

NEWS IN BRIEF

"WHY ARE BENGALURU ROADS SO BAD?" KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW QUOTES CHINESE VISITOR

Diary Times Desk : Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has once again drawn attention to Bengaluru's poor infrastructure, this time quoting a visitor from China who questioned the state of the city's roads and cleanliness.

In her post on social media platform X, Shaw said that the business visitor was shocked to see the poor condition of the area, with garbage strewn around and roads in bad shape, adding whether the government truly wanted to support investment.

"I had an overseas business visitor to Biocon Park who said, 'Why are the roads so bad and why is there so much garbage around? Doesn't the Govt want to support investment?' she wrote. She said the visitor, who recently arrived from China, remarked, 'I have just come from China.

TN LAUNCHES ON-SITE CHILDREAN IN INDUSTRIAL PARKS, UNVEILS NEW FOOD HUBS

Diary Times Desk : In a fresh push to strengthen its manufacturing ecosystem and deepen social infrastructure, the state government on Monday unveiled 16 new childcare centres in its industrial parks and inaugurated two mega food park projects with a combined investment of Rs 190 crore. The projects were launched by Chief Minister MK Stalin through video conference from the secretariat. The childcare facilities — a first-of-its-kind initiative in India — are located in 16 industrial estates operated by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCO). The move is aimed at improving the quality of life for thousands of women employed in the state's factories, while enhancing Tamil Nadu's appeal as an investment destination. TN hosts the largest number of operational industrial estates in the country, with nearly 43% of women working in such estates nationwide employed in the state. "This is about building infrastructure that supports both investors and workers," Industries Minister TRB Rajaa said.

CLASS 8 STUDENT IN A HIJAB

"SDPI workers are behind it. Their party members came to enforce it... (and) they put more pressure on the school than the parents," Kaithavalappil told NDTV.

Faced with this increasingly tense stand-off, the school - which said in a letter to other parents that it acted to ensure equality of dress for all students - approached the Kerala High Court for police protection. The school also announced a two-day holiday - i.e., on October 13 and 14.

The controversy reportedly took root October 7 after the girl was stopped in her hijab for the first time. Three days later she was stopped again, only this time an angry father and a number of associates, allegedly from the SDPI, turned up and started hurling abuses at school officials.

According to reports, the father said his daughter had worn a hijab - although not pinned as is traditional, so making it look more like a shawl over her head - for four months without an issue.

However, in those reports the school principal, Sister Helena, was quoted as saying that all parents had been told of the 'dress code' at the time of admission, and that the girl 'followed the school's dress code for four months... but, one fine morning, she came in flouting the code'.

SHARJEEL IMAM TO SEEK INTERIM BAIL FROM TOP COURT TO CONTEST BIHAR POLLS

Diary Times Desk : Student activist Sharjeel Imam, an accused in the larger conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots case, on Tuesday withdrew his plea before a court here seeking a 14-day interim bail to file his nomination and campaign for the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar.

Imam's counsel submitted before Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai that as his client's regular bail plea was pending before the Supreme Court, the interim relief would be sought from the top court.

Advocate Ahmad Ibrahim told the court that the plea was being withdrawn on technical grounds.

Earlier on Monday, Imam, who was arrested on August 25, 2020, had filed a plea seeking interim bail from November 15 to 29 to fight the polls from Bahadurganj assembly seat as an Independent.

The plea said, "There is no one to take care of and make arrangements for his nomination and campaign for the elections, except his younger brother, who is also currently looking after his ailing mother and providing for his family."

**BENGALURU TECHIE'S VIRAL PLEA: SHUT DOWN IT PARKS, GO REMOTE TO FIX CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE**

Diary Times Desk : A social media post about Bengaluru's deteriorating roads and infrastructure has gained widespread attention. A techie named Amarnath Shivashankar has appealed to the Karnataka government on X to temporarily close the city's major IT parks to expedite necessary repairs and construction work. He urged the government to implement a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and allow IT companies to work from home for a few months to address road and stormwater drainage issues.

In his post, Amarnath wrote that the BCP should be implemented, the IT parks should be temporarily closed, roads and drainage systems should be repaired, incomplete flyovers should be completed, and the number of BMTC buses should be increased. He also stated that "where there is a will, there is a way" and that Bengaluru can be completely repaired in one go. "When IT companies on the Outer Ring Road, ITPL, Electronic City, Manyata Tech Park, Bagmane Tech Park etc. went completely remote for more than a year during Covid, they can do that again if the Government mandates them to do so. Employees are losing productive hours during their commute," he added.

One user commented, "There will be real practical challenges in doing it now. We are not in global crisis and the parent companies (GCCs) want their employees to be in office not only in India but worldwide."

SHUTDOWN, POLITICS AS HIJAB ROW BREAKS OUT IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN KERALA

Diary Times Desk : A church-run school in Kerala's Ernakulam district has become mired in a political row after it denied entry last week to a Class 8 student in a hijab. Authorities at St Rita's Public School in Palluruthy reportedly said the hijab violated its 'dress code' and the girl was made to remove it.

"This school is not allowing me to wear a hijab. They made me stand at the entrance (of the classroom) and told me to remove it. Teachers were rude. I won't study here," the girl said.

The school's reprimand triggered a fight with the parents, and then the Parent-Teacher Association also got involved. PTA President, Joshi Kaithavalappil, told NDTV a young girl in a hijab marked the start of a "planned attack on a Christian-managed educational institution".

The PTA chief also claimed the parents were backed by the Social Democratic Party of India, a political party seen as pro-Islamic and linked to the now-banned Popular Front of India.

"SDPI workers are behind it. Their party members came to enforce it... (and) they put more pressure on the school than the parents,"

BUS BROKE DOWN**MASSIVE TRAFFIC JAM ON BENGALURU'S OUTER RING ROAD AFTER BMTC BUS BREAKS DOWN**

Diary Times Desk : A major traffic jam, stretching for several kilometres on Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR), was caused after a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus broke down on Tuesday (Oct 14) afternoon. According to an advisory posted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police at 4:43 pm IST, the incident occurred near the Ecospace Junction.

"Traffic advisory: Due to vehicle breakdown near the Eco space junction towards Marathahalli, Kadubeesanahalli, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur is having slow-moving traffic," read the advisory posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Bengaluru residents took to social media to share pictures and videos of the massive jam. One user said it took them one hour, 40 minutes to cover 10 km on ORR, while others questioned how a single bus could cause such a jam.

"Pathetic traffic... it took 2 hours 10 mins from Brookfield to Sarjapur road, 12 kms," said one user, while another added: "One bus stopped on a road made whole Bengaluru cry for hours."

A third commented: "I experienced the worst traffic today, from Bagmane Mahadevapura to Brookfield atleast in the last 3 years."

A fourth said: "10 kms. 1hr 40 minutes on ORR. Unliveable city. Needs some serious intervention." Last week, the Bengaluru traffic police issued a traffic advisory regarding road closures on the ORR due to ongoing BMRC metro station construction. The affected stretch runs from the 9th Main Road Junction to the 5th Main Road Junction and will remain closed for a period of 45 days.

Driven by rapid urbanisation and a booming IT industry, Bengaluru's population has surged, with over 13 million residents and millions of vehicles clogging its roads.

NOW, TAKE PHOTO OF DIRTY TOILET ON ANY NATIONAL HIGHWAY AND GET RS 1,000 REWARD

Diary Times Desk : In a bid to ensure clean toilets for the travelling public, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has announced a reward of Rs 1,000 to anyone who can capture an unhygienic toilet along any National Highway (NH) and report it to the authority. The amount will be awarded in the form of FASTag recharge, said an official release.

The release said the unique 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' will encourage public participation in ensuring clean toilets. The challenge is on till October 31 on all NHs across the country.

This drive is a part of the Centre's 'Special Campaign 5.0' that reaffirms commitment towards ensuring cleanliness, transparency, and efficiency in governance, it said. "The initiative is open to all NH users for reporting dirty toilets by uploading a geo-tagged picture through the latest version of the (FASTag and Toll Services app) 'Rajmargyatra' app and providing the user's name, location, vehicle registration number and mobile number," the release said.

Each Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) reporting such an instance stands to gain Rs 1,000 in the form of FASTag recharge that will be credited to the linked VRN provided by the highway user. "Each VRN shall be eligible for only one reward during the entire scheme period. The reward will be non-transferable and cannot be claimed in cash," the NHAI elaborated.

WON'T JOIN PARLIAMENT PANEL ON BILLS TO OUST JAILED MINISTERS: CONGRESS

Diary Times Desk : The Congress has informed Union Minister Kiren Rijju that it, along with other opposition parties, will not be a part of the joint committee of Parliament on three Bills that seek the removal of top government functionaries under arrest for 30 consecutive days on serious charges, party sources said on Monday.

They said the party conveyed the decision to the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister as opposition parties unanimously decided to boycott the committee.

At least three parties -- the Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Aam Aadmi Party -- had earlier declared that they will not be part of the committee.

The Samajwadi Party had also hinted at supporting the view that the opposition should be united in not joining the panel. Last month, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that no political party had written to him about boycotting the joint committee of Parliament to examine the three Bills.

"On the issue of JPC, no political party has communicated to me in writing on this subject," Birla had told reporters.

"ANY INCLUSION IN ALLIANCE WILL BE DECIDED...": CONGRESS
ON RAJ THACKERAY BUZZ



Diary Times Desk : Buzz about the possible inclusion of the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has been circulating in Maharashtra's political circles, but the Congress party insists that no formal proposal or discussion has taken place. Speaking to the press at Maharashtra Sadan in Delhi, Maharashtra Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal emphasised that the Congress and its allies remain focused on defending democracy and upholding constitutional values, particularly in the face of what they describe as authoritarian tendencies of the BJP.

