal Needhi Maiam chief Kamal Haasan on Monday as he visited the site of stampede at a TVK rally, fronted by Vijay, in Karur to meet the families of the victims. Forty one people were killed and over 50 were injured in the September 27 stampede - one of the worst political event tragedies across India in recent times - at the rally addressed by Vijay, the chief of fledgling Tamil Vetti Kazhagam (TVK). "I've come to express condolences to the victims of Karur tragedy. Don't see this tragedy as numbers. Look at them as mothers, sisters and elderly. The investigation is underway. The matter is sub-judice, it not right to comment on it now," said Haasan, a Rajya Sabha MP. "I'm a Centrist and a citizen of Tamil Nadu. Let's not take sides in this issue. If we are to take sides, let's take the people's side," he added. The actor-turned-politician said Chief Minister MK Stalin "displayed exemplary leadership" qualities and that "we should thank him for that".

**NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT****NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT A GLANCE: CAPACITY, TERMINALS, AMENITIES**

Airport. The airport recently received its aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on September 30, clearing the way for operations to begin.

Capacity at Navi Mumbai International Airport

Notably, the Navi Mumbai Airport is twice the size of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, as it is spread over 1,160 hectares and is being developed in several phases. Phase 1 of the project will be able to handle around 20 million passengers annually and 0.8 million tonnes of cargo. Once completed, the airport will scale up to serve 90 million passengers and manage over 3.2 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo every year. One of Asia's largest aviation hubs, the first phase of the Navi Mumbai Airport is estimated to cost Rs 19646 crore.

The airport will feature an Automated People Mover System that will link all terminals through underground tunnels. This feature will help passengers check in at any terminal, with their luggage automatically sent to the right one.

**Diary Times Desk :** The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 8. The airport, the second in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region after the existing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, secured its aerodrome licence from the aviation safety regulator DGCA on September 30. The project is being developed in multiple phases by Navi Mumbai International Airport, in which Adani Group has a 74 per cent stake, and the remaining 26 per cent with the Maharashtra government's land development authority CIDCO. Navi Mumbai International Airport is all set to be inaugurated on October 8 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the operations will begin in December this year. The state-of-the-art airport is not just an ordinary airport as it screams luxury, considering its features, amenities, as well as the huge proximity it offers.

The Navi Mumbai Airport will be the second international airport in Mumbai, after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International

**INDIAN ARMY USED AI DURING OPERATION SINDOOR: TOP OFFICIAL**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Indian Army has confirmed the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) during Operation Sindoor, the counter-terror operation in Pakistan in the month of May, weeks after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack. Speaking to reporters in Delhi on Monday, Lt Gen Rajiv Kumar Sahni, who is currently serving as Director General, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) and had earlier held the charge of DG Information Systems, said that AI was used for "review, intel analysis...to generate heat maps" and that helped to "prioritise our resources".

One of the examples he gave was of "Anuman 2.0", a weather forecasting app, that helped the army units to engage with precision across the border. Asked if AI was used to find the position of the infantry on the other side, he said the military has "reasonably assured models, satellite tracking systems, feed which is given in real time" that helped in that purpose as well. His emphasis was that the Indian Army has begun integrating AI into its core functions, and its effectiveness was demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

Important to note that the year 2024-25 has been designated as the "Year of Technology Absorption" by the Indian Army. Automation within the Army has led to a remarkable 1,200% increase in users and a 620% rise in data storage capacity, advances that are expected to make the Army's digital backbone more interconnected.

**RAINS PERSIST IN TELANGANA, OVERALL RAINFALL 31% ABOVE NORMAL**

**Diary Times Desk :** Despite light overnight showers through the morning in parts of Hyderabad, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had not issued any specific rain alert for October 6. However, a yellow alert remains in place across all districts of Telangana, warning of isolated thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching 30-40 km/h. On Sunday, heavy rains were recorded in several areas, with Mallampally in Mulugu district witnessing the highest rainfall at 9.78 cm, followed by Palwancha in Kamareddy, which received 8.68 cm. Within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits, Khairatabad experienced the heaviest rainfall at 4.68 cm. The highest 24-hour rainfall in the state was reported from Eturnagaram in Mulugu district at 11.05 cm. Across Telangana, the average daily rainfall stood at 7.9 mm, significantly above the normal of 2.3 mm. Meanwhile, the highest maximum temperature in the state was recorded at Narsaiahgudem in Suryapet district, reaching 36.0°C. Within the GHMC region, Rajendranagar in Rangareddy district recorded the highest rainfall at 35.6 mm. The city's average rainfall was measured at 8.1 mm, well above the normal of 2.2 mm. Patigadda in Hyderabad registered the highest temperature within GHMC limits at 33.5°C.

**CURB SPURIOUS LIQUOR MENACE, SAYS CM CHANDRABABU NAIDU**

**Diary Times Desk :** Making it clear that the menace of spurious liquor harming the lives of public will not be tolerated, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed Excise officials to act tough against those involved in the manufacturing and supply of illicit liquor. He instructed them to take stringent action against the accused connected to the illicit liquor manufacturing racket at Mulakalacheruvu in Tamballapalle constituency of Annamayya district. Holding a review meeting with Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra, Principal Secretary (Excise) Mukesh Kumar Meena, Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma and Excise Commissioner Sridhar at his Camp Office in Undavalli on Sunday, Naidu took stock of the illicit liquor racket. The officials informed the Chief Minister that after taking some persons with spurious liquor bottles in Mulakalacheruvu into custody, they conducted raids at Kadirinathunithota village near Mulakalacheruvu based on the information provided by them, and identified the illicit liquor manufacturing unit there. After identifying the involvement of 14 persons in manufacturing the illicit liquor, the officials arrested 10 persons and seized fake labels and liquor bottles of different brands. Identifying one Addepalli Janardhan Rao as AI in the case, the officials found that he has a bar licence in Vijayawada, and came to Mulakalacheruvu for the illicit liquor business. The illicit liquor manufactured in the unit was supplied to Andhra Wines in PT Samudram and Rock Star Wines in Mulakalacheruvu. Besides appointing four persons from Tamil Nadu and some from Odisha.

## SNOWFALL IN THE HIGHER REACHES

**FRESH SNOWFALL IN HIGHER REACHES, RAINFALL IN PLAINS BRING SHARP DIP IN KASHMIR TEMPERATURE**

**Diary Times Desk :** Fresh snowfall in the higher reaches and showers in the plains of Kashmir on Monday led to a sharp drop in day temperatures in the valley, officials said.

Snowfall was reported from Sinthan Top in Anantnag district, Affarwat in Gulmarg, Zojila Pass, Bangus in Kupwara, Razdan Pass in Gurez valley and other higher-altitude areas, they said.

Light to moderate rainfall was witnessed in the plains of Kashmir, including Srinagar city, they added.

The day temperature in the valley dipped by nearly 10 degrees, with the city recording a maximum of around 11 degrees Celsius on Monday, compared to 22.6 degrees Celsius recorded a day earlier.

The Meteorological Department has forecast continued wet weather for the next 24 hours in the valley.

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**TOP COURT REJECTS DMK LEADER'S PLEA SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF EARLIER ORDER**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea of DMK leader V Senthil Balaji seeking clarification of court's earlier order on whether he can be appointed as a minister again during the pendency of trial in alleged cash-for-job scam. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi rejected the contention of Balaji, put forth by senior advocate Kapil Sibal representing him, that this court has never said anything about his ministership. "We don't read the order or cannot read the order as an injunction on you in becoming a minister. However, if the atmosphere of the state is impacted by your becoming a minister or holding a post of power, then we have to ensure that the scheme of justice prevails," the bench said. Sibal said there was not a word in the April 28 order about Balaji becoming a minister and there can't be any injunction by the court on his becoming a minister while he is being prosecuted. Justice Kant questioned Sibal as to why the application for clarification was filed after top court judge Justice Abhay S Oka, who asked him to resign as minister in Tamil Nadu government, has retired. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Enforcement Directorate, also questioned the timing of the application and said that it was not in good taste.

DEADLINE ENDS FOR SINGAPORE-BASED NRIS TO JOIN  
ZUBEEN GARG DEATH PROBE

**Diary Times Desk :** The deadline for eight Singapore-based Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) summoned by Assam's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to join the investigation into the death of celebrated Assamese icon Zubeen Garg expired on Monday evening, with none of the individuals appearing before investigators in Guwahati.

All eight had been served summons through the Indian High Commission in Singapore, and were asked to report by October 6. The CID had hoped their statements would shed light on events surrounding Garg's sudden death during a yacht party off Singapore's coast on September 19.

Although none of the eight had reported to investigators, one of them, identified as Rupkamal Kalita, is expected to arrive in Guwahati on Tuesday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.



