## DIARY TIMES



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NEWS IN BRIEF BIHAR SIR ROW: ELECTION COMMISSION ACCUSES ADR OF FILING FALSE AFFIDAVITS IN SUPREME COURT

#### Diary Times Desk :

Election Commission Thursday accused the Association Democratic Reforms (ADR) of filing false Reforms affidavits with regard Special Intensive rision (SIR) to Revision mislead the Supreme

behalf of the Election Commission, Rakesh Dwivedi told a bench led by Justice Surya Kant that petitioner ADR has given fake details of a person, who claimed that his name had excluded from the final list.

The name of the person referred to in the ADR's affidavit did not figure in the draft roll and that the details given were of some woman, Dwivedi told the bench -which also included Justice Jovmalva Bagchi.

PRIYA KAPUR 'GREEDY', 'CINDERELLA STEPMOTHER'. ACTOR KARISMA KAPOOR'S CHILDREN TELL HIGH COURT

Diary Times Desk Actor Karisma Kapoor's children on Thursday accused their stepmother Priya "greedy", while calling her "Cinderella stepmother" before the Delhi High Court.

counsel appearing for Samaira and Kiaan Rai made the submission before Justice Jyoti Singh during the hearing of their plea challenging their late father Sunjay Kapur's purported will of his assets reportedly worth Rs

In Walt Disney's 1950 film 'Cinderella', the young woman is mistreated by her stepmother who focuses all of her attention on her own two daughters.

court on September 26 allowed Sunjay Kapur's wife, Priya Kapur, to file the list of his assets in a sealed cover and suggested that the parties involved in the property dispute before it do not share media.

"She is also getting 75 per cent of the trust," he claimed.

### FINTECH **FEST 2025**

### PM MODI INVITES GLOBAL BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN INDIA'S GROWTH STORY



Diary Times Desk: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday invited global businesses to participate in the growth story of India, which is the fastest growing large economy of the world.

Addressing Global Fintech Fest 2025 here, Modi emphasised that technology is not just a matter of convenience, but a means of

"This inclusive approach has transformed our banking system. Earlier, it was a privilege, but digital technology has turned it into a tool of empowerment. Today, digital payment is a part of

The credit for this goes to the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile)," he said.

India's fintech prowess is getting global recognition, he said, adding that India is not only sharing technology with other countries but also helping them develon it

"I invite all (countries), including the UK, to forge partnership with India. All global investors are welcome to participate in India's

"We have to create such a fintech world where technology, people and planet can all prosper. The goal of innovation should not be just growth but also goodness, and finance not just means numbers but human progress," he

Highlighting that India is the mother of democracy, Modi said, "When we talk about democracy, it is not limited to elections and policy-making. India has made the democratic spirit a strong pillar of governance. Its best example is technology."

Speaking on the occasion, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the India-UK FTA will boost GDP of both countries

### PM MODI SPEAKS TO PRESIDENT TRUMP, CONGRATULATES HIM ON GAZA PEACE PLAN

Diary Times Desk: Indicating a further thaw in the Indo-US relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump spoke to each other on Thursday and probably ironed out a few wrinkles on the stalled trade deal.

Modi and Trump had buried the differences of the past on September 17 when Trump called

Modi posted on X about the telephonic talk he had with Trump, saying, "Spoke to my friend, President Trump and congratulated him on the success of the historic Gaza peace plan

Also reviewed the good progress achieved in trade negotiations. Agreed to stay in close touch over the coming we

In the post, Modi mentioned 'trade' indicating the progress in the stalled trade deal.

Talks on the trade deal resumed last month following a thaw in the relationship.



### POWERFUL EXPLOSION

### 5 KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED AS HOUSE COLLAPSES AFTER **EXPLOSION IN AYODHYA**



Diary Times Desk : At least five people were killed and several others were injured after a house collapsed following a powerful explosion in Pagla Bhari village under the Pura Kalandar police station area of Ayodhya on Thursday, officials said.

Circle Officer (CO) Shailendra Singh told PTI that several people were still feared trapped under the debris, and rescue operations were underway. "Five people have died in the explosion, a few have been injured, and efforts are on to rescue those trapped. The cause of the blast is not yet clear," Singh said.

Upon receiving information about the incident, the police, the fire department and the local administration teams rushed to the spot.

Rescue workers have been using excavators to clear the rubble, while nearby houses have been evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Officials have appealed to residents to stay Officials have appeared to leaded to the action away from the accident site to facilitate rescue efforts. Senior police and administrative officers are supervising the operation and have begun an investigation to determine the cause of the explosion.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and expressed deep condolences over the loss of lives. According to an official statement, the Chief Minister has directed senior officials to rush to the spot.

### CHHATTISGARH IT STUDENT ARRESTED FOR USING AI TOOLS TO CREATE OBSCENE IMAGES OF FEMALE STUDENTS



Diary Times Desk: A student of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Nava Raipur in Chhattisgarh was arrested for allegedly creating obscene images of female students using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, police said on Thursday.

Second-year student Sayyed Rahim Adnan Ali (21) was held from his native Bilaspur district following a complaint filed by the institute's Registrar (in charge) Srinivasa KG, said Additional Superintendent of Police (Nava Raipur) Vivek Shukla.

"After the matter came to light, a team from Rakhi police reached the institute. The management said that Ali, who was residing in the institute's boys hostel, had allegedly created obscene images by morphing photos of 36 female students using AI image generation and editing tools," Shukla said.

institute's management conducted an internal inquiry after receiving complaints from students. Based on its findings, Ali was suspended from the institute, and his mobile phone and laptop were seized," he added.

### BJP HOSTS US MEDIA, THINK-TANK LEADERS AT ITS HEADQUARTERS



Diary Times Desk : Senior journalists from prominent US media houses were hosted at the BJP's national headquarters here on Thursday.

The US-based group comprised journalists and columnists of the Washington Post, the New York Times and members of the leading think-tank Hudson Institute.

BJP foreign affairs department led by Vijay Chauthaiwale interacted with the visiting delegation and discussed about the organisation and its functioning and the core values and ideology that defines India's ruling party which claims to be the world's largest political party.

The meeting came amid ongoing discussions between India and the US to conclude an early trade deal and also on a day when PM Narendra Modi spoke to US President Donald Trump hailing his leadership for the successful conclusion of the first phase of Gaza

The two leaders also discussed the ongoing trade deal.

### MAN HELD IN ZEESHAN SIDDIQUE THREAT CASE 'ALSO SOUGHT RS 5 CRORE FROM CRICKETER RINKU SINGH'



Diary Times Desk : A man arrested for allegedly sending a threat email to former Maharashtra MLA Zeeshan Siddique has admitted that he also sought to extort Rs 5 crore from India cricketer Rinku Singh in the name of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, a police official said on Thursday.

Mohammed Dilshad Naved (35), a resident of Bihar, was apprehended by Mumbai Crime Branch on August 1 this year after he returned from the Caribbean nation of Tinidad and Tobago, the official said.

The Mumbai Crime Branch's Anti Extortion Cell has filed a chargesheet in the Zeeshan Siddique threat mail case.

The statement of Naved, in which he spoke about seeking Rs 5 crore from Rinku Singh by sending messages on the mobile phone of the cricketer's publicity team, is part of the chargesheet.

## "ZUBEEN GARG LOVED HIM DEARLY": SINGER'S WIFE AFTER COP COUSIN'S ARREST

Diary Times Desk: Hours after Zubeen Garg's cousin and Deputy Superintendent of Police Sandipan Garg was arrested in connection with his death, the singer's wife has said the two were very close and Zubeen "loved him dearly". Garima Garg also reiterated that she has faith in the justice system and the family wants answers.

Zubeen had died in Singapore on September 19, where he had gone to perform at the North East India Festival. The 52-year-old had gone for a swim during a yacht trip and was found floating face down in the water.

Sandipan, who was on the yacht trip with him, was arrested on Wednesday after being interrogated for five days. He has been sentenced to police custody for seven days and suspended by the Assam Police.

On the relationship between Zubeen and Sandipan, Garima said on Wednesday, "Sandipan became part of the Assam Police not too long ago.



### AS AFGHAN TALIBAN MINISTER BEGINS 1ST INDIA VISIT, DELHI HAS A FLAG DILEMMA

Diary Times Desk: Afahanistan's UN-sanctioned Foreign Minister has landed in India for a weeklong visit. Amir Khan Muttaqi's trip -- made possible after the UN Security Council granted him a travel waiver -- is the first visit by a top Taliban leader to India since they returned to power in 2021 following the withdrawal of US-led forces. During his trip, the Afghan minister is likely to call on External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. The visit comes at a crucial time for regional diplomacy and is expected to be closely watched by neighbours in Islamabad, as New Delhi looks to deepen its engagement with the Taliban government in Kabul. But as the South Block prepares for the bilateral engagements, officials have a flag dilemma. The diplomatic protocol dictates that the Indian flag be placed alongside the flag of the country of the visiting leader-- behind them and/or on the table.

## 'NITISH KUMAR HAS ASKED BJP TO LEAD NEGOTIATIONS': SOURCES ON NDA SEAT-SHARING

**Diary Times Desk:** The BJP's core team that is finalising the names of party candidates for the Bihar election will meet on Saturday, sources said. Following this, a meeting of the BJP's central election committee will be held the next day, they said

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP Nadda, and other senior leaders will participate at the Sunday meeting, sources said.

The first list of candidates from the BJP and its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners in Bihar is expected to be released on Monday, they added. All the parties in the Bihar NDA are also likely to announce candidate names jointly, sources said. This would help in keeping matters consistent and fair, they said.