"If any party wishes to join the India Alliance, the decision rests with the constituent parties of the alliance. Similarly, in Maharashtra, the MVA has already been formed against the BJP. Any inclusion of parties will be decided collectively by the alliance members," he said.

WINTER IS COMING: ANTI-POLLUTION CURBS IMPOSED IN
DELHI FOR 1ST TIME THIS SEASON

Diary Times Desk : Signalling the annual return of the dreaded pollution in the capital, the Commission for Air Quality Management, which is the Centre's anti-pollution panel, has enforced curbs under GRAP-1 in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

The CAQM announced the decision on Tuesday, when Delhi's Air Quality Index was recorded at 211, which is in the 'Poor' category.

The Sub-Committee on GRAP, in a review meeting, analysed real-time data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) alongside forecasts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

"The AQI has entered the 'Poor' threshold, and projections indicate sustained levels in this range over the coming days due to stagnant weather conditions," the committee noted in its order. This marks the first formal activation of GRAP measures for the season.

Under Stage-I ('Poor' Air Quality, AQI 201-300), a slew of enforcement actions will have to be taken by district administrations, pollution control boards and municipal bodies in Delhi as well as NCR districts in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Punjab.

SINGER MAITHILI THAKUR JOINS BJP, MAY CONTEST BIHAR
POLLS FROM ALINAGAR



Diary Times Desk : Celebrated Maithili folk singer Maithili Thakur joined the BJP today. Sources said she is expected to contest the coming assembly election from Alinagar in Darbhanga, one of the two districts that comprise Mithilanchal. The party is banking on her to draw in young voters.

Asked why she joined the BJP, Maithili Thakur told NDTV, "I am very much influenced by Modi-ji. And I am also very influenced by the NDA government of Bihar".

The singer had earlier told NDTV that she wants to join politics to serve the people of her region.

"I want to serve Bihar. I have been doing this through my folk songs, and that is why I didn't want to go abroad," she had told NDTV in an exclusive interview.

PRASHANT KISHOR WILL NOT
CONTEST FROM RAGHOPUR,
PARTY NAMES CANDIDATE

Diary Times Desk : Political strategist-turned Prashant Kishor put to rest speculation about his contest the Bihar assembly election from Raghopur, fielding a candidate from sitting MLA Tejashwi Yadav's family turf.

This evening, Jan Suraj named Chanchal Singh as the candidate from the constituency.

Prahsant Kishor had earlier indicated that he could contest the election in which his Jan Suraj is fielding candidates in 243 seats of Bihar.

During an interview last month, he had said, "Deliberations are on in the party, and if a collective decision is taken that I too enter the fray, then, as I also said in that interview, it has to be Kargahar or Raghopur". But the party later announced a candidate for Kargahar -- a seat is located in the Rohtas district and currently held by Congress's Santosh Kumar Mishra -- triggering speculation about a mega battle in Raghopur between Kishor and Tejashwi Yadav.

APPROVALS FOR ADS, SHARING SOCIAL
MEDIA INFO MUST: POLL BODY TO
CANDIDATES

Diary Times Desk : The Election Commission of India has ordered all political parties and candidates to get pre-certification for political ads on electronic and social media platforms before they are published. This decision follows the October 6 announcement of the schedule of the Bihar Assembly election and by-elections for eight Assembly constituencies across six states and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the new guidelines issued by the Election Commission, every registered national and state political party and candidates running for election must apply to the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee for approval before releasing any ad on television, radio, or digital platforms, including social media. The poll panel stated that media certification committees have been set up at the district and state levels to manage the pre-certification process and monitor media.

"HANG MY HEAD IN SHAME": JAVED
AKHTAR ON "RECEPTION" GIVEN TO
TALIBAN MINISTER IN INDIA



Diary Times Desk : Screenwriter-lyricist Javed Akhtar has slammed the "reception" given to Afghan Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi during his visit to New Delhi, saying he "hangs his head in shame".

Muttaqi is currently on a six-day visit to India, the first such trip to the country by a Taliban leader since the group seized power in Afghanistan in 2021.

"I hang my head in shame when I see the kind of respect and reception has been given to the representative of the world's worst terrorists group Taliban by those who beat the pulpit against all kind of terrorists," Akhtar wrote on X on Monday.

PAKISTAN LOST OVER 100 SOLDIERS DURING OPERATION SINDOOR: TOP OFFICER

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan is understood to have lost over 100 military personnel along the Line of Control during Operation Sindoor, Indian Army's Director General Military Operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said on Tuesday, citing list of awards conferred posthumously by that country's military. The top military official also said that Pakistan lost at least 12 aircraft during the conflict in May while echoing the details shared by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh a few days ago. Lt Gen Ghai also said that the Indian Navy was fully ready to play its part and if Pakistan had decided to continue with the hostilities any further, it could have been "catastrophic for it, not only from the sea but from other dimensions as well". Sharing certain details of the May 7-10 hostilities, Lt Gen Ghai said Pakistan had resorted to cross-border firing immediately after India pounded nine terror targets on May 7.

DELHI SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ALLEGEDLY ASSAULTED, STRIPPED ON CAMPUS; FIR FILED

Diary Times Desk : A first-year B.Tech student at Delhi's South Asian University (SAU) has alleged she was sexually and physically assaulted, stripped, and forced to consume an abortion pill by four people, including a security guard, on the campus premises on October 12, according to an FIR filed by the Delhi Police on Tuesday. The 18-year-old was found injured and disoriented with torn clothes on campus on October 13, a day after she was reported missing. The incident sparked over eight hours of student protests at the administrative block, with demonstrators accusing the university of delaying police notification and a lack of sensitivity. The South Asian University administration has condemned the incident, expressing "zero-tolerance" for violence against women, and has formed a probe committee tasked with submitting a detailed report within 10 days. The victim's statement, recorded before a district magistrate, details a sequence of harassment leading up to the assault. She alleged receiving sexually explicit and threatening messages over email and social media from a person identified as 'Aryan Yash,' including morphed obscene images and instructions to meet at specific campus locations.

DURGAPUR MEDICAL STUDENT'S FRIEND ARRESTED IN RAPE CASE, TOTAL NOW 6



Diary Times Desk : The friend of the medical student who was raped near a private medical college in West Bengal's Durgapur has been arrested by the police, taking the total arrests in the case to six. NDTV had reported earlier that the woman, a second-year MBBS student who had gone to West Bengal from Odisha to study, and her friend had stepped out of the IQ City Medical College in Durgapur's Shivapur area on October 10 and were accosted by a few people. She was allegedly taken to a forested area and raped. In his police complaint, the survivor's father had named the friend and said he had "misled her and took her to a vacant place under false pretenses". On Tuesday, before the friend was taken into custody, Asansol-Durgapur Commissioner of Police Sunil Kumar Choudhary had said five people had been arrested, whose presence had been established at the place.

INDIA TO RESUME POSTAL SERVICES TO US AFTER NEARLY TWO-MONTH SUSPENSION

Diary Times Desk : India will resume all postal services to the United States from Wednesday after putting in place systems to collect duties upfront, the Department of Posts said, ending a nearly two-month suspension triggered by new U.S. import regulations. Postal shipments to the United States were halted in August after the U.S. administration issued an executive order suspending the "de minimis" exemption that had allowed low-value commercial shipments to enter the country without tariffs. The decision comes ahead of a meeting between Indian and U.S. trade officials in Washington later this week, following the U.S.'s move to double tariffs - up to 50% - on some Indian goods over Russian oil purchases. Under an executive order signed by U.S. President Donald Trump, packages valued at, or under, \$800 sent to the U.S., including through the international postal network faced "all applicable duties" from August 29.

IN HARYANA IPS OFFICER'S SUICIDE CASE, ANOTHER SUICIDE REVEALS NEW TWIST

Diary Times Desk : In a big twist amid the investigation into Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar's suicide, another police officer died by suicide today after levelling serious allegations against him. Sandeep Kumar, posted as an Assistant Sub-Inspector in Rohtak's cyber cell, was investigating a corruption case against Y Puran Kumar. He said in a suicide note that he is sacrificing his life for "truth". Sandeep Kumar shot himself dead with his service revolver in a field in Rohtak. He left behind a video and a three-page suicide note. Sandeep Kumar has alleged that Y Puran Kumar was a "corrupt cop" and died by suicide when he feared that his alleged corruption would be exposed. He also alleged that the IPS officer hijacked the system using the caste discrimination issue. The cop has said in his suicide note that Y Puran Kumar was transferred after allegations of corruption came to light. Sandeep Kumar, it is learnt, caught Y Puran Kumar's gunman taking a Rs 2.5 lakh bribe from a liquor contractor.

19 KILLED AFTER BUS CATCHES FIRE ON JAISALMER-JODHPUR HIGHWAY

Diary Times Desk : Nineteen people were burnt alive in a horrific tragedy on Tuesday afternoon when a private bus travelling from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur in Rajasthan caught fire, the police said. Police said the bus, carrying 57 passengers, left Jaisalmer around 3 pm. On the Jaisalmer-Jodhpur highway, smoke began emerging from the rear portion. The driver stopped the bus along the roadside, but within moments, the flames engulfed the vehicle. Locals and passers-by rushed to the spot and assisted in the rescue efforts. Fire engines and police were informed. Prima facie, it appears that the fire broke out due to a short circuit, police said. In a tragic irony, the bus involved in the accident was reportedly purchased only five days ago. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma arrived in Jaisalmer late Tuesday night. The officials from the Chief Minister's office said that he also inspected the bus destroyed in the accident.