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 (TSRTC) 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.

UNION MINISTER G. KISHAN REDDY INAUGURATES STATE'S  
FIRST COMMERCIAL COAL MINE AT NAMCHIK NAMPHUK

**Diary Times Desk :** Marking the historic occasion, Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu, performed the Bhumi Pujan and participated in a tree plantation drive under the "100-tree plantation initiative" at the project site. This was followed by the formal inauguration of the Namchik Namphuk Coal Mine. The event also witnessed the handing over of the mining lease and the flagging off tools and machinery of CPPL to the Namchik-Namphuk Central Coal Block, marking the official commencement of mining operations.

Union Minister, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the significance of the event and later interacted with the media. He described the launch as "a symbol of new hope and a significant step toward energy security and regional development in the North East" and informed that the Namchik Namphuk Coal Mine holds reserves of 1.5 crore tonnes of coal and has become operational from today.

Highlighting the significance of the project, Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu welcomed the Namchik Namphuk Coal Mine, noting its role in boosting the state's economy, creating employment opportunities, and generating steady revenue for Arunachal Pradesh. He expressed confidence that this initiative will empower local communities and attract future investments in the state's mining and industrial sectors.

SUPREME COURT NOTICE TO CENTRE ON SONAM  
WANGCHUK'S WIFE'S PLEA CHALLENGING ARREST



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Centre and Union Territory of Ladakh on a plea filed by Sonam Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali J Angmo challenging the climate activist's detention under the National Security Act, and seeking his immediate release.

However, a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria refused to pass any order on providing grounds of detention to Wangchuk's wife and posted the matter for hearing on October 14.

Wangchuk was detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) on September 26, two days after protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union territory.

Wangchuk is lodged in Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan.

SIX PATIENTS KILLED IN INDIAN HOSPITAL  
ICU FIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** Six critically ill patients have been killed in a fire that broke out at an intensive care unit (ICU) of a hospital in the western Indian city of Jaipur. The fire, suspected to be caused by a short circuit, started late on Sunday night in the storage area of the ICU of the Sawai Man Singh Hospital. Eleven patients were in the ICU at the time. The victims include two women and four men. Relatives of the victims have accused staff of negligence, which hospital authorities have denied. The government of Rajasthan state, of which Jaipur is the capital, has announced an investigation into the incident.

"Every possible step is being taken to ensure patient safety, treatment, and care for those affected, and the situation is being continuously monitored," the state's Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma said on Sunday. The Sawai Man Singh hospital, run by the state government, is one of the largest in Rajasthan and treats thousands of patients every day.

SABARIMALA GOLD LOSS: KERALA HIGH  
COURT ORDERS SIT PROBE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Kerala High Court on Monday ordered a court-monitored probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into allegations of loss of gold from the golf-plated copper plates that covered the 'Dwarapalaka idols' (door guardian) at Sabarimala temple. [Suo Motu v State of Kerala & ors].

A Division Bench of Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V and Justice KV Jayakumar appointed Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) H Venkatesh to head the SIT, while Assistant Director (Administration), Sasidharan S IPS, would lead the inquiry.

He will be assisted by officers from the State Police, including inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors from different police stations.

"We are of the view that a special team of officers of highest integrity are required to probe into this matter. Sri H Venkatesh IPS, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Law & Order in the Kerala Police can be appointed as head of special investigation team, to investigate all aspects of the matter," the Court's order stated.

The Court passed the order after it was revealed that the person to whom the gold plating work was entrusted had sent an email to the President of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) asking whether he could use some leftover gold from the work for a wedding.



COUGH SYRUP TRAGEDY:  
MADHYA PRADESH ACTS,  
CRACKS DOWN, SUSPENDS  
OFFICIALS

**Diary Times Desk :**  
The death of 16 children – after they consumed Coldrif cough syrup – in Chhindwara has pushed the Madhya Pradesh government into an administrative overhaul, starting with the suspending Shobhit Costa, the Deputy Director of the state's Food and Drug Administration. And senior officials like Gaurav Sharma, the Chhindwara Drug Inspector and Sharad Kumar Jain, his counterpart from Jabalpur, as well as Drug Controller Dinesh Maurya were transferred. Also, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav convened a high-level meeting at his residence Monday, to decide on immediate and stringent measures to prevent the death of more children. Among those measures, the Chief Minister said later, are orders to seize all existing stock of the Coldrif syrup (which has already been banned from sale or use), including an intensive door-to-door campaign in Chhindwara and nearby districts to recover bottles from households.

'INDIA HAS TO BE GO-TO  
OPTION FOR ANY CRISIS IN  
SUBCONTINENT': S

**JAISHANKAR**  
**Diary Times Desk :** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday emphasised that India has to be the go-to option for any crisis in this subcontinent. Speaking at the Aravalli Summit on 'India and the World Order: Preparing for 2047' at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), he said India has to itself "underwrite the infrastructure for cooperation" in a scenario of political volatility. "This is the essence of neighbourhood first policy. India has to be the go-to option in any crisis in this subcontinent.

"The strategic diminishing of India as a result of Partition has to be overcome," Mr Jaishankar added. Analysing the global world, the External Affairs Minister said the world is witnessing more competition with the needle shifting away from the promise of cooperation.

"It is driven by weaponisation of everything. All nations face predicaments. India has to strategise and continue rising amid such volatility. The challenge is to read this complex landscape," he said. The JNU alumnus stressed safeguarding the nation's interests along with continuously advancing global hierarchy.

"ANGERED EVERY INDIAN": PM MODI SPEAKS TO  
CHIEF JUSTICE, CONDEMNS ATTACK ON HIM



**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai this evening and condemned the attack on him earlier today in the Supreme Court premises. PM Modi said the incident has "angered every Indian". "Spoke to Chief Justice of India, Justice BR Gavai Ji. The attack on him earlier today in the Supreme Court premises has angered every Indian. There is no place for such reprehensible acts in our society. It is utterly condemnable," he posted on X. In a breach of decorum, an elderly lawyer threw a shoe at the Chief Justice during a court proceeding. The shoe did not reach the bench, and the man was caught and escorted out by security personnel present in the court. Chief Justice Gavai, who was sitting on the bench with Justice K Vinod Chandran, remained unfazed during and after the shocking incident and asked court officials not to get distracted by it.

BYPOLLS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: 1ST  
POPULARITY TEST FOR OMAR  
ABDULLAH

**Diary Times Desk :** As Omar Abdullah's government completes one year this month, it's facing its first popularity test – the bypolls for two assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Budgam and Nagrota seats will go to the polls on November 11. The results will be declared on 14 with the big Bihar election results.

The Budgam seat was one of the two assembly constituencies Omar Abdullah had won in the assembly elections in October last year. After taking over as Chief Minister, Abdullah vacated Budgam and retained the Ganderbal seat, the family bastion of the Abdullachs in Kashmir.

The Nagrota seat in Jammu fell vacant after the death of BJP leader Devender Singh Rana. Rana was a close confidant of Abdullah before he joined the BJP.

SUPREME COURT DECLINES PLEA CHALLENGING TELANGANA  
GOVT'S HIKE OF OBC QUOTA TO 42% IN LOCAL BODIES

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday declined to entertain a petition challenging the Telangana government's decision to raise the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota in municipalities and panchayats to 42 percent, taking total reservations in local bodies to 67 percent [Vanga Gopal Reddy v. State of Telangana].

A Bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta allowed the petitioner to withdraw the plea and approach the High Court.

"Counsel for the petitioner, upon instructions, states that he may be allowed to withdraw the petition under Article 32, leaving it open for the petitioner to approach the jurisdictional High Court for appropriate reliefs. The petition is accordingly dismissed with liberty as prayed," the Court ordered.

The plea was filed by Vanga Gopal Reddy challenging the Telangana government's recent administrative order granting 42 percent reservation to OBCs in local body elections.

POLICE TO PATROL USING  
HORSES, BOATS DURING  
BIHAR ELECTIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** Horses will be used by police for patrolling in 250 polling booths in Bihar's Diara region while patrol parties will travel through boats to around 197 stations, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference to announce the schedule of the Bihar assembly polls, Mr Kumar said ballot papers on the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will display colour photographs of the candidate.

"In Diara region, patrolling will be done by police using horses in at least 250 polling stations. Similarly, polling parties will travel by boat in 197 polling stations," Mr Kumar said.

A total 90,712 polling booths will be set up for the Bihar assembly elections with over 7.42 crore eligible voters.

Since 2015, the ballot papers pasted on the EVMs had black and white photos of candidates, which many voters found difficult to recognise.

"The serial number will also be displayed more prominently on the machines," Mr Kumar said.

