

NEWS IN BRIEF

**12 NAMES IN BJP'S
2ND BIHAR LIST,
SINGER MAITHILI
THAKUR FIELDED
FROM ALINAGAR****Diary Times Desk :**

Bihar's folk singer Maithili Thakur will contest the assembly election from Alinagar on a BJP ticket. Her name was among 12 candidates in the second list that the BJP released today. The BJP fielded new candidates in nine out of the 12 assembly constituencies mentioned in this list. Thakur's nomination marks a strategic move by the BJP to leverage her popularity among young people to bolster its appeal in the Mithilanchal region, where Alinagar has emerged as a key battleground seat. "I am very impressed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. I am here to serve society and contribute to the development of Bihar," Thakur said after her induction on Tuesday, expressing her intent to promote Maithili traditions through public service.

**DEFENCE MINISTER
RAJNATH SINGH
APPROVES 100 PER
CENT HIKE IN
FINANCIAL AID FOR
EX-SERVICEMEN,
THEIR DEPENDENTS****Diary Times Desk :**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday approved a 100 per cent increase in financial assistance for Ex-Servicemen (ESM) and their dependents under schemes implemented by the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare through the Kendriya Sainik Board. The revised rates will take effect for applications submitted from 1 November 2025 onwards, with an annual financial implication of approximately ₹257 crore to be met from the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF). The Ministry of Defence said, "The decision strengthens the social security net for non-pensioner ESM, widows, and dependents from lower-income groups, reaffirming the Government's commitment to honouring the service and sacrifice of the veterans." The approved enhancements include the Penury Grant, Education Grant, and Marriage Grant. The Penury Grant has been doubled from ₹4,000 to ₹8,000 per month per beneficiary.

**HARYANA IPS OFFICER
Y PURAN KUMAR****HARYANA IPS OFFICER'S WIFE NAMED IN FIR
BY INVESTIGATING COP'S WIDOW**

The Rohtak police officer's family had demanded that an FIR be registered based on the officer's suicide note and said they would not consent to the post-mortem unless a case was filed.

ASI Sandeep Kumar had played a role in the arrest of Head Constable Sushil Kumar, alleged to be an aide of Puran Kumar.

The FIR by Sandeep Kumar's wife, Santosh, has been filed against Amneet Kumar, her brother and Punjab AAP MLA Amit Rattan, and others.

Y Puran Kumar was cremated today following an autopsy at the PGIMER, with his wife expressing hope for an impartial probe into the matter so that "justice is served at the earliest."

Earlier, the Haryana government sent state Director General of Police Shatruejeet Kapur on leave and transferred Rohtak Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijariya.

Amneet Kumar had filed an FIR against the two officers for abetment to suicide and under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in connection with the death of her husband.

ONLY 3 DISTRICTS NOW MOST AFFECTED BY NAXALISM: MHA

Diary Times Desk : The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday said that the districts most affected by Naxalism have been brought down to three from six.

Now, only Bijapur, Sukma and Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh are the most affected districts by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), the ministry said in a statement that came as 88 members of CPI (Maoist) surrendered in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra in yet another success for the anti-Naxal campaign.

"In a giant stride towards the Modi government's vision of building a Naxal-free Bharat, the number of districts most affected by Naxalism has been brought down to three from six," the ministry said.

In the category of LWE affected districts, the number has also been further brought down to just 11 from 18.

Only 11 districts are now Left Wing Extremism affected.

The Modi government is committed to completely eradicating the Naxal menace by the 31st of March 2026, the statement reiterated.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the operational successes have surpassed all previous records this year wherein 312 LWE cadres have been eliminated, including CPI (Maoist) General Secretary and 08 other Polit Bureau/ Central Committee Members," the MHA said.

As many as 836 LWE cadres have been arrested and 1,639 have surrendered and joined the mainstream.

The surrendered Naxalites include one Politburo Member and a Central Committee Member.

**"TOWERING STATESMAN": PM MODI
CONDOLES DEATH OF EX-KENYAN PM
RAILA ODINGA**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed condolences over the death of former Prime Minister of Kenya Raila Odinga and hailed him as a towering statesman and a cherished friend of India.

Odinga, 80, breathed his last in Ernakulam district of Kerala on Wednesday where he was receiving medical treatment.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend and former Prime Minister of Kenya, Mr. Raila Odinga. He was a towering statesman and a cherished friend of India," PM Modi said in a post on X.

"He had a special affection for India, our culture, values and ancient wisdom. This was reflected in his efforts to strengthen India-Kenya ties," PM Modi said.

"He particularly admired Ayurveda and traditional medicine systems of India, having witnessed their positive impact on his daughter's health. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends and to the people of Kenya in this hour of grief," the prime minister said.

PM Modi said he had the privilege of knowing Odinga closely since his days as the chief minister of Gujarat and their association continued over the years.

**'HE'S SITTING THERE, HOPING THEY'LL
RETURN': MAN LOSES 3 GRANDCHILDREN IN
BUS FIRE**

Diary Times Desk : When a bus caught fire in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Tuesday, 21 people died and at least 15 were injured. But behind these numbers lie deeply personal tragedies, including a man who has lost three grandchildren while his son and daughter-in-law are critical, and a family that has lost its only breadwinner.

The bus, which left from Jaisalmer with 57 passengers around 3.30 pm on Tuesday and was bound for Jodhpur, caught fire on the Jaisalmer-Jodhpur highway just half an hour later. The only door of the bus was jammed and many passengers could not escape.

At a home in Bambaron Ki Dhani village, where the courtyard used to be filled with the laughter of young children, all that's left is gloom. Tears in his eyes, Sohrab Khan (73) sits on a chair in the house, staring out into nothingness. Khan's son, Pir Mohammed, had taken his wife, Imamat, and eight-year-old son Yunus to a hospital in Jaisalmer, 30 km away, for a medical check-up. Accompanying them were Yunus' siblings, Hasina (10) and Irfan (5), and Imamat's sister. The family was travelling in the ill-fated bus, which was just 10 km away from the village when it caught fire.

Khan said he got a call from Mohammad telling him the bus had caught fire and while he, Imamat, Yunus and Imamat's sister managed to get out, Hasina and Irfan were still inside. Mohammad told him Yunus had suffered burns, and he and Imamat were also badly injured and were being taken to Jodhpur Hospital. Khan didn't hear from Mohammad after that.

DEATH OF SINGER ZUBEEN GARG**ZUBEEN GARG'S FANS THROW
STONES AS ACCUSED MOVED
TO ANOTHER PRISON**

Diary Times Desk : A massive protest broke out in Assam's Baksa district after the five people, who were arrested in connection with the death of singer Zubeen Garg in Singapore last month, were shifted to a newly-constructed prison on Wednesday.

According to sources, the situation outside Baksa district jail at Mushalpur remained tense as Garg's fans threw stones and slippers and apparently attempted to storm the premises.

The fans, the sources added, are upset with the decision to send the accused to Baksa prison, a newly-constructed premise with no inmates and a lot of amenities. The state government is trying to protect the accused, they alleged.

North East India Festival (NEIF) chief organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Zubeen's manager Siddhartha Sharma, his cousin and police officer Sandipan Garg and his personal security officers (PSOs) Nandeswar Bora and Prabin Baishya were remanded in judicial custody by the Kamrup Chief Judicial Magistrate on Wednesday.

The court, expressing concern for their safety, also ruled that they should be sent to a jail where there were fewer prisoners. Accordingly, the authorities decided to shift all five accused to Baksa Jail at Mushalpur, which was inaugurated two months ago, and there are still no prisoners, an official said.

Mahanta and Sharma were arrested on October 1 in Delhi in connection with the singer's death in Singapore last month and were booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, criminal conspiracy and causing death by negligence, with murder charges added later.

**INDIA TOP COURT ALLOWS
LESS-POLLUTING CRACKERS
EVEN AS DELHI AIR TURNS
TOXIC**

Diary Times Desk : India's top court has allowed the sale and bursting of firecrackers believed to be less polluting during the upcoming Diwali festival, even as air quality dips to very poor levels in the capital Delhi. Crackers have been banned in Delhi since 2020, as they significantly contribute to the air pollution crisis the city faces each year. The so-called green crackers, which the court allowed on Wednesday, are designed to emit 20-30% less pollutants than traditional ones and generate minimal ash, their makers say.

But critics say that even though less harmful, they still release toxic substances into the air and adversely impact air quality. The Supreme Court's decision came on a day when air quality in Delhi was 25-to-30 times worse than the safe levels recommended by the World Health Organization.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's website, most parts of the city on Wednesday morning recorded PM2.5 levels - tiny particulate matter in the air - between 300 and 400.

These fine particles are extremely dangerous - they can penetrate deep into the lungs and pose serious health risks. In some of the worst-hit areas, the levels crossed the 400-mark.