There is no problem among the NDA partners in choosing candidates and finalising on seat-sharing for the Bihar election, sources said.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his Janata Dal (United), or JD(U) is a major partner of the BJP in the state. In addition to facing a strong onslaught from the combined might of the Opposition Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the NDA has another rival to deal with this time - Prashant Kishor and his Jan Suraaj, who are positioning themselves as new-generation leaders.

## COURT RAPS CENTRE OVER "UNWILLINGNESS" TO WAIVE LOANS FOR WAYANAD LANDSLIDE VICTIMS



**Diary Times Desk:** In a stinging observation, the Kerala High Court on Wednesday said that the Union government has "virtually failed" the victims of the 2024 landslides in Wayanad by not exercising its powers to waive off the loans availed by them. A bench of justices A K Jayasankaran Nambiar and Jobin Sebastian termed as "unfortunate" and "exasperating" the central government's stand not to waive off the loans of the victims.

It directed that any recovery action by banks against the landslide victims in Wayanad shall be kept in abeyance till the final disposal of the PIL, initiated by the court on its own in the wake of the calamity, aimed at improving disaster prevention and management in Kerala.

### KARNATAKA: WOMEN EMPLOYEES TO GET ONE PAID DAY OFF EVERY MONTH AS STATE CABINET APPROVES MENSTRUAL LEAVE POLICY

**Diary Times Desk:** Karnataka cabinet on October 9 approved the 'Menstrual Leave Policy, 2025', granting women employees one day of paid leave every month. The policy will cover women working across all sectors, including government offices, garment units, IT companies, MNCs, and other private industries in the state.

Initially, the proposal provided for six days of paid menstrual leave annually for working women, but the labour department later decided to revise it to one day per month.

The state government had earlier constituted an 18-member committee to draft the Right of Women to Menstrual Leave and Free Access to Menstrual Health Products Bill.

# AGE BAR WON'T AFFECT COUPLES WHO BEGAN PROCESS BEFORE 2021 SURROGACY ACT



Diary Times Desk: The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the age restrictions under the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 will not apply retrospectively to couples who had already begun the surrogacy process, including those who had frozen embryos before the law came into effect. A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice KV Viswanathan held that the rights of intending parents to pursue surrogacy crystallised at the time they froze embryos under the prevailing legal framework, when no age restrictions were prescribed. Consequently, the court said, the statutory bar on age cannot retroactively invalidate those rights.

"At the time the intending couple froze embryos, they came under the act and thus came under parental autonomy," Justice Nagarathna observed while delivering the verdict.

### "GAINS OF 10 YEARS IN GENDER RATIO WIPED OUT": YOGENDRA YADAV SLAMS

#### SIR

### Diary Times Desk:

The Special Intensive Revision of voter lists in Bihar has wiped out 47 lakh adults and 16 lakh women in one stroke, election analyst and activist Yogendra Yadav told the Supreme Court today. During a crucial hearing of petitions challenging SIR, he also provided multiple details of "irregularities" after the top court asked petitioners to provide evidence of their claim that lakhs of people have been disenfranchised.

The Commission has objected, saying the petitioners were making "false claims in affidavits".

In view of the Commission's claims that not one person has challenged the "exclusion" of his name from the voter list and so, there were no unjustified exclusions, the top court has asked the State Legal Services Chairperson to deploy para-legal volunteers and government lawyers to help people file their appeals.

At the last hearing on Tuesday, the petitioners alleged that those disenfranchised could not appeal because the poll commission did not send individual notifications. The bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi had asked the petitioners to submit evidence of their claims.

# UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH REVIEWS J&K SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

WITH LG, OFFICIALS
Diary Times Desk: Union Home
Minister Amit Shah, on Thursday,
chaired a high-level meeting to
assess the security situation in
Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating the
Modi government's unwavering
resolve to achieve a terrorism-free
region.

He instructed officials to ensure that the government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism is strictly upheld.

Shah urged all security agencies to remain alert and work in close coordination to root out terrorism from the Union Territory.

While commending the services and performance of security forces in combating terrorism, Shah stated, "Due to the determined efforts of the security agencies, the terrorist network nurtured by enemies of the nation in Jammu and Kashmir has almost been crippled".

He further asserted that the security forces have full liberty to deal with terrorism as they see warranted based on situational requirements.

### "FRIENDSHIP ON THE MOVE": PM MODI'S CAR RIDE WITH KEIR STARMER



**Diary Times Desk:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the ties between India and the United Kingdom are "on the move" and "filled with great vigour", while sharing a picture with his British counterpart Keir Starmer during the latter's two-day visit.

The image shared by PM Modi was taken before the leaders went to attend the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai. This is Starmer's first official trip to India since assuming office in July 2024. Starmer arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday, leading the UK's trade mission to India, comprising more than 100 business, academic and cultural delegations. Starmer has urged swift implementation of the recently signed India-UK trade agreement, saying it should be done "as soon as humanly possible."

At the Global Fintech Fest, he called India-UK's free trade pact "the most ambitious trade deal India has ever done". Negotiations for a free trade agreement had begun in January 2022.

# 364 VIOLATIONS FOUND AT PHARMA COMPANY BEHIND 'KILLER' COUGH SYRUP:

**SOURCES** Diary Times Desk: The pharmaceutical company, Sresan Pharma, at the centre of the cough syrup tragedy that has claimed over a dozen children's lives in Madhya Pradesh was found to be supplying the cough syrup without testing it, said a top source. At least 20 children had died in Chhindwara after consuming the cough syrup that was found to contain a highly poisonous substance beyond permissible limits. Ranganathan Govindan owns Sresan Pharma that manufactures the Coldrif syrup. Govindan and his wife had been on the run since the tragedy came to light. He was caught in Chennai around 1:30 am on Thursday. An investigation revealed 364 violations at company's Tamil Nadu plant, including 38 serious ones, said sources. All products of Sresan company, which received the licence to operate in 2011, have been banned, said a source. This licence, which was renewed in 2016, was given by the Tamil Nadu FDA and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

### "VERY SHOCKED": CHIEF JUSTICE GAVAI BREAKS SILENCE ON SHOE ATTACK IN COURT

**Diary Times Desk:** Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Thursday described the recent attempted shoe attack on him inside the Supreme Court as a "forgotten chapter," breaking his silence two days after the unprecedented incident.

Speaking in open court, the Chief Justice remarked:
"My learned brother and I were very shocked with
what happened on Monday... for us it is a forgotten
chapter." Sitting beside Justice Ujjal Bhuyan during
the day's proceedings, the Chief Justice added no
further comment

Justice Bhuyan, however, weighed in with a pointed observation. "I have my own views on this," he said. "He is the Chief Justice of India - it's not a matter of joke. As judges over the years, we will do a lot of things which others may not think are justifiable, but that does not change our opinion about what we did."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was also present, condemned the attack.

### PRIVATE AIRCRAFT IN UP SKIDS OFF RUNWAY WHILE TAKING OFF, LANDS IN GRASS

**Diary Times Desk:** A private jet skidded off the runway seconds after it took off from an airstrip in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad for Bhopal on Thursday, officials said.

The occupants of the aircraft, top members of a private food processing company, had a narrow escape as the aircraft briefly went out of control and skidded for around 400 metres before coming to a half

The incident took place at the Mohammadabad airstrip.

A detailed investigation is underway but sources said low air pressure in the tyres of the aircraft appear to have been the reason behind the incident.

Members of Woodpecker Greenagri Nutrients Private Limited - Deputy Managing Director Ajay Arora, SBI Head Sumit Sharma, BPO Rakesh Tiku along with Captain Naseeb Bamal and Captain Prateek Fernandes were on board the jet.

## SUPREME COURT BATS FOR INTRODUCTION OF SEX EDUCATION BEFORE CLASS IX

**Diary Times Desk:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that sex education should be imparted to children from an earlier age rather than starting it from class IX as is currently being done [Juvenile X vs. State of Ultrar Pradesh]

A Bench of Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice Alok Aradhe stressed upon the need for sex education from an early age and urged the authorities to take corrective measures so that children are informed and sensitized appropriately.

"We are of the opinion that sex education should be provided to the children from a younger age and not class IX onwards. It is for the authorities concerned to apply their mind and take corrective measures, so that children are informed of the changes that happen after puberty and the care and cautions to be taken in relation thereto," the Court observed.

The Court made the observation while allowing the appeal filed a 15-year-old boy accused of offences under Section 376 (Rape) and Section 506 (Criminal Intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 6 (Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act).



### NEARLY 55,000 CHILDREN IN GAZA UNDER AGE 5 MAY BE ACUTELY MALNOURISHED: UN STUDY

Diary Times Desk:

After two years of war and dire food shortages, more than 54,600 children younger than 5 in Gaza may be acutely malnourished, with more than 12,800 severely affected, according to a new study by a United Nations agency.

By early August, roughly 16 per cent of children ages 6 months to just under 5 years in Gaza were suffering from a life-threatening type of malnutrition known as acute wasting, including nearly 4 per cent with severe wasting, according to the analysis by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the primary health care provider to Palestinian refugees in the region.

The study, published in The Lancet medical journal, is the most comprehensive study of child hunger in the region to date, the authors said. It relied on screenings of nearly 2,20,000 children from dozens of health centres and medical sites in Gaza between January 2024 and mid-August.

