

NEWS IN BRIEF

RELIEF FOR NEARLY 600 FAMILIES AS KERALA HC RULES MUNAMBAM IS NOT WAQF LAND

Diary Times Desk :

In a significant relief to around 600 families —mostly from the fishing community—the Kerala High Court on Friday ruled that the land they inhabit is not Waqf property, rejecting the Kerala Waqf Board's 2019 declaration. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice Syam Kumar V.M. held that the 1950 endowment deed in question did not create a permanent religious dedication in favour of the Almighty, and therefore could not be considered a valid waqf deed under the Waqf Acts of 1954, 1984, or 1995.

"The endowment deed of 1950 never intended to create any 'permanent dedication in favour of the Almighty God', but was simpler a gift deed in favour of Farooq Management and therefore could never qualify as a waqf deed under any of the Waqf Acts," the court noted.

DELHI-BOUND FLIGHT FROM VIENNA DIVERTED TO DUBAI DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUE: AIR INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Tata Group-owned Air India on Friday said its Delhi-bound flight from Vienna on October 9 was diverted to Dubai due to a technical issue. The aircraft landed safely at Dubai and underwent necessary checks, it said in a statement, without sharing specific details. The flight, operated by the same aircraft, departed Dubai at 08:45 hours IST and landed in Delhi at 12:19 hours IST. Though Air India did not elaborate the "technical issue" due to which the flight was forced to divert to Dubai, the pilots body, Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) in a letter to the Civil Aviation Minister revealed that the Boeing 787 aircraft "experienced failures across critical systems which included Autopilots, ILS (instrument landing system), flight directors and flight control system degradation with no. "Air India categorically denies any assertion that there was an electrical failure in the said aircraft," the airline said in the statement. "Since 16 Jun 25, we have reiterated that all B-787s in the country must be checked thoroughly for the electrical systems.

MUMBAI'S METRO AQUA LINE 3

WHY MUMBAI METRO AQUA LINE 3 IS FACING COMMUTER BACKLASH AFTER LAUNCH



The brand-new Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) Metro station, a key interchange, faced particular scrutiny. Signboards indicating the station name were conspicuously absent, adding to initial confusion. Furthermore, the station was reportedly being used by pedestrians as a makeshift subway, raising concerns among officials that this trend could lead to security risks and defeat the purpose of controlled entry.

Mid-Day mentioned that a visual inspection found that several of the eleven newly inaugurated stations appeared dusty and unfinished, with work seemingly still pending. This observation was echoed by a commuter who remarked that the stations need "one more round of housekeeping before they can truly be called world-class."

Security concerns extended beyond casual pedestrian access. While uniformed staff were visible for crowd control on concourses and platforms, there was little visible security presence inside the trains themselves.

The report also highlighted that upper-level road connections at CSMT appeared vulnerable and in need of constant surveillance. An additional worry was the potential for hawkers from the existing CSMT subway to spill into the Metro precincts, threatening the encroachment-free environment promised to commuters.

The crowding issue became acute enough to necessitate temporary measures. The Vidhan Bhavan Metro station was closed for a period due to overcrowding, reopening only after a pause of a few minutes once the situation was managed.

Diary Times Desk : The much-anticipated launch of the final section of Mumbai's Metro Aqua Line 3 was marred on its first day by a critical lack of mobile network connectivity and significant evening crowding, casting a shadow over the milestone event.

A total of 1,18,286 passengers had used the line by 7 pm, according to a Mid-Day report, overwhelming the new stations during peak hours.

The absence of an underground mobile signal emerged as the primary inconvenience for commuters.

With ticketing apps rendered useless inside stations, passengers were forced to rely exclusively on cash transactions for purchasing journeys, creating bottlenecks and frustration.

PURITY OF VOTERS' LIST FOUNDATION OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY: AMIT SHAH ON BIHAR SIR

Diary Times Desk : In the government's first reaction to the controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the ECI is duty-bound to conduct such an exercise as the 'purity of voters' list' is the foundation of the democracy of India.

Addressing an event organised here by a media house, the Home Minister said, the inclusion of infiltrators in the voters' list pollutes the spirit of the Constitution and asserted that voting rights should only be available to the citizens of the country, as per the Constitutional scheme.

Shah asserted that the government at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi always followed the 3-D policy while dealing with infiltrators: "detect, delete and deport". He also asked that all well-meaning citizens of the country should not look at infiltration and the SIR from the political prism, while asserting that these are issues directly connected with national security.

Remarking that the Congress has gone into a "denial mode" on the issue of the SIR, Shah said that the exercise took place even during the period in which it was in power. "The opposition is blocking the exercise because their vote banks are getting affected ... It is the EC's constitutional responsibility to clean the voters' list. You can go to court if you have any issues," he said. Free and fair elections cannot take place unless the voter list contains only true voters—one who is an Indian citizen and above the age of 18 years—, he said, adding that non-citizens cannot be allowed to choose the country's leadership.



BURGLARS STRUCK AT ENGINEERING COLLEGE, DECAMP WITH CASH OF RS 1 CRORE



Diary Times Desk : Burglars struck the Brilliant Institute of Engineering and Technology and allegedly made away with nearly Rs 1 crore in cash from the college office in Abdullapurmet.

As per available information, the burglars broke open the office door and several lockers where cash belonging to three institutions under the Brilliant Group was kept. The incident is believed to have taken place on Thursday night after staff had left for the day.

It is learnt that the college is owned by Congress MLA Kasireddy Narayana Reddy.

The college staff who came on Friday found the office burgled and alerted the college authorities and the local police.

Abdullapurmet police suspect it to be a pre-planned move, with the burglars also stealing the DVR containing footage from nearly 200 CCTV cameras, ensuring that no video evidence was left behind.

Police suspect the burglary was carried out by individuals familiar with the college's internal operations, as they appeared to know the exact location of the cash and the CCTV network on the college premises.

CRIME BRANCH RAIDS VANIK COACHING CENTRE AMID SI RECRUITMENT SCAM PROBE



Diary Times Desk : As part of its investigation into the sub-inspector (SI) recruitment scam, the Crime Branch has turned its lens on coaching centres with the agency conducting searches at Vanik coaching institute.

During the raids, CB officers examined Vanik's database to find out the details of students' who had enrolled in the coaching centre. Sources said out of the 114 candidates arrested by Berhampur police, six to seven had taken coaching in Vanik, founded by BJD leader Subrat Chhatoi.

Vanik's management, however, maintained that it has done no wrong and is completely cooperating with the investigating agency.

However, this is not for the first time the coaching centre finds itself under scanner. In April last year, the Income Tax department had raided property linked to Vanik. A year before, Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) had also raided various branches of the institute.

CB sources said middle-men engaged by the crime syndicate had approached several job aspirants while they were undertaking coaching in various centres. "The syndicate's modus operandi was to establish contacts with candidates at various coaching centres and offer them jobs against kickbacks ranging from `15 lakh to `25 lakh."

Investigation suggested that the question paper for the SI examination was printed at a press in West Bengal and members of the syndicate somehow got their hands on a rough copy.

2016 DOWRY-HARASSMENT FIR

DELHI HIGH COURT QUASHES 2016 DOWRY-HARASSMENT FIR FILED BY WOMAN AGAINST DECEASED HUSBAND'S FAMILY



Diary Times Desk :

The Delhi High Court has quashed a dowry-harassment FIR lodged on a complaint from a woman against the family members of her husband, who died by suicide barely 40 days after the wedding.

The court said the allegations made in the complaint were vague and not supported by any cogent evidence and it was a case of an abuse of the process of law.

"The complaint, when considered as a whole, does not reflect any act of harassment or cruelty," Justice Neena Bansal Krishna said in a judgment passed on Wednesday.

The court quashed the FIR lodged against the deceased's parents and sister for the alleged offences of cruelty inflicted on a married woman and criminal breach of trust, and discharged them from the case.

The order was passed on a plea filed by the woman's parents-in-law and sister-in-law seeking quashing of the FIR lodged against them in 2016.

The couple got married in March 2016 and started living in Pune.

"It is evidently a case of vague allegations and it isn't in the interest of justice if the present proceedings are permitted to be continued," the court said.

PROTEST AT PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY OVER SEXUAL HARASSMENT CHARGES AGAINST FACULTY TURNS VIOLENT; 24 STUDENTS DETAINED



Diary Times Desk : A protest by students of Pondicherry University turned violent on Thursday after police detained 24 students, including six women, during a demonstration demanding action against alleged sexual harassment on campus. The students were forcibly removed from their protest site in front of the university's administrative block.

The protest, organised by the Students' Federation of India (SFI), called for action against a professor, Madavaiah — Head of the Karaikal branch of Pondicherry University — who has been accused of sexually harassing female students. Protesters also alleged that the university's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) had failed to take appropriate action.

The sit-in began around noon and continued for nearly eight hours. According to students, university officials had initially promised a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar in the evening. However, the meeting was held only with the Dean of Students' Welfare (DSW), and students said it ended without any satisfactory resolution. The absence of senior officials further angered the demonstrators.