MYLAVARAM MLA DEMANDS ARREST OF YS JAGAN, JOGI RAMESH OVER SPURIOUS LIQUOR CASE



Diary Times Desk : Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad on Tuesday demanded the immediate arrest of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, and former minister Jogi Ramesh in connection with the spurious liquor case. Speaking to mediapersons at the TDP headquarters in Mangalagiri on Tuesday, Krishna Prasad termed Ramesh an anti-social element. He accused the YSRCP leaders of hatching conspiracies, unable to digest the development projects being undertaken by the TDP-led NDA government. Ramesh had staged the spurious liquor drama with the help of his childhood friend Addepalli Janardhana Rao to defame Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, he said. Rao met Ramesh at the latter's residence before the day he went to Africa. Facts would come out if the CCTV camera footage at Ramesh's house was revealed.

TAMIL NADU GOVT TO INTRODUCE BILL BANNING HINDI HOARDINGS AND FILMS ACROSS STATE

Diary Times Desk : The Tamil Nadu government is set to introduce a bill to ban Hindi hoardings and Hindi-language films across the state. Chief Minister MK Stalin is expected to present the bill in the assembly today, marking the government's move to prohibit the use of Hindi in public displays and cinema. Tensions Between DMK And BJP Over Language Policy The move comes amid ongoing tensions between the DMK and the BJP, with the ruling party in Tamil Nadu accusing the BJP-led central government of attempting to impose Hindi through the National Education Policy (NEP) and the three-language formula, an allegation the Union government has consistently denied. Meanwhile, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) national spokesperson Kovai Sathyan on Wednesday criticised the Tamil Nadu government led by MK Stalin over claims of a Rs 15,000 crore investment by Foxconn, calling the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) a party that "survives only on lies." "DMK is a party that survives only on lies. All their achievements are nothing but falsehoods. The Rs 15,000 crore Foxconn investment, as claimed by Industry Minister TRB Raja, has been refuted by Foxconn. It is shameful. M.K. Stalin and his minister should hang their heads in shame for misleading the people of Tamil Nadu," Sathyan said in a video.

SC ISSUES NOTICES ON PLEA FOR LAWYER ACCESS DURING POLICE INTERROGATION



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notices to the Centre, states, and Union Territories in a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking to make it a fundamental right for individuals to have their lawyer present during police or investigative agency interrogations, PTI reported.

The plea was filed by lawyer Shaffi Mather and was listed before a bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran. Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for the petitioner, referred to the India: Annual Report on Torture 2019 by the National Campaign Against Torture, which highlights widespread instances of custodial torture and lack of accountability.

TN HEAVY RAIN: ALERT FOR 12 DISTRICTS, FISHERMEN WARNED AGAINST VENTURING INTO SEA

Diary Times Desk : Widespread heavy rain continued to lash several parts of Tamil Nadu including Chennai, on Wednesday, October 15, disrupting normal life and prompting weather officials to issue alerts for 12 districts across the state. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, has forecast heavy rainfall in the hilly and coastal regions, warning of thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds in parts of the southern and western districts.

According to the latest forecast, districts, including Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Dindigul, Theni, Virudhunagar, Madurai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari, are likely to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall during the day.

NITISH KUMAR HAS HIS WAY, JDU LIST HAS 5 SEATS CHIRAG PASWAN WANTED

Diary Times Desk : A day after its ally BJP, the Nitish Kumar-led JDU has released its first list of 57 candidates for the upcoming Bihar election. Five ministers in the current government have retained their seats. Three strongmen, including Anant Kumar Singh, also feature in the JDU's first list. Four women candidates are on the first list. The five ministers who made it to the first list are Rural Development Minister Shravan Kumar, who will contest from Nalanda, Water Resources Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary (Sarairanjan), Information and Public Relations Minister Maheshwar Hazari (Kalyanpur), Social Welfare Minister Madan Sahni (Bahadurpur) and Prohibition Minister Ratnesh Sada from Sonbarsa. JDU and BJP are contesting 101 seats each in the election to the 243-member Bihar Assembly. The remaining seats are divided between Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas).

BENGALURU CITIZENS SAY WON'T PAY TAX OVER "POOR INFRA", DK SHIVAKUMAR RESPONDS



Diary Times Desk : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said the work of filling potholes in Bengaluru is "progressing swiftly", even as a group of citizens threatened to stop paying property tax amid a raging debate over the city's crumbling infrastructure. In a post on X, Shivakumar wrote in Kannada: "Giving priority to smooth traffic in Bengaluru city, the work of asphaltting roads at various places in the city and filling potholes is progressing swiftly." The development came days after Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw reignited the debate over Bengaluru's infrastructure by sharing a visiting overseas executive's critical comments on the city's roads and garbage. Her remarks prompted Shivakumar, who is also the minister in charge of Bengaluru development, to say the city deserves collective effort, not constant criticism.

CENTRE CLEARS
APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL
OFFICER VINAI KUMAR
DWIVEDI AS ALLAHABAD

HC JUDGE
Diary Times Desk : The Union government on Wednesday notified the appointment of judicial officer Vinai Kumar Dwivedi as a judge of the Allahabad High Court.

Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal in a post on X said,

"In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, the President of India, after consultation with Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Shri Vinai Kumar Dwivedi, Judicial Officer as a Judge of the Allahabad High Court. I convey my best wishes to him."

The development follows the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation for Dwivedi's elevation on October 06.

The Central government had recently cleared the appointment of 24 new judges to the Allahabad High Court.

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY
REMAINS 'POOR' AS
TEMPERATURE SETTLES
BELOW NORMAL

Diary Times Desk : The air quality in the national capital was recorded in the 'poor category' for the second consecutive day on Wednesday morning, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) reading of 210.

An AQI reading of 201 was recorded on Tuesday.

The minimum temperature on Wednesday settled at 18.3 degrees Celsius, 1.3 notches below normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The maximum temperature is likely to settle around 33 degrees Celsius, with the weather department forecasting "mist haze" in morning hours and mainly clear sky later.

The relative humidity was 89 per cent at 8.30 am, the IMD said.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor' and 401 to 500 'severe'.



KERALA MINISTER DIRECTS SCHOOL TO ALLOW
MUSLIM GIRL IN HIJAB AMID ROW



Diary Times Desk : Kerala General Education Minister V Sivankutty on Tuesday directed a Christian-run private school in Kochi to allow a Muslim girl studying there to continue her education while wearing her religious headscarf.

He also sought a report from the school authorities for denying her religious rights earlier, which caused her mental distress. Authorities of St Rita's Public School, Palluruthy in Kochi, had declared a two-day holiday on Monday following an escalation of a dispute with the parents of the eighth-standard student over her wearing the 'hijab'.

In a statement on Tuesday, the minister instructed the school's principal and management to address the mental distress caused to the student and her parents in connection with the girl not being allowed to attend classes wearing a hijab (religious headscarf) to the institution.

CONTRACTS OF BULK LPG TANKERS
WILL BE EXTENDED TILL MARCH 31: OIL
FIRMS TO MADRAS HC

Diary Times Desk : Paving the way for ending the indefinite strike of bulk LPG tanker operators, the major oil marketing companies on Tuesday informed the Madras High Court that the existing contracts for the bulk LPG tanker operators will be extended up to March 31, 2026.

Agreeing with the offer, the tanker operators promised the court that they would not resort to further strikes in the future.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) A R L Sundaresan made the submission on behalf of the oil companies on the extension of the tender before Justice M Dhandapani when the petitions filed by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and other companies seeking to bar the operators from going ahead with the indefinite strike came up for hearing.

The IOCL has completed the tender process and will issue work orders from November 1.

BEHIND GADCHIROLI
SURRENDER: WHY MAOIST
COMMANDER BHUPATI, 60
CADRES LAID DOWN ARMS

Diary Times Desk : The surrender of the most-wanted Maoist commander, Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Bhupati, along with over 60 of his associates, is being billed as a major success in anti-Maoist operations in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. Bhupati, a firebrand member of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist)'s Central Committee, is known by several other aliases, like Sonu, Sonu Dada, Venugopal, Abhay, Master, Vivek, and Venu. He carried multiple bounties, ranging from Rs 1 crore to 10 crore, across states like Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. Bhupati's surrender leaves the Maoist activities in the Gadchiroli belt almost decimated.

Who Is Bhupati?

Bhupati, 69, is considered one of the most influential leaders and senior strategists in the Maoist movement. He had been active in the banned outfit for 40 years, conducting operations in the "Red Corridor" of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Telangana.

DISAPPOINTED WITH FAMILY, 28-
YEAR-LONG LEGAL BATTLE, LITIGANT
ENDS LIFE BY JUMPING OFF PUNE
COURT BUILDING

Diary Times Desk : Fed up with his relatives and a protracted legal battle over property, a 61-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the District Court building here on Wednesday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Yashwant Jadhav, a resident of Wadki.

"Around 11.45 am, he jumped from the third floor of the new building of the Pune District & Sessions Court. He was rushed to hospital where he was declared dead," said an official of Shivajinagar police station.