FOR EVERY BOTTLE OF KILLER COUGH SYRUP DOCTOR PRESCRIBED, HE GOT RS 2.5 AS CUT

Diary Times Desk : How would you price the life of a child? How would you assess its worth? It seems impossible to do, right?

For the doctor who prescribed the cough syrup to most of the 23 children who died after having it in Madhya Pradesh, however, the answer was simple, and abysmally low: Rs 2.54. That was the amount he would get as 10% commission for every bottle of Sresan Pharmaceuticals' Coldrif cough syrup - sold for Rs 24.54 - that he prescribed.

Police allege that Dr Praveen Soni, a paediatrician posted at Parasia's government health centre, continued to prescribe the now-banned Coldrif syrup from his private practice after central government guidelines prohibited prescribing fixed-dose combination (FDC) medicines for children under four years of age.



RUSSIAN AERIAL ATTACK HITS UKRAINIAN HOSPITAL, DAYS BEFORE ZELENSKYY MEETS TRUMP

Diary Times Desk : Russian forces launched powerful glide bombs and drones against Ukraine's second-largest city in overnight attacks, hitting a hospital and wounding seven people, an official said on Tuesday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prepared to travel to Washington and ask US President Donald Trump for more American military help.

The Russian attack on Kharkiv in Ukraine's northeast hit the city's main hospital, forcing the evacuation of 50 patients, regional head Oleh Syniehubov said. The attack's main targets were energy facilities, Zelenskyy said, without providing details of what was hit.

"Every day, every night, Russia strikes power plants, power lines, and our (natural) gas facilities," Zelenskyy said.

WORLD LEADERS ARE 'GAGA OVER' MELONI AFTER TRUMP'S REMARK, KNOW WHAT TURKEY'S ERDOGAN WANTS FROM ITALIAN PM

Diary Times Desk : At the recent Gaza peace summit in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni found herself at the center of international attention, not just for her political role, but also for the personal remarks and light-hearted exchanges with world leaders.

While the summit focused on supporting a Gaza ceasefire and a long-term plan for the region, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shifted the conversation to a personal mission: encouraging Meloni to quit smoking. Captured in an off-stage moment aired by Ihlas News Agency, Erdogan told Meloni, "I saw you coming down from the plane. You look great. But I have to make you stop smoking."

French President Emmanuel Macron, who was nearby, laughed and chimed in, "It's impossible!" Meloni responded with humour, saying, "I know, I know. I don't want to kill somebody," acknowledging that smoking helps her manage stress and socialise with fellow leaders.

SPACEX LAUNCHES 11TH TEST FLIGHT OF ITS MEGA STARSHIP ROCKET WITH SMOOTH SPLASHDOWN IN INDIAN OCEAN

Diary Times Desk : SpaceX launched another of its mammoth Starship rockets on a test flight on Monday, successfully making it halfway around the world while releasing mock satellites like last time.

Starship — the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built — thundered into the evening sky from the southern tip of Texas. The booster peeled away and made a controlled entry into the Gulf of Mexico as planned, with the spacecraft skimming space before descending into the Indian Ocean. Nothing was recovered.

"Hey, welcome back to Earth, Starship," SpaceX's Dan Huot announced as employees cheered. "What a day."

'YOU DON'T MIND RIGHT?' TRUMP CALLS MELONI 'BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN' AT GAZA PEACE SUMMIT



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump praised Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni as "a beautiful young woman", the only female leader on stage at the Gaza summit in Egypt on Monday. The exchange came after the signing of "The Trump Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity." Speaking in front of around 30 world leaders, Trump acknowledged the potential political risk of commenting on a woman's appearance. "If you use the word 'beautiful' in the United States about a woman, that is the end of your political career, but I will take my chances," the 79-year-old president said, turning to Meloni, who smiled in response. He added praise for her leadership, calling her an "incredible" and "very successful politician" respected in Italy.

TRUMP LOOKING FORWARD TO THAILAND-CAMBODIA CEASEFIRE DEAL AT ASEAN SUMMIT, SAYS MALAYSIA

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump will visit Malaysia on October 26, Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan said on Tuesday, adding that he was "looking forward" to witnessing a ceasefire deal between Southeast Asian neighbours Thailand and Cambodia.

Tension over undemarcated points on the two nations' 817-km (508-mile) land border erupted into a deadly five-day conflict in July, killing at least 48 and temporarily displacing hundreds of thousands in their worst fighting in more than a decade.

"During the summit, we hope to see the signing of a declaration, known as the Kuala Lumpur Accord, between these two neighbours to ensure peace and a lasting ceasefire," Mohamad told the media.



1 MILLION AND COUNTING... CYPRUS, THE ISLAND OF CATS, HAS A CAT PROBLEM!

Diary Times Desk : Officials in Cyprus, the small island nation in the eastern corner of the Mediterranean, estimate there is roughly one feral cat for every one of its 1 million inhabitants — though activists contend the actual population is hundreds of thousands higher.

In late September, the island's parliamentary committee on the environment was told that an existing sterilisation programme is too limited to contain the burgeoning cat population.

"It's a good programme, but it needs to expand," said Environment Commissioner Antonia Theodosiou, noting that the programme conducts only about 2,000 sterilisations annually on a budget of just €100,000 (\$117,000).

While there is no official comparative data, Theodosiou said Cyprus has gained a reputation for having a cat population that is exceptionally large relative to its human inhabitants.

PASTOR, WHO PREDICTED TRUMP'S ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION, NOW WARNS OF 10-MAGNITUDE US QUAKE

Diary Times Desk : A Christian pastor from Oklahoma, Brandon Dale Biggs, has issued a shocking prediction that has sent shockwaves across the United States. Biggs, who accurately forecasted the 2024 assassination attempt on Donald Trump, claims to have received a 'vision from God' warning of a catastrophic "ten-magnitude" earthquake along the New Madrid fault line. "The predicted quake would affect Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois, with a potential death toll of hundreds of thousands," Biggs said in a YouTube video. He tied the timing of the disaster to Middle Eastern diplomacy, stating it would occur within three days of any attempt to divide Jerusalem through a proposed two-state solution.

Biggs' track record includes predicting the 2024 Trump assassination attempt and "red waves" in Michigan and Oklahoma during the 2024 election.



TRUMP’S SNUBBING OF STARMER WAS BOTH DESERVED AND DEPRESSING



Diary Times Desk : It was pretty funny, wasn't it? The way Donald Trump called over our eunuch prime minister from the row of world leaders behind him – his cry of ‘United Kingdom? Where’s the United Kingdom?’ has become the new ‘Yo, Blair’ – only to then snub poor old Keir Starmer as he lumbered simpleringly for the lectern.

Funny, yes. But the laughs only lasted so long. For this moment of comedy yesterday, at the Sharm El Sheikh peace summit, was also a tragic expression of the depths to which our great country has sunk under the ‘leadership’ of the man who has nothing to commend him other than the former occupation of his late father. Because while many voters may have savoured the sight of the least popular prime minister since records began being humiliated by Trump, the real loser in all of this is Britain.

THE OTHER SIDE OF WAR! WATCH A PALESTINIAN MAN REUNITE WITH SON AFTER TWO YEARS

Diary Times Desk : A heartwarming video has gone viral, capturing the emotional reunion of a Palestinian man – who was captured by Israel – with his young son after two long years of separation. The man, released as part of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, was seen peeping out of the bus window, searching for his family. As he spotted his son, he lifted him through the window, showering him with kisses on the cheeks.

The release of Palestinian prisoners was part of a broader agreement that ended a two-year war, freeing over 1,900 detainees, including around 1,700 held in Gaza since the conflict began in October 2023.

RENEWED JITTERS OVER CHINA-US TRADE TENSIONS PULL WALL STREET LOWER IN PREMARKET TRADING

Diary Times Desk : US markets slumped early on Tuesday after Chinese sanctions against the US subsidiaries of a major South Korean shipbuilder shook a fragile sense of calm over trade tensions with Washington. Futures for the S&P 500 lost 1 per cent before the opening bell, while futures for the Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 0.6 per cent. Nasdaq futures tumbled 1.3 per cent as a broad of swath of technology companies saw their shares slide. China’s Commerce Ministry on Tuesday said it was banning dealings by Chinese companies with five subsidiaries of South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean, swiping at President Donald Trump’s efforts to rebuild the industry in America.

UK IMPOSES TOUGHER NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS FOR SKILLED VISA APPLICANTS



Diary Times Desk : The UK government on Tuesday tabled tougher new English language test requirements on visa applicants, including from India, in Parliament as part of a wider crackdown on soaring levels of immigration into the country.

The new ‘Secure English Language Test’ will be conducted by a Home Office-approved provider, with the results to be verified as part of a subsequent visa application process for all skilled workers from January 8, 2026. An applicant’s standard of speaking, listening, reading and writing English must be equivalent to A-Level or Class 12, referred to as level B2, which the Home Office believes will ensure.

EU STEEL DUTY PLAN: A DOUBLE WHAMMY AHEAD FOR INDIAN STEELMAKERS IN 2026?

Diary Times Desk : A proposal by the European Union (EU) to slash quotas in steel imports and impose a 50 per cent tariff on over-quota shipments may spell a “double whammy” for Indian exporters next year, according to industry experts.