INDIA-UK'S PITCH TO PRESERVE TRADE ORTHODOXY AMID TRUMP TARIFF CHALLENGE

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart, Keir Starmer—both their countries at the receiving end of recent waves of US tariffs—made their case this week for preserving the old free trade orthodoxy being challenged by President Donald Trump. PM Modi rolled out a lavish welcome for Starmer in Mumbai, raising 5,700 billboards and posters around the Indian financial hub, celebrating the trade deal the two men signed in July. The British prime minister, in turn, brought some 126 executives, business representatives, and university chiefs, joking that he needed a bigger plane to fit them and urging them to come home with deals. While neither leader mentioned Trump's tariffs, both pushed back on the sort of zero-sum approach to trade that has defined the US president's negotiations with allies and rivals alike. "India and UK have shown the world the way on global trade and using that trade as a win-win partnership," PM Modi told a global fintech conference on Thursday.



NDA CADET, 18, FOUND HANGING IN HOSTEL NEAR PUNE, FAMILY CLAIMS HE WAS HARASSED

Diary Times Desk : An 18-year-old first-year cadet of the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA) was found hanging in his hostel room on Friday morning in Khadakwasla near Pune. His family has alleged that he was harassed by his seniors at the academy, and they had raised the issue with the NDA authorities recently. However, police have stated there is no confirmation of ragging at this stage. The NDA has initiated a formal Court of Inquiry to examine the circumstances of the young cadet's death. The body of Antariksh Kumar Singh was discovered by his fellow cadets around 6 AM. No suicide note was recovered from the room, and the teenager was declared dead at the Military Hospital in Khadakwasla. The post-mortem report will reveal the exact cause of death, officials said.

THE ELECTION COMMISSION HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR IN BIHAR'S VOTERS' LIST DELETIONS AND ADDITIONS

Diary Times Desk : There can't be any response other than demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) for the way he has released the final voters list for the Bihar assembly polls.

After intense scrutiny and intervention by the Supreme Court for months the Election Commission has produced a final list of voters which is nothing short of outrageous. The fact that the EC can peddle such a voters' list and call it clean and "purified" only tells us that the CEC is now acting with complete impunity and has the support of his masters to brazen it out till the Bihar elections are concluded on November 11.

For starters, the list has suspected duplicate voters numbering 14 lakhs, as per an investigation by Reporters Collective. The investigation also reveals possible fake or imaginary addresses of 1.32 crore voters. This constitutes a very high level of contamination of the voters' list and therefore puts a huge question mark on the integrity of the election process itself. How could the Election Commission call this list clean by any stretch of the imagination? The Election Commission, caught with its pants down, had to prepare a final list while observing all the conditions suggested by the Supreme Court.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES THREE CANDIDATES FOR RAJYA SABHA ELECTIONS, KEEPS ONE SEAT OPEN FOR CONGRESS



Diary Times Desk : The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) on Friday officially announced its candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, naming Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Shammi Oberoi, and Sajad Kichloo as its nominees. The announcement was made during a press conference held at the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subh Complex in Srinagar, by NC General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar.

Sagar stated that the decision to nominate these three leaders was made after extensive internal deliberations within the party leadership, under the guidance of NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah.

HEALTH MINISTER SATYA KUMAR YADAV: ONLY RS 10.8 CRORE SPENT FOR NARSIPATNAM MEDICAL COLLEGE

Diary Times Desk : Health Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav has launched a scathing attack on former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of massive corruption in medical college projects, and obstructing the State development. Speaking at a BJP event in Vijayawada on Thursday, Yadav alleged that Jagan's administration siphoned off Rs 100 crore per medical college as commissions from contractors, inflating project costs from Rs 400 crore to Rs 500-600 crore without acquiring private land. He claimed that only 18% of the planned medical college constructions were completed in four years, funded entirely by Central resources, with no State funds allocated. He slammed Jagan for opposing the coalition government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for new medical colleges, which aims to enhance healthcare and educational opportunities.

NETANYAHU PAUSES SECURITY MEET ON GAZA PEACE DEAL TO SPEAK TO PM MODI



Diary Times Desk : Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the phone, halting the security cabinet meeting that was discussing a ceasefire and hostage release agreement under US President Donald Trump's 20-point Gaza Peace Plan, The Times of Israel quoted his office as saying. During the conversation, PM Modi congratulated Israeli PM on the progress made under US President Donald Trump's Gaza Peace Plan. "Prime Minister Modi congratulated Prime Minister Netanyahu on the agreement reached for the release of all the hostages," according to a statement from Netanyahu's office. Later, Prime Minister Modi, in a post on X, said, "Called my friend, Prime Minister Netanyahu, to congratulate him on the progress made under President Trump's Gaza peace.

"GROUND ALL BOEING 787 PLANES", SAYS PILOTS
BODY. AIR INDIA RESPONDS

Diary Times Desk :
The Federation of Indian Pilots, a body representing airline pilots, has demanded the 'grounding of all Boeing 787 planes' based on reports of malfunctioning electronics on two Air India flights - AI-154, a Vienna-Delhi service diverted to Dubai on October 9 after failures across multiple systems, including autopilot and flight control, and RAT deployment on AI-117 while landing in Birmingham on October 4.

The pilots claimed the incidents were 'indicators of poor serviceability by Air India' and seemed to blame them on newly-hired engineers replacing those from government-owned AIESEL.

Air India, however, has categorically denied any talk of an electrical failure in the latter and said deployment of the RAT in the former was 'neither due to a system fault nor pilot action'.

A spokesperson said AI-154 was re-routed due to a technical issue and the plane landed safely at Dubai. Passengers were kept informed of delays, provided refreshments, and completed their journey - on the same aircraft - reaching Delhi with no further incident Friday morning.

SUPREME COURT
QUESTIONS TAMIL NADU,
HIGH COURT OVER
STAMPEDE AT VIJAY'S
RALLY

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday raised several questions to the Tamil Nadu government while hearing petitions on the ongoing investigation into the stampede in Karur. It also flagged the "impropriety" with the Madras High Court's Chennai bench's order directing a special investigation team (SIT) probe when the petition only sought guidelines to hold roadshows. The Supreme Court questioned how the Tamil Nadu government carried out post-mortems at 4 am after the stampede that killed 41 people including children. It questioned the Tamil Nadu government over the permission given to actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) for holding a roadshow in Karur on September 27, when AIADMK was denied permission for a similar event at the same spot. The Supreme Court asked this after taking note of the reason for denial of permission to AIADMK i.e. the state was still working on the standard operating procedure (SOP) for political meetings when AIADMK applied.

27-YEAR-OLD WOMAN KILLS HER 2 CHILDREN,
DIES BY SUICIDE IN BENGALURU: COPS



Diary Times Desk : A 27-year-old woman died by suicide after killing her two children at their residence here, police said on Friday.
The dead have been identified as Vijayalakshmi and her two children aged 1 and 4, they said.
The family hailed from Raichur district but lived in Bengaluru as the woman's husband worked in a mall here.
Police suspect that a dispute with her husband over some issues could have led her to take the extreme step.
According to police, the incident occurred on Thursday evening in the Bagalagunte area. All three were found hanging in a room.
Citing preliminary investigation, police suspect that the woman allegedly strangled her children before hanging herself from the ceiling fan.
However, no suicide note has been recovered, police said, adding that further investigation is underway.

SUPREME COURT HEARING TODAY ON
PETITION TO RESTORE J&K'S
STATEHOOD

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court will hear a petition today seeking the immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and the implementation of directions passed by a constitutional bench in December 2023. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai will hear the plea this morning.

On August 14, the top court had given the Centre two months to file its response. So far, no response has been filed.
On December 11, 2023, a Constitution Bench had upheld the abrogation of Article 370 but directed the central government to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest, as soon as possible."

The Union government had also submitted before the court that the "status of J&K as a Union territory is temporary and its statehood will be restored."

WHO FLAGS REGULATION
GAPS AFTER INDIA CHILD
DEATHS FROM COUGH
SYRUPS

Diary Times Desk : The World Health Organization (WHO) has voiced "deep concern" over gaps in India's drug safety regulations, following the deaths of at least 20 children from contaminated cough syrups.
It has also warned that such medicines could reach other countries through unregulated distribution channels.
The deaths, reported from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states over the past month, have been linked to three cough syrups, samples of which have been found to contain diethylene glycol (DEG) - a toxic substance found in industrial solvents.
India has arrested the owner of the pharma company behind the contaminated syrup, ordered a halt to production, and launched an investigation.
India's drug regulator has identified three contaminated cough syrups - Coldrif (Sresan Pharmaceuticals), Respifresh (Rednex Pharmaceuticals), and ReLife (Shape Pharma) - and shared the information with WHO.

HYDRAA RECLAIMS GOVERNMENT
LAND WORTH RS 750 CRORE IN
HYDERABAD

Diary Times Desk : In another key operation, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Friday removed encroachment on five acres of government land to reclaim the property worth Rs 750 crore.

HYDRA officials removed encroachments on the land in upscale Banjara Hills in the heart of the city and took possession of the property.

The land on Banjara Hills Road No. 10 in Shaikpet Mandal was allegedly encroached by one Parthsatrrthy, who had even deployed bouncers and dogs to "protect" it.

According to HYDRAA officials, the government had previously allocated 1.20 acres of the 5 acres to Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

BORDER SKIRMISH IN LAPANGAP LEAVES KARBI VILLAGER DEAD

Diary Times Desk : One person was killed during a clash between two groups on the Assam-Meghalaya border at Tapat in West Karbi Anglong district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Orivel Timung. The number of the injured is yet to be ascertained.
According to reports, the clash broke out when both groups claimed ownership of a farming area in the disputed territory for harvesting paddy. Multiple altercations reportedly broke out between residents of Lapangap village in Meghalaya and Tapat village in Assam in the afternoon, sources said, adding that sharp weapons were used during the clash that began as an argument and escalated into scuffles.
The incident prompted authorities to deploy additional security forces to the area. They fired blank shots and tear gas shells to control the situation. Police and district authorities are monitoring the situation to restore normalcy amid heightened tension in the area.
The incident comes just three days after a meeting of the interstate border peace committee, which decided to suspend farming and development activities until peace was restored along the border.