### 82-YEAR-OLD CHINESE WOMAN'S 'DESI' REMEDY FOR BACK PAIN, SHE SWALLOWS 8 ALIVE FROGS, THIS HAPPENS NEXT

**Diary Times Desk:** An 82-year-old woman from Zhejiang province in eastern China was hospitalised after swallowing eight live frogs in a misguided attempt to cure her chronic lower back pain, according to a report by Hangzhou Daily.

The woman, surnamed Zhang, was admitted to the Zhejiang University No. 1 Affiliated Hospital in Hangzhou in early September after experiencing severe abdominal pain. Her son told doctors that Zhang had consumed the frogs over two days—three on the first day and five on the next—believing it would relieve her herniated disc, a condition she had suffered from for years.

Zhang had reportedly asked her family to catch the frogs, all smaller than an adult's palm, without revealing her intentions. She swallowed them alive, based on a traditional but unverified folk remedy.

## CELEBRATIONS ERUPT IN GAZA AND ISRAEL AT NEWS OF DEAL TO END TWOYEAR WAR



**Diary Times Desk:** Palestinians and the families of Israeli hostages broke into wild celebrations on Thursday after news of a pact between Israel and Hamas to end the war in Gaza and return home all the Israeli hostages, both living and dead.

In Gaza, where most of the more than 2 million people have been displaced by Israeli bombing, young men applauded in the devastated streets, even as Israeli strikes continued in some parts of the enclave.

"Thank God for the ceasefire, the end of bloodshed and killing," said Abdul Majeed Abd Rabbo in Khan Younis in southern Gaza. "I am not the only one happy, all of the Gaza Strip is happy, all the Arab people, all of the world is happy with the ceasefire and the end of bloodshed. Thank you and all the love to those who stood with us." In Tel Aviv's so-called Hostages Square, where families of those seized in the Hamas attack that sparked the war two years ago have gathered to demand the return of loved ones, Einav Zaugauker, the mother of a hostage, was ecstatic.

### PM NARENDRA MODI MEETS UK PM KEIR STARMER IN MUMBAI

**Diary Times Desk:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday in the country's financial capital as the UK PM is in India on his first official visit. The leaders shook hands and exchanged pleasantries.

On Wednesday, Starmer held a series of wide-ranging interactions in Mumbai. He met with business leaders and described the India-UK trade partnership as "really important".

Speaking at an interaction with industry representatives, he said, "This is the biggest trade mission that the United Kingdom has ever sent to India."

## UN CHIEF WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT TO SECURE CEASEFIRE, HOSTAGE RELEASE IN GAZA

**Diary Times Desk:** UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed the announcement of an agreement to secure a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza, based on the proposal put forward by US President Donald Trump. He lauded the diplomatic efforts of the United States, Qatar, Egypt and Turkiye in brokering the deal and urged all concerned parties to abide fully by the terms of the agreement.

In a message shared on X, he underlined that all hostages must be released in a dignified manner and a permanent ceasefire must be secured. "The fighting must stop once and for all. Immediate and unimpeded entry of humanitarian supplies and essential commercial materials into Gaza must be ensured. The suffering must end."



### 'BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE I'VE STOOD ON MY FEET': PARALYSED WOMAN 'WALKS' AGAIN

Diary Times Desk: In a heartwarming and inspiring turn of events, New Jersey-based influencer Jessica Tawil has achieved a longheld dream of standing and walking again after being paralysed from the waist down for over a decade. With the help of advanced mobility technology, Jessica took her first steps in 10 years, capturing the emotions of millions online.

In her viral video shared by @jesstawil, titled "It's been 10 years since I've stood on my two feet... Watch my dream come true," Jessica can be seen taking her first steps with the help of advanced mobility technology. Overcome with emotion, she exclaimed, "Oh my god!!" and later added, "This is so much fun. I'm walking." The video captures her raw emotions, from disbelief and joy to laughter and tears.

Jessica's journey began after a tragic car accident on November 15, 2014, which left her paralysed. Despite the challenges she faced, Jessica remained determined and positive, inspiring thousands with her content about life with a disability. Her latest achievement is a testament to her strength and resilience.

### FRANKENSTEIN IS A VERY TRUTHFUL MOVIE AND IT'S ABOUT TODAY: FILMMAKER GUILLERMO DEL TORO

Diary Times Desk: Everything he has done so far has led him towards "Frankenstein", says Oscar-winner Guillermo del Toro. As the filmmaker sees it, the much told story of the scientist and the monster he created is set in the 19th century but is very much about today and its many realities.

The ravages of war, arrogance of science over human emotion, the incapacity to listen to the other point of view... del Toro's dream project based on Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's 1818 novel delves into it all.

"This is a very truthful movie for me and it is about today. If you think about where we are as a society, where the cause of female role is in society, the ravages of war, the need for a sweeping emotional restructuring of our minds, those things were true in 1818, and they're still true now," the Mexican American director told PTI in a Zoom interview. "We have the arrogance of science over human emotion. Completely

present. The stupidity of people that believe they can push past the boundaries of humanism into transhumanism. That is, again, a very present thing.

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### RUSSIA IS REPORTEDLY IN THE PROCESS OF EQUIPPING THE ALGERIAN AIR

FORCE WITH UP TO 14 NEW SU-34 FIGHTER-BOMBERS Diary Times Desk: In recent days, a group of hackers published on forums and social media a spreadsheet detailing a significant number of system deliveries intended for aircraft currently being produced by Russia. The document, part of the correspondence of Radioelectronic Technologies, includes a column specifying the supply of equipment for a batch of 14 Su-34 fighter-bombers for a foreign client — in this case, the Algerian Air Force — marking the first time the quantity of aircraft covered by the agreement between the two countries has been revealed. Expanding on the details, the spreadsheet lists a wide range of systems to be delivered, including L-265VE radar jamming systems, an L-277VM signals intelligence system, and L-175VSh and L-175VU pods for directional jamming, among other elements that make up an electronic warfare package to be fitted to the 14 aircraft in question. In terms of total costs, the document indicates an amount exceeding 175 million dollars. It is important to highlight that, until now, it was only known that Algeria had ordered Su-34 fighter-

It is important to highlight that, until now, it was only known that Algeria had ordered Su-34 fighter-bombers, but not how many. The only available information came from test flights of an aircraft already painted in a desert camouflage scheme indicating its destination with the Algerian Air Force. As previously reported on August 7, a series of images were published showing these aircraft flying over the city of Zhukovsky, confirming progress in the manufacturing process.



### ISRAEL, HAMAS AGREE TO 'FIRST PHASE' OF GAZA PEACE PLAN, SAYS TRUMP

**Diary Times Desk:** US President Donald Trump has announced that Israel and Hamas have "signed off on the first Phase of our Peace Plan".

In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said, "This means that ALL of the Hostages will be released very soon, and Israel will withdraw their Troops to an agreed upon line as the first steps toward a Strong, Durable, and Everlasting Peace."

"All Parties will be treated fairly! This is a GREAT Day for the Arab and Muslim World, Israel, all surrounding Nations, and the United States of America, and we thank the mediators from Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey, who worked with us to make this Historic and Unprecedented Event happen.

# 'PLEASE PUT DOWN THE PHONE': PRINCESS OF WALES URGES PARENTS TO FIGHT SOCIAL DISCONNECTION

Diary Times Desk: The Princess of Wales has a suggestion for parents: Please put down the phone. Kate, as she is commonly known, collaborated with adult development researcher Robert Waldinger to warn that technology is contributing to an epidemic of disconnection that is hurting family relationships.

Devices that promise to keep us connected often do the opposite, they say in an essay posted on the Royal Foundation Centre for Early Childhood website."We sit together in the same room while our minds are scattered across dozens of apps, notifications and feeds. We're physically present but mentally absent, unable to fully engage with the people right in front of us," the authors wrote.

### MODI PRAISES ISRAEL PM NETANYAHU FOR HIS 'STRONG' LEADERSHIP



**Diary Times Desk:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday welcomed the agreement on the first phase of US President Donald Trump's peace plan for West Asia, under which Israel and Hamas have decided to pause fighting in Gaza.

Modi said the agreement was also a reflection of the strong leadership of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We welcome the agreement on the first phase of President Trump's peace plan. This is also a reflection of the strong leadership of PM Netanyahu," Modi said in a post on X.

"We hope the release of hostages and enhanced humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza will bring respite to them and pave the way for lasting peace," he said.

Israel and Hamas have agreed to pause fighting in Gaza and release at least some hostages and prisoners in an agreement that was put forward by the Trump administration.

### PUTIN ADMITS RUSSIA'S ROLE IN AZERBAIJANI JET CRASH LAST YEAR, KILLING

### 38

### Diary Times Desk:

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia's air defences were to blame for downing an Azerbaijani jetliner in December that killed 38 people, his first admission of responsibility for the crash in an effort to ease tensions between the neighbours.

Putin said the missiles fired by Russian air defences to target a Ukrainian drone exploded near the Azerbaijani Airlines plane flying from Baku as it was preparing to land in Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, on December 25, 2024. Ukrainian drones have regularly struck deep inside Russia.

Speaking at a meeting with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev in Tajikistan's capital of Dushanbe, where both were attending a summit of the former Soviet nations, Putin pledged to punish those responsible and provide compensation.

# POPE LEO INVOKES CRITICISM OF TRUMP'S POLICIES IN FIRST MAJOR DOCUMENT

**Diary Times Desk:** Pope Leo urged the world's Catholics to help immigrants in his first major document, which was released on Thursday and invoked one of the late Pope Francis' strongest criticisms of US President Donald Trump's anti-immigration policies.

Leo's document, known as an apostolic exhortation, is focused on the needs of the world's poor. It calls for widespread changes to the global market system to address rising inequality and to help people living paycheck-to-paycheck.