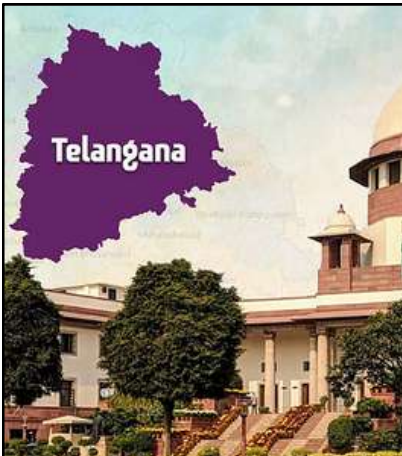
'MAN-MADE DISASTER':  
ENVIRONMENTALISTS BLAME  
UNPLANNED URBANISATION FOR  
DARJEELING LANDSLIDES

**Diary Times Desk :** Environmentalists described the landslides in Darjeeling as a "man-made ecological disaster", the inevitable outcome of decades of deforestation, unplanned urbanisation and poor governance that have pushed the fragile Himalayan slopes to the brink.

They said the way forward lies in decentralised disaster planning, strict enforcement of construction norms, and climate-sensitive development to prevent the 'Queen of the Hills' from turning into a recurring disaster zone.

The picturesque Darjeeling hills, long a refuge for weary travellers, now bear the scars of nature's fury. Twelve hours of relentless rain triggered a chain of deadly landslides that killed over 20 people and left scores homeless.

The serene slopes have turned into sites of wreckage and despair -- a grim reminder that nature's retribution often follows human neglect.



FREEPORT CONFIRMS ALL SEVEN MISSING WORKERS DEAD AFTER INDONESIA MINE DISASTER

**Diary Times Desk :** Miner Freeport said on Sunday that all seven workers who went missing after a mud-flow disaster at Indonesia’s Grasberg copper and gold mine have been confirmed dead, following the discovery of five more bodies.

Around 800,000 metric tons of wet material flooded the mine on September 8, trapping seven workers.

Operations at the Grasberg mine have been halted for nearly a month, and Freeport-McMoRan has warned of lower consolidated copper and gold sales in the third quarter.

Freeport said it is advancing its investigation into the cause of the incident and is coordinating closely with Indonesian government authorities to assess the event and future operational plans.

ISRAELI FORCES ELIMINATE HEZBOLLAH AIR DEFENCE FIGURE HASSAN ALI JAMIL ATWI IN LEBANON



**Diary Times Desk :** In an airstrike carried out earlier on Monday in the Nabatieh region of Lebanon, the IDF (Israel Defence Forces) eliminated the terrorist Hassan Ali Jamil Atwi, who was described as a "key terrorist" in Hezbollah's air defence system.

Atwi led the reconstruction and resupply efforts of Hezbollah's air defence system, was a significant knowledge centre, and engaged in liaison and procurement with the organisation's leaders in Iran, explained the IDF.

FRENCH GOVT QUILTS JUST HOURS AFTER BEING APPOINTED, DEEPENING POLITICAL CRISIS



**Diary Times Desk :** France’s new Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu resigned on Monday, barely 14 hours after appointing his new cabinet, after allies and foes alike threatened to topple his government, driving French stocks and the euro sharply lower.

His swift resignation was unexpected and unprecedented and marked another major deepening of France’s political crisis.

The far-right National Rally immediately urged President Emmanuel Macron to call a snap parliamentary election. After weeks of consultations with political parties across the board, Lecornu, a close ally of Macron, had appointed his ministers on Sunday and they had been set to hold their first meeting on Monday afternoon.

BRITISH AUTHOR JILLY COOPER, KNOWN FOR NOVELS ‘RIVALS’ AND ‘RIDERS’, DIES AT 88

**Diary Times Desk :** British author Jilly Cooper, known for her many bestselling novels including “Rivals” and “Riders,” has died at age 88, her agent said on Monday.

A statement from her family said that the author’s “unexpected death has come as a complete shock.” “The privilege of my career has been working with a woman who has defined culture, writing and conversation since she was first published over fifty years ago,” her agent, Felicity Blunt, said in a statement. “Jilly will undoubtedly be best remembered for her chart-topping series The Rutshire Chronicles and its havoc-making and handsome show-jumping hero Rupert Campbell-Black.”

"HYPHENATION HAPPENS WITH A NEIGHBOUR WHO IS NOT SO NICE...BEST WAY OF DE-HYPHENATION IS TO OUTSTRIP OTHER PARTY": JAISHANKAR



**Diary Times Desk :** Noting that India has multiple neighbours and some are better than others, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said that “hyphenation happens with a neighbour who is not so nice” and that the best way of de-hyphenation is to outstrip the other party in terms of power and capability.

Without directly naming Pakistan, Jaishankar said India cannot wish away a difficult neighbour, however unpleasant it may be.

Jaishankar, who was answering questions after his remarks at the Aravalli Summit 2025 at JNU, indicated that the countries no longer draw an equivalence between India and Pakistan as was heard in the seventies.

ABU DHABI CHAMBER, ADGM, ADIO HIGHLIGHT ABU DHABI'S INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LONDON

**Diary Times Desk :** The Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI), Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), and Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), in partnership with key Abu Dhabi entities, are organising two flagship events in London to showcase investment opportunities provided by the Emirate’s dynamic economy.

The Abu Dhabi-London Business Connect, to be held on October 8, and the Abu Dhabi Investment Forum (ADIF) on October 9, underscore Abu Dhabi’s business and investment community’s commitment to broaden its international outreach and build on its long-standing relationships with global powerhouses. The forums will gather senior representatives from across government and private sectors, including the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) Group, Abu Dhabi Customs, Mubadala, Aldar, HSBC, Hub71, and other key stakeholders.

SOUTH KOREA RESTORES 157 GOVERNMENT SERVICES AFTER MAJOR DATA CENTER FIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** South Korea has restored 157 government-run online services following a major outage caused by a fire last month at a key state data management facility, the Yonhap news agency reported, citing officials statement.

The fire, which broke out on September 26 at the National Information Resources Service (NIRS) in Daejeon, disrupted a wide range of public services, impacting daily government operations nationwide.

As of 6 p.m. on Monday, approximately 24.3 per cent of the affected services, 157 out of 647, were back online, according to the central disaster response headquarters, as per Yonhap news agency.





## INDIAN-ORIGIN MOTEL MANAGER SHOT DEAD. HE HAD ASKED A MAN, 'ARE YOU OKAY?'

**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian-origin motel manager was shot dead at point-blank range in Pittsburgh, United States, last week. Fifty-one-year-old Rakesh Ehagaban, who managed the Pittsburgh Motel in Robinson Township, stepped outside to check on a disturbance when a man shot him in the head, according to a criminal complaint published in local media.

The incident happened on Friday. Police said the suspect, Stanley Eugene West, 37, shot Ehagaban after he approached the former while attempting to intervene in an alleged dispute outside the motel. Police said the motel's surveillance cameras captured the shooting. Footage showed that the motel manager stepped out after hearing the commotion. He asked a man holding a gun, "Are you alright, bud?"

The suspect started walking toward Ehagaban. As he got within a few feet of the motel manager, raised his firearm and shot him in the head, Trib Live, a local publication, reported, citing the police complaint.

King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch, has ruled the small southern African nation since 1986 and has a personal fortune exceeding \$1 billion, according to multiple reports.

The Kingdom faces a collapsed health and education system, shortages of drugs in public hospitals, and financially struggling students dropping out of universities reliant on donations. The World Bank reported that unemployment rose from 23% to 33.3% in 2021, amid escalating costs of basic commodities. Meanwhile, the King owns shares in companies across construction, tourism, agriculture, telecommunications, and forestry, as per Swaziland News.



## INSTAGRAM USERS IN INDIA CAN NOW USE MAP FEATURE: HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

**Diary Times Desk :** Meta-owned Instagram is expanding its Instagram Map feature to India, bringing along several interface improvements and privacy updates. First introduced globally in August, the feature is designed to help users stay connected with friends through real-time location sharing and location-tagged content. With this rollout, Instagram aims to make the feature clearer and easier to use for Indian users.

Instagram Map lets you share your last active location with friends you choose, if you decide to opt in. You can also open the Map to explore content shared by your friends and favourite creators from interesting or trending locations around the world.

## RUSSIA SAYS IT DOWNS 251 UKRAINIAN DRONES, INCLUDING 61 OVER BLACK SEA



**Diary Times Desk :** Russia said on Monday its air defence units destroyed 251 Ukrainian drones overnight, most of them over the southwest, with 61 over the waters of the Black Sea and one heading towards Moscow.

The Russian defence ministry posted the figures on the Telegram messaging app, but there was no official information on possible damage. The ministry reports only the number of drones destroyed, not how many Ukraine launched.