INDIAN NATIONALS AMONG OVER 50 ENTITIES SANCTIONED BY US FOR AIDING IRAN'S ENERGY TRADE**Diary Times Desk :**

The US has sanctioned more than 50 entities, people and vessels including two Indian nationals for allegedly facilitating Iranian energy sales, in an attempt to dismantle "key elements" of Tehran's "energy export machine", according to an official statement.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced the sanctions on Thursday.

"These actors have collectively enabled the export of billions of dollars' worth of petroleum and petroleum products, providing critical revenue to the Iranian regime and its support for terrorist groups that threaten the United States," the department said in a press release.

The sanctions are part of the department's efforts to curb Iran's petroleum and petrochemical exports.

SECOND POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE STRIKES OFF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AFTER FIRST ONE KILLS AT LEAST 5

Diary Times Desk : Two powerful offshore earthquakes struck the same region in the southern Philippines hours apart on Friday.

The first one, a 7.4 magnitude quake in the morning, killed at least five people, set off landslides, damaged hospitals and schools and prompted evacuations of coastal areas nearby because of a tsunami warning, which was later lifted.

The second one had a preliminary 6.9 magnitude. Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology chief Teresito Bacolcol said that Friday night's earthquake that jolted Manay town in Davao Oriental province was caused by movement in the same fault line, the Philippine Trench, at a depth of 10 km (6 miles).

It wasn't immediately clear if it was a separate earthquake or an aftershock of the 7.4 magnitude quake.

"COMMITTEE NOT INTERESTED...": PUTIN MOCKS ZELENSKY'S "RIDICULOUS" SUGGESTION ON NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin mocked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's suggestion linking Tomahawk missile supplies to a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for Donald Trump, calling the proposal "ridiculous" and saying the Nobel Committee does not consider Zelenskyy's opinion when awarding the prize.

Responding to a question on Zelenskyy's suggestion, Putin said, "Well. I think the opinion of the current head of the Kyiv regime was not something that the Nobel Committee was interested in when they were making a decision.

But making this connection between the Nobel Peace Prize and weapon supplies is ridiculous, and it just demonstrates the level of the current Kyiv regime."

INDIA TO HAVE FULL EMBASSY IN KABUL; MEDICAL AND FOOD AID TO AFGHANISTAN, PENDING INFRA PROJECTS TO RESTART

Diary Times Desk : Getting its toe-hold back in Afghanistan, India will once again operate a full-fledged embassy in Kabul, extend medical aid in the form of equipment and vaccinations. It will also look to restart pending infrastructure projects and have a maintenance schedule for existing completed projects like roads and hospitals.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Afghanistan's Interim Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and his delegation in New Delhi on Friday and rolled out the development plan and also discussed methods of countering terrorism. This even as last night two loud explosions rocked Kabul. Former US envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad in a post on X expressed concern over the alleged "strikes carried out by Pakistan in Kabul" terming it as a "huge escalation", which poses dangerous risks.

CHINA'S TECH TYRANNY UNVEILED: WUC LEADERS REAFFIRM PEACEFUL RESISTANCE

Diary Times Desk : The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has released its weekly brief, concerning the ongoing struggle for Uyghur rights and global advocacy for religious freedom and peaceful resistance.

A new report by OpenAI, published on October 7, revealed alarming evidence of suspected Chinese government-linked operatives attempting to misuse artificial intelligence tools to design systems for monitoring Uyghurs and other so-called "high-risk" groups. According to the report, one user allegedly sought assistance in developing a system to analyse Uyghur travel data and police records, while another attempted to generate materials for promoting software that scans social media for "extremist speech."

'DID PAKISTAN STRIKE AFGHANISTAN': 2 EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN KABUL, TALIBAN SAYS IT IS INVESTIGATING

Diary Times Desk : One or more loud explosions were heard late on Thursday evening in the Afghan capital of Kabul, according to the Taliban administration and eyewitnesses.

It was not immediately clear what caused the blast.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman for the Taliban administration, said in a statement that an explosion had been heard and an investigation was underway. He added that so far no reports of casualties or damage had been received. Witnesses, including a Reuters witness, said they heard at least two explosions at around 9:50pm local time.

Meanwhile, former US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad expressed concern over the alleged "strikes carried out by Pakistan in Kabul" terming it as a "huge escalation", which poses dangerous risks.

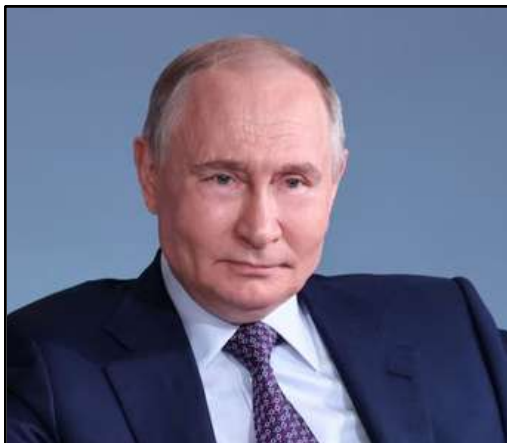
20 YEARS ON, US SENATE FORMALLY ENDS IRAQ WAR AUTHORISATION TO GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk : More than two decades later, Congress is on the verge of writing a closing chapter to the war in Iraq.

The Senate voted on Thursday to repeal the resolution that authorised the 2003 US invasion, following a House vote last month that would return the basic war power to Congress.

The amendment by Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, a Democrat, and Indiana Sen. Todd Young, a Republican, was approved by voice vote to an annual defence authorisation bill that passed the Senate late Thursday — a unanimous endorsement for ending the war that many now view as a mistake. Iraqi deaths were estimated in the hundreds of thousands, and nearly 5,000 US troops were killed in the war after President George W. Bush's administration falsely claimed that then-President Saddam Hussein was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

"That's the way the war ends, not with a bang but a whimper," Kaine said after the vote, which lasted only a few seconds with no debate and no objections. Still, he said, "America is forever changed by those wars, and the Middle East is too."



WHO IS NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE MARIA CORINA MACHADO



Diary Times Desk : Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for promoting democratic rights in her country and her struggle to achieve a transition to democracy, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said.

Following are some facts about the democracy campaigner:

UPPER-CLASS BACKGROUND

Maria Corina Machado, 58, was born in Caracas, Venezuela, on October 7, 1967. She is an industrial engineer by training, and her father was a prominent businessman in Venezuela's steel industry. Her upper-class roots have made her a target of criticism from Venezuela's governing socialist party. Machado won a resounding victory in the opposition's primary election in 2023 and her rallies attracted large crowds, but a ban from holding public office prevented her from running for president against Nicolas Maduro in an election in 2024 and she went into hiding.

The country's electoral authority and top court say Maduro, whose time in office has been marked by a deep economic and social crisis, won the election though they have never published detailed tallies. Machado emerged from hiding to make a brief appearance during a protest before Maduro's inauguration in January. She was briefly arrested and then freed.

ISRAEL TO SWAP 11 HAMAS PRISONERS INSTEAD OF FATAH INMATES UNDER GAZA DEAL: ARMY RADIO

Diary Times Desk : Israeli army radio said on Friday that 11 prisoners from Hamas will be released instead of 11 prisoners affiliated with Fatah as part of the Gaza agreement, saying there had been a "last minute" change in those who would be freed.

Hamas is expected to release the 20 alive Israeli hostages together, 72 hours after the start of the ceasefire. In addition, Israel will release 250 Palestinians serving long terms in Israeli prisons, as well as 1,700 others who have been arrested since the war erupted on October 7, 2023.

RUSSIAN STRIKES WOUND AT LEAST 20 IN UKRAINE'S CAPITAL

Diary Times Desk : Russian drone and missile strikes wounded at least 20 persons in Kyiv, damaged residential buildings and caused blackouts across swathes of Ukraine on early Friday, authorities said. A child was also killed in separate attacks in the southeast of the country. In the heart of the Ukrainian capital, rescue crews pulled more than 20 persons out of a 17-story apartment building as flames engulfed the sixth and seventh floors. Five persons were hospitalised, while others received first aid at the scene, authorities said. The Russian strikes had targeted civilian and energy infrastructure as Ukraine prepared for falling winter temperatures, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media.

CITING UNEASE OVER GRAFT, JAPAN'S KOMEITO LEAVES LONGSTANDING RULING COALITION HEADED BY LDP



Diary Times Desk : The head of Japan's Komeito says it is leaving the ruling coalition headed by the Liberal Democratic Party due to concerns over corruption.

The decision announced on Friday by Komeito leader Tetsuo Saito deals a serious blow to the Liberal Democrats, who last weekend chose ultra-conservative lawmaker Sanae Takaichi as its leader.

Takaichi could still become Japan's first female prime minister, but the departure of the Buddhist-backed Komeito will compel the Liberal Democrats to find at least one other coalition partner in order to stay in power.

The ruling coalition had already lost its majorities in both Houses of Parliament. The Lower House is due to vote on a new prime minister later this month.

CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN GAZA HAS TAKEN EFFECT: ISRAELI MILITARY

Diary Times Desk : A ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas for the Gaza Strip came into effect at noon local time, the Israeli military said Friday, adding that troops were withdrawing to agreed-upon deployment lines. The announcement came hours after Israel's Cabinet approved President Donald Trump's plan for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the release of the remaining hostages and of Palestinian prisoners.

Tens of thousands of people who had gathered in Wadi Gaza in central Gaza in the morning started walking north after the military's announcement at noon local time. Beforehand, Palestinians reported heavy shelling in parts of Gaza throughout Friday morning.

The Israeli Cabinet's approval of Trump's plan marks a key step toward ending a ruinous two-year war that has destabilised the Middle East.

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

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump was passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday despite jockeying from his fellow Republicans, various world leaders and — most vocally — himself.

Opposition activist María Corina Machado of Venezuela was awarded the prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it was honouring her "for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy."

Trump, who has long coveted the prestigious prize, has been outspoken about his desire for the honour during both of his presidential terms, particularly lately as he takes credit for ending conflicts around the world. He has expressed doubts that the Nobel committee would ever grant him the award.

"They'll have to do what they do. Whatever they do is fine. I know this: I didn't do it for that. I did it because I saved a lot of lives," Trump said on Thursday.

Although Trump received a number of nominations for the prize, many of them occurred after the February 1 deadline for the 2025 award, which fell just a week and a half into his first term.

"I FEEL VERY GOOD PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY": TRUMP AS HE HEADS FOR MEDICAL TEST

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump heads for his second medical check-up this year on Friday with the oldest elected president in US history insisting that he is in "great shape." Trump, 79, will address troops at Walter Reed military hospital on the outskirts of the capital Washington before undergoing the examination.

It comes three months after the White House announced Trump was diagnosed with a vein condition, following speculation about frequent bruising on his hand and his swollen legs. The White House had said earlier this week that Friday's check-up would be an "annual" one, despite the fact that Trump had already undergone one of those in April.



But Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday that he was "going to do a sort of semi-annual physical."

US SANCTIONS OVER 50 FIRMS, INCLUDING INDIAN NATIONALS, OVER IRAN OIL TRADE

Diary Times Desk : The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on Thursday announced sanctions against more than 50 individuals, entities, and vessels for facilitating Iranian oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales and shipments from Iran, including Indian nationals involved in trading activities linked to Iran's energy sector.

According to a release by the US Department of the Treasury, these actors have collectively enabled the export of billions of dollars' worth of petroleum and petroleum products, providing critical revenue to the Iranian regime and its support for terrorist groups that threaten the United States. The action targets a network moving hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of Iranian LPG, along with nearly two dozen shadow fleet vessels, a China-based crude oil terminal, and an independent refinery.

"The Treasury Department is degrading Iran's cash flow by dismantling key elements of Iran's energy."

VENEZUELA'S MARIA CORINA MACHADO GETS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Diary Times Desk : Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her unwavering fight against authoritarianism and her courageous defense of democracy. This year, there were 338 nominees, including 244 individuals and 94 organisations.

Known as Venezuela's "Iron Lady," Machado has remained in hiding for over 14 months after rejecting the results of a widely disputed election declared in favor of President Nicolás Maduro. Despite government threats, disqualification and repression, Machado has continued to call for free elections and expose human rights abuses. Her recognition comes at a critical time for Venezuela, where political freedoms remain severely restricted.

The committee chose to focus on Venezuela at this time, in a year dominated by US President Donald Trump's repeated public statements that he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.

PUTIN PRAISES TRUMP'S PEACE EFFORTS EVEN AFTER LATTER FAILS TO WIN NOBEL PRIZE



Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday praised US President Donald Trump's peace efforts, despite him not winning a Nobel, and voiced hope for securing an agreement to extend a pivotal nuclear arms pact with Washington for another year.

Asked by reporters whether he thinks Trump was unjustly passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize in favour of Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, Putin replied he wasn't the one to decide but extolled Trump's efforts towards a ceasefire in Gaza and in Ukraine.

"He's really doing a lot to resolve such complex crises that have lasted for years and even decades," Putin said of Trump while in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, for a summit of former Soviet nations. He added that if the Gaza ceasefire deal is carried out, it would mark a "historic" achievement.

The Russian leader didn't comment on Machado's win, but he said without mentioning any names that the Nobel Committee in the past has awarded the prize to those who have accomplished little to help global peace. "There have been cases where the committee has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to people who have done nothing for peace," Putin said.

"A person comes, good or bad, and (gets it) in a month, in two months, boom. For what? He didn't do anything at all. In my view, these decisions have done enormous damage to the prestige of this prize."

Turning to the conflict in Ukraine that has dragged on for more than 3 1/2 years, Putin said he and Trump discussed ways to settle it at their summit in Alaska in August, adding that "on the whole, we have an understanding, both on the part of the United States and on the part of the Russian Federation, about where we should move and what we should strive for in order to end this conflict".

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHARGES AGAINST LETITIA JAMES IN THE US

Diary Times Desk : New York Attorney General Letitia James has been criminally indicted on federal bank fraud charges over a property she purchased in Virginia.

US President Donald Trump has pushed his officials to legally pursue James, among other political opponents of his.

James denies any wrongdoing, calling the case a "desperate weaponisation of our justice system". A similar accusation was made against her by Trump and his allies when James won a civil fraud case against him in 2023.

Here is what we know about the case against James - and a recap of the one she led against Trump.

What has Letitia James been charged with?

The US Department of Justice (DoJ) says James has been charged with bank fraud and making false statements to a financial institution. The charges relate to James's three-bedroom property in Norfolk, Virginia.

Prosecutors allege she secured a mortgage claiming the property as her secondary residence, while her primary residence was in Brooklyn, New York. Instead, she rented out the property to a family of three, according to court documents.

INTERNET BANNED IN ISLAMABAD, RAWALPINDI AHEAD OF ANTI-ISRAEL PROTEST IN PAKISTAN

Diary Times Desk : The Shehbaz Sharif government in Pakistan has suspended internet in the capital, Islamabad, and in Rawalpindi ahead of an anti-Israel protest called by Islamist political party Tehreek-e-Labbai Pakistan (TLP).

The Islamist outfit is reportedly upset with the Sharif government and Army Chief Asim Munir for "embarrassing surrender" to US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by supporting the Gaza peace deal.

Per Pakistani media reports, security has also been tightened in the twin cities ahead of the Islamist group's "Aqsa Million March" from Faizabad to the American Embassy in Islamabad on Friday.

Authorities are planning to block key intersections and major roads in both cities to maintain the law and order situation, according to a report by Pakistani publication The National.

The report said that in Rawalpindi, the police have started taking containers and trailers into custody as part of preparations to control any unrest. Authorities are stationing these vehicles along roads and will use them to block roads if needed.

ISRAEL SAYS GAZA CEASEFIRE NOW IN EFFECT, RAISING HOPES OF ENDING WAR



Diary Times Desk : A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect in Gaza on Friday, the military said, hours after Israel's Cabinet approved a deal to pause the fighting and exchange the remaining hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

Tens of thousands of people who had gathered in Wadi Gaza in central Gaza started walking north after the Israeli military's announcement at noon local time. Beforehand, Palestinians reported heavy shelling in parts of Gaza throughout Friday morning, but no significant bombardment was reported after.

The ceasefire marks a key step toward ending a ruinous two-year war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, reduced much of Gaza to rubble, destabilized the Middle East, and left dozens of hostages, living and dead, in the territory.

Still, the broader plan advanced by US President Donald Trump includes many unanswered .

DONALD TRUMP CALLS CHINA'S RARE EARTH MOVE 'HOSTILE,' THREATENS MASSIVE TARIFF HIKE ON IMPORTS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Friday accused China of launching a "hostile" trade offensive by sending letters to countries around the world announcing plans to impose export controls on rare earth elements and other key materials.

In a lengthy post on Truth Social, Trump said Beijing's actions could "clog the markets" and disrupt global trade, calling it "a rather sinister and hostile move."

"They are becoming very hostile, and sending letters to countries throughout the world, that they want to impose Export Controls on each and every element of production having to do with Rare Earths, and virtually anything else they can think of, even if it's not manufactured in China," Trump wrote.

PAKISTANI FORCES KILL 30 MILITANTS AFTER DEADLY AMBUSH THAT KILLED SOLDIERS IN COUNTRY'S NORTHWEST

Diary Times Desk : Pakistani security forces acting on intelligence killed 30 militants in multiple raids on Pakistani Taliban hideouts in the country's northwestern region where insurgents this week ambushed a security convoy, killing 11 soldiers, the military said on Friday.

The raids were conducted in Orakzai, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where a military convoy came under attack Wednesday, the military said in a statement. The ambush "martyred" 11 soldiers, including two senior officers.

According to the statement, all 30 militants were killed in the raids on Wednesday and Thursday and identified as members of "Khwarij", a term the government uses for militants it accuses of being backed by India, including those associated with the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan.

"These successful operations have avenged the heinous act and brought the main perpetrators to justice," the statement said.

It added that operations were continuing to hunt and eliminate any other "Indian-sponsored Khwarij" in the area, reaffirming that Pakistan's forces remain determined to eradicate terrorism from the country.