The 104-page text started as a writing project by Francis, who was unable to complete it before his death in April after 12 years leading the global Church of 1.4 billion people. It was finished by Leo, the first US Pope.

"I am happy to make this document my own – adding some reflections – and to issue it at the beginning of my own pontificate," Leo writes at the beginning of the text.

Elected in May to replace Francis, Leo has shown a much more reserved style than his predecessor, who frequently criticised the Trump administration. But Leo has been ramping up his disapproval in recent weeks, drawing heated backlash from some prominent conservative Catholics

## INTERNATIONAL

### NO TO TRUMP: WHY AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBOURS HAVE OPPOSED US BAGRAM **PLAN**

Diary Times Desk: Seated next to British Prime Minister Keir Starmer during a visit to the United Kingdom in September, United States President Donald Trump made clear he was eyeing a plot of land his country's military once controlled nearly 8,000km (4,970 miles) away: Bagram airbase in Afghanistan.

"We gave it to [the Taliban] for nothing. We want that base back," he said. Two days later, this time opting to express his views on social media, Trump wrote: "If Afghanistan doesn't give Bagram air base back to those that built it, the United States of America, bad things are aoina to happen!"

The Taliban, predictably, bristled at the demand and stressed that under "no circumstances" will Afghans hand over the base to any third country.



### INDIAN-ORIGIN PICK TO LEAD US

### **DIPLOMACY IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA**

WHO IS PAUL KAPUR? TRUMP'S

Diary Times Desk: In a move that highlights America's focus on South and Central Asia, the US Senate confirmed Indian-origin academic S Paul Kapur as assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian Affairs on October 7, despite the ongoing government shutdown.

Kapur replaces Donald Lu and is now poised to shape Washington's engagement with countries, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The White House announced the appointment on X, stating, "Paul Kapur, of California, as Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs."

Kapur was among 107 nominees cleared by the Senate and is expected to steer US diplomacy across a region of rising strategic importance.

### US APPROVES SALE OF AIM-120 MISSILES TO PAKISTAN: WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA

Diary Times Desk: After sending its first consignment of mineral samples to Washington under a rare earths deal, Pakistan may soon receive the AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) from the United States. An arms contract recently notified by the United States Department of War (DoW)--formerly Department of Defence-- lists Islamabad among the buyers for AIM-120 AMRAAM.

The approval comes weeks after US President Donald Trump hosted Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House, amidst improving ties between Washington and Islamabad.

Per DoW's notification, Raytheon — the manufacturer of the AMRAAM – was given a modification of over USD 41.6 million on a "previously awarded contract (FA8675-23-C-0037)" based on "firm-fixed-price (P00026)" for the production of the missile's C8 and D3 variants

### **POLICE FIRE RUBBER BULLETS AS MADAGASCAR PROTESTERS REJECT** PRESIDENT'S PROMISES

Diary Times Desk: Security forces in Madagascar have fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the latest youth-led protest following two weeks of anti-government demonstrations that have rocked the Indian Ocean island.

At least 1,000 protesters marched through Madagascar's capital on Thursday, some hurling objects at security personnel.

The movement behind the protest, known as Gen Z Mada, rejected President Andry Rajoelina's offer to talks on Wednesday, attend demanding once again that he resign.

The group argued they could not engage with a government that has been repressing them as they demand basic human rights.

forces Security "charged protesters with armoured vehicles". news agency AFP reported on Thursday, adding that police had made numerous arrests.

### **CHATGPT IMAGE SNARES** SUSPECT IN DEADLY PACIFIC **PALISADES FIRE**

Diary Times Desk: A 29-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of starting the Pacific Palisades fire in Los Angeles that killed 12 people and destroyed more than 6,000 homes in January. Evidence collected from Jonathan Rinderknecht's digital devices included an image he generated on ChatGPT depicting a burning city, justice department officials said

One of the most destructive blazes in LA history, the fire erupted on 7 January near a hiking trail that overlooked the wealthy coastal neighbourhood.

The Eaton Fire, ignited the same day in the LA area, killed another 19 people and razed 9,400 structures. The cause of that fire remains unclear

The Palisades fire scorched more than 23,000 acres (9,308 hectares) and caused about \$150bn (£112bn) in damage.

Wiping out whole neighbourhoods, the conflagration raged for more than three weeks, also ravaging parts of Topanga and Malibu.

Among the thousands of structures destroyed in the fires were the homes of a number of celebrities, including Mel Gibson, Paris Hilton and Jeff Bridges.

Mr Rinderknecht was arrested in Florida on Tuesday and has been charged with destruction of property by means of fire, Acting US Attorney Bill Essayli told a news conference on Wednesday in Los Anaeles.

### NYC SUES SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS FOR ALLEGEDLY ADDICTING **CHILDREN**



Diary Times Desk: New York City has filed a lawsuit accusing Facebook, Google, Snapchat, TikTok and other online platforms of fuelling a mental health crisis among children by addicting them to social media

The 327-page complaint filed on Wednesday in federal court in Manhattan seeks damages from Facebook and Instagram owner Meta Platforms, Google and YouTube owner Alphabet, Snapchat owner Snap and TikTok owner ByteDance. It accused the defendants of gross negligence and causing a public nuisance.

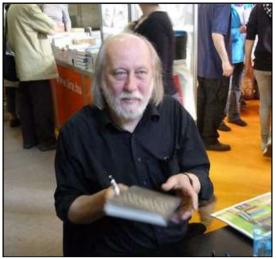
The city joined other governments, school districts and individuals pursuing about 2,050 similar lawsuits in nationwide litigation in the Oakland, California, federal court.

New York City is among the largest plaintiffs with a population of 8.48 million, including about 1.8 million under age 18. Its school and healthcare systems are also plaintiffs.

Google spokesperson Jose Castaneda said allegations concerning YouTube are "simply not true", in part because it is a streaming service and not a social network where people catch up with friends.

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## HUNGARIAN AUTHOR LASZLO KRASZNAHORKAI WINS NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2025



Diary Times Desk: Hungarian author Laszlo Krasznahorkai has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature 2025 "for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art."Krasznahorkai is a great epic writer in the Central European tradition that extends through Kafka to Thomas Bernhard, and is characterised by absurdism and grotesque excess. Krasznahorkai was born in 1954 in the small town of Gvula in southeast Hungary, near the Romanian border. A similar remote rural area is the scene of his first novel, 'Satantango', published in 1985, which was a sensation in Hungary literary and his breakthrough work. His 'Herscht 07769' has been described as a great contemporary German novel, on account of its accuracy in portraying the country's social unrest. The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth 11 million crowns (\$1.2 million).

## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2025: WHAT ARE TRUMP'S CREDENTIALS, AND CAN HE WIN?

**Diary Times Desk:** As the Norwegian Nobel Committee prepares to announce this year's winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, one name, one persona hovers over its decision – the United States president, Donald Trump.

Since stepping into office in January, Trump has made it clear that he believes he should win the coveted prize since he has, he claims, ended at least "seven wars".

On Wednesday, he put himself in the front seat to claim credit for the possible end to an eighth war, after Israel and Hamas agreed to the first stage of a ceasefire deal that is rooted in Trump's 20-point peace plan, which he had unveiled last week.

This year's award announcement also comes amid Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and conflicts in many other countries

There are 338 nominees for the prize, and the Nobel Committee — a group of five people selected by the Storting, the Norwegian parliament—picks the winner.

## MAP OF GAZA SHOWS HOW ISRAELI FORCES WILL WITHDRAW UNDER

CEASEFIRE DEAL
Diary Times Desk: In the early hours of
Wednesday morning in Gaza, United States
President Donald Trump announced that Hamas
and Israel had agreed on the first phase of his
ceasefire and captive-exchange plan.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump stated: "ALL the hostages will be released very soon, and Israel will withdraw their troops to an agreed upon line."

The "agreed upon line" refers to a vague map shared by Trump on October 4, showing an initial Israeli withdrawal zone marked in yellow, later dubbed the "yellow line" by Trump officials.

By Sunday or Monday, Hamas is expected to release about 20 living captives, along with the bodies of about 25 others, while Israel will free some 2,000 Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons. Final details have yet to be confirmed.

### PUTIN ADMITS RUSSIAN ROLE IN 2024 CRASH OF AZERBAIJANI JET THAT KILLED

Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday admitted for the first time his country played a role in the 2024 crash of an Azerbaijani passenger plane, describing it as a "tragedy".

The Azerbaijan Airlines flight crash landed in Kazakhstan on December 25, killing 38 of the 67 people on board, after being diverted from a scheduled landing in the southern Russian city of Grozny.

In a meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Putin said Russia had deployed two missiles to destroy Ukrainian drones on the morning of the incident, and that they exploded "a few meters away" from the aircraft.

"The two missiles that were fired did not directly hit the aircraft. If that had happened, it would have crashed on the spot," Putin said.

Russian air traffic controllers advised the pilot attempt a landing in the Russian city of Makhachkala, but he instead attempted to land at his home airport and then in Kazakhstan, where the plane came down, Putin said.

# QATAR AIRWAYS VEGETARIAN PASSENGER CHOKES TO DEATH AFTER BEING TOLD TO 'EAT AROUND' MEAT-BASED MEAL

Diary Times Desk: An 85-year-old vegetarian passenger choked and died mid-flight aboard a Qatar Airways aircraft, after being served a non-vegetarian meal. Despite pre-ordering a vegetarian meal, Dr Asoka Jayaweera, a retired cardiologist from Southern California, was told to "eat around" the meat in the regular non-vegetarian meal provided, Independent reported.