Ukrainian news channels on Telegram said a large fire was sparked by a hit on an oil depot in Feodosia on the Crimean coast of the Black Sea.

A fuel tank at the depot exploded as a result of the attack, the RBK-Ukraine media outlet said.

Reuters could not independently verify the reports on Feodosia.

## 20 INJURED AS GUNMAN OPENS FIRE ON SYDNEY STREET FROM RESTAURANT ROOFTOP

**Diary Times Desk :** A man is in custody after allegedly shooting up to a hundred bullets into a busy Sydney street, wounding twenty people, with police on Monday ruling out links to terrorism or gang activity.

Police were called on Sunday evening to a street in the city's Inner West, where the alleged gunman was firing at random at passing cars and police. Office worker Joe Azar said he was working across the road when he heard what he thought were fireworks or rocks being thrown at the windows.

"Some guy's windshield blew up, then the bus stop glass shattered," Azar told The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper.

"The surreal feeling kicked in like, 'Oh, this is what's happening'," he said.

## MAN HELD OVER SUSPECTED ARSON AT PEACEHAVEN MOSQUE



**Diary Times Desk :** A man has been arrested on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life after a fire at a mosque in East Sussex.

Sussex Police said a 46-year-old man was in custody after an arrest was made on Monday afternoon. Officers had published CCTV images of two suspects after fire crews were called to the mosque on Phyllis Avenue in Peacehaven at about 21:50 BST on Saturday.

No-one was injured in the incident but the front entrance of the building and a vehicle parked outside were damaged, according to police.

Det Ch Insp Mark Cullimore from the force's Surrey and Sussex major crime team said the "investigation is progressing at pace" and officers were "pursuing all lines of enquiry to identify those responsible for this appalling and reckless attack".

Sussex Police said on Sunday it was investigating the incident as a hate crime.

Supt Rachel Swinney said there were "additional patrols taking place at places of worship across Sussex to provide visibility and reassurance".

"We will continue to engage with our religious communities to support them and ensure their concerns are heard and acted upon," she said.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's spokesperson said the incident was "appalling" and that an attack on Muslims was an attack on all Britons.

MASS LAYOFFS WILL START IF SHUTDOWN TALKS 'GOING NOWHERE': WHITE HOUSE

**Diary Times Desk :** The Trump administration will start mass layoffs of federal workers if President Donald Trump decides negotiations with congressional Democrats to end a partial government shutdown are "absolutely going nowhere," a senior White House official said on Sunday.

As the shutdown entered its fifth day, White House National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett told CNN's "State of the Union" program he still saw a chance that Democrats would back down, averting a costly shutdown and federal employee layoffs that have been threatened by White House budget director Russell Vought.

"President Trump and Russ Vought are lining things up and getting ready to act if they have to, but hoping that they don't," Hassett said.



TRUMP VOWS TO IMPOSE HIS WILL IN CITY CRACKDOWNS AND GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

**Diary Times Desk :** A common thread running through the controversies of the new fall season of America's bitter politics is Donald Trump's attempt to impose unfettered, often unprecedented presidential power on multiple fronts.

The story of his second term will ultimately be defined by how much states, courts and underpowered Washington Democrats do to frustrate his expansive impulses, and – crucially for constitutional governance – whether he takes any notice.

The power struggle drove two key showdowns waged by the White House at the weekend: over its plans to deploy troops to enforce its immigration crackdowns in Portland, Oregon, and Chicago; and over growing pressure to end the government shutdown.

ASIM MUNIR PITCHES PASNI PORT TO TRUMP: HOW PAKISTAN'S \$1.2 BILLION GAMBLE COULD BURN CHINA BRIDGES AND UNSETTLE INDIA

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan's military establishment is once again overplaying its hand. Field Marshal Asim Munir has floated an audacious \$1.2 billion pitch to Washington: build a deep-water port at Pasni and a railway link into Pakistan's mineral heartlands, according to a Financial Times report. The idea is to entice American investors with access to so-called "critical minerals" while quietly presenting Pasni as a counterweight to China's Gwadar port. On paper, it is a bold attempt to lure the US back into Pakistan's orbit and hedge against overdependence on Beijing. In reality, it is a desperate gamble by a weakened regime that risks angering China, ignores Pakistan's chronic instability, and exposes Islamabad's habitual duplicity in playing both sides of global rivalries.

VIDEO OF AFRICAN KING'S ARRIVAL IN UAE WITH 15 WIVES, 100 AIDES RESURFACES

**Diary Times Desk :** An old video of Eswatini's King Mswati III arriving in Abu Dhabi has drawn attention to the African monarch's extravagant lifestyle. The clip, which first surfaced in July, captures the king's grand entrance at Abu Dhabi airport with multiple wives and a huge entourage. In the footage, the king is seen stepping off a private jet dressed in traditional attire. A group of elegantly dressed women follow him. A text overlay on the clip reads, "Swaziland king arrived at Abu Dhabi with 15 wives and 100 servants. His father, King Sobhuza II, had 125 wives." Reports also suggest that King Mswati III was accompanied by 30 of his children as well during the Abu Dhabi trip. The large delegation reportedly caused a temporary disruption at the airport, prompting security officials to close multiple terminals to accommodate the royal party. The surfaced video prompted criticism, with many users underlining the stark contrast between King Mswati III's lavish lifestyle and the everyday struggles of the country's citizens. Several expressed anger over the opulent display. One user remarked, "All this while his people have no electricity or running power," while another questioned, "Is this a rich enough country to afford a private jet?" Some went further, condemning the king's excess in sharper terms.



A MONTH BACK ISRAEL KILLED HIS SON. NOW KHALIL AL HAYYA IS IN CAIRO TO TALK PEACE WITH THE KILLERS

**Diary Times Desk :** Earlier Sunday, Palestinian resistance group Hamas announced that a delegation from its leadership arrived in Egypt's capital Cairo "to begin talks on mechanisms for a ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces and a prisoner exchange."

The Hamas delegation is led by the group's exiled Gaza leader, Khalil al Hayya, whose visit to Egypt was the first since he survived an Israeli airstrike in Doha, the Qatari capital, last month, designed to kill him along with other top Hamas officials.

The same strike killed his son Humam al Hayya. It was the latest in a string of Israeli attempts on his life that had wiped out much of Khalil's family.

What's even more ominous is that Israel attacked Khalil and other Hamas leaders when they had gathered in Doha to discuss a peace proposal.

ASIAN SHARES JUMP TO RECORD ON JAPAN, GOLD RALLIES

**Diary Times Desk :** Asian stocks climbed to a record, led by Japan, while gold advanced to an all-time high and Bitcoin hovered near its recent peak as investors bet looser monetary policy and accelerating AI investment will bolster risk appetite.

The Nikkei 225 index jumped more than 4%, heading for the biggest one-day gain since April, after pro-stimulus lawmaker Sanae Takaichi was positioned to become the country's next prime minister.

MSCI's gauge of Asian shares climbed for a sixth day, propelling the index to a new record.

The yen weakened 1.5% against the dollar, sliding toward the closely watched level of 150 to the US currency. The yen fell to a record low against the euro. Japan's shorter-maturity notes gained, and bond futures jumped.

Gold rose above \$3,900 an ounce to yet another record, extending a rally that's been a feature of commodity markets all year. Bitcoin also set another all-time high over the weekend.

Oil advanced after OPEC+ agreed Sunday to revive just 137,000 barrels a day of halted supply – a slower pace than earlier this year. Equity-index futures for the US also rose.



WHAT ARE THE KEY STICKING POINTS IN TRUMP'S GAZA PEACE PLAN?



**Diary Times Desk :** Negotiators from Israel and Hamas are heading to Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, to start indirect talks over an end to the Israel-Gaza war.

It is the closest both sides have come to a deal since the war began two years ago.

But Donald Trump's 20-point peace plan - which Israel has agreed to and Hamas has partly agreed to - is really just a framework, only a few pages long.

And there are still major sticking points for both sides to resolve.

**Hostage release structure**  
Trump's plan states that within 72 hours of a deal being agreed all remaining hostages would be released. It is thought 48 Israeli hostages remain in Gaza, 20 of whom are believed to be alive. Trump said over the weekend the hostages could be released "very soon", while Netanyahu said they could be freed before the end of the Jewish holiday Sukkot - or October 13th.

FRANCE IN FRESH POLITICAL CRISIS AS PM LECORNU QUILTS AFTER 26 DAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** France is facing further political chaos after the country's latest prime minister, Sébastien Lecornu, resigned after just 26 days in the role. Hours after quitting, Lecornu accepted a request from French President Emmanuel Macron to work on a plan for the "stability for the country" by Wednesday evening. That unexpected twist capped a day of political upheaval which saw stocks fall sharply on the Paris exchange amid concerns over the political parties' ability to tackle the country's economic woes.