STUDENTS TAKE SHELTER UNDER CHAIRS AS EARTHQUAKE HITS PHILIPPINES

Diary Times Desk : A powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake shook the southern coast of the Philippines on Friday morning. A video from what appears to be a university class has emerged, showing the moment the earthquake hit Davao City.

The short clip, posted to X by RT, shows the cacophony triggered by tremors. A large group of students picked up the plastic chairs and covered their heads; some screamed in panic, all on camera.

There was panic in the Tagum City Davao Regional Medical Centre, where patients and staff were seen evacuating the building.

Some held onto trees for support, while patients in wheelchairs and children were carefully guided to safety. Some of the evacuees were also seen sitting on the roadside.

Another video, reportedly from Butuan City in Mindanao, showed residents on the streets as buildings shook around them. People were seen running in panic and heard screaming in fear, while some sat on the ground.

TALIBAN BLAME PAKISTAN AFTER EXPLOSIONS IN KABUL, AMID OUTREACH TO INDIA

Diary Times Desk : The Taliban have blamed Pakistan for an explosion in Kabul and another in the eastern Afghanistan province of Paktika on Thursday, amid mounting tensions between the neighbours and shifting allegiances in South Asia that have alarmed Islamabad. Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid had confirmed that an explosion had been heard in Kabul, saying the cause was under investigation, on Thursday, but at the time downplayed its severity. He did not ascribe any blame.

"An explosion was heard in Kabul city," he posted on social media platform X in Pashto. "But don't worry, it's all good and well. The accident is under investigation, and no injuries have been reported yet. So far, there is no report of any harm done."

But on Friday, the Afghan Ministry of Defence blamed Pakistan for the Kabul and Paktika blasts, without sharing any details.

TEAM TRUMP PLANS MORE H-1B VISA RESTRICTIONS AFTER \$100,000 FEE HIKE

Diary Times Desk : In its pursuit to overhaul the H-1B visa programme, the Donald Trump administration in the United States is planning to go beyond the initial shock of the \$100,000 mandatory fee and impose additional immigration restrictions on how employers can use the permit and who qualifies for it.

The Department of Homeland Security has proposed a rule change in its regulatory agenda to modify the H-1B visa category. The proposals, formally listed in the Federal Register under the title of 'Reforming the H-1B Nonimmigrant Visa Classification Program', include several technical aspects, like "revising eligibility for cap exemptions, providing greater scrutiny for employers that have violated programme requirements, and increasing oversight over third-party placements", among other provisions."

It is not clear if the DHS plans to potentially narrow which employers and positions are exempted from the annual cap. But if the Trump administration changes the exemption caps, the move could affect nonprofit research organisations, universities, and healthcare institutions that currently benefit from exemptions, Newsweek reported.

"These changes are intended to improve the integrity of the H-1B nonimmigrant program and better protect US workers' wages and working conditions," the proposal said. The changes are expected to impact thousands of Indian students and young professionals hoping to work in the US.



WITH SOCIAL SECURITY'S COLA ON THE LINE, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO RELEASE INFLATION DATA DELAYED BY THE SHUTDOWN

Diary Times Desk : The Bureau of Labor Statistics is calling some staff back to work to prepare its closely watched inflation gauge, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) report, despite the government shutdown, a Trump administration official told CNN. The latest CPI data was previously scheduled for release on October 15. It's unclear whether the report will still be released next week or delayed amid the shutdown. The Trump official told CNN that the data would be published before November 1, since that is the deadline to publish the annual increase for Social Security payments. The September CPI data is needed to calculate that adjustment.

The BLS has stopped all operations since October 1, when the government's funding lapsed. Only one employee was assigned to continue working full-time at the bureau throughout the shutdown, according to contingency plans released by the US Department of Labor, which oversees the bureau. This meant that data collection and analysis were effectively halted.

TAYLOR SWIFT'S NEW ALBUM IS HER NOVELTY OREO PLAY

Diary Times Desk : No one needs another take on Taylor Swift's The Life of a Showgirl. We live in a surfeit of TLOAS takes. But this is a ~business~ story, I promise.

First things first: Many critics have deemed Swift's 12th studio album a miss, and I'm not going to sit here and tell the critics they're wrong (at least, not about TLOAS). I can squint and point out the album's gems — I think "Wood" is fun, actually — but that kind of analysis is best reserved for my music-reviewing brethren. My job here is to point out why I think TLOAS is a savvy business play masquerading as Millennial cringe. In short: It's novelty Oreos.

Bromwich writes that over a three-year period when sales of novelty Oreos were up 12%, sales of the classic were up nearly 22%.

AMERICANS AREN'T WORRIED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN. BUT THEY REMAIN UNNERVED ABOUT THE COST OF LIVING AND WEAK HIRING

Diary Times Desk : Persistent worries about the higher cost of living and few job opportunities pushed consumer sentiment down to its seventh-lowest level in October, on records going back to 1952.

Consumer sentiment edged a hair lower early this month to a preliminary reading of 55, the University of Michigan said Friday — a weak level rarely seen in the post-World War II era. It's slightly above the lows it reached this spring when President Donald Trump unveiled massive tariffs.

"Pocketbook issues like high prices and weakening job prospects remain at the forefront of consumers' minds," Joanne Hsu, the survey's director, said in a release. "Consumers do not expect meaningful improvement in these factors."

The shutdown of the federal government, which stretched into its tenth day on Friday, has not so far affected Americans' perceptions about the economy, according to the survey. More than a million federal workers have been furloughed or are working without pay.



PROTEST FROGS VS. MAGA MEDIA INFLUENCERS: THE INFO WAR OVER ICE IN PORTLAND AND CHICAGO

Diary Times Desk : As the Department of Homeland Security floods social media with "propaganda" videos, and pro-Trump commentators flock to Portland and Chicago in search of a "rebellion," local residents are responding with... chicken suits and clever jokes.

Thursday night on ABC, Jimmy Kimmel tossed to a "special report" from Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, "reporting from war-torn Chicago."

Pritzker, wearing body armor, played a TV reporter in the video clip. "We've seen people being forced to eat hot dogs with ketchup on them," the governor quipped.

While Kimmel's show was airing, a real reporter for The Oregonian was recording a video outside the ICE facility that has long been a magnet for protests in Portland. The topic: "Protest frogs are multiplying."



TESLA UNDER INVESTIGATION AFTER CARS WITH THE SELF-DRIVING FEATURE RAN RED LIGHTS, DROVE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD

Diary Times Desk : US federal regulators have opened yet another investigation into Tesla's self-driving feature after dozens of incidents in which the cars ran red lights or drove on the wrong side of the road, sometimes crashing into other vehicles and causing injuries.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Thursday that it is looking into 58 incidents in which Teslas reportedly violated traffic safety laws while using the company's so-called Full Self-Driving mode, leading to more than a dozen crashes and fires and nearly two dozen injuries.

The new probe adds to several other open investigations into Tesla technology that could upend Elon Musk's plans to turn millions of his cars already on the road into completely driverless vehicles with an over-the-air update to their software.

"The ultimate question is, 'Does the software work?'" asked Seth Goldstein, a Morningstar analyst with a "sell" rating on the stock. Added money manager Ross Gerber, "The world has become a giant testing ground for Elon's concept of full self-driving, and it's not working."



SILVER JUST HIT \$50 AN OUNCE, THE HIGHEST PRICE IN FOUR DECADES

Diary Times Desk :
Gold isn't the only precious metal on a gangbusters rally.

Silver prices have surged roughly 75% this year, boosted by investors seeking out safe havens, plus strong industrial demand and lingering supply deficits.

Spot silver prices hit a record high \$51 a troy ounce on Thursday, breaching the \$50 threshold for the first time since 1980.

Traders have turned to hard assets like gold and silver this year as safe investments and tools to hedge against geopolitical instability and economic uncertainty, from concerns about tariffs and inflation to worries about Federal Reserve independence and government debt burdens.

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

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

IRS MAKES CHANGES THAT WILL AFFECT YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR AND NEXT



Diary Times Desk : The IRS on Thursday announced adjustments it is making to a host of line items on your federal tax return for this year and next. Those updates are the result of changes in inflation but also due to provisions in the new tax law enacted in July.

How the adjustments will affect you has everything to do with what deductions you take and what your taxable income will be.

But, generally speaking, "many taxpayers will see modest 'relief' simply because the deductions and thresholds move upward. Inflation will take less of a bite," said Tom O'Saben, director of tax content at the National Association of Tax Professionals.

Among the changes are:

A higher standard deduction
Most filers claim the standard deduction, and they do so because it exceeds the value of the deductions they would otherwise take if they itemized.

BESSENT SAYS US PURCHASED PESOS AND FINALIZED FRAMEWORK FOR \$20 BILLION LIFELINE FOR ARGENTINA



Diary Times Desk : The Trump administration has finalized plans to provide a \$20 billion lifeline to Argentina, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Thursday via social media. Additionally, the United States "directly" purchased Argentine pesos, Bessent said, a rare move that marks the latest step in an attempt to stabilize the country's financial market. Bessent did not specify how many pesos the United States had purchased. Representatives from the Treasury Department did not immediately respond to CNN's request for comment. "The U.S. Treasury is prepared, immediately, to take whatever exceptional measures are warranted to provide stability to markets," Bessent wrote.

The \$20 billion lifeline framework Bessent announced is known as a "currency swap," which gives Argentina's central bank the ability to exchange pesos for US dollars with the Treasury. Doing so can help stabilize its financial markets by injecting more liquidity.