The incident happened aboard a Qatar Airways flight from Los Angeles to Colombo on June 30, 2023. Dr. Asoka Jayaweera had specifically ordered a vegetarian meal for the 15.5-hour journey, but was told by a flight attendant that none were available. Instead, he was given a regular meal with meat and instructed to "eat around" it.

However, while attempting to do so, Jayaweera began choking and lost consciousness. The flight crew attempted to assist, and remote medical advisors from MedAire were consulted, but Jayaweera's condition worsened. The flight eventually landed in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Jayaweera was rushed to the hospital and pronounced dead on August 3, 2023

### BANGLADESH: NEW CRACKDOWN UNDER ANTI-TERRORISM LAW

Diary Times Desk: Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel peace laureate, is increasingly using the recently amended counterterrorism law to arrest alleged supporters of the deposed Awami League government, Human Rights Watch said today. The United Nations human rights team in Bangladesh should immediately seek the release of those arbitrarily detained and encourage the authorities to uphold rights and prosecute all those who use unlawful political violence.

The interim government took office in August 2024 after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government was toppled following three weeks of protests in which 1,400 people were killed. On May 12, 2025, the interim government ordered a "temporary" ban on the Awami League, using new authority under draconian amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act. The ban includes prohibitions on meetings, publications, and online speech supporting the party and is being used to arrest Awami League members and peaceful activists.

"The interim government should not be engaging in the same partisan behaviour that Bangladeshis had to endure under Sheikh Hasina, whether it is stuffing the prisons with political opponents or shutting down peaceful dissent," said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "The UN's human rights office has been invited by the government to support the protection of human rights in Bangladesh, and it should monitor developments and urgently intervene to discourage politically motivated arrests."



### **TEMPTED TO RETIRE ABROAD? HERE ARE SOME TOP FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS TO KEEP IN MIND**

Diary Times Desk: Unless you already have dual citizenship or own a home in another country, retiring abroad may not be quite as easy as all the beautiful photos and home-and-travel shows make it seem.

Whether you're motivated to live in another country for cost-ofliving, quality-of-life or political reasons, there are many practical financial issues to consider before making the move

"You need to do your due diligence," said New Jerseybased certified financial planner Leo Chubinishvili at Access Wealth.

### THE FED STILL HASN'T **DEFEATED HIGH INFLATION. HAS IT FAILED?**

Diary Times Desk: The Federal Reserve stepped in last month to safeguard America's labor market, cutting rates by a quarter point to shore up a slowdown in hiring. But it has another equally important problem still to address - one that has driven up the cost of living in the United States and continues to strain lower- and middle-income households

Inflation - the other side of the Fed's dual mandate - still hasn't returned to prepandemic levels and President Donald Trump's trade war has already pushed up some prices.

The Fed came within a hair of its 2% target by the end of last but then Trump's aggressive policies shifted the tectonic plates of the economy.

It's a thorny issue that has divided policymakers on the rate-setting committee: The central bankers who called for rate cuts beginning in July - all Trump appointees - say they're hopeful that tariff inflation will be temporary. Other Fed officials, however, aren't convinced.

"We have been missing our mandate on the inflation side, our objective of 2%, for more than four and a half years," Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack told CNBC September 29. "I continue to be worried about where we are from an inflation perspective."

### YOUTUBE IS LETTING SOME PREVIOUSLY BANNED USERS RETURN. THAT MEANS YOU MAY SEE VIDEOS THAT VIOLATED OLD RULES

Diary Times Desk: YouTube on Thursday will begin offering previously banned users the opportunity to create new accounts and potentially re-publish some videos that may have contributed to their termination but no longer violate YouTube's rules. YouTube last month announced the plan to allow previously banned users and their content back on the video platform. The move was announced following an investigation by Republican lawmakers into whether the Biden administration pressured tech companies to remove certain types of content.

YouTube said that over the past couple of years, it did away with rules that had prohibited users from repeatedly posting misinformation about Covid-19 and the 2020 US election outcome. Now, users terminated for breaking those rules have the chance to return.

"We know many terminated creators deserve a second chance - YouTube has evolved and changed over the past 20 years, and we've had our share of second chances to get things right with our community too," the company said in a blog post Thursday. "We appreciate the patience as we ramp up, carefully review requests, and learn as we go."



### JAMIE DIMON IS WORRIED ABOUT A STOCK MARKET CORRECTION

Diary Times Desk: Enthusiasm about artificial intelligence has propelled markets to record highs this year. But the fierce ascent has also raised concerns about a bubble. At has been the dominant theme in markets since 2022, when OpenAI first launched ChatGPT. Optimism has since spread among investors about a potential transformative AI boom, and enormous amounts of money have flowed into tech stocks. Valuations have risen to historically expensive levels. To some analysts and economists, those are red flags that the market might be in a bubble - when investors bid up stock prices beyond what they're worth, creating an unsustainable rally that often results in a significant downturn, as seen during the dot-com bubble that burst in 2000. "Fired up by optimism about the productivityenhancing potential of AI, global equity prices are surging," Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said in a speech on Wednesday. "Today's valuations are heading toward levels we saw during the bullishness about the internet 25 years ago," Georgieva said. "If a sharp correction were to occur, tighter financial conditions could drag down world growth." Jamie Dimon, chief executive at JPMorgan Chase, said he thinks "AI is real," but some money being invested now will "probably" be wasted.



### XI REIGNITES TENSIONS AHEAD OF TRUMP MEETING WITH DRAMATIC CURBS ON **CRITICAL RARE-EARTHS**

Diary Times Desk: Beijing ramped up sweeping restrictions on rare earth exports on Thursday, expanding the list of minerals under control and extending curbs to target their production technologies and their overseas use, including for military and semiconductor applications.

China dominates the global processing of rare earths essential in everything from everyday electronics to fighter jets. The latest move came as Beijing broadened its leverage in trade talks with the United States and ahead of an expected meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the APEC summit in South Korea later this month.

Under the new rules, Beijing further asserts its dominance in the sector by adding five rare-earth elements, including holmium, erbium, thulium, europium, ytterbium, and related magnets and materials, to its existing control list, requiring export licenses.

The announcement on Thursday brought the total number of restricted elements to 12, out of the 17 types of rare earths.



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### **SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN** MIGHT BE THE WINNERS OF THE GOLD RUSH

### Diary Times Desk:

Every piece of gold that Farzana Ghani owns holds a memory.

She has intricate iewelry sets from her mother-in-law from her wedding in Pakistan; a gold chain gifted from her mother after she performed the Hajj, the Muslim pilgrimage; and gold coins to celebrate daughter's birth.

And she will keep investing in gold, as prices for the metal reach record highs.

"Compared to bonds and compared to holding cash, I would still prefer to buy gold coins," Ghani, 56, of Miami, Florida, said.

Brides in South Asia are famously decked out in the precious metal - necklaces, earrings, nose rings, hair pieces and amulets - that can be gifted or inherited. The collection often starts before they're even born, composed of inherited pieces and gifts to commemorate their birth, life milestones and religious holidays.

### **PENTAGON CHARGES AHEAD WITH PRESS RESTRICTIONS** 'DESIGNED TO STIFLE A FREE PRESS,' MEDIA **ORGS SAY**

Diary Times Desk: Military officials are pushing forward with new restrictions on the Pentagon press corps despite from objections news organizations and watchdog groups. The policies "appear designed to stifle a free press" and "further isolate reporters" who are trying to do their jobs, the association representing Pentagon beat reporters said Wednesday.

"Limiting the media's ability to report on the U.S. military fails to honor the American families who have entrusted their sons and daughters to serve in it, or the taxpayers responsible for department the giving hundreds of billions of dollars a year," the Pentagon Press Association said in its first detailed statement on the matter.

Last month, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's press office outlined new rules that would sharply restrict reporting.

### FALL OF YET ANOTHER PREMIER WILL MAKE IT HARD FOR FRANCE TO FIX ITS FINANCES. WHAT'S BEHIND ITS DEBT PROBLEM?



Diary Times Desk:

France lost its fifth prime minister in less than two years this week, just before the 2026 budget was due to be sent to parliament.

Sébastien Lecornu resigned Monday after announcing a cabinet that largely retained the same ministers as under his unpopular predecessor, triggering a backlash.

François Bayrou quit last month after trying to push through a savings plan that included scrapping two public holidays and freezing public spending.

Lecornu's resignation raised doubts over whether the 2026 budget - including much-needed debt-cutting reforms - can be passed in time. But after talking to lawmakers from a number of parties, he provided some reassurance Wednesday, acting in a caretaker capacity.

"There is a willingness for France to have a budget before December 31," he said.

### **ELON MUSK AGREES TO SETTLE WITH FIRED TWITTER EXECS OVER SEVERANCE DISPUTE**



Diary Times Desk: Elon Musk and X have reached a settlement with a group of executives over \$128 million in severance that they allege Musk had not paid since he bought what was then known as Twitter in 2022.

The executives, including former Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, former CFO Ned Segal, former Chief Legal Officer Vijaya Gadde and former General Counsel Sean Edgett, sued in 2024 alleging Musk withheld severance payments as a form of "revenge" after he was forced to go through with the \$44 billion acquisition deal, which he had tried to get out of. All of the executives were fired within hours after Musk took control of Twitter in October 2022, one day before the group would have seen \$200 million in severance payments and vested stock options.

A court order signed on October 1 in the US Northern District Court of California indicates that the two sides have reached a settlement, although it does not detail the terms. The court order delays depositions, including of Musk, that were set to take place by the end of October to allow "the Parties to meet conditions required under the settlement."