Lecornu's shock resignation on Monday morning came the day after he unveiled his cabinet, and made him the third French PM to leave office since last December.

His ministerial line-up had been fiercely criticised across the board by parties in the National Assembly, which threatened to vote it down.

GOVERNOR SLAMS 'TRUMP'S INVASION' AS TROOPS DEPLOYED IN ILLINOIS

**Diary Times Desk :** Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has slammed what he called Donald Trump's "invasion," saying the United States president had ordered an additional 400 National Guard members from Texas to be deployed to Illinois, Oregon and "other states". "I call on Governor Abbott to immediately withdraw any support for this decision and refuse to coordinate," he said on X Sunday evening. "There is no reason a President should send military troops into a sovereign state without their knowledge, consent, or cooperation." Texas Governor Greg Abbott responded by saying he "fully authorised" Trump's deployment of his state's National Guard soldiers to other states.

"You can either fully enforce protection for federal employees or get out of the way and let Texas Guard do it," Abbott said in a post on X.

NOBEL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE AWARDED TO IMMUNE SYSTEM RESEARCHERS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine has been awarded to Mary E Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi for their work on the functioning of the human immune system. The award, announced by Sweden's Karolinska Institute on Monday, will be presented to the trio in December for "their groundbreaking discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance that prevents the immune system from harming the body". The research "relates to how we keep our immune system under control so we can fight all imaginable microbes and still avoid autoimmune disease", said Marie Wahren-Herlenius, a rheumatology professor at the Karolinska Institute. The prize of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1.17m) is to be shared equally between Brunkow and Ramsdell, both 64, of the United States and Japan's Sakaguchi, 74. The king of Sweden will also present them with gold medals. "Their discoveries have laid the foundation for a new field of research and spurred the development of new treatments, for example for cancer and autoimmune diseases," the prize-awarding body said in a statement.

FIRST SUPERMOON OF THE YEAR IS APPROACHING. HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW

**Diary Times Desk :** The moon will appear slightly larger and brighter Monday night during what's known as a supermoon.

October's supermoon is the first of three this year. It happens when a full moon is closer to Earth in its orbit. That makes the moon look up to 14% bigger and 30% brighter than the faintest moon of the year, according to NASA. The subtle difference happens a few times a year, sometimes coinciding with other astronomical events such as lunar eclipses.

"It's not really very unusual," said Derrick Pitts, chief astronomer with the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Everyone in the world can see a supermoon without special equipment if clear skies permit. But the difference can be tough to discern, especially if people haven't observed the regular moon on the nights leading up.

"If you go out and just look at the moon when it's very high in the sky, there is nothing relative to it to give you an idea of how big it looks," Pitts said.

PAK SHIPS 1ST CONSIGNMENT OF RARE EARTH MINERALS TO US: REPORT

**Diary Times Desk :** Pakistan and the United States are entering a new phase in their economic and strategic partnership as both sides advance towards implementing an agreement for the export of rare earth minerals, Dawn reported.

According to the report, US Strategic Metals (USSM), which signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan in September, has sent its first consignment of mineral samples to the United States as part of the deal. The American firm plans to invest nearly \$500 million to set up mineral processing and development facilities in Pakistan.



Sources in Washington told Dawn that the shipment marks a crucial step towards Pakistan's integration into the global critical minerals supply chain, a sector increasingly vital for industrial growth and national security worldwide. The shipment, prepared domestically in coordination with the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), includes antimony, copper concentrate, and rare earth elements such as neodymium and praseodymium. In a statement, USSM described the delivery as "a milestone in the Pakistan-US strategic partnership," adding that the MoU "establishes a roadmap for cooperation across the entire mineral value chain from exploration and processing to the establishment of refineries inside Pakistan." USSM CEO Stacy W Hastie said the first delivery "opens an exciting chapter of collaboration between USSM and Pakistan's Frontier Works Organisation, aimed at expanding trade and deepening friendship between our two countries." As per Dawn, the agreement could give Pakistan a foothold in the global critical minerals market, potentially generating billions in revenue, creating employment, and enabling technology transfer.

FIFTH THIRD AND  
COMERICA AGREE TO  
FORM AMERICA'S  
NINTH-LARGEST BANK

**Diary Times Desk :** Fifth Third on Monday agreed to buy regional lender Comerica in an all-stock deal valued at \$10.9 billion, creating the ninth-largest U.S. lender with a robust presence in the Midwest. Regional lenders are looking to diversify revenue streams, strengthen balance sheets and expand into faster-growing markets as they recover from an industry-wide crisis in 2023 that shook investor confidence and exposed the risks of bank runs and troubles in commercial real estate. Analysts have said consolidation is crucial for smaller lenders to compete with the nation's largest banks, with several banks looking to take advantage of a potentially lighter regulatory environment under the Trump administration. Comerica shareholders will receive 1.8663 Fifth Third shares for each Comerica share, valuing the deal at \$82.88 per share based on Fifth Third's closing price on October 3.

TRUMP'S TARIFF  
REVENUE COULD HELP  
KEEP THE GOVERNMENT  
OPEN. WHY ISN'T THAT  
HAPPENING?

**Diary Times Desk :** Hundreds of thousands of federal government employees are being furloughed or working without pay during the ongoing government shutdown. Core functions, including many food and drug inspections, are suspended because Republicans and Democrats remain deadlocked on funding the government. Meanwhile, the government continues to rake in record levels of tariff revenue, which President Donald Trump frequently brags about. Those tens of billions of dollars are a drop in the bucket compared to what it takes to fund the government, but they could soften the blow from the shutdown – at least temporarily – while lawmakers remain at odds. Last month, the Treasury Department reported tariff revenue of \$31.7 billion, bringing total tariff collections so far this year to \$190 billion, a 160% increase compared to the same period last year.

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. The full-service pharmacy first opened in 1962 and became well-known for its cult-favorite ice cream brand, Thrifty, which has since been sold due to the store's bankruptcy. Rite Aid first filed for bankruptcy in October 2023, largely because of competition from bigger chains and its debt pile, which topped \$4 billion due to expensive legal battles for allegedly filling unlawful opioid prescriptions.



MAJOR CHALLENGE TO NVIDIA: OPENAI'S MASSIVE NEW  
COMPUTING PUSH WILL RUN ON AMD CHIPS

**Diary Times Desk :** In a significant challenge to Nvidia's dominance, OpenAI announced Monday it would buy 6 gigawatts of computing power from data centers that will run exclusively on AMD chips. Nvidia (NVDA) has become the go-to AI chipmaker in recent years, propelling it to a \$4.6 trillion market capitalization that has made it the world's most valuable public company. OpenAI, famous for its ChatGPT AI chatbot, is the artificial-intelligence frontrunner that just made waves when it launched the breakthrough video generator Sora 2. Just two weeks ago, the companies announced a \$100 billion partnership, in which Nvidia agreed to start delivering chips in 2026. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said in a post on X that the company plans to increase its Nvidia purchasing and that the AMD partnership is "incremental" to its "work with Nvidia." But AMD is no slouch, and demand for AI computing power is so high that OpenAI needed to hedge its bets.



BARI WEISS IS NOW CBS NEWS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AFTER PARAMOUNT ACQUIRES  
THE FREE PRESS

**Diary Times Desk :** Journalist and entrepreneur Bari Weiss is taking charge at CBS News and her startup, The Free Press, is being acquired by CBS parent company Paramount. Starting today, Weiss is the editor-in-chief of CBS News, a new position that has stirred anxieties within the storied news division. Weiss said in a memo to staffers that she wants to help make CBS "the most trusted news organization in America and the world." She will continue to run The Free Press as a standalone brand within its new owner, Paramount. The company did not release details about the transaction, but the Wall Street Journal reported that Paramount is paying about \$150 million for the startup. It's a buzzy and risky move – the editor of a digital magazine with a clear editorial POV collaborating with one of the country's oldest broadcasters – that reflects Paramount CEO David Ellison's desire to shake up CBS News. Ellison recently took control of Paramount through a merger with his own smaller company, Skydance Media, and he has been talking with Weiss about joining forces for months.





WEWORK INDIA TOPS  
PEERS IN REVENUE,  
PROFITABILITY DESPITE  
SMALLER FOOTPRINT

**Diary Times Desk :**  
WeWork India, one of the country's leading premium flexible workspace operators, has remained the largest player by revenue for the past three years. However, as the workspace player is set to make its entry onto Dalal Street, how does it stack up against its competitors?  
Earnings:

Its total income grew 22 percent from Rs 1,423 crore in FY23 to Rs 1,737 crore in FY24, and rose another 17 percent to Rs 2,024 crore in FY25.  
Revenue from operations climbed 27 percent from Rs 1,315 crore in FY23 to Rs 1,665 crore in FY24, and further increased 17 percent to Rs 1,949 crore in FY25. In the June quarter of FY26, revenue from operations stood at Rs 535 crore, up 19 percent year-on-year.