The Argentine peso has significantly devalued against other currencies since President Javier Milei, a close ally of President Donald Trump, suffered major defeats in local elections, raising doubts that he'll hold on to his legislative majority in midterm elections later this month.

Trump has praised the chainsaw-wielding libertarian and endorsed his reelection.

But the Trump administration's attempt to rescue Milei's economy has been met with some criticism, given Trump preaches an "America First" agenda.

HIMACHAL BJP
PRESIDENT’S BROTHER
ARRESTED FOR 'RAPE' AT
HIS SOLAN CLINIC

Diary Times Desk : In a significant embarrassment for the BJP, Ram Kumar Bindal, the elder brother of BJP Himachal president Rajeev Bindal, was arrested by the Solan police on Friday for allegedly raping a 25-year-old woman at his clinic on Mall Road here.

SP Gaurav Singh said the woman filed a complaint at the women’s police station on October 8. She reported visiting Bindal’s ayurvedic clinic near the old bus stand on October 7 for treatment of a medical condition. During the consultation, Bindal allegedly held her hand, pressed her veins, and asked about her sexual health. After she shared her concerns, he assured her of a complete cure and showed her a medical book. However, Bindal then allegedly insisted on examining her private parts, which she refused. Despite her objection, he allegedly raped her under the pretext of a medical examination.

RAISE FUNDS FOR
SUPPLEMENTARY
NUTRITION, HIMACHAL
MINISTER SHANDIL
URGES CENTRE

Diary Times Desk : Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil today urged the Central Government to increase the funds of supplementary nutrition it was providing to help fulfil the dietary requirements of children. He participated in a virtual meeting chaired by Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi with the ministers of various states to assess the progress of different schemes of her ministry. The Union Minister assured the participants of all possible support to the states and to sympathetically consider all their genuine demands. Shandil said that keeping in view the importance of proper nutrition during childhood, the state government was working proactively to meet the nutritional needs of children. He added that under the Anganwari Seva Yojana, the state government had received Rs 66 crore recently while it had already spent Rs 113 crore from its own resources towards the Central share. He urged the Union Minister to release the second installment of funds.

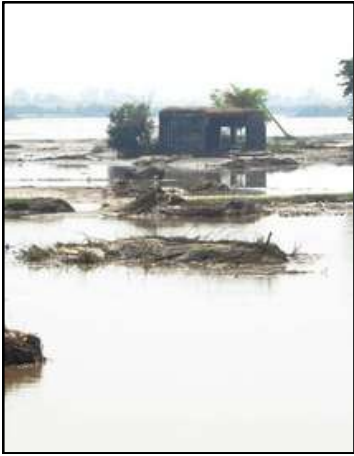
TACKLING FLOOD DAMAGE: PUNJAB FARMERS WITH LESS THAN 5 ACRES TO GET
FREE WHEAT SEEDS FROM OCTOBER 13

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Government will start providing free wheat seeds to flood-hit farmers owning less than 5 acres from October 13. The government also rescheduled the repayment of short-term loans taken by such farmers for the kharif crop this year.

Instead of January 31 next year, they can now repay the loan till June 30.

The flood-hit farmers will also be eligible to apply for fresh loans, irrespective of the pendency of their kharif crop loan. The government has kept Rs 1,342 crore for disbursal as the rabi season loan.

The moves come even as the government is awaiting central aid of Rs 1,600 crore, which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to flood-affected state areas last month. SOPs issued



NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU MEETS
'MENTOR' PRIYANKA GANDHI,
EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR
SUPPORT IN BAD TIMES

Diary Times Desk : Senior Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu met Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and shared a heartfelt message on social media, calling her his "mentor, lighthouse and guiding angel." In a post following their meeting, Sidhu expressed his deep gratitude to Priyanka and her brother Rahul Gandhi for their continued support during challenging times. "Just grateful to her and Bhai for standing by in rough and tough times," he wrote. "Navjot Singh Sidhu meets Priyanka Gandhi. "Met my Mentor, lighthouse and Guiding Angel Just grateful to her and Bhai for standing by in rough and tough times," he wrote The meeting comes at a time when Sidhu's wife, Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu, has publicly expressed her desire to contest the Assembly elections from Amritsar. The development is being seen as a potential sign of the Sidhu family's return to active politics.

Notably, Navjot Singh Sidhu had been keeping a low profile and distancing himself from party activities in recent months.

SHOCKING ORDEAL: WOMAN
PUSHED INTO DRUGS,
PROSTITUTION; DIAGNOSED WITH
AIDS, HEPATITIS C

Diary Times Desk : A horrifying story of prolonged exploitation, abuse and neglect has emerged from Moga, where a young woman has accused her husband and several politically connected individuals of forcing her into prostitution and drug addiction — a seven-year nightmare that has now left her battling AIDS and Hepatitis C. According to FIR No. 0268, registered on October 8, 2025, at Police Station City South, Moga, the victim — identified as Jaspreet Kaur (24, name changed) — was found unconscious by her family on September 27 and later admitted to hospital. Medical reports confirmed she had contracted AIDS and Hepatitis C, which she attributes to years of forced substance use and sexual exploitation. Her ordeal, as detailed in the FIR, began in 2017 when she was just 16 years old. She alleged that the main accused, Gaurav alias Gori, began stalking and harassing her, eventually luring her to his home where he sexually assaulted her, recorded the act, and blackmailed her with the video. Over the next several months.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

11-10-2025

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Libra

Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Scorpio

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

Sagittarius

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

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

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.

3 DAYS ON, HARYANA IPS OFFICER'S FAMILY REFUSES CREMATION, WANTS DGP, ROHTAK SP TO PROCEED ON LEAVE

Diary Times Desk : Three days after 2001-batch IPS officer Y Puran Kumar shot himself at his Sector 11 residence, the family of the deceased officer said the post-mortem and cremation would be held only after the FIR is amended to include the names of DGP Shatrujeet Kappor and SP, Rohtak, Narender Bijarniya, as the accused and the sections applied are changed to reflect the crime committed.

"Further, these two officers must be asked to proceed on leave in keeping with the commitment given by the Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. He had assured the family yesterday that a decision to send the two officers would be taken by 5 pm. However, nothing has happened. The arrests can take place subsequently, but the bare minimum should be done without delay," a family member stated.

AAP CALLS OUT BJP'S INACTION IN DALIT IPS OFFICER Y PURAN KUMAR'S SUICIDE CASE

Diary Times Desk : Aam Aadmi Party's national media in-charge and senior leader Anurag Dhanda issued a statement on Friday saying that four days have passed since the suicide of senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, yet there has been no action against the accused, and Chandigarh Police remains inactive under BJP pressure.

Meanwhile, the family is upset over the slow pace of justice and has refused to perform the last rites until concrete steps are taken. This situation, Dhanda said, exposes the insensitivity and administrative failure of the BJP government.

He stated that this is not merely the death of one officer, but proof of the deep-rooted systemic discrimination against Dalits. "When a Dalit IPS officer is harassed to the extent that he takes his own life, imagine the plight of the poor Dalits in the system.

CHANDIGARH POLICE FORM SIT IN HARYANA POLICE OFFICER Y PURAN KUMAR'S 'SUICIDE' CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Chandigarh Police today constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the FIR registered in connection with the 'suicide' of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar. The move came hours after representatives of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, led by D Suresh, Resident Commissioner at Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi, met senior police officials at the Chandigarh Police Headquarters, demanding a fair and time-bound investigation into the case.

According to sources, only D Suresh and the late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar's younger brother met with DGP, UT Chandigarh Sagar Preet Hooda, putting forward their demands. "More than 30 representatives of the SC/ST communities gathered in the committee room at the police headquarters and discussed their demands before forwarding them to the DGP," said a member of the SC/ST community. Later, D Suresh and Y Puran Kumar's brother met DGP Hooda in person to press for swift action.

Before meeting the DGP, D Suresh had shared with The Tribune that "this is a social issue.



KEY ACCUSED IPS OFFICERS' NAMES OMITTED? WIFE OF HARYANA IGP WHO DIED BY SUICIDE ALLEGES FIR DILUTION

Diary Times Desk : A day after the Chandigarh Police registered an FIR in connection with the alleged suicide by senior Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, his wife and IAS officer Amneet P Kumar on Friday wrote to the Chandigarh Senior Superintendent of Police demanding immediate amendments to the document. In her letter dated October 10, Amneet stated that the copy of FIR No. 156, dated October 9 and handed over to her at her Sector 24-A residence at 10.22 pm by the Chandigarh SSP, Kanwardeep Kaur, was "incomplete and unsigned, and failed to name the key accused persons mentioned in her original complaint". She pointed out that the names of the accused—Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Kapur and Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya — had not been "clearly mentioned" in the FIR, even though they were central to her complaint and the "trigger point" behind her husband's death. "As per the prescribed FIR format, all accused should be clearly listed under Column No. 7," she wrote, urging that the FIR be amended to "accurately reflect the names of all accused individuals".

IPS OFFICER'S SUICIDE: AMBALA CONGRESS MP SEEKS JUDICIAL PROBE BY HIGH COURT JUDGE

Diary Times Desk : In the suicide case of Dalit IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, a 2001-batch officer of the Haryana cadre, Ambala MP Varun Chaudhary met Chandigarh Administrator and Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at the Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, demanding strict action in the matter.