As per the note found in his pocket, Jadhav's father sold a property in 1997 without his consent. Jadhav subsequently filed a suit against the buyer which was still going on.

MASSIVE JAM ON MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGHWAY, 500
STUDENTS STUCK FOR 12 HOURS

Diary Times Desk : A massive traffic jam on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway in Maharashtra's Palghar district stranded more than 500 students and commuters for nearly 12 hours, officials said on Wednesday.

Twelve buses carrying students from Classes 5 to 10 of different schools, along with some college students from neighbouring Thane and Mumbai, were caught in the gridlock stretching for several kilometres near Vasai from around 5.30 pm on Tuesday till early Wednesday morning, they said.

The children, who were returning from a school picnic near Virar, had to remain without food or water for several hours.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Vasai, Poornima Chowgule-Shringi said the traffic jam was yet to be cleared. The massive congestion on Tuesday evening left vehicles barely inching forward for hours.



HOSTAGE FAMILIES CONFIRM IDENTITIES OF THREE OF FOUR BODIES HANDED OVER BY HAMAS

Diary Times Desk :

Israeli hostage families have confirmed the identities of three of four bodies handed over by Hamas in Gaza on Tuesday.

The bodies of Tamir Nimrodi, 20, Eitan Levy, 53, and Uriel Baruch, 35, were part of the latest return, the Hostages Families Forum said. The fourth body does not match any of the known hostages, Israel said.

So far seven hostages' bodies are confirmed to have been sent back from Gaza. Hamas has yet to return the other bodies as agreed under a ceasefire deal brokered by the US.

Frustrated by the slow return of bodies, Israel has threatened to further restrict humanitarian aid until the remains of all 28 hostages were returned. Hamas says it has had difficulty locating them.

UNTCC CHIEFS CONCLAVE: DELEGATES WITNESS NEW-AGE TECH DEMONSTRATION IN AGRA, VISIT TAJ MAHAL

Diary Times Desk : A group of delegates attending the United Nations Troop Contributing Countries' (UNTCC) Chiefs Conclave here travelled to Agra on Wednesday and witnessed an "integrated new-age technology demonstration" by the Indian Army, officials said. India is hosting the conclave from October 14-16, which is being attended by delegates from countries that contribute troops to the UN peacekeeping missions around the globe.

The UNTCC serves as a vital forum to address operational challenges, evolving threats, interoperability, inclusivity in decision-making and the role of technology and training in strengthening UN peacekeeping missions. After deliberations in Delhi, the UNTCC chiefs travelled to Agra, where they "witnessed an integrated new-age technology demonstration and were shown an array of new generation equipment by the Indian Army", the defence ministry said in a statement.

The demonstration underscored India's emphasis on 'Atmanirbharata' (self-reliance) and its ability to field modern, innovative and cost-effective solutions to meet contemporary operational challenges in peacekeeping and beyond, it said.

HAMAS BRUTALLY EXECUTES 8 GAZANS IN PUBLIC AMID TRUMP'S 'DISARM' WARNING

Diary Times Desk : Hamas is reportedly carrying out mass public executions in Gaza as it desperately seeks to maintain control over the Palestinian enclave, even as US President Donald Trump has vowed to disarm the group. Videos of Hamas' barbaric reprisal have gone viral on social media as the group clashed with other armed Palestinian clans to retain control of the Gaza Strip after a US-brokered truce with Israel. The footage, apparently from Monday evening, showed the street execution of eight men, whom the armed group branded "collaborators and outlaws". In the graphic video, eight badly beaten men can be seen blindfolded and kneeling in the street before each is shot dead by gunmen wearing the green headbands associated with Hamas. Chants of 'Allahu Akbar' (God is greatest in Arabic) can be heard from the crowd surrounding the bodies.

PAK, AFGHANISTAN AGREE TO 48-HOUR CEASEFIRE AFTER DOZENS KILLED IN CLASHES



Diary Times Desk : Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to a 48-hour ceasefire Wednesday evening after dozens of people were killed, and many more wounded, in violence along their shared border earlier in the day.

The ceasefire came into effect 6 pm PKT or 6.30 pm IST.

'Both sides will make sincere efforts, through dialogue, to find a positive solution to the complex yet resolvable issue', Islamabad said in a statement cited by Reuters.

Pakistan claimed Afghanistan asked for the ceasefire. Afghanistan has not yet commented, either on the ceasefire or Pak's claim on who asked for a temporary halt to the fighting.

INDIA FALLS 5 PLACES IN PASSPORT INDEX, THIS COUNTRY REMAINS NO. 1 IN WORLD

Diary Times Desk : India has fallen to the 85th rank in the 2025 Henley Passport Index, offering visa-free access to 57 countries. Last year, India's passport was ranked 80th on the list with visa-free travel to 62 destinations. Singapore continues to be the most powerful passport with visa-free access to 193 countries. South Korea is second on the list this year with 190 countries and Japan is third, allowing travel to 189 countries. Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland share the fourth rank with visa-free access to 188 countries while Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland and the Netherlands share the fifth rank, allowing travel without a visa to 187 countries. Hungary, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal and Sweden are at the sixth place with visa-free access to 186 countries. Australia, Czechia, Malta and Poland share the seventh rank with visa-free access to 185 countries.

PAKISTAN, IMF REACH PRELIMINARY DEAL TO RELEASE \$1.2 BILLION FROM BAILOUT PACKAGE

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund have reached a staff-level agreement for the release of \$1.2 billion from the bailout package approved last year.

The \$7 billion bailout approved by the IMF in July 2024 aimed to keep Pakistan from defaulting on its debt repayments. The agreement following several days of talks in Islamabad was reported by state media Wednesday and the IMF confirmed it in an overnight statement.

The IMF said Pakistan's economic program is helping entrench macroeconomic stability and rebuild market confidence.

The development comes weeks after Pakistan urged the IMF to consider concessions in light of devastating floods that killed more than 1,000 people and affected some 7 million in recent months.

BANGLADESH GARMENT FACTORY FIRE KILLS AT LEAST 16

Diary Times Desk : At least 16 people have died after a huge fire broke out at a garment factory in Bangladesh, with officials warning that the toll could rise.

Sixteen bodies have been recovered and would be handed to families after DNA testing, as they have been burnt beyond recognition, the fire service said.

Distraught relatives gathered outside the four-storey factory in Dhaka's Mirpur area on Tuesday in search of their loved ones still missing.

The blaze, which broke out at the factory around midday, was extinguished after three hours. But an adjacent chemical warehouse continued to burn, authorities said. Large fires are relatively common in densely populated Bangladesh, often due to lax safety standards and poor infrastructure. Hundreds of people have been killed in fires in recent years.

Up until 21:00 local time (15:00 GMT) on Tuesday, the fire at the chemical warehouse in Mirpur had not been completely doused, media reports said.



AMID CEASEFIRE, ISRAELI FORCES KILLED 6 PALESTINIANS: GAZA CIVIL DEFENCE



Diary Times Desk : Gaza’s civil defence agency said Israeli forces killed six Palestinians in separate incidents Tuesday, while the military reported its troops had opened fire on suspects who approached their positions.

Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue force under Hamas, said five people were killed as they inspected their homes in the Shujaiya district of Gaza City. "Israeli quadcopter drones opened fire on civilians inspecting their homes in Shujaiya," Bassal said. The Israeli military said its troops fired after "several suspects were identified crossing the yellow line and approaching IDF troops operating in the northern Gaza Strip".

"HAVE GREAT TIES WITH PRESIDENT XI US SAYS 6 KILLED IN STRIKE ON ALLEGED BUT SOMETIMES IT GETS TESTY": TRUMP

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump slammed China’s halt of American soybean purchases as an "economically hostile act," warning Tuesday that his country could in turn stop buying cooking oil from the world’s second-biggest economy. "We are considering terminating business with China having to do with Cooking Oil, and other elements of Trade, as retribution," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

His comments online, however, came shortly after he appeared to soothe rising temperatures between Washington and Beijing. "We have a fair relationship with China, and I think it'll be fine. And if it's not, that's okay too," Trump told reporters at the White House.

DRUG-CARRYING BOAT NEAR VENEZUELA

Diary Times Desk : The United States struck another small boat accused of carrying drugs in the waters off Venezuela, killing six people, President Donald Trump said Tuesday. Those who died in the strike were aboard the vessel, and no U.S. forces were harmed, the Republican president said in a social media post. It's the fifth deadly strike in the Caribbean as Trump's administration has asserted it's treating alleged drug traffickers as unlawful combatants who must be met with military force. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the strike Tuesday morning, said Trump, who released a video of it, as he had in the past. Hegseth later shared the video in a post on X.

"PUPPETS SOLD PAKISTAN": INTERNET SLAMS SHEHBAZ SHARIF FOR TRUMP'S 'FLATTERY'



Diary Times Desk : Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif turned the Gaza Summit in Egypt into a Donald Trump fanfare convention, as he heaped praises on the US President, calling him a "man of peace". The Pakistani premier thanked Trump for 'stopping the India-Pak war' and said he would again nominate Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for "saving millions of lives not only in South Asia but also in the Middle East". Trump responded with a grin and said, "Wow! I didn't expect that."

While the US leader enjoyed the flattery, several social media users criticised Sharif's high praise of Trump, labelling his speech as an insult to Pakistanis.

US, CHINA IMPOSE PORT FEES: IS A RETURN TO ALL-OUT TRADE WAR IMMINENT?

Diary Times Desk : China and the US have started charging additional port fees on shipping vessels as trade tensions between the world’s two largest economies soared back, following China’s rare earth export controls in response to new trade restrictions imposed by the Trump administration.

The port fees from both sides went into force on Tuesday and have caused fear among analysts, who say maritime trade has become a key battlefield between the two nations.

The new trade tensions erupted despite a pause in the tariff war, and come as Trump is expected to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in South Korea at the end of this month.

China has accused the US of "double standards" after it threatened to impose a 100 percent tariff on Chinese goods following last week's rare earth curbs by Beijing.

TRUMP DEMANDS HAMAS DISARM AS GROUP MOVES TO ASSERT CONTROL WITH PUBLIC EXECUTION

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has threatened to disarm Hamas "violently" amid moves by the group to reassert control over the Gaza Strip, targeting what it called "collaborators".

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Trump said if Hamas failed to disarm within "a reasonable period of time" then "we will disarm them". He did not say when he expects the group to surrender its weapons.

His comments came as footage circulated online showing a public execution and other displays of force by Hamas fighters in Gaza since the US-brokered ceasefire began last week.

The execution - which BBC Verify geolocated to a junction in central Gaza City - follows Hamas's pledge to crush "lawlessness" in the Strip.

Other verified clips have shown armed men wearing insignia identifying them as members of Hamas's internal security force on patrol and masked fighters firing on unarmed men.

Analysts told BBC Verify that the show of force is at least partially intended to counter armed clans which have increasingly challenged the group's hold on the Strip over the past two years.

Israel has previously said it has supplied weapons to other armed groups in the Strip. One Hamas internal security unit recently pledged to "eradicate gangs and militias" it accused of co-operating "with the enemy".

"MAKING HIM LOOK VERY BAD": TRUMP SLAMS PUTIN OVER UKRAINE WAR

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Tuesday criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin over his ongoing war in Ukraine, saying it was "making him look very bad." "I don't know why he continues with this war," Trump said. "He should have won that war in one week." Trump made the remarks during a bilateral lunch with Argentine President Javier Milei at the White House. The meeting took place shortly after the US government announced a USD 20 billion financial package to support Argentina's economy. The comments came ahead of Trump's scheduled meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House on Friday, which is expected to focus on continued US support for Kyiv. The meeting follows reports from October 13 that Trump was considering sending the US-made Tomahawk long-range cruise.



RAFAH CROSSING MAY OPEN THURSDAY FOR GAZANS TO CROSS INTO EGYPT: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : The Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip is expected to reopen to allow people to cross on Thursday with an EU mission set to deploy there, two sources told Reuters. The sources did not specify what restrictions might be applied to those seeking to cross. The Israeli military and the office of the Israeli prime minister did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



US ICE DETAINS INDIAN-ORIGIN GREEN CARD HOLDER WITH BRAIN TUMOUR, DELAYS SURGERY

Diary Times Desk : Paramjit Singh, a 48-year-old Indian-origin Green Card holder, has been detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for over two months, after being stopped at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Singh, who has lived in the United States since 1994, is facing serious health issues, including a brain tumour and a heart condition. His family alleges that his medical needs are being ignored, with his scheduled brain tumour surgery delayed due to his detention. Singh was taken into custody on July 30 after returning from a trip to India. He was held at the airport for five days before being moved to a detention center in Clay County, Indiana. ICE officials have cited two past criminal cases as the basis for his detention, but Singh's family argues that these charges are outdated or erroneous, according to BBC.

US-INDIA EXPERT ASHLEY TELLIS ARRESTED FOR RETAINING SECRET DOCUMENTS, LINKS TO CHINA

Diary Times Desk : A leading expert on US-India relations who has advised successive US administrations has been arrested and charged with unlawful retention of national defence information, including over a thousand pages of top secret and secret documents at his home, court documents showed.

Ashley Tellis, 64, who served on the National Security Council of former Republican President George W Bush and is listed in an FBI court affidavit as an unpaid adviser to the State Department and a Pentagon contractor, was arrested on the weekend and charged on Monday, the documents seen on Tuesday showed.

Tellis is also a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington think tank.

A State Department official confirmed that Tellis was arrested on Saturday, but declined to comment further. A Pentagon official said it does not comment on ongoing litigation.



CHINA DRIVES MOUNTING CYBERATTACKS, DISINFORMATION AGAINST TAIWAN

Diary Times Desk : Average daily cyber intrusions aimed at Taiwan were reported by its National Security Bureau to have reached 2.8 million this year, with the 17% increase from 2024 attributed to China's more aggressive cyberattacks and online disinformation operations, according to The Record, a news site by cybersecurity firm Recorded Future. Influence operations involving state-controlled media and an online troll army spreading artificial intelligence-generated memes and videos, as well as other fabricated content targeted at the Taiwanese government and advancing pro-China sentiment, have been leveraged by Beijing as part of a state-level cyber strategy that also entailed cyberespionage and data exfiltration, the NSB report revealed.

BITCOIN WORTH \$14BN SEIZED IN US-UK CRACKDOWN ON ALLEGED SCAMMERS

Diary Times Desk : The US government has seized more than \$14bn (£10.5bn) in bitcoin and charged the founder of a Cambodian business empire, the Prince Group, with allegedly masterminding a massive cryptocurrency scam, which involved forced labour camps.

UK and Cambodian national Chen Zhi was charged on Tuesday in New York for allegedly engaging in a wire-fraud conspiracy and money laundering scheme.

Mr Chen's businesses were also sanctioned by the US and the UK as part of a joint operation. The UK government says it has frozen assets owned by his network, including 19 properties in London - one of which is worth nearly £100m (\$133m).

The BBC has contacted the Prince Group for comment.

US prosecutors said it was one the biggest financial takedowns in history and the largest ever seizure of bitcoin, with approximately 127,271 bitcoin being held by US government.

Mr Chen, who remains at large, is accused of being the mastermind behind a "sprawling cyber-fraud empire" operating under his multi-national company, the Prince Group, said the US Department of Justice (DOJ).

BRITAIN ILL-PREPARED FOR EXTREME WEATHER THAT'S ALREADY OCCURRING:
CLIMATE ADVISERS



Diary Times Desk : Britain must urgently prepare for global warming of at least 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by 2050, its climate advisers said on Wednesday, warning the country is ill-prepared for extreme weather that is already occurring.

Britain this year experienced its warmest summer since records began, which impacted health, agriculture and infrastructure with droughts declared in several regions.

"It is clear we are not yet adapted for the changes in weather and climate that we are living with today, let alone those that are expected over coming decades," the Climate Change Committee (CCC) wrote in a letter to the government in response to a request for advice from an environment minister.

INDIA, BRAZIL REAFFIRM DEFENCE
PARTNERSHIP, SEEK TO EXPAND
COLLABORATION IN TRADE OF DEFENCE
PRODUCTS



Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with Brazilian Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Defence Minister Jose Mucio Monteiro Filho in New Delhi on Wednesday evening, underscoring the growing defence and security partnership between the two countries. In his opening remarks at the bilateral meeting, Defence Minister Singh emphasised the strategic importance.

AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER MUTTAQI
CONCLUDES SIX-DAY INDIA VISIT

Diary Times Desk : The six-day visit of Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to India has concluded on Wednesday, with the Taliban-appointed Minister returning to Kabul after a series of cultural and diplomatic engagements aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

Before his departure, Muttaqi was presented with a sacred shawl and cap (Fez) belonging to Sheikh-ul-Hind Maulana Mahmud Hasan by his family. In a video shared by Hafiz Zia Ahmad, Director of Public Communication for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, Muttaqi was seen receiving the shawl and cap. Ahmad wrote on X, "In India, from the family of Sheikh-ul-Hind Maulana Mahmud Hasan, a piece of his shawl and one of his handicaps were presented to the Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi as a token of honour and blessing."

SHARJAH, UNESCO REVIVE BEIRUT GRAND THEATRE

Diary Times Desk : The UNESCO witnessed on Tuesday the signing ceremony of the agreement to rehabilitate Beirut Grand Theatre between the Government of Sharjah and UNESCO, in continuation of the patronage and support of Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, for cultural institutions in the Arab world.

The signing ceremony was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, in the presence of Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Owais, Chairman of the Sharjah Department of Culture; Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, Assistant Director-General for Culture at UNESCO; Hind Darwish, Ambassador of Lebanon to



UNESCO; Mohammed Ibrahim Al Qaseer, Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs at the Sharjah Department of Culture; George Kreidi, Director of the UNESCO Office in Beirut; and a number of diplomatic missions, officials, and Arab intellectuals.

During the signing ceremony, Al Owais highlighted the importance of cultural cooperation between countries and international organisations and its positive impact on societies.

He noted that signing the agreement reinforces this constructive approach toward a life enriched with culture and the arts, a path consistently pursued by the UAE's wise leadership through numerous cultural initiatives at both the Arab and global levels.

INSTAGRAM TO RESTRICT
TEEN ACCOUNTS TO PG-13
CONTENT TO BOOST SAFETY

Diary Times Desk : Teenagers on Instagram will be restricted to seeing PG-13 content by default and will not be able to change their settings without a parent's permission, Meta announced on Tuesday.

This means kids using teen-specific accounts will see photos and videos on Instagram that are similar to what they would see in a PG-13 movie—no sex, drugs or dangerous stunts, among others.

"This includes hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviours, such as posts showing marijuana paraphernalia," Meta said in a blog post on Tuesday, calling the update the most significant since it introduced teen accounts last year.

NEPAL HOLDS CANDLELIGHT
VIGIL FOR BIPIN JOSHI,
STUDENT KILLED IN HAMAS
CUSTODY

Diary Times Desk : Nepal on Wednesday evening held a candlelight vigil for Bipin Joshi, a student who was killed while in Hamas custody after being abducted in October 2023.

Dozens of youths gathered at the Maitighar Mandala in Kathmandu to pay tribute to Joshi, who had been in Israel under the "Learn and Earn" scheme and was abducted by the militant group on October 7, 2023.

"It is for Bipin Joshi. He actually lost his life two years back, but we came to know it recently following the formal announcement. For two years, we lived with the hope that Bipin Joshi would return. Though he won't be here physically, he will always be remembered," said Rakshya Bam, a participant in the candlelight vigil, speaking to ANI. Israeli authorities confirmed Joshi's death on October 14 following the handover of the remains of those who died in Hamas captivity. On Tuesday, Nepali Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai held a telephonic conversation with Eden Bar Tal, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. Bar Tal formally informed the Nepali side about the sad demise of Bipin Joshi, expressing condolences on behalf of the Israeli government to his family, the Government of Nepal, and the Nepali people.

CHATGPT UPDATE WILL ALLOW 'EROTICA' FOR VERIFIED ADULT USERS

Diary Times Desk : An upcoming version of popular chatbot ChatGPT will relax existing restrictions to allow more content, including erotica, for verified adult users, according to OpenAI chief Sam Altman.

Altman said in a post on X published Tuesday that the move is part of a drive to "treat adult users like adults."

An update coming in a few weeks will let people choose to make the bot "respond in a very human-like way," before a further easing in restrictions planned for December allows verified users to generate erotica using the chatbot, Altman said.

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

Diary Times Desk : The Bureau of Labor Statistics is calling some staff back to work to prepare its closely watched inflation gauge, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) report, despite the government shutdown, a Trump administration official told CNN.

The CPI report, postponed from October 15 to October 24 due to the shutdown, will be released just in time to meet the deadline for adjusting Social Security payments for next year.

"This release allows the Social Security Administration to meet statutory deadlines to ensure the accurate and timely payment of benefits," the BLS said in a statement on its website Friday, adding that no other releases will be rescheduled or produced until the government reopens. The Social Security Administration confirmed it will release the 2026 cost of living adjustment, known as the COLA, on October 24. However, a Trump official told CNN that without September's CPI data, the annual increase to Social Security benefits, which takes effect in January, could be impacted. (Social Security benefits continue to be distributed during the shutdown.)

JOURNALISTS TURN IN PRESS PASSES AS PENTAGON CLAMPS DOWN ON ACCESS IN 'UNPRECEDENTED' MOVE

Diary Times Desk : A flyer with the words "journalism is not a crime" appeared Tuesday on the wall outside the "Correspondents' Corridor" where journalists operate at the Pentagon.

It was a silent protest of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's new policy that severely restricts press access.

The policy criminalizes routine reporting, according to media lawyers and advocates, so news outlets are refusing to abide by it. Instead, they are giving up their access to the building, while vowing to continue thoroughly covering Hegseth and the military from outside the Pentagon's five walls.

On Tuesday, as Pentagon beat reporters started to turn in their press passes, some noticed and appreciated the "journalism is not a crime" poster.

On Wednesday, others noticed that the poster had been removed. But there is still, perhaps ironically, an old plaque in the hallway that promotes the Pentagon's principles for the "free flow of information."

Press freedom advocates say Hegseth is undermining those principles by pushing reporters out of the Pentagon and trying to stop them from talking with sources.



THEY FOUND THEIR DREAM HOMES. THEN THE GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN

Diary Times Desk : Chase Franklin had everything set for his cross-country move this month from North Dakota to Kansas for a new job. But a stalemate in Washington has thrown his plans into chaos.

Days before Franklin was supposed to close on his new home and relocate, the government shut down — freezing the US Department of Agriculture-backed mortgage he planned to use to buy the home. That left him rushing to find housing for his family.

Franklin is not alone. More than one-third of home buyers across the country turn to federally backed loans to make homeownership possible, according to a 2024 report from the National Association of Realtors.

A prolonged shutdown could put some of their dreams in jeopardy.



CONFUSED BY STOCKS LATELY? WE EXPLAIN THE WHIPLASH

Diary Times Desk : After months of steadily climbing higher, stocks are bouncing around as investors process renewed US-China trade tensions.

Stocks were mixed on Tuesday in volatile trading: The Dow gained 203 points, or 0.44%, after falling as much as 615 points earlier. The S&P 500 fell 0.16%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq closed 0.72% lower after sinking as much as 2.1% in the session.

Tensions between the world's two largest economies have reignited with tit-for-tat punitive measures. The prospect of a trade war has injected uncertainty into global markets, sending tech and chip stocks lower and weighing on investors' outlook.

As traders try to assess whether the trade spat will escalate, stocks are fluctuating and pausing their months-long ascent. "Market participants had been hoping that the worst of the trade conflict between China and the US was in the past," Lee Hardman, senior currency analyst at Japanese bank MUFG, said in a note on Monday.



CHINESE AIRLINES
OPPOSE TRUMP PLAN
TO STOP FLYING OVER
RUSSIA ON US ROUTES

Diary Times Desk :
Major Chinese airlines on Tuesday urged the Trump administration to abandon a plan to bar them from flying over Russia on U.S. flights, saying it would increase flight times, raise air fares and could disrupt some routes.
Last week the U.S. Transportation Department proposed banning Chinese airlines from flying over Russia on routes to and from the United States, saying the reduced flight time puts American carriers at a disadvantage.
China Eastern, one of six Chinese airlines that sent letters, said in a filing with USDOT that the move could extend the flight time on some of its most important routes by two to three hours, significantly increase risks of missed connections and boost fuel consumption.
Air China and China Southern said the decision would adversely affect a substantial number of passengers in the United States and China.

CANADA’S ECONOMY IS
IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.
NOW MARK CARNEY IS
COMING TO
WASHINGTON TO TALK
TARIFFS

Diary Times Desk : The status quo is not going to cut it for Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at his Tuesday meeting with President Donald Trump in Washington. With an unemployment rate of 7.1%, the highest level in nine years and half a percentage point higher since the start of this year, Canada’s economy is faltering. Steep tariffs Trump slapped on cars, steel and aluminum — key Canadian exports to the United States — are making matters worse. And Carney’s meeting is happening just as Trump is prepared to deal another blow to the Canadian economy: tariffs on softwood and lumber, among the top goods the United States imports from its northern neighbors.

“It makes a difference to have face-to-face time with Trump,” said Inu Manak, a senior fellow for international trade at the Council on Foreign Relations. The pressure is on Carney to leverage it.

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR JOB? HERE’S HOW TO PLAN FOR A LAYOFF



Diary Times Desk : Federal workers’ experiences this year with layoffs and furloughs may seem extreme. But to anyone who works for a living, they’re a reminder that when you see signs that your job may be at risk, it helps to create a financial plan.
US government workers were laid off in droves during the first several months of the Trump administration, and hundreds of thousands were recently furloughed without pay due to the government shutdown. Last Friday, Russell Vought, head of the Office of Management and Budget, announced a new round of mass layoffs. And in a court filing that same day, the government indicated additional agencies are considering letting yet more people go.
Layoffs may be conducted differently elsewhere, but it’s up to employees everywhere to learn how to protect their finances. How long you can support yourself between jobs depends on understanding your spending needs and the likely resources you’ll have available should you ever be laid off.

HOW A DUTCH CHIPMAKER GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE US-CHINA TECH WAR



Diary Times Desk : The Dutch government has taken control of a Chinese-owned chip company based in the Netherlands following pressure from Washington, in a move that spotlights how countries are caught in the middle of the US-China battle for tech dominance.
Headquartered in the city of Nijmegen, Nexperia produces lower-end chips for consumer electronics, automobile and industrial applications, and runs chipmaking facilities in Germany and the UK.

The Dutch government said Sunday it had taken control of the company. Nexperia said its CEO and shareholder Zhang Xuezheng had been suspended from his post following a court order.
The move came after American officials told the Dutch government that Zhang would likely have to be replaced if the company was to be exempted from the US list of companies considered threats to national security or foreign policy interests, a court document published Tuesday revealed.

Companies on the so-called entity list face US export restrictions.

The rare move by Amsterdam came after escalating friction between the US and China, rekindled partly by Washington’s ramping up of export controls in late September.

The US Commerce Department significantly expanded the entity list by making any subsidiary at least 50% owned by a firm already on the list face the same restrictions as the parent company. The new rule, which provided a grace period until November for some scenarios, implicated Nexperia as a 100% owned subsidiary of Wingtech, a partially state-owned Chinese company which has been on the list since late last year.

“The fact that the company’s CEO is still the same Chinese owner is problematic,” the minutes of the meeting said, as cited by the document. “It is almost certain that the CEO will have to be replaced to qualify for the exemption from the entity list.”

**ROBOTIC SURGERY TO
START AT NER CHOWK
GOVT HOSPITAL FROM
THIS YEAR: HIMACHAL
CM**

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today said that robotic surgery would be launched at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College and Hospital at Ner Chowk in Mandi district later this year. He presided over the IRIS-2025 programme at the institution.

The Chief Minister sanctioned Rs 28 crore for the installation of a new MRI machine at Ner Chowk hospital, which was expected to be set up within the next two months. He also approved Rs 12 crore for a Cath Lab (Rs 9 crore has already been released) for the hospital. He said that the use of modern technology was essential for improving patient care. He added that robotic surgeries were already being conducted at the hospitals at Chamiyana and Tanda, where 45 procedures had been successfully performed using robotic systems.

Sukhu said that outdated medical equipment hampered the efficiency of doctors. He added that the state government was working to replace all obsolete machinery in hospitals and improve healthcare delivery in Himachal Pradesh.

HINDU MAHASABHA LEADER'S CELLPHONE TO BE SEIZED IN KULLU TEHSILDAR

MANHANDLING CASE

Diary Times Desk : The police have registered a case and ordered the seizure of Aman Sood's mobile phone in connection with the alleged manhandling of Kullu Tehsildar Hari Singh Yadav during the Dasehra festival on October 2. Sood, a resident of Dunkhra village in the Parbati valley, is an office-bearer of the Hindu Mahasabha. He is accused of supporting the arrested youth involved in the incident. Videos and statements related to the incident have since gone viral on social media. The police had directed Sood to surrender his mobile phone for investigation. "As you have posted these hatred and provocative speeches through your mobile phone device, it is lawful for the police to take it into possession during the course of investigation,

PUNJAB RAJYA SABHA BYELECTION: ROPAR COPS ARREST REJECTED CANDIDATE CHATURVEDI AFTER TWO-DAY DRAMA

Diary Times Desk : Amid high drama that continued for the second day, rejected Rajya Sabha candidate Navneet Chaturvedi was handed over to the Ropar police by UT cops here on Wednesday evening.

He was arrested and taken to Ropar by a team led by SP GS Gosal and CIA in-charge Manphool Singh around 8.30 pm after having spent nearly two days in the Sector 3 police station as the “protectee of the Chandigarh Police”.

Chaturvedi, who had filed his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha byelection, is accused of having forged signatures of 10 AAP legislators to project them as his proposers for the October 24 contest. An FIR in this regard has been registered against him in Ropar on the complaint of AAP MLA Dinesh Chadha.

After both Chaturvedi and the state police moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court this morning and a notice was issued to all parties concerned for November 4, the Chandigarh Police did not hand over Chaturvedi to the Ropar police.



**SLUGFEST OVER NAVNEET
CHATURVEDI: 200 PUNJAB COPS
WAIT ALL-NIGHT OUTSIDE POLICE
STATION, WHILE CHANDIGARH COPS
GUARD HIM INSIDE**

Diary Times Desk : Over 200 Punjab Police officers continued to be stationed outside the Sector 3 Police Station in Chandigarh, keeping watch to nab Navneet Chaturvedi, in case he came out of the police station. It is reliably learned that his lawyers are moving the court, seeking anticipatory bail and also demanding an investigation into the rejection of his nomination papers for Rajya Sabha. Among the senior officials present at the spot is SP of Ropar Police, G S Gosal. Chaturvedi had filed two sets of nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha bypoll, scheduled for October 24. In his first set of nomination papers, filed on October 6, he had named 10 AAP MLAs as his proposers. But these papers did not carry the signatures of any MLA.

He submitted a second set of nomination papers on October 13, which carried the names of ten AAP MLAs as his proposers along with their signatures. During the scrutiny of the nomination papers on Tuesday, Chaturvedi's nomination papers were rejected on the pretext that the signatures of all ten MLAs were forged.

EXPLOSIVES RECOVERED FROM A FIELD IN AJNALA'S TEDI VILLAGE AHEAD OF DIWALI

Diary Times Desk : In a major recovery ahead of the Diwali festival, the Amritsar Rural Police on Wednesday seized three hand grenades and an improvised explosive device (IED) from an agricultural field in Tedi village, under the Ajnala subdivision here.

According to police, the explosives — wrapped in a plastic bag — were concealed in the fields and came to light when a local farmer noticed dogs tearing at the bag. On approaching the spot, the farmer found hand grenades and other explosive materials and immediately informed the police.

A police team swiftly cordoned off the area and called the bomb disposal squad for safely neutralising the explosives.

Confirming the seizure, Senior Superintendent of Police Amritsar (Rural) Maninder Singh said preliminary investigations suggest that the explosives may have been smuggled from across the border. "Investigations are underway to ascertain the origin and intended use of the recovered material," he added.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
16-10-2025

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.

Lec

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

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

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

FIR REGISTERED IN
ROHTAK ASI 'SUICIDE'
CASE, HARYANA CM
SAINI VISITS BEREAVED
FAMILY

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Police have registered an FIR in connection with the "suicide" of Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar in Rohtak, a police official said on Wednesday.

Earlier on Wednesday, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visited the family of the ASI in Ladhaut village and offered his condolences. He assured the bereaved family that appropriate action would be taken.

ASI Kumar, who was posted in the cyber cell in Rohtak, allegedly shot himself dead on Tuesday, leaving behind a 'final note' that levelled corruption allegations against the late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who also served in the same district.

PANCHKULA DC WARNS
SWEET SELLERS AHEAD
OF DIWALI, SAYS
'MAINTAIN QUALITY OR
FACE ACTION'

Diary Times Desk : Deputy Commissioner Satpal Sharma has directed sweet sellers and food establishments across Panchkula to ensure the highest standards of quality and hygiene ahead of the Diwali festival, warning that any compromise in quality or adulteration will invite strict action. Chairing a meeting with leading sweet manufacturers and shop owners, including Gopal Sweets, Sindhi Sweets, Anupam Sweets and Raunak Sweets; Sharma stressed that maintaining quality and cleanliness in preparation and sale is non-negotiable. He said the District Administration is fully committed to ensuring that citizens get safe and hygienic food products. The Deputy Commissioner informed that special teams have been constituted to conduct surprise inspections of branded and local sweet shops, restaurants and food establishments. These teams will check the quality of sweets, milk-based products, dry fruits, chocolates and other consumables. Samples are also being collected and sent for laboratory testing. Sharma advised shop owners to prepare sweets and snacks strictly as per demand and avoid long-term storage to maintain freshness.

HARYANA IPS OFFICER Y PURAN KUMAR'S DEATH: KEY POINTS IN FRESH TWIST TO
CASE WITH ANOTHER 'SUICIDE' OF ASI IN 9 DAYS

Diary Times Desk : The autopsy of senior Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar was conducted at the PGIMER, Chandigarh, after his wife, IAS officer Amneet P Kumar, gave consent on Wednesday. Key developments in 9 days: Family consent: Consent was given after assurances from Chandigarh Police of a fair and impartial investigation, and a commitment from the Haryana government to act against any erring officers. Conducted by a board of doctors in the presence of: Executive magistrate; Ballistics, toxicology, forensic, and fingerprint experts. Videography and photography to ensure full transparency. Death background: Y Puran Kumar (52) allegedly died by suicide on October 7. His family had refused post-mortem earlier, demanding action against officers named in his eight-page 'final note'. Allegations in 'final note': Kumar accused eight senior IPS officers including: Former Haryana DGP Shatrueet Kapur, and Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya, of caste-based discrimination, mental harassment, and public humiliation.



HARYANA GOVT DEFENDS ARAVALI
ZOO SAFARI PROJECT IN SC, SAYS
IT'S 'CONSERVATION-DRIVEN
INITIATIVE'

Diary Times Desk : Allaying environmental concerns over the proposed Aravali Zoo Safari Project in Gurugram and Nuh districts, the Haryana Government on Wednesday defended it, saying it's a "conservation-driven initiative" aimed at ecological restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable eco-tourism.

In an affidavit filed in response to a petition by five retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers and 'People for Aravalis', the Haryana Government urged the top court to allow it to implement the proposed project of Development of Aravalli Zoo and Safari Park as it was in consonance with the latest rules, acts and guidelines of the Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change and the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).

The affidavit filed by Subhash Chander Yadav, Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Gurugram said it was proposed to be set up in only 3,300 acre and not 10,000 acre as originally envisaged.

HARYANA IPS OFFICER Y PURAN
KUMAR CREMATED IN
CHANDIGARH; WIFE HOPES FOR
IMPARTIAL PROBE INTO HIS
SUICIDE

Diary Times Desk : Eight days after he allegedly shot himself dead, the cremation of Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar took place here on Wednesday following his autopsy at the PGIMER with his wife expressing hope for an impartial probe into the matter so that "justice is served at the earliest".

Kumar's police dress and his police cap were placed on the mortal remains for a brief period before he was consigned to flames.

Kumar's wife and IAS officer Amneet P Kumar and two daughters paid their last respects before the last rites were performed. A gun salute was given to the deceased IPS officer by a police contingent. Among those present at the cremation included a few politicians from across parties, senior officers including Haryana DGP O P Singh, and Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sumita Misra. Representatives of various Dalit bodies were also present. Wreaths were laid as a mark of respect..

HARYANA CM NAYAB SAINI MEETS FAMILY OF DECEASED ASI SANDEEP LATHER IN
ROHTAK

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visited the family of deceased ASI Sandeep Lather at Ladhaut village in Rohtak district on Wednesday.

He met the grieving family members and offered condolences. He was accompanied by ministers Krishan Lal Panwar and Mahipal Dhanda, former state minister and BJP leader Manish Grover, and other party office-bearers.

Saini did not speak to the media during the visit. ASI Sandeep Lather, who was in charge of the Cyber Cell of Rohtak Police, allegedly died by suicide on Tuesday by shooting himself. He left behind a suicide note and a video message.

His body is currently kept at the residence of his maternal uncle in Ladhaut village.

The family has refused to allow a post-mortem despite repeated requests by local police and administrative officers.

They have stated that they will permit the post-mortem only after an FIR is registered against the persons named in the ASI's suicide note and video statement.



Court rejects Israel's appeal after Indonesia refused to grant team's visas to artistic gymnastics world championships

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has rejected appeals by the Israel Gymnastics Federation to be allowed to compete at a world championships in Indonesia this weekend.

The CAS also turned down Israel's request to force the International Gymnastic Federation (FIG) to guarantee Israel's participation, or alternatively cancel or move the artistic worlds, set to start on Sunday in Jakarta.

The Indonesia government last week said it will not grant visas to Israeli gymnasts, and the Swiss-based CAS said on Tuesday that FIG stated it has no control over Indonesia's visa policies.

In its reaction to Indonesia's move, the FIG did not threaten to take the event away from Indonesia as stipulated in its statutes for cases where the host refuses to issue visas.

Israel wanted the FIG "taking note" of the government statement to be annulled, but CAS also rejected that on Tuesday.



Lauren Kent

Since then more than 67,000 people have been killed by Israel's offensive, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry. Its figures are seen as reliable by the United Nations and other international bodies.

Indonesia's decision to deny visas came after Israel's planned participation sparked intense opposition in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, which has long been a staunch supporter of Palestinians.

Israel is among 86 countries registered to compete at the worlds, with a team featuring 2021 Olympic gold medalist and defending world champion Artem Dolgopyat in the men's floor exercise.

Now its participation is in doubt, even though the Israel federation said in July that it had been assured by Indonesian officials that it would be welcome at the worlds. That would have gone against Indonesia's longstanding policy of refusing to host Israeli sports delegations for major events.

The gymnastics spat is the latest example of how the global backlash against Israel over the humanitarian toll of the war in Gaza has spread into the arenas of sports and culture.

Dolgopyat said on Instagram: "We are so disappointed for the gymnasts, male and female, and professional teams, but not only that, we are deeply concerned by the recent decisions that could negatively impact the future of all our delegations and the future of sport in general."

"We continue the fight, hoping to achieve justice, but unfortunately we will no longer be able to compete in these World Championships."

Dolgopyat was one of six gymnasts - alongside Eyal Indig, Ron Pyatov, Lihie Raz, Yali Shoshani and Roni Shamay - who submitted the requests to Cas in conjunction with the IGf.



Dolgopyat, 28, won Olympic floor gold at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and silver in Paris last year. He is also a two-time European champion.

In 2023 Indonesia was stripped of its right to host football's Under-20 World Cup after the governor of Bali, where the draw was due to take place, refused to host the Israel team.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation and one which has no formal diplomatic ties with Israel.

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year Award

GHOSTLY SHOT OF HYENA WINS

An image of a rare hyena standing in front of an abandoned building in a former diamond mining town in Namibia has won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2025 award.



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

Shot by South African photographer Wim van den Heever in the town of Kolmanskop, "Ghost Town Visitor" is the product of 10 years' work using camera trap technology, according to a statement from the organizers on Tuesday.

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."

The photograph, which was one of 60,636 entries, shows a brown hyena - a member of the rarest hyena species in the world.

Nocturnal and largely solitary, brown hyenas are rarely seen, so van den Heever started to use a camera trap after noticing their tracks in the area.

Kathy Moran, chair of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year jury, said that the image showed how wildlife had repopulated a town abandoned by humans.

"How fitting that this photograph was made in a ghost town," she said in the statement. "You get a prickly feeling just looking at this image and you know that you're in this hyena's realm."

Jury member Akanksha Sood Singh added that the "image is an eerie juxtaposition of the wild reclaiming human civilisation."

"The image is haunting yet mesmerising because the solitary hyena takes centre stage as a symbol of resilience amid the decay," she said.

Italian photographer Andrea Dominizi won the Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2025, for entrants aged 17 and under, with his image of a longhorn beetle that appears to be surveying abandoned logging machinery.

Named "After the Destruction," Dominizi took the photograph in the Lepini Mountains in central Italy, which were once a source of old beech trees.

"A compelling, but harrowing photograph, it's one that encourages the viewer to contemplate the nature of this fraught relationship," said jury member Andy Parkinson of Dominizi's picture.

The award organizers also highlighted the Impact Award, which was won by Brazilian photographer Fernando Faciole for his image of an orphaned giant anteater pup following a human caregiver.

In addition, the jury selected 19 category winners. These images will feature in an exhibition that will open at the Natural History Museum in London on Friday.

"Now in its sixty-first year, we are thrilled to continue Wildlife Photographer of the Year as a powerful platform for visual storytelling, showing the diversity, beauty and complexity of the natural world and humanity's relationship to it," said museum director Doug Gurr in the statement.



INFA

Case Of Crypto 'Pig Farming'

FEDS SEIZE \$15 BILLION IN CRYPTO FROM 'PIG BUTCHERING' SCHEME INVOLVING FORCED LABOR CAMPS

Federal prosecutors seized \$15 billion in cryptocurrency from an investment scheme known as "pig butchering" that they allege emanated from forced labor camps in Cambodia.



Kara Scannell

Once the victim transferred the money, authorities allege, the scammers would claim the money was invested and show the victim fake profits to encourage them to invest further. Ultimately, once the money was stolen, according to the indictment, the perpetrators would cut off all contact.

The Justice Department said it's the largest forfeiture action in its history.

Prosecutors unsealed an indictment Tuesday charging Chen Zhi, a Chinese émigré who holds several passports and built the Cambodia-based Prince Group, one of that country's largest conglomerates, charging him with money laundering conspiracy and wire fraud conspiracy.

Chen remains at large.

In a related action, the Treasury Department sanctioned dozens of affiliates of the Prince Group and designated them as criminal organizations.

The crackdown comes as investment scams known as "pig butchering," named for the practice of fattening up prey before the slaughter, have been on the rise costing Americans millions of dollars.

Prosecutors allege Chen turned the Prince Group into one of the largest transnational criminal organizations in Asia.

Authorities say Chen and others used the stolen money to buy yachts, private jets and a Picasso painting bought through a New York auction house.

Authorities said they seized 127,271 bitcoin, which is in US custody, that is currently valued at approximately \$15 billion.

Christopher Raia, the assistant director in charge of the FBI's New York field office, told CNN it's one of the largest pig butchering schemes they've investigated. The scams are rampant, he said, and the FBI is focusing on the biggest cases to try to stop the harm.

"It's kind of like jaywalking," Raia said, adding authorities can't arrest their way out of the problem. The FBI is focusing on the biggest cases, he said, to "cut off the head of the snake."

Raia said the FBI was investigating a money laundering network in Brooklyn, New York, in 2022, which led them to the Prince Group's widespread operation.

Not 'too beautiful'

Chen and others allegedly operated at least 10 forced labor camps across Cambodia since 2015 to engage in cryptocurrency investment schemes. Authorities allege they laundered criminal

proceeds through the business and paid bribes to government officials to stay ahead of criminal investigations.

According to the indictment, forced labor camps, surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, were turned into phone farms, or automated call centers, to carry out the cryptocurrency scheme and others.

Two facilities were staffed with 1,250 mobile phones that controlled 76,000 accounts on social media platforms, according to the indictment.

Authorities allege as part of the scheme people were contacted on messaging apps and social media, sometimes feigning to have the wrong number.

The workers were provided instructions on how to build rapport with future victims by "including a direction to use profile photos of women who were not 'too beautiful'."



TIQUI ATENCIO ON DISCOVERING HER TASTE AND LIVING WITH ART: 'YOU'RE NOT BORN WITH AN EYE, YOU MUST DEVELOP IT'

Diary Times Desk : 'Trust me,' says Tiqui Atencio, 'I was completely uninformed in those early days.' She throws up her hands in mock horror. For someone who is known for her discerning taste and has been described by the New York Times as 'a highly regarded collector', this is something of an admission. 'I really was ignorant,' she continues, laughing. 'Thankfully, I realised if I was going to do this, I was going to have to get educated.'

Sitting on a sea-green sofa in her beautiful home furnished with an elegant mix of mid-century modern design, Atencio is a warm presence. Her high blonde ponytail is immediately recognisable from her Instagram account. On the wall behind her is *Bedtime Story* (1999), a sensual pink and red painting by Cecily Brown. Atencio discovered the New York-based British artist long before her works hit the seven-figure mark. 'I should have found more!' she says.

There's something at once timeless and very current about Atencio. She was well ahead of the market on Latin American artists in the 1980s, and today she stands at the high connoisseurship level. She has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the new crop of art stars currently on the ascent, and is an active presence both online and at exhibitions and fairs around the globe. It's fair to say that Atencio lives and breathes art 24/7.

The Venezuelan-born collector is also the author of three books on the lives and living spaces of prominent figures in art and design — meaning that her appreciation of how to place an impressive Serge Mouille triple-armed standing lamp alongside a monolithic fly painting by Damien Hirst, so as not to take away from the artwork's appeal but rather to add to it, may be considered to be in the realms of behavioural science, or perhaps even a professional sport.

Throughout 2025, Atencio and her husband Ago Demirdjian have offered art and design in *For Art's Sake: Selected Works by Tiqui Atencio & Ago Demirdjian*, a series of sales held across New York and Paris. London's 20th/21st Century Art season in October will showcase post-war and contemporary works from the couple's collection in the 20th/21st Century: London Evening Sale, the Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale and Post-War and Contemporary Art Online.



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

Diary Times Desk : What was the first work you made that you were proud of?

Dr Esther Mahlangu: When I was a child, I used to watch the women of my village paint their homes, and I would want to join them. When they would go for a break, I would try to continue their work for them. When they returned, they would tell me to 'never do this again', and to practice on the back of the homes until I was good enough to paint on the front. One day, my grandmother called my mother to see what her daughter had done, and when she saw the quality of my work on the back of the home, they invited me to join them in painting on the front. This is when I first knew that I was good at painting.

What advice did your mother and grandmother give you?

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

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

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

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

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

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

When you look back, can you see how political events might have impacted your art?

EM: While Ndebele art does have some political undertones — as a form of resistance and identification of our nation during Apartheid — I don't really consider my artwork political. Some may say that it is, insofar as it disrupts the understanding of traditional vs contemporary art.



RFEF PRESIDENT HAILS PLAN TO MOVE VILLARREAL VS BARCELONA TO MIAMI – ‘A REWARD FOR FANS...’



Diary Times Desk : Earlier this month, La Liga officially confirmed that Barcelona will indeed take on Villarreal in Miami in December, marking the first time a league game will be held outside of Spain.

The move has not gone well with several Spanish clubs, including Real Madrid, while the players’ union in Spain has also vilified the decision.

However, RFEF president Rafael Louzan has recently come out in support of the Miami move while stating that the women’s Super Cup was not held in Miami because of Real Madrid. Rafael Louzan’s view on the Super Cup “There are two stadiums: the physical one and the sofa in people’s homes. What we’ve done is process the request with UEFA, and we’ll do the same with FIFA,” Louzan said (h/t Mundo Deportivo) about the proposed Miami game between Barcelona and Villarreal.

DE JONG TALKS PEDRI, FLICK, KOEMAN, SALARY, CAPTAINCY, OBJECTIVES AFTER RENEWAL WITH BARCELONA

Diary Times Desk : Earlier today, Barcelona put an end to a long-standing saga in Frenkie de Jong’s renewal and the player put pen to paper on his new deal that sees him at the club until 2029.

His previous contract was set to expire in the summer, drawing rumours of him possibly leaving as a free agent. In the end, however, it was clear that the player never really considered leaving as an option.

As part of his new deal, in fact, his release clause has also seen a sizeable bump from €400 million to €500 million.

De Jong’s interview

Speaking to the club’s media via Mundo Deportivo after signing his renewal until 2029, the Dutchman opened up on several topics including his time at the club so far, his aspirations and the details of his new contract.

He began by emphasising how it was always his dream to play for Barcelona and how he valued every day of his time at the club to the fullest.

FORMER BARCELONA STARLET RECALLS THE LOWEST MOMENT OF THE 2024–25 SEASON – ‘EVERYONE WAS CRYING’

Diary Times Desk : Pau Victor was one of Barcelona’s several departures in the summer and a part of the administration’s plans to return to the financial 1:1 rule.

While the objective was not reached in the end, the player has found a new home with regular playing time.

The young forward is now contractually linked to SC Braga where he has racked up six starts and eight appearances in the league already. In that duration, he has a goal to show and averages 1.1 shots per game.

While Victor did not play a major role for Hansi Flick last season, he was crucial as a rotational option and was a regular off the bench for the Catalans. His departure, however, was the best solution for all parties involved at the time.

Pau Victor opens up on Barcelona stint Speaking to the media in a recent interview, the former Barcelona player opened up on his time at the club, the pressure, the highs and the lows and revealed several honest truths about the team’s previous campaign.

TENSIONS ESCALATE OVER VILLARREAL–BARCELONA MATCH IN MIAMI FOLLOWING MEETING FIASCO

Diary Times Desk : Tensions are rising ahead of Barcelona’s La Liga clash against Villarreal due to plans to host the match in Miami, United States.

According to SPORT, the situation has escalated after a scheduled meeting between the captains, La Liga, Villarreal, and Barcelona failed to take place.

The meeting, originally set up to discuss players’ concerns and the sporting and logistical implications of the match abroad, saw none of the parties show up.

The absence of representatives from the clubs and the employers’ association has been interpreted as a snub to the captains, who were seeking clarity. Not everyone is happy Players had already expressed frustration over the lack of transparency surrounding the Miami match.



BARCELONA AND RFEF SETTLE DIFFERENCES AFTER WEEKS OF TENSION – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : After weeks of tension surrounding the Lamine Yamal situation, relations between Barcelona and the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) have finally returned to a sense of normalcy, according to MARCA.

The outlet mentions that dialogue between the club and federation officials has resumed, with calm now prevailing after a period marked by misunderstandings and frustration.

Yesterday, RFEF president Rafael Louzan made a visible effort to address growing concerns over the number of Barcelona players returning injured from international duty.

Recent days have seen bridges being rebuilt between the two sides, moving past individual cases such as Ferran Torres, who was withdrawn from Spain duty due to fatigue or minor muscle concerns.

BARCELONA EYE 20-YEAR-OLD SERIE A ATTACKING SENSATION; ARSENAL, CHELSEA ALSO KEEN

Diary Times Desk : Juventus sensation Kenan Yildiz has emerged as one of the most exciting young talents playing in Serie A.

The 20-year-old Turkish forward impressed at the FIFA Club World Cup during the summer, and has carried that form forward into the new season.

So far in 2025/26, Yildiz has two goals and four assists from eight appearances in all competitions for the Bianconeri, while he also continues to impress for the Turkish national team.

Naturally, Yildiz’s breakthrough has not gone unnoticed, with several top clubs across Europe taking an interest in the youngster.

Barcelona interested in Yildiz And, according to Gazzetta dello Sport, Barcelona are one of the clubs showing an interest in signing Yildiz in the future.

Apart from the Blaugrana, two Premier League giants – Arsenal and Chelsea – are also keeping a close eye on the 20-year-old attacker. This development comes amidst Juventus’ efforts to renew the youngster’s contract, which already runs until the summer of 2029. The issue is that Yildiz, despite being one of Juve’s top performers in recent months, earns a salary less than €2 million – with 18 other players in the squad pocketing more.