JINDAL STAINLESS SETS  
UP FABRICATION UNIT  
IN MAHARASHTRA AT  
RS 125 CR INVESTMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Jindal Stainless on Monday said it has set up a steel fabrication unit in Maharashtra, with an initial investment of Rs 125 crore, aimed at catering to the country's infrastructure sector.  
The unit will fabricate critical components, including bridge girders, among others, to support advanced infrastructure development in India, the company said in a statement.  
By FY26-27, the unit is expected to achieve an annual fabrication capacity of 18,000 tonnes, up from an estimated 4,000 tonnes in the current financial year, to meet the growing demand for sustainable, high-quality bridge infrastructure.  
Spread over an area of 4 lakh square feet, the facility has been set up through subsidiary Jindal Stainless Steelway Limited (JSSL) at Patalganga in Mumbai with an initial investment of around Rs 125 crore.  
"The fabrication unit is another step in our efforts to provide integrated solutions for customers. Bridges are critical connectors, linking people, businesses, and economic activity across the nation," its Managing Director Abhyuday Jindal said.

SEBI CLEARS IPOs OF LENSkart, WAKEfit, FOUR OTHERS



**Diary Times Desk :** Lenskart Solutions, Wakefit Innovations, Waterways Leisure Tourism, and Tenneco Clean Air India are among six IPOs that received approval from the SEBI to go ahead with their IPO plans. The capital markets regulator also cleared Shree Ram Twistex and Lamtuf IPOs.

The market regulator had issued observation letters on draft papers of Waterways Leisure Tourism, Shree Ram Twistex, and Lamtuf on September 26, while Lenskart Solutions, Wakefit Innovations, and Tenneco Clean Air India received observation letters on their IPO papers on October 3, as per the processing status of draft offer documents published on October 6.

The issuance of observation letter means the company can launch its IPO within the next one year.  
SoftBank- and Kedaara Capital-backed eyewear company Lenskart Solutions, which filed draft papers with SEBI in July this year, has proposed to raise Rs 2,150 crore through its fresh issue, while promoters and investors will be offloading 13.22 crore equity shares via an offer-for-sale (OFS).

LTIMINDTREE WINS ITS LARGEST-EVER DEAL; SOURCES PEG SIZE AT  
\$580 MILLION



**Diary Times Desk :** Indian IT services company LTIMindtree announced on Monday that it had won its largest-ever deal, with two sources aware of the matter pegging the size at \$580 million.  
  
The sixth largest software services exporter in India said the deal was with a leading global media and entertainment company, but did not disclose the name of the client.  
  
The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the size of the deal or the name of the client.  
The deal comes at a time when India's \$283-billion IT sector is facing macroeconomic uncertainties, tariff-related risks and changes in U.S. immigration policy. India's IT companies will report their numbers for the September quarter starting Thursday, and analysts expect muted results.  
  
LTIMindtree had also announced its now second-largest deal of \$450 million in May, which sources said was with U.S. agribusiness giant Archer-Daniels-Midland.  
  
The company's shares closed 3% higher on Monday, marking their biggest daily jump in nearly five months.  
  
LTIMindtree said it will play a role in the client's efforts "to streamline operations and modernise delivery models, incorporating automation, process optimisation, and vendor consolidation". While the large caps are still optimising legacy portfolios, these mid-caps are winning new logos and expanding into outcome-based, AI-powered deals," he added.





TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
REQUIRES HANDS-ON  
APPROACH;  
PRACTICALS ESSENTIAL  
IN ENGINEERING: HC

**Diary Times Desk :** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that technical education leading to degrees or diplomas in engineering must include both theory and practicals. The Bench held that practical sessions form the backbone of technical education and could not be replaced casually by distance learning.

Relying on a Supreme Court decision, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar asserted: "Practicals form the backbone of such education, representing a hands-on approach, where theoretical principles are applied under the supervision of demonstrators or lecturers. Knowledge imparted in theory classes is intended to be reinforced through practical sessions. Thus, practicals constitute an integral component of the technical education system."

HC SLAMS FAILURE TO  
REGULATE  
MUSHROOMING OF  
'EXPLOITATIVE'  
EDUCATION  
INSTITUTIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** Taking note of the decay in educational regulation in India, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has come down heavily on the unchecked mushrooming of educational institutions "that exploit the desperation of citizens aspiring for public employment", while holding that the regulators have fallen short in safeguarding even the most elementary academic standards. The bench also called for restrictions on the burgeoning unapproved distance education centres and urged the public to be alerted about unapproved programmes offered through the distance mode.

"Despite repeated guidelines issued by the courts to such institutions, as well as directions given to statutory regulators, the unfortunate reality remains that the regulators have failed in their duty to enforce even the minimum standards of education," Justice Harpreet Singh Brar observed.

BRIJENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES SADBHAV YATRA SANS HARYANA CONGRESS  
CHIEF, CLP LEADER

**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. Some Congress leaders, including Hisar MP Jai Prakash, described it as a personal yatra of Brijendra Singh. The newly appointed state Congress president Rao Narender Singh and Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who is the Congress Legislative Party chief, stayed away from today's event. Brijendra Singh, who is the vice-chairman of the Congress' Foreign Affairs Committee, stated that the yatra aims to promote harmony among all communities in the state. He accused the ruling BJP of fostering divisions in society for political gain. "The BJP's divisive politics have deepened caste, regional and communal discord in Haryana. The primary objective of the Sadbhav Yatra is to revive bhaichara (brotherhood) within Haryanvi society," he said.



ANIL VIJ URGES CENTRE TO SHIFT  
CHANDIGARH AIRPORT TRAFFIC TO  
AMBALA CANTT

**Diary Times Desk :** Even as the inauguration of the domestic airport in Ambala Cantonment remains pending, Cabinet Minister Anil Vij has urged the Union Civil Aviation Minister to explore the possibility of shifting flight operations from Chandigarh Airport to Ambala for the convenience of passengers.

According to officials, Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Chandigarh, will remain closed for flight operations from October 26 (1 am) to November 7 (11.59 pm) due to polymer modified emulsion work planned on the runway. The airfield will not be available for fixed-wing aircraft operations during this period.

Speaking to The Tribune, Vij said, "The Chandigarh airport is to be closed for a few days due to repair works, and it will cause inconvenience to the passengers as there is no other airport from Delhi to Amritsar which can be used in this situation. The domestic airport in Ambala is ready and all the equipment have been installed.

WESTERN DISTURBANCE BRINGS  
SIGNIFICANTLY EXCESS RAINS IN  
NORTH-WEST INDIA

**Diary Times Desk :** With western disturbances hitting north-west India, the region is experiencing widespread rains, leading to a significant post-monsoon surplus in precipitation during the first week of October.

This month so far, rainfall has been surplus by 415 per cent in Punjab. From October 1 till the morning of October 6, the state received 11.9 mm rain compared to the long period average (LPA) of 2.3 mm for this period.

In the neighbouring states of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, rainfall during this period has been above the LPA by 248 per cent and 129 per cent, respectively, according to data compiled by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Over the past 24 hours, most areas of Punjab received varying amounts of rainfall. At 25.6 mm, Pathankot received the highest amount of rain, followed by Amritsar with 21.6 mm and Gurdaspur with 15.6 mm.

KARNAL FARMERS, ARHTIYAS PROTEST NON-PURCHASE OF PADDY AT MANDI



**Diary Times Desk :** A large number of farmers and arhtiyas staged a protest at the Karnal grain market on Sunday afternoon over the non-procurement of paddy or procurement below the MSP. The dharna continued till the filing of this report disrupting operations at the grain market. Farmers and arhtiyas warned that if procurement does not begin immediately, they might escalate their agitation and block GT Road. Farmers claim that paddy is being purchased at extremely low rates by some opportunistic buyers and others are being denied fair prices citing moisture content as an excuse.

"Today, we have blocked the mandi from inside and even closed the weighing machine unit. But if the government does not start buying crops soon, we will block the highways as well," said Rattan Mann, state president of BKU.

## 'I Didn't Feel Safe, I Didn't Feel Seen'

From Lagos to the Grammys, Nigerian singer-songwriter Tems has conquered the global stage without compromising who she is. "Authenticity is everything to me," she says. "That's the one thing I cannot compromise on because that's all I have — who I really am."

When Tems stepped on stage at New York's MetLife Stadium for the FIFA Club World Cup halftime show in July, the world was watching. The 30-year-old admits performing for millions of global viewers was nerve-wracking. Still, she reflects on the moment with gratitude. "It was an honor to just be there," she says.