The Verge first reported on the court order and settlement information.

The lawsuit refers to portions of the authorized Elon Musk biography by Walter Isaacson published in 2023, in which Isaacson wrote Musk did not want the executives to collect their severance or vest the stock options "because of the price he was paying and his conviction that Twitter's management had misled him." Instead, the book says Musk pushed through a faster close of the Twitter sale so that he could fire the executives "for cause." The lawsuit claims the cause in the executives termination letters were not substantiated.

## **STATES**

## DIARY TIMES Shimla | Friday | 10-10-2025

### **SHIFTING SEATS TO PLAY SAVED BILASPUR** SIBLINGS IN HP BUS

**TRAGEDY** 

Diary Times Desk : Moments before a private bus carrying 18 passengers was struck by a massive landslide in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur on Tuesday evening, 10-year-old Arushi along with her eight-year-old brother, Shaurya, shifted to vacant rear seats to play together.

The decision proved to be a lifesaver, as the siblings are the only two passengers alive. Natives of Fagog village near Bharthin, both Arushi Shaurya were travelling with their mother, Kamlesh, and their aunt, Anjana. Their two cousins, who preferred to sit with their mother, also died in the accident.

"Huge debris fell on the bus with explosion-like Suddenly, everything turned dark in a matter of seconds," recalled Arushi.

### **ROHTANG PASS CLOSED** TO TRAFFIC AFTER **SNOWFALL**

Diary Times Desk: The Rohtang Pass has been closed for vehicular traffic due to unexpected early snowfall in the high-altitude areas of the state, marking a premature onset of the winter. Continuous snowfall for the second day today in areas around the Atal Tunnel, Rohtang and Marhi rendered travel hazardous, prompting the authorities concerned to restrict vehicular movement beyond Solang Nala and Gulaba.

According to police sources, only four-wheelers are at present permitted to cross the Atal Tunnel towards Lahaul due to slippery road conditions. The barrier previously stationed at Marhi had been relocated to following the Gulaba. accumulation of nearly 25 cm of snow there. "For public safety, vehicular movement beyond Solang Nala has been restricted as they risk skidding on the snow-covered road," said Manali police station in-charge Manish. The Rohtang Pass remains open until mid-November before it is officially closed due to heavy snowfall. This year, snowfall has arrived nearly a month ahead of the schedule, disrupting daily life and tourism activities.

### ACTOR-BODYBUILDER VARINDER GHUMAN DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST AT 42

Diary Times Desk: Popular Jalandhar-based bodybuilder and actor Varinder Singh Ghuman (42) passed away during treatment at Fortis Hospital in Amritsar this evening.

Jalandhar-based bodybuilder Harminder Dullowal said that Ghuman had a muscle rupture in the chest area and had gone to Amritsar for treatment. "We had never expected that he would meet this fate. It is very difficult to accept this loss," he said. According to doctors, Ghuman suffered a cardiac arrest during a shoulder surgery and could not be revived. He breathed his last around 5.30 pm, confirmed a senior doctor while speaking to The Tribune.

He was a heavy weight champion, who used to contest in the 120 kgplus category. The 6 feet 3-inch-tall athlete had won the title of Mr India in 2009 and stood second in Mr Asia contest. He made history as the first Indian to earn an IFBB Pro Card, marking India's entry into the global professional bodybuilding circuit. He has so far been the only Asian to make it to Arnold Schwarzennegger's top international bodybuilding contest Arnold Classic.



### PANIC GRIPS PUNJAB BORDER VILLAGES AS SUTLEJ SWELLS AGAIN **AFTER FRESH DAM RELEASES**

Diary Times Desk: Fear gripped the border villages situated along the Sutlej again following a rise in the water level on Tuesday, in fields that were already inundated

The affected villages included Navi Gatti Rajoke, Tendiwala, Kaluwala, Nihala Kilcha, Nihala Lavera, Dhira Ghara and Bandala, which witnessed the return of floodwaters from the Sutlej river. Even the current of water flow in the Sutlej has increased to an extent that the riverbanks have begun to erode, leaving residents "anxious" and apprehensive about the river changing its course towards the villages.

As per information, the downstream discharge from Harike Headworks stood at 92,000 cusecs on Tuesday, while Hussainiwala recorded 80,000 cusecs -almost double the normal flow of 40,000-45,000 cusecs. During the peak of the recent floods, this figure had shot up to a staggering 3 lakh cusecs.

### **FANS BID FINAL FAREWELL TO PUNJABI SINGER RAJVIR** JAWANDA IN LUDHIANA VILLAGE

Diary Times Desk:

Puniabi singer Raivir Jawanda was cremated at the Government School ground in his native village of Pona near Jagraon in Ludhiana district - a place where he had played as a child and later performed concerts during his career.

Thousands of fans, including prominent figures from the music industry and art lovers, joined the funeral procession from the Jawanda residence to the school ground to bid a final farewell to the copturned-singer.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, along with his cabinet colleagues, visited the Jawanda residence to offer condolences to the grieving

Babbu Maan, Kulwinder Billa, Kanwar Grewal, Pukhraj Bhalla, Karamjit Anmol, and Malkit Rauni were among dozens of stars from the Punjabi music industry who paid tribute to Rajvir at his

### YOUR HOROSCOPE



ue to irritation in the eyes, you should onsult an ophthalmologist.

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

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.

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

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 infinancial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business.
Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of

walking due to nerve pain problems.

checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

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.

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.

### SC COMMISSION TAKES NOTICE OF DALIT IPS OFFICER Y PURAN KUMAR'S SUICIDE

Diary Times Desk: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes today took suo motu cognisance of the suicide of Dalit IPS officer Y Puran Kumar. It issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of Chandigarh and the DGP of Chandigarh Police, asking them to submit an action taken report within seven days.

The Commission has decided to "investigate/inquire into the matter in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it under Article 338 of the Constitution of India."

The report needs to include details on the names of all accused, the FIR number, date, and sections, the arrest of the accused, and the compensation amount given to the victim's family, if any.

The intimation from NCSC to the Chief Secretary and DGP mentioned, "Please take notice that in case the Commission does not receive a reply from you within the stipulated time, the Commission may exercise the powers of Civil Courts conferred on it under Article 338 of the Constitution of India and issue summons for your appearance in person or by a representative before Commission "

### HARYANA CM SAINI VISITS LATE IGP Y PURAN KUMAR'S HOUSE TO

**OFFER CONDOLENCES** 

Diary Times Desk: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini reached the official residence of late Inspector General of Police (IGP) Y Puran Kumar in Sector 24. Chandigarh, this afternoon to offer his condolences to the bereaved family. The Chief Minister, accompanied by his Chief Principal Secretary Rajesh Khullar, arrived around 12:30 pm and met the officer's wife, Amneet P Kumar, and other family members. Y Puran Kumar, a senior IPS officer, died by suicide on Tuesday afternoon, leaving the state police fraternity in deep shock. His wife, Amneet P Kumar - who was part of the Chief Minister's delegation on an official visit to Japan - had cut short her trip and returned to Chandigarh on Wednesday afternoon after receiving the news. Apart from the Chief Minister. several senior government functionaries and political leaders also visited the residence to pay their respects.

## 'NO POST-MORTEM TILL FIR IS LODGED': IPS OFFICER'S KIN STAND FIRM DURING MEET WITH HARYANA CM

**Diary Times Desk:** The wife of late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, Amneet P Kumar, has submitted a detailed and urgent complaint to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, pressing for immediate action following the suicide of her husband. During a meeting with the Chief Minister, the bereaved family made it clear that they are unwilling to proceed with the post-mortem or last rites of Y Puran Kumar until an FIR is filed against those named in his suicide note and the related complaint. The family also conveyed that they are currently awaiting the arrival of their elder daughter from the USA, and no final rites will take place until her return and the registration of the FIR.

Amneet P Kumar's letter emphasises her profound anguish and the community-wide sense of injustice following the loss of Y Puran Kumar, who was a decorated police officer and recipient of the President's Medal for Meritorious Service. Citing his legacy as a symbol of honesty, dedication, and inspiration for the Scheduled Caste community, she described his death as a blow to thousands who saw him as an emblem of empowerment and justice.



### HC ISSUES NOTICE TO CBI ON HOODA'S PLEA AGAINST TRIAL COURT ORDER

Diary Times Desk: The Punjab and Haryana High Court today put the Central Bureau of India (CBI) on notice on a petition filed by Haryana's former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda against the special court's order dismissing his petition for postponement of proceedings. Among other things, he contended that proceeding further in the matter by the trial court would amount to segregation/ splitting up of trial as proceedings against some co-accused had been stayed by the Supreme Court.

Taking up the matter, Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya of the high court also fixed October 16 as the next date of hearing in the matter. In his petition, Hooda submitted that the CBI Special Judge in Panchkula dismissed his application seeking postponement of proceedings and passed an order for framing a formal chargesheet on the next date of hearing in the case registered on September 15, 2015, under the provisions of the IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act. He added that the case "CBI versus Bhupinder Singh Hooda and others" was pending for October 30 before special court.

# OFFENCE AGAINST PUBLIC SERVANT ON DUTY NOT PRIVATE DISPUTE; COMPROMISE SANS GOVT NOD TO INVITE ACTION: HC

**Diary Times Desk:** The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that a criminal case registered for offences against a public servant while performing official duties cannot be quashed merely on the basis of compromise between the parties.