Earlier this month, the European Commission proposed to shield the bloc’s steel industry from the impact of global overcapacity. The plan is to reduce tariff-free imports to 18.3 million tonnes (mt) a year – a 47 per cent cut from 2024 levels – and double the out-of-quota duty to 50 per cent.

The EU also proposes to replace its steel safeguard measure – it’s set to expire by June 2026 – though the European Parliament and the Council will have to agree on the final regulation.

The quota proposal combined with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a tariff system set to be implemented from January 2026, is expected to make the landed cost of Indian steel in the EU less competitive.

16 KILLED IN FIRE AT GARMENT FACTORY AND CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE IN BANGLADESH

Diary Times Desk : At least 16 workers were killed and several others injured on Tuesday in a fire that broke out at a garment factory and a chemical warehouse in the Bangladeshi capital, officials said.

The devastating fire broke out at the chemical warehouse next to the garment factory in Dhaka’s Rupnagar area, Talha Bin Jasim, an officer at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Media Wing, was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

“During the search campaign, 16 bodies were recovered from the garment factory alone,” Fire Service spokesman Anwarul Islam told the agency.

He said fire was suspected to have broken out from the chemical warehouse and spread to the garments unit – Anwar Fashion Garments Factory and Shah Alam Chemical Warehouse.

“We have extinguished the fire at the four-storey garment factory, but efforts are still under way to douse the blaze at the chemical depot,” Islam said.

UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS MAY MOVE TO PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY THAN ARMED PRESENCE, SAYS CHIEF OF ARMY

Diary Times Desk : General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff, on Tuesday said that under financial constraints, the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping missions have to be planned at smaller scales and will have to move towards preventive diplomacy.

He said that reduced funding for UN missions will be a reality, and missions have to be planned with fewer boots on the ground and more reliance on tech.

With reduced numbers on the ground, we could also visualise UN Peacekeeping moving more towards preventive diplomacy and sustainable peace building, not just armed presence. That is where militaries can contribute in negotiations, the Army Chief added.



WHO WAS BIPIN JOSHI, NEPALESE STUDENT CAPTURED BY HAMAS, NOW DECLARED DEAD

Diary Times Desk : Hamas' military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, on Monday, released the names of four hostages, who died in their custody, including Nepalese national Bipin Joshi. He was taken captive during the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on southern Israel.

The group said the bodies of the four hostages, Bipin Joshi, Guy Illouz, Yossi Sharabi, and Daniel Peretz, will be handed over to Israeli authorities. Israeli officials have already declared 26 hostages dead, based on forensic evidence and intelligence assessments.

Who Was Bipin Joshi?
Bipin Joshi was a 23-year-old Nepalese student of agriculture and an amateur rapper, as per The Wall Street Journal.
He came from a remote village in western Nepal.

US DROPS OUT OF WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL PASSPORT TOP 10 LIST FOR THE FIRST TIME

Diary Times Desk : What makes a passport "powerful"? Well, a clear measure is travel openness, the ability to slip into destinations around the world with a breezy wave of your passport, no visa required.

The Henley Passport Index is one of several rankings measuring passport potency in this regard and, for the first time in its 20-year history, the US passport has fallen out of its top 10 list altogether.

Three Asian passports now command the top of the leaderboard: Singapore, with visa-free access to 193 destinations worldwide; South Korea, with access to 190; and Japan, with 189.

The United States, meanwhile, is down in 12th place in the latest quarterly ranking, tied with Malaysia.

TALIBAN SHUTS DOOR ON PAKISTAN: KABUL DENIES VISAS TO KHAWAJA ASIF AND ISI CHIEF THRICE

Diary Times Desk : After being separated for more than two years, Israeli twins Ziv and Gali Berman met once again after Hamas released the hostages under the Gaza ceasefire deal. The moment was very special for them, encompassing many days of waiting, worry and uncertainty. The twins' emotional reunion was a heartwarming moment, filled with hugs and smiles, leaving a lasting impact on everyone who witnessed it and prayed for their well-being. The picture of the twin brothers was shared by the Embassy of Israel in London on their official X handle with a caption, "Gali and Ziv Berman, free and back home." Israel Foreign Ministry also reposted the post. They shared pictures of other hostages who got released by Hamas, with a caption, "We've been waiting 738 days to say this - Welcome home Alon, Eitan, Guy, Ziv, Gali, Omri, and Matan!" Ziv and Gali, lighting technicians by profession, were abducted from their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza during the October 7 attack. They were among the seven people taken hostage that day, as reported by the Jerusalem Post. When the two were released on Monday and brought to Sheba Medical Center, Ramat Gan, hundreds of Israeli citizens warmly welcomed them with applause and slogans. Both the brothers smiled and waved towards the people and expressed their gratitude.



INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN, WRONGFULLY JAILED FOR 43 YEARS, FACES DEPORTATION FROM US

Diary Times Desk : An Indian-origin man, who spent over 40 years in prison for a murder he did not commit, is now set to be deported from the United States to a country he barely knows.

Subramanyam "Subu" Vedam, 64, was released from a Pennsylvania prison on October 3 after his wrongful conviction was overturned, only to be immediately detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on a decades-old deportation order to India, as per local media.

Vedam, a permanent US resident who came to the US from India as a nine-month-old baby, was convicted of the 1980 killing of 19-year-old Thomas Kinser in Pennsylvania.

24 HOURS WITH TRUMP ON DIPLOMATIC TORNADO THROUGH MIDDLE EAST

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's day-long trip to the Middle East came as the Gaza deal was clinched: an agreement coming into force amounting to one of the most critical moments yet after two years of catastrophic war.

Painting as he does in primary colours, Trump's portrayal was vivid - of the biggest turning point in three millennia. On the return flight in the early hours of Tuesday, he reflected that it had been a "historic day, to put it mildly". He had earlier suggested "everlasting peace" had been grasped under his tutelage, in a region long convulsed by violence.

As part of the White House press corps, we were travelling on Air Force One - which is how I found myself at the centre of this US diplomatic tornado.

As we headed for Tel Aviv, the presidential plane took a turn to do a fly-by of the beach. It dipped a wing so we could get a view of a giant sign atop the sand that said "thank you" to Trump, and featured the Israeli flag as well as an outline of the US president's head in profile.



MILITARY SEIZES POWER IN MADAGASCAR AS PRESIDENT IMPEACHED AFTER GEN Z PROTESTS



Diary Times Desk : An elite military unit that backed youth-led anti-government street protests said Tuesday it had taken power in Madagascar after the national assembly voted to impeach President Andry Rajoelina. Rajoelina, who was in hiding, reportedly out of the country, had refused growing demands to step down after demonstrations started on September 25, won the backing of the CAPSAT military unit at the weekend. CAPSAT commander Colonel Michael Randrianirina read out a statement at the presidential palace saying the unit would set up a governing committee composed of officers from the army, gendarmerie and national police. "Perhaps in time it will include senior civilian advisers. It is this committee that will carry out the work of the presidency," Randrianirina said. "At the same time, after a few days, we will set up a civilian government," he said.

"THEY DISAPPEARED MY HAIR": TRUMP ON "SUPER BAD" PIC ON TIME MAGAZINE COVER



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump slammed the Time magazine over his photo printed on the cover in which his hair seems to have "disappeared". While sparing scanty praise for the "relatively good story" about him, Trump said the photo on the cover is the "worst photo of all time". "They 'disappeared' my hair, and then had something floating on top of my head."

TRUMP TO OVERSEE CAMBODIA-THAI PEACE DEAL AT ASEAN SUMMIT: MALAYSIA FM

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump will oversee a formal peace deal between Cambodia and Thailand on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit, according to Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan. Trump will visit the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur on October 26 to witness the agreement, Hasan told reporters. "During the summit, we hope to see the signing of a declaration known as the Kuala Lumpur Accord between these two neighbours to ensure peace and a lasting ceasefire," he said. The 47th ASEAN Summit is due to take place in Kuala Lumpur from October 26 to 28, bringing together heads of state from 10 Southeast Asian nations and other dialogue partners. Before the announcement on Tuesday, it was unclear whether the US president would, in fact, attend this year's ASEAN summit. Trump has been similarly non-committal about whether he will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in South Korea the following weekend. US news outlet Politico reported last week that Trump's participation at ASEAN was contingent on whether the bloc would hold an official ceasefire ceremony with him at the helm.



TRUMP'S HIGH PRAISE FOR ASIM MUNIR, THEN AN 'INDIA' QUESTION FOR PAK PM

Diary Times Desk : At the Sharm el-Sheikh Peace Summit in Egypt, US President Donald Trump called Pakistan's Army Chief his "favourite Field Marshal" as he thanked him and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for their role in bringing peace to Gaza. "Prime Minister Sharif of Pakistan, and I have to say my favourite Field Marshal from Pakistan, who is not here, but the Prime Minister is here," Trump said, addressing the gathering aimed at signing a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas as a visibly awkward Pakistani leader stood behind him. Moments later, the US president praised India, calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "very good friend" who has done a "fantastic job". Later, taking the podium, Sharif thanks Trump for 'stopping India-Pak war'. The Pakistan PM said he would like to again nominate Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for "saving millions of lives not only in South Asia but also in the Middle East".