For some, her performance was their first introduction to the soulful popstar who has become one of Africa's best-known cultural exports. For many others, it was confirmation of what they already knew: Tems is rewriting the rules of global music.

Born Temilade Openiyi in Lagos, Nigeria she started writing songs at a young age, teaching herself to produce music



Lauren Lee

"There are women everywhere who just need to feel seen. All they need is that platform, all they need is that chance, and I really believe it's going to change the shape of the music industry for sure."

when few were willing to give her a shot. "It was really hard to get people to take me seriously — not just as a producer, but as a singer, period," she recalls. "I didn't feel safe, and I didn't feel seen, and I didn't feel supported for a very long time." Those early struggles did not derail her: instead, they became her fuel.

That grit powered her rise to superstardom. Tems collaborated with Wizkid on "Essence" in 2020, which became the first Nigerian song to chart on the Billboard Hot 100. In 2022, Tems made history again when vocal snippets from her song "Higher" were sampled in Future and Drake's Grammy-winning "Wait for U," which debuted at No. 1 on the same chart — another first for Nigerians. Her own single "Free Mind" climbed the US charts, while her voice and lyrics found their way onto Beyoncé's "Move" and Rihanna's "Lift Me Up."

In 2025, she cemented her place among music's elite winning a Grammy for Best African Music Performance for "Love Me JeJe," a reimagining of a Nigerian classic.

Despite her rapid ascent, Tems insists that fame has never been the goal. "I wasn't thinking, is this working or not working? I was just like, well, I'm going to be me. If being me lands me under the bridge, cool. If it lands me on top of the mountain, cool."

And now, she's channeling that conviction into something bigger than herself. In August, Tems launched the Leading Vibe Initiative, a mentorship and training platform designed to support women in music.



The initiative hopes to reshape an industry that often sidelines female talent. "There are so many talented women that can be producers, managers, audio engineers — but they're not even visible," she says. "So, I want to make them visible and create a space where we can redefine the perspective of women in music."

With the initiative, which is open to women ages 18-35, Tems chose to begin in Lagos, but her ambitions don't stop there. "We're definitely taking this beyond Nigeria. Actually, we're going to Kenya next," she says.

## Rocky Horror Picture Show

### Tim Curry's Wry Humor Was On Full Display

It's not easy giving yourself over to absolute pleasure — unless you're watching one of the most popular midnight movies in the presence of a cult movie icon.



**Toward the end of his address before the movie, a voice from the crowd shouted to Curry, "We love you." It didn't go unnoticed by Curry.**



Dan Heching

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" regularly hosts screenings in multiple locations in Los Angeles, New York, London, Paris, Munich and more.

Tim Curry made a surprise appearance at a 50th anniversary screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" over the weekend at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles as part of the long-running Cinespia screening series, where love from an adoring, multigenerational audience came in the form of several standing ovations.

Curry's costar Barry Bostwick in the 1975 film introduced him just ahead of the screening, saying he "wouldn't be here tonight if it wasn't for a young actor named Tim Curry, who took a chance at one time, and put his blossoming career potentially up in the air when he put on 6-inch high heels."

The 79-year-old actor, also famous for his starring role in '80s gem "Clue," addressed the audience from a wheelchair, which he has been using since a stroke in 2012.

With his signature wit, Curry told the crowd: "I'd like to tell you that I haven't been legless before tonight, but it wouldn't be true."

I'm, unfortunately, currently sitting in a wheelchair, so get over it!" He also joked with Bostwick, 80, saying, "When Barry was being introduced, he was introduced as 'OG,' and I'm assuming that means 'old geysar.'"

"We're all that way, Tim," Bostwick said back. "True," Curry admitted, "but you've got that lovely white hair."

Bostwick also had some kind words for Curry, recalling how they made the film on a shoestring budget over the duration of only five weeks and highlighting Curry's inviting demeanor on set.

"When I first met everybody on the set or in rehearsal for 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show,' you were the one who came up and gave the biggest hug, and gave us the warmest welcome," he said. "And I'll never forget that."

Bostwick also remembered arriving to set with costars Susan Sarandon and the late Meat Loaf, who died in 2022.

"When we got off the plane, you hugged us and you said, 'Welcome, welcome, welcome to your world' — and we've been there for 50 years," he said. "Thank you, Tim. We love you."

A madcap and subversive musical journey that in many ways feels just as envelope-pushing now as it did at the time of its release, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" began as "The Rocky Horror Show" in 1973 in a London theater, authored by Richard O'Brien, who also plays Riff Raff in the movie. Making the leap from stage to screen, the "Picture Show" was originally marketed as "A different set of Jaws," as it came out at the tail end of the summer that saw the release of Steven Spielberg's behemoth killer shark blockbuster.

But as seen in the trailer for the new documentary "Strange Journey: The Story of Rocky Horror," now in theaters, the decision to later move it to a midnight time slot proved wise and ultimately very profitable, as "the same 50 people every week" began showing up to the movie theater — eventually leading to recurring midnight (or late-night) screenings in cities and towns everywhere and turning the movie into what is now regarded as the longest-running theatrical release in movie history.

INFA

## Tang Dynasty

### MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL: MOONCAKES, LANTERNS AND SO MUCH MORE



Sarah Aarthur

**One of the biggest stars of the Mid-Autumn Festival is the mooncake — it's as important to festivities as turkey is to Thanksgiving and latkes are to Hanukkah. In most places in China, the caloric pastry is sliced up and shared like a cake between families and friends.**

It's not an exaggeration to call Mid-Autumn Festival the world's largest full moon party. Even Labubu, the wildly popular Pop Mart toy, has been known to celebrate the event.

Falling on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, the festival is marked primarily across East and Southeast Asia as a night for families to gather, enjoy the harvest, light lanterns and admire what's believed to be the roundest moon of the year.

In 2025, the Mid-Autumn Festival, or the Moon Festival, is celebrated on October 6. You can count on plenty of mooncakes, pomelos and more moon-connected essentials as part of traditions marking the ancient holiday.

Here's what you need to know about the festival and a few tips on how to join the fun.

What is the Mid-Autumn Festival? Mid-Autumn Festival became an official celebration in China during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE) but there isn't one single answer to the question of when and how the annual event began. Many believe the fete was first mentioned in the "Book of Rites," a Confucius classic on bureaucracy and rituals written

more than 2,400 years ago.

It was described as a day for emperors to celebrate the year's harvest by giving offerings to the moon and hosting a great feast.

Today, the Mid-Autumn Festival is an incredibly important family gathering — it's when "people and the moon reunite to form a full circle," as an old saying goes. Chang'e: The moon festival goddess

Like many cultural celebrations, the Mid-Autumn Festival is shrouded in myth. One of the most beloved — and tragic — pieces of folklore tells the story of how a woman named Chang'e became the moon goddess.

According to the legend, after mythological Chinese archer Hou Yi courageously shot down nine surplus suns — leaving only one, in effect protecting the world from being scorched completely — he was given an elixir from heaven as a reward.

Hou Yi's wife Chang'e drank the elixir while protecting it from a greedy apprentice, but became so light that she floated to the moon.

Missing his wife, Hou Yi prepared a feast every year on the day when the moon was at its fullest, hoping to get a glimpse of his wife's shadow.

Just how well known is this story? China's Chang'e lunar modules, part of the country's ambitious space program, were named in honor of the moon goddess. Meanwhile, Yutu (Jade Rabbit) — China's moon rover — was named after a legendary rabbit that was sent to accompany Chang'e to the moon. When it comes to celebrating the festival, customs vary throughout Asia.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is considered "children's day" in Vietnam and celebrations include paper lantern fairs and lion dance parades. Meanwhile, in southern China, most people will light a lantern and eat autumn fruits such as pomelo and starfruit.

Some villages in Hong Kong still preserve the tradition of fire dragon dancing through a narrow alley. In South Korea, the Mid-Autumn Festival (or Chuseok) is one of the nation's most important holidays.



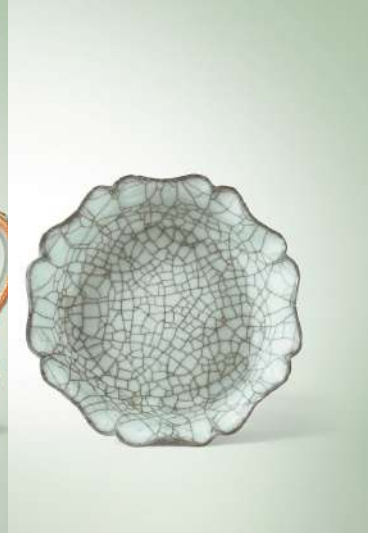


## HEAVENLY MANDATE AND SELF-CULTIVATION: IMPERIAL SCHOLAR'S OBJECTS FROM THE AI LIAN TANG COLLECTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Emperor Gaozong of Qing, known as Emperor Qianlong, reigned for sixty years (1736–1795) and continued to hold on to power as Emperor Emeritus for three years after his abdication. Militarily, he composed Shiquan Ji (Note on the Ten Campaigns, 1792) to commend his achievements and thereafter began calling himself Shiquan Laoren (The Old Man with Ten Accomplishments). Culturally, his reign also left a profound legacy. The compilation of the seven sets of Siku Quanshu (Complete Library of the Four Treasuries) remains an unparalleled scholarly achievement, while the Shiqu Baoji (Collected Treasures of the Stony Moat) and Midian Zhulin (Forest of the Secret Hall), along with their sequels, catalogued the imperial collection of paintings and calligraphy. Imperial catalogues of bronzes and ink stones commissioned under his reign remain essential references for antiquarians today.

In the preface to Xiqing Yanpu (The Catalogue of Xiqing Inkstones), the Qianlong Emperor noted that since ancient times, when scholars eulogized stationery, the 'Four Treasures of the Study'—brush, ink stick, paper, and ink stone—have always been 'indispensable essentials'. However, brushes are the least durable, followed by paper, then ink, while ink stones are the most enduring. A superb example from the Christie's upcoming Hong Kong Autumn Sale is an imperial Beijing enamel tiered ink stone warmer, ordered in the first year of his reign. In 1736, the ambitious 25-year-old Hongli ascended the throne, ushering in an era he hoped would be marked by stability and peace, symbolized by the wild geese and quails (yān and ān, homophones for 'peace') depicted on this very object. Ink stone warmers are designed to keep ink from freezing in cold weather, thereby facilitating writing.

This type of ink stone can be dated back to the Tang Dynasty and its existence is documented in literary works of the period, such as Zhang Shuo's Inscription on the Warm Ink stone and Bai Juyi's poems. Those made for the Qing court, however, began during the Kangxi reign. Warm ink stones generally adopted three heating methods: charcoal heating, water heating, and a combination of charcoal and water heating. This example features a platform on the top tier, designed to hold an extremely thin Duan ink stone.



## FONDATION OPALE: 'A HAVEN FOR ABORIGINAL ARTISTS' — IN THE SWISS ALPS

**Diary Times Desk :** The artist Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori first picked up a paintbrush in 2005, when she was 81 years old. She had been born on Bentinck Island, off the coast of Queensland, Australia, but in her twenties she was moved away, along with all the indigenous Kaiadilt people, after drought and sea-flooding rendered Bentinck all but uninhabitable.

The effect of that migration was devastating for Kaiadilt culture: much of their language and lore was lost. For the greater part of her life, Sally Gabori was cut off from the place where she grew up. Yet that place was the almost exclusive theme of the hundreds of paintings she produced in the last decade of her life.

An exhibition of work by Sally Gabori and Forrest Bess — Beneath the Reflections of the World — can presently be seen at the Fondation Opale in the Swiss mountain village of Lens (until 16 November). And it is utterly joyous to behold. Sally Gabori's large compositions, made up of irregular swathes of bright acrylic paint, pulsate with youthful energy. It is hard to credit that they were painted by an octogenarian.

In the show there is a piece entitled My Country, dating from 2010, in which the roughly rectangular fields of primary colour are like an Expressionist take on some newly minted national flag. A work with the same name, from the same year, is made up of two unequal blocks of purple and pink, like a raggedy-edged Rothko or Clyfford Still. It could be a picture of magenta hills silhouetted against a glowing sunset, or an overhead view of dark water lapping on a coral beach.

One thing is for sure: it is not an abstraction. Encoded in these and other paintings are Sally Gabori's memories of Bentinck — the sandbars and the rivers, the forms of eddies in the water off the coast. Many contain areas of black paint which, it seems, stand for human intervention in the landscape.

All Sally Gabori's work in the show is drawn from the collection of Bérengère Primat, who has been collecting Aboriginal art for more than 25 years, and set up the foundation as a means to promote it, celebrate it, and to help define its unique place in the global scene. 'This is a contemporary art gallery,' says Primat. 'It is also a haven for Aboriginal artists, a place where they can come and be loud, say whatever they want.'

Primat's engagement with Aboriginal art began with an epiphany in Paris. 'I went to a very small gallery in the 9th arrondissement which had an exhibition called Wati, Les Hommes de Loi. There were paintings and sculptures made by men — only men — from communities all around Australia: from the Kimberley, from Arnhem Land in the Top End, from the Central Desert also.'



LIVERPOOL’S DEFENSIVE DILEMMA: WHY ARAUJO AND GUEHI WERE BOTH ON SLOT’S RADAR



**Diary Times Desk :** Liverpool’s early-season campaign has been defined as much by what didn’t happen in the transfer market as by what has unfolded on the pitch. With defensive depth already a growing concern, the club’s inability to secure reinforcements at centre-back has become a focal point of discussion.

Despite strong efforts on deadline day, Liverpool missed out on signing Marc Guehi — a move that, in hindsight, could have eased the mounting pressure on Arne Slot’s defensive unit. Now, reports from Spain indicate that Guehi was not the only high-profile defender Liverpool had in their sights, with Barcelona’s Ronald Araujo also emerging as a serious target.

Liverpool’s Centre-Back Situation Grows More Concerning

Liverpool began the season with four recognised senior central defenders, but the situation deteriorated quickly. Giovanni Leoni’s long-term injury came just weeks after the club’s failed pursuit of Guehi, leaving Slot to manage a threadbare backline.

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.

This confidence comes after a tough midweek for Barcelona in Europe. On Wednesday night, they suffered a 1-2 home defeat to a Paris Saint-Germain side struggling with injuries.

Despite missing key players, PSG pulled off a famous win, leaving Barcelona to regroup quickly ahead of their La Liga fixture.

While the loss was a setback in Europe, Flick’s side has been performing strongly in Spain.

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

**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.

Barça Universal brings you the player ratings from Sevilla 4-1 Barcelona.

The Polish shot-stopper was Barcelona’s best player in the first half, and that in itself speaks volumes about how poor the Catalans were in the opening period.

THREE THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED FROM SEVILLA VS BARCELONA

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona suffered a tough defeat against Sevilla at the Sanchez Pizjuan, facing a side that combined tactical discipline with relentless energy.

From the first whistle, Sevilla showed why they are one of the toughest opponents in La Liga.

The home team pressed high, moved the ball quickly, and made life difficult for Hansi Flick’s side, leaving Barcelona struggling to find rhythm.

This loss has put Barcelona’s hopes of entering the upcoming international break as La Liga leaders in jeopardy.

After Real Madrid’s 3-1 victory over Villarreal, the Blaugrana needed a win to overtake their rivals.

Instead, they will now head into the break two points behind Xabi Alonso’s team in second place, giving the coach and players time to reflect and adjust before resuming league action.

THREE TAKEAWAYS FROM SEVILLA 4-1 BARCELONA | LA LIGA MD8

**Diary Times Desk :** Over the past year, Barcelona made it a norm to not only register wins but to do so with a dominant margin.

Scoring three or four goals against opponents, thus, became a normalcy and they made it a point to regularly even put several goals into the back of the net.

Yesterday, however, they were forced to taste their own medicine as they conceded four goals from an inspired Sevilla side, who took complete advantage of their sluggishness and exploited it to the maximum.

Los Nervionenses were the better side in the opening half by some distance and should have been four goals clear by half-time.

Only some Wojciech Szczesny brilliance and a Marcus Rashford goal, however, saw the half end 2-1 in Sevilla’s favour. Barcelona had their chances after the break but scuffed them all, allowing the hosts to score two more and register a thumping 4-1 win on the night. Barcelona have not had too many worse performances under Hansi Flick than they showed yesterday, and it is safe to say that the game the Catalans dished out at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan was one of the worst they have played in recent years.

Indeed, one remembers Barcelona’s slump towards the end of 2024 when they collapsed multiple times in La Liga to fall significantly behind the leaders.

THREE TAKEAWAYS FROM BARCELONA 1-2 PSG



**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona did not have enough steam to get over the line against PSG last night at Montjuic, and a game that appeared set to end in a draw eventually ended in a win for the French champions with a goal in the 90th minute.

Both sides were missing crucial starters and entered the game off the back of a hectic schedule. PSG, however, were the better side over 90 minutes and deservedly won the game.

In what is absolutely uncharacteristic of the Catalans, they managed only 36% of the possession in the second half, and the statistic shows how they simply struggled to keep up with the French giants’ energy.

Eventually, they faced their first defeat of the season and have a lot to ponder about in the coming days.

Barça Universal brings you three takeaways from Barcelona 1-2 PSG.