The court clarified that the offence ceased to be a private dispute and partook the character of an offence against the State itself, when a public servant was assaulted, obstructed, or intimidated in discharge of official work. The bench also made it clear that that a public servant settling an official-duty offence without approval would make himself liable for punitive action.

Justice Sumeet Goel ruled that quashing on the basis of settlement could be granted only where the dispute was primarily private or individual in nature, but not when the act complained of was committed against a public servant in the course of official duty.

## EX-CM HOODA, SIRSA MP KUMARI SELJA DEMAND IMPARTIAL PROBE INTO IPS OFFICER Y PURAN KUMAR'S SUICIDE CASE

**Diary Times Desk:** Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda has demanded an impartial investigation into the suicide case of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar.

He said no culprit should be spared and no innocent should be harmed. "It is the state government's responsibility to ensure justice in this case," he added.

Hooda said the law and order situation in the state has completely deteriorated.

"In this context, the suicide of such a senior police officer is a very tragic incident. It has shaken the entire state. If a senior police officer is not safe today, one can imagine the plight of ordinary citizens," he added.

On October 8, Ambala Congress MP Varun Chaudhary alleged that senior officers in the BJP government are harassing Scheduled Caste (SC) officers, pushing them into severe mental distress.

"An FIR should be registered against those officials whose names have been mentioned in the suicide note. Also, all documents recovered from Kumar's house should be preserved," he had added.



### The NBA Can't Risk A Foul As It Returns To Its Most **Important Overseas Market**

s soon as he learned the NBA was returning to China, diehard fan Buke Liu scrambled to get his hands on tickets, paying almost a thousand dollars - a price you might expect for an NBA Finals game - for a ticket to a preseason match-

One of America's most successful sporting exports, the NBA is hugely popular in China, and a rare cultural touchpoint between two nations increasingly seen as geopolitical rivals.

For Liu, and many Chinese fans, it's been a long

wait to go to a game. NBA teams, packed with global stars, have effectively been banned from setting foot in one of basketball's largest overseas markets since following political firestorm that drew the ire of Beijing. Beijing. Chinese Beijing's tightro the demand has made seats at this weekend's Phoenix Suns - Brooklyn matches particularly



Chris I au

Tapping into the vastly lucrative Chinese market and playing by Beijing's rules can be a perilous

hard to come by. The teams play on Friday and Sunday at The Venetian Hotel in Macao, the glitzy gambling hub in southern China known for its casino-powered entertainment.

Liu forked out \$980 to a scalper for his seat at the Sunday game and access to fan activities. Tickets to see the same teams face each other in Phoenix for the Suns' home game in January are on sale for as little as \$15, but the university student has no regrets about paying top dollar for his tickets.

"It's worth it. They are playing in China," the Suns fan told CNN. "I am very happy about the return of the NBA China games because it allows (Chinese) fans ... to watch the games in person.

The return, after a six-year absence, packs more than just fanfare: it bears symbolic significance. In 2019, a social media post from then Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey in support of Hong Kong protesters angered Beijing, culminating in televised games being pulled and sponsors in China severing ties with the league.

While NBA games have gradually returned to state-owned television and commercial activities have slowly trickled back over the years, Chinese fans being able to see players in person once again marks the culmination of the comeback.

Ticketing revenue, merchandise sales and sponsorship opportunities, backed by a massive fanbase which spends big without batting an



eyelid, are what the NBA stands to gain from its return to the country, where basketball is booming among its population of 1.4 billion. experts and insiders tell CNN.

On Thursday, NBA and Chinese tech giant Alibaba announced a multi-year partnership to enhance fan experiences with the latter's artificial intelligence and cloud computing services, a day

ahead of the preseason game in Macao. "It's a thaw, but it's also a test of how far the NBA and Chinese authorities are willing to rebuild ties," he said.

## **Maximalist Manhattan Home**

### STEP INSIDE ZOOEY DESCHANEL AND FIANCÉ JONATHAN SCOTT'S

opey Deschanel's new home is overflowing with bespoke design flourishes. The upholstered L-shaped sofa was custom-made, as was the marble mantelpiece. Her bed. kitchen hood, terrace trellises and lampshades custom. too.

Perhaps that's just what happens when you buy a home with a man famed for transforming fixeruppers as one half of the Canadian TV show "Property

Deschanel's fiancé Jonathan design and home renovation on cable's HGTV. The presenter co-owns a magazine, also production company, furnishing lines, how-to book series and YouTube channel all dedicated to Digest for the feature. one thing: helping people build his turn.

"He won't stop until everything is perfect." Deschanel told Architectural Digest as the pair opened the doors of their Manhattan duplex for the magazine's forthcoming November issue. "And anything I can think of, he can execute.'

The result is a meticulously quaint touches one might expect when they first viewed it that year.



This included about 629 miles traveled on foot and 2.568 miles by bike. On average, the Spaniard traveled roughly 103 miles and 13.021 feet per day in his challenge.

from a star renowned for twee vintage fashion Scott is, along with his twin and quirky roles in "500 Days of Summer," brother Drew, the face of interior "Elf" and the long-running sitcom "New Girl." "The first thing they told me was, 'Nothing modern. We want a sense of history and we love color," said the couple's interiors collaborator Young Huh, a New York-based designer who also spoke to Architectural

> Allusions to history are found across the Georgian-inspired property, from decorative pilasters to the crown molding that lines its palatially high ceilings.

> There's literal heritage, too, in the form of antique chairs dating back to the reign of Britain's George III (and now upholstered in deep purple velvet).

The apartment building itself is slightly newer. dating to the turn of the 20th century. Deschanel and Scott, who met while filming a "Carpool Karaoke" segment for "The Late curated home that balances old- Late Show with James Corden" in 2019, world charm with the kind of recalled the duplex being in a sorry state

"It was totally raw and stripped down, like an abandoned 1980s office building," said Scott, "It was definitely sketch." Deschanel added.

Almost six years later, the home is completely transformed. Floral and botanical patterns are a recurring theme from the chintz sofas to the colorful hollyhock wallpaper that greets visitors at a private elevator entrance. Above the hardwood dining room, a bouquet of Murano glass roses spills out from a whimsical Bottega Veneziana chandelier

These florals rub up against embroidered wall coverings, striped curtains and flashes of marble. It seems no surface was left untouched by their designer. "Young is brilliant with maximalist style and she really got my aesthetic," Deschanel told Architectural Digest, which last month published a coffee table book "AD at Home." featuring almost 70 celebrity homes. "It takes a lot of skill to mix patterns and textures and make them feel harmonious."

Elsewhere, in a pistachio-colored family room, two recessed bookshelves flank a large fireplace. Three separate terraces meanwhile offer sunlit outdoor spaces.

## A Major Kim Jong Un Celebration

### NORTH KOREA'S RULING PARTY TURNS 80 THIS WEEK AND ALL SIGNS POINT



Oscar Holland

For now.

however, the Manhattan apartment will

family's East Coast pied-à-terre, not their nain residence.

Deschanel hails from Los Angeles

(earlier this year, her childhood

home was in Pacific Palisades

was destroyed by the wildfires that devastated the

city), where she and Scott bought

and, of course,

huge 1930s Georgian revival

home in the leafy

Brentwood

neighborhood.

renovated — a

only serve as the

Helen Regan

Col. Lee Sung-jun, spokesperson for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), said military detected movements of vehicles and military equipment ahead of the expected parade.

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un is rolling out the red carpet this week for a host of foreign dignitaries, and all signs suggest he'll be showing off his country's latest military hardware in a pomp-filled parade.

North Korea has kept celebratory plans for the 80th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea on Friday tightly under wraps much like the secretive and isolated state has done in the past with significant dates.

But there have been signs that Kim has spent months preparing for a major parade in the capital Pyongyang, potentially at night last week that the and involving tens of thousands of people, according to the South Korean military

> Huge displays of carefully choreographed propaganda involving massive crowds and meticulously rehearsed performances have long been a hallmark of the North regime, particularly around key anniversaries.

> The Workers' Party of Korea is the sole ruling party of North Korea, blending communism with the words, sayings and ideals of the Kim dynasty, who have imposed their authoritarian rule country for three generations.

Military watchers play close attention to what North Korea chooses to show off at such events.

Analysts have raised the possibility that North Korea's next-generation Hwasong-20 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), its new Hwasong-11 Ma hypersonic glide vehicle, and other advanced weapons systems will be on display.

The anniversary celebration comes a month after the heavily sanctioned Kim scored a major diplomatic victory by traveling to Beijing for China's massive military parade, where he had the rare chance to stand alongside political heavyweights Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the global stage.

Kim emerged from the visit with deeper strategic ties and a renewed friendship with China, North Korea's longtime political and economic patron, as well as an increased vigor to pursue his missile and nuclear weapons

North Korea and its new military ally Russia have repeatedly affirmed their closer relationship since signing a mutual defense pact last year, and Kim has sent thousands of troops, missiles and munitions to assist Moscow's war in Ukraine.

In a sign of those continued good ties, China and Russia are sending delegations led notably by their number 2s to the celebrations in Pyongyang.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang and former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will have front row seats at the event which, according to satellite imagery of apparent rehearsals, could include a large-scale mass gymnastics performance.

Vietnam's Communist Party chief To Lam will also attend and Laos President Thongloun Sisoulith enjoyed a warm welcome that included a banquet and a 21-gun salute when he arrived in the country on Tuesday. Previous North Korean military parades have been used as an opportunity to showcase the country's latest developments advanced weaponry and missiles that, in theory, could threaten the United States.