ISRAELI HOSTAGES AND PALESTINIAN DETAINEES FREED AS TRUMP HAILS 'HISTORIC DAWN' IN MIDDLE EAST

Diary Times Desk : Israelis and Palestinians have celebrated as a major hostage and prisoner exchange on Monday marked a significant step towards ending two years of war in Gaza. In a crucial first phase of the US-brokered plan to end the war, Hamas returned all living Israeli hostages, while Israel freed almost 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees. There were emotional scenes as families of the Israeli hostages screamed and cried with happiness as they embraced their freed loved ones. And for the Palestinians who were freed from Israeli jails, crowds waving flags greeted them joyfully as they arrived on buses in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

TURKEY'S ERDOGAN WANTS ITALIAN PM MELONI TO STOP SMOKING. WHAT SHE SAID

Diary Times Desk : While global leaders gathered to find a solution for broader Middle East peace, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan found a new target for his war on tobacco in Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. In an informal conversation on the sidelines of the Gaza peace summit in Egypt aimed at ending the war in Gaza, Erdogan told Meloni that he would find a way for her to quit smoking. "I saw you coming down from the plane. You look great. But I have to make you stop smoking," Erdogan was heard telling Meloni in footage aired by Ihlas News Agency. French President Emmanuel Macron, who was standing next to them, was quick to dash Erdogan's hopes and laughed, saying, "It's impossible!" Meloni warned that quitting smoking might make her less sociable, saying, "I know, I know. I don't want to kill somebody." The Italian President, in a book based on a series of her interviews, had acknowledged that smoking helped her bond with global leaders, including Tunisian President Kais Saied.

Meanwhile, Erdogan has pledged to give Turkey a smoke-free future. Through a new nationwide "Smoke-Free Türkiye" campaign, Ankara is working on a 2024-2028 action plan to spread awareness, cessation support, and protect youth from tobacco smoking. Meloni and Erdoğan were part of a summit in Egypt's Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh, aimed at supporting the ceasefire reached.

WHY AMERICA JUST BAILED OUT ARGENTINA WITH A \$20 BILLION LIFELINE

Diary Times Desk :

The Trump administration is bailing out Argentina in a move critics are saying has more to do with politics than economics or American interests.

That means \$20 billion US taxpayer dollars will be used to bail out a country led by a close ally of President Donald Trump: chainsaw-wielding, libertarian Javier Milei.

The two men are set to meet on Tuesday at the White House for a bilateral meeting, where the discussion is likely to include the extraordinary bailout and tariffs.

'PREMATURE' TO CONCLUDE THAT TRUMP'S TARIFFS HAVEN'T HIT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, THE IMF SAYS

Diary Times Desk : Higher US tariffs have so far had a smaller impact globally than expected, but it would be "premature and incorrect" to conclude they have had no effect on economic growth, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday. The IMF slightly upgraded its expectations for global and US growth for this year in its latest World Economic Outlook report, also citing a smaller-than-expected increase in the US tariffs themselves.

A flurry of trade announcements, including deals between the United States and several trading partners, have brought the average US tariff rate down from April highs to between 10% and 20% for most countries, according to the Washington, DC-based institution.

The IMF expects the world economy to grow 3.2% in 2025, up from its July forecast of 3% but "decisively below the pre-pandemic average of 3.7%." The US economy, meanwhile, is seen growing 2% this year and 2.1% in 2026, marginally up from what the fund predicted in July.

"The United States negotiated trade deals with various countries and provided multiple exemptions," IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas wrote in a blog post, adding that most countries had also refrained from retaliating by raising tariffs on US goods.

MEDIA OUTLETS, INCLUDING FOX NEWS AND CNN, REFUSE TO SIGN PENTAGON'S PRESS ACCESS RULES

Diary Times Desk : The Pentagon is telling beat reporters to sign restrictive new rules by Tuesday or surrender their press passes by Wednesday. Virtually every news outlet is rejecting the ultimatum and saying they will not sign.

The Pentagon Press Association, a body that represents the beat reporters, says the new policy championed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth "gags Pentagon employees and threatens retaliation against reporters who seek out information that has not been pre-approved for release."

In a statement on Monday, the association said that "potential expulsion from the Pentagon should be a concern to all."

Last month, Hegseth's press office outlined new rules requiring beat reporters to sign a pledge not to obtain or use unauthorized material, even if the information is unclassified. Any journalist who doesn't sign the pledge, Hegseth said, risks losing physical access to the Pentagon — something that has been a standard part of Washington-area news coverage for decades.



SCOUTS WILL NOW BE ABLE TO EARN BADGES IN AI AND CYBERSECURITY

Diary Times Desk : Scouting America, the organization formerly known as the Boy Scouts, is giving scouts the chance to earn two merit badges that engage new technology: one in artificial intelligence, and another in cybersecurity.

The organization, which counts about a million scouts in its ranks, offers hundreds of merit badges spanning everything from fishing to fingerprinting. The badges have long presented scouts with the opportunity to sharpen skills and explore new subjects.

Scouting America is adding the new badges as part of a broader effort to stay relevant in an increasingly digital world.

"What we're trying to do with the merit badge program is put together these badges around topics that the youth today are interested in," Scouting America CEO Roger Krone told CNN.



YOU'LL SOON BE ABLE TO SHOP WALMART'S CATALOG ON CHATGPT

Diary Times Desk :

Walmart is partnering with OpenAI to let users browse and make purchases directly through its popular chatbot ChatGPT, as the world's largest retailer looks to use AI to leapfrog rival Amazon in online shopping.

Walmart CEO Doug McMillon said in an announcement Tuesday that the retailer's current online shopping experience consists of a "search bar and a long list of item responses." That is about to change, he said, thanks to AI's ability to provide a multimedia experience with more personalized answers.

A Walmart spokesperson told CNN that the feature will launch in the fall, offering an extensive list of Walmart items as well clothing, entertainment and food from third-party sellers. Items from Sam's Club's catalog will launch soon after.

Walmart will make use of OpenAI's recently announced "Instant Checkout" tool, which lets users buy items directly through ChatGPT.



THE FUTURE FOR EVS IN AMERICA LOOKS GRIM. BUT THE AUTO INDUSTRY ISN'T GIVING UP

Diary Times Desk : Just a couple of years ago, America's auto industry had visions of an all-electric future. It has since abandoned that talk after the Trump administration eliminated the federal government's incentives for the technology.

The near future isn't looking too pretty. The end of the \$7,500 federal tax credit for EVs is expected to send sales plunging in the coming quarters and perhaps years.

But the global auto industry hasn't given up entirely on EVs. Automakers are continuing to invest in an electric future — even if it's not all-electric, as they had expected. The auto industry remains uncertain about the regulatory future of gas-powered cars in large parts of the United States as well as other markets around the globe. And they don't want to fall too far behind China's massive EV surge.

"They have softened their stance on an all-EV future," said Daniel Ives, tech analyst for Wedbush Securities. "I do believe Ford, GM, Stellantis, and a lot of other automakers will still aggressively go down the EV path. But they're more carefully going down the path than they were a few years ago."

TRILOGY METALS SHARES SURGE AS US ACQUIRES 10% STAKE

Diary Times Desk : Shares of Trilogy Metals tripled their gains in premarket trading on Tuesday after the White House said it would acquire a 10% stake in the Vancouver-based miner.

US-listed shares (TMQ) were at \$5.69, valuing the company just shy of a \$1 billion market capitalization.

Washington has been taking equity stakes in industries it considers essential to national security, including critical minerals and semiconductor companies, as part of President Donald Trump's wider policy to reduce reliance on China.

The US government announced a \$35.6 million investment in Trilogy on Monday after markets closed and said it had received warrants to purchase an additional 7.5% stake.

INSTAGRAM WILL NOW BE PG-13 FOR TEENS WITH META'S LATEST UPDATE



Diary Times Desk : Instagram is further cracking down on what millions of young people can see on the platform, aligning its "Teen Accounts" safety settings with the guidelines for PG-13 movies.

The Meta-owned platform launched teen accounts last year, its most dramatic effort yet to protect young people following years of criticism from parents and lawmakers over the app's impact on teens' mental health and well-being. The settings implemented default privacy protections and content limits for many of Instagram's teen users, restricting posts related to violence, cosmetic procedures or self-harm.

Tuesday's update goes a step further. Instagram will not promote and may even hide posts featuring strong language, or those which could encourage "harmful behaviors" such as content featuring risky stunts or marijuana paraphernalia, the company said. Teens also won't be able to follow accounts that regularly share age-inappropriate content.

CHINA SAYS IT DIDN'T REIGNITE TRADE TENSIONS WITH THE US, TRUMP DID



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump expressed shock at China's "surprising" move to unleash sweeping export controls on rare earths, accusing the country of "becoming very hostile."

But according to Beijing, it was Washington's expansion of curbs on Chinese firms that ratcheted up tensions and drove it to further tighten its grip on the critical minerals essential in the production of a wide range of electronics, automobiles and semiconductors.

In a rapid escalation of friction over the weekend, Trump said he would restore tariffs on China to triple-digit levels due to Beijing's new controls, prompting the Chinese government to vow "corresponding measures."

The moves between the world's two largest economies have rattled markets, unnerved global industries of production shocks, and rekindled fears of a repeat of the tit-for-tat tariff offense in spring, when levies on Chinese and American imports reached levels tantamount to trade embargoes.

The renewed tensions also risk derailing the progress made during months of trade negotiations and raised questions about whether a planned meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Trump in South Korea at the end of the month will still take place.

After Trump suggested that he might call off the meeting, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox News Monday he still expected it to happen.

China's commerce ministry said Tuesday it remained open to talks, while reiterating that the US cannot seek dialogue while threatening new measures.

For Beijing, much of the current escalation could have been avoided had the Trump administration not piled on more restrictions in late September, massively increasing the number of Chinese entities on its export control list, Chinese experts and analysts said.