He was accompanied by Amit Rattan, MLA from Bathinda (Rural) in Punjab, and brother of IAS officer Amneet P Kumar.

Chaudhary said that the family had demanded that in the FIR registered in connection with IPS officer Y Puran Kumar's suicide, the names of the two main accused should be included in column number seven (as accused). In the memorandum submitted to the Chandigarh Administrator, the MP also demanded that a judicial inquiry be conducted for a fair investigation into the suicide case under the chairmanship of a High Court judge. He further requested that the bereaved family be provided security under the Chandigarh Administration's jurisdiction.

HARYANA CM HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING, EXPLORES OPTIONS ON REPLACING DGP, ROHTAK SP

Diary Times Desk : With the suicide by senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar snowballing into a major issue, the Nayab Singh Saini Government today explored the possibility of replacing DGP Shatrujeet Kapur and Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya.

Immediately after meeting the family of the deceased officer, including his wife Amneet P Kumar, a senior Haryana IAS officer, CM Saini went into huddle with senior officers, including Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi. Sources said several options, including sending the DGP and Rohtak SP on leave, and appointing an officiating DGP were discussed at the meeting. Puran Kumar had reportedly blamed Kapur of harassment, forcing him to take the extreme step in his suicide note.

In fact, Amneet, in her complaint to the Chandigarh Police, has demanded the registration of a case and the immediate arrest of the accused named in the suicide note. Meanwhile, the Haryana Civil Services (Executive Branch) Officers' Association has extended "full solidarity and moral support" to Amneet Kumar.

"The association urges that his matter be treated with utmost seriousness, sensitivity and impartiality, ensuring that a fair and time-bound investigation is conducted.



Africa Has ‘Unlimited’ Solar Potential. Off-Grid Power Could Help Light Up The Continent

Globally, more than 660 million people still lack access to electricity — and 85% of them reside in sub-Saharan Africa.

Washikala Malango was one of these people.

Malango was born and raised in Baraka, a village on the shores of a vast lake in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). His off-grid childhood was not particularly unusual: even today, around 78% of the population in the country has no access to electricity, according to the World Bank.

He recalls spending mornings at school and afternoons playing soccer in the streets, and at dusk, returning home to share the light of a kerosene lamp in the kitchen, where his mother prepared dinner.

There was no reading or studying in the evening: “We wouldn’t even buy enough kerosene to

even make enough light (to last) until 9 or 10 p.m. Then you spend the rest of the night in the darkness,” he recalls. One evening, when a candle was left burning after hours, his cotton-filled mattress caught fire, and he awoke gasping through mouthfuls of smoke.

In the mid-1990s, during the Congolese civil war, Malango and his childhood friend longwa Mashangao fled Baraka. The teenagers ended up together in a refugee camp in Tanzania, which also lacked electricity.

“Relying on dirty and expensive sources of energy for lighting, for powering appliances, for learning, this had a very negative impact on our household’s income, on our health,” says Malango. These early experiences motivated Malango and Mashangao to launch Altech in 2013, a startup that provides easy-to-install home solar kits to bring reliable electricity to off-grid communities.

“We really wanted to contribute to the eradication of energy poverty in the DRC, given what we experienced growing up,” says Malango.

Unlimited, but underfunded
Made up of 54 countries, Africa gets more sunshine hours than any other continent. It has some of the highest levels of solar irradiance — the power of the sun per square meter — in the world, with “almost unlimited” potential for solar energy according to the African Development Bank.



Solar has been touted as the obvious solution to provide clean energy to the millions of people living without electricity. Yet the continent had just 21.5 gigawatts of installed solar capacity in 2024, according to the International Energy Agency. By comparison, China, the global leader in solar power, added 198 GW between January and May this year alone. “The problem that you have in many African countries is that you have scattered, low density population centers,” says Bruno Idini, an analyst at the International Energy Agency (IEA).



Rebecca Cairns
Issues vary from country to country, but national grids often struggle to expand beyond cities due to high infrastructure costs and bottlenecks, regulatory hurdles, unclear government policies, and sometimes, conflict and unrest.



Kara Scannell
“No one is above the law. The charges as alleged in this case represent intentional, criminal acts and tremendous breaches of the public’s trust,” Halligan said in a statement. “The facts and the law in this case are clear, and we will continue following them to ensure that justice is served.”

Indicted By Justice Department

New York Attorney General Letitia James was indicted Thursday in Alexandria, Virginia, as President Donald Trump’s Justice Department continues to pursue charges against his political opponents.

James has been under investigation since May over a 2023 mortgage she took out to buy a home in Norfolk, Virginia. Thursday’s indictment focused on a 2020 mortgage for a different property in Norfolk.

The grand jury returned two felony charges: bank fraud and making false statements to a financial institution. James’ first court appearance is scheduled for October 24 in Norfolk.

According to the indictment, James claimed on mortgage paperwork that a home she purchased in Norfolk would be her second residence. That claim allowed her to get favorable loan terms not available for investment properties, prosecutors say. But, prosecutors allege, James did not use the house and instead rented the property to a family of three. They allege she falsely stated in loan applications that the residence would be a secondary home when they allege James knew she would use it as an investment property.



Under pressure by Trump to bring charges against Comey and James, Siebert resigned and was replaced as US attorney by Trump’s former personal attorney Lindsey Halligan.

According to the indictment, James received a lower mortgage rate on the property as a secondary mortgage than she would have had it been treated as an investment property. Prosecutors allege James received improper gains of \$18,933 over the life of the loan.

The charges come as Trump continues to call for his enemies to be prosecuted in court. Former FBI Director James Comey pleaded not guilty Wednesday to allegedly making a false statement in a congressional proceeding. The Justice Department has also opened investigation into former Trump national security adviser John Bolton, California Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff, and others. “This is nothing more than a continuation of the president’s desperate weaponization of our justice system,” James said in a statement. “These charges are baseless, and the president’s own public statements make clear that his only goal is political retribution at any cost,” she added. “The president’s actions are a grave violation of our Constitutional order and have drawn sharp criticism from members of both parties.”

James’ relationship with Trump has been adversarial for years as James campaigned on promises to investigate Trump and ultimately won a civil fraud case against Trump, his adult sons and his real estate business. A judge found them liable for fraud for inflating the value of their properties, and ordered Trump to pay \$355 million in penalties.

A New York appeals court tossed the penalties and Trump has appealed the verdict.

During the 11-week trial, Trump’s anger toward James was palpable. He railed against her in the courthouse hallways and from the witness stand. Trump testified as James sat across from him in the courtroom gallery.

“This is a political witch hunt and I think she should be ashamed of herself,” Trump testified. “You believe this political hack back there and that’s unfortunate.”

James often punched back outside of the courtroom, on social media or in video statements.

Last month CNN reported that Justice Department prosecutors in Virginia, led at the time by Erik Siebert, interviewed dozens of witnesses and did not believe they gathered enough evidence to support criminal charges against James.

INFA

The Growing Appeal Of AI

YOUR PLUMBER HAS A NEW FAVORITE TOOL: CHATGPT



Bryan Mena
Businesses in the trades implementing AI are becoming more productive, allowing them to take on more projects or improve the quality of their services, said Laura Ullrich, an economist at job site Indeed.

There are roughly 20 plumbers of Oak Creek Plumbing & Remodeling in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area don’t just bring toolkits with wrenches, pliers and Teflon tape to customers’ homes these days. They also bring a tablet equipped with the latest version of ChatGPT.

The technology helps those workers automatically create invoices, work proposals and even brainstorm how to address complicated plumbing problems, company president Dan Callies told CNN. All they have to do is take photos of a broken water heater, for example, or write their observations in a prompt, and ChatGPT spits out a list of recommendations.

“It’s definitely been worth the investment,” Callies said. “Some of our older guys have learned to ask ChatGPT the right questions, and they’re kind of amazed with some of answers it comes up with.”

From office work to on-the-ground troubleshooting, blue-collar businesses are increasingly embracing AI to boost productivity, cut down costs and even replace administrative support roles. Some use popular AI software such as ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot, while others use platforms tailored specifically for the trades with AI capabilities, such as ServiceTitan and

Housecall Pro. “It’s affecting both sides of our company, out in the field and internally within our office,” Callies said. No humans are involved from when a customer requests services from Gulfshore Air Conditioning & Heating in Niceville, Florida to when a technician arrives at their home, thanks to AI. And once the technician arrives, they use AI to diagnose the issue and pull up technical information within seconds — a task that used to require sifting through as many as five 60-page manuals, said Krista Landen, the company’s marketing and IT manager.

A survey of more than 400 tradespeople across North America by Housecall Pro earlier this year found that more than 70% of respondents said they have tried AI tools and about 40% said they actively use them. Younger professionals are leading the charge, the survey showed, though older workers are testing the waters, too. AI’s integration and impact varies by industry, according to the survey; Plumbers were the most likely to say AI has helped their business grow; cleaners were the “biggest adopters of AI”; while electricians had “the highest satisfaction rates” with the technology.

Schools have also taken notice: Jason Altmire, president and CEO of Career Education Colleges and Universities, a trade association that represents more than 800 private vocational schools across the country, said several institutions are weaving AI into their curriculum in collaboration with employers. “They want their graduates ready for jobs that are going to be available in the future, not jobs that were here five years ago,” Altmire said.

Still, some tradespeople are skeptical about how the new technology works and how it can be applied to physical tasks.