### ARTS & INFOTAINMENT

# DIARY TIMES Shimla | Friday | 10-10-2025

### FRENCH CLOCKS OF THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES — A GUIDE FOR THE NEW COLLECTOR

**Diary Times Desk:** A staple of the French decorative arts in the 18th and 19th centuries, French clocks occupy a vital role in any well-rounded collection. These antique timepieces — often featuring ormolu (gilt bronze) and other luxurious materials — not only blend seamlessly with furnishings of their own period; they also offer the perfect counterpoint when set amongst modern furniture or contemporary art.

The ormolu clock-cases of France embody the intersection of functional objects and bronze sculpture. Most French clocks, until the reign of Louis XVI, employed relatively simple clockwork mechanisms. Although timekeeping grew more precise over the course of the 18th century, collectors valued these objects less for their mechanical innovation than for the brilliant decorative artistry of their cases and the renowned names of their designers. The designs of these magnificient cases evolved constantly to reflect the fashions of the elite tastemakers of their day, ranging from the playful Rococo creations of the Louis XV period, defined by inventive organic shapes, to the stately and restrained Neoclassical forms of the Louis XVI style, recalling the majesty of Antiquity.

Types of French ormolu clocks

Clocks in 18th-century France were manufactured in distinct forms and types, each according to its placement in the interior. The most common of these were mantel, cartel, bracket and longcase or régulateur. Mantel clocks, as their name suggests, were set on fireplaces as well as furniture, including bookcases and cartonniers. Cartel clocks were hung on the wall. A cartel clock's size provides a clue to its intended placement: small and delicate clocks were often hung in alcoves, whereas larger ones were destined for more prominent locations where they could be fully admired for their size and lavishness.

Contemporaneous paintings depicting interiors often feature such clocks in situ. Longcase clocks stood against the wall, integrating with the grandest works of case furniture in the room, as well as the carefully composed wall elevations and boiseries that surrounded them.

Regardless of type, French clocks were executed with the utmost artistry. A single clock was the product of master artisans from multiple trade guilds, including the clockmaker, or horloger, as well as the bronzier, the chaser, the gilder and the enameller. Clocks incorporating luxurious materials such as marble and porcelain necessitated even further expertise from yet more maîtres of the trades. French clocks sometimes bear as many as three signatures, reflecting the makers of the case, the movement and dial, and the enamelling for the dial.



## ESTHER MAHLANGU ON PAINTING: 'FOR ME IT IS ABOUT WANTING TO CREATE CALM IN THE VIEWER'

### What was the first work you made that you were proud of?

Dr Esther Mahlangu: When I was a child, I used to watch the women of my village paint their homes, and I would want to join them. When they would go for a break, I would try to continue their work for them. When they returned, they would tell me to 'never do this again', and to practice on the back of the homes until I was good enough to paint on the front.

One day, my grandmother called my mother to see what her daughter had done, and when she saw the quality of my work on the back of the home, they invited me to join them in painting on the front. This is when I first knew that I was good at painting. What advice did your mother and grandmother give you?

EM: I learnt the art of Ndebele design from my mother and grandmother. They taught me many things, not only about painting, but about the traditions and culture of our nation. Painting in a straight line is very important, as is the balance in our work. When a young man was considering taking on a bride, we would say that she is not marriage material because she can't paint a straight line. To master the feather that was used to paint and to keep my hand steady were among the first things I learnt.

Many people ask me if the colours or shapes within my paintings have any meanings, but for me it is more about wanting to create calm in the viewer, and this is created by the balance in the work — through mirroring colours and shapes on adjacent sides and corners of the painting.

### How have you passed these traditions on to the next generation?

**EM:** I have spent my life travelling the world, collaborating with people, entities and global brands, helping to raise awareness and pride in Ndebele design among our tribe, our nation and the continent of Africa as a whole. I have also taught many children the art of Ndebele design, and our traditions and culture. Many of these were taught at the informal school that I have run from my homestead for many years. My art is part of the school curriculum, which also helps in passing this to the next generation.

You have made some huge murals, for instance in the Serpentine North Garden in Hyde Park. How do you work with the space for that kind of commission?

**EM:** I approach a large work in the same way as a smaller work. There are obviously some additional considerations on a very large work — such as scaffolding and security when painting up high — but the design principles remain the same.



## LA LIGA STAR HITS OUT AT VILLARREAL VS BARCELONA BEING MOVED TO MIAMI – 'PUT MONEY AHEAD OF THEIR FANS'



**Diary Times Desk:** As we head into the second international break of the season, Spain will be looking to continue their momentum in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

This window could have been a special one for Joan Garcia, who could have gotten his maiden call-up had it not been for an unfortunate injury.

To that end, Spain's current goalkeeper Unai Simon talked about Joan Garcia in a recent press conference, where he also criticised La Liga's idea to hold a match in Miami. Unai Simon on Miami game

La Liga confirmed yesterday that Barcelona will take on Villarreal on December 20 at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, marking the first time a league match will be played outside of Spain. Simon, who is an Athletic Club goalkeeper, is not totally on board with the idea, even accusing La Liga of adulterating the competition.

### BARCELONA HEAVYWEIGHT WILL SIGN HIS NEW CONTRACT UNTIL 2029 NEXT WEEK – REPORT

**Diary Times Desk:** As confirmed by the player himself earlier today, Frenkie de Jong is 'very close' to renewing his contract with FC Barcelona.

Multiple reliable sources have confirmed that an agreement has already been reached between the two parties over an extension until 2029.

De Jong renewal announcement next Wednesday Building on that, Moises Llorens of ESPN has now reported that a date has already been set for De Jong to sign his new contract and the subsequent official announcement.

Indeed, according to the report, an official announcement of the 28-year-old midfielder's contract renewal is expected next week, on Wednesday, 15 October.

De Jong is currently away on national team duty with the Netherlands, who play Malta later tonight in the World Cup qualifiers, before taking on Finland on Sunday, 12 October.

The midfielder will then return to Barcelona, and the idea is for him to formally sign his contract on Wednesday, 15 October, before the club makes an official announcement.

## BARCEONA CAPTAIN CONFIRMS CONTRACT RENEWAL IMMINENT – 'WE ARE VERY CLOSE'

**Diary Times Desk:** For a few days now, reports have been circulating that Barcelona and Frenkie de Jong are set to reach an agreement on a new contract

The 28-year-old midfielder, also one of the club captains, has a contract that expires at the end of the ongoing season.

As such, the Blaugrana had made it a top priority to extend his deal at the earliest possible.

Despite some hurdles along the way, it has been recently confirmed by multiple reliable sources that a verbal agreement has been reached over a new contract, with only some minor details remaining before an official announcement.

De Jong confirms

Currently away on national team duty with the Netherlands, De Jong was asked about the rumours about his contract renewal and if there was any truth to that.

"Exactly, as I always say, I'm basically going to renew my contract with Barcelona."

### REAL MADRID RISING STAR PRAISES BARCELONA TALISMAN, DOWNPLAYS COMPARISONS

**Diary Times Desk:** Ever since Franco Mastantuono signed for Real Madrid this past summer, comparisons have been drawn between him and Barcelona teenage superstar Lamine Yamal.

The Argentine prodigy, who turned 18 only a couple of months back, plays in the same position as Lamine and has started decently at the Santiago Bernabeu, becoming a regular starter for Xabi Alonso.

However, as far as comparisons with Lamine go, the two are far apart in terms of where they are in their careers, despite sharing the same age – one is just getting started in Europe, whereas the other is a Ballon d'Or runner-up and a two-time Kopa Trophy winner.

Mastantuono downplays comparison
And Mastantuono downplayed the
comparisons with Lamine, while
praising the Barcelona academy
graduate.

# LAPORTA ADDRESSES BARCELONA STAR'S COMMENTS AGAINST PLAYING VILLARREAL IN US – 'WE WILL DO WHAT IS REQUIRED'

Diary Times Desk: Barcelona president Joan Laporta has addressed Frenkie de Jong's remarks about the upcoming La Liga fixture in Miami, making it clear that while he respects the captain's opinion, the club will follow the league's directive and play where required.

After months of speculation and negotiation, La Liga officially confirmed that Barcelona will face Villarreal in Miami on December 20.

This historic encounter will mark the first time a La Liga match is played on American soil, a move that has drawn mixed reactions from fans, clubs, and player unions across Spain.

Despite widespread criticism, La Liga president Javier Tebas has remained confident in his commitment to expanding the league's global footprint, particularly in the North American market.

What has been said?

Barcelona midfielder and captain Frenkie de Jong recently voiced his disapproval of the decision, expressing his concern about the competitive integrity of such a move.

"I don't like that we are going to play there, and I don't agree with it. It's not fair for the competition," said De Jong.

## BARCELONA LEGEND TALKS LAMINE, FLICK, LEWANDOWSKI, SEVILLA DEFEAT, EL CLASICO – 'SOMETHING MUST IMPROVE'

**Diary Times Desk:** The past few weeks have been turbulent in Catalonia for several reasons, both surrounding the team as a whole and over specific individuals

For starters, the situation of the Spanish international team's careless utilisation of Lamine Yamal infuriated the club, for the player was left forced out of action for several weeks owing to the same.

Adding to that, the team's poor back-to-back results against PSG and Sevilla and it is clear that the limelight is shining bright on Barcelona and not for the right reasons.

Rivaldo on the Lamine Yamal-Spain issue

Speaking to the media, Barcelona legend Rivaldo opened up on the controversy between the club and La Roja over Lamine Yamal's utilisation in the last international break.

"I understand that Flick is frustrated because he lost an important player, a player who makes a difference. The most important thing is to take care of the player," he said.