**PRIYANKA GANDHI, CM
SUKHU ACCUSE CENTRE
OF NEGLECTING
HIMACHAL**

Diary Times Desk : Senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today accused the BJP-led Central Government of meting out step-motherly treatment to Himachal Pradesh while speaking at the unveiling of the statue of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh here. Emphasising the need for a government truly committed to public welfare, Priyanka Gandhi said the NDA government was more concerned with winning elections and clinging to power than addressing the people's concerns. "Himachal has been struck by massive natural calamities, yet the Centre has not extended any help. The Chief Minister has repeatedly sought assistance but received none," she alleged, adding that Sukhu personally visited disaster-hit areas to support the affected people.

Chief Minister Sukhu, while addressing the gathering, said that several key institutions in the state were established during Congress regimes with the support of the Gandhi family. "It was the Congress government that gave the state institutions like IIT Mandi, IIM Sirmaur, and the Central University," he said.

HIMACHAL BJP SLAMS SONIA GANDHI, PRIYANKA OVER SILENCE ON POLL PROMISES

Diary Times Desk : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today criticised Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra for maintaining silence on the unfulfilled guarantees made by the Congress ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh.

State BJP president Rajeev Bindal said Priyanka Gandhi, who had promised that one lakh jobs would be provided to youth in the very first Cabinet meeting after the formation of the Congress government, owes an apology to the people of the state. He added that even after three years in power, the promise remains unfulfilled, along with the assurance of providing Rs 1,500 monthly assistance to women.

PUNJAB RS BYPOLL: HIGH DRAMA AS CHANDIGARH, ROPAR POLICE FACE OFF AFTER CHATURVEDI'S NOMINATION REJECTION

Diary Times Desk : High drama unfolded after the nomination papers of Navneet Chaturvedi, who had filed for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Punjab, were rejected over forgery charges.

The Chandigarh Police, which were providing security to Chaturvedi, whisked him away before the Ropar Police could arrest him. The Ropar police, thereafter, followed the Chandigarh Police team to the police headquarters in Sector 9.

Meanwhile, Chaturvedi, a Jaipur resident who claims to be the national president of the Janata Party, said he would challenge the rejection of his nomination papers in the High Court.

Now, only two candidates remain in the fray for the elections scheduled for October 24. These are AAP official nominee Rajinder Gupta and his wife Madhu. She is likely to withdraw her nomination papers tomorrow.



FARMERS NOT ALLOWED AT BHAGWANT MANN'S FLOOD RELIEF EVENT IN AJNALA

Diary Times Desk : Amidst protest by farmers, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann here handed over cheques worth Rs 5.70 crore as compensation to 631 flood victims of Ajnala. Mann claimed that a new benchmark of public service delivery had been set as compensation was distributed 15 days ahead of the scheduled 45-day deadline. Meanwhile, activists of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, led by Sarwan Singh Pandher, staged a protest near the state-run sugar mill at Bhala village, the venue for Mann's event. Earlier, the police allowed farmers an opportunity to hold a peaceful protest along the road leading to the sugar mill. After some time, complaining of not getting answers to their questions, the farmers moved to the venue to seek answers from the CM pertaining to "inadequate relief". The police, citing security reasons, stopped them. After brief arguments, officials assured farmers their concerns would be conveyed to Mann, but before any interaction could take place, he left in a helicopter. During the ceremony, the CM said starting Tuesday, Cabinet ministers would begin giving compensation in the remaining 19 districts, covering a total of 825 villages.

**AK-47 RIFLE, 3 PISTOLS,
AMMUNITION RECOVERED IN
PUNJAB'S GURDASPUR; 3
ARRESTED**

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Police have arrested three people and recovered yet another consignment of weapons comprising one AK-47 rifle along with two magazines and 60 live cartridges from Gurdaspur, an official said on Tuesday.

Three Glock pistols along with seven magazines and 50 live cartridges were also recovered from their possession, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said.

Those arrested have been identified as Gurwinder Singh alias Ginder, Vipran Kumar alias Manish and Chamkora Singh -- all residents of Gurdaspur district. The development came a day after a consignment of three weapons comprising two AK-47 rifles and one PX5 pistol was recovered from near the Indo-Pak border falling under Khemkaran in Tarn Taran. Yadav said investigation revealed that the consignment was arranged by US-based Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi from Pakistan.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

15-10-2025

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.

FOUR, INCLUDING TWO
KIDS, INJURED IN
FARIDABAD GAS
CYLINDER BLAST

Diary Times Desk : Four members of a family, including two children, were injured in Jawahar Colony, Faridabad, after a leaking cooking gas cylinder caused a massive explosion in a house, resulting in the roof collapse. All the injured are currently receiving treatment in a hospital.

According to the police, two families live on rent in Rajiv Kumar's house in Jawahar Colony, while the landlord, Kumar, resides on the ground floor of the two-story house. On the first floor, Sohit lives in one room with his wife, Parul, and their two-year-old daughter, Neha, while Girish lives in the other room with his wife, Anita (28), and their two-year-old son, Dawang. Both Sohit and Girish work for a private company in Faridabad.

HARYANA IPS OFFICER'S
SUICIDE: CHIRAG
PASWAN MEETS Y
PURAN KUMAR'S
FAMILY, PROMISES
ACTION

Diary Times Desk : Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Tuesday met the family members of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who died allegedly by suicide at his Chandigarh residence on October 7. He assured them that their demands will be fulfilled and action will be taken without delay.

Earlier, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also met Puran Kumar's family and offered his condolences.

Addressing reporters after meeting the family, Gandhi said there was systematic discrimination against Kumar to demoralise him and damage his career.

He said Puran Kumar's death was not about the respect of one family but all Dalits, and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to act immediately in the case.

HARYANA POLICE ASI SHOOTS HIMSELF DEAD IN ROHTAK, PRAISES DGP
SHATRUJEET, EX-SP BIJARNIYA IN VIDEO

Diary Times Desk : The body of an Assistant Sub-Inspector of the Haryana Police was recovered from his residence on the Ladhaut-Dhamar Road in Rohtak on Tuesday and it is alleged that he died by suicide.

ASI Sandeep Kumar was posted in Rohtak and it is alleged that he shot himself dead with a revolver. A note has reportedly been recovered, though the police are yet to confirm its contents.

Following the incident, a video purportedly featuring Sandeep went viral on social media. In the video, he is heard praising Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Singh Kapur and former Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya, describing them as honest officers.

Incidentally, Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who died allegedly by suicide in Chandigarh recently, had accused the DGP and Bijarniya of caste bias and harassment.

In the same video, Sandeep attributed his extreme step to certain police officials posted at the IGP office in Rohtak. He accused them of spreading corruption, harassing fellow officers through caste-based discrimination, and committing atrocities against honest police personnel.



IPS OFFICER'S SUICIDE: HARYANA
DGP SHATRUJEET KAPUR SENT ON
LEAVE AFTER BEING NAMED IN FIR

Diary Times Desk : Days after DGP Shatrujeet Kapur was named in the FIR related to the suicide of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, the Nayab Singh Saini-led Haryana Government on Tuesday sent him on leave and assigned additional charge of the post to senior IPS officer O P Singh.

A 1992-batch officer, O P Singh currently serves as Managing Director of the Haryana Police Housing Corporation. He also holds additional responsibilities as Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory, Madhuban, and heads the Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau.

Singh will now oversee the DGP's responsibilities during Kapur's leave period. He is due to retire on December 31, 2025.

Chief Minister's Media Adviser Rajeev Jaitley confirmed that Kapur has been sent on leave.

The move follows growing pressure on the state government after explosive allegations surfaced in an eight-page note left by the deceased officer. The note named Kapur, Bijarniya, and several other serving and retired IAS and IPS officers.

Amid rising criticism from the Opposition over alleged atrocities against Dalits.

RAHUL GANDHI MEETS FAMILY OF
HARYANA IPS OFFICER PURAN
KUMAR IN CHANDIGARH

Diary Times Desk : As the deadlock between the family of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar and the Haryana government entered its seventh day, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to end the "tamasha" and take action against the officers named in the suicide note.

Gandhi, accompanied by senior Congress leaders — former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Haryana Congress chief Rao Narender Singh, Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda, Sirsa MP Kumari Selja, and Ambala MP Varun Chaudhary — met Amneet P Kumar, a senior IAS officer and the wife of the late IPS officer, at their residence in Sector 24 here to offer condolences. The Congress leaders spent nearly an hour with the grieving family.

The family has so far refused to allow the post-mortem or cremation of the officer's body, demanding the arrest of the officers named in his eight-page note. Kumar, a 2001-batch IPS officer, was found dead of a gunshot wound at his Chandigarh residence on October 7.

AMID HARYANA IPS OFFICER'S DEATH ROW, PM MODI CANCELS SONEPAT VISIT

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cancelled his October 17 visit to Sonapat amid the ongoing stalemate over the autopsy of Haryana-cadre IPS officer Y Puran Kumar and mounting pressure on the Nayab Singh Saini government for failing to act on the demands of the deceased officer's family.

With Haryana ministers and senior officers failing to end the impasse before the PM's scheduled visit that now stands cancelled, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's trusted aides are learnt to be making concerted efforts to get the breakthrough.

PM Modi was slated to address the 'Jan Vishwas-Jan Vikas' programme in Sonapat and launch a number of new initiatives to mark the one year of the state government's third term.

While no reason has been attributed for the changed plans, sources in the BJP admitted that the situation following the officer's suicide was not conducive for the PM's visit.

The late officer's family is firm on its demand for the arrest of DGP Shatrujeet Singh Kapur and SP Narendra Bijarniya before proceeding with the postmortem and cremation.



This Billionaire Investor Who Tried To Buy TikTok Is Analyzing Whether Trump's Deal Is Legal

Billionaire investor Frank McCourt, an early bidder for TikTok, told CNN last month he is looking into whether the White House-brokered agreement for a majority-American investor group to buy the app's US assets is legal.

While McCourt said "it's too early to say" whether he would seek to join the ownership group or challenge the deal in court if he believes it doesn't comply with the law, he said he believes the American public deserves more information about the agreement.

"I've asked and engaged some really smart people to analyze (the deal) the best they can, with the information available, because there are still missing pieces with what this all means," McCourt said in an interview with CNN's Terms of Service podcast on September 26, days after the White House announced a proposed deal for the app to be sold to a different investor group.



Clare Duffy
McCourt's Project Liberty is now weighing using the technology it planned to use to rebuild TikTok to create a personalized AI agent that would control where and how a user's data is shared as they navigate the internet.

He said his team is investigating whether the proposed deal complies with the sale-or-ban law passed last year and whether it addresses the national security concerns behind the legislation. This is just the latest twist in a years-long effort to remove the popular video app from the control of its China-based parent company ByteDance, over concerns that it could put US user data at risk and threaten US national security. The saga has seen enforcement of the ban-or-sale law delayed multiple times as the app has become a flashpoint in US-China relations.

McCourt was one of the first prominent names to bid to buy TikTok, in partnership with Shark Tank-famous investor Kevin O'Leary and Reddit cofounder Alexis Ohanian, after a law passed last year requiring the app to be sold by ByteDance or be banned in the United States. The group sought to buy TikTok without its famous algorithm and planned to rebuild it on new technology created by McCourt's organization, Project Liberty, aiming to give users more control over how their personal data is used and monetized.

But the White House is moving forward with a proposed deal to sell the app to a different investor group expected to include Oracle, private equity firm Silver Lake, Dell CEO Michael Dell and Lachlan Murdoch's Fox Corp. While he probes that proposal, McCourt said he isn't giving up the goal that motivated his TikTok bid and is now looking to build technology to help people protect their data online in the age of artificial intelligence.



"Big tech platforms are scraping and accumulating our data, hyper, micro-profiling us, and now they're not just selling us ads, but they're manipulating us," he said. "Our data is our personhood in a digital age ... We should own ourselves and we should share what we want to share about ourselves." Trump signed an executive order last month affirming that the deal constitutes a "qualified divestiture" as required by the ban-or-sale law, an important procedural step to advance the app's sale.

Odd Radio Circle In Space

ASTRONOMERS DISCOVER RARE DOUBLE-RINGED

An unusual double-ring structure spotted in space with the help of citizen scientists has turned out to be a cosmic rarity.

The celestial anomaly, captured by a radio telescope, is an odd radio circle, one of the scarcest and most mysterious objects in the universe, said Dr. Ananda Hota, lead author of a study published on October 2 in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

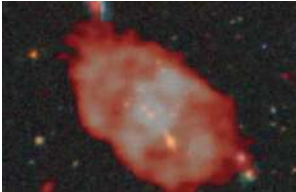


Ashley Strickland

"We suggest that a major explosive event took place in the central galaxy," Hota said. "The resulting shock or blast wave could have re-energised ancient clouds of magnetised plasma, making them glow again as radio rings."

Odd radio circles, also known as ORCs, likely consist of magnetized plasma — charged gas that is strongly influenced by magnetic fields — and are so massive that entire galaxies reside at their centers. Spanning hundreds of thousands of light-years, they often reach 10 to 20 times the size of our Milky Way galaxy. But they are also incredibly faint, and usually detectable only through radio light.

The newly discovered odd radio circle, dubbed RAD J131346.9+500320, is the most distant one known to date, located 7.5 billion light-years from Earth — and the first discovered by citizen scientists. It's also only the second odd radio circle that has two rings. "ORCs are among the most bizarre and beautiful cosmic



Even if NASA could resurrect its retro rockets, the space agency has made it clear that path wouldn't align with its goals.

structures we've ever seen — and they may hold vital clues about how galaxies and black holes co-evolve, hand-in-hand," wrote Hota, an assistant professor at the University of Mumbai's department of atomic energy's Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences, in an email.

A giant leap for citizen science

Odd radio circles were first discovered about six years ago, but the structures remain largely elusive.

Hota is the director and principal investigator of the RAD@home Astronomy Collaboratory, an online community open to anyone with a background in science. Astronomers train users to recognize patterns in faint, fuzzy patches of radio waves and analyze astronomical images, Hota explained.

The newly discovered odd radio circle appeared in data from the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) Telescope, which is comprised of thousands of antennas in the Netherlands and across Europe to create one large radio telescope. It is the largest and most sensitive radio telescope operating at low frequencies.

While RAD@home participants weren't specifically trained to look for odd radio circles, the unusual double-ring structure stood out, marking the first odd radio circle identified using LOFAR.

The rings appear to intersect which researchers believe is because of our vantage point from Earth, but they are likely separated in space. The pair span 978,469 light-years across. A light-year is the distance light travels in one year, or 5.88 trillion miles (9.46 trillion kilometers).

"This work shows how professional astronomers and citizen scientists together can push the boundaries of scientific discovery," Hota said.

Astronomers once thought the odd radio circles might be the throats of wormholes, shockwaves from black hole collisions or merging galaxies, or powerful jets pumping out energetic particles.

INFA

Powell Warns Of Inflation

WITH INFLATION AND JOBS IN 'TENSION,' POWELL WARNS OF THE FED'S TIGHTROPE ON INTEREST RATES

The Federal Reserve is doing a difficult balancing act, trying to tamp down inflation while lifting up the job market, Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday.

"There is no risk-free path for policy as we navigate the tension between our employment and inflation goals," Powell said in prepared remarks for an event hosted by the National Association for Business Economics.

President Donald Trump's sweeping policies on trade, immigration and government spending have thrust the world's most powerful central bank into a tricky situation rarely seen since it was established more than a century ago.

Trump's tariffs have already pushed up some prices, according to Commerce Department data, and in September, more small businesses said they're planning price hikes in the coming months, a survey from the National Federation of Independent Business on Tuesday showed. Meanwhile, there have been mounting signs of a weakening labor market. Job growth in recent months has been anemic, people are staying unemployed for longer, and there are now more unemployed people

seeking work than there are job openings.

To make matters more complicated, the shutdown of the federal government has suspended the release of most official economic data, which the Fed relies on to understand the economy.

Powell said the Fed looks at "a wide variety of public- and private-sector data that have remained available" and that "we also maintain a nationwide network of contacts through the Reserve Banks who provide valuable insights..."

"Based on the data that we do have, it is fair to say that the outlook for employment and inflation does not appear to have changed much since our September meeting four weeks ago," he added.

Fed officials lowered borrowing costs for the first time this year in September, when they also warned about the risks to both inflation and jobs.

But Powell's remarks underscore the tightrope that Fed officials walk as they work to maintain price stability and maximum employment, balancing both inflation and labor market concerns.

Policymakers have been divided on the best path forward as the jobs market weakened while inflation remained above their two-percent target.

New Fed Governor Stephen Miran, who was newly appointed by Trump, voted against last week's rate decision and instead pushed for a bigger 50-basis-points cut.

On the other hand, even as policymakers penciled in two more rate reductions overall this year, several projected no further cuts as well.

For now, Powell noted that increases in goods prices, which are driving a recent inflation pick-up, appear to largely reflect higher tariffs.

The pass-through of US tariffs to consumers has appeared later and less than expected, but Powell said that many forecasts anticipate this could continue well into next year.

He vowed that officials would ensure a one-time increase in costs due to Trump's sweeping duties does not become an ongoing inflation problem.



'A NEW CHAPTER IN OUR LEGACY' — EDWARD WILKINSON ON THE INAUGURAL REGIONAL SALE IN HONG KONG

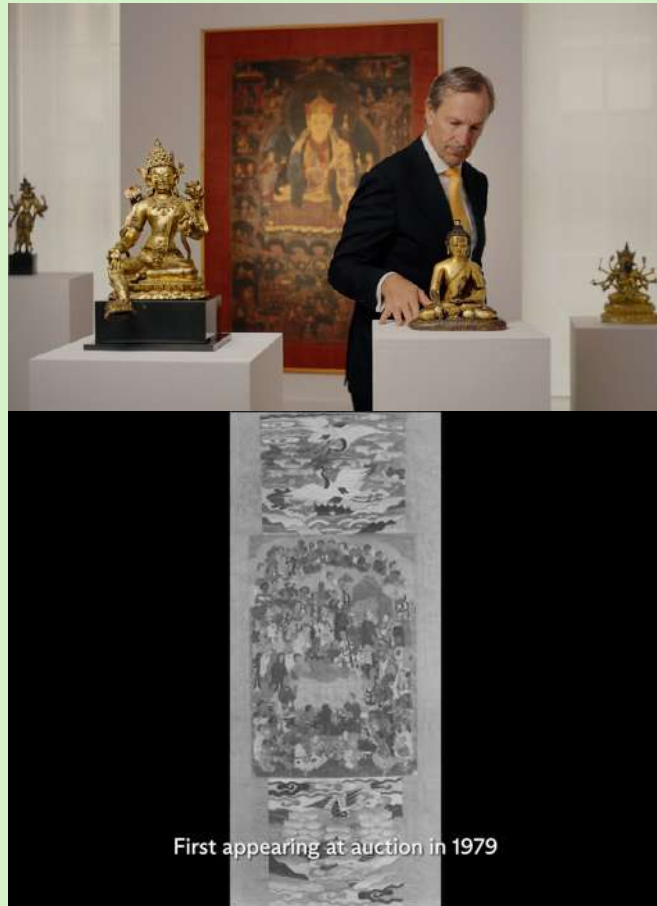
Diary Times Desk : Originally from Australia, Edward Wilkinson's passion for Asian art stems from a family trip to north India as a teenager, setting the stage for a distinguished career that commenced at a Sydney auction house. Over the past 25 years, he has curated numerous important private collections and facilitated their successful sales in the global auction market.

Earlier in 2025, Wilkinson joined Christie's as global head of Classical Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Art, bringing with him a wealth of expertise and a profound understanding of the category and its market dynamics. As part of the global strategic initiative, he is expanding the global footprint of this category by introducing the first dedicated live auction in Hong Kong this autumn.

'This truly represents a new chapter in our legacy, where we bring forth objects of exceptional quality and initiate transcultural dialogue in the Asia Pacific region.' Says Wilkinson. His vision reflects Christie's commitment to fostering a deeper appreciation for the rich artistic traditions of these regions while engaging a diverse audience of collectors and connoisseurs.

The forthcoming auction presents an exceptional array of 40 works spanning over 1,800 years of Buddhist art, from the ancient region of Gandara through to Thailand. Wilkinson specifically highlights a remarkable, and newly re-attributed figure of Avalokiteshvara, a thangka attributed to the celebrated artist The Tenth Karmapa, Choying Dorje, as well as an impressive gilt copper alloy figure of Manjushri.

Within the vast artistic continuum of Indo-Himalayan and Chinese Buddhist sculpture, this figure of Avalokiteshvara stands as a singular masterpiece, embodying a harmonious synthesis of Pala, Newar, and Classical Chinese elements. Produced in the early 14th century, likely at Dadu (modern Beijing), the capital of the Yuan dynasty, this sculpture marks a defining moment in the evolution of Sino-Tibetan Buddhist art. Its remarkable stylistic fusion became the foundation for the next two centuries of Buddhist artistic production across the Asian plateau.



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOSHITOMO NARA

Diary Times Desk : In 2019, one of Yoshitomo Nara's paintings sold at auction for HK\$195.7 million — around US\$24.9 million. Depicting a wide-eyed girl wearing a red dress, with one arm subtly tucked away behind her body to conceal a knife in her hand, the 6ft x 7ft canvas, Knife Behind Back (2000), soared first past the artist's auction record of HK\$4.5 million, then past its presale estimate of HK\$6.4 million, eventually settling at a price that made Nara the most expensive Japanese artist ever.

Since then, at least six more of his works have sold for in excess of HK\$100 million (which is just under US\$13 million).

Despite this, Nara — described by Roberta Smith of The New York Times as bridging 'high, low and kitsch; East and West; grown-up, adolescent and infantile' — remains determinedly private. And to many, he is also somewhat misunderstood.

Here, Shigemi Takahashi, chief curator of the Aomori Museum of Art, which houses more than 170 of the artist's works, offers a primer on everything you need to know about Yoshitomo Nara.

Nara's artistic style

Nara has spent more than three decades creating striking images of solitary, childlike figures with large heads and confrontational stares, who float in front of sparse, Rothko-like backgrounds.

Their facial features often recall traditional Japanese Otafuku and Okame masks, which are symbols of merriment and good fortune. Their compositions, meanwhile, sometimes reflect poses seen in modern manga and historical ukiyo-e woodblock prints.

Yet despite the innocuous appearance of these youngsters, they're far from helpless: many appear nonchalant, while others look vaguely sinister. Drawing on motifs ranging from French fairy tales to American punk rock, some are injured or brandish daggers; others sport cigarettes, vampire fangs and crucifixes. The resulting portraits present uneasy dichotomies between cuteness and anger, vulnerability and pain, innocence and anxiety.

'Look at them, the weapons are so small, like toys. Do you think they could fight with those? I don't think so,' Nara once said. 'Rather, I kind of see the children among other, bigger, bad people all around them, who are holding bigger knives.'



BARCELONA YOUNGSTER ON THE RADARS OF BUNDESLIGA
HEAVYWEIGHTS – REPORT



Diary Times Desk : Guille Fernandez is regarded as one of the most promising young talents coming through the ranks at Barcelona's famed La Masia youth academy.

The 17-year-old midfield prodigy has worked with the senior setup under Hansi Flick, participating in pre-season and training sessions thereafter, without yet making his first-team debut.

Borussia Dortmund interested

Now, according to BILD in Germany, Borussia Dortmund have shown an interest in Guille's situation at Barcelona and are considering signing him in the near future. As per the report, the teenage midfielder's family is pushing for him to have more involvement at the first-team level, something that has not yet happened at the Catalan club.

It must be noted that Guille was already attracting a lot of interest from clubs across Europe during the summer transfer window.

BARCELONA CAPTAIN A MAJOR DOUBT
FOR EL CLASICO AFTER SUFFERING
SETBACK IN RECOVERY – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : According to an update from SPORT, Barcelona have been dealt a major blow as Raphinha's availability for the upcoming El Clasico against Real Madrid is now in serious doubt.

The outlet mentions that the superstar forward has suffered a setback in his recovery process and could miss one of the most crucial fixtures of the season.

Raphinha sustained his injury two weeks ago after the match against Real Oviedo. Initially, he was ruled out of the clashes against Girona and Olympiacos, with hopes that he would return in time for the trip to the Santiago Bernabeu.

However, his recovery has not progressed as expected, and the latest tests have revealed discomfort in his hamstring once again, indicating that his condition is more severe than first thought.

No light at the end of the tunnel

The plan was for Raphinha to gradually return to the pitch this week, using the games against Girona and Olympiacos as preparation for El Clasico.

REPORT – THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME WITH THE FUTURE OF BARCELONA STAR
EXCELLING AWAY ON LOAN

Diary Times Desk : According to a report from SPORT, it has come to light that AS Monaco hold an €11 million purchase option for on-loan Barcelona forward Ansu Fati, a figure that now looks like a potential bargain considering the forward's resurgence in form.

Notably, the agreement between the two clubs also includes a sell-on clause for Barcelona, ensuring the Catalans retain a percentage of any future transfer.

However, if Monaco activate the clause at the right time, they could make a significant profit.

After years of injury struggles and inconsistency, Ansu Fati seems to have finally rediscovered his best version in Ligue 1.

The 22-year-old has made a blistering start to life at Monaco, scoring six goals in just five matches.

BARCELONA CAN TURN TO IN-FORM
RESERVE TEAM STRIKER AFTER INJURY
SETBACK TO SUPERSTAR

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona have been dealt another setback, with Robert Lewandowski ruled out for at least four to six weeks after suffering a muscle tear.

The Polish striker's absence means he will miss several crucial matches, including the much-anticipated El Clasico against Real Madrid later this month.

Already struggling with the injuries of Raphinha and Dani Olmo, Barcelona's attacking options are severely limited. However, a ray of hope has emerged from within the club's own ranks.

According to SPORT, Barça Athletic striker Victor Barbera could be considered as a possible short-term solution to fill the void left by Lewandowski.

Barbera's impressive rise

At 21 years of age, Barbera has been one of Barça Athletic's standout performers this season.

His sharp instincts inside the box and consistent scoring ability have earned him the affectionate nickname "Barberowski" among those at the club, a nod to his Polish-like finishing prowess.



INJURED BARCELONA
STARTER WILL NOT RETURN IN
TIME FOR EL CLASICO VS REAL
MADRID

Diary Times Desk : The first El Clasico of the season is shaping up to be played under strain for FC Barcelona. The congested calendar is taking its toll on players, and the October international break has added to the team's woes.

With just over ten days to go before the highly anticipated clash against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu, Barça are working against the clock to get key players fit – but several names have already been ruled out.

Gavi and Marc-Andre ter Stegen are both long-term absentees, while, as reported earlier today, Robert Lewandowski is also ruled out with a fresh injury. Dani Olmo, too, is unlikely to return from his calf issue in time for the trip to Madrid.

Joan Garcia also ruled out

Now, according to journalist Santi Ovalle of Cadena SER, another key starter for Barcelona, Joan Garcia, is officially ruled out of the Clasico against Real Madrid.

RFEF PRESIDENT ATTEMPTS TO
EASE TENSION AS BARCELONA
STARS SUFFER
INTERNATIONAL INJURIES –
'THERE MAY BE OPINIONS
BUT...'

Diary Times Desk : Rafael Louzan, president of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), has attempted to calm the growing noise around the increasing number of injured players returning from international duty.

Barcelona have once again fallen victim to what many refer to as the "FIFA Virus", as several of their key players have picked up injuries while representing their countries.

In the last two international callups, both Lamine Yamal and Dani Olmo have returned from international breaks nursing fitness issues.

The most recent case involved Ferran Torres, who was released early from Spain's camp.

Fortunately for the Catalan club, the issue was only muscle overload, and early assessments indicated that there was no serious concern regarding his condition.

Addressing the matter

Seeking to avoid unnecessary disputes between clubs and the federation, Louzan addressed the matter before Spain's clash against Bulgaria. "There may be opinions that must be respected, without a doubt, but I want to avoid any kind of controversy," said Louzan, who stressed that the relationship with the clubs is "practically perfect."