“There’s some hesitancy, so I wouldn’t say they’re all in,” said Edward McFarlane, chair of the board of directors at the Air Conditioning Contractors of America. “But the tide is definitely coming in.”



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REMBRANDT BUGATTI

Diary Times Desk : Bugatti's artist uncle gave him his unusual name Rembrandt Bugatti was named by his uncle — the artist Giovanni Segantini — after the 17th-century Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn. He lived up to the promise of his exceptional moniker, becoming one of the foremost sculptors of his day. So gifted was he that the famous French critic Louis Vauxcelles was moved to write, 'Here is great art', on seeing Bugatti's sculptures at the Venice Biennale in 1909.

Bugatti was supposed to be an engineer

Born into a cultured family of high achievers in Milan in 1884, Bugatti grew up without any doubts about his heritage. He was the grandson of the Italian architect Giovanni Luigi Bugatti and the son of the talented furniture designer Carlo Bugatti. Home was socially rich, with parties at which composer Giacomo Puccini or sculptor Ercole Rosa might make an appearance.

The plan was for Bugatti's older brother, the brilliant and charismatic Ettore, to be the artist, while the shy and awkward Rembrandt would be an engineer. That all changed when Carlo discovered a beautiful clay model of a peasant leading three cows, which his younger son had sculpted from memory. Ettore was duly despatched to a firm of bicycle manufacturers, and Rembrandt to the society sculptor Prince Paul Troubetzkoy, celebrated for his rapid and spontaneous style. The Italian-born Russian prince encouraged Bugatti to study his subject closely before committing his impressions to clay.

Many years later, Ettore recalled of that time, 'There are two types of artists: those who are born artists... My brother was one of them. The other type, to which I belong, are those who try and create art but are not as gifted... One day they should wake up and realise that they ought to do something else.'

He preferred the company of animals

Photographs of Bugatti reveal a tall, serious young man with a thin nose and mouth which seem to accentuate his long face. Described as a solitary boy, he was known to be warm and humorous with close friends. He was nicknamed 'the Americano' for his snappy dressing, and he once admitted that he liked to wear a new suit when he started a new sculpture. However, as the years passed, the artist became more withdrawn, often disappearing for days on end, and suffering from prolonged bouts of depression.



DOMENICO GNOLI'S 'ODDLY TOUCHING AND STRANGELY POETIC' ART

The artist Domenico Gnoli was the golden boy of Italian art until his untimely death at the age of 36. His heyday was the late 1950s and the 1960s, during the relatively optimistic post-war period, when Gnoli was at the centre of a brilliant artistic milieu that included Cy Twombly, Robert Rauschenberg and Mimmo Rotella.

'God, how beautiful he is,' said Gnoli's one-time girlfriend, the sculptor Barbara Chase-Riboud, observing that he often 'ended up being the sensation of the evening, getting in the Italian newsreels'.

With his movie-star good looks and tousled hair, the artist conformed to the playboy stereotype. He was always seen at the right parties, and with the right people — the Rothschilds, the de Menils, and Richard Burton, who became a close friend. 'No strategy on my part,' Gnoli assured his mother, 'just luck!'

This charisma was matched by an extraordinary talent and a furious work ethic. In his brief, dazzling career, he created a body of work that was in a class of its own. 'No recognisable category can include the oddly poetic and strangely touching, semi-fantastic figure drawings by Domenico Gnoli,' wrote the art critic Stuart Preston.

Gnoli always seemed destined to become an artist. 'I was born knowing that I would be a painter,' he said, 'because my father, an art critic, always presented painting to me as the only acceptable thing.'

Born into a highly cultured aristocratic family in Rome in 1933, Gnoli was expected from a young age to be able to identify different artistic styles and imitate them. 'Write down what you do and what you see, express what you think, because you always need to exercise your mind,' advised his father Umberto.

He took lessons with the Symbolist artist Carlo Alberto Petrucci, and had his first exhibition of Piranesi-inspired ink drawings at the precocious age of 18. By 20, he was working as a set designer at the Old Vic theatre in London (he had arrived with letters of introduction to Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud) and flirted with acting, appearing on film in the historical melodrama *The Flame*.

In 1954, he moved to Paris, where he supported himself by providing illustrations for the *Paris Review* and *Life* magazine, and observed with bemusement the antics of the American expat community.



BARCELONA IN CRISIS AS TOP BRASS IDENTIFIES THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITHIN THE TEAM



Diary Times Desk : A new report from MARCA has revealed deep concerns within Barcelona, as the club’s hierarchy believes the team is lacking unity and collective focus.

The publication states that after suffering consecutive defeats, first against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League and then against Sevilla in La Liga, alarm bells have started ringing inside the club.

These back-to-back losses have triggered a phase of self-reflection at every level, exposing what appears to be a growing sense of individualism over team spirit in the dressing room.

What’s going on at Barcelona?
According to the report, those at the top of Barcelona are worried about the visible decline in solidarity and affinity both on and off the pitch.

BARCELONA PLAYMAKER LIKELY TO MISS GIRONA ENCOUNTER AFTER TRAINING INJURY WITH NATIONAL TEAM

Diary Times Desk : According to a report from SPORT, it has come to light that early indications suggest Dani Olmo will miss Barcelona’s upcoming clash against Girona after the international break.

The Spanish midfielder has suffered a calf puncture, which forced him to withdraw from Luis de la Fuente’s national team camp.

This comes as a major blow for Hansi Flick, who is already dealing with a growing injury list that includes Gavi, while Fermin Lopez remains a doubt for the same fixture.

Olmo had been expected to play a key role for Spain during this international window, but his physical condition raised concerns shortly after joining the camp.

De la Fuente confirmed the situation in a recent press conference, explaining, “Dani trained all week, but he came feeling a bit fatigued and some discomfort. “Today in training, he participated for only 15 minutes and wasn’t comfortable, so we told him to stop training.”

THE HURDLE STANDING BETWEEN BARCELONA AND 16-YEAR-OLD WONDERKID TARGET

Diary Times Desk : According to a fresh update from Mundo Deportivo, Barcelona’s interest in 16-year-old Mexican prodigy Gilberto Mora remains very much alive, although the club is proceeding with caution due to his age and FIFA restrictions.

The young attacking midfielder has been one of the standout stars at the ongoing U-20 World Cup, where he has scored three goals and provided two assists in four appearances.

As reported before, Barcelona scouts have been closely monitoring the tournament, and Mora’s performances have naturally caught their attention.

However, despite the admiration, Barcelona’s sporting department recognises that his signing presents a logistical challenge.

What is the problem?
Due to FIFA regulations, Mora cannot move to a European club until he turns 18, which will not happen until October 2026. That makes an immediate transfer impossible, as the Blaugrana are currently focused on players who can strengthen Hansi Flick’s team straightaway.

SPAIN MANAGER TALKS LAMINE, FLICK, CUBARSI, ANSU FATI – ‘VERY HAPPY WITH WHAT HE IS DOING’

Diary Times Desk : Spain manager Luis de la Fuente addressed the media earlier today ahead of their World Cup qualifying fixture against Georgia on Saturday.

The press conference was largely dominated by the news surrounding Barcelona star Dani Olmo’s injury earlier today and his condition.

De la Fuente confirmed that the playmaker was undergoing tests and updates were awaited. Meanwhile, he also touched on other topics, including the recent feud between Barcelona and the Spain camp over the injury of Lamine Yamal.

On Lamine, Cubarsi, Flick

When asked about the ongoing tension between Barcelona and La Roja over the mishandling of Lamine during the international break in September, De la Fuente chose to side-step the topic.



SPAIN U21 COACH OPENS UP ON BARCELONA STARLET’S WITHDRAWAL FROM SQUAD – ‘IT WAS BEST FOR HIM’

Diary Times Desk : In addition to the Spanish national team, the Spain U21 side will also be involved in action this international break as they take on Norway and Finland.

One of the notable exclusions from the team is Marc Bernal, who continues to remain out of the U21 side despite returning to first-team action with Barcelona.

Heading into the friendly against Norway, the U21 coach David Gordo, spoke to the media, where he admitted trying his best to make Bernal a part of the squad.

David Gordo on why Bernal couldn’t make it
Gordo explained why Bernal was withdrawn from the squad after initially being included, stating that Barcelona sent a report detailing how he was feeling discomfort.

OFFICIAL: BARCELONA MIDFIELDER TO RETURN TO CLUB AS NATIONAL TEAM CONFIRM MUSCLE INJURY

Diary Times Desk : The Spanish national football team has officially announced that Dani Olmo will be returning to FC Barcelona after suffering a muscle injury.

The 27-year-old had been one of several Barça players called up to the La Roja squad by Luis de la Fuente. However, on the eve of their game against Georgia, the playmaker could not complete the training session and had to leave early.

Tests carried out have confirmed a muscle injury, with Spain now confirming that Olmo will miss both their matches against Georgia and Bulgaria. The midfielder will return to Barcelona, where further tests will be conducted.

“Dani Olmo will be unable to face Georgia in Elche or Bulgaria in Valladolid due to injury. The player arrived at the national squad’s base last Monday showing signs of muscular fatigue, as reported by FC Barcelona,” the statement from Spain read.

“Since then, his symptoms have gradually improved with treatment and adjusted load. However, today it was planned that the forward would only do a part of the scheduled training, during which he reported muscle discomfort in his left leg.”

Continuing, it further read: “Therefore, complementary tests were carried out and he has been diagnosed with a muscular